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Clerk's stamp:	1
	2 INTERVENOR(S) Orphan Well Association,
	3 Canadian Natural Resources
	4 Limited, Cenovus Energy Inc.
CHECTIONING OF LARC THOMAS DE DALIM	
QUESTIONING OF LARS THOMAS DE PAUW	
CALGARY, ALBERTA	6
BY MR. D. J. McDONALD, Q.C.	7 DOCUMENT QUESTIONING ON AFFIDAVIT
AFFIDAVIT SWORN JUNE 29, 2020	8
HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 2020	9
VIA REMOTE VIDEO	10
	11 Taken before L. D. Stevenson, Official Court Reporter,
COURT FILE NUMBER 1801-10960	12 pursuant to Rules 5.26, 6.20, and 13.46 of the Court of
	13 Queen's Bench of Alberta.
COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA	14
	15
JUDICIAL CENTRE Calgary	16 FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S) PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS INC., LIT,
JUDICIAL CENTRE Calgary	17 IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE TRUSTEE IN BANKRUPTCY OF SEQUOIA
DI AINTIEE(C)	
PLAINTIFF(S) PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.,	18 RESOURCES CORP., NOT IN ITS PERSONAL CAPACITY:
LIT, in its capacity as the	19 R. de Waal
Trustee in Bankruptcy of	20 L. Rasmussen (Not Present)
Sequoia Resources Corp. and	21 de Waal Law
not in its personal capacity	22 Suite 1010, 505 3rd Street SW
	23 Calgary, Alberta
DEFENDANT(S) Perpetual Energy Inc.,	24 403-266-0012
Perpetual Operating Trust,	25
Perpetual Operating Corp. and	26
Susan Riddell Rose	27
3	4
1 FOR THE DEFENDANT/O\ DEPORTING ENERGY INC. DEPORTING	4 FOR THE INTERVENION CANADIAN MATURAL RECOURSES
1 FOR THE DEFENDANT(S) PERPETUAL ENERGY INC., PERPETUAL	1 1
2 OPERATING TRUST, PERPETUAL OPERATING CORP.:	2 LIMITED, CENOVUS ENERGY INC., AND TORXEN ENERGY LTD.:
3 D. J. McDonald, Q.C.	3 G. S. Watson
4 P. G. Chiswell	4 K. Gramlich
5 Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP.	5 Parlee McLaws LLP.
6 2400, 525 - 8 Avenue SW	6 3300, 421 - 7 Avenue SW
7 Calgary, Alberta	7 Calgary, Alberta
8 403-260-0100	8 403-294-7000
9	9
10 FOR THE DEFENDANT SUSAN RIDDELL ROSE:	10 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER:
11 S. Leitl (Not Present)	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	11 L. D. Stevenson, CSR(A)
12 G Renediktsson (Not Present)	11 L. D. Stevenson, CSR(A) 12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc.
12 G. Benediktsson (Not Present)	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc.
13 Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW
<ul><li>13 Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.</li><li>14 3700, 400 3rd Avenue SW</li></ul>	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW 14 Calgary, Alberta
<ul><li>13 Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.</li><li>14 3700, 400 3rd Avenue SW</li><li>15 Calgary, Alberta</li></ul>	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW 14 Calgary, Alberta 15 403-531-0590
<ul> <li>Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.</li> <li>3700, 400 3rd Avenue SW</li> <li>Calgary, Alberta</li> <li>403-267-8222</li> </ul>	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW 14 Calgary, Alberta 15 403-531-0590 16
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<ul> <li>Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.</li> <li>3700, 400 3rd Avenue SW</li> <li>Calgary, Alberta</li> <li>403-267-8222</li> <li>FOR THE INTERVENOR(S) ORPHAN WELL ASSOCIATION:</li> </ul>	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW 14 Calgary, Alberta 15 403-531-0590 16 PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 10:02 AM) 18 LARS THOMAS DE PAUW, Affirmed, Examined by Mr. McDonald
<ul> <li>13 Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.</li> <li>14 3700, 400 3rd Avenue SW</li> <li>15 Calgary, Alberta</li> <li>16 403-267-8222</li> <li>17</li> <li>18 FOR THE INTERVENOR(S) ORPHAN WELL ASSOCIATION:</li> <li>19 K. T. Lenz, Q.C.</li> </ul>	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW 14 Calgary, Alberta 15 403-531-0590 16
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13 Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP. 14 3700, 400 3rd Avenue SW 15 Calgary, Alberta 16 403-267-8222 17 18 FOR THE INTERVENOR(S) ORPHAN WELL ASSOCIATION: 19 K. T. Lenz, Q.C. 20 Bennett Jones LLP. 21 4500, 855 - 2 Street SW 22 Calgary, Alberta 23 403-298-3100 24 25	12 Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 13 760, 1015 - 4 Street SW 14 Calgary, Alberta 15 403-531-0590 16 17 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 10:02 AM) 18 LARS THOMAS DE PAUW, Affirmed, Examined by Mr. McDonald 19 THE COURT REPORTER: Please state and spell your 20 full name for the record. 21 A Sure. It Lars Thomas De Pauw, spelt L-A-R-S, 22 T-H-O-M-A-S, D-E, space, P-A-U-W. 23 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. 24 Q MR. McDONALD: Mr. De Pauw, you've affirmed 25 that you will tell the truth during this questioning

5 1 Q And you understand that I'm questioning you on an 1 Q And how long were you with Matrix Solutions? 2 affidavit you swore in these proceedings, that is 2 A It was approximately a year and a half. 3 Action Number 1801-10960 in Court of Queen's Bench of 3 Q And briefly can you trace your employment history Alberta on June 29th, 2020? 4 before that for me? 5 A I do. 5 A Prior to Matrix Solutions, I was employed at Tervita as 6 Q I understand you have a copy of that affidavit in front 6 a strategic account manager. That was from 2013 to 7 of you. 7 2015 I believe, and before that I was at PennWest 8 A I do. 8 Energy Trust & Petroleum as environmental manager and 9 Q And do you also have a book of documents that my office 9 other prior roles before that. 10 provided to your counsel I believe earlier today? 10 And then before that, from '99 to 2001, I was 11 A Yes. 11 working for a small environmental consulting firm 12 Q I may be referring to some of those documents during 12 called Weibe Environmental. 13 the course of our questioning today. 13 Q That generally outlines your experience in the energy 14 You are the executive director of the Orphan Well 14 business since 1999, does it? 15 Association; correct? 15 A Correct. Yes. 16 A Correct. Q What education do you have? 16 17 Q How long have you held that position? 17 A I have a bachelors of science in engineering and a 18 A Since June of 2017 -- July of 2017, sorry. 18 masters of science. 19 Q And prior to that, did you hold another position with 19 Q And when did you graduate? 20 the Orphan Well Association? 20 A I graduated with a bachelors in 1997 and a masters in 21 A No. 21 1999. 22 Q What briefly was your employment history prior to 22 Q Do you have any professional designations? 23 joining the Orphan Well Association? 23 A I'm a professional engineer with APEGA. 24 A I was a senior environmental engineer at Matrix 24 Q Anything else? 25 Solutions 25 A No. 26 Q What's the business of Matrix Solutions? 26 Q Do you currently hold any executive positions with 27 27 A They are an environmental consultant. Canadian energy industry organizations? 7 8 1 A I'm not sure I understand the question. you've got there? 1 2 Q Well, you're a member of APEGA. Are you a member of MR. I FN7: Yes, I do. Can you hear that? the executive of APEGA? 3 3 Yes. I do. 4 A Oh, no, I'm not. 4 Q MR. McDONALD: Yes, thanks. Got it. Were you authorized to swear this affidavit by the 5 Q Are you a member of any other industry organization? 5 6 A No. 6 Orphan Well Association, sir? 7 Q I'm going to refer to the defined terms that you have 7 A Was I authorized? I'm not sure what you mean by that. used in your affidavit. If I do that, will you Q Well, did you need to seek any authorization from the 8 9 understand me? 9 organization before you filed an affidavit seeking to 10 A Yeah. 10 intervene in these proceedings, and if so, did you get 11 Q And if there is any confusion about any term I use, 11 it? 12 just please let me know. Will you do that? 12 A Yeah, our board is aware. Board of directors is -- is 13 A Yes. aware that we were filing this affidavit. 13 14 Q And I understand from paragraph 2 of your affidavit 14 Q And were you instructed by the board of directors to 15 that defined terms you use in that affidavit have the 15 file it, or is it just your initiative just to make 16 meanings given to them in the statement of claim. Did 16 them aware? 17 you read the statement of claim? 17 A Our board is in agreement with the filing of the 18 A I don't recall if I've read the statement of claim 18 affidavit. 19 recently. 19 Q I want to know what due diligence or homework you did 20 Q Right now I'm just concerned about whether when I use 20 before you swore your affidavit, and I'd asked you a 21 21 defined terms in the statement of claim, I just want to moment ago about whether you'd read the statement of 22 make sure that you're going to understand what I'm 22 claim. I wasn't clear from your answer whether you had 23 23 talking about. Do you have a copy of the statement of read it, but it was sometime ago or you weren't sure if 24 claim handy in case we need to refer to it? 24 you did. Can you clarify that for me? 25 MR. LENZ: We do. 25 A Well, we've obtained legal advice from Bennett Jones 26 MR. McDONALD: 26 I can't hear you, Mr. Lenz, and reviewed materials from PricewaterhouseCoopers in

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regards to the -- the case.

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but it looked like you were saying yes. Is that what

- 1 Q Okay. What materials did you review that you received 2 from PWC?
- 3 A I've reviewed Paul Darby's affidavit from 2018 and
- 4 we've had meetings with PWC as well.
- 5 Q Do you recall if you reviewed Mr. Darby's transcript of
- 6 the cross-examination on his affidavit?
- 7 A I have not.
- 8 Q Did you review a copy of Ms. Rose's affidavit from
- 9 2018?
- 10 A I have reviewed her affidavit as well.
- 11 Q How about Mr. Schweitzer's affidavit from 2018?
- 12 A I have reviewed parts of his affidavit.
- 13 Q I take it you didn't review the transcripts of those
- 14 cross-examinations.
- 15 A I have not.
- 16 Q Did you read Perpetual Energy defendants' statement of
- 17 defence?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q When you looked at Mr. Darby's affidavit or Ms. Rose's
- 20 affidavit, did you also read the exhibits to those
- 21 affidavits?
- 22 A There was some of the affidavit -- or, sorry, the
- 23 exhibits in the affidavits that I reviewed.
- 24 Q Which ones, do you recall?
- 25 A In particular, materials that were provided in
- 26 PowerPoint presentations, and I believe one of them was
- 27 to the board of directors, and I think one of them was

- 1 in relation to the board or -- or management meetings.
- 2 I did not review the purchase and sale agreements or
- 3 the exhibits that related to the details within that.
- 4 There was correspondence in Mrs. Rose's affidavit that
- 5 related to internal correspondence with the purchasers
- 6 that I did review as well.
- 7 Q Okay. Anything else you can recall that you reviewed
- 8 in the exhibits to either Mr. Darby or Ms. Rose's
- 9 affidavit?
- 10 A There was -- there was some press releases from
- 11 Perpetual that I reviewed as well.
- 12 Q And why didn't you review the purchase and sale
- 13 agreements?
- 14 A Well, I'm not a lawyer, so I'm not sure there was
- something in there in particular that I needed to
- 16 review.
- 17 Q I take it from your background that your expertise is
- in engineering and environmental issues; is that right?
- 19 A Correct.
- 20 Q And your expertise is not in interpreting contracts?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q And was it because you're not a lawyer and don't have
- that expertise that you decided that you didn't need to

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- 24 review the purchase and sale agreements?
- 25 A Correct.
- 26 Q Did you review any other records, that is other than
- 27 those exhibited -- those two affidavits relating to the

2016 transactions?

- 2 A I reviewed the AER's press release relating to this
- 3 matter, and I reviewed two bulletins from the AER in
- 4 2016 in regards to their licensee transfer
- 5 requirements.
- 6 Q And were those bulletins something that you were
- 7 generally familiar with before that, or is that the
- 8 first time you familiarized yourself with those
- 9 bulletins?
- 10 A I was familiar with them from before, but I wanted to
- 11 review them.
- 12 Q Are you aware that the judge who is hearing the
- 13 proceedings in this case is Justice Nixon?
- 14 A I am.
- 15 Q And have you read his January 2020 decision in what we
- 16 call the first summary dismissal application?
- 17 A I have not.
- 18 Q There have been some decisions in the Court of Appeal
- 19 in this case primarily related to security for costs.
- 20 Have you read those decisions?
- 21 A I have not.
- 22 Q The Perpetual Energy defendants have filed a second
- 23 summary dismissal application generally referred to as
- 24 the BIA summary dismissal application and that's
- scheduled to be heard in court on October 1 and 2.
- 26 Have you read that application?
- 27 A I have not.

- 1 Q I take it you haven't read any of the materials that
- 2 were filed in relation to it or in support of it
- 3 either; is that correct?
- 4 A Correct.

- 5 Q What about the Sequoia bankruptcy records, have you
- 6 reviewed any of those?
- 7 A I have not.
- 8 Q So I take it you haven't seen the trustee's preliminary
- 9 report into the Sequoia bankruptcy; is that correct?
- 10 A Yeah, correct.
- 11 Q What about records from Sequoia itself, did you review
- 12 any Sequoia records other than those that may have been
- 13 attached as exhibits to either Mr. Darby or Ms. Rose's
- 14 affidavit?
- 15 A I don't recall reading anything from Sequoia.
- 16 Q You haven't seen Sequoia's letter to its stakeholders
- 17 around the time that it became bankrupt?
- 18 A I have seen it in the binder here.
- 19 Q Okay. That's the first time you've seen it?
- 20 A I had seen it previously, but I don't know where I
- 21 would've seen it, but I did -- had seen it before.
- 22 Q Okay. You mentioned looking at the AER press release
- 23 and two bulletins. Are there any other Alberta Energy
- 24 Regulator records that you reviewed in relation to
- 25 this?
- 26 A Not in relation to this, but part of my job is to
- 27 regularly be aware of AER regulations.

13 14 1 Q Now, I've tried to cover everything that I can think of 1 we can help narrow it down. 2 that you might have reviewed in connection with this 2 Are you aware that the statement of claim in this 3 case before swearing your affidavit. Is there anything 3 case was issued on August 2nd, 2018? that you can think of that I've missed? 4 A I wasn't aware, but if that's the date. 5 A I did review some of our legal advice from counsel in Q Well, if you'll take my word for it, did you meet with 5 6 regards to this matter. 6 Mr. Darby or PWC representatives between the time of 7 Q Okay. Anything else? your initial meeting in March 2018 and the filing of 7 8 A No. 8 the statement of claim? 9 Q You mentioned you received some materials from PWC. 9 A I'd have to check the timing of those meetings. 10 Did you meet with Mr. Darby in relation to this case? 10 Q Where I'm really going with this, sir, is were you, on 11 A We have. 11 behalf of the OWA, in communication with PWC in relation to the decision to or the steps taken to sue 12 Q And when did you first meet with him? 12 13 A The first meeting that I had with Mr. Darby was in 13 in this case? 14 March of 2018 when Sequoia was in the process of filing 14 A Could you ask that question again? 15 for bankruptcy. 15 Q What I want to know from you, sir, is in this period 16 Q And what was, broadly speaking, the subject matter of 16 from your first meeting in March 2018 until the time 17 that meeting? 17 the statement of claim was filed, did you talk to 18 A It was to inform the AER and the OWA that Sequoia was 18 Mr. Darby or other PWC people about the fact that it 19 going to be filing for bankruptcy. 19 was the trustee's plan to sue Perpetual and others? 20 Q Have you had other meetings with Mr. Darby or other PWC 20 A I believe that we did have meetings with them before 21 representatives in relation to this? 21 they filed. 22 Q So you were aware that they were going to file? 22 A Yes. 23 Q When? 23 A Correct. 24 A I'd have to check the records about when they happened, 24 Q And what was your role in those meetings? 25 but we've had a number of meetings with -- with 25 A My role was there as the executive director of the 26 Mr. Darby and PWC. 26 Orphan Well Association. 27 Q Well, let's look at a couple of timeframes and see if 27 Q Well, then what was the Orphan Well's role in relation 15 16 to its decision to sue an oil company in this case? 1 (OBJECTION) 2 A Our role would be that we would likely be the biggest 2 Q MR. McDONALD: Have you spoken to any of the Sequoia representatives about this case? 3 impacted stakeholder in regards to the Sequoia 4 bankruptcy. 4 A When we met with PWC in March of 2018, Vicki Benoit was 5 Q So was the Orphan Well Association in favour of 5 in the meetings. 6 commencing this lawsuit? 6 Q And did you speak with her about the transactions? 7 MR. LENZ: Just hold on. I'm not sure 7 A I don't recall. 8 8 Q Have you spoken with her other than in those initial what the relevance is of that, Mr. McDonald. I know 9 you've taken a very narrow view of relevancy, and I'd 9 meetings? 10 like to carry on with that in this questioning. 10 A I have not. 11 (OBJECTION) 11 Q Are you familiar with the names Mr. Yang and Mr. Wang 12 Q MR. McDONALD: 12 as two of the principals of Sequoia? Well, then let's move past the 13 A I'm familiar with the names. 13 filing of the statement of claim, and I know you can't 14 pinpoint for me your meetings with PWC, but maybe we 14 Q Have you ever spoken with them? 15 can do it more broadly. 15 A I have not. 16 Were you generally in communication with PWC after 16 Q Have you ever tried to contact them? 17 the statement of claim was filed through to present 17 A No. 18 date relating to this case? 18 Q Other than Ms. Benoit, have you ever spoken with anybody from Sequoia or tried to speak with anyone from 19 A Yes. 19 20 20 Q For what purpose? Sequoia? 21 A To be kept informed about the proceedings. 21 A I did have a conversation with an environmental 22 Q Did you consider applying to intervene in the case 22 coordinator, but I can't recall if the individual was 23 before the first summary dismissal application? 23 employed at Seguoia or Perpetual. 24 A We did consider it. 24 Q Let's turn to any contact you've had with Perpetual.

I don't see the relevance,

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Other than that person that you don't know whether he

or she was with Sequoia or Perpetual, have you been in

communication with anybody from Perpetual in relation

25 Q Why didn't you?

MR. LENZ:

Mr. McDonald. Objection.

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- 1 to this case?
- 2 A Your video broke up. Could you repeat the question?
- 3 Q I'm sorry.
- 4 Putting aside this environmental coordinator, and
- 5 I know you don't know who that person was employed by,
- 6 have you been in communication with anybody from
- 7 Perpetual in relation to this case?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Who and when?
- 10 A It was Geoff Merritt, who is on the board of directors
- 11 I believe -- or, was at least at the time I spoke with
- 12 him.
- 13 Q When was that?
- 14 A I don't recall the date of it.
- 15 Q What was the purpose of that discussion? How did it
- 16 arise?
- 17 A Geoff and I are at the same golf club and he mentioned
- 18 it to me.
- 19 Q Did you have any substantive discussion with him about
- 20 it?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Any other communications with anybody from Perpetual?
- 23 A Not that I can recall.
- 24 Q Did you make any efforts to contact Ms. Rose or
- 25 Mr. Schweitzer or anybody else in relation to this
- 26 case?
- 27 A I have not.

- 1 Q You're aware that there are three other intervenors in
- this case. CNRL, Cenovus and Torxen; is that right?
- 3 A I'm aware of that.
- 4 Q And have you been in communication with representatives
- 5 of those companies in relation to this case?
- 6 A I have.
- 7 Q And for what purpose?
- 8 A Sorry, I think your video broke up again. Could you
- 9 repeat the question?
- 10 Q For what purpose?
- 11 A The intervenors represent companies that are paying a
- 12 large proportion of the orphan levy, and we wanted them
- 13 to be aware that we were going to be intervening, and
- 14 we did discuss the potential of them intervening as
- 15 well.
- 16 Q Is it your recollection that you were the one that
- 17 initiated the suggestion to intervene to them?
- 18 A We did reach out to those groups initially to make that
- 19 suggestion.
- 20 Q When was that?
- 21 A I'd have to check the exact dates, but it's in the last
- 22 couple of months.
- $\,$  23  $\,$  Q  $\,$  And is the only discussion you've had with them about
- 24 this case that reaching out to make the suggestion to
- 25 intervene?
- 26 A We have had discussions with representatives of those
- 27 organizations in regards to this -- this case.

1 Q Did you review their affidavits either before or after

- 2 they were filed?
- 3 A I have reviewed their affidavits.
- 4 Q Before or after they were filed, do you recall?
- 5 A I believe I saw a draft of them before they were filed,
- 6 and I did review the final version.
- 7 Q And essentially the OWA and those three intervenors,
- have they been coordinating their efforts in this case?
- 9 A We have spoken together on it.
- 10 Q Okay. I'd like you to turn to the booklet that you
- 11 received from our office. I don't have a precise copy
- 12 of it, but I believe I have all the documents that are
- in it, and I expect that at Tab 1 you'll see a copy of
- 14 the OWA 2019 annual report. Do you have that?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q And I take it you're familiar with this.
- 17 A I am.
- 18 Q Can we mark that as an exhibit, please?
- 19 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, just the tab, Tab 1?
- 20 MR. McDONALD: Yes, just Tab 1, the 2019 OWA
- 21 annual report.
- 22 EXHIBIT 1 2019 Orphan Well Association
- 23 Annual Report
- 24 Q MR. McDONALD: Sir, would you turn to page 1
- 25 under the heading Our Vision and Mandate? Do you have
- 26 that --
- 27 A Yes.

- 1 Q -- in front of you?
  - 2 A Yes.

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3 Q And I see looking at the second paragraph (AS READ):

- The mandate of the OWA is to safely
- 5 decommission orphan oil and gas wells,
- 6 pipelines and production facilities, and
- 7 restore the land similar to its original
  - state. Since its formation in 2002, the OWA
- 9 has successfully decommissioned approximately
  - 3,100 orphan wells, with 940 sites reclaimed.
- 11 I take it that's not only the mandate of the OWA, but
- that's probably a fair description of your role as the
- 13 executive director to implement that mandate; is that
- 14 right?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q And you mentioned in the prior paragraph that the OWA17 (AS READ):
- 18 ... began as an innovative collaboration
- 19 among the Alberta Government, provincial
- 20 regulators and the oil and gas industry.
- 21 Is it still a collaboration among those three
- 22 stakeholders?
- 23 A I would describe it as that.
- 24 Q And the provincial regulators that you speak of there,
- 25 that really refers to the Alberta Energy Regulator or
- the AER; is that right?
- 27 A Correct.

- 1 Q Am I correct that the OWA is a non-profit society
- 2 formed under The Societies Act?
- 3 A That is correct.
- 4 Q And am I also correct that much of the statutory
- 5 framework for the operations of the orphan fund,
- 6 respectively the OWA, is found in the Oil and Gas
- 7 Conservation Act under Part 11?
- 8 MR. LENZ: Hold on. I don't think that's
- 9 within his area of expertise, Mr. McDonald.
- 10 (OBJECTION)
- 11 Q MR. McDONALD: Okay. Would you turn to Tab 2
- 12 of the book, sir, Oil and Gas Conservation Act? Do you
- 13 have that?
- 14 A Correct, I do.
- 15 Q And I believe the first page after the cover should be
- 16 Part 11, Orphan Fund. Do you see that?
- 17 A I do.
- 18 Q Are you familiar with that section, Part 11?
- 19 A I am.
- 20 Q And does Section 70 in that part deal with what the
- 21 orphan fund may be used for?
- 22 A I see that section.
- 23 Q So I take it you're familiar with it as part of your
- 24 job, are you not?
- 25 A I am familiar with it.
- 26 Q Okay, and I'm not asking you to interpret legislation,
- 27 I just want to know if this is where the orphan fund

- 1 finds its authority to carry out its operations or
- 2 whatever other --
- 3 MR. LENZ: Mr. McDonald, I'm going to
- 4 object. Sorry, that's -- you're calling for an
- 5 opinion -- legal opinion and a lot of issues raised
- 6 about opinions. He's not a lawyer.
- 7 (OBJECTION)
- 8 Q MR. McDONALD: Okay. Well, what can the
- 9 orphan fund be used for?
- 10 A So it can be used for the decommissioning and
- 11 reclamation of orphan properties for the reimbursement
- 12 of working interest claims, when an active company does
- work on behalf of a defunct company. It can be used
- 14 for the administration of the association. It can be
- 15 used for funding a trustee or receiver, and it can be
- 16 used to undertake other components that relate to the
- 17 objectives of the association.
- 18 Q Has it been used for the purposes of funding a trustee
- 19 or receiver in this case?
- 20 A In this particular case, no.
- 21 Q So the OWA hasn't provided any funding or financial
- 22 support for the trustee in this case?
- 23 MR. LENZ: I think I'm going to object
- 24 again. I don't see how that's going to help
- 25 Justice Nixon decide the case -- your application.
- 26 (OBJECTION)

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27 Q MR. McDONALD: You mentioned that it can be

1 used for the reclamation of -- didn't get the exact

- 2 words, but I take it wells, orphan wells and
- 3 facilities; is that right?
- 4 A Yeah, there's two main components. One -- one on sites
- 5 that are designated as orphans and that's work that we
- 6 undertake.
- The second component relates to when an activecompany does work, and they have a minority interest
- 9 from a defunct company so we reimburse that active
- 10 company for the defunct company's portion of the work.
- 11 Q When you say when they're "designated as orphans," it's
- 12 the AER that have the authority to designate wells or
- 13 facilities as orphans; right?
- 14 A Correct.
- 15 Q The OWA does not?
- 16 A Correct.
- 17 Q And it's only when work is done on wells that have been
- 18 -- or, facilities that have been designated by the AER
- 19 as orphans or when active companies do work for others
- 20 as you just described that the orphan well -- orphan
- 21 fund can pay out monies; right?
- 22 MR. LENZ: Well, Mr. McDonald, this is
- 23 getting into some difficult questions on the
- 24 interpretation of the legislation. Legislation talks
- 25 about potential orphans. Again, you're getting -- I
- don't see how this is relevant to your application.
- 27 (OBJECTION)

1 MR. McDONALD: Well, I'm not asking him to

- 2 interpret legislation now. I just want to make sure I
- 3 understand that the orphan fund administered by the
- 4 Orphan Well Association doesn't pay for reclamation
- 5 work on wells unless the regulator designates them as
- 6 orphans, with one exception being when an active
- 7 company does work for an inactive company. Is that a
- 8 fair summary?
- 9 A Specific to conducting remediation, reclamation or
- 10 abandonment work, those are the two cases.
- 11 Q And I think you refer in your affidavit to the orphan
- 12 fund levy. What is that?
- 13 A The orphan fund levy is a levy issued to industry
- 14 participants in Alberta to pay -- pay for the work that
- 15 we undertake on orphan sites or reimbursing on working
- 16 interest claims.
- 17 Q And it's only the Alberta Energy Regulator that can
- 18 require payment of the levy, a fee of the levy; is that
- 19 right?
- 20 A Correct.
- 21 Q The OWA can't do that on its own?
- 22 A Correct.
- 23 Q Are you familiar with the expression "good year assets"
- from Mr. Darby's affidavit or the statement of claim?
- 25 A I am.
- 26 Q And the regulator has not designated any of the good
- year assets to be orphans, has it?

- 1 A Not to my knowledge.
- 2 Q Are you aware that the trustee has not tried to sell3 any of the good year assets?
- 4 A I'm not aware of that.
- 5 Q Do you know what I'm referring to if I refer to the
- 6 AlphaBow assets?
- 7 A I don't know the specific assets in question, but I'm
- 8 familiar with the company.
- 9 Q And you're familiar with the purchase by Sequoia of
- 10 some of the assets sometimes referred to as the
- 11 AlphaBow assets?
- 12 A I don't know which assets that relates to.
- 13 Q Do you know if the trustee has sold any of the Sequoia14 assets?
- 15 A I don't have any clear recollection on which assets
- 16 have been sold or not.
- 17 Q But you're aware that some have been sold and others
- 18 have not?
- 19 A I believe that I -- I was informed that some had been
- 20 sold, but I -- I'd have a tough time recalling the
- 21 details of it.
- 22 Q Do you know whether the trustee has any plan to sell
- 23 any of the good year assets?
- 24 A I have no knowledge on that.
- 25 Q You do know that if the good year assets were sold to a
- 26 solvent entity, you would not expect them to become
- 27 orphans; is that not right?

- 1 A If they were sold to another entity, they would not be
- designated as orphans.Q I'm going to ask you to turn back to the annual report.
- 4 At page 3, we have a message from the Chair,
- 5 Mr. Herald. Again, you are familiar with that?
- 6 A lam.
- 7 Q And I'm looking at the second paragraph, and it says 8 (AS READ):
- We have certainly seen in the past five years
  some difficult times for many energy
  producers.
- 12 Has that been your experience?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And, again, he refers to (AS READ):
- ... we have experienced sustained low
  commodity prices over a long period, with
  less access to capital, and some companies
- have struggled to recover.
- 19 Again, that's consistent with your experience?
- 20 A Yes.

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- Q Two lines down, after referring to some insolvenciesand an increase in the orphan well inventory in 2018,
  - he says that (AS READ):
- 24 ... we were well prepared, with more funding25 from industry and a ramped-up mobilization
  - from industry and a ramped-up mobilization plan.

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27 That's your experience as well?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q And I skipped over the words (AS READ):
- 3 ... significant increase in our orphan well
- 4 inventory in 2018.
- 5 The good year assets did not contribute to that
- 6 increase in the orphan well inventory in 2018, did
- 7 they?
- 8 A Your assets have been not designated as orphans as far
- 9 as I know.
- 10 Q Then later in that same paragraph, there's reference to
- 11 a loan from the Alberta Government and a grant from the
- 12 Government of Canada. Has the Orphan Well Association
- 13 been receiving government support to facilitate its
- 14 efforts?
- 15 A We have received two loans from the Government of
- 16 Alberta. First one for 235 million and the second for
- 17 100 million.
- 18 Q The first one is referred to in the second column about
- 19 midway down the page. Is that the \$235 million loan
- 20 you referred to?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And the second one, did you say it was 100 million?
- 23 A Correct.
- 24 Q When was that?
- 25 A When was that agreement signed?
- 26 Q Yes, or when did you get the \$100 million or whatever.
- 27 A So we're getting the first installment of the \$100

- million on October 1st and the second installment on
- 2 January 1st of next year.
- 3 Q There's reference later in that column to Federal
- 4 Government support to the energy sector with a \$1.7
- 5 billion commitment for decommissioning and reclamation
- 6 which includes a \$200 million repayable loan to the
- 7 OWA. Is that the current extent of the Federal
- 8 Government support?
- 9 A So the Federal Government did provide the Provincial
- 10 Government a grant of \$30 million to cover the interest
- 11 on the first loan of \$235 million, and then they've
- made the announcement of a loan of \$200 million to the
- 13 Orphan Well Association.
- 14 Q Have you received that yet?
- 15 A The agreement has not been finalized.
- 16 Q And the \$1.7 billion referred to there, is that money
- 17 that goes to or through the OWA, or is that directly to
- 18 other participants in the energy sector?
- 19 A Those funds are being given to the Provincial20 Governments.
- 21 Q And then from the Provincial Governments, at least in
- 22 relation to the Alberta Provincial Government, do they
- then -- or, is it anticipated that they will then flow
- 24 through the OWA to assist in its efforts?
- $\,$  25  $\,$  A  $\,$  Those funds are being provided to service providers to
- 26 undertake the work, so as of this time the Orphan Well
- 27 Association has not been involved with receipt of any

- 1 of the funds or work on properties that are designated
- 2 as orphans.
- 3 Q Is it anticipated that those funds will be used in part
- 4 at least to work on orphans -- paid for work on
- 5 orphans?
- 6 A I can't comment on periods of the grants that have not
- 7 been released yet, but we are aware that the province
- 8 has given grant money to certain service providers on
- 9 sites that may be designated as an orphan, but are not
- 10 at this time.
- 11 Q And that grant money, I take it, would relieve or help
- 12 relieve the burden on whoever was responsible to pay
- for the abandonment reclamation. That's part of the
- 14 purpose of it; is that not right?
- 15 A I'm not sure what the province's intent with the
- 16 program is.
- 17 Q Turn over the page. You'll see a message from the executive director. I take it that's your message and
- 19 you wrote that.
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And, again, you say first -- the first paragraph
- 22 (AS READ):
- 23 In 2019, despite receiving a substantial
- 24 number of new orphan wells -- more in just
- one year than in 2014 to 2017 combined -- we
- 26 actually decreased the overall inventory with
- 27 a steady and strategic approach.

- 1 I take it the good year assets, not having been
- 2 designated as orphans, were not part of that
- 3 substantial increase in orphan wells; right?
- 4 A Correct.
- Q In the next paragraph, about five lines down, you say(AS READ):

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- 7 With our team's growing expertise and
- 8 experience, we are collaborating with other
- operators and fine-tuning our processes so
   that, simply put, we are getting the job done
- 11 better, faster and at a lower cost.
- 12 Is that a fair description of what you're doing?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And focusing on the costs point, I take it through
- various processes, including area based closure that
- 16 you've referred to later in that paragraph, you've been
- able to find efficiencies and reduce the costs of
- 18 abandonment and reclamation of orphans?
- 19 A Correct.
- 20 Q Could I ask you to turn to page 3 of your affidavit?
- You have a heading Concerns with the Asset Transaction.
- 22 Do you see that?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q And you are familiar with that defined term
- 25 "asset transaction" from the statement of claim, are
- 26 you?
- 27 A I believe it relates to the transaction on the good

- 1 year assets.
- 2 Q Which transaction on the good year assets?
- 3 A Oh, I guess the -- the steps that were from -- taken in
- 4 the transactions between Perpetual and that ended up
- 5 with Sequoia.
- 6 Q That's your understanding?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q In paragraph 9, immediately under that heading, you say9 (AS READ):
- 10 The OWA first learned about the transactions.
- 11 Are you familiar with that as another defined term in
- 12 the statement of claim?
- 13 A I'd have to look up the exact definition on
- transactions and what's included in -- relative to thestatement of claim.
- 16 Q Do you have the statement of claim handy? Turn to
- 17 paragraph 12.
- 18 A Okay.
- 19 Q Do you see the definition of transactions, plural, in
- 20 paragraph 12?
- 21 A I do.
- 22 Q That's what you're referring to in paragraph 9 of your
- 23 affidavit?
- 24 A Correct.
- 25 Q And do you see the defined term for the capitalized
- term in paragraph 12 "asset transaction"?
- 27 A Are you referring to the statement of claim paragraph

1 12?

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- 2 Q Yes, there's a -- it starts (AS READ):
  - Prior to the asset transaction ...
- 4 And I just -- I'd asked you some questions about what
- 5 you understood that to be and now I'm going to just
- 6 show you the defined term that you've adopted in your
- 7 statement of claim, and it's defined in paragraph 9 of
- 8 the statement of claim above that. Do you see that?
- 9 A Yes, I see it.
- 10 Q So when I read your affidavit and I see reference to
- 11 asset transaction, I should understand you're talking
- 12 about the transaction facilitated by the asset purchase
- 13 and sale agreement; right?
- 14 A So the transactions that are referring to in the
- 15 affidavit are the same as the transactions as listed in
- the statement of claim on paragraph 12.
- 17 Q Okay. So whenever I see the word "transactions" in
- 18 your affidavit, I'm to understand that you're referring
- 19 to those three transactions referred to in paragraph
- 20 12; right?

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- 21 A That's correct.
- 22 Q And when I see the words "asset transaction," I'm to
- 23 understand you're referring to the transaction referred
- to in paragraph 9 of the statement of claim?
- 25 A So I'm trying to recall when we did the affidavit if
  - all the components were individually looked at when we
- 27 defined them in the affidavit as transactions or if

33 34 1 they were broadly or individually listed as 1 A That's correct. 2 transactions. 2 Q Those are the three agreements that created the 3 Q Well, do you have a recollection? 3 transactions; correct? 4 A I don't recall reviewing the definition of transaction 4 A Correct. 5 as defined in the affidavit. 5 Q If I told you that, in simple terms, the asset 6 Q Just so we're clear, sir, because this is significant transaction combined the legal and beneficial interest 6 7 to me at least, there is no definition of transaction. in the good year assets into PEOC -- P-E-O-C, sorry, 7 8 The defined term is transactions, with an 'S,' and it's 8 that's a defined term, that's something you already 9 defined in paragraph 12 of the statement of claim, and 9 understood? 10 A Yes. 10 in paragraph 2 of your affidavit, you adopt it. Do you 11 understand that? 11 Q So when we see reference to the asset transaction in 12 A I do. 12 your affidavit, we're referring to a transaction that, 13 Q So we're clear, there's another defined term you use in 13 generally speaking, combined the legal and beneficial 14 your affidavit and that's called "asset transaction" 14 interests in the good year assets in PEOC; right? 15 and that's defined in paragraph 9 of the statement of 15 A That is my understanding. 16 claim and you adopted that in paragraph 2 of your 16 Q Let's go to paragraph 10 of your affidavit. You say 17 affidavit. Do you understand that? 17 (AS READ): 18 A Yes. 18 Normally a disposition of oil and gas assets 19 Q And I think you've already told me that you never read 19 of this nature would require approval from 20 the asset share -- sorry, asset purchase and sale 20 the AER. 21 agreement, have you? 21 What nature are you talking about? 22 A No. I've not read it. 22 A When this transaction occurred, if it would have been a 23 Q You've never read the share purchase and sale agreement 23 different component, and it was a sale of assets only, it would be required to be reviewed by the AER. 24 either, have you? 24 25 A That's correct. 25 Q So it's not a disposition of oil and gas assets of this 26 Q And you've never read the retained interest agreement, 26 nature, but of a different nature; right? 27 have you? 27 A The steps taken to do this transaction avoided the 35 36 AER's regulatory review. 1 Q MR. McDONALD: You said the regulatory review 2 Q Well, let's talk about those steps then. 2 doesn't arise in a corporate transaction? Is that 3 The asset transaction did not require any AER 3 something you mentioned? 4 regulatory review; right? A Correct, at this time in 2016. 5 MR. LENZ: That calls for -- I mean, I 5 Q And when you say "a corporate transaction," you mean 6 think that's -- I think that's beyond his expertise, 6 the sale of shares of a company? 7 Mr. McDonald. 7 A Correct. 8 (OBJECTION) Q So back to paragraph 10 of your affidavit (AS READ): 8 9 Q MR. McDONALD: AER regulatory review occurs 9 A disposition of oil and gas assets of this 10 upon the transfer of a licence; is that right? Sorry? 10 11 A When it transfers from one licensee to another, it Are you talking about by the sale of the shares of 11 12 does, unless it's a corporate sale. 12 PEOC. 13 A So a share sale would not have been reviewed by the 13 Q Okay. So that's the regulatory review you're talking 14 about in your affidavit; right? 14 AER. 15 A So there was a number of steps in this transaction 15 Q And the share purchase agreement was a share sale; 16 specific to the good year assets. 16 right? The share transaction was the share sale? 17 Q My question was, when you speak of regulatory review in 17 A Yeah, that's my understanding. 18 your affidavit, what you are referring to is the review 18 Q And you're not prepared to tell me whether or not the 19 by the AER upon the transfer of licence; correct? 19 asset transaction required a regulatory approval? 20 A Correct. 20 MR. LENZ: Sorry, Mr. McDonald, you cut 21 Q There was no transfer of licence required by the asset 21 out again. 22 transaction? 22 MR. McDONALD: You're not prepared to tell me 23 Counsel, may have objected to that. I don't know 23 whether the asset transaction would require regulatory 24 if that's something you know or can answer. 24 approval? Is that right, sir, you're not prepared --25 Yeah, I will object to that. 25 I think there has been an MR. LENZ: MR. LENZ: 26 MR. McDONALD: Okay. 26 objection on that. 27 (OBJECTION) 27 (OBJECTION)

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1 Q MR. McDONALD: Well, to put it plainly, there

- 2 was no transfer of licenses on -- in relation to the
- 3 transactions; correct?
- 4 A My understanding is that there was internal transfers
- 5 in the Perpetual owned companies.
- 6 Q And internal transfers do not require regulatory
- 7 approval; right?
- 8 A I'm not sure of that.
- Q Are you guessing about whether there were general 9 10 transactions, or are you able to say that under oath?
- 11 A My review of the materials that were provided to the
- 12 board of directors of Perpetual indicated that licenses
- 13 were moving from one organization to the other to set
- 14 up its corporate sale.
- 15 Q But the corporate sale, if we can refer to it as that,
- 16 did not require regulatory approval; right?
- 17 MR. LENZ: Sorry, you cut out again,
- 18 Mr. McDonald. It's not you, but somehow we're getting
- 19 out in and out.
- 20 Q MR. McDONALD: The corporate sale did not
- 21 require regulatory approval?
- 22 A Correct.
- 23 Q Isn't it more accurate, sir, in paragraph 10 to say
- 24 normally a disposition of oil and gas assets of this
- 25 nature would not require approval from the AER?
- 26 A To my understanding, most transfers are done under the 27 asset sale as opposed to a corporate sale.

are not required to get approval from the AER; right?

1 Q But if parties decide to do a corporate sale, then they

- 3 A If they're structured that way, yes.
- Q And this one was structured that way; right? 4
- A Correct. 5
- Q If you turn to paragraph 11 of your affidavit? 6
- Actually before we do that, would you turn to 7
- 8 Tab 3 in the binder?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And is that a public statement dated August 8th from
- 11 the Alberta Energy Regulator signed by -- under the
- 12 signature of Mr. Ellis, the chief executive officer?
- 13 A It is.
- 14 Q Have you seen that before?
- 15 A I have.
- Q And you know that it's addressing the Sequoia 16
- 17 transaction and Mr. Ellis's comments on that
- 18 transaction? Do you see that?
- 19 A Yes.

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- 20 Q He points out that Sequoia, in the third paragraph,
- 21 that Seguoia informed the regulator that it planned to
- 22 cease operations, and then he said (AS READ):
  - But how did Sequoia get to this point? What
- 24 happened that caused them to be in this
  - position? This is where a gap in our system
- 26 has been identified.
- 27 Did you understand that there was a gap in the

regulatory system?

- 2 A I'm not sure I understand what your question is.
- 3 Q Well, was there a gap in the regulatory system in 2016
- 4 as Mr. Ellis savs?
- 5 MR. LENZ: Well, I think he has already
- 6 said he doesn't understand your question, so maybe ask
- 7 a different question, Mr. McDonald.
- 8 (OBJECTION)
- 9 Q MR. McDONALD: I'm sorry, I thought that was
- 10 a different question.
- 11 Mr. Ellis --
- (INDISCERNIBLE OVERLAPPING SPEAKERS) 12
- 13 MR. LENZ: It requires reading the entire
- 14 agreement --
- 15 MR. McDONALD: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.
- 16 MR. LENZ: It requires reading the entire
- 17 thing and figuring out what he's talking about, so ...
- 18 Q MR. McDONALD: Okay. Well, if you need a
- 19 moment to read this, if you're unfamiliar with it, take
- 20 whatever time you need.
- 21 A Well, I understand his statement that he has issued in
- 22 2018 that the AER recognized that they had a gap in
- 23 their regulatory system.
- 24 Q And then he goes on to say that (AS READ):
- 25 The AER has limited legislated authority to
- 26 oversee corporate transactions. 27
  - That's consistent with the point you just made a moment

1 ago that the AER doesn't have authority over corporate

- 2 transactions or sale of shares; is that right?
- 3 A That's correct.
- 4 Q He goes on to say (AS READ):
- 5 This is important to note because corporate
  - transactions can result in AER licenses
- 7 changing hands without having to go through
  - the scrutiny of our transfer process.
- 9 That's consistent with your understanding?
- 10 A That's correct.
- Q All right. Whereas at the bottom of the page, he says 11
- 12 (AS READ):
- 13 For the AER, this situation has exposed a gap
- 14 in the system and raised questions with
- 15 respect to how we better manage liability in
- 16 the future. In some cases, our governing
- 17 legislation did not provide us with the
- 18 necessary flexibility to do what is needed,
- 19 while in other cases our own requirements and
- 20 processes were limiting. We were working to 21 fix both.
- 22 Is that consistent with your understanding?
- 23 A So for this transaction, I understand that the AER does
- 24 realize or realized that there was a gap in their 25 system.
- 26 Q And do you agree that the problem seems to have 27 originated from the governing regulation or the AER's

41 to 44 41 42 1 own requirements? 1 Q And do you know if this is part of trying to address 2 A I understand that's what the AER believed the gap was. those gaps that Mr. Ellis referred to and that you 2 Q Did you have a view? 3 recognize? 4 A I would agree that there was a gap in the system. 4 A I have no knowledge about which components they're 5 Q Okay, and then the last sentence I read to you was 5 trying to address specifically. 6 Q Can we mark that as an exhibit, please? (AS READ): 6 7 We were working to fix both. THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, you'll have to 7 8 And if you go down another few paragraphs, he writes 8 clarify just exactly what you're marking. 9 (AS READ): 9 MR. McDONALD: It's an Alberta Government 10 We have already begun to plan to update 10 publication dated July 2020 entitled Liability 11 liability management ... 11 Management Framework. 12 It goes on. Have there been some changes in the 12 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. 13 regulatory system since this? 13 EXHIBIT 2 - Alberta Government publication 14 A Yes. 14 dated July 2020 entitled Liability Management 15 Q Are you familiar with those? 15 Framework 16 A Yes. 16 Q MR. McDONALD: I believe the next tab in your book should be a website printout again from the 17 Q I believe the next tab in your binder should be an 17 Government of Alberta under the heading Oil and Gas 18 Alberta Government document entitled Liability 18 19 19 Liabilities Management. Do you have that? Management Framework. Do you see that? 20 A I do. 20 A I do. 21 Q And are you familiar with it? 21 Q And have you seen that before? 22 A I have read it before. 22 A I don't recall specifically seeing this website, but it 23 Q And it is dated July 2020. Does this generally 23 includes information that I have seen before. 24 describe some changes that the Alberta Government is 24 Q And it deals, at least on the first page, with the same 25 making to the LMR process? 25 liability management framework topic we just addressed; 26 26 A It does reference replacing that system with a new right? 27 A Are you talking about the length that is on the bottom 27 system. 43 44 part of the page? This is PDF for 327 KB. 1 MR. LENZ: I think the question was it's 2 THE COURT REPORTER: 2 just the same topic. I'm sorry? 3 Q MR. McDONALD: Sorry, I didn't follow that, 3 A Oh --4 and I have may have something that looks a little 4 MR. LENZ: The link is the same thing. 5 different than what you have. Can you tell me what 5 A -- okay. 6 you're looking at? 6 Q MR. McDONALD: Yes, okay, and then on the 7 A So at the bottom you say that there's a liability 7 second page of my copy, I have a heading Reducing 8 Orphaned Wells. Do you have that? management framework? I think he froze. 9 Q That's on my copy. I thought it was on yours, is it 9 A Yes. 10 10 Q And that refers to, in the second paragraph at any not? That's on my copy -rate, the two Provincial Government loans that you 11 MR. LENZ: Sorry, I think you froze 11 12 12 referred to earlier; correct? again. 13 13 A Correct. MR. McDONALD: Can you hear me now? 14 Q Okay. I don't think we need to mark that as an 14 MR. LENZ: Yes. 15 Q MR. McDONALD: Now we're good? 15 exhibit. 16 I'm just trying to determine whether you and I are 16 I think the next document in your binder is 17 looking at the same thing, sir, and on the first page 17 Bill 12 and perhaps with some reference to it having 18 of what I'm looking at near the bottom there's a 18 been proclaimed. Do you have that? 19 heading Liability Management Framework. Do you have 19 A Yes. 20 20 Q And are you familiar with Bill 12? that? 21 A Yes. 21 A Yes. 22 Q And I think my question was simply that's the same 22 Q The Liabilities Management Statutes Amendment and has liability management framework topic that we just 23 23 it indeed been proclaimed into the law? 24 discussed a moment ago in relation to that other 24 A Yes.

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Q And is it your understanding that this, in part, is to

27 A I'm not sure if it -- if it has addressed the corporate

address the gaps that you and Mr. Ellis reference?

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document; right?

26 A If you're referring to the link, I would say yes, but I

don't really know where the link goes to.

45 46 1 share transactions or not. Q You say (AS READ): 2 Q Okay. Would you turn to paragraph 11 of your 2 The effect of the transactions ... 3 affidavit? You start there saying (AS READ): 3 And then you describe that. You're trying in this 4 Upon learning the details of the ... 4 paragraph to describe your view of the effect of the 5 A You're referring to Bill 12? 5 transactions as we've defined them; is that right? 6 Q Oh, I'm sorry, no, I'm back to your affidavit. 6 A Yeah, the effect of leaving the assets to be abandoned 7 You say in paragraph 11 (AS READ): by the Orphan Well Association. 7 8 Upon learning the details of the 8 Q Well, let's just pause there for a second. 9 transactions, the OWA became concerned, 9 The regulator has not designated any of the good 10 inter alia, for the following reasons ... 10 year assets as orphans, has it? 11 And then you list several reasons. Do you see that? 11 A Correct. 12 A I do. 12 Q And the effect of the transactions, you're referring to 13 Q And I take it you learned of the transactions, I 13 the asset transaction, the share purchase -- or, share 14 believe you said, in March 2018; is that right? 14 transaction and the retained interest transaction; 15 A That's correct. 15 right? 16 MR. LENZ: Mr. McDonald, would now be an 16 A Correct. 17 appropriate time to just take a five-minute break? Q You haven't read any of the agreements that created 17 18 MR. McDONALD: Sure. 18 those transactions, have you? 19 (ADJOURNMENT) 19 A No. 20 Q MR. McDONALD: Sir, I think when we broke, I 20 Q And you're not a lawyer? 21 had just referred to the introductory words at 21 A I have received legal advice on it. 22 paragraph 11 about the OWA's concerns, and I'm going to 22 Q Oh, well, your lawyer might want to caution on this 23 turn to paragraph (d) in paragraph 11. Do you see 23 one. Let me ask you the question, and then we'll find 24 24 out if your lawyer would want to disclose that legal 25 THE COURT REPORTER: (E) as in elephant? 25 advice. I expect he doesn't. 26 Q MR. McDONALD: 26 (D) as in dog. Mr. Lenz, do you want me to examine him on the 27 A Yes. 27 legal advice or shall we move to something else? 47 48 MR. LENZ: Yeah, yes, we should move to abandonment and reclamation obligations. 1 2 2 Q And you say those were moved to Sequoia. From whom or something else. 3 Q MR. McDONALD: So my question was whether --3 what entity were they moved? 4 I don't remember the exact words, but I don't want to 4 A From Perpetual. 5 Q From Perpetual? 5 know what legal advice you've received, sir, but I just 6 want your confirmation that you're not a lawyer and you 6 Well, there are three Perpetual entities referred 7 are not an expert in interpreting agreements? 7 to in the statement of claim, so we better make sure we 8 A That is correct. know which one you're talking about. Do you have the Q You're an environmental engineer? 9 statement of claim there? 10 A Correct. 10 A Yes, so the -- oh --MR. LENZ: 11 Q That's where your expertise lies? Are you frozen? I think 11 12 Mr. McDonald may be completely frozen. 12 A Correct. Q So then you say (AS READ): 13 (VIDEO FEED LOST) 13 (DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD) 14 The effect of the transactions was to move 14 15 significant regulatory obligations to Sequoia 15 Q MR. McDONALD: Sir, I think my last question 16 Resources Corp. 16 to you was what Perpetual entity are you talking about? 17 Are those the regulatory obligations we've been talking 17 Do you know? 18 about previously, that is the obligations of a 18 A From my understanding is that the -- the entity of PEOC, P-E-O-C. 19 19 20 Q Okay. So you're saying that in paragraph 10 that the 20 A Those would be the closure regulatory obligations. 21 Q Closure? Is that the same as abandonment and 21 effect of the transactions was to move a significant --22 reclamation obligations? 22 move significant regulatory obligations from PEOC to 23 A You cut out there again. Could you repeat the 23 Sequoia; is that right? 24 question? 24 A So there was obviously a number of steps before it went 25 Q Is that another way of describing abandonment and 25 to Seguoia. 26 Q That's your understanding? 26 reclamation obligations? 27 A That there was a number of different sales and 27 A Yeah, the closure obligations would be the same as the

49 to 52 49 50 transactions, but the end point of the assets going to Q There's some references in the first -- under the first 1 2 Sequoia. 2 two dates to the bankruptcy of Sequoia, and then under 3 Q Okay. Just to be clear, the regulatory obligations the date March 26th, 2018. It says Letter to 3 we're talking about are the closure obligations; right? 4 Stakeholders, and I'm going to read to you from the 5 A Correct. 5 third paragraph under that date. (AS READ): 6 Q And those obligations are obligations of a licensee; 6 Operations commenced on October 1, 2016 and 7 SRC ... right? 7 8 A Correct. 8 Referring to Seguoia (AS READ): 9 Q And you say that those were moved from PEOC to Sequoia; 9 ... immediately began its aggressive 10 10 abandonment and reclamation program. From 11 A That is my understanding. 11 October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017, SRC abandoned 150 wells and received reclamation 12 Q Okay, and that was your understanding when you swore 12 13 your affidavit? 13 certificates for 91 wells. 14 A Correct. 14 Were you aware of that? 15 Q Okay. So we then see the following words after Sequoia 15 A I had seen that information somewhere before. 16 Resources Corp. (AS READ): Q And you have no reason to disagree with it? 16 17 A company with limited assets with no ability 17 A No. 18 to perform. 18 Q Goes on on the next page to say (AS READ): 19 Do you see that? 19 ... SRC ranked fifth in the province of 20 A Yeah. 20 Alberta in terms of reclamation certificates 21 Q I expect that the next document in your binder is a 21 received for the period October 1, 2016, to 22 document under the heading Sequoia Resources Corp. over 22 December 31, 2017. 23 the signature of the Sequoia Resources Corp. board of 23 Were you aware of that? 24 directors and management. Do you have that? 24 A No. 25 A I do. 25 Q And you have no reason to disagree with it? 26 Q And have you seen that before? 26 A I have no reason to disagree with that. 27 A I have seen this somewhere before. 27 Q So when you go -- when you say in paragraph 11(d) of 51 52 your affidavit that (AS READ): 1 1 These strategies were successful ... Sequoia was a company with limited assets 2 2 meaning the abandonment strategy referred to (AS READ): 3 that had no ability to perform. 3 ... and on target through to the end of the 4 Will you agree with me that it apparently had 4 summer of 2017. SRC steadily increased its 5 sufficient assets and an ability to perform the 5 production and reduced its overall 6 abandonment of 150 wells and obtain 91 reclamation 6 environmental liabilities. 7 certificates over the period noted? 7 Were you aware of that? 8 A Relative to the number of assets they held, they were A I wasn't. 8 9 not going to be able to sustain that work that they 9 Q Any reason to disagree with it? 10 A No. 10 were doing. I think, as I indicated, as they went 11 bankrupt. Q And the next paragraph starts out (AS READ): 11 12 Q Well, if we go back to Mr. Herald's report, one of ... by the end of the summer of 2017, gas 12 13 13 their reasons the Orphan Well Association pointed to prices in Alberta began to slide. 14 for the insolvencies in Alberta was the decline in 14 That's fair; isn't it? commodity prices over that period. Do you recall that? 15 15 A I assume the information is correct. 16 A Yes. 16 Q Well, you were familiar with gas prices in 2017 in 17 Q But we, of course, know that Sequoia did go bankrupt, 17 Alberta, weren't you? 18 but we also know that they had the ability to perform 18 A I do know that they slid, but I'm not sure of the 19 over a hundred abandonments and obtained 91 reclamation 19 numbers in there specifically. 20 certificates in the 15 months following the 20 Q Okay. We'll mark that document as the next exhibit? 21 21 THE COURT REPORTER: Sorry, can you clarify what transaction; right? 22 A That is the information that they provided. 22 the document is? 23 Q And you need assets -- you need money to do that, don't 23 MR. McDONALD: Sequoia Resources Corp. 24 you? document with dates March 2, March 23 and March 26, 24 25 A Correct. 25 2018. 26 26 Q Going down a couple more paragraphs on the second page THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. 27 of that document (AS READ): 27 EXHIBIT 3 - Sequoia Resources Corp. document

53 54 1 with dates March 2. March 23 and March 26. 1 A I don't recall if I've seen this one.

2 2018

3 MR. LENZ: So, Mr. McDonald, I assume

4 this is -- Mr. McDonald, I assume these exhibits are

5 for identification, because obviously the witness can't

6 really attest to the accuracy of any of it. That's

7 understood; right?

8 MR. McDONALD: Well, I hadn't marked them for

9 identification, but I recognize that he wasn't the

10 author of them and the questions I've asked of him are

11 what are significant to me, but the court may need to

12 see that document in order to understand the questions.

13 I can tell you that the document is already in evidence

14 as Exhibit A to Mr. Schweitzer's October 3, 2018,

15 affidavit.

16 MR. LENZ: Okay. I have no objection. I

17 just wanted to make sure the record was clear.

18 MR. McDONALD: Lynne, are you good?

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, thank you. So I'm just

20 to use the numbers 1, 2, 3?

21 MR. LENZ: Yes, I think that's fine.

22 Q MR. McDONALD: I'm next going to ask you to

23 turn to the next document in your binder which should

24 be a Trustee's Preliminary Report in the matter of the

25 Sequoia bankruptcy. Do you have that?

26 A I do.

27 Q And have you seen it before?

2 Q I thought, sir, that was one of the ones you mentioned

right at the start that you had -- when I asked you

4 about any of the trustee records or the bankruptcy

5 records. Am I wrong? I very well could be.

6 A I don't recall seeing the trustee's preliminary report,

7 but I may have seen it before.

8 Q Okay. Are you aware that Sequoia purchased other

9 assets after the transaction with Perpetual?

10 A I am.

11 Q And if you look at the first page of this document, it

12 refers to Husky Oil Operations, an asset purchase; and

13 Waldron Energy, an asset purchase; and Other, an asset

14 purchase. Do you see that?

15 A I do.

16 Q And are you familiar at all with those transactions?

17 A I know that they occurred, but I'm not familiar with

18 the specifics related to those transactions.

19 Q When we see reference to them being asset purchasers.

20 do you understand that that means that the licenses

21 were transferred from the --

22 A That would be my under --

23 Q Sorry, go ahead.

24 A That would be my understanding of the definition here.

25 Q Okay, and in order for those licenses to transfer, AER

26 approval would have been required; right?

27 A That would typically be the case.

Q Mr. Lenz, are you okay marking this as an exhibit for

2 the same purpose or subject to the same qualifications?

3 MR. LENZ: Yes, I am.

4 MR. McDONALD: Thank you.

5 EXHIBIT 4 - Trustee's Preliminary Report In 6 the Matter of the Bankruptcy of Sequoia

7 Resources Corp.

8 So I'm going back to paragraph Q MR. McDONALD:

9 (d) of your affidavit now, sir. Paragraph 11(d),

10 excuse me, and I'd left off at the end of (AS READ):

11 No ability to perform.

12 I now want to read the balance of the words in that

13 paragraph. (AS READ):

14 Therefore, leaving the good year assets to be 15

abandoned and reclaimed closed by the OWA.

16 Do you see that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And without wanting to repeat it, the good year assets

19 have not been declared orphans and the OWA has no

20 obligation to abandon or reclaim, does it?

21 A Not at this time.

22 Q Let's turn to paragraph 11(e). You say (AS READ):

Allowing the transactions to be stand will by 23 24

itself increase the burden on the OWA.

25 Do you see that?

26 A Yes.

27 Q Are you aware that the trustee in this lawsuit is not

seeking to set aside the transactions but is only 1

2 seeking to set aside the asset transaction?

3 A Iam.

55

Q So your concern about allowing the transactions to

5 stand is a concern about allowing the share transaction

6 and the retained interest agreement and the asset

7 transaction to stand. Is that it?

8 A Correct.

9 Q But you know the lawsuit has nothing to do with the

10 first two -- allowing the first two transactions, does

11 it?

12 A That's my understanding.

Q Okay, and, of course, when you say increase the burden 13

14 on the OWA, there will be no increased burden on the

15 OWA unless the regulator declares the good year assets

16 to be orphans will there?

17 A The assets would have to be designated as orphans to

18 come to the Orphan Well Association.

19 Q And unless that happens, there is no increased burden 20 on the OWA and its members; right?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q You go on to say in (e) (AS READ):

23 However, this outcome is potentially dwarfed

24 by the precedent this court would create.

25 So since the Sequoia transaction with Perpetual in

26 2016, have you seen a large volume of transactions

27 based on this precedent?

- 1 A Could you repeat the question?
- 2 Q The 2016 transaction with Sequoia and Perpetual, have
- 3 you seen a large volume of transactions based on this
- 4 precedent?
- 5 A The Orphan Well Association doesn't monitor AER
- 6 transactions.
- 7 Q I think you mean oil and gas transactions.
- 8 A Correct, yeah.
- 9 Q So the answer to my question is, no, you haven't;
- 10 right?
- 11 A The answer is I don't -- we're not monitoring those
- 12 transactions.
- 13 Q So you're not aware of any; right?
- 14 A Not that I'm aware of.
- 15 Q Okay. Paragraph 12 (AS READ):
- 16 It is estimated by the trustee that the costs
- to abandon and reclaim the good year assets
- 18 is \$200 million.
- 19 Sir, I take it the estimate you're referring to is the
- one in Mr. Darby's affidavit; is that right?
- 21 A That is correct.
- 22 Q And that is an estimate that Mr. Darby refers to based
- 23 on a model of some company called XI Technologies; is
- 24 that right?
- 25 A That is my understanding.
- 26 Q Are you familiar with XI Technologies?
- 27 A I have previously reviewed their work.

- 1 Q Are you familiar with the model they used to do this --
- 2 to make this estimate?
- 3 A I have reviewed one of their models. I'm not sure it
- 4 was the same one that they used for this one though.
- 5 Q Does the OWA use XI Technologies to calculate
- 6 abandonment and reclamation costs --
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q -- for it?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Why not?
- 11 A We have our own methodology.
- 12 Q Well, has the OWA used its own (INDISCERNIBLE) of
- 13 reclamation obligations of the good year assets?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Have you done any analysis or testing to determine
- whether the estimate by XI Technologies is reliable?
- 17 A Based on my previous review of the XI Technology model,
- 18 I believe it is a legitimate estimate.
- 19 Q Well, is it one that the OWA would rely on in coming to
- 20 its conclusions?
- 21 A  $\,$  It is one that would be in the same range as the model
- 22 that we're using ourselves.
- 23 Q Well, how can you do (INDISCERNIBLE) done in this case?
- 24 A I didn't hear the question.
- 25 THE COURT REPORTER: Sorry, I didn't get a question
- 26 either.

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27 Q MR. McDONALD: How are you able to make that

1 statement without doing any specific analysis?

- 2 I'm sorry, I'm -- I don't know if you're waiting
- 2 I'll sorry, rin -- i dorrt know ii you're waiting
- for me or not, but I'll start the question again andsee if you get it.
- See ii you get it
- 5 Perhaps somebody -- Mr. Lenz, wave at me if you
- 6 can hear me.
- 7 MR. LENZ: Gotcha.
- 8 Q MR. McDONALD: How are you able to say what
- 9 you just said without knowing the inputs into the model
- 10 and testing as it's related to the good year assets,
- 11 sir?
- 12 A My understanding of the XI model is that it is based on
- 13 the AER's LLR model on estimating liabilities which we
- 14 are using components of as well.
- 15 Q Okay. You use components of that, but you don't use
- 16 that exclusively to make your own estimates of the
- 17 abandonment or reclamation costs, do you?
- 18 A We use other sources as well. Some of it is site19 specific.
- 20 Q Right, and you don't know what other sources, if any,
- 21 XI Technologies used, do you?
- 22 A I do not.
- 23 Q Do you know if they even did their analysis on a
- 24 well-by-well basis?
- 25 A My understanding is that it is -- the model is based on
- a site-by-site component, but with generic numbers
- 27 applied to each location.

1 Q And is that what the OWA does (INDISCERNIBLE) numbers

- 2 to apply to each location?
- 3 THE COURT REPORTER: Sorry, I didn't get the whole
- 4 question there.
- 5 Q MR. McDONALD: Is that what the OWA does as
- 6 well, that is use generic numbers applied to each
- 7 location?
- 8 A We use generic numbers when sites are initially
- 9 designated as orphans and we evolve that estimate as
- more information becomes available, but we do start
- 11 with a generic estimate on each site.
- 12 Q When we looked at your message in the 2019 annual
- 13 report, we saw that you pointed out that the OWA is
- doing the job better, faster and at a lower cost;
- 15 right?
- 16 A Correct.
- 17 Q XI Technologies model takes into account the types of
- 18 efficiencies that you're using?
- 19 A You broke up again.
- 20 Q Do you know if the XI Technologies model takes into
- 21 account the same types of efficiencies that you
- 22 referred to?
- 23 A I do not know.
- 24 Q You also referred in your report to area based closure.
- 25 Is that another manner in which the OWA is able to find
- 26 efficiencies in the costs of abandonment and
- 27 reclamation?

- 1 A That's correct.
- Q Do you know if the XI Technologies model uses thatmethodology?
- 4 A I do not.
- 5 Q Also in your message you say (AS READ):
- 6 We are building our expertise and improving
- 7 the assembly line approach to increase
- 8 efficiencies for decommissioning and
- 9 reclamation.
- 10 Do you know if XI Technologies uses some type of
- 11 assembly line approach similar to that used by the OWA
- 12 to increase efficiencies for decommissioning and
- 13 reclamation?
- 14 A I kind of lost your question there through the middle.
- 15 Q Do you know if the XI Technologies model is using the
- 16 assembly line approach to creating efficiencies and
- 17 decommissioning and reclamation that you referred to?
- 18 A I do not know if XI has done that within their model.
- 19 Q Without knowing those details of the XI Technologies20 model, would the OWA accept an estimate based on that
- 21 model as set out in Mr. Darby's affidavit as a reliable
- 22 estimate of the liabilities associated with good year
- 23 assets?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q And would you consider it preferable or more reliable
- 26 than the OWA estimate?
- 27 A Are you referring to the estimated liability within the

- 1 good year assets, or are you talking about the models?
- 2 Q Well, what I'm trying to get at, sir, is that you've,
- 3 by that I mean the OWA, has apparently developed
- 4 efficiencies and methodologies and analyses to give it
- 5 confidence in its own estimates of abandonment and
- 6 reclamation costs; right?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q And without knowing if or what similar efficiencies
- 9 XI Technologies has considered, is it not fair to say
- 10 that you wouldn't have the same degree of confidence in
- 11 their conclusions as you would in yours?
- 12 A I believe that either methodology would come to an13 estimate of the liabilities that earn the same range.
- 14 Q But you say that without having done an estimate
- 15 yourself; right? The OWA hasn't done an estimate of
- 16 liabilities for good year assets; right?
- 17 A Would it be helpful for us to do one?
- 18 Q Well, I'm just asking you a question today on your --
- 19 this cross-examination. I think the answer is that you
- 20 haven't done one; right?
- 21 A I have not done one.
- 22 Q So you don't really know if you're going to come up
- 23 with a number in the range that XI Technologies did, do
- 24 you?

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- 25 A No.
- 26 Q Okay. So let's then turn to paragraph 13. (AS READ):

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27 It is expected ...

1 I take it you're saying that I expect that (AS READ):

- 2 ... is the liabilities associated with the
- 3 good year assets when they increase the levy.
- 4 Is that right?
- 5 A That's correct.
- 6 Q That's only if the regulator declares the good year
- 7 assets to be orphans; right?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q And then that's only if having done so they -- the
- 10 regulator increases the levy as a result; right?
- 11 A The regulator would be the one responsible for setting12 the levy.
- 13 Q And it's up to the regulator, not the OWA; right?
- 14 A Correct.
- 15 Q Paragraph 14, you start out by saying (AS READ):
- 16 If the transactions are allowed to stand ...
- 17 Just to confirm that you are aware now and I think you
- 18 were -- said you were aware earlier that it's only the
- 19 asset transaction that is being challenged by the
- 20 trustee in this court proceeding; right?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q About five lines down, you say (AS READ):
- Further if transactions of this nature become routine ...
- 25 "Of this nature," that's the corporate sale transaction
- that we discussed earlier or the sale of shares? Is
- 27 that what you're talking about?

- 1 A It's the combination of the three transactions.
- 2 Q Okay. It's certainly not any one of them individually, 3 is it?
- 4 A It would be the -- the three transactions.
- Q Right, I think you're agreeing with me. It's not anyone individual transaction that you're referring to
- 6 one individu7 there, is it?
- 8 MR. LENZ: Sorry, we got garbled again
- 9 there.
- 10 Q MR. McDONALD: I just -- I thought you just
- 11 agreed with me that it is not any individual
- transaction. Do you agree with that?
- 13 A Yes, it's the culmination of the three transactions.
- 14 Q The share transaction is a routine transaction in the
- 15 energy business, is it not, the sale of shares or
- 16 corporate sale?
- 17 A It's not unusual.
- 18 Q And I think you agreed with me that the asset
- 19 transaction was effectively just a combination of the
- 20 legal and beneficial interest in the good year assets;
- 21 right?
- 22 A That is my understanding of the agreement.
- 23 Q But it's not that transaction individually that you're
- 24 referring to in paragraph 14, is it?
- 25 A It is the series of transactions done to avoid the
- 26 review.
- 27 Q Well, you're not about -- you're not able to interpret

65 to 68 66 1 what the purpose of Sequoia (INDISCERNIBLE) Perpetual 1 A Correct. 2 wasn't doing it, are you? You're not an expert in that 2 Q So if we want to determine precisely what she said, we 3 3 would just turn to her affidavit? 4 A Repeat that, please? I think --4 A It was in one of the exhibits of her affidavit. 5 5 Q So that's where we'd look to find the support for what Q You're saying --6 A -- we lost him again --6 you say; right? (INDISCERNIBLE - OVERLAPPING SPEAKERS) 7 7 A There may have been other components that I had seen or 8 Q You're saying it's a series of transactions with a 8 heard from other people before that. 9 purpose -- I think you said it's the series of 9 Q But you don't remember them today? 10 transactions with the purpose of avoiding a review, and 10 A Not specifically. 11 I'm just saying without having spoken to any of the 11 Q Okay. 12 participants or reading the documents, you are not in a 12 A I mean, I guess the other one that -- that we did see 13 position to describe or give an opinion on the purpose 13 was related to the board materials provided to 14 of the transaction, are you? 14 Perpetual's board that it was structured this way. 15 A In Ms. Rose's affidavit, there was reference to that 15 Q You are referring to what's call the good year 16 they needed to do this deal as a share transaction 16 presentation that was one of the exhibits to 17 because of the AER's rules around LMR. 17 Mr. Darby's affidavit --18 Q So is the only thing that you're referring to then the 18 A Correct. 19 19 Q -- is that right? And that's something that was -- what you read in Ms. Rose's affidavit? 20 A I'm not sure if there was other components before that, prepared some three months before the transaction 20 21 but I did see it specifically in that one. 21 closed; right? 22 Q Do you have that handy? Do you have that with you? 22 MR. LENZ: Is that a question? 23 Q MR. McDONALD: 23 A I do not. I do not. Yes, I said -- I finished it 24 Q Well, at any rate, the only thing you can think of that 24 off with "right?" Do you know that? 25 you're relying on to describe the purpose of the 25 A My recollection of the dates would align with that, but 26 26 transaction is what you read in Ms. Rose's affidavit; I'd have to confirm. 27 27 Q And still on paragraph 14, you say (AS READ): right? 67 68 1 Further if transactions of this nature become 1 Q Nor does the OWA? 2 routine ... 2 A No. 3 Based on my question to you a few minutes ago, I take 3 Q And you haven't spoken to the parties to this 4 it you're not aware of transactions of this nature 4 transaction or studied the agreements related to this 5 becoming routine, are you? 5 transaction to assess whether they were at arm's 6 A I'm not aware of any that have happened since. 6 length, have you? 7 Q And if a routine and the government wish to change its 7 A I have not. 8 legislating rules, it's up to the government or the AER Q Sir, I'm going to just take about five minutes, and I 8 9 to change them; right? 9 may well be finished. If I'm not, I'll finish up 10 A That's correct. 10 fairly quickly. So I'm going to go on mute, and I take it I'm still not on video; is that correct? 11 Q Looking at paragraph 16 of your affidavit, sir, it 11 12 12 MR. LENZ: That's correct. So we'll also starts (AS READ): go on mute for five minutes exactly and then go back 13 13 The OWA proposes to assist the court in this 14 action by providing submissions that relate 14 on. If you need more time, of course that's fine.

15 to ...

16 and then you list topics here. The first is

17 interaction between Section 96 of the BIA and the

18 regulatory obligations with regard to the Redwater

19 decision. Do you have any expertise in the BIA?

20 A No.

21 Q And generally the OWA doesn't have any expertise in the

22 BIA, does it?

23 A No.

24 Q And then (b) the determination of whether parties are

25 non-arm's length. Similarly, you don't have any

26 expertise in that determination, do you?

27 A No.

15 MR. McDONALD: Okay. Thanks.

16 (ADJOURNMENT)

17 Q MR. McDONALD: Sir, I just want to go back

and explore the \$200 million estimate we spoke about

19 earlier and the reliability of the XI Technologies

20 model. Do you know how that model distinguishes the

good year assets from the other Sequoia assets?

22 A I don't know specifically.

23 Q And without knowing that, how can you be confident that

24 the OWA model or the OWA methodology would be comparing

25 apples to apples with what XI Technologies did if you

26 look at the good year assets?

27 A So my understanding of the two models would be that

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- 1 they are based on the information that's available
- 2 publically about the specifics of individual sites in
- 3 which licensee holds those licenses.
- 4 Q Well, that leads me then to a different question and
- 5 that is that publically available information is from
- 6 the AER, I take it; is that right?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q And I think you mentioned that you understand that
- 9 XI Technologies uses, at least in part, the LMR data to
- 10 do its calculations.
- 11 A It's based on a similar methodology.
- 12 Q And the LMR methodology attributes 100 percent of an
- 13 interest in a well of licensee whether it has -- no
- 14 matter what actual equity interest it has in it;
- 15 correct?
- 16 A That's the LMR model, correct.
- 17 Q And do you know if that's what the XI Technologies
- 18 model then uses?
- 19 A I do not know whether they applied working interest,
- 20 but in normal course of assessing liabilities, it would
- 21 be a normal practice to -- of the working interest
- 22 applied.
- 23 Q Well, if you don't know whether they applied a working
- 24 interest, how can you be confident about whether they
- 25 got a reasonable result -- a reliable result I should
- 26 say?
- 27 A So my understanding of the good year assets is that the

- 1 majority of the sites are a hundred percent.
- 2 Q Well, what due diligence have you done to make that
- 3 determination?
- 4 A When Sequoia went bankrupt, we did an assessment of the
- 5 number of sites that Sequoia was licensee of and which
- 6 ones were a hundred percent, as those ones would be the
- 7 ones that are designated as orphans.
- 8 Q I'm sorry, I just didn't hear the last sentence. What
- 9 was that?
- 10 A We reviewed the --
- 11 Q You said something and I didn't hear it.
- 12 A We reviewed the Sequoia assets when they went into
- 13 bankruptcy, as we wanted to know how many sites were a
- 14 hundred percent because those ones would be potentially
- 15 deemed as orphans.
- 16 Q And your recollection is that a majority was a hundred
- 17 percent?
- 18 A That's my recollection.
- 19 Q And a minority they had a less than 100 percent working
- 20 interest?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22  $\,$  Q  $\,$  And do you recall the percentage, that is what percent
- 23 were 100 percent and what percent were less than 100
- 24 percent?
- 25 A I don't recall the exact numbers.
- 26 Q And did you do that by number of sites or by value of
- 27 the overall package of assets?

- 1 A It was by the number of sites.
- 2 Q Yet with the OWA doing its own analysis of the
- 3 abandonment and reclamation costs, it would apply a
- 4 working interest percentage, wouldn't it?
- 5 A We would -- if we were looking at the liability that
- 6 the Orphan Well Association would be liable for, it
- 7 would be any site that is a hundred percent and any
- 8 working interest that Sequoia has on operated or
- 9 non-operated sites.
- 10 Q I think that's another way of saying you would look at
- 11 company's actual interest in the assets rather than as
- 12 the LMR data does look at the interests of the licensee
- as if the licensee held a hundred percent of each
- 14 interest. Is that fair?
- 15 A That's fair.
- 16 Q Okay, and depending on the circumstances, that could
- 17 create a significant difference in the estimate; right?
- 18 A It would depend on the specifics.
- 19 Q Now, I'd also asked you about the efficiencies that the
- 20 OWA has developed or using the reclamation costs.
- 21 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, your whole question
- 22 got blurred there.
- 23 Q MR. McDONALD: I was also asking you about
- 24 the efficiencies the OWA has developed to reduce
- 25 abandonment and reclamation costs, and we talked about
- 26 area based closure. Approximately what percentage --
- 27 by approximately how much have you been able to reduce

- 1 costs through area based closure?
- 2 A So comparatively to the Directive 13 numbers on
- 3 abandonment, we're getting a 50 percent reduction on
- 4 those abandonment costs. On the reclamation side, we
- 5 have not compared to the AER's estimates, but my
- 6 general sense would be that they are -- we are higher
- 7 than the AER's estimate on reclamation and the AER
- 8 model does not include any component for remediation.
- 9 Q I take it we don't know or you don't know what
- 10 percentage of this \$200 million relates to abandonment
- 11 versus reclamation or remediation; is that right?
- 12 A Correct.
- 13 Q All right, but for the abandonment part, you would
- 14 estimate that using area based closures or other
- 15 efficiencies you've developed, you would reduce those
- 16 costs by about 50 percent. Is that what I just heard?
- 17 A If we were looking at just the down hole abandonment
- component, I would agree that we're in that range of savings.
- Q And you're not getting any savings on the reclamationcomponent through area based closure?
- component through area baA I didn't hear your question.
- Q Are you saying you're not getting any savings in the
   reclamation component through area based closure?
- 25 A I still didn't hear your question, the first part.
- 26 Q Are you saying that you are not getting any savings on
- 27 the reclamation component through area based closure?

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1 A No, no, we are getting savings on the reclamation 2 component with using area based closure. My comment 3 was in relation to the LMR numbers that the AER uses as 4 a benchmark. 5 Q And what savings are you getting through area based 6 closure of the reclamation component 7 A So we're using 8 Q approximately 9 A a different benchmark. We are not using the AER's 10 benchmark. 11 Q Well, what benchmark and what percentage 12 A We are getting savings, but it's based on a 13 (INDISCERNIBLE) 14 Q I'm sorry, you cut out there. I last heard you say "We 15 are getting savings, but it's based on" 16 A A different benchmark. 17 Q All right, and I said my question was, what 18 benchmark and what percentage savings? 19 A So we're being we've been using a benchmark on 20 reclamation costs provided to us through some work from 21 CAPP and we'd be at a a cost reduction of about 10 22 percent based on that. 23 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, did you say CAPP? 24 A C-A-P-P, the Canadian Association of Petroleum 25 Producers. 26 Q MR. McDONALD: And when did area based 27 closure become a concept that was utilized?	1 A Didn't hear that question. 2 MR. LENZ: Sorry, we only had a word or 3 two of that. 4 MR. McDONALD: Okay. When did area based 5 closures first become a process or concept by OWA? 6 MR. LENZ: So is the question when did 7 area based closure first become a process used by the 8 OWA? 9 Q MR. McDONALD: Yes. 10 A Okay, got it. So it'd be roughly the time that I 11 started there in 2017, and it's been increasing and 12 focussed since that time. 13 Q And as it increases in focus, I assume it increases in 14 efficiencies and cost reductions. Is that fair? 15 A Yes, I mean 16 Q And I think you confirmed for me earlier you don't know 17 whether XI Technologies took into account area based 18 closures, do you, in your model? 19 A I do not. 20 Q MR. McDONALD: Thank you, sir. I have no 21 other questions. Thank you very much. 22 A Thank you. 23 (WHICH WAS ALL THE EVIDENCE TAKEN AT 1 PM) 24 25 26 27			
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