STATE ARBITRATION BOARD

ORDER NO. 6-99

/// **NOTICE** ///

In the case of Hubbard Construction Company versus the Florida Department of Transportation on Project Nos. 10340-3503 and 10340-3504 in Hillsborough County, Florida, both parties are advised that State Arbitration Board Order No. 6-99 has been properly filed with the Clerk of the State Arbitration Board on October 4, 1999.

H. Eugene Cowger, P.E. Chairman & Clerk, S. A. B.

V. Eugene Cowa

S.A.B. CLERK

DCT 4 1000

FILED

Copy of Order & Transcript to: Greg Xanders, P. E., DOT State Construction Engineer

Ernest J. Wolf, Vice President-Contracts Hubbard Construction, Co..

Copy of Order to: W. Robert Vezina, Esquire Attorney for Contractor

STATE ARBITRATION BOARD

ORDER NO. 6-99

RE:

Request for Arbitration by Hubbard Construction Company on Job No. 10340-3503 & 10340-3504 in Hillsborough County

The following members of the State Arbitration Board participated in disposition of this matter:

H. Eugene Cowger, P.E., Chairman

Bill Deyo, P. E., Member

John Roebuck, Member

Pursuant to a written notice, a hearing was held on a request for arbitration commencing at 11:50 a.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 1999

The Board Members, having fully considered the evidence presented at the hearing, now enter their Order No. 6-99 in this cause.

ORDER

The Contractor presented a request for arbitration of a claim for additional compensation in the total amount of \$53,830.00, the amount deducted from payments, because the Department of Transportation determined that certain Subsoil Excavation and the corresponding Embankment originally included in pay estimates was outside the limits for such work as indicated in the plans and specifications. The Contractor is requesting compensation for pre-award interest and the cost of these proceedings in addition to the \$53,830.00. The claimed amount is based on 5,383 C.Y. of Subsoil Excavation at the bid price of \$5.00 per CY and 5, 383 CY of Embankment at the bid unit price of \$5.00 per C.Y.

The Contractor present the following information in support of his claim:

We performed the work in question here in full accordance with contract plans and applicable specifications and as directed by the Department acting through a CEI Consultant they employed to carry out construction engineering and inspection on this project. The Subsoil Excavation operation was carried out under ongoing inspection of the work by these Department representatives. A joint survey was made by the Inspector and our personnel when excavation of each area was completed. Agreement was reached at that time on the depth to which Subsoil Excavation was to be accomplished. We were not advised at that time that the pay volumes would be restricted to the template established by the Department's Standard Index Drawing covering excavation of plastic soil.

In some instances clay material was excavated to a greater depth than indicated by the Department's applicable Standard Index drawing. This was done at the direction of the Department's inspector, essentially in areas where the clay near the bottom of the cut contained muck and was slimy in nature. We have never looked on this sort of action as a change in the specifications, because the specifications provide that subsoil is subject to field variation.

In the areas in question, the Department originally measured Subsoil Excavation to the bottom of the actual excavation and payment for such quantity was made on periodic estimates. About one year later, the Department determined that measurement for payment of Plastic Subsoil is to be based on the template line shown in the Standard Index. The Standard Index in effect at the time of bidding showed the template to be a line parallel to and four (4) feet below the bottom of the base course. During the project, a more recent Standard Index was applied which reduced the depth below the base course to two (2) feet.

There was considerable discussion between the Department and us on the multi line calculations used to determine earthwork quantities on this job. During those discussions we were not made aware that the Department would restrict the quantities of Subsoil Excavation and Embankment to the Standard Index template.

To the best of our knowledge there is no dispute on the actual quantities of Subsoil excavated and Embankment placed in the areas where pay quantities are in question. The question is only whether measurement should be to the bottom of excavation or to the template line established in the Standard Index drawing with the 0.2' construction tolerance applied.

We refer to the following specifications to support our position that measurement of these items should be to the depth actually excavated.

- 2-3 states that the estimated quantities shown in the plans and proposal form are approximate.
- 9-1.3.1 states that the method or combination of methods of measurement shalt be those which will reflect with reasonable accuracy the actual surface area of the finished work as determined by the Engineer.
- 120-2.3 states that subsoil excavation is subject to field variations in accordance with the conditions actually encountered.
- 120-4.1 states that subsoil excavation is to be to the cross sections shown in the plans or indicated by the Engineer.

We contend that instructions from the Engineer as to the depth of subsoil excavation at a particular location do not have to be in writing. To require written direction in these instances would have caused significant delays in the work.

During the time that this work was underway and until about one year later, it was our understanding that we would be paid under the pay item Subsoil Excavation for the actual

quantity of subsoil removed and the corresponding quantity of Embankment.

We did write some letters stating that the Department's representatives should not direct our project personnel to do work outside the scope of the contract. However, this did not apply to the depth of subsoil excavation which was work included in the contract.

There was no financial incentive for us to excavate substantially below plan limits if we were not going to be paid for this extra work.

We are claiming compensation for the items in question based on the actual quantity of work accomplished.

The Department of Transportation rebutted the Contractor's claim as follows:

This is the only one of 88 claims submitted by the Contractor, other than one from the Paving Subcontractor, that has not been resolved.

We do not agree that the Contractor was directed to excavate subsoil below the elevation established by the plans. Over-excavation was not done at the direction of the CEI inspectors. Control of the depth of this excavation is a Quality Control responsibility which is the responsibility of the Contractor. The Contractor used an Engineering Firm to check the depth of subsoil cut prior to April 17, 1995. About one-half of the subsoil areas had been excavated by that time.

The CEI Project Engineer often cautioned the Contractor's Project Coordinator not to over excavate plastic materials. An Inspector is not authorized to waive the specified limits of plastic material excavation. There were only a couple of places where slimy material was encountered at the bottom of subsoil cut.

The Contractor has not submitted documentation to support the additional quantities for which he is requesting payment.

The Department furnished the Contractor with adequate documentation of the deduction in the quantities of Subsoil Excavation and Embankment a year before the deduction was made on a progress estimate. We withheld making the deduction, because of the large amounts due the Contractor on Supplemental Agreements that could not be included for payment for several months while these documents were being processed. Once payment could be made under the Supplemental Agreements, we made these deductions.

A Settlement Agreement dated 12/2/98 limited future claims to subcontractor issues and "Any verifiable quantity adjustments for base, subsoil excavation and embankment performed by Hubbard". This dispute does not fall under the second exception categories, because "verifiable quantity adjustments" must comply with the contract documents. The quantities claimed do not.

Our position that no additional compensation is due is supported by the following specifications:

- 5-2 Coordination of Plans, Specifications and Special Provisions
- 5-6 Authority and Duties of Engineer's Assistants states that the presence of the inspector shall in no way lessen responsibility of the Contractor.
- 9-1.4 Construction outside Authorized limits...
- 120-4.1 establishes a construction tolerance of 0.2' for depth of subsoil excavation.
- 102-12.1.1 states where subsoil excavation extends outside the lines shown in the plans, the quantity of additional material used to backfill such areas will be deducted from the quantity to be paid for Roadway Excavation or Borrow Excavation as applicable.

The Board in considering the testimony and exhibits presented found the following points to be of particular significance:

a) The root of this dispute is whether or not the Department of Transportation directed excavation of subsoil below the template limit established by the Standard Index drawing which

controls the method of measurement.

b) Even though it may not fairly reflect the actual work effort required to remove subsoil, there is a well established precedent on Department of Transportation contracts of establishing the lower limit of payment for excavation of plastic type subsoil to a template limit plus a tolerance of 0.2'.

From the foregoing and in light of the testimony and exhibits presented, the State Arbitration Board finds as follows:

The Department of Transportation shall reimburse the Contractor nothing for his claim.

The Contractor is directed to reimburse the State Arbitration Board the sum of \$ 219.90 for Court Reporting Costs.

S.A.B. CLERK

4 1999

Tallahassee, Florida

Dated: 10/4/99

Certified Copy:

H. Eugere Cour H. Eugene Cowger, P. E. Chairman & Clerk SAB

0 /4/01 DATE

H. Eugene Cowger, P. E.

Chairman & Clerk

Bill Deyo, P. E.

Member

John P. Roebuck

Member

STATE ARBITRATION BOARD STATE OF FLORIDA

HUBBARD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY)

)

PROJECT NO. 10340-3503

- and
LOCATION: Hillsborough County, Florida

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)

COPY

RE: Arbitration In The Above Matter

DATE: Tuesday, August 17, 1999

PLACE: Cummings & Snyder

1004 Desoto Park Drive Tallahassee, Florida

TIME: Commenced at 11:50 a.m.

Concluded at 12:50 p.m.

REPORTED BY: CATHERINE WILKINSON

CSR, CP

Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at

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Large

WILKINSON & ASSOCIATES
Certified Court Reporters
Post Office Box 13461
Tallahassee, Florida
(904) 224-0127

APPEARANCES:

MEMBERS OF THE STATE ARBITRATION BOARD:

APPEARING ON BEHALF OF HUBBARD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY:

Mr. Randy Blankenship
Mr. Ernest Wolf
Mr. Charles Loy
Mr. Allan Fadulion
Mr. David Dempsey

APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Mr. Greg Hays Mr. Marty Sanchez Mr. David Koger Mr. Tom Lay

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INDEX

EXHIBITS PAGE

Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2 in evidence

4

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHAIRMAN COWGER: This is a hearing of the State
3	Arbitration Board established in accordance with
4	Section 337.185 of the Florida Statutes.
5	Mr. Bill Deyo was appointed as a member of the
6	Board by the Secretary of the Department of
7	Transportation.
8	Mr. John Roebuck was elected by the construction
9	companies under contract to the DOT.
10	These two members chose me, H. Eugene Cowger, to
11	serve as the third member of the Board and as the
12	Chairman.
13	Our terms began July 1, 1999 and expire June 30,
14	2001.
15	Will all persons who will make oral presentations
16	during the hearing please raise your right hand and be
17	sworn in.
18	(Whereupon, all witnesses were duly sworn by the
19	Chairman.)
20	CHAIRMAN COWGER: The documents which put this
21	arbitration hearing into being are hereby introduced as
22	Exhibit 1. That's the contractor's request for
23	arbitration and everything that was attached to that
24	request. Now, it's a bound booklet.
25	Exhibit 2 is a rebuttal package submitted by DOT

1	in response to the request for arbitration. We will
2	identify that as Exhibit 2. That Exhibit 2 was
3	furnished a long time ago to the Board members and to
4	the DOT.
5	We have already established that there are no
6	other exhibits to be presented, is that correct?
7	MR. DEMPSEY: Correct.
8	(Whereupon, Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2 were received in
9	evidence.)
.0	MR. KOGER: I do have a copy of the plans if you
1	need them.
12	CHAIRMAN COWGER: That's not an exhibit, but it's
13	good to have those plans.
14	During this hearing the parties may offer such
15	evidence and testimony as is pertinent and material to
16	the controversy, and shall produce such additional
17	evidence as the Board may deem necessary to an
18	understanding and determination of the matters before
19	it.
20	The Board shall be the sole judge of the
21	relevance and the materiality of the evidence offered.
22	We ask that you be sure and keep a copy of the
23	two exhibits. When the Board issues its final order,
24	it will furnish you a copy of the transcript of the
25	hearing, but we will not furnish you copies of the

1	exhibits because you should already have them.
2	This hearing will be conducted in an informal
3	manner. First the contractor's representative will
4	elaborate on their claim, and then the Department of
5	Transportation will offer rebuttal.
6	Either party may interrupt to bring out a
7	pertinent point by coming through the Chairman.
8	However, for the sake of order, please only one person
9	speak at a time.
10	(Discussion off the record)
11	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Mr. Contractor, we would like
12	you to present your case.
13	MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. My name is Dave Dempsey.
14	I'm the division manager of Hubbard Construction.
15	I would like to introduce the people I've brought with
16	me that will speak and give testimony.
17	Allan Fadulion was the project coordinator for
18	this project, through the life of it and probably has
19	the most intimate knowledge and details of the issues
20	we are here to discuss.
21	Ernie Wolf is Hubbard's director of contract
22	administration.
23	Charlie Loy was an on-site superintendent for
24	Hubbard during the course of this work.
25	Randy Blankenship was a grade foreman that

T	performed the majority of this subsoil excavation we
2	are here to discuss.
3	Before I turn it over to Allan Fadulion about the
4	details, basically Hubbard performed subsoil excavation
5	on the project throughout the project, had joint
6	measurements with the Department. We were paid monthly
7	by the Department.
8	The project all the work was over. Subsequent
9	to a year later, after the fact, after all the work had
10	been completed, the Department unilaterally made a
11	deduct to the subsoil excavation item.
12	It's my understanding that we had overexcavated,
13	made an unauthorized overexcavation of the subsoil,
14	which we have disputed. We met several times and
15	transferred documents and shots back and forth. That's
16	what we are here to discuss.
17	Allan, do you want to start?
18	MR. FADULION: My name is Allan Fadulion, and I'm
19	a project coordinator for Hubbard Construction.
20	Basically to put everything in perspective from
21	our point of view, when Hubbard commenced with its
22	subsoil excavation, we had in my this activity as
23	being one that would be closely monitored. We knew we

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25

had clay to take out, and we had some muck material.

As DOT has explained again, in several of our

1	previous meetings, the clay we go after and we go to
2	the limit as shown in our plan cross sections.
3	When we encounter muck, that's a material we go
4	after and chase until it's all cleared out.
5	With that in mind, we went ahead and started our
6	subsoil excavation limits of which were initially set
7	in the plans as being four foot below the bottom of the
8	base.
9	At some point in time that limit was changed to
10	two feet, and we proceeded accordingly with those
11	limits in mind.
12	It was never a hard deck that Hubbard
13	Construction considered as a stop point when we got to
14	that limit. If we got to that limit, all we were
15	taking out was hard clay material, we stopped, and we
16	recognized that the two-tenths tolerance, which the DOT
17	has explained, holds.
18	Now when we encounter muck, that's a material
19	that we can go well past the limit.
20	A lot of times, in most of these areas that we
21	have shown overexcavation, in which the DOT has refused
22	to pay, we encountered material that was halfway
23	between muck and clay.
24	We can only surmise that the field inspectors

working with our folks made a judgment call on the side

1 0	o f	caution	to	clean	out	the	holes.
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We did that in their presence. They knew exactly where we were, what we were doing. Of course they're there most, if not a hundred percent of the time. We have Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Loy to testify to that.

Up until the time that we completed our subsoil excavation, and we got to a cut-off period where we were looking to get paid for that work, we normally went with survey information that was available at that time.

And being that the estimate is as -- just like that, that it's an estimate, we would figure an average depth of cut, approximate the width and station to station distances and come up with a quantity that was going to be due Hubbard for that period.

At the time the subsoil was completed, and as we approached the final completion of the job, we anticipated there would be changes. This was based on -- because we made some assumptions. We used some averages to come up with the quantities. We did anticipate changes.

The one thing we did not anticipate was not being paid for the material we took out below the limit.

Approximately a year after all subsoil excavation

was done, when we received estimate number 42, that's
when the DOT took out these quantities. It was a
combination of both, estimating error and the areas
below the limit that they have stated they refused to
pay.

Jumping real quickly to the DOT's rebuttal, we had stated that it was not until a year after the subsoil was completed that we saw the quantity that was being taken away from us.

In this rebuttal it states that we did have the information, we knew the subsoil was being taken out. We did receive a transmittal from the Department within a month after we completed the subsoil excavation, but the multi-line information that we got only had to do with regular excavation and embankment.

At that time we asked about the subsoil, and that was still in the process of being finalized. We did not get that information until all the deducts had been taken away from us. And there was a good volume of documents that we got, a lot of cross sections, a lot of multi-line data that we had to pour over and spend quite a bit of time to figure out.

Not being familiar with the DOT's multi-line program, we utilized our own ag-tech, plotted the survey information that we had, and came up with our

own cross sections in determining quantities that we felt we were due.

That is -- that's how we came about with 5300 cubic yards that we are looking to get paid, which was not quite the quantity that was taken away from us. We look at the rest of the quantity as being part of the estimating error that we originally expected to be taken away.

Basically that's the claim that we have here in front of you. It's our position that we excavated the subsoil under -- in the presence of the DOT inspectors, ICF Kaiser's personnel, and they knew exactly what we were doing, the extent of what we were doing.

Our understanding throughout the process, up until we completed all the excavation a year beyond that, was that everything we had taken out was recognized as being material that had to be taken out, and we were compensated.

The 5300 cubic yards that they took away from our estimate, that they refused to pay, is quantity that we feel we need to be compensated for.

MR. DEMPSEY: Randy, will you explain for the Board, since you were primarily the field person, the process you went through in excavating this subsoil and the input that we received from the engineer on how we

excavated it and how it was measured and so forth.

Just give the Board an example of what you did.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Okay. Surveyors went through and they put a cut grade for us to what -- you know, to give you a rough idea of where the bottom of your base was to how deep to go. You set up. You dig -- well, we excavated until we dug it down to where we were -- thought we were in the limits of where we should be.

Then we took all the shots. Sometimes it would be, you know, this side would be a little deeper than that one because there would be more material over on this side of the cut than that side.

It was kind of a yo-yo up and down situation with the bottom. You couldn't really draw a flat line across because sometimes going over here you would be just a little bit lower. You know, you would go your limit.

Then sometimes if it was four or five, eight, six inches, and it was that slimy muck material, we would -- Kaiser would tell us to, you know, go back and get the rest of it or scratch down and see how deep it is or whatever. If it was six or eight inches, they would go ahead and tell you to take it out.

MR. ROEBUCK: Can I ask you about that. Some of this argument is over the two foot or four foot below

- the base numbers, the plan number or letter numbers.
- When you started that excavation, were you going to the
- 3 four foot below the base?
- MR. BLANKENSHIP: We started off on the four foot
 originally, then we backed up to the two foot. Some of
 the two foot, we removed the top just to take out six
 or eight inches of material.
 - I mean, you know, a couple of inches below or four or five inches below the two foot, you are liable to have a skim of it, you know. Naturally you would take out the four or five inches because it's bad.
- I mean they were --
- MR. ROEBUCK: They were out there watching you?
- MR. BLANKENSHIP: They were out there watching
- 15 us.

9

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- MR. DEMPSEY: As far as quantifying the shots.
- MR. BLANKENSHIP: The shots, I would call that
- buddy buddy. I hold the pole one time, he would read
- 19 it. The next time I would read it and he would hold
- the pole, or vice versa. I think Ray would agree with
- 21 that.
- 22 CHAIRMAN COWGER: Let me ask a couple of quick
- 23 questions. First off, the area that's in the
- 24 quantity -- the quantity that's in dispute here today
- is 5,000 plus cubic yards. This was material that was

1	excavated below, let's stay with the four foot for a
2	moment, the four-foot template line, plus did the pay
3	quantity include the two-tenths tolerance?
4	MR. KOGER: Yes, it did.
5	CHAIRMAN COWGER: All right. It's two-tenths
6	below this line shown on the plans. That's the area
7	from that point down to the bottom of wherever you
8	excavated in accordance with this joint survey is the
9	area, the quantity that's in dispute?
10	MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, sir.
11	MR. ROEBUCK: Final estimates that did the
12	paperwork to reduce it, when it was that when it got
13	to final estimates?
14	MR. DEMPSEY: That's my understanding.
15	MR. FADULION: It was prior to that.
16	CHAIRMAN COWGER: The CEI made the decision then
17	to make the deduction. Okay, did most of this or
18	let's say did all of the volume in question occur in
19	the area where you were working with the four-foot
20	template, or did some of it also occur where you had
21	the two-foot template?
22	MR. FADULION: It occurred in both, mostly
23	about less than a third of it in the two foot.
24	MR. ROEBUCK: In some of the documents we've

been through most of this -- the 5,000 yards -- I will

	1
1	round it off is the question. There was about a
2	thousand yards in two areas that looks like some
3	estimate errors. Has that been reconciled?
4	MR. FADULION: Yes.
5	MR. KOGER: Yes, those errors have been
6	reconciled. Errors have been reconciled.
7	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Errors that calculate the pay
8	quantity, excluding the undercut.
9	MR. FADULION: Let me clarify. The errors that
10	have been corrected are the multi-line errors.
11	MR. WOLF: To answer your question, the 5,000 is
12	what we are here arguing about, after what has been
13	paid.
14	MR. ROEBUCK: After adjustments.
15	CHAIRMAN COWGER: That's what is left in dispute?
16	MR. WOLF: Yes, that's what is left in dispute.
17	MR. DEMPSEY: There's really three types of
18	material involved here. There's pure, what we all know
19	as muck, there's plastic material, and I think that was
20	pretty much the basis, Dave, or somebody can speak on
21	that. That was pretty much the basis of reducing the
22	four foot to the two foot, because based on the new
23	geotechnical matter, they felt the plastic material
24	could stay, wasn't that critical to the roadway based
	the roadway based

on a revised specification.

1	The majority of what we are asking for is, like
2	Allan said, is in the four-foot section, and pertained
3	mostly to muck, which my experience, and I think most
4	everybody in this room, when you encounter a muck
5	pocket, unless there are some extraordinary
6	circumstances, you take all the muck out.
7	MR. ROEBUCK: We haven't done it some places in
8	the past.
9	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Okay, any other questions
10	before the DOT starts?
11	MR. WOLF: I have a couple of things I would like
12	to point out. One is the Department in on page 3
13	under page B, the Department's position, they say
14	there's been no documentation by Hubbard to show how
15	the contractor's quantities were derived.
16	We submitted cross sections on this. I'm not
17	sure what they are trying to say here.
18	Again, in Item 2 under A, they say a year after
19	Hubbard had been given the documentation to justify
20	this function, as Allan pointed out, there was no
21	subsoil information on that documentation. We waited
22	quite a while on that.
23	Under B they say that we don't deserve anything
24	because they talk about the various divisions.
25	The one thing I think the Department would like

to get away from here and I keep going back to, we
never deviated from the documents. Everybody said we
did, but it says directed by the engineer.

We wrote some letters don't direct our people to do something outside the scope of the contract, but we never told the DOT, nor did we act upon things like that. Whenever they directed something that was in their scope, we went ahead and did it.

If we had done what they purport that we were trying to do, the job would still be out there being built. We didn't stop every time we hit a six-inch pocket and say, okay, give us a letter, and waste a whole day. We tried to cooperate with the DOT.

I believe the specifications are adequate in specifying, as directed by the engineer, as -- doesn't say as directed by in writing. It just says as directed. It's part of the contract documents. That's what we tried to follow there.

Of course, the other thing I would want to bring out is the letter that we signed when we agreed on our claims. The letter we signed when we agreed on our claims was specifically intended to remove these items and allow us to continue on with the dispute.

I don't believe there's anything that can be technically or strictly read into the letter at this

1	point in time that doesn't allow us to bring it
2	before the Board. It was our intent all along to bring
3	this to either agree on this or be able to carry it
4	forward with some resolution process.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: Okay. Can I kind of sum that up by saying it's your position that the earthwork quantities were clearly accepted from the settlement agreement?

MR. WOLF: That was our intent all along, and that is the way we wrote it. We are not asking for something beyond the contract. We are not asking for additional money because of a revision or something different.

What we are asking for is to be paid the contract unit for something we feel we did while we were out there and it's justifiably payable under the contract documents as they stand, which is basically grant a pay item for this.

It wasn't exactly the best pay item in the world. We can't argue with it. If we were going to argue with it today, we might want eight or ten bucks for it, but that's what we've got to accept, that's why it's there.

It's not something we are asking outside the contract documents.

MR. ROEBUCK: Except for having brought it here

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1	for arbitration, have you had trouble with subsoil
2	excavation quantities in that area in the past?
3	CHAIRMAN COWGER: On DOT jobs?
4	MR. WOLF: On DOT jobs?
5	MR. ROEBUCK: Has it been an item of concern?
6	MR. WOLF: It seems as of late that we've had
7	problems with these type situations. As the work goes
8	along on the project and people agree on things, and it
9	gets paid, and then when final estimates gets it, it
10	gets whacked off.
11	I think you will see not only Hubbard but some
12	more people here frequently. We've had this in other
13	districts happen to us, which I don't know why.
14	But in the end the stuff is being removed and we
15	have agreed to quantities and items along the way. So
16	yes, we've had trouble with this before, but we've been
17	able to work it out so far.
18	MR. DEMPSEY: In kind of closing from our side,
19	we were just we were removing the subsoil jointly
20	under the inspector's direction. I would have a hard
21	time sitting here before you all, if we had bid it at
22	\$25 a yard, and I would still be hunting it out there.
23	We were removing it jointly at their direction.
24	There was no motive for us to overexcavate. We were

just trying to get the job done.

1	The method to me what the problem is, we took
2	jointly sections for payment, survey shots for payment
3	after the fact when all the paperwork got sorted out.
4	The Department tended to hold to the two-foot and
5	four-foot straight line with the tolerance in the
6	balance.
7	I don't think the quantity that we removed is in
8	doubt, it's just a matter of whether they authorized us
9	to do it. Our position is they were with us there hand
10	in hand.
11	CHAIRMAN COWGER: It's just a matter of the
12	payment is what we are here to talk about.
13	MR. ROEBUCK: And you still have some question
14	about the authority of that August letter directing you
15	to reduce the baseline?
16	MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.
17	MR. LOY: When we constructed up there we removed
18	what we could, and the good dirt we had on top, we
19	back-cast it. We never backfilled holes or anything
20	until the inspector was with us and we took our shots.
21	MR. DEMPSEY: As a matter of fact, I think there
22	is some question of whether the inspectors were there
23	all the time. They weren't there all the time.
24	CHAIRMAN COWGER: That's to be understood.
25	MR. DEMPSEY: My field people tell me that

1	working jointly with Kaiser Inspections, if they had to
2	go look somewhere, go back to the office, our people
3	were instructed if we made a subsoil excavation, that
4	we were not to backfill it until they were present and
5	we took the shots.

It's my understanding the inspectors were always present when we started the excavation, they were there when we finished it. There was no dispute over what was taken out or what was -- something was backfilled before they got back.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: It's your position that your field people were, in fact, operating under direction from the CEI --

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN COWGER: -- as to the depth to which they excavate?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: I'm sure we will hear about that when the DOT gets their rebuttal going. Okay, anything else on that?

I have one quick question. When you changed the vertical limits that went from four feet to two feet below the bottom of the base for the template for the subsoil excavation, was there any adjustment to the contract unit price at that point?

1	MR. KOGER: No.
2	MR. DEMPSEY: No, but we would be happy to
3	discuss it.
4	CHAIRMAN COWGER: I didn't dream that up. I saw
5	it somewhere in all this documentation.
6	Proceed on, DOT, whoever is going to present the
7	case.
8	MR. SANCHEZ: For the board's sake, Dave Koger
9	was the project engineer for ICF Kaiser. Greg Hays was
10	the senior inspector and I was the resident for the DOT
11	probably during half of the contract.
12	Dave and Greg have a lot of eyewitness
13	testimony and information that will rebut some of the
14	stuff.
15	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Before you begin, in the
16	interest of trying to conserve time, there's a lot of
17	correspondence and a lot of documentation that's been
18	provided in the exhibits, particularly in the DOT
19	exhibits, which we can read, and either have read or
20	will read.
21	So, what the Board is the most interested in
22	hearing is you can highlight the various specifications
23	on which you base your position, but let's not get into
24	a lot of detail about that because we can read.
25	Highlighting is important, but the other thing is

1	rebutting the contractor's position that says we were
2	operating under the direction of a DOT representative
3	when we made this cut, and it was our understanding
4	that he was telling us to cut that deep basically.

So, if you will address those two things and not get too far off track.

7 MR. KOGER: My agenda is to be out of here in 15 minutes.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: Fine.

MR. KOGER: I will make it short and sweet. A couple of questions brought up in Hubbard's presentation, the question of the two-foot versus four-foot situation came up. There's also a partial explanation of that in our rebuttal.

A little further explanation is in the beginning of the job Hubbard unfortunately made a mistake, like some of us do, and cast a retaining wall over an area that had to be -- called for subsoil excavation.

At that point in time we didn't want to have to take the retaining wall out. Since the subsoil was down close to the limits of the four foot anyway, and definitely not within the two-foot limit of the newer spec. We used that as justification to leave the retaining wall in place and not do subsoil in that area and stay away from it.

1	Also, at that point in time we realized that time
2	was of the essence.
3	As the letter of documentation in the package
4	states, we negotiated a new price for disposal of
5	unsuitable materials, which was more than the \$5.
6	Hubbard was agreeable to make the commitment to
7	go to the two-foot tolerance for the next phase of
8	construction.
9	The first phase of construction, which was new
10	construction, we did all underneath the four foot.
11	When we switched over to reconstruct the existing
12	roadway, where we could get accurate documentation of
13	what we were doing, we started with the new two-foot
14	limit. That's basically the story behind that.
15	MR. ROEBUCK: The spec was that letter?
16	MR. KOGER: The spec is the letter. The new 1994
17	standards.
18	CHAIRMAN COWGER: It's the standard index.
19	MR. ROEBUCK: But you didn't have it on this job?
20	MR. KOGER: We did not have it on this job. No,
21	the District policy and the State policy is that if it
22	was agreeable to the contractor, you can go to the new,
23	more current standard indexes, which is exactly what we
24	did. Hubbard did this in full agreement at the time.
25	A couple of other issues. I would like to rebut
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that the contractor stated that we did not provide them
with subsoil excavation until more than a year after
the subsoil excavation was completed.

Our records do not indicate that. The contract documentation does not indicate that. When we submitted our multi-line package to the contractor, copies of which we have here, it included the subsoil excavation.

I also gave Allan approximately three weeks after that March 3 date a copy of the multi-line disks, which included all earthwork quantities and all subsoil excavation quantities, and so much as offered to instruct Allan how to use multi-line earthwork, which he did not understand at the time.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: The point here is that the quantity of subsoil excavation that's in question here today, the 5,000 cubic yards, was carried in progress estimates for -- the contractor testified a year after the work was completed.

MR. KOGER: I will give you an explanation for that. I wanted to put it in this package. The Department asked me not to. And the reason is that this job, as you will notice in part of the project documentation, it indicates there was \$6 million of supplemental agreements on this job.

1	Due to the DOT processing, if you start a
2	supplemental agreement that has a pay item for, say,
3	earthwork in it, normally what happens, once we
4	in-house with the DOT, get it approved, send it to the
5	contractor for signature and history on this job
6	says that takes 30 days.

Once the contractor approved it, it goes back to the DOT. That takes another 30 days. There's at least 60 days in there, two months to process a supplemental agreement.

We have 48 supplemental agreements on this job.

A good number of them have subsoil excavation or

excavation quantities in it. What happens is you can't

start the next one until the previous one is done.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: Those were due to changes in the work, right?

MR. KOGER: Yes. By the time -- Hubbard, being the good contractor that they are, knowing that we had to get the job done, they didn't want to wait on supplemental agreements. Once we negotiated with something, they went on with the work, understanding that we would process the supplemental agreements as timely as the DOT mechanisms would let under the circumstances.

25 CHAIRMAN COWGER: That's not an issue here today.

1	MR. KOGER: No, but what was an issue, as a
2	project engineer, I know I owe the guy \$4 million that
3	I can't pay him because the supplemental agreements are
4	just in this mill. Can I justify taking the money away
5	from him that I've paid him because, you know, of
6	overpayment of subsoil? No, I couldn't. That's and
7	that's what the situation was.
8	I told Allan this, I told Mike Hill this.
9	Dave Dempsey, I've told you that, because the reason
10	that money was not deducted was there was money
11	outstanding for supplemental agreements. I couldn't in
12	good conscience take that money away from them until we
13	had paid the supplemental agreements. Once we got the
14	supplemental agreements paid, the money came off.
15	MR. DEMPSEY: But as we sit here today, we are
16	still due money on other items of supplementals that's
17	in the mill, though, after the job is over with years
18	and years now.
19	MR. KOGER: I think the only thing left
20	outstanding is the claim with Couch.
21	MR. FADULION: We have the two
22	CHAIRMAN COWGER: You bring up a good question.
23	Is there another claim outstanding?
24	MR. KOGER: Yes, there is.
25	CHAIRMAN COWGER: How much?

1	MR. KOGER: It's a claim by a subcontract	or
2	for	
3	MR. DEMPSEY: \$1,300,000.	
4	(Discussion off the record)	
5	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Go ahead.	
6	MR. KOGER: Bottom line, number one, the	specs
7	are clear that quality control is the responsib	ility of
8	the contractor. This case basically rests on the	ne fact
9	of whether or not the DOT the Kaiser inspecto	ors
10	directed Hubbard's field forces to overexcavate	plastic
11	subsoils.	
12	As far as I'm concerned, there is not a qu	estion
13	about muck. We have paid a hundred percent of t	he muck
14	shown verifiable by our multi-line quantities.	
15	Off track for just a second, when I make t	he
16	statement in our rebuttal that we are not provid	ied
17	verifiable quantities by Hubbard for their quant	cities,
18	Hubbard did submit at one time calculations that	were
19	in error. I advised Allan that those calculation	ns were
20	in error.	
21	They did not include the original template	. They
22	went from the top of the existing ground. They	did not
23	go in accordance with the spec, which subsoil is	5
24	calculated from the top of base down to the bott	om of
25	the excavation. I advised them of that. They h	nave

1	never submitted any additional calculations.
2	Our case still rests on the fact did Kaiser
3	inspectors direct Hubbard field forces to overexcavate.
4	I asked you, Greg, did you ever tell Hubbard to
5	overexcavate plastic materials?
6	MR. HAYS: No.
7	MR. KOGER: As far as I know, in all cases that
8	are multi-line, it indicates that we paid them full
9	payment for vertical depth, not necessarily horizontal
10	depth, because there are horizontal depth limits for
11	muck excavation.
12	We did pay a hundred percent of the vertical
13	depth for muck, is that correct?
14	MR. HAYS: That's correct.
15	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Down to the template, plus
16	two-tenths?
17	MR. KOGER: Muck, there is no two-tenths
18	template.
19	CHAIRMAN COWGER: I missed the word muck, sorry.
20	MR. KOGER: Plastic material, like Greg has
21	stated, myself as a project engineer, I never directed
22	them as a matter of fact, I more than often
23	cautioned Mike Hill at the time, the project
24	coordinator, not to overexcavate plastic materials

because he would not be paid.

1	If you read the letter submitted by Hubbard in
2	here cautioning us about directing their field forces,
3	that letter was about overexcavation of plastic
4	material. It was something the contractor thought was
5	plastic. I knew it was muck. I told them to take it
6	out. It was muck.
7	He was the contractor, Mike Hill, the person
8	in charge on the project at this point in time, was
9	fully aware that they were not to be paid for
10	overexcavation beyond the vertical limits set in the
11	plans.
12	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Is there anything to document
13	that?
14	MR. KOGER: Yes, there's a letter in here that
15	MR. DEYO: A letter dated February 22nd, the very
16	last item in here on quantity discrepancies that has
17	that.
18	MR. KOGER: I think if you go to Tab No. B-4.
19	CHAIRMAN COWGER: B like in Baker?
20	MR. KOGER: B like in Baker, the letter, if you
21	will it's just behind that.
22	CHAIRMAN COWGER: That's a letter from Hubbard.
23	MR. KOGER: That's a letter from Hubbard.
24	MR. DEMPSEY: That references plan changes.
25	MR. KOGER: The letter behind that dated

1	July 25th.
2	CHAIRMAN COWGER: What tab is that in?
3	MR. KOGER: No, I take that back. It's a letter
4	dated it's Tab B-5, and the letter is dated
5	March 13th.
6	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Of '96?
7	MR. KOGER: Of '95. This is right in the
8	beginning of the subsoil.
9	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Go ahead.
10	MR. KOGER: Hubbard was well aware of the fact
11	that they would not be paid for overexcavation of the
12	subsoil. This letter is the follow-up to the
13	directions received in the field from ICF Kaiser
14	regarding limits of subsoil excavation from station 67
15	to station 78.
16	Due to the composition of the material below the
17	muck in this area, additional subsoil excavation is
18	required to get to suitable soil.
19	Mike interpreted there was a muck elevation
20	that was clearly a peak muck, and there was a muck
21	elevation that was more like a plastic muck that had an
22	organic content of about 12 to 13.
23	Mike in this letter, referring to that is below
24	the muck, when it was actually muck. This action will

increase the plan quantity of subsoil excavation.

1	CHAIRMAN COWGER: But this was in an area where
2	they were digging muck, not where they were digging
3	clay?
4	MR. KOGER: That's correct, and we paid them to
5	the bottom of where they dug.
6	The bottom line, we are back to the crux of this
7	issue, did Kaiser direct Hubbard to overexcavate. No,
8	we did not.
9	If the Board wants to rule the fact that we were
10	present when we took the field shots, does that
11	constitute direction?
12	It's the Department's position that quality
13	control is the responsibility of the contractor. The
14	inspector has no authority to waive the clear and
15	explicit vertical and horizontal limits set out in the
16	specifications for plastic material. The inspector
17	cannot waive that right.
18	Verbally, as a matter of fact, the project
19	engineer can't waive it verbally. That's a
20	specification change and must be done by change order
21	or supplemental agreement. The contractor is well
22	aware of this.
23	I think payment issues I have explained. The
24	accuracy of quantities, I have explained that the
25	contractor has not submitted accurate quantities. If

1 you hav	e any	questions,	I	will	be	glad	to	answer
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CHAIRMAN COWGER: We will let the contractor come back with a rebuttal of what you have said, but I have one question. There was some discussion about in some instances where they were excavating clay, when they got to the template line, it turned out to be sort of a slimy mixture of clay and muck.

There's an inference on the part of the contractor that this is what caused them to overexcavate in those areas, and that the inspector condoned this.

Now, what do you all have to say about that? Then we will let the contractor come back.

MR. KOGER: My response to that is if it was muck, we directed them to take it out. If it's plastic materials, we were silent. We never told them to clean out any holes other than what is muck.

As a matter of fact, if you look at their own documentation submitted the only place in their documentation where it says they were directed to take out additional material that's in a muck location, and they were paid for that to a hundred percent of the depth they excavated.

My inspectors knew what was plastic and what was muck. If they had any questions, they came and asked

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2	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Let me ask your inspector about
3	that. Do you have any recollection of this where there
4	was any discussion in the field about excavation of the
5	materials that was this slimy material that I just
6	described?

MR. HAYS: Only in a couple of places that we might be talking about. There was one in an area where they call Mud Lake where they had a lot of muck, and we have clay. As you go eastward away from Mud Lake, it turns into a clay layer. Possibly right at that juncture there may have been some confusion.

Then there was one additional spot on the west project at what they call Bellows Outfall Canal, Bellows Outfall Canal where they have the same thing, muck, and right adjacent to that is a clay layer to the east of that. And possibly right where they join together there could have been some questions.

Other than those two spots, no.

MR. KOGER: Did you ever direct them to overexcavate plastic material, Greg?

MR. HAYS: What happened with the plastic material, which is the great majority here, we would take joint shots at 50-foot intervals usually. We would get -- do one 50-foot interval. The contractor

1	would continue.
2	We would get to the next 50-foot interval, take
3	the shots. We would be deep. And I would advise
4	Hubbard's people we are too deep, beyond the template,
5	we can't pay you for that. You need to get back up to
6	the template line.
7	I understand in using large equipment, but you
8	have to hold the tolerances. I told your people this
9	on many, many occasions.
10	MR. DEMPSEY: I understand what Greg says, but
11	Greg wasn't what percentage of the time were you out
12	there? I know there was numerous inspectors involved
13	from Kaiser.
14	MR. KOGER: I think if you look at the field book
15	notes, Greg is probably on three-quarters of the notes
16	in that book.
17	MR. WOLF: I think Greg can answer for himself.
18	MR. HAYS: I would say that's accurate,
19	two-thirds or three-quarters.
20	MR. DEMPSEY: When we were excavating, they were
21	asking to take the shot, you would know what was the
22	two-foot limit and you would advise our people we were
23	over the two-foot limit.

I would precalculate what the shot would be, my rod CATHERINE WILKINSON & ASSOCIATES (904) 224-0127

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MR. HAYS: On the cross-sections of my plans

1	reading is going to be to be exactly at that limit. We
2	would go ahead and take the shot, see where we were in
3	relationship to that. I could easily determine if we
4	were high, low, or on the mark.

MR. DEMPSEY: I know Dave used the word directed.

I'm sure you never told my people, you are directed to take this out.

But in your recollection there is no instance where we cleaned out and there was a little bit of, whatever slime or muck? You didn't tell our people, let's get the rest of that, let's see how deep this is? There was none of that that ever went on?

That's what my folks tell me, that once we got to the two-foot limit, there was -- sometimes if there was a change in the character of material -- whether it was you or not, I don't know, but some of the other inspectors, they would say dig a little hole and see where it's at. If it was another only six inches, our folks were told, let's get it all, we're here, let's clean it out.

You were never involved with anything of that nature?

- MR. HAYS: In digging the test holes?
- MR. DEMPSEY: Right.

MR. HAYS: I can think -- I don't know the exact

1	location where we did dig a couple of holes to
2	ascertain that we really were there was nothing
3	below that that we wanted to go after.
4	MR. KOGER: Let me further clarify Greg's
5	statement. I think what you are referring to there is
6	areas where we had not started subsoil and we dug holes
7	to determine whether we were going to have to dig
8	subsoil or not, is that correct?
9	MR. HAYS: That's another instance. In certain
10	areas we ended up where we didn't do what we needed to
11	do. There was a class of material in a two-foot area
12	in the post office area so we deleted that.
13	I think probably in the first week of the job
14	actually, this was a muck area, but right in the by
15	Bellows Outfall Canal, we dug a big hole in the muck
16	area to see what we were up against essentially.
17	MR. DEMPSEY: Greg, in your experience with our
18	folks out there, my people tell me was it your
19	experience that we always took shots before and after
20	when we would start excavations?
21	MR. HAYS: Before and after? Explain that.
22	MR. DEMPSEY: For quantity purposes that we would
23	take shots before and after we made the excavation of
24	the subsoil? We would take shots after?
25	MR. HAYS: When you say before shots, I believe

1	you are referring to the existing ground line. Yes, we
2	would take shots on the existing ground points so we
3	could determine what our box is and then once we would
4	cut the material out.

MR. DEMPSEY: Making a comment toward what Dave said, that the contractor was responsible for quality control. Well, there is a lot of truth in that, too, but we are out here jointly. Like I say, this material was changing.

Our people -- Randy Blankenship, Charlie Loy, my folks were out there -- these are people in the field doing the work. They were looking at it. There's no benefit for Hubbard to overexcavate here. I think what we took out we took out under their direction, under their supervision.

No, we didn't have a letter or even a verbal direction saying you are directed to remove it. It was our understanding that it was bad material and we removed it.

Dave mentioned change orders and stuff. We processed change orders and SAs for every change out there. I would like to think we partnered the job. We did -- if we did change order stuff, we would all still be out there.

To me this was a field decision made in the field

1	by	the	people	e wł	no did	the	work.	I	wasn't	there.	A 11
2	we	are	doing	is	asking	g to	get pa	id	for wha	t we d	id.

CHAIRMAN COWGER: Are we pretty well wrapped up?

MR. KOGER: I have one other think I

MR. KOGER: I have one other thing I would like
to say. That is in the past 20 or so years I've been
dealing with subsoil excavation, there's been the
tolerance for vertical limits on plastic material. The
contractor does not get paid for the overexcavation.

It's typical in the process of doing that where you get these slime pockets and the clay material that for the contractor's benefit, he takes that additional stuff out.

If you go and check the final estimate quantities, and ever since we've been doing multi-line for the last ten years, there's a calculation in there for actual excavation and then pay quantity excavation, and that difference ranges from 9 to 20 percent, if you go back and look at job history.

This case would fall under the 10 percent category, which is down on the low end, but for what the contractor normally overexcavates for.

Tom Aldridge in Tallahassee has never paid for overexcavation. Carl Turney in District 7 has never paid for overexcavation of plastic material. I don't think we want to start the precedence of doing it now.

1	MR. DEMPSEY: Dave, you bring up the issue, but
2	to my understanding there is no pay item for plastic
3	excavation. The pay item is subsoil. That includes
4	the whole gambit of unsuitable materials you encounter
5	in the field. It could be muck, peat, plastic,
6	numerous things.
7	MR. KOGER: The specifications are clear that
8	muck has tolerances, horizontal, no vertical. Plastic
9	has tolerances, both vertical and horizontal.
10	CHAIRMAN COWGER: I think we understand that
11	position. The question you had a minute ago, the
12	statement you made, sometimes if he's got slimy
13	material in the bottom of the cut, even though it's
14	below the required cut elevation, that the contractor
15	might clean it out anyway?
16	MR. KOGER: For his convenience, yes.
17	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Why is it for his convenience?
18	MR. KOGER: Because he's got to put good material
19	back in there, and he doesn't want that stuff squirting
20	back up through it.
21	CHAIRMAN COWGER: He doesn't want that material
22	coming back up through his good fill. All right.
23	On the average did I hear you say that the
24	quantity that's in question here, the 5,000 yards is
25	about 10 percent of the total subsoil excavation?

1	MR. KOGER: Yes.
2	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Okay.
3	MR. KOGER: On the 03 project.
4	MR. DEMPSEY: Is that correct?
5	MR. FADULION: Yes, about 10 or 11 percent.
6	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Anything else?
7	MR. FADULION: I just need to make a statement.
8	Dave Koger had said that the spec change, his
9	inspectors are not authorized to subvert specification
10	requirements.
11	We did not ever look at the depth adjustments in
12	the field as spec change. We have always read into
13	that portion of the specs that says subsoil is subject
14	to field variations. If they had to undercut or stop
15	short of the depth, that that was within the
16	specifications. So there's no change in specs as far
17	as we are concerned.
18	The quantity that we originally submitted to DOT
19	and ICF Kaiser for how much we felt we were underpaid,
20	yes, we had a little error in there where we made the
21	adjustment.
22	As far as that falling under the verifiable
23	quantity, that quantity can be double checked using the
24	DOT multi-line program. It's clearly shown on there
25	the survey, the plots of the survey information and the

1	limit.	That	difference	is	what	we're	looking	to	get
2	paid.								

The only other thing I wanted to say is Greg Hays had mentioned that many times he told our folks in the field that we have gone too far and we were not going to get paid.

At the DOT monthly cut-offs, we were never told this, you ain't getting paid for this because that was way past the limit and we told your folks.

10 CHAIRMAN COWGER: They waited a year later to cut
11 it off.

MR. FADULION: In the monthlies I was never told that if we undercut we would never get paid.

MR. DEMPSEY: In kind of an overview of the job, originally it was a tough job for everybody. It was originally 600 days and it went 1200 or whatever.

I think as Dave said it's a testimony when you have six million dollars of change orders there's a bunch of shit that happens.

I think it was the Department and Hubbard, we worked through all those issues, we settled all our differences other than this one here. I think it says a lot for the Department, a lot for Kaiser, and a lot for my staff.

The bottom line is that the taxpayers of Florida

T	got a pretty damn good road they're riding on out
2	there. We are proud of it, and I know they are, too.
3	CHAIRMAN COWGER: Anything else, either party?
4	Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Deyo?
5	Okay, the hearing is hereby closed. The Board
6	will meet to deliberate on this claim in approximately
7	six weeks, and you will have our order shortly
8	thereafter.
9	(Whereupon, the hearing was concluded at 12:50 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF FLORIDA)
3	COUNTY OF LEON)
4	I, CATHERINE WILKINSON, Court Reporter, do hereby
5	certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically
6	report the foregoing proceedings; and that the transcript is
7	a true record of the testimony given.
8	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee,
9	attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a
10	relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or
11	counsel in connection with the action, nor am I financially
12	interested in the action.
13	Dated this day of September, 1999.
14	Cathering Victionson
15	CATHERINE WILKINSON
16	CSR, CP Post Office Box 13461
17	Tallahassee, Florida 32317
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