

HEARING OFFICER PALLADINO: Well, thank you. I appreciate -- I appreciate the very professional conduct of this hearing by counsel on all sides of this case, and I just want to commend counsel for that. And I think that it proceeded very efficiently and, hopefully, fairly.

And before I close, I just want to remind everyone that certainly up to the point of the issuance of my initial decision there is certainly a continuing opportunity for the parties to attempt -- as they have in the past -- to see if they can resolve this matter themselves.

It is a difficult case. It is a difficult question. I know that there are strong feelings and beliefs attendant to this. But I also know that it's within your power to try to resolve this, if you can. And in my view, and in my experience, it's preferable for the parties to control the outcome of the case, rather than to turn it over to a third party, such as myself, to control that outcome.

And beyond that, of course, what I'm going to be doing is an initial decision. And, of course, there is probably a likelihood of no matter what occurs that there will be proceedings beyond that. I doubt seriously that I will have the final say in this matter. However, you all can have the final say in this matter.

Now, Mr. Jerry Jones, who is the Dispute Resolution Specialist, I know the parties have worked with, and I do recognize the parties have made significant efforts in this area, and have not been able to resolve it to this point, but that doesn't mean that it can't happen.

So I want to encourage the parties to look at it and see if you can work out a way that could accommodate the very legitimate interests that there are on both sides of this case.

I believe that everybody here is acting in good faith. And while I know it's not easy, I like to encourage you to take the opportunity -- I know Mr. Jones will be available to assist you, if you would like to have that opportunity -- and so I hope that you'll take that into consideration. And that's my pitch.

If it doesn't happen, I will make my decision within the time frames and according to the facts in the record and laws as I see them, and then we'll proceed from there.

Is there anything further before we close out today?