

*AEPCO Oral Argument*

Thank you, Chairman Nober.

Good Morning, and let me add my welcome to our panelists and those attending today's oral argument. I would also like to thank the Board staff for their assistance in preparing for this hearing. I continue to be impressed with the reasoned and articulate ways in which they approach the complexities of the cases that come before the Board. In particular, the case today brings even more interesting and complex issues to us because it involves the use of trackage rights over a railroad that is a defendant in the case. As such, this case has the potential to greatly affect those cases that come after it, and I look forward to hearing from the parties on these and other issues. Thank you.