would in any way question our forthrightness in pursuing this transaction. (Barber, Public, p. 26) Our approach from day one has been to be as open as possible with parties to this proceeding, while still keeping in mind that a number of the parties are openly hostile to our efforts. We have made ourselves available for face-to-face meetings, answered thousands upon thousands of discovery requests, and tried to provide as much detail as we feel we responsibly can at any given point in time. Anyone who knows this management team will vouch for the fact that we say what we mean and we mean what we say, regardless of what adversarial parties in a contested proceeding may want the Commission to believe.

I also think it is somewhat ironic that Mr. Brevitz is taking us to task for revealing certain confidential information to the public when we believed it was appropriate to do so. (Brevitz, Highly Confidential, p. 139) In my opinion, making more information public is an indication of our intention to be as transparent and forthcoming as possible. In addition, Mr. Brevitz seems to be irritated by the fact that we availed ourselves of our right to object to certain discovery requests. (Brevitz, Highly Confidential, pp. 140-141) It is unclear to me how following proper procedural process should be interpreted as FairPoint not being transparent or forthcoming.

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