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	4
IN RE: PAUL STEINBRECHER-TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT	5 EXAMINATION
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SWORN STATEMENT	12
OF	13 (No Exhibits)
PAUL STEINBRECHER	14
DATE TAKEN: Wednesday, July 8, 2020	15
DATE TAKEN: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 TIME: 2:55 p.m 4:04 p.m.	16
PLACE: 21 West Church Street	17
Jacksonville, Florida	18
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REPORTED BY: Heather M. Thomas,	20
Court Reporter	21
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1 APPEARANCES FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE:	1 PAUL STEINBRECHER,
2 LEE WEDEKIND, ESQUIRE DANIEL NUNN, ESQUIRE	2 having been produced and first duly sworn as a witness,
3 Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLP	3 testified as follows:
50 North Laura Street, 41st Floor	4 THE WITNESS: I do.
4 Jacksonville, FL 32202 5	5 BY MR. WEDEKIND:
6 ADINA TEODORESCU, ESQUIRE	6 Q Would you please state your name and address
ARIEL COOK, ESQUIRE (Appearing telephonically)	7 for the record?
7 Office of General Counsel	8 A My name is Paul Steinbrecher, and I live at
117 West Duval Street, Suite 480	9 7676 Wexford, W-E-X-F-O-R-D, Club Drive East,
8 Jacksonville, FL 32202 9	10 Jacksonville, Florida, 32256.
10 KEVIN BLODGETT, ESQUIRE	11 Q And, Mr. Steinbrecher, you understand that you
Smith, Hulsey & Busey	12 are currently on administrative leave with JEA?
11 One Independent Drive, Suite 3300	13 A I do.
Jacksonville, FL 32202	14 Q And this interview is being conducted as part
13	15 of an investigation to determine whether there exists
ALSO PRESENT: JAMES POINDEXTER, ESQUIRE	16 grounds to terminate your employment for cause. Yes?
14	17 A I do, yes.
15 16	18 Q Okay. As a result, you were provided a
17	19 statement of your Garrity rights. Do you remember
18	20 receiving that?
19	21 A I do.
20 21	22 Q And did you sign the form?
22	23 A I forgot to bring it with me. Do you have a
23	24 copy?
24	25 Q We'll get one and get it to you, and we'll
25	

	Page 5		Page 7
1	make sure that you sign it and that I sign it and that	1	A There's just one number. It's (904) 536-8885.
2	if he hasn't already, that Mr. McElroy signs it.	2	Q And that's your personal cell phone number?
3	A And I have the signed copy from Mr. McElroy.	3	A Correct.
4	I beg your pardon.	4	Q Did you ever use your cell phone for
5	Q Okay. So what that statement of rights does	5	work-related business?
6	is because you're appearing here under penalty of	6	A Yes.
7	discipline, including termination for cause, the Garrity	7	Q Okay. Did you email on it?
8	rights protect you from criminal punishment as a result	8	A Rarely, but occasionally.
9	of anything that you testify to here today.	9	Q How about text?
10	Do you understand that?	10	A Yes.
11	A I do.	11	Q Okay. How about actually using it to make
12	Q Okay. Do you have any questions about the	12	phone calls?
13	Garrity rights?	13	A Certainly phone calls.
14	A I don't think I do.	14	Q Okay. And did you ever use the GroupMe app?
15	Q If you could please we're all here. We all	15	A There's one app that the senior leadership
16	have masks on because we're being responsible with	16	team used if we wanted to copy all, and that may be
17	respect to the COVID epidemic. But if, as a result, you	17	called GroupMe.
18	can't hear or understand any of the questions that I	18	Q Did you have that app on your phone?
19	ask, please ask me to either repeat them or restate	19	A Yes.
20	them. I'll be happy to do that.	20	Q Any other apps that you used to message with
21	If you could also please help me by waiting	21	the SLT?
22	until I finish my question before you begin your answer.	22	A No.
23	I'll wait for you to finish your answer before I ask my	23	Q What did you do to prepare for today's
24	next question. And that way our court reporter can take	24	interview?
25	down a clean transcript of everything that we say today.	25	A I reread my testimony from January.
	Page 6		2
			Page 8
1	-	1	Page 8
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2 (Pages 5 to 8)

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	Page 9		Page 11
1	A Ms. Dykes the last time I spoke with her	1	chair had asked to look at the value of JEA, and we call
2	was two times: The night before her dismissal, and	2	that a microphone drop in a board meeting.
3	about two or three weeks ago I called her to ask if she	3	Q That was Tom Petway?
4	had recollection of a letter I had given her in January.	4	A Mr. Petway.
5	Q What was that letter?	5	Some time passed well, let me cover my
6	A It was a letter at the time there was	6	career first, because this ties in.
7	Ms. Miller and maybe somebody from the council was	7	So at the time I was asked to come upstairs,
8	asking us to resend our contracts. And so I wanted to	8	we had been in a period of uncertainty. Melissa Dykes
9	have on the record with Ms. Dykes, our president and	9	had been Paul McElroy had resigned suddenly and
10	COO, that I was willing to look at any and all elements	10	unexpectedly and had been a long-term, well-thought-of
11	of the contract at any time, that I had not asked for a	11	CEO here. Melissa became the interim CEO, which I was
12	contract and never had a contract before, and so that	12	very happy for. She had been here a while and appeared
13	was fine by me to renegotiate those terms.	13	to have been being groomed, to me, by the CEO for that
14	Q Okay. And when you say Ms. Miller, that's	14	position. So she served for a short period as the
15	Carla Miller?	15	interim.
16	A Yes.	16	At a board meeting maybe it was March,
17	Q Who's the city ethics officer?	17	approximately March of that year the board made a
18	A Yes.	18	sudden change and named Aaron the ongoing interim CEO
19	Q All right. Before we really get into the meat	19	for JEA. That was a great surprise.
20	of my questions today, I wanted to provide you with the	20	About a week later I was out of town I had
21	opportunity because this isn't a deposition to say	21	previously served for many years as director of I'm
22	anything that you want to say on the record. I'll give	22	trying to think what we call it permitting and
23	you the opportunity at the end of the interview to do	23	regulatory conformance. So I'll cover in a moment what
24	the same thing, but because this isn't a deposition, we	24	that included.
25	have a little bit more reign to do things like this. So	25	So at the time I got a call from Melissa about
	Page 10		Page 12
1	_	1	
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	I just wanted to provide you with that opportunity if you wanted to say anything.		a week later, I was on out-of-town duties at one of the industry associations
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	Page 13		Page 15
1	appreciated how you do your work, I'm a fan, and I need	1	before and after that, certainly. And their deputies.
2	operational people under me, how we're going to be	2	So the last jump I'm going to make, what first
3	organized, would you serve as vice president under me.	3	brought me here. So I had served in that role with
4	That was a great honor to me. I accepted.	4	special assignments coming and going over the years. I
5	It was a strange time. I will tell you that.	5	first came here in 2001, just after the federal
6	I reported that to my friends that I was a little it	6	elections in January, to take on what was called I
7	was unusual. We had a board member resign and come on	7	think we called it I don't know if we called it
8	as the CEO. So and we've all read that in news	8	industrial pretreatment or regulatory conformance, but
9	reports.	9	that was the industrial pretreatment program, anywhere
10	Previous to that time, I'd served as director	10	that we regulated the industries or others in town.
11	of permitting and regulatory conformance. In that role,	11	And I had that job for seven or eight months
12	I oversaw, over the years, nearly all the permitting and	12	when the current vice president elevated me to the
13	conformance regulatory compliance functions for most	13	director role and gave me substantially larger
14	of JEA's areas. I'll describe them by media: Air	14	responsibilities.
15	permitting we have 5 large generating stations, 11	15	Q As part of your role up to the director level,
16	large wastewater plants, 38 water plants, and so forth.	16	did you ever interact with Aaron Zahn in his capacity as
17	So overseeing the air permitting and compliance at	17	the CEO of the wastewater treatment company?
18	different times. Sometimes that was shuffled between	18	A Really only once, to my recollection. I want
19	directors. Over the years, assignments changed.	19	to say maybe four or five years ago, the public
20	The what you would think of as drinking	20	relations group Bud Para was the vice president at
21	water, the consumptive use permit. We have the largest	21	that time just immediately prior to Mike Hightower.
22	cup in the state of Florida. I negotiated that, oversaw	22	I can't remember what the event was, but they
23	all of that.	23	were hosting a public event. It was a workshop to take
24	All environmental liabilities for JEA. We buy	24	input from the public on their thoughts about this or
25	properties that have environmental remediation	25	that, and Aaron was an attendee at that. And that's the
	Page 14		Page 16
1	Page 14	1	Page 16
1	obligations, or we owned them back in old days, and we	1	only time I had met him well, I'll say two times. I
2	obligations, or we owned them back in old days, and we created environmental liability, so I oversee those.	2	only time I had met him well, I'll say two times. I had met him there. And people would rotate tables, so
2 3	obligations, or we owned them back in old days, and we created environmental liability, so I oversee those. Incident response. So if a somebody in	2 3	only time I had met him well, I'll say two times. I had met him there. And people would rotate tables, so you were with different people. So I met him in that
2 3 4	obligations, or we owned them back in old days, and we created environmental liability, so I oversee those. Incident response. So if a somebody in town hits a transformer, it falls on the ground and	2 3 4	only time I had met him well, I'll say two times. I had met him there. And people would rotate tables, so you were with different people. So I met him in that setting. And then I don't think I met him before.
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4 (Pages 13 to 16)

	Page 17		Page 19
1	2	1	_
1 2	Q Okay. What was your impression of Mr. Zahn	1	number of members and he made it a one-tier during
3	meeting him four or five years ago in connection with	2	his tenure it was just one single tier. Q When you talk about the two-tier organization,
4	A It was just so brief. I didn't know him at all. But I thought he was he came across as	4	
5	interested and fairly knowledgeable about the utility	5	what do you mean by that? A So there were two very clear tiers. The CEO
6		6	and his reports, which would be Melissa Dykes as COO,
7	industry and trends. Q Okay. So you were elevated to, you call it	7	chief operating officer; Ryan Wannemacher as chief
8 9	the CE CESO? You just called yourself a VP. How do	8	financial officer. They had a chief innovation officer,
10	you refer to your title?	10	Julio Romero. I'm missing one. O Herschel?
11	A You know, the full title is vice president and chief environmental services officer. And that was in	11	· ·
12	about April of '18.	12	A Herschel was not there for a year. It was at least those three. That's the first tier, the CEO and
13	-	13	his direct reports.
13	Q Who served in that role before you?	14	The second tier is that whole other list of
14	A The way we've been organized over the years,	15	
16	sometimes we've had a vice president of environmental services and sometimes we haven't. So when I was first	16	vice presidents: Kerri Stewart for customer service
			the ones with the largest number of direct reports. The
17	hired, I was hired by such a vice president back in	17	general manager of electric, the general manager of
18	2000, December 2000, essentially. I came on board in	18	water.
19	January of '01. Susan Hughes was a VP of environmental.	19	Kerri Stewart oversees a lot of people in her
20	After her, Athena Mann was the vice president of	20	customer relations role. Then it drops off from there,
21	environmental.	21	the procurement VP, the planning VP. I have about 60 to
22	Then, when Paul McElroy took over as CEO, he	22	65 people in environmental.
23	slimmed down the executive suite. I don't remember how	23	Q HR?
24	many they had at the time. Maybe there were 12 or	24	A HR. HR has a large number. Thank you.
25	something, and he slimmed it down to 6 or 7.	25	The HR one's a little fuzzy, because they have
	Page 18		Page 20
1	And he took the environmental and placed it in	1	a lat of assignments that are direct with the CEO. That
2	public affairs at that time with government relations,	-	a lot of assignments that are direct with the CEO. That
		2	one's a little bit fuzzy. And Kerri as the
3	media relations, and environmental services, ostensibly		-
3 4		2	one's a little bit fuzzy. And Kerri as the
	media relations, and environmental services, ostensibly	2 3	one's a little bit fuzzy. And Kerri as the communications one is a little bit fuzzy. But they
4	media relations, and environmental services, ostensibly so that you wouldn't have so that you would have	2 3 4	one's a little bit fuzzy. And Kerri as the communications one is a little bit fuzzy. But they didn't report to the CEO. They just would have special
4 5	media relations, and environmental services, ostensibly so that you wouldn't have so that you would have alignment on any regulatory you know, the government	2 3 4 5	one's a little bit fuzzy. And Kerri as the communications one is a little bit fuzzy. But they didn't report to the CEO. They just would have special assignments frequently related.
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25

at the time.

Q And that was through PFM?

the past. We had had a two-tier senior structure in thepast, but Paul McElroy slimmed it both in terms of the

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

	Page 21		Page 23
1	A You know, I don't to this day I don't know	1	Q To replace Northside 3?
2	the details of all that.	2	A Yes. Northside was getting long in the tooth,
3	Q Okay. All right. So	3	and we've been dragging that out for years. We thought
4	A But any let me just simplify it.	4	three to five years ago it might have to be retired, but
5	Q Sure.	5	because regulatory things change or don't come to
6	A Any time your CEO steps down, that just	6	fruition, okay, we could keep running it.
7	creates unease. He had been he had provided	7	And there were some benefits to running
8	stability to the organization for a long time. So	8	Northside 3. It has really high turn-up and turn-down
9	that's why.	9	capacity every day. That's the benefit. You can really
10	Q And there had been talk I know you	10	ramp it up and down as we all turn on the
11	mentioned Mr. Petway's mic drop at the November 2017	11	air-conditioning in the middle of the day and turn it
12	board meeting.	12	off at night.
13	So carry me forward from the March 2018 time	13	So we were contemplating another unit at
14	period to when Mr. Zahn comes on. Did you notice any	14	Greenland, and we were ready and prepared to begin the
15	change in the organization as a result of his leadership	15	permitting for that, but that decision had not been
16	other than the structural changes that you've just	16	completed, and I'll give you a couple examples why.
17	talked about?	17	We're also contemplating and I'm a voice in
18	A You'll probably need to ask a few more	18	the organization of we're in a transition time. You
19	specific questions than that. Aaron's management style	19	see it out there in the news all the time on solar is
20	is very different than Paul McElroy's, so that's one, of	20	becoming more and more real and a much larger scale.
21	course. They're just very different people.	21	JEA's become fairly large in solar.
22	Q Can you describe the difference in their	22	So right now is a period of uncertainty where
23	management styles?	23	utilities are trying to figure out if I build another
24	A Sure. Paul is very staid and operates in a	24	fossil fuel plant, even though gas is the lowest cost
25	very small, close-knit team. Aaron is Aaron does not	25	and it's clean burning and it's fairly low carbon
	Page 22		Page 24
1	Page 22 mind taking the stage that was a characteristic of	1	Page 24 that's my wheelhouse, those things even though that,
1 2	_	1 2	_
	mind taking the stage that was a characteristic of his and was more comfortable with media interviews or standing in front of all management meetings or almost		that's my wheelhouse, those things even though that, it could look like a bad bet ten years from now. It could look like your next Vogtle.
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6 (Pages 21 to 24)

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1	aggressive assumption to make or realistic?	1	Q Who are people that are substantially less
2	A A lot of it has to do with state regulation,	2	likely to make the investment to switch over to
3	because some of how net metering that is determined	3	A Would not have the ability to do that. And
4	on a state-by-state basis. And so there are states out	4	not only that, already live in houses that are not
5	west that there's arguably grid parity right now.	5	energy efficient. And, you know, it's harder to keep
6	Q California and Hawaii?	6	their houses cool. So there are multiple disadvantages.
7	A I have a brother in San Diego that put it on	7	So I know that's a little different than what
8	his roof eight or ten years ago, and it had a five-year	8	you asked, but that's why many states don't have
9	payoff, and it was federally and state subsidized. And	9	that's why some states early on started with net
10	because California, in my opinion, has I think I	10	metering programs. They were trying to promote the
11	looked at it the wrong way. That falls on the backs on	11	solar. California is the biggest example in the U.S.,
12	ratepayers at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale	12	and they were highly subsidizing that. But it comes
13	to subsidize that.	13	with a lot of very strong societal results.
14	Q Talk to me about	14	I would say we took more of a market approach.
15	A So that goes on a state-by-state level.	15	Q Did you attend the switching gears a little
16	Q Sorry to step on you there.	16	bit.
17	Talk to me about JEA's net metering policy.	17	Did you attend the featured JEA workshop at
18	A What we've done and this happened under	18	White Oak Plantation in May of 2018?
19	Mr. McElroy. He made a pretty strong change about three	19	A Yes.
20	to four years ago. We pay essentially the avoided fuel	20	Q What was the purpose of that meeting, as you
21	cost. So if you think about it, if you put solar on	21	understood it?
22	your roof, we don't pay the retail rate that you're	22	A You know, it had two components mainly. It
23	avoiding, because there's wires that we have to send it	23	was mostly a team building meeting. Aaron had two
24	over, and from our view, you owe part of the cost of	24	different speakers. I forget the first gentleman's
25	owning that.	25	name. We never saw him again.
	Page 26		Page 28
1	And we also have sunk costs in electric	1	MR. NUNN: Alex Willis?
2	And we also have sunk costs in electric generating capacity in town that we're required to have	2	MR. NUNN: Alex Willis? THE WITNESS: Alex is the person we saw again.
2 3	And we also have sunk costs in electric generating capacity in town that we're required to have and we all want to have to make sure that power is	2 3	MR. NUNN: Alex Willis? THE WITNESS: Alex is the person we saw again. Alex is a management team coach. Alex really
2 3 4	And we also have sunk costs in electric generating capacity in town that we're required to have and we all want to have to make sure that power is reliable each and every day.	2 3 4	MR. NUNN: Alex Willis? THE WITNESS: Alex is the person we saw again. Alex is a management team coach. Alex really specializes at the employee level. We all really
2 3 4 5	And we also have sunk costs in electric generating capacity in town that we're required to have and we all want to have to make sure that power is reliable each and every day. So the big change Mr. McElroy made a few years	2 3 4 5	MR. NUNN: Alex Willis? THE WITNESS: Alex is the person we saw again. Alex is a management team coach. Alex really specializes at the employee level. We all really liked Alex. And we actually wanted to use the same
2 3 4 5 6	And we also have sunk costs in electric generating capacity in town that we're required to have and we all want to have to make sure that power is reliable each and every day. So the big change Mr. McElroy made a few years ago is he said, you know, the cost of the solar panels	2 3 4 5 6	MR. NUNN: Alex Willis? THE WITNESS: Alex is the person we saw again. Alex is a management team coach. Alex really specializes at the employee level. We all really liked Alex. And we actually wanted to use the same team building and kind of resiliency stuff Alex
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7 (Pages 25 to 28)

	Page 29		Page 31
1	vacation for the one that occurred in June.	1	it makes a lot of sense to me. So SQ1 and SQ2 were
2	Q Okay. What was the purpose of those meetings?	2	bookends in terms of the range of options available,
3	A The one I wasn't at, I can't tell you. The	3	and
4	other three were all working sessions essentially with	4	A One is it falls on the ratepayer; one is it
5	McKinsey, so you would you would be reviewing	5	falls on JEA and its employees.
6	business ideas as related to our it was a year of	6	Q Did you infer from those two scenarios that
7	strategic planning. You've probably heard about the	7	management was attempting to drive the board towards
8	five different options we were looking at, three	8	Scenario 3?
9	nongovernment, two government. And they were workshop	9	A One of the IPO and Scenario 3, I'm going to
10	sessions for those types of things.	10	give you three parts: IPO, co-op, or privatization,
11	Q What was your involvement in McKinsey's	11	what became to be known as the ITN, a sale, because the
12	long-term strategic planning process?	12	other two were still local ownership.
13	A To proffer to collect from my own	13	I didn't know. I really didn't know, and in
14	department salient information about environmental	14	that second tier, I wasn't privy to that.
15	trends and to provide environmental to provide	15	Q What about knowing what you know about the
16	information about environmental services, how many	16	process now?
17	people we have. You know, they're looking at efficiency	17	A I still don't know, because I wasn't privy to
18	things, how much capital and how much operations do you	18	that.
19	need, and they're benchmarking you versus others.	19	Q Did you have any involvement in the
20	So it's mostly providing them data on how many	20	development of the co-op alternative?
21	plants do you have and how many people do you have to do	21	A No.
22	the work that you're doing so that they can then go and	22	Q Are you familiar with any utilities of JEA's
23	compare and contrast that versus, well, what's that	23	size that are operated as a co-op?
24	department look like in other utilities and are there	24	A I'm not. But again, I'm not the financial
25	efficiency savings to be gained here.	25	person, so it's not my area, and they they wouldn't
-			
	Page 30		Page 32
			raye J2
1	Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario	1	consult me for those things.
1 2	-	1 2	_
	Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario	1	consult me for those things.
2	Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario A Yeah.	2	consult me for those things. Q How about the IPO?
2 3	<ul> <li>Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario</li> <li>A Yeah.</li> <li>Q were you tasked with thinning your</li> </ul>	2 3	consult me for those things. Q How about the IPO? A Same thing.
2 3 4	<ul><li>Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario</li><li>A Yeah.</li><li>Q were you tasked with thinning your department?</li></ul>	2 3 4	<ul><li>consult me for those things.</li><li>Q How about the IPO?</li><li>A Same thing.</li><li>Q Did you have any involvement in the ITN</li></ul>
2 3 4 5	<ul> <li>Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario</li> <li>A Yeah.</li> <li>Q were you tasked with thinning your department?</li> <li>A I was tasked with looking at that. So no,</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5	<ul><li>consult me for those things.</li><li>Q How about the IPO?</li><li>A Same thing.</li><li>Q Did you have any involvement in the ITN process?</li></ul>
2 3 4 5 6	<ul> <li>Q As part of the Status Quo 2 scenario</li> <li>A Yeah.</li> <li>Q were you tasked with thinning your department?</li> <li>A I was tasked with looking at that. So no, thank goodness. Nobody said go cut this or cut that.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6	consult me for those things. Q How about the IPO? A Same thing. Q Did you have any involvement in the ITN process? A Yes.
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	Page 33		Page 35
1	And she reached out to members of my	1	each and every day through reverse osmosis. It's the
2	department to get all the various documents. And we	2	cleanest water you can produce. So it's not a
3	loaded them into what's called a data room, and then if	3	technology issue at all.
4	one of the attorney firms or banker firms had questions	4	Q Is it cleaner than what we draw from the
5	about it, they would send a written question. We would	5	aquifer?
6	farm it out that was our process. We would farm it	6	A Yeah. Now, what we draw from the aquifer is
7	out to the area of environmental services. I have	7	outstanding water as well. We've got a great water
8	several directors and a number of managers. We would	8	source. The only knock on aquifer water is it's hard.
9	farm it out to the issue owner, let them answer it. I	9	Yeah.
10	would review it and we would send it back.	10	Q Were you involved as part of your role and
11	Q When you talk about the data room, is that the	11	you obviously have a passion for water in the IWRP?
12	Intralinks website?	12	A Yes.
13	A I think so. We just knew it as the data room.	13	Q That fell within your purview?
14	Q Did you participate in the presentations to	14	A I tag team with the planning department, but I
15	the bidders in Atlanta?	15	would also say I have a special role in CEOs over the
16	A I did.	16	years, because of my background this is one of those
17	Q Okay. What was your involvement?	17	kind of special assignments.
18	A Mine was limited to a brief discussion of	18	Normally I would be planning only, but I came
19	environmental matters and primarily water. Water's my	19	from a large global consulting firm and designed water
20	special area of expertise. That's what I did before I	20	and wastewater plants worldwide, and because of that
21	came here, water resource planning for governments and	21	background, I'm usually asked to be an executive sponsor
22	industry.	22	and participant on this. So I tag team with the
23	And so I talked about water trends in the	23	planning department. And that's in flight right now.
24	southeast U.S. and in Florida, and I highlighted a	24	Q Mr. McInall is not offended by your
25	couple of our real strengths, which are the nutrient	25	co-participation?
	Page 34		Page 36
1		1	-
1 2	Page 34 removal in town for protection of the river, and where we were in our pursuit of alternative water supplies for	1 2	A No. And similarly, he would say to you, it's
	removal in town for protection of the river, and where		A No. And similarly, he would say to you, it's not in my wheelhouse to do IRPs. Yeah.
2	removal in town for protection of the river, and where we were in our pursuit of alternative water supplies for	2	A No. And similarly, he would say to you, it's
2 3	removal in town for protection of the river, and where we were in our pursuit of alternative water supplies for the future for JEA.	2 3	<ul><li>A No. And similarly, he would say to you, it's not in my wheelhouse to do IRPs. Yeah.</li><li>Q We talked a lot about the development of the</li></ul>
2 3 4	removal in town for protection of the river, and where we were in our pursuit of alternative water supplies for the future for JEA. Q Is that desalinization?	2 3 4	<ul> <li>A No. And similarly, he would say to you, it's not in my wheelhouse to do IRPs. Yeah.</li> <li>Q We talked a lot about the development of the IRP</li> </ul>
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9 (Pages 33 to 36)

	Page 37		Page 39
1	An integrated water resources plan really is	1	others, I guess?
2	wholly voluntary, but it's also known as a master plan,	2	A Continued expansion of the conventional
3	and it's common at this point to do them I would say	3	reclaim system. The river crossings, its component is
4	they were done every ten years or so years ago. In	4	water is plentiful on this side of the river. The river
5	Florida they're being done every five years or so,	5	has springs in it, so there's less water available on
6	because we're over 20 million people now, and we've got	6	the ocean side, what we call the south grid. That's our
7	water sustainability issues. And people are moving to	7	area of water constraint.
8	alternative supplies, and it won't all be groundwater in	8	So river crossings, which we have two of right
9	the future.	9	now, so adding more of those is an option. Additional
10	So that plan is a big deal in town. It's in	10	reclaimed water or a whole list of alternative water
11	flight now, and it'll come out in in the fall	11	supplies, the leading candidate of which is probably
12	sometime.	12	purified reclaimed water for a host of reasons.
13	Q So the IRP process that we talked about with	13	Oh, and of course additional conservation.
14	Mr. McInall was the way that he described it done	14	MR. NUNN: Let me take you back briefly to the
15	to justify an infrastructure investment to construct,	15	White Oak meeting. The second speaker, was that
16	for example, a generating station?	16	Chip Schultz?
17	A Yeah. You have to show a need for power on	17	THE WITNESS: That was the first speaker.
18	the electric side before you're allowed to build it.	18	Chip was first. And Chip yes. And he was
19	Q So is the IWRP the beginning of a to	19	sharing personal experiences, and then we were to
20	justify an infrastructure upgrade?	20	go around and share intensely personal experiences.
21	A We absolutely use it for our capital planning	21	That wasn't a big hit.
22	over time on the water side, but it doesn't have that	22	MR. NUNN: That sounds awkward.
23	same regulatory function. The PSC or others aren't	23	THE WITNESS: Yes. I can't remember what his
24	looking at that document. It's not required. It's	24	was, but I remember it was awkward. I wouldn't
25	solely for us to put a buffet together and say, all	25	have shared it myself.
	Page 38		Page 40
1		1	_
1	right, ten years from now in these different parts of	1	MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status
1 2 3	right, ten years from now in these different parts of town, I'm going to need X capacity; how do I want to do		MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status quo presentation that was prepared by McKinsey.
2	right, ten years from now in these different parts of town, I'm going to need X capacity; how do I want to do it, and it's it's just smart planning. That's what	2	MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status quo presentation that was prepared by McKinsey. Did you at the time or later on form any
2 3	right, ten years from now in these different parts of town, I'm going to need X capacity; how do I want to do it, and it's it's just smart planning. That's what it is. Nobody requires you to do that. You don't	2 3	MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status quo presentation that was prepared by McKinsey. Did you at the time or later on form any independent analysis as to whether that status quo
2 3 4	right, ten years from now in these different parts of town, I'm going to need X capacity; how do I want to do it, and it's it's just smart planning. That's what	2 3 4	MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status quo presentation that was prepared by McKinsey. Did you at the time or later on form any
2 3 4 5	right, ten years from now in these different parts of town, I'm going to need X capacity; how do I want to do it, and it's it's just smart planning. That's what it is. Nobody requires you to do that. You don't submit it to the state for their review or anything like	2 3 4 5	MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status quo presentation that was prepared by McKinsey. Did you at the time or later on form any independent analysis as to whether that status quo scenario made sense, was what was likely to happen,
2 3 4 5 6	right, ten years from now in these different parts of town, I'm going to need X capacity; how do I want to do it, and it's it's just smart planning. That's what it is. Nobody requires you to do that. You don't submit it to the state for their review or anything like that.	2 3 4 5 6	MR. NUNN: So coming back, then, to the status quo presentation that was prepared by McKinsey. Did you at the time or later on form any independent analysis as to whether that status quo scenario made sense, was what was likely to happen, or was just a scenario that was more of the worst
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1	was supposed to be finished, and then all five of those	1	internally.
2	options SQ1, SQ2, co-op, IPO, and then ITN where	2	And that became a famous internal example of
3	the ITN's the easiest to understand. X people made bids	3	how hard or maybe impossible it is to develop other
4	on us and here's the top two or three. Because they	4	business lines, because what really happened in
5	were very different too. Some of them left JEA like a	5	that is people can just request public records
6	concession, yeah, and some of them were like, no, now we	6	about the business plan you're putting together, go
7	own you.	7	to city hall, lobby elected officials and say, we
8	So they were all very different. And the idea	8	don't think this is good, your local utility is
9	was to present all five of those options first to the	9	trying to compete with the private sector here or
10	board, and our expectation was that was going to happen	10	whatever, lobbying, various means, and kill it, or
11	in March or April, sometime like that that just passed.	11	take your business plan and one-up you. And, quite
12	Then whatever that recommendation was of all those	12	frankly, that's exactly what happened in town.
13	options and have a community discussion about that.	13	There is an LNG facility.
14	And Lord knows it had been in the media	14	MR. WEDEKIND: Can we take a quick break?
15	plenty, so but there would be a lot of transparency	15	(Recess taken from 3:59 p.m. to 4:04 p.m.)
16	about that was what the intent was. Then whatever the	16	MR. WEDEKIND: Mr. Steinbrecher, thank you
17	board recommends, we'd go to City Council for the same	17	very much for your time today. I don't have any
18	thing, intense scrutiny; what do you want to do. The	18	further questions.
19	government owns the utility; it's the government's	19	THE WITNESS: Okay.
20	decision. They're all viable. They're all plausible	20	MR. WEDEKIND: I do, however, as I said in the
21	things that you could do.	21	beginning, want to give you the opportunity to
22	And then lastly to a city referendum. So it	22	provide any additional information, as I said that
23	would need to go through all three of those steps.	23	I would. I don't know that you need to, but I at
24	MR. NUNN: Was there a point at which prior to	24	least wanted to give you the opportunity.
25	July of 2019 you came to the conclusion that	25	THE WITNESS: I just want to thank you for
	Page 42		Page 44
1	Mr. Zahn was intent on selling the utility?	1	your time. These are important matters to
2	THE WITNESS: I did not. I really looked at	2	individuals and to the community at large, and I
3	it as that five-part compare and contrast and the	3	appreciate the time and effort you-all are putting
4	board selects and it goes through that process;	4	into that.
5	board, council, community referendum, so that it	5	MR. WEDEKIND: Thank you very much.
6	would have to go through all of that. And it would	6	(Sworn statement concluded at 4:04 p.m.)
7	have to go through all of that.	7	(Sworn statement concluded at 4.04 p.m.)
8	MR. WEDEKIND: By the charter?	8	
9	THE WITNESS: Yeah. One person isn't capable	9	
10	of making that decision and selling the utility.	10	
11	MR. NUNN: Prior to Mr. Zahn becoming CEO, was	10	
12	there much conversation about the legal constraints	11	
13	on JEA's ability to do business?	12	
13 14	THE WITNESS: There was some, because we		
14	had again, I was not I was not on the senior	14 15	
15 16	leadership team. I was not I'll call it a senior		
17	director level before that.	16	
18	But we occasionally participated in, hey, can	17	
10 19	we get into other types of similar affiliated	18	
20		19	
	businesses, and liquified natural gas was one. We	20	
21	had a site in town. And I was involved in it	21	
22	because it has some environmental liability.	22	
23	I was looking at the liability issues, could	23	
24	we put this LNG facility on it and so forth. And	24	
25	Melissa was actually the issue leader on that	25	
		1	

Electronically signed by Heather Thomas (401-385-656-8432) Electronically signed by Heather Thomas (401-385-656-8432) 11 (Pages 41 to 44)

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1	CERTIFICATE OF OATH	1 ERRATA SHEET
2	STATE OF FLORIDA )	2 DO NOT WRITE ON TRANSCRIPT-ENTER CHANGES HERE
3	COUNTY OF DUVAL )	3
4	I, the undersigned authority, certify that	IN RE: PAUL STEINBRECHER-TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
5 6	PAUL STEINBRECHER personally appeared before me and was	4 AGREEMENT WITH JEA 5
0 7	duly swom.	6
8	WITNESS my hand and official seal this 17th	PAGE NUMBER LINE NUMBER CHANGE REASON
9	day of July, 2020.	7
10		8
11		9
1.0	Heather M. Thomas	10
12	Court Reporter Notary Public-State of Florida	11
13	My Commission No. GG 281865	13
	My Commission Expires 2/1/2023	14
14		15
15		16
16		17
17 18		18
19		19        20     Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read
20		my deposition and that it is true and correct subject to
21		21 any changes in form or substance entered here.
22		22
23		23 DATE NAME
24 25		24
20		25
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	
2	CERTIFICATE OF REFORTER	
3	STATE OF FLORIDA	
4	COUNTY OF DUVAL	
5		
6	I, HEATHER M. THOMAS, Court Reporter and	
7	Notary Public, State of Florida, was authorized to and	
8	did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings;	
9	and that the transcript, pages 4 through 47, is a true	
10	and accurate record of my stenographic notes.	
11 12	I further certify that I am not a relative, or employee, or attorney, or counsel of any of the parties'	
13	attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I	
14	financially interested in this action.	
15	DATED this 17th day of July, 2020.	
16	1 1	
17	- 1 feether of Ileman	
	Heather M. Thomas	
18	Court Reporter	
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