## PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

## CAPITOL COMPLEX ROOM 8E HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005, 1:03 P.M.

## BEFORE:

THOMAS DECKER, CHAIRMAN
MARY DIGIACOMO COLINS
WILLIAM P. CONABOY
JEFFREY W. COY
KENNETH T. McCABE
JOSEPH W. MARSHALL, III
SANFORD RIVERS
GREGORY C. FAJT, SECRETARY OF REVENUE
DENNIS WOLFF, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PA STATE TREASURER

HILLARY M. HAZLETT, REPORTER NOTARY PUBLIC

I N D E X

2	WITNESS	PAGE
3	Mary DiGiacomo Colins	4
4	Nick Hays	10
5	Lynn Stelle	25
6	Michael French	39
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

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1 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Good afternoon. I'm Tad
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- 2 Decker. I'm Chairman of the Pennsylvania Gaming
- 3 Control Board.
- 4 I would like to welcome the Board and all
- 5 of you to this meeting. Is this thing on? Yes.
- 6 Okay. A quorum of the Board is present. I'm calling
- 7 the meeting to order.
- 8 I'm noting for the record that all of the
- 9 Board Members are here with the exception, I think,
- 10 of Secretary Wolff, who, I think, will be here
- 11 monetarily.
- 12 Let's start, as usual, with the Pledge of
- 13 Allegiance.
- 14 (Pledge of Allegiance.)
- 15 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Thank you. Our first
- order of business this afternoon is for the Board to
- 17 formally approve and adopt the transcripts or minutes
- 18 of our last meeting.
- May I have a motion?
- 20 COMMISSIONER CONABOY: Motion.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Is there a second?
- 22 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Second.
- 23 CHAIRMAN DECKER: All in favor?
- 24 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 25 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Any opposed?

- 1 Motion passes.
- 2 I also want to note for the record that the
- 3 minutes for the last meeting will be available on our
- 4 website and that this meeting is also being recorded
- 5 by a stenographer.
- 6 For the past several weeks, Commissioner
- 7 Colins has been working with the Board staff and with
- 8 staff volunteers from the legislative caucuses to
- 9 complete draft regulations.
- 10 The group has been focused on regulations
- 11 that deal with some general administration and with
- 12 manufacturers and suppliers.
- 13 Last week, Commissioner Colins sent to each
- of the Board Members a copy of the draft regulations
- 15 that are a result of this effort.
- I want to, again, thank all of the people
- 17 who have been involved in this, particularly our
- 18 staff and the volunteers from the legislative
- 19 caucuses.
- 20 Commissioner Colins will discuss the next
- 21 steps with respect to this draft. Mary?
- 22 COMMISSIONER DIGIACOMO COLINS: Okay.
- 23 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to begin
- 24 by offering my personal gratitude to --
- 25 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Mary.

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1 COMMISSIONER DIGIACOMO COLINS: Okay.
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- 2 Thank you very much. That will be the first
- 3 regulation, how to operate the microphone.
- I want to offer my personal thanks to the
- 5 members of the working group who have been extremely
- 6 helpful in this ongoing adventure and process of
- 7 beginning to create a regulatory scheme for the
- 8 Commission.
- 9 It's been a great group. I look forward to
- 10 their continued participation and assistance, and I
- 11 thank them again very sincerely.
- 12 As you know and as I've mentioned before,
- 13 the Board has the authority to promulgate temporary
- 14 regulations; and for a two-year period, we are
- 15 exempted from the Regulatory Review Act and the
- 16 requirements that are needed to make the regulations
- 17 permanent regulations.
- Nonetheless, we're involved in a process
- 19 which is -- which embodies some of the aspects of the
- 20 permanent process, especially opening the
- 21 regulations, the draft of the regulations to the
- 22 public for public comment before we adopt them as our
- 23 final temporary regulations.
- 24 But I want to discuss now the topics that

- 1 There are numerous chapters.
- 2 The first one deals with preliminary
- 3 provisions, which include definitions. Definitions
- 4 are primarily definitions taken from the Act.
- 5 The operations and the organization of the
- 6 Board is another chapter, public access to Board
- 7 records -- these are all basic fundamental
- 8 regulations that we -- and to drive these, we
- 9 basically used as an example for us was a format, the
- 10 PUC regulations, the New Jersey regulations, the New
- 11 Mexico regulations.
- 12 We also have licensing regulations, general
- 13 provisions, regulations having to do with
- 14 applications, regulations dealing with manufacturers
- 15 licenses, suppliers licenses, license renewal,
- 16 employees, the different types of employees for
- 17 manufacturers and suppliers who will have to be
- 18 licensed, and recordkeeping, filing fees, general
- 19 regulations of that nature.
- There is a group of regulations dealing
- 21 with minority and women's business enterprises and
- 22 diversity. Then there are regulations that have to
- 23 do with practice and procedure before the Board.
- 24 So there are general procedural regulations

- 1 very substantive issues such as manufacturers and
- 2 suppliers licensing, renewals, and employee
- 3 licensing.

- 4 Now, the next step is that today after the
- 5 Board votes on this and if the Board, in fact,
- 6 approves this draft, the Board will have an
- 7 opportunity to vote on releasing this and publishing
- 8 it on our website. Then it would be published in the
- 9 Pennsylvania Bulletin.
- 10 There will be basically a 30-day public
- 11 comment period from today, from the publication on
- 12 the website today, in which we will encourage and
- 13 look forward to public comment, especially in areas
- 14 -- substantive areas where there has been expression
- 15 through not just the working group but through
- 16 interaction with others, areas that are of concern,
- 17 areas where people have different views and divergent
- 18 views on how to handle issues.
- 19 Some of those areas, the primary area I'm
- 20 thinking of is that of the suppliers licenses. An
- 21 issue has come up whether or not the suppliers
- 22 licenses should be regional, whether it should be
- 23 organized as a regional system or whether or not the

- 24 suppliers licensing should be open-ended, whoever
- 25 qualifies gets a license without having to limit the

- 1 licensing to different regions. That's a significant
- 2 issue that the Board is really reaching out to the
- 3 public for comment on that.
- 4 We also want to know from the public
- 5 whether or not there are other regulatory provisions
- 6 in other jurisdictions, which we have missed and
- 7 which are relevant or pertinent to the statutory
- 8 provisions of Pennsylvania.
- 9 On the issue of diversity, we have
- 10 regulations that we have been working on and are
- 11 incorporated into this draft, and we encourage and
- 12 solicit and are looking for comments regarding the
- 13 Board's regulations to enforce the diversity of
- 14 provisions and interests of the act so that the Board
- 15 can have a strong policy favoring the principles of
- 16 diversity.
- 17 So we ask for those comments and the Board
- 18 will then review the comments, decide whether or how
- 19 to amend the regulations, respond to the comments by
- 20 publishing the responses, and thereafter the regs
- 21 will be submitted to the Attorney General's Office
- 22 for review and to the Budget Office for fiscal note
- 23 and pending the Board's approval as the final

- 24 temporary regulations will then be adopted as such.
- 25 So because of this very important public

- 1 comment period, today's vote by the Board on a
- 2 motion, which will ask the Board to release these to
- 3 the public, should not be seen as the Board's final
- 4 act.
- 5 It is an act that encourages this
- 6 discourse, which we feel will be very helpful to us
- 7 in determining what are the best regulations for the
- 8 citizens in Pennsylvania regarding gaming.
- 9 The Board will continue -- we're going to
- 10 continue the process and get into the next phase of
- 11 regulations that have to be prepared.
- We're probably going to address the issue
- of vendor registration and licensing, the issue of
- 14 BIE and the parameters of the Bureau of
- 15 Investigations and Enforcement, the licensing of
- 16 Category 1 facilities, hearings and appeals, and
- 17 non-gaming employee registration status.
- 18 Hopefully, by addressing these topics as
- 19 the next stage of regulations, the Board will be able
- 20 to begin the registration and licensing process for
- 21 these entities at some point in the near future.
- Now, at this stage, basically, I'm going to

- 23 turn this over to Nick Hays. Nick is going to
- 24 comment on the procedure of the public comment
- 25 period, the process, how it's going to work if you

- 1 want to make a public comment.
- 2 So at this point, Mr. Chairman, I would
- 3 like to, with your permission, turn it over to Nick.
- 4 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Please, Nick.
- 5 MR. HAYS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
- 6 Commissioner Colins, the rest of the Board for this
- 7 opportunity to outline the public comment program.
- 8 In keeping with the Board's standard of
- 9 operating in an open and transparent fashion, the
- 10 staff has developed a set of procedures for managing
- 11 public comment on the proposed regulations covering
- 12 suppliers and manufacturers and the proposed
- 13 regulations covering general administration.
- 14 A public access project of this importance
- 15 has three phases. First is making sure that people
- 16 have access to the draft. Second is gathering and
- 17 organizing the comments for maximum utility to the
- 18 Board and the public. Third is making sure that the
- 19 public has access to the comments that you gather and
- 20 to your responses to those comments.
- 21 Commissioner Colins touched on Phase 1
- 22 already, but I'll go through it in a little bit more

- 23 detail.
- As soon as the Board approves the draft for
- 25 distribution, we will post it on your website. For

- 1 anyone who isn't familiar with that site yet, the
- 2 address is www.pgcb.state.pa.us.
- 3 Second, the draft will be published in the
- 4 Saturday, April 23rd issue of the Pennsylvania
- 5 Bulletin.
- 6 Third, anyone who actually wants to get a
- 7 printed copy directly from us may request it, but
- 8 it's going to cost them a little bit of money. We
- 9 ask that you send a certified check for \$20 to cover
- 10 the copying, staff time, and mailing. The document
- 11 is roughly 100 pages long the last time I heard.
- 12 Anyway, people who are interested in
- 13 availing themselves of the draft by this avenue
- 14 should mail the checks to Pennsylvania Gaming Control
- 15 Board, Box 69060, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The zip
- 16 code is 17106-9060.
- 17 These requests should also be sent to the
- 18 attention of just simply regulations. The checks
- 19 should be made out to the Commonwealth of
- 20 Pennsylvania.
- 21 Assuming you go forward and approve the

- 22 draft posting today, that marks the beginning of a
- 23 30-day public comment period. The period would end
- 24 with the close of business on Friday, May the 13th,
- 25 2005.

- 1 The second phase is how we're going to
- 2 organize the actual record so it's most useful to the
- 3 Board and to others who want to review it.
- For consistency, we're requiring that every
- 5 comment be submitted by US mail only. I'll repeat
- 6 the mailing address. It's Pennsylvania Gaming
- 7 Control Board, Box 69060, Harrisburg, again, the zip
- 8 code, 17106-9060.
- 9 This time it should be sent to the
- 10 attention of public comment. That way we will be
- 11 able to distinguish from the people who are sending
- 12 checks. With each submission --
- 13 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Nick, can I interrupt
- 14 you?
- MR. HAYS: Yes.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DECKER: What is the time frame
- 17 again?
- 18 MR. HAYS: That would be one month starting
- 19 today going through May 13.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Starting today?
- 21 MR. HAYS: Assuming you approve it today.

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22 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Did you also give
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- 23 everyone Mary's home address for the --
- MR. HAYS: If they slip me an extra 100 --
- 25 COMMISSOINER DIGIACOMO COLINS: It will be

- 1 posted on the website.
- 2 MR. HAYS: I thought we could raise some
- 3 revenue if we ask for more, I can give the number and
- 4 the e-mail address and the whole thing.
- 5 Comment submissions, we're going to ask
- 6 that certain information be included with the comment
- 7 at the risk of having a comment excluded. This will
- 8 be for organizational purposes.
- 9 This information is the name of the person
- 10 submitting it and the name of any organization on
- 11 whose behalf he or she is commenting, the personal
- 12 organization's mailing address, a telephone number,
- 13 an e-mail address if it's available that we can use
- 14 to verify the veracity of the information, in other
- 15 words, to make sure that the person who is claiming
- 16 to send it is, in fact, the person who sent it, the
- 17 county in which the person or organization is based,
- 18 and finally, the section number of the regulations
- 19 that the comment addresses; or if there's no section
- 20 number, it's a broad comment, then simply just a

- 21 general topic.
- The idea here is that we want to be able to
- 23 organize the comment as you guys begin the process of
- 24 reviewing and responding to it. So by having things
- 25 like the section number, you can organize it by here
  - 14
  - 1 are all of the comments under Section X.
  - 2 Similarly, by including municipalities or
  - 3 counties, you can say, these are the comments that
  - 4 have come from, say, the Lehigh Valley versus Erie
  - 5 versus the southeast, the southwest, or so forth.
  - 6 Let me repeat one thing, except for the
  - 7 mailing addresses, the phone numbers, and e-mail
  - 8 addresses, all of this information will go into the
- 9 public record that the Board publishes, as I said,
- 10 for sorting reasons. We're not planning to give out
- 11 members of the public's home telephone numbers, etc.,
- 12 etc.
- 13 The third phase once the comment period
- 14 closes and during that, you are going to review and
- 15 respond to all of the comments that you receive.
- 16 Once that process is complete, we will publish the
- 17 entire record of comment, again, on the website and
- 18 the tentative date is Thursday, May 19th, 2005.
- 19 We're also going to make the record
- 20 available for public inspection at the PGCB offices,

- 21 because we're anticipating it will be fairly large.
- 22 It will be difficult or expensive for people to have
- 23 shipped to them.
- We'll also make copies available at cost;
- 25 but at this point since we don't know how much the

- 1 final -- how long the final record is going to be, we
- 2 don't know what the cost is going to be.
- 3 That really is the outline of the process.
- 4 Before I finish, let me thank April Fegley from our
- 5 staff and Tom Van Kirk and a team from the Revenue
- 6 Department IT staff for helping set all of this up.
- 7 Really without them, it would not have been possible.
- 8 If you have any questions, I'll be glad to
- 9 entertain them.
- 10 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Any questions?
- 11 SECRETARY FAJT: Just a quick comment.
- 12 Nick, that information you just went over about where
- 13 to mail things, where to mail the checks, is that
- 14 also going to be on the website?
- MR. HAYS: Yes, it is. It will be in the
- 16 press release that we post later today.
- 17 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Any other questions for
- 18 Nick or Commissioner Colins?
- 19 Thank you. I want to thank Mary for all of

- 20 the hard work she's doing mostly out of her kitchen
- 21 since she doesn't have an office anywhere else. In
- 22 all joking aside, she's done a terrific job in
- 23 leading this process. All of us are very pleased,
- 24 Mary, with your efforts.
- 25 COMMISSIONER DIGIACOMO COLINS: Thank you.

- 1 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Date of mailing.
- 2 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Pardon me?
- 3 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Date of mailing.
- 4 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Date of mailing, yeah.
- 5 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: I'm sorry. It's
- 6 date of mailing. As long as it's postmarked before
- 7 May 13th?
- 8 MR. HAYS: Yes, that's correct.
- 9 CHAIRMAN DECKER: It's date of mailing.
- 10 It's the postmark -- okay -- not received. Thanks
- 11 for clarifying that.
- 12 May I have a motion to post the draft
- 13 regulations on the Board's website, publish them in
- 14 the Pennsylvania Bulletin, and accept public comment
- 15 for 30 days according to the discussion that we have
- 16 heard from Commissioner Colins and Nick Hays?
- 17 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: So moved.
- 18 COMMISSIONER CONABOY: Second.
- 19 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Any discussion?

- 20 Hearing none, all in favor, please indicate
- 21 by saying aye.
- 22 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 23 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Anyone opposed? It
- 24 passes unanimously.
- 25 COMMISSIONER COY: Mr. Chairman?

- 1 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Yes, sir, Commissioner
- 2 Coy.
- 3 COMMISSIONER COY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 4 Mr. Chairman, the motion the Board just adopted
- 5 included a request for comments on the advocacy of
- 6 mandating through regulation the use of a specified
- 7 number of regional suppliers for each licensed
- 8 manufacturer to ensure for local business
- 9 development.
- 10 One such proposal has been advanced. I am
- 11 sharing it today with the Board. Commissioner, if
- 12 you could pass that down. Mr. Treasurer, I'll hand
- 13 these to you.
- 14 We certainly have them for members of the
- 15 public who are here. If one of the staff could put
- 16 those down on the table, that will be fine.
- 17 This proposal, I believe, will be
- 18 beneficial for us to receive further public comment

- 19 about also, the proposal that may be submitted on the
- 20 general concept of mandating the use of regional
- 21 suppliers.
- The goals advance for this specific
- 23 proposal are to implement the legislative intent of
- 24 Act 71 to establish a new industry in Pennsylvania,
- 25 to foster growth of all small businesses, to enhance

- 1 job creation, and to provide significant opportunity
- 2 for women's business enterprises and for minority
- 3 business enterprises, enhance the integrity of the
- 4 gaming regulation in Pennsylvania, and provide
- 5 flexibility to the industry that would allow the free
- 6 market to work within the framework the proposal
- 7 would establish.
- 8 Mr. Chairman, I know there is not 100
- 9 percent unanimity on this concept. I don't know that
- 10 there will ever be, but I think it's a concept that
- 11 warrants public comment. I would like this language
- 12 to be posted on the website with the body of the
- 13 other proposal for public comment by members of the
- 14 public and, obviously, anybody who is concerned for
- 15 the next 30 days also.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Thank you, Commissioner
- 17 Coy. That's fine. I mean, any -- we're going to
- 18 take all comments anyway. Any suggestions?

- 19 COMMISSIONER McCABE: No. I'm just
- 20 confused by, I think, what Commissioner Coy said. We
- 21 didn't pass a -- the motion didn't include asking for
- 22 regional --
- 23 CHAIRMAN DECKER: No, there is nothing in
- 24 there right now.
- 25 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Okay.

- 1 CHAIRMAN DECKER: There's been conversation
- 2 about it, in fairness.
- 3 COMMISSIONER COY: If that implication was
- 4 made, it was incorrect. It is that this proposal
- 5 deals with that subject.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DECKER: We understand.
- 7 COMMISSOINER DIGIACOMO COLINS: I would
- 8 like to just comment on Commissioner Coy's remarks.
- 9 I think it's a very significant, important issue. I
- 10 think we would benefit from public comment and
- 11 additional ideas about this. So I think it's a very
- 12 good idea to publish this as well and to get comments
- 13 regarding this issue.
- 14 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Anybody from the Board
- 15 object to publishing this just as a -- as the
- 16 comments coming in, I think Commissioner Coy is
- 17 entitled to send in as a comment.

- 18 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Yeah, I don't object
- 19 to requesting comments.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Substance, right.
- 21 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Not to the comments.
- 22 I think everybody should be heard, and everybody
- 23 should have their say-so.
- 24 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: I don't object
- 25 either, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the debate. In that

- 1 spirit, as Mary said before, the regulations are not
- $^{2}$  -- I think that we proved today for submission of
- 3 public comment are just that.
- 4 We're still wrestling with a number of
- 5 these issues. Those of you out there who have taken
- 6 the time to go through the Statute know that there is
- 7 maybe some lack of clarity or at least some grey area
- 8 that we need to address.
- 9 I know, at least speaking for myself,
- 10 really struggling how we accurately and effectively
- 11 implement the intent of the Legislature when it is
- 12 passed as Statute, issues like diversity, the
- 13 regional supplier, all of these things, I think,
- 14 merit a great deal of comment and discussion.
- 15 COMMISSOINER DIGIACOMO COLINS: Right. Let
- 16 me weigh in on this point and maybe discuss a little
- 17 bit what the process was like arriving at these

- 18 regulations.
- 19 Because I mean, this is not a haphazard
- 20 creation that we are putting out on the website.
- 21 This is the result of many, many hours of a working
- 22 group going over the Statute, regulations from other
- 23 jurisdictions, and input coming from different people
- 24 and different points of view and different interests.
- 25 I presided over these -- this work group

- 1 and the understanding was as the statute mandates
- 2 that the Board will make the final decision, but it
- 3 will be a studied decision that we will arrive at it
- 4 the hard way.
- 5 We will take information from wherever we
- 6 can get it. We'll siphon through it. We'll review
- 7 it. Then we'll reach final decisions.
- 8 The public comment period is to hear the
- 9 best ideas from people about issues. It's not to
- 10 rework the whole -- to go through the whole process
- 11 again.
- 12 It's to take these ideas, measure them
- 13 against what we have already done. If we need to
- 14 change it in our discretion and best judgment, we
- 15 will. If we don't, we'll explain why. Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Commissioner Marshall, do

- 17 you have a comment?
- 18 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: No.
- 19 COMMISSIONER COY: Mr. Chairman?
- 20 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Please.
- 21 COMMISSIONER COY: Thank you. I appreciate
- 22 Commissioner Colins' remarks, as well as the other
- 23 members of the Commission.
- There's no doubt that the Act, Act 71,
- 25 drove a lot of the language in this proposal simply

- 1 because of the Act's insistence on increasing
- 2 business in Pennsylvania and enhancing small business
- 3 in Pennsylvania also, and certainly minority and
- 4 women's issues and business development in that
- 5 regard.
- I look forward to a public comment about
- 7 it, too. I would be remiss, Mr. Chairman, if we
- 8 didn't in addition to thanking Commissioner Colins
- 9 and her staff, thank the members of the legislative
- 10 assistance working group who were very much involved
- 11 in this process and, I think, helped enhance the
- 12 process. Thank you very much.
- 13 COMMISSOINER DIGIACOMO COLINS: I'm going
- 14 to make one more comment and then be quiet. That is
- 15 I just want to give credit where credit is due on our
- 16 staff and thank Michelle Afragola and Susan Hensel,

- 17 who were the primary wordsmiths and came up with the
- 18 initial draft and have been ongoing work horses in
- 19 this process. So thank you.
- 20 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman -- and
- 21 I would certainly agree with all of the expressions
- 22 of gratitude here -- I think it would also be helpful
- 23 as we struggle with what we're going to do, if the
- 24 people who decide to comment could give us their view
- 25 or their reading as to what we are empowered to do

- 1 with a lot of the issues that the regulations will
- 2 confront around licensing.
- 3
  We need -- we're not an independent
- 4 legislative body. We do not have a delegation from
- 5 the Legislature to do what we think is right. So it
- 6 is important, at least to me, that we see the tie
- 7 between the Statute, Act 71, and the kind of things
- 8 that we can require or actions we can take.
- 9 I would just add that request, because I
- 10 know that we're all anxious to get these things out
- 11 and we like to turn around regulations as quickly as
- 12 possible. Thank you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN DECKER: I have -- does anybody
- 14 else have anything to say?
- I have two comments. I would be very

- 16 interested hearing from the public on what they
- 17 believe the suppliers' duties should be doing --
- 18 should be or what exactly should they have as their
- 19 requirements other than drop shipment. That's a
- 20 substantive comment.
- 21 A process comment is at the end of the day,
- 22 you know, we appreciate all of the help we've gotten
- 23 from the legislative staffs who have volunteered
- 24 their time, as I have said before.
- 25 But at the end of the day, it's the Board

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- 1 that is making these decisions in case anybody thinks
- 2 to the contrary. We appreciate their input. We
- 3 appreciate their help and how to process this
- 4 correctly, because that's not the expertise any of us
- 5 has.
- 6 So we very much do that and they've been
- 7 putting in a lot of hours. They have made it clear
- 8 to us and we understand and have made it clear to
- 9 them in a mutual sort of way that this Board is going
- 10 to be making the final decisions about regs and other
- 11 activities over which it has statutory
- 12 responsibility. Again, we can't thank them enough
- 13 for their help.
- 14 Any other comments on this?
- 15 Thank you. Let's see. One of the next

- 16 regulatory areas -- we welcome Secretary Wolff.
- 17 SECRETARY WOLFF: Sorry I'm late.
- 18 CHAIRMAN DECKER: No, it's not a problem.
- 19 One of the next regulatory areas that
- 20 Commissioner Colins and her working group will focus
- 21 on is the question of vendor licensing.
- 22 Under the Gaming Law, the Board not only
- 23 licenses gaming facilities but also has the
- 24 discretion to license those who do business with the
- 25 operating facilities.

- 1 So to learn more about vendor licensing, we
- 2 asked Lynn Stelle to do some research and make
- 3 recommendations to us on how we should address this
- 4 issue.
- 5 Lynn, could you come up and give us a
- 6 review of where you are? Thanks.
- 7 MR. STELLE: Thank you.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DECKER: And by the way, Lynn
- 9 would be first to know, we've also had some of this
- 10 work done with -- Lynn has been able to utilize
- 11 Pricewaterhouse for some information as well in this
- 12 regard.
- 13 Lynn, thank you.
- 14 MR. STELLE: Thank you. Act 71 directs the

- 15 Board to qualify and license manufacturers,
- 16 suppliers, Category 1, Category 2, Category 3
- 17 entities and their employees.
- 18 Additionally, the Act grants the Board
- 19 under Section 1202 the responsibility and the
- 20 authority to qualify and/or license anyone else that
- 21 is determined should be reviewed and/or licensed to
- 22 establish and maintain the highest level of integrity
- 23 in all aspects of gaming in the state.
- We have investigated the practices as
- 25 regards to the regulation of non-gaming entities in

- 1 other gaming jurisdictions. Although you are aware
- 2 that in most jurisdictions there is very little
- 3 regulatory power given to the Boards or taken by the
- 4 Boards in the regulation of non-gaming entities, we
- 5 have found that in New Jersey, Illinois, Michigan and
- 6 New York, they regulate and/or license non-gaming
- 7 entities.
- 8 We have been advised by all of the
- 9 jurisdictions that we should initially set the bar
- 10 very high to maintain the highest possible level of
- 11 integrity and to assure that level of integrity to
- 12 the public.
- To establish this level of integrity and
- 14 from the initial phase -- and through the initial

- 15 phase of implementation, it's our recommendation that
- 16 the Board issue clear, indefinite rules and processes
- 17 that will require the review and determination of the
- 18 appropriateness of all key relationships between the
- 19 gaming licensees and any vendor that establishes
- 20 significant financial relationship with that
- 21 licensee. We recommend that these processes should
- 22 be established as soon as possible.
- We feel that in the best interest of the
- 24 Board to inform all potential licensees of the
- 25 importance and the requirement to maintain all

- 1 relationships relevant to implementation of gaming at
- 2 the highest level of integrity and that it is the
- 3 intention of the Board to establish regulations,
- 4 processes, and procedures to enforce these practices.
- 5 We are recommending to the Board to review
- 6 -- excuse me -- the review of vendor regulations and
- 7 registration and licensing requirements at this time
- 8 and to establish guidelines for all potential gaming
- 9 entities in regards to the relationships that they
- 10 may have or may be contemplating in entering into in
- 11 the very near future.
- 12 Specifically, we are focused on vendors
- 13 that may be offering to provide development and/or

- 14 construction assistance at this time.
- 15 By establishing these guidelines,
- 16 regulations, and processes now, we may be able to
- 17 avoid difficulties in the future as regards the
- 18 inappropriate agreements, entities, and our personnel
- 19 being involved in the potential gaming licensees.
- It should be noted, we're not trying to
- 21 encourage potential gaming licensees to engage in
- 22 construction or any other activity in anticipation of
- 23 receiving a license.
- Obviously, those processes will be
- 25 announced once the Board has approved those

- $1\,$   $\,$  regulations and procedures some time in the future.
- 2 With that said, we recognize that the Act
- 3 establishes a finite group of potential candidates
- 4 under Category 1 and that those potential licensees
- 5 are possibly going to be issued licenses under a
- 6 conditional licensing environment.
- 7 If potential licensees choose to begin to
- 8 enhance their properties in anticipation of receiving
- 9 a license, we feel that it is in the best interest of
- 10 the state to provide these potential licensees with
- 11 as much guidance and direction as possible.
- 12 So what is a vendor? Over the last few
- 13 months, we have discussed the requirements in the Act

- 14 for the licensing of manufacturers and suppliers of
- 15 slot machines and related and/or associated equipment
- 16 and the licensing or registration of their employees.
- 17 In addition to these licensees, companies
- 18 will wish to sell products and/or services that are
- 19 not related to slot machines or gaming-related
- 20 equipment that may create significant financial
- 21 relations with the gaming entities. These entities
- 22 we have defined as vendors.
- 23 Although there's no specific provision as
- 24 stated before in the Act, the Board does have the
- 25 right under Section 1202 to regulate these vendors.

- 1 It's our recommendation that the Board
- 2 should follow the best practices established in New
- 3 Jersey by the New Jersey Control Commission -- Casino
- 4 Control Commission and other states I mentioned
- 5 earlier, and require vendors to either file a
- 6 registration and/or be licensed to do business with
- 7 any licensed entity in the Commonwealth based on the
- 8 dollar value of their anticipated business
- 9 relationship.
- 10 Our recommended process would be as
- 11 follows: A vendor may contact any licensed entity in
- 12 the Commonwealth and offer its non-gaming-related

- 13 product and/or service.
- 14 If the licensed entity enters into a
- 15 business agreement with the vendor, the licensed
- 16 entity is responsible for notifying the Pennsylvania
- 17 Gaming Control Board.
- 18 The vendor is then added to a list of
- 19 active vendors and assigned a vendor identification
- 20 number.
- 21 If the vendor conducts less than 150,000 in
- 22 business with one licensed entity or less than
- 23 400,000 with more than one entity, a vendor
- 24 registration form must be filed with the Board by
- 25 either the vendor or the licensed entity.

- 1 This form, which is not a license, simply
- 2 provides the Board with basic information about the
- 3 vendor and its owners and its principal employees.
- 4 The Board will audit all disbursements --
- 5 it is recommended that the Board audits all
- 6 disbursements of the licensed entity to determine
- 7 those organizations that need and/or exceed the
- 8 parameters established for either registration or
- 9 licensing as a vendor.
- 10 The vendor will be required to file an
- 11 application for a vendor license if in any 12-month
- 12 period the company transacts business equal to or

- 13 exceeds \$150,000 with one licensed entity or more
- 14 than \$400,000 with more than one licensed entity.
- 15 Additionally, any entity which has not
- 16 reached one of these thresholds may be still required
- 17 to be licensed based on standards to be established
- 18 by the Board.
- 19 Should the Board determine that a vendor is
- 20 required to file a vendor license application, the
- 21 vendor will be given 60 days to file and the
- 22 application must be filed with a non-refundable \$2500
- 23 application fee.
- In the event that the vendor does not file
- 25 a vendor registration form or the vendor license

- 1 application when required by the Board, the Board may
- 2 require the licensed entity to terminate all existing
- 3 agreements with the licensed entity and the vendor,
- 4 and the licensed entity may be prohibited from
- 5 transacting further business with the vendor.
- 6 Employees of the licensed vendors. In
- 7 addition to the registration and the licensing of
- 8 non-gaming vendors as stated previously, we are
- 9 recommending that employees of vendors be screened
- 10 into three categories.
- 11 Vendor key employees. These are defined --

- 12 key employees are defined in the Act. These are the
- 13 ones that have significant financial interest in the
- 14 entity or control and/or authorized to direct both
- 15 the entity and the other personnel in the entity.
- 16 It is recommended that we modify our key
- 17 employee application and investigation process and
- 18 develop one to be conducted on these employees at a
- 19 modified level with a deposit requirement of \$2500
- 20 per key employee.
- 21 We then have two other categories of
- 22 regular employees, those with access to the gaming
- 23 floor or near the gaming-related equipment and those
- 24 who do not have access.
- Vendor employees with access, we would

- 1 recommend that these employees with responsibilities
- 2 that require access to the area that contains slot
- 3 machines and/or gaming-related equipment, it's
- 4 recommended that any employee of the entity that has
- 5 access to the slot machines or the gaming-related
- 6 equipment be required to be permitted as a vendor
- 7 employee.
- 8 No one will be allowed to be employed with
- 9 access to the gaming-related equipment without having
- 10 a permit that is visible to security and
- 11 surveillance.

- 12 As these are not gaming employees, we
- 13 subject them to a modified investigation and charge a
- 14 permit fee of \$60.
- 15 Vendor employees that do not have access or
- 16 responsibility for gaming-related areas would not be
- 17 required to hold a permit.
- 18 The purpose of this presentation was just
- 19 to give you background information as a possible next
- 20 step in our regulatory process.
- I think at this point, it needs reviewed by
- 22 the Board Members and then recommendation for further
- 23 action.
- 24 CHAIRMAN DECKER: What do other states do
- 25 in this area? You covered that a little bit. What

- do other states do?
- 2 MR. STELLE: Most other states do not
- 3 regulate this area but we found the states --
- 4 CHAIRMAN DECKER: What do they do?
- 5 MR. STELLE: In most cases, they leave it
- 6 up to the operator to determine what is best for the
- 7 facility.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DECKER: But don't they also check
- 9 and audit? They just don't turn it over 100
- 10 percent.

- MR. STELLE: Well, what they do is they go
- 12 on-site; but in fact, in some cases, they don't do a
- 13 thing. What we have found though in the standards
- 14 that we have been looking at, as I mentioned, New
- 15 Jersey, Illinois, Michigan, New York, they found that
- 16 it's a better environment to actually set the bar
- 17 high and evaluate these very carefully to see.
- 18 Because very honestly, I think New Jersey
- 19 has set the standard very high in the gaming side of
- 20 this industry. It is clean as it can be. These are
- 21 major Fortune, probably, 2000 companies, but these
- 22 are major companies that have been investigated,
- 23 investigated, investigated, investigated. There are
- 24 no problems.
- 25 Where gaming has gotten itself in trouble

- 1 in the recent years has been through the back-door.
- 2 People have come through laundry services, through
- 3 trash removal services, through maintenance services,
- 4 other trades. That's where -- I don't want to say
- 5 organized crime but other activities have gotten
- 6 involved that have not been in the best interest of
- 7 gaming.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DECKER: They're businesses that
- 9 have not traditionally been investigated or had
- 10 background checks?

- 11 MR. STELLE: Exactly. They're home spun in
- 12 those areas. This is an area that really needs to be
- 13 clamped on in the very beginning to help all of us.
- 14 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Lynn, how did you
- 15 come up with the dollar amount, the limits, and the
- 16 application fees?
- 17 MR. STELLE: We followed very closely what
- 18 New Jersey is doing. They actually had a lower rate
- 19 of 75 and 150,000 and they're changing it. They're
- 20 finding it wasn't effective anymore and they really
- 21 wanted to upgrade it.
- 22 Right now, they're changing their
- 23 regulations to, I believe they're changing theirs to
- 24 150 and 400,000.
- 25 COMMISSIONER McCABE: And what about the

- 1 \$2500 application fee? How did you come up with
- 2 that?
- 3 MR. STELLE: We basically looked at the
- 4 amount of work that is going to be necessary to set
- 5 up the regulation and the investigation of these
- 6 folks. We set the standards based on that.
- 7 We didn't think it would be anywhere close
- 8 to what a gaming license would be even for a
- 9 manufacturer or supplier, but it would be something

- 10 less than that so we used a -- we basically have the
- 11 amounts.
- 12 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Is this in line with
- 13 what New Jersey, Michigan, and New York --
- MR. STELLE: Very similar, yes.
- 15 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Let me just ask -- let me
- 16 ask this one question. Suppose a vendor that is a
- 17 public company, major public company, suppose you
- 18 supply light bulbs without giving the name of the
- 19 company, what kind of background is going to be
- 20 necessary? How deep do they have to go? I know
- 21 there have been issues in certain states with respect
- 22 to that.
- MR. STELLE: One of the things we need to
- 24 dig into is the definition of key employee for
- 25 vendors. That's why we set up a new category called

- 1 vendor key employee.
- Obviously, it's not going to be appropriate
- 3 to dive down and get a list of all of the directors
- 4 and go through all of that and all of their
- 5 stockholders --
- 6 CHAIRMAN DECKER: You mean all of the
- 7 directors of a public company won't have to be
- 8 fingerprinted and investigated?
- 9 MR. STELLE: That's right. So we'll have

- 10 to come up with -- I think what is important is we
- 11 want to protect the property itself. We will look
- 12 at the organization and dive down into those that
- 13 have access to the gaming -- these are gaming
- 14 vendors.
- We're looking for people who have access to
- 16 the gaming areas of this entity and the impact they
- 17 may have. So the investigation will have to be
- 18 defined based on that access.
- 19 CHAIRMAN DECKER: But you can do a lot of
- 20 this from public records now, right?
- 21 MR. STELLE: I would think so.
- 22 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Our background
- 23 investigators can check what is out there and decide
- 24 if they have to drop down lower, correct?
- MR. STELLE: We're trying to reflect in the

- 1 fee amount. The fee would be substantially less
- 2 because I think the investigation would have to be
- 3 somewhat more cursory than the investigation of a
- 4 gaming entity.
- 5 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: So we're talking
- 6 about any company or individual or entity that sells
- 7 goods, products, or services to a licensed entity.
- 8 If they're putting forth -- if the licensed

- 9 entity, gaming entity is putting forth \$150,000, we
- 10 need to look at them as our recommendation.
- 11 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: So what do you do
- 12 with law firms?
- MR. STELLE: If they're putting --
- 14 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Trust me, I
- 15 guarantee you that some of these agencies are
- spending more than \$150,000 on legal fees.
- 17 MR. STELLE: I'm not sure. I would not
- 18 know the difference at this point.
- 19 COMMISSOINER DIGIACOMO COLINS: That's a
- 20 complicated, difficult question.
- 21 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Auditing firms?
- 22 MR. STELLE: Our recommendation right now
- 23 is, I think you have to look at all of these
- 24 relationships and make sure they're all somewhat
- 25 pristine.

COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Consulting firms?

38

- 2 MR. STELLE: I think that would be
- 3 appropriate.

- 4 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: So all of you folks
- 5 out there, just be ready. Okay. Thanks, Lynn.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Thanks, Lynn.
- 7 MR. STELLE: Thank you.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Anymore questions for

- 9 Lynn? Lynn, thank you. It was very good.
- 10 Lynn has been doing -- again, another
- 11 individual we have seen at these meetings, has done a
- 12 tremendous amount of work for us both before we were
- 13 even sitting in these seats and now. We appreciate
- 14 it very much. I know I speak for all of the
- 15 Commissioners on that front.
- 16 At our last meeting, Lynn provided us with
- 17 some information and a review on testing and
- 18 certification standards for slot machines.
- 19 At the conclusion of Lynn's remarks, the
- 20 Board asked that our consultant, Pricewaterhouse,
- 21 research best practices from other jurisdictions and
- 22 make a recommendation to the Board on how it should
- 23 establish testing and certification standards going
- 24 forward and providing for the testing of individual
- 25 slot machines before they are put into action, so to

- 1 speak.
- 2 Mike French from PwC will now report on the
- 3 work they have done in looking into this issue.
- 4 Mike?
- 5 MR. FRENCH: Good afternoon. As part of
- 6 this testing and certification process, again, Lynn
- 7 was involved as an advisor to the Board in conducting

- 8 research on the various testing labs that exist
- 9 domestically.
- There are principally three independent
- 11 testing laboratories that dominate the market; Gaming
- 12 Laboratories International, GLI, BMM International,
- 13 and Nick Farley and Associates.
- 14 Lynn performed research upon testing and
- 15 certification laboratories in several states
- 16 including Nevada, Montana, Michigan, and New Jersey.
- 17 As a result of his research, he provided PwC with a
- 18 summary report for our review.
- 19 At the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's
- 20 request, PwC independently performed verification
- 21 analyses on the testing labs in order to make the
- 22 Board's decision easier to provide them with a
- 23 candidate that would set up an interim testing lab
- 24 and advise the Board on testing and certification
- 25 standards.

- 1 Given the research that Lynn Stelle had
- 2 already taken, the Board specifically requested that
- 3 PwC only perform a limited scope investigation.
- 4 Accordingly, PwC held extensive,
- 5 confidential discussions with a limited number of
- 6 contacts, including a supervisor of regulatory
- 7 compliance of one of the major gaming equipment and

- 8 system manufacturers, a gaming laboratory manager for
- 9 one of the large US casino markets -- in one of the
- 10 large casino markets, a laboratory director for one
- 11 of the large casino jurisdictions and a lead testing
- 12 engineer in the laboratory of the state that has a
- 13 central computer system.
- 14 PwC's verification and analysis also
- 15 included touring GLI's facilities in Lakewood, New
- 16 Jersey and conducting interviews with members of
- 17 their team and some of their testing team members,
- 18 also a meeting with the BMM International Management
- 19 team in our Philadelphia offices.
- 20 Our conclusions, given the potential for
- 21 61,000 slot machines in the State of Pennsylvania,
- 22 the testing laboratory volume is expected to be quite
- 23 substantial. This will most likely be necessary at
- 24 this time from an experienced firm and more
- 25 importantly capacity.

- 1 According to GLI publicly released
- 2 information, the management of GLI is the dominant
- 3 provider in the market share between 93 and 97
- 4 percent. This was also verified by their
- 5 competitors.
- 6 The company has entered into 360 contacts

- 7 to provide testing and certification of over 300,000
- 8 devices.
- 9 Probably most importantly, GLI is the only
- 10 independent laboratory which performs central
- 11 monitoring system testing.
- 12 The firm has approximately 16 years of
- 13 experience in the United States in comparison to one
- 14 of its competitors that has approximately 4. GLI has
- 15 386 professionals, the next nearest competitor has
- 16 80.
- With over 50,000 tested and certified
- 18 programs in the firm's database, GLI can often
- 19 expedite the approval process by transferring
- 20 certifications within a few days or a week.
- 21 GLI has assisted numerous jurisdictions in
- 22 drafting these technical standards, including
- 23 California, Arizona, New York, and Oklahoma.
- 24 Based upon market share input from gaming
- 25 equipment machine suppliers and testing laboratories,

- 1 network size and corporate history, PwC recommends
- 2 that the Board consider appointing GLI, which is
- 3 consistent with Lynn's research work as well.
- 4 They would perform as an interim testing
- 5 lab, and they would advise the Board on testing and
- 6 certification standards. They would also assist the

- 7 Board and the state in the development of their own
- 8 laboratory at a period sometime in the future.
- 9 To promote the highest quality control and
- 10 implement a procedure of checks and balances, PwC
- 11 also recommends that the Board consider employing at
- 12 least one professional with the requisite technical
- 13 expertise to oversee the process during this interim
- 14 period.
- 15 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Mike, just like in every
- 16 outsource, you need someone to manage it?
- 17 MR. FRENCH: Yes, like an asset manager.
- 18 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Okay.
- MR. FRENCH: Based on our research, we
- 20 found that it's fairly commonplace for states to
- 21 establish spot checking functions. According to GLI,
- 22 these states include Colorado, Indiana, and West
- 23 Virginia.
- 24 Given the technical nature of the testing
- 25 certification processes, GLI said they advocate for

- 1 having experienced individuals in place at the state
- 2 level so they can fully understand the issues that
- 3 GLI is evaluating.
- 4 GLI's headquarters are approximate to
- 5 Pennsylvania in Lakewood, New Jersey. They are

- 6 doubling their size. It's approximately 80,000
- 7 square feet.
- 8 As such, it would be very convenient for
- 9 the state's technical professionals to visit the
- 10 laboratory and perform testing and ask the
- 11 appropriate questions. So we support Lynn's
- 12 recommendation for GLI.
- 13 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Mike, I have a
- 14 question. I appreciate all of that hard work. Did
- 15 you look at the -- I'm always concerned about the
- 16 integrity, the integrity of the company.
- 17 Did you look at that? Are they usually
- 18 right with their decisions? Have they ever been
- 19 questioned by the Gaming Control Boards that they're
- 20 working for and had any problems with any of them?
- MR. FRENCH: None of them are perfect and
- 22 there are oftentimes problems -- not oftentimes.
- 23 There's rarely problems.
- In the group of people that we sampled, we
- 25 said that -- most of them said in 99 percent of the

- 1 cases, there's not a problem.
- 2 Oftentimes because of the advanced
- 3 technology, the technology just continues to
- 4 accelerate for these different types of games; and I
- 5 strongly feel that by the time the facilities begin

- 6 to operate in Pennsylvania, the technology will have
- 7 advanced even further.
- 8 There oftentimes are glitches somewhere
- 9 between the testing and when it gets implemented
- 10 on-site at the casino. Sometimes those glitches are
- 11 not necessarily a result of the fault of the testing
- 12 agency but there are problems, for the most part,
- 13 minor. They could not cite any significant problem.
- 14 COMMISSIONER McCABE: And all of these
- 15 other control boards, gaming control boards are
- 16 satisfied with that company?
- 17 MR. FRENCH: Based on the different people
- 18 we talked to, manufacturers, testers, Board Members,
- 19 yes, they -- the scale and the size of GLI makes
- 20 them, you know, pretty much only -- they're the only
- 21 group that can do this.
- 22 COMMISSIONER McCABE: So the regulators in
- 23 these other jurisdictions are satisfied with their
- 24 performance?
- MR. FRENCH: Yes.

- 1 COMMISSOINER DIGIACOMO COLINS: I have a
- 2 question. Based on your research, did your research
- 3 give you any indication as to the nature of GLI's
- 4 reputation in the industry for honesty and integrity?

- 5 MR. FRENCH: In fact, all three of the
- 6 groups that we had discussions with in our research
- 7 and in our interviews had positive -- they were all
- 8 positive, their integrity, their reputation, and
- 9 their track record.
- 10 Unfortunately, two of the three did not
- 11 have the, as I said, the scale or the experience to
- 12 really compete with GLI.
- Oftentimes, you know, they are brought in
- 14 as spot checkers, the smaller organizations, in the
- 15 event that, you know, a jurisdiction does not have
- 16 somebody on staff that has the technical
- 17 capabilities.
- 18 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Mike, how hard do you
- 19 think it will be to find somebody to be a decent
- 20 source inside to manage the outsourcing?
- 21 How much expertise do we need initially or
- 22 is this someone that can learn if they have the
- 23 requisite mathematical or statistical background?
- MR FRENCH: My opinion or more of a guess,
- 25 in a jurisdiction with, you know, 14 sites with up to

- 1 61,000 slot machines, I think that anybody that is
- 2 currently working at an existing lab or is working
- 3 with some of these companies I mentioned would find
- 4 it to be a significant challenge and opportunity.

- 5 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Thank you. Any other
- 6 questions for Mike about this study?
- 7 If not, let me ask you, we're hoping you're
- 8 going to be coming to the May meeting. I just want
- 9 to get a very brief update as to where you stand and
- 10 concerning the review of our Bureau Investigation and
- 11 Enforcement best practices on surveillance, security,
- 12 you know, background investigation, forensic
- 13 accounting, etc.
- MR. FRENCH: Right. We are continually
- 15 collecting this data. It was a fairly monumental
- 16 collection process from the nine jurisdictions that
- 17 we have identified and speaking with a number of
- 18 different people at each jurisdiction.
- 19 We have collected about 75 percent of the
- 20 data. Then we have to synthesize it. We have to go
- 21 through it. We have to review it.
- We're probably going to have to have
- 23 follow-up conversations. We have a number of people
- 24 working on this as we speak.
- In discussing it with my team, you know, we

- anticipate that we will have a draft of our best
- 2 practices conclusions in a consolidated format by the
- 3 middle of May.

- 4 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Chip?
- 5 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Mike, can I take
- 6 you back to the testing just for a second? GLI did
- 7 some consulting for us. I think there was a
- 8 presentation made in December. Your analysis and
- 9 review of this took place separate and apart?
- MR. FRENCH: Yes.
- 11 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: It was an
- 12 independent PwC --
- MR. FRENCH: Yes.
- 14 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: And GLI is not
- 15 doing anything for us currently right now?
- MR. FRENCH: No. It was independent.
- 17 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: I just wanted to
- 18 get that out. Thank you.
- 19 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. FRENCH: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Mike, thank you for your
- 22 recommendation. We're certainly going to take your
- 23 recommendation under advisement. We'll be making
- 24 some decisions on those issues, as well as Lynn's
- 25 recommendation in the next meeting or so.

- 1 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Okay. I just have a
- 2 question, Mr. Chairman. Are we going to see
- 3 something in writing from PwC?

- 4 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Which one? This one
- 5 here?
- 6 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Yeah, the one he
- 7 presented.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Sure. Absolutely.
- 9 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Okay.
- 10 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Okay. Any other
- 11 questions for Lynn or Mike on this issue?
- 12 Okay. Thank you.
- 13 The Board is now going to break for
- 14 Executive Session for the purpose of discussing
- 15 personnel vacancies and potential candidates.
- 16 Let me just say that we're making -- we've
- 17 made some real progress on two of the three positions
- 18 for which we have retained search firms.
- We are very far along on executive
- 20 director. We are also very far along on candidates
- 21 for Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement. We're a
- 22 little bit more delayed on the chief counsel's
- 23 position just by nature of administrative time, shall
- 24 we say.
- 25 We hope to have these positions filled in

- 1 the coming weeks or at least narrow our candidates.
- 2 I will also say, again, that we are reluctant to hire

- 3 anyone right now until the case, the Supreme Court is
- 4 finalized, which we hope will be in the coming
- 5 decades, no, coming weeks. We're optimistic. No,
- 6 don't give them decades somebody said.
- 7 Okay. But as I think most of you know,
- 8 that kind of backs us up a bit. We're in a position
- 9 now in the coming weeks and months -- I'm saying this
- 10 now because I think some of you may not be here when
- 11 we get back.
- 12 We're in a position now to have licensing
- 13 start in the coming months on first vendors and
- 14 suppliers -- excuse me -- I'm sorry -- manufacturers
- 15 and suppliers.
- The problem we have is having bodies to
- 17 process the applications. I think the regs are going
- 18 to be in very good shape shortly. We're looking
- 19 forward to the public comments, but it's very hard to
- 20 get people to leave their current employer to be --
- 21 forget about executive director and head of Bureau of
- 22 Investigation and Enforcement, but it's going to be
- 23 very hard now to bring people in to process these
- 24 applications if they currently have, you know,
- 25 responsibilities. There are some exceptions to that

- and we're going to be looking at hiring them.
- 2 Otherwise, the Board will be looking at --

- 3 we're each going to take 7,000 applications
- 4 individually to look at. It's definitely -- we're
- 5 going to be delayed unless we can get that resolved.
- 6 That's the disappointing part that we have to talk
- 7 about today.
- 8 Any questions for the Board Members?
- 9 Well, for the record, it's now -- I managed
- 10 to waste another two minutes. It's now 2:00. We
- 11 will reconvene in, I would say, no later than 3:15,
- 12 probably 3:00. I'm always 15 minutes wrong. Let's
- 13 try for 3:00. Thank you.
- 14 (Executive Session.)
- 15 CHAIRMAN DECKER: The Board will now go
- 16 into the regular session. The time for the record is
- 17 3:10.
- 18 As noted prior to the break, we went into
- 19 Executive Session to discuss personnel issues,
- 20 including certain vacancies and potential candidates.
- 21 We are going to -- I would like to have a
- 22 motion to hire a receptionist, Sabrina Banardez.
- 23 COMMISSIONER COY: So moved.
- 24 COMMISSIONER CONABOY: Second.
- 25 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Excuse me. Any comment

- 2 she's at the Harrisburg News. We're very happy to
- 3 have her come with us.
- 4 Any discussion?
- 5 COMMISSIONER McCABE: Always contingent
- 6 upon a successful background --
- 7 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Yes. Thank you for
- 8 reminding me.
- 9 With that said, can I have a vote? All of
- 10 those in favor?
- 11 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Any opposed?
- Motion passes.
- So we'll congratulate Sabrina and welcome
- 15 her aboard. Mike, you'll let her know.
- MR. WALSH: Yes.
- 17 CHAIRMAN DECKER: We've already discussed
- 18 the candidates and the fact that we hired an
- 19 executive director today. Since the press wasn't
- 20 here, I thought I would say something.
- 21 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: You're not going to
- 22 like him anyway.
- 23 CHAIRMAN DECKER: It's Chip's
- 24 brother-in-law. I'm only kidding. There's nothing
- 25 new to add on any of those topics.

- 2 is there any other new business today?
- 3 All right. Hearing none, I'll take a
- 4 motion to adjourn.
- 5 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: So moved.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Second?
- 7 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Second.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DECKER: All those in favor?
- 9 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 10 CHAIRMAN DECKER: Motion passes. We're
- 11 adjourned. Our next meeting is, I believe, May 5th,
- 12 am I right about that, at 10:00 here in Harrisburg.
- 13 Thank you. Thank you for coming.
- 14 I'm supposed to note for the record that
- we're going to be doing interviewing today at 3:30.
- 16 It's not a public session. Again, we're going to be
- 17 interviewing for candidates tomorrow at 9:00.
- 18 COMMISSIONER McCABE: All day tomorrow.
- 19 CHAIRMAN DECKER: All day tomorrow. So
- 20 just for the record before we adjourn. I apologize
- 21 for not mentioning it. Thank you.
- 22 (The meeting concluded at 3:14 p.m.)

24

I hereby certify that the proceedings and
evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
notes taken by me on the within proceedings and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.
Hillary M. Hazlett, Reporter
Notary Public