CAE-002

The United Illuminating Company **Witness: Katerina T. Miller**

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CAE-002 Q:

Order No. 19 Compliance, July 30, 2026. Discuss the extent to which a lower number of NRES bids received decreases the staff time required for bid review, tariff agreement award and processing activities.

CAE-002 A:

The United Illuminating Company ("UI") does not believe that staff time required for Bid review, Tariff Agreement award and processing activities is directly proportional to the number of Bids received. A significant portion of Program administration consists of activities that must be performed regardless of the number of Bid received, while the level of effort associated with project-specific review activities is driven by the complexity of the Bids submitted and the number of issues requiring review and resolution during the evaluation process.

Bids that contain eligibility questions, incomplete documentation, requests for clarification, revenue meter or project configuration issues, or other compliance matters may require substantially more staff review time and coordination than Bids that are complete and straightforward.

The staff effort associated with Bid review and award processing can be significantly affected by factors outside the EDCs' direct control, including the need to obtain responses to requests for additional information, address project-specific eligibility questions, and obtain supplemental information from Bidders. These activities can require substantial review and coordination regardless of the total number of Bids received. As a result, a relatively small number of complex or disputed Bids may require more staff effort than a larger number of complete and straightforward Bids.

Accordingly, while a lower number of bids may reduce certain administrative tasks, it would not necessarily result in a proportional reduction in overall staff effort. Any reduction in workload would depend on the nature of the projects submitted and the number of issues requiring review and resolution. Staff must still perform the same core review, qualification, award, Tariff Agreements processing, and Bidder communication functions, regardless of the total number of Bids received.

Consistent with the EDCs' experience administering the NRES Program, staff resources are principally concentrated on resolving project-specific issues and ensuring compliance with Program requirement rather than simply processing a fixed number of Bids.