

**DOCKET NUMBER T-37332 - GDE TIGER DRILLING LLC, EX PARTE.**  
**IN RE: APPLICATION FOR A COMMON CARRIER CERTIFICATE OF**  
**NON-HAZARDOUS OILFIELD WASTE FOR DISPOSAL, STATEWIDE.**

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**DATE OF HEARING: October 2, 2024**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE MELISSA FREY**

**REDACTED**

<b><u>WITNESSES:</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE NUMBER</u></b>
Gregory Elliott on behalf of GDE Tiger Drilling LLC	
Direct Examination by Paul Rachal	4 - 13
Dawn Prejean on behalf of GDE Tiger Drilling LLC	
Direct Examination by Paul Rachal	17 - 28
Jonathan Brown on behalf of GDE Tiger Drilling LLC	
Direct Examination by Paul Rachal	31 - 38
Tyler Lege on behalf of GDE Tiger Drilling LLC	
Direct Examination by Paul Rachal	41 - 48

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4 **ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE MELISSA FREY:** Good morning. Today  
5 is Wednesday, October 2, 2024. I'm Administrative Law Judge Melissa Frey,  
6 convening a hearing this morning in Docket Number T-37332 - GDE Tiger Drilling  
7 LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for a common carrier certificate of non-hazardous  
8 oilfield waste for disposal, statewide. Would the parties present please make your  
9 appearances, starting with the applicant?

10 **MR. GREGORY ELLIOTT:** I'm Greg Elliott, the owner of GDE Tiger Drilling.  
11 It's a single member LLC.

12 **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. And for Commission Staff?

13 **MR. RACHAL:** Paul Rachal on behalf of Staff.

14 **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. Would either party like to make an opening statement  
15 this morning?

16 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes. I mean, we're an oil and gas producer. We're  
17 headquartered in Lafayette, Louisiana. We're fairly new, but because of the exit in  
18 south Louisiana of the service sector, we're having to do this a little, what I call, a  
19 hybrid model because there's very little services that used to exist still available to  
20 support oil and gas in south Louisiana because there's just very little work here.  
21 But we still see a lot of value in south Louisiana oil and gas. I'm an LSU petroleum  
22 engineer and worked for Chevron and then I started an oilfield service company.  
23 And I retired in 2021 and I didn't do too good a job at retirement, so now doing oil

1 and gas, but locally, relative to where I've worked in the past. So our idea was,  
2 after trying to do some work two years ago on some wells -- or a well near Gueydan,  
3 that the service sector is so nonexistent in south Louisiana, if you don't have a lot  
4 of your own support, you can't get the job done. So we, meaning GDE Tiger  
5 Drilling, GDE Tiger Petroleum, who owns the wells, I said, well, only way we're  
6 going to ever be able to do any work in south Louisiana now, relative to west Texas  
7 and north Louisiana, where all the people went or all the service sector, is to have  
8 a hybrid model. Meaning we supply everything we can to support our own oil and  
9 gas versus traditional way was to job it out to the different service companies. Well,  
10 there just none here anymore, so. And I've worked on both sides. I worked for  
11 Chevron 15 years as a drilling engineer, and then I worked -- started a rental tool  
12 company and became part of Superior Energy Service, which is a publicly traded  
13 company. And when we retire, in 2021, they were the largest rental tool company  
14 in the world. So we know how to run either side, whether it's the service side or  
15 the operator side. So now, just kind of shuffling the deck and saying I'm going to  
16 be an operator, but I'm also going to be hybrid because I'm going to supply a lot of  
17 the service part, which is moving equipment, which is very, very critical. You're  
18 always needing to move equipment or fluids because everything we do --  
19 everything coming out of the ground is a fluid and everything going back in the  
20 ground or to drill a well is a fluid. So we have a tremendous need for moving fluids  
21 and we have all of our own trucks, all of our vacuum tanks now. So we control  
22 that, but we got to get all our permits. We got the water permit six months ago or  
23 something, so we've been moving water from our well sites to disposal wells and

1 now we're picking up some of our own. Well, we're at one disposal well in  
2 Gueydan, but we're picking up eight more disposal wells, so we're going to have  
3 more demand to move and 42 minus 8 producing wells. We're picking up in the  
4 Livingston, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, and St. Landry  
5 Parishes. So we're going -- our activity is going to shoot through the roof here as  
6 far as our own internal needs. So we're just wanting to get the -- be able to move  
7 drilling fluids because we just had a rig and we just released it. It was out of -- just  
8 south of St. Francisville and Zachary and the rig was on the well site for a month  
9 and there was -- we couldn't move any of the non-water fluids. We had to contract  
10 all that out and sometimes we had to go as far as Fourchon to get trucks available  
11 because they just weren't available, but our truck's sitting there, but we couldn't  
12 move the fluids. So that's why we're here, is to get that -- be able to move the  
13 fluids to support our own operation.

14 **JUDGE FREY:** I appreciate that overview, Mr. Elliott. Just as a housekeeping  
15 matter, you weren't sworn in yet. So not considered testimony, considered an  
16 opening statement. So when you get sworn in and on the witness stand, you or your  
17 other witnesses may need to repeat some of that information to get it in, but that is  
18 a helpful overview and I do appreciate that.

19 **MR. ELLIOTT:** That just a warm up then.

20 **JUDGE FREY:** Mr. Rachal.

21 **MR. RACHAL:** Your Honor, as stated in Staff's Pre-Hearing Statement, there are  
22 no pending proceedings before the Commission against the applicant involving  
23 complaints, citations, or violations, and Staff supports the application. Staff is now

1 prepared to proceed to the taking of testimony and we'd like to call our first witness,  
2 Mr. Greg Elliott.

3 **Gregory Elliott came forth as a witness; and, after having been duly sworn,**  
4 **testified as follows:**

5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PAUL RACHAL**

6 **MR. RACHAL:** Good morning, Mr. Elliott.

7 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Good morning.

8 **MR. RACHAL:** For the record, what is your full name?

9 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Gregory Dale Elliott.

10 **MR. RACHAL:** And by whom are you employed?

11 **MR. ELLIOTT:** I own GDE Tiger Petroleum and GDE Tiger Drilling, but I  
12 hadn't got a check yet.

13 **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your employer's business address?

14 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Kalliste Saloom -- hold on a second. 400 East Kalliste Saloom  
15 Road, Suite 8100, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508.

16 **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your role with the company?

17 **MR. ELLIOTT:** I'm the President, CEO, and founder.

18 **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your work history with the company?

19 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, I founded it and it was after my 15-year career with  
20 Chevron as a drilling engineer, LSU graduate, and then started a company called  
21 Workstrings International, which is an oilfield service company specializing in  
22 rental tools and rental tubulars. And we'd become part of Superior Energy Services  
23 in 2001 and stayed on and ran the company for Superior Energy Services until 2021

1 and retired then. And at the time, we were the largest rental tool company in the  
2 world and they still are the largest rental tool company in the world.

3 **MR. RACHAL:** And how much experience do you have in the waste hauling  
4 industry?

5 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, I've been involved with it, but usually just calling to have  
6 it hauled for my whole career, 40-something years.

7 **MR. RACHAL:** And when was GDE created?

8 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Tiger Drilling, what, two years ago? Something -- two years  
9 ago.

10 **MR. RACHAL:** And what is the company's business structure?

11 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, Tiger Drilling owns the equipment of this hybrid model  
12 and Tiger Petroleum owns the wells, so we separate them just for accounting  
13 purposes.

14 **MR. RACHAL:** And what is the ownership structure of the company?

15 **MR. ELLIOTT:** It's a hundred percent Greg Elliott, single member LLCs.

16 **MR. RACHAL:** And are there any holding companies in the company's  
17 ownership structure?

18 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No.

19 **MR. RACHAL:** And are there any officers of the company?

20 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No.

21 **MR. RACHAL:** And what kind of services does the company currently provide?

22 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, we move our own equipment, which is non-liquids, as  
23 necessary, back and forth from the Opelousas yard to the various well sites to do

1 various work on the wells. In the inside, in the yard, we do a lot of repairs and  
2 maintenance on our equipment, and I guess that's it. We don't job out to anybody.  
3 We do it just to support our own wells.

4 **MR. RACHAL:** And where does the company provide its services?

5 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, at the various well sites. And we currently have wells in  
6 the Gueydan, Kaplan area. We have wells in the -- from Lockhart Crossing, just  
7 northeast of Baton Rouge, all the way to Melville, Louisiana right now in those five  
8 parishes: Livingston, East and West, St. Mary, Pointe Coupee, and St. Landry.

9 **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company currently operate in any other states?

10 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No.

11 **MR. RACHAL:** And how many terminals does the company currently operate in  
12 total?

13 **MR. ELLIOTT:** All we have is the Opelousas yard/terminal where our trucks  
14 reside at, and the other is the various well sites, but they're just there temporary.

15 **MR. RACHAL:** Is there any plans to add any additional terminals if the certificate  
16 is awarded?

17 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, I would say that we probably may have something in the  
18 Pointe Coupee area because it's centrally located between the east side of our wells  
19 or area of interest and the west side, but that's not for sure. But logistically, it would  
20 be something we might grow into.

21 **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company own or lease its terminal in Opelousas?

22 **MR. ELLIOTT:** We lease.

23 **MR. RACHAL:** Who does the company lease it from?

1     **MR. ELLIOTT:** [INAUDIBLE] what's his -- Morris Weinstein from Opelousas.  
2     He had J. T. Wein Trucking and it was an old trucking yard and that's why it made  
3     sense for us to get the yard.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** And are the company's trucks dispatched from this location --  
5     this terminal location?

6     **MR. ELLIOTT:** Correct.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** And is the company currently using waste generators?

8     **MR. ELLIOTT:** No.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** And approximately how many total employees does the company  
10    have?

11    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Fifteen.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** And is the company in good standing with the Louisiana  
13    Secretary of State's office?

14    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** And who is the company's registered agent for service of  
16    process?

17    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Ted Anthony, attorney in Lafayette.

18    **MR. RACHAL:** And who is the company's contact for the Louisiana Public  
19    Service Commission?

20    **MR. ELLIOTT:** I think it's Jonathan.

21    **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company currently hold any waste hauling  
22    authorizations from the Louisiana Public Service Commission?

23    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Saltwater only.



1    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn your attention to the document that's been labeled  
2    Exhibit A?

3    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Okay.

4    **MR. RACHAL:** Are you familiar with this document?

5    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yeah, I remember signing it.

6    **MR. RACHAL:** Did you or someone at your discretion prepare and file an  
7    application in this proceeding on behalf of the company?

8    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

9    **MR. RACHAL:** And did an authorized representative of the company swear that  
10   he or she had read the application, was familiar with its contents, and attested that  
11   the facts as stated therein were true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge?

12   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

13   **MR. RACHAL:** Is this your signature on Page 5?

14   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

15   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the information contained in the company's application still  
16   true and accurate as of today?

17   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

18   **MR. RACHAL:** And what is the applicant seeking in this application?

19   **MR. ELLIOTT:** To be able to move drilling fluid products to and from -- liquid  
20   drilling fluid products to and from the well sites, rigs, with a rig on it, back to the  
21   plants, wherever they came from or --

22   **MR. RACHAL:** What type of waste does the applicant seek authority to haul?

23   **MR. ELLIOTT:** It's predominantly drilling fluids, which a part of the --

1   **MR. RACHAL:** Turn to Page 3 and look on the bottom.

2   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yeah, it says -- I got to get my glasses here. Thank you. Non-

3   hazardous oilfield, exploration, and production waste as defined by which -- we're

4   under the impression that we have to have some additional permit to move drilling

5   fluids, which must be a non-hazardous oilfield waste, to and from well sites, and

6   that's what we're asking to be able to do.

7   **MR. RACHAL:** And to the best of your knowledge, was the application published

8   in the Louisiana Public Service Commission's Official Bulletin?

9   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

10   **MR. RACHAL:** And were there any protests or interventions against the

11   application?

12   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Not that we're aware of.

13   **MR. RACHAL:** And do you believe the applicant satisfies all the requirements to

14   operate the authority that may be granted under a certificate from the Louisiana

15   Public Service Commission?

16   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes, sir.

17   **MR. RACHAL:** We'll go through a couple pages of this application with you.

18   Can you go to Page 7 of the application? Can you identify this document?

19   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yeah, that's our registration with the state for GDE Tiger

20   Drilling LLC.

21   **MR. RACHAL:** And is there a date on this document?

22   **MR. ELLIOTT:** May 4, 2022. So we're two and a half years old then.

1   **MR. RACHAL:** Look on the bottom left of the document, there's another date on  
2   there.

3   **MR. ELLIOTT:** We got March 3, 2022 and then March 4, 2022.

4   **MR. RACHAL:** Okay. I just wanted to clear that up. You're good.

5   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Oh, the bottom right or the bottom left? No. There's a bottom,  
6   3/4/2022 on the bottom right.

7   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you go to -- can you turn to Page 9 of the application?

8   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Okay.

9   **MR. RACHAL:** Can you identify that document?

10   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes. That's the articles of organization for GDE Tiger Drilling  
11   and they were put together by Ted Anthony, the attorney that takes care of our  
12   company registrations.

13   **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn to Page 18 in the application?

14   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

15   **MR. RACHAL:** And what is this document?

16   **MR. ELLIOTT:** That's our org chart.

17   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you just go through the list and tell us the names and  
18   what they do -- what their jobs are at Tiger Drilling?

19   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Right. The President: Greg Elliott, myself. Dawn Prejean, who  
20   is sitting across, is our Chief Financial Officer. Her assistant is Jane Anzalone and  
21   she's the one that was heavily with the populating of the application. The General  
22   Manager is Nick Vidrine, he's not present. The Operations Manager is Tyler Lege,

1     who's present. And our Trucking Manager is Jonathan Brown, who's present. And  
2     our Drilling Engineer is Ken Leblanc, who's not present.

3     **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you. And can you turn to Page 21? And can you identify  
4     that document?

5     **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes. It's our certificate granted to -- for the movement of the  
6     saltwater, dated July 2023.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, sir. Mr. Elliott, do you wish to offer, file, introduce  
8     into evidence what has been previously marked as Exhibit A, the applicant's  
9     application, into evidence?

10    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes, sir.

11    **JUDGE FREY:** Applicant's Exhibit A, the Waste by Motor Vehicle Application,  
12    filed with the Louisiana Public Service Commission. It also includes a cover letter  
13    dated July 15, 2024. The application is stamped: Received July 23, 2024. And I  
14    note that not included in this exhibit are confidential financial documents and the  
15    safety manual that was admitted on thumb drive. Applicant's Exhibit A is admitted  
16    --

17    **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, Your Honor.

18    **JUDGE FREY:** -- as an in globo exhibit.

19    **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, Your Honor. Mr. Elliott, if this application is  
20    granted, does the applicant intend to comply with all the rules and regulations of  
21    the Louisiana Public Service Commission?

22    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

1   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware of the Louisiana Public Service  
2   Commission's requirement to maintain insurance on file at all times with the  
3   Commission by filing a Form E?  
4   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.  
5   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware of the LPSC's requirement to seek and  
6   obtain prior approval to sell, transfer, lease, merge, or encumber a certificate?  
7   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.  
8   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware of the LPSC's requirement that the  
9   company must apply for and receive prior approval before any changes to the direct  
10   or indirect ownership of the company, or any changes or transfers of shares of stock  
11   interest can take effect?  
12   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.  
13   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware of the LPSC's requirement to keep all  
14   contact information up to date?  
15   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.  
16   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware of the LPSC's requirement to renew and  
17   register vehicles every year?  
18   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.  
19   **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware of the LPSC's requirement to file annual  
20   reports?  
21   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.  
22   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you confirm that the applicant's reporting year is a  
23   calendar year?

1    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

2    **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware that the applicant is required to file  
3    inspection/supervision fee reports with the Louisiana Department of Revenue?

4    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

5    **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant aware the applicant is required to pay  
6    inspection/supervision fees based on jurisdictional revenue to the Louisiana  
7    Department of Revenue?

8    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

9    **MR. RACHAL:** And who will be the applicant's point of contact for the LPSC?

10   **MR. ELLIOTT:** Jonathan Brown.

11   **MR. RACHAL:** That's all the questions I have for Mr. Elliot, Your Honor.

12   **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you, Mr. Rachal. I do have a few questions for you, Mr.  
13   Elliott. First off, you've now been sworn in. Prior to being sworn in, you gave an  
14   opening statement in which you provided information about the company and the  
15   application. If Staff has no objection, would you wish to adopt your opening  
16   statement as part of your testimony today?

17   **MR. ELLIOTT:** By all means.

18   **JUDGE FREY:** All right. Any objection from the Commission Staff?

19   **MR. RACHAL:** No objection, Your Honor.

20   **JUDGE FREY:** I think that will just add additional background that you gave,  
21   now that you're under oath. So what is your role in the company as the founder  
22   and sole member? What do you do on a day-to-day basis?

1     **MR. ELLIOTT:** I'm the quarterback. I make all the big decisions and everybody  
2     works for me and under my direction, so.

3     **JUDGE FREY:** Mr. Rachal asked you some questions about the applicant's  
4     formation. So just if you have Applicant's Exhibit A in front of you and you need  
5     to refer to that, that's perfectly fine. I just wanted to get some clarification for the  
6     record. So GDE Tiger Drilling, the articles of incorporation were executed on  
7     March 2, 2022; is that correct?

8     **MR. ELLIOTT:** That's correct.

9     **JUDGE FREY:** And they were filed and accepted with the Louisiana Secretary  
10    of State's office on March 3, 2022; is that correct?

11    **MR. ELLIOTT:** That's correct.

12    **JUDGE FREY:** And the applicant's address at 400 East Kalliste Saloom Road in  
13    Lafayette, is that the applicant's headquarters/corporate address?

14    **MR. ELLIOTT:** That's correct.

15    **JUDGE FREY:** And the only terminal location currently is in Opelousas; that's  
16    correct?

17    **MR. ELLIOTT:** That's correct.

18    **JUDGE FREY:** And that's where the trucks are dispatched from?

19    **MR. ELLIOTT:** That's correct.

20    **JUDGE FREY:** And you mentioned you leased it and you mentioned the lessors  
21    name. That's an unaffiliated third party; is that correct?

22    **MR. ELLIOTT:** That is correct. That is correct.

23    **JUDGE FREY:** You said you had 15 total employees; is that correct?

1     **MR. ELLIOTT:** More or less.

2     **JUDGE FREY:** How many of those are CDL drivers?

3     **MR. ELLIOTT:** One, Jonathan Brown.

4     **JUDGE FREY:** Are you the person to testify about the drivers or would that be

5     one of the other witnesses would have more information about that?

6     **MR. ELLIOTT:** Probably Jonathan Brown because he's the one that's in charge

7     of hiring drivers and we're just now in a position now that we're picking up activity

8     that we're going to have to hire more drivers, but it would go through him and

9     Tyler.

10    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. And if the requested authority is granted, does the

11    applicant expect to hire additional employees?

12    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes.

13    **JUDGE FREY:** Would that include drivers?

14    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Correct.

15    **JUDGE FREY:** Mr. Rachal asked you if you had any waste generators and you

16    answered no. Is it correct that GDE Drilling is its own waste generator and you are

17    hauling your own waste from your production?

18    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, maybe I didn't -- yeah.

19    **JUDGE FREY:** Or if you get the application?

20    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Maybe I didn't understand the definition of waste -- are we a

21    waste generator, meaning do we generate waste? Okay. I thought it was like a

22    piece of equipment.



1     **JUDGE FREY:** No, I'm sorry. I can't really speak for Mr. Rachal, but generally,  
2     companies may be hauling for third-party waste generators, other drilling  
3     companies, not just their own waste. So he can jump in -- let me make sure we  
4     don't talk over each other. He can jump in after my questions. But currently, are  
5     you hauling saltwater for anybody other than yourself?

6     **MR. ELLIOTT:** No.

7     **JUDGE FREY:** Do you plan to transport waste for other generators, saltwater or  
8     non-hazardous oilfield waste, if the requested authority is granted?

9     **MR. ELLIOTT:** Not at this time.

10    **JUDGE FREY:** That's all the questions I have for you, I believe. Let me just  
11    check my other list. That's all the questions I have for you, Mr. Elliott. And let me  
12    see if Mr. Rachal has any follow up.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** I just have a quick follow up. Does the production company  
14    produce the waste, the other company, and Tiger --

15    **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, we're producing saltwater. If it's waste, yes, we do  
16    produce saltwater that has to be transported to a disposal site.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you confirm the company name that produces it?

18    **MR. ELLIOTT:** That'd be GDE Tiger Petroleum or GDE Investments LA LLC,  
19    they both have some wells.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** Okay. That's all the questions I have, Your Honor.

21    **MR. ELLIOTT:** They're all a hundred percent GDE, Greg Elliott owned LLCs.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. That clarifies that. So GDE Tiger Drilling doesn't  
2     produce the waste. Your production company produces the waste that GDE Tiger  
3     Drilling will then transport, but they are separate legal entities?

4     **MR. ELLIOTT:** That is correct. That is correct.

5     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you for that clarification. If there is nothing further, do  
6     you wish to add anything at this time?

7     **MR. ELLIOTT:** No.

8     **JUDGE FREY:** Okay. And I will give you the option, if after all the witnesses  
9     testify, you want to make additional comments, we can get you back up here.

10    **MR. ELLIOTT:** All right.

11    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

12    **MR. ELLIOTT:** You're welcome.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** Your Honor, we'd like to call Ms. Dawn Prejean to the witness  
14    stand.

15    **Dawn Prejean came forth as a witness; and, after having been duly sworn,**  
16    **testified as follows:**

17    **DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PAUL RACHAL**

18    **MR. RACHAL:** Good morning, Ms. Prejean.

19    **MS. DAWN PREJEAN:** Good morning.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** For the record, can you state your full name?

21    **MS. PREJEAN:** Dawn Armbruster Prejean.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** And by whom are you employed?

23    **MS. PREJEAN:** GDE Tiger Drilling.

1     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your employer's business address?

2     **MS. PREJEAN:** 400 East Kalliste Saloom, Suite 8100, Lafayette, 70508.

3     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your role in the company?

4     **MS. PREJEAN:** I am the Chief Financial Officer, accountant.

5     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your day-to-day duties?

6     **MS. PREJEAN:** All of the financial matters of the company. I maintain the  
7     financial software in QuickBooks and handle all of the incoming/outgoing financial  
8     matters.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your work history with the company?

10    **MS. PREJEAN:** I have worked since the company was started in 2022. I  
11    previously worked for Greg Elliott at Workstrings, the company he was with  
12    before, and did, in addition to that job and role, I did the bookkeeping for his GDE  
13    companies, so.

14    **MR. RACHAL:** And how much experience do you have in the waste hauling  
15    industry?

16    **MS. PREJEAN:** None.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your experience with the financial part of  
18    companies?

19    **MS. PREJEAN:** I've worked oilfield company for over 20 years now. I've been  
20    an accountant since 1996, worked for public accounting firms as well as private  
21    companies.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn to Page 20 in Exhibit A?

23    **MS. PREJEAN:** Okay.

1     **MR. RACHAL:** And can you -- what is this? Can you identify this document?

2     **MS. PREJEAN:** This is our ACORD Certificate of Liability Insurance.

3     **MR. RACHAL:** And does this document show that the company currently has

4     insurance that meets LPSC's insurance requirements?

5     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

6     **MR. RACHAL:** And will this insurance cover all the applicant's equipment and

7     drivers?

8     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** And according to this document, when was the company's

10    insurance policy last renewed?

11    **MS. PREJEAN:** January 30, '24.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** And when will the company's insurance policy next expire?

13    **MS. PREJEAN:** January 30, 2025.

14    **MR. RACHAL:** And will the company renew its insurance policy before the next

15    expiration date and before every subsequent expiration date?

16    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** And do you believe the company holds or is capable of acquiring

18    an insurance policy providing the minimum requirement insurance coverage?

19    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** And are there any incidents or claims against drivers or insurance

21    or workers' comp claims?

22    **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

23    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn your attention to Exhibit B?

1   **MS. PREJEAN:** Okay.

2   **MR. RACHAL:** Do you request that all numerical and quantitative figures  
3   regarding the company's financials be redacted from the public version of the  
4   transcript of this hearing?

5   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

6   **JUDGE FREY:** We will redact that confidential information from the transcript,  
7   as requested.

8   **MR. RACHAL:** Can you give a brief overview of the company's current financial  
9   picture?

10   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes. I mean, obviously, this is a start-up company, so it was  
11   created in 2022 and we actually didn't start hiring employees until 2023, which is  
12   when we started to try to kind of get things going. So we have acquired equipment  
13   and, you know, now personnel to support the drilling operations of Greg Elliott's  
14   other operating companies.

15   **MR. RACHAL:** And how is the company financed?

16   **MS. PREJEAN:** Through Greg Elliott.

17   **MR. RACHAL:** And did the company prepare, direct to be prepared audits of the  
18   company's financial statements?

19   **MS. PREJEAN:** These are unaudited financials. They are prepared on our, you  
20   know, QuickBooks software, but they are available -- you know, they could be  
21   audited as needed in the future. Yes.

22   **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn to Page 1 of Exhibit B?

23   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

1   **MR. RACHAL:** Can you identify this document?

2   **MS. PREJEAN:** This is the Profit and Loss Statement from January through  
3   December of 2022.

4   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you identify the net income? What was the net income  
5   of that year?

6   **MS. PREJEAN:** Net income actually was a net loss of [REDACTED].

7   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you explain the reason for the loss?

8   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes. Again, start-up company, there is really no major billings  
9   going on at the time. We were just getting everything started up, so.

10   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you turn to Page 3? And what were the total assets?

11   **MS. PREJEAN:** The total fixed assets were [REDACTED]. Total assets of [REDACTED].

12   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you turn to Page 4?

13   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

14   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you identify this document as well?

15   **MS. PREJEAN:** That is the Profit and Loss Statement for January through  
16   December of 2023.

17   **MR. RACHAL:** And what was the net income for that year?

18   **MS. PREJEAN:** Net income was a loss of [REDACTED].

19   **MR. RACHAL:** And can you explain that negative number?

20   **MS. PREJEAN:** I can. So we initially had bought some drilling rigs and were  
21   going to -- the initial plan was to operate our own rigs. And in the course of  
22   acquiring those rigs and the cost it was going to be to repair them and get them  
23   ready to work on the wells, it was decided that we didn't want to continue with the

1 rigs, that we wanted to just do the support services instead of actually manning  
2 drilling rigs. So we ended up selling off a bunch of the equipment that we had  
3 purchased, so that is where you'll see there is an equipment expense of over [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED] where we got rid of all those rigs.

5 **MR. RACHAL:** And can you turn to Page 6?

6 **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

7 **MR. RACHAL:** And what were the total assets -- or can you identify this sheet?

8 **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes, this is the Balance Sheet of December 31, 2023.

9 **MR. RACHAL:** And can you tell us what the total assets were?

10 **MS. PREJEAN:** [REDACTED].

11 **MR. RACHAL:** And can you turn to Page 7 and identify that document for us?

12 **MS. PREJEAN:** That is the Profit and Loss for January through June of 2024.

13 **MR. RACHAL:** And what is the net income for that time period?

14 **MS. PREJEAN:** Net income is [REDACTED] loss.

15 **MR. RACHAL:** And can you explain that loss as well?

16 **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes. I mean, you'll see we are at that point just beginning to  
17 generate some income, that is before we've had any actual drilling operations  
18 happening. There was a oil and gas well that is producing already that is operated  
19 by GDE and so there's some support service revenue there, but that was the only  
20 revenue so far in 2024. We had an actual drilling operation that began in July and  
21 so we will have future billings that are taking place for the rest of the year.

22 **MR. RACHAL:** So you believe the income will increase?

23 **MS. PREJEAN:** The income will increase, correct. Yes.

1     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn to Page 9 and identify that document for us?

2     **MS. PREJEAN:** That is the Balance Sheet at June 30, 2024.

3     **MR. RACHAL:** And what were the total assets for that time period?

4     **MS. PREJEAN:** Total assets at [REDACTED].

5     **MR. RACHAL:** Do you wish to file and introduce into evidence, under seal,

6     pursuant to 12.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures what has

7     been previously marked as Exhibit A, the applicant's financial statements?

8     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

9     **JUDGE FREY:** I believe it's Exhibit B, Mr. Rachal.

10    **MR. RACHAL:** Exhibit B, apologies, in globo.

11    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. Applicant's Exhibit B, GDE Tiger Drilling LLC

12    Profit and Loss, January through December '22; January through December 2023,

13    Profit and Loss; Balance Sheet, as of December 31, 2023; Profit and Loss, January

14    through June 2024; and Balance Sheet, as of June 30, 2024; and I think I skipped

15    the Balance Sheet, as of December 31, 2022. Applicant's Exhibit B, in globo, is

16    admitted, under seal.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, Your Honor. Does the company have any issues

18    making payroll?

19    **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company anticipate that its net revenue or profit will

21    substantially increase if the LPSC grants this application?

22    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.



1     **MR. RACHAL:** Are the owners able and willing to obtain and put capital into the  
2     company if needed?

3     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** Are there any financial factors that would limit the applicant from  
5     providing safe and efficient transportation of waste?

6     **MR. RACHAL:** No.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** Has the applicant ever filed for bankruptcy?

8     **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** Is the applicant current on filing of all its state and federal tax  
10    returns?

11    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** Has the applicant been subject to any Internal Revenue Service  
13    audits?

14    **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** Has the applicant been subject to any state tax audits?

16    **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company have a close or a long-standing relationship  
18    with a bank or another financial institution?

19    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you tell us the bank for the record?

21    **MS. PREJEAN:** Hancock Whitney Bank.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** And what type of business has the company transacted with this  
23    financial institution?

1   **MS. PREJEAN:** We have -- all of the accounts for the GDE companies have been  
2   with Hancock Whitney since 1997.

3   **MR. RACHAL:** And are there any financial restrictions that would prohibit the  
4   company from undertaking any work?

5   **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

6   **MR. RACHAL:** And are the company trucks owned or leased free and clear of  
7   any and all encumbrances?

8   **MS. PREJEAN:** They are owned, yes.

9   **MR. RACHAL:** If financing for company trucks were necessary, would the  
10   company have any issues making timely payments under those financing  
11   arrangements?

12   **MS. PREJEAN:** No.

13   **MR. RACHAL:** And do you believe the company has the financial ability to  
14   provide the transportation of waste for disposal in a safe and efficient manner?

15   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

16   **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company have in place or implement a bookkeeping  
17   process that will allow to track its LPSC regulated revenue for the purpose of  
18   reporting this revenue to the Commission as well as the Louisiana Department of  
19   Revenue?

20   **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

21   **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company have a CPA?

22   **MS. PREJEAN:** I mean, there's an accountant that files the taxes each year, yes.

23   **MR. RACHAL:** What company does --

1     **MS. PREJEAN:** It's Cynthia Guidry Accounting Services out of Opelousas.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn your attention to what has been labeled as Exhibit

3     E, in globo?

4     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

5     **MR. RACHAL:** Are you familiar with these documents?

6     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** And what are these documents?

8     **MS. PREJEAN:** These are the data requests that were sent by the Commission.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** And are there any attachments to the responses?

10    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

11    **MR. RACHAL:** And these attachments were relevant and direct answers to Staff's

12    requests?

13    **MR. RACHAL:** That's correct.

14    **MR. RACHAL:** And did you or an authorized representative of the company

15    submit these responses to Staff?

16    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** And according to the documents, when were these responses

18    submitted to Staff? Do you know about when they were sent?

19    **MS. PREJEAN:** I don't remember exactly when.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** That's okay.

21    **MS. PREJEAN:** In August, roughly.

1     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you turn to the second set of data requests, the first page?  
2     The second one, there might be a date on there at the end of that document. Page  
3     3 -- or, I'm sorry, Page 2.  
4     **MS. PREJEAN:** August 23, 2024.  
5     **MR. RACHAL:** Does that sound around the right time?  
6     **MS. PREJEAN:** That sounds correct, yes.  
7     **MR. RACHAL:** So the very first page of the document, can you identify what set  
8     of requests those were?  
9     **MS. PREJEAN:** So Exhibit E, Reference Page 1?  
10    **MR. RACHAL:** One, yes.  
11    **MS. PREJEAN:** The very first one? And what is your question, again?  
12    **MR. RACHAL:** What are those? Like, what is --  
13    **MS. PREJEAN:** Oh, that was the data request from the Commission asking us  
14    further questions for our application.  
15    **MR. RACHAL:** Was that the first set or the second set?  
16    **MS. PREJEAN:** This is the first set.  
17    **MR. RACHAL:** And what's the second, after those?  
18    **MS. PREJEAN:** So there is 25 -- or 27 questions on the first set.  
19    **MR. RACHAL:** And can you turn to Page 8 of that same document?  
20    **MS. PREJEAN:** That is our responses.  
21    **MR. RACHAL:** That's your responses?  
22    **MS. PREJEAN:** Uh-huh.  
23    **MR. RACHAL:** And then the next Page 1, can you identify that document?

1     **MS. PREJEAN:** That is the second data request from the Commission.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** And can you turn to Page 4 of that document?

3     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes, that is our responses to the second set.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** And if we asked you the same questions today, would the answers

5     change?

6     **MS. PREJEAN:** No, they should be the same.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** Would you like to offer, file, and introduce into the record Staff's

8     first and second data requests to GDE as Exhibit E, in globo?

9     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

10    **JUDGE FREY:** Applicant's Exhibit E, LPSC Staff's First Set of Data Requests

11    to GDE Tiger Drilling LLC and GDE Tiger Drilling's responses thereto and LPSC

12    Staff's Second Set of Data Requests to GDE Tiger Drilling LLC and GDE Tiger

13    Drilling's responses thereto are admitted as Exhibit E, in globo. I do want to

14    confirm, is there anything in here that the applicant would deem confidential?

15    **MS. PREJEAN:** I do not believe so. There are no numbers in here, so I don't

16    think there's anything confidential.

17    **JUDGE FREY:** To reiterate, Applicant's Exhibit E, in globo, is admitted.

18    **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, Your Honor. I don't have any more questions, Your

19    Honor.

20    **JUDGE FREY:** Ms. Prejean, are you familiar with these documents?

21    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

22    **JUDGE FREY:** So you helped prepare the responses and submit them?

23    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. Do you have Applicant's Exhibit A in front of you?

2     First off, I just want to note that the reference page numbers are quite helpful and

3     there are many applicants, who are represented by attorneys, who do not include

4     those on here. They are very helpful. Whoever was responsible, I appreciate it.

5     Reference Page 20, the ACORD Certificate of Liability Insurance.

6     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes, ma'am.

7     **JUDGE FREY:** Does this document list the insured as GDE Tiger Drilling, LLC?

8     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

9     **JUDGE FREY:** And is the correct legal spelling of the applicant's name GDE

10    Tiger Drilling LLC, with no comma in front of the LLC?

11    **MS. PREJEAN:** I think on the Secretary of State, you can't put a comma

12    anywhere, so that is correct.

13    **JUDGE FREY:** And if you would like to refer to Reference Page 7 of the packet,

14    as registered with the Secretary of State's office, there is no comma; is that correct?

15    **MS. PREJEAN:** That's correct.

16    **JUDGE FREY:** If there is a requirement that proof of insurance on file with the

17    Commission must match the entity's name as it appears on LPSC certificates, and

18    if things are done correctly, what's on the certificate should match the legal spelling

19    of the company's name. If there was any discrepancy in the spelling on insurance

20    documents filed with the Commission and the legal spelling of the applicant's

21    name, would the applicant take steps to correct those spelling errors?

22    **MS. PREJEAN:** Absolutely.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. And this ACORD certificate represents the current  
2     policy that's in effect as we sit here today, correct?

3     **MS. PREJEAN:** Correct.

4     **JUDGE FREY:** You testified with regard to the applicant's financials, correct?

5     **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes, ma'am.

6     **JUDGE FREY:** And generally, you've indicated that there's net income losses  
7     right now for the company; is that correct?

8     **MS. PREJEAN:** That's correct.

9     **JUDGE FREY:** And you provided explanations for those losses, correct?

10    **MS. PREJEAN:** Correct.

11    **JUDGE FREY:** Is there -- do you believe that the applicant has the necessary  
12    finances to operate the certificate, if granted, in a safe, efficient, and LPSC  
13    complaint manner?

14    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

15    **JUDGE FREY:** And do you believe that the company is financially stable and  
16    able to operate its equipment safely and the certificate safely, if granted?

17    **MS. PREJEAN:** Yes.

18    **JUDGE FREY:** I have no -- oh, I do have one more question. I'm sorry. So Mr.  
19    Rachal asked you about the equipment and whether it was owned without any  
20    encumbrances. You mentioned that it is owned. It's owned by GDE Tiger  
21    Drilling?

22    **MS. PREJEAN:** Correct.

1   **JUDGE FREY:** Are there any loans or liens or anything from a financial  
2   institution?

3   **MS. PREJEAN:** Not on equipment, no.

4   **JUDGE FREY:** Okay. And just to remind witnesses and even myself while we're  
5   talking, just make sure that one person is finished answering or asking the question  
6   before we talk because we are transcribing it and we do want to get a clear  
7   transcript. And also, what was your middle name, Ms. Prejean?

8   **MS. PREJEAN:** Armbruster.

9   **JUDGE FREY:** Can you spell that, please?

10   **MS. PREJEAN:** A-R-M-B-R-U-S-T-E-R.

11   **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you so much. We want to make sure we get that correct  
12   for the transcript. Do you have any follow up, Mr. Rachal?

13   **MR. RACHAL:** I do not, Your Honor.

14   **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. If you have nothing further, Ms. Prejean, you may  
15   step down.

16   **MS. PREJEAN:** Thank you.

17   **MR. RACHAL:** Your Honor, we'd like to call Mr. Jonathan Brown to the stand.

18   **Jonathan Brown came forth as a witness; and, after having been duly sworn,**  
19   **testified as follows:**

20   **DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PAUL RACHAL**

21   **MR. RACHAL:** Good morning, Mr. Brown.

22   **MR. JONATHAN BROWN:** Good morning. How you doing?

23   **MR. RACHAL:** Good, good. For the record, can you state your full name?



1     **MR. BROWN:** Jonathan Blake Brown.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** And by whom are you employed?

3     **MR. BROWN:** Mr. Greg Elliott, GDE.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your employer's business address?

5     **MR. BROWN:** I work at 15548 Highway 190, Opelousas, Louisiana, the terminal

6     for the trucks and equipment.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your role in the company?

8     **MR. BROWN:** Transportation Manager.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** And what are your day-to-day duties?

10    **MR. BROWN:** Anything to do with trucks, transporting equipment, as far as any

11    of our equipment, transporting to well sites to back to the yard, and also checking

12    our equipment, make sure everything is ready for use before it goes out on the road.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your work history with the company?

14    **MR. BROWN:** I started there in early '23 to get the trucking side started.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** And how much experience do you have in the waste hauling

16    industry?

17    **MR. BROWN:** In waste hauling, I don't have any. I did production since 2007

18    and I used to call out vacuum trucks and waste hauling companies, so I'm familiar

19    with the process of getting the fluids and the cuttings and the -- any kind of waste

20    removal done.

21    **MR. RACHAL:** So what was your work -- a little bit of your work history before

22    you started working for this company?

1     **MR. BROWN:** From 2007 until 2016, I was in the oilfield doing production work  
2     over and exploration on wells, and then I helped my father-in-law start a trucking  
3     company and did that for six years almost, and then started with Mr. Greg.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you please turn to Page 6 in Exhibit A?

5     **MR. BROWN:** Okay.

6     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you identify this document?

7     **MR. BROWN:** Yes.

8     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is this document?

9     **MR. BROWN:** The certificate of service; you talking about?

10    **MR. RACHAL:** No, it's Page 6 in Exhibit A, the Reference Page Number 6. It's  
11    the equipment list. I'm sorry.

12    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** Well, it actually starts at Page 4.

14    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** Approximately how many trucks does the applicant currently  
16    use?

17    **MR. BROWN:** Approximately 10 currently.

18    **MR. RACHAL:** And what kind of trucks does the company generally use?

19    **MR. BROWN:** We have three vacuum trucks, one crane truck, and the rest are  
20    just regular trucks that we pull, flatbed, stepdeck, low-boy, just to transport  
21    equipment.

1   **MR. RACHAL:** And are the years, makes, models, and vehicle identification  
2   numbers, and descriptions of the applicant's trucks listed in the application  
3   complete and correct?

4   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

5   **MR. RACHAL:** And how many trailers does the applicant currently use? I think  
6   it's on Page 4.

7   **MR. BROWN:** Yeah. Roughly five.

8   **MR. RACHAL:** And the company intends to use all these in Louisiana?

9   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

10   **MR. RACHAL:** Will the company be utilizing owner-operators under lease?

11   **MR. BROWN:** Not at this time. We're not currently planning on doing that.  
12   Everything will be in house.

13   **MR. RACHAL:** And do you understand that future leases must be filed with the  
14   Louisiana Public Service Commission?

15   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

16   **MR. RACHAL:** Can you describe the maintenance schedule for the company's  
17   equipment?

18   **MR. BROWN:** We maintainance all of our trucks every 10,000 miles, but they're  
19   also inspected daily before use, that way we don't get out on the highway with  
20   anything that could be wrong. If we find anything that's not acceptable, we do not  
21   allow the vehicle to go out on the road to do a job until it's corrected.

22   **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company conduct pre-trip and post-trip  
23   inspections?

1     **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** And who conducts the maintenance on the company's  
3     equipment? Is it in house or a third party?

4     **MR. BROWN:** All of our small maintenance we do in house, you know, brake  
5     jobs, oil changes. If it's anything greater than that, we'll bring it to a mechanic  
6     shop.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** And how does the company document equipment maintenance?

8     **MR. BROWN:** I have a book in the office that we document anytime we do our  
9     services, anytime we do brakes, and stuff like that.

10    **MR. RACHAL:** And are all the vehicles, equipment in good working order?

11    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** And do the company's trucks have a functional global positioning  
13    system?

14    **MR. BROWN:** No, sir.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** If not, is the company planning to install GPSs in its trucks in the  
16    future?

17    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

18    **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company's trucks have any working cameras?

19    **MR. BROWN:** Yes.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** And are the company's trucks governed to a certain speed?

21    **MR. BROWN:** Yes.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** What speed would that be?

23    **MR. BROWN:** I think it's 75 or 76.

1     **MR. RACHAL:** And do you believe the company holds or is capable of acquiring  
2     for use equipment and manpower to provide transportation services in a safe and  
3     efficient manner?

4     **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir, absolutely.

5     **MR. RACHAL:** Does the applicant have all the necessary authorizations, permits,  
6     and licenses from state and federal agencies to exercise the authority to transport  
7     and dispose of the types of waste requested?

8     **MR. BROWN:** We have everything that we have now, just for saltwater, and  
9     we're applying to be able to haul our non-hazardous waste.

10    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the applicant have a valid United States Department of  
11    Transportation Number?

12    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir, 4041763.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the carrier have a motor carrier number?

14    **MR. BROWN:** We do and I don't know it right offhand.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company hold any additional authorizations or permits  
16    or licenses?

17    **MR. BROWN:** We have our LPSC to haul saltwater and that permit number is  
18    8537.

19    **MR. RACHAL:** And is the company in compliance with LPSC regulations?

20    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

21    **MR. RACHAL:** And do you believe the company holds or is capable of acquiring  
22    all the necessary authorizations required by any and all regulatory authorities for  
23    the transportation of waste for disposal?

1     **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir, we do.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company have any regulatory violations?

3     **MR. BROWN:** No, sir.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you describe the hiring process the company uses?

5     **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir. We do require two years' CDL experience, a tankers  
6     endorsement, and a hazmat endorsement. And before they're hired, they are  
7     brought in and questioned about their experience.

8     **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company do -- is required to have a CDL, correct?

9     **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

10    **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company do a background check?

11    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir. Background check, a MVR check, and a drug and alcohol  
12    screen.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** And as far as the driver training, is there a -- does the company  
14    do a ridealong program?

15    **MR. BROWN:** Any driver that we'll hire, they're going to shadow with me and  
16    I'm going to take them on different -- say, different jobs, as far as if you're going to  
17    be running a flatbed, and watch them and make sure they can do it in a safe and  
18    efficient manner, or a vacuum truck, take them on a job and make sure they can do  
19    that safely.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** How long is that process for?

21    **MR. BROWN:** Probably two weeks.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** Is there a driver orientation?

23    **MR. BROWN:** Yes.

1   **MR. RACHAL:** And if awarded the certificate, does the company plan to hire  
2   more drivers?

3   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

4   **MR. RACHAL:** And they'll all go through this process, which --

5   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

6   **MR. RACHAL:** That's all the questions I have, Your Honor.

7   **JUDGE FREY:** With regard to -- you said you do a background check and a MVR  
8   check?

9   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, ma'am.

10   **JUDGE FREY:** Is that a criminal background check? What kind of background  
11   check were you referring to?

12   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, it would be criminal background.

13   **JUDGE FREY:** Previous employment history?

14   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, ma'am.

15   **JUDGE FREY:** And I apologize if I ask something Mr. Rachal covered, but is  
16   there a minimum amount of experience you require for your driver hires?

17   **MR. BROWN:** It's two years with a current CDL.

18   **JUDGE FREY:** And how is the training process for drivers documented?

19   **MR. BROWN:** We're going to save everything. Every driver we're going to hire  
20   is going to have its own folder. So you're going to start off with the pre-hire process,  
21   you're going to have their driver's license, and then you start with all of their  
22   documentation for hire, as far as their drug and alcohol screen, their MVR, and you  
23   start filing from there.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. And more detail about the drug and alcohol screening  
2     process; is that better addressed to the next witness?

3     **MR. BROWN:** Yeah, I guess, but we're going to use a third party drug  
4     consortium.

5     **JUDGE FREY:** So just to clarify, are you employed by GDE Tiger Drilling, the  
6     applicant in this proceeding?

7     **MR. BROWN:** Yes, ma'am.

8     **JUDGE FREY:** Okay. And when did you begin your employment?

9     **MR. BROWN:** Early 2023, it was March or April.

10    **JUDGE FREY:** And in your previous employment background, had you ever  
11    supervised other drivers?

12    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, ma'am.

13    **JUDGE FREY:** And about how long for that experience?

14    **MR. BROWN:** About 5 years.

15    **JUDGE FREY:** And you, yourself, have a CDL?

16    **MR. BROWN:** Yes, ma'am.

17    **JUDGE FREY:** And how long have you had that?

18    **MR. BROWN:** Probably seven years now because I just renewed, so.

19    **JUDGE FREY:** You mentioned that there are cameras in the trucks, what kind of  
20    cameras? Forward-facing, cab-facing?

21    **MR. BROWN:** Forward and cab-facing.

22    **JUDGE FREY:** And how is the data from the cameras managed? Does anyone  
23    get it in real time? Is it recorded so you can review it later if you feel the need?



1     **MR. BROWN:** It's recorded and you can view in real time also.

2     **JUDGE FREY:** Are there any diagnostics on the trucks for driver monitoring, like  
3     hard braking or speeding or anything like that?

4     **MR. BROWN:** The camera has all that built into it.

5     **JUDGE FREY:** All right. Can you just give me a little bit of an explanation of  
6     how that might work?

7     **MR. BROWN:** If the driver hard brakes, it does record, it'll put a timestamp and  
8     a date.

9     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. And if there's a question I ask you that's best directed  
10    to another witness, you can refer me to another witness or testify as to what you  
11    can and pass that on. And you mentioned that the applicant would be capable of  
12    acquiring any necessary permits that --

13    **MR. BROWN:** Yes.

14    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. And will the applicant be sure to obtain any permits  
15    before engaging in the activity for which that permit is required?

16    **MR. BROWN:** Absolutely.

17    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. I have no further questions. Any follow up, Mr.  
18    Rachal?

19    **MR. RACHAL:** No follow up, Your Honor.

20    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. You may step down, Mr. Brown.

21    **MR. BROWN:** Thank you, ma'am.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** Your Honor, we'd like to call Mr. Tyler Lege to the stand.

1     **Tyler Lege came forth as a witness; and, after having been duly sworn, testified**  
2     **as follows:**

3     **DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PAUL RACHAL**

4     **MR. RACHAL:** Good morning.

5     **MR. TYLER LEGE:** Good morning.

6     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you please state your full name?

7     **MR. LEGE:** Tyler Blake Lege.

8     **MR. RACHAL:** And by whom are you employed?

9     **MR. LEGE:** GDE Tiger Drilling.

10    **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your business address?

11    **MR. LEGE:** 15548 Highway 190, Opelousas, Louisiana.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your role in the company?

13    **MR. LEGE:** Operations Manager.

14    **MR. RACHAL:** What is your day-to-day duties?

15    **MR. LEGE:** Basically, take care of all the employees in Opelousas, all the service  
16    equipment, make sure everything's ready to go, keep everything up to par, I do visit  
17    well sites, little bit of all the operations.

18    **MR. RACHAL:** And what is your work history with the company?

19    **MR. LEGE:** I started in January '23 and been with them since.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** And how much experience do you have in the waste hauling  
21    industry?

22    **MR. LEGE:** Waste hauling, I have none, other than knowing about, you know,  
23    through the oilfield, but I haven't dealt with the --

1     **MR. RACHAL:** So what's your previous work history?

2     **MR. LEGE:** I was at Workstrings International from '05 to January of '23 in rental  
3     tools.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** And what were your duties when you worked at this place?

5     **MR. LEGE:** I started as a dispatcher, dispatching rental tools, calling for trucks  
6     and hiring trucks. I went on -- manager for several different departments, kind of  
7     worked through all the departments, helped out.

8     **MR. RACHAL:** Does this company have a health and safety manual and/or a  
9     company's operation policy manual?

10    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

11    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you please give a brief overview of the applicant's health  
12    and safety manual?

13    **MR. LEGE:** So we had a safety manual built by a safety company who I sat with  
14    and described all our business and exactly what we were going to be doing. So we  
15    produced the safety manual for our business.

16    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the health and safety manual include driver safety and/or  
17    transportation specific safety programs?

18    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

19    **MR. RACHAL:** And is the health and safety manual issued to or otherwise readily  
20    available to all the company's drivers and operators?

21    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** Are the company's drivers and operators required to read and  
23    review the health and safety manual?

1     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company enforce all the provisions of its health and  
3     safety manual?

4     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

5     **MR. RACHAL:** And has the company provided the Louisiana Public Service  
6     Commission with a copy of the health and safety manual which you have just spoke  
7     of?

8     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** Do you wish to offer, and file, introduce into what's been  
10    previously marked as Exhibit C, a copy of the applicant's employee manual and  
11    health and safety manual on a flash drive?

12    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

13    **JUDGE FREY:** Applicant's Exhibit C, and just for clarification, is the title of the  
14    safety manual the Injury and Illness Prevention Program for the State of Louisiana?

15    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

16    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. So Applicant's Exhibit C, a copy of the Injury and  
17    Illness Prevention Program for the State of Louisiana for the GDE companies, is  
18    admitted on flash drive.

19    **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, Your Honor. Can you turn to a document that's been  
20    marked as Exhibit D?

21    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** And are you familiar with this document?

23    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

1     **MR. RACHAL:** And what is this document?

2     **MR. LEGE:** It is our Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

3     **MR. RACHAL:** Is it just a table of contents?

4     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

5     **MR. RACHAL:** Can you just briefly -- you don't have to go through every one,  
6     just briefly go through this document?

7     **MR. LEGE:** Page 1 is the disclaimer -- or I say Page 1. Cover page, then the next  
8     page is the disclaimer, and then the third and fourth page are the table of contents.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** What section is driver safety? I think it's on that first page.

10    **MR. LEGE:** Thirty-five -- well, Section 35-1.

11    **MR. RACHAL:** And load securement? I think that's on the second page. Where  
12    is that at on there?

13    **MR. LEGE:** That would be 62-1.

14    **MR. RACHAL:** Is the drug and alcohol policy in the table of contents?

15    **MR. LEGE:** Let me see. Yeah. So I see 30-1.

16    **MR. RACHAL:** 30-1, you said?

17    **MR. LEGE:** Yeah, that's contractor drug and alcohol policy. Then they got -- let  
18    me see. We have non-DOT drug and alcohol policy on 70-1.

19    **MR. RACHAL:** Okay. Do you wish to file, offer, and introduce into the record  
20    Exhibit E, the table of contents -- D, apologies again, D, Exhibit D?

21    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** Applicant's Exhibit D, the cover page, disclaimer, and table of  
2     contents pages for GDE companies' Injury and Illness Prevention Program for the  
3     State of Louisiana, is admitted.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** Thank you, Your Honor. Can you describe the drug and alcohol  
5     policy for the company?

6     **MR. LEGE:** We have a standard drug and alcohol policy, random drug screening.  
7     We have a alcohol -- could be randomly chosen to take a alcohol. Pre-job drug and  
8     alcohol testing.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** Is there one after an incident?

10    **MR. LEGE:** I was about to get to the incident. If any incident occurs, we'd be  
11    drug tested and alcohol tested at a third party.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** And who's the third party the company uses?

13    **MR. LEGE:** I can't remember the name of them. Dawn usually sets up all the --  
14    we go to different facilities based on the location, you know.

15    **MR. RACHAL:** Does the company also test on suspicion?

16    **MR. LEGE:** It's possible we can.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** And can you please discuss the company's cell phone policy?

18    **MR. LEGE:** Cell phone policy is -- I mean, you can -- most our drivers have their  
19    cell phone, but we have to stop and answer. You know, they have to stop if we call  
20    them or for change of plan or they have a change of plan, stop and call us, make the  
21    new plans, and then get back on the road. As far as work in the yard, no cell phones  
22    while working. You can use them on your breaks or your lunches.

23    **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company employ a full-time safety manager?

1     **MR. LEGE:** Not a full-time safety manager, yet.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** Who is the current part-time safety manager?

3     **MR. LEGE:** I deal with the safety part of it for now.

4     **MR. RACHAL:** If the company were to hire one, would it be a third party -- it

5     would be outsourced to a third party?

6     **MR. LEGE:** No, we would hire our own safety manager. We use a third party

7     now for our safety manual until we --

8     **MR. RACHAL:** Who's the third party right now?

9     **MR. LEGE:** Safety Compliance Services, they're out of Lafayette, Louisiana.

10    **MR. RACHAL:** And is the company a member of any safety networks?

11    **MR. LEGE:** No.

12    **MR. RACHAL:** Would the company join any safety networks if asked to?

13    **MR. LEGE:** Possibly, yes.

14    **MR. RACHAL:** Have the company's employees ever been asked to leave a job

15    site?

16    **MR. LEGE:** No.

17    **MR. RACHAL:** Has the applicant had any complaints from customers about its

18    drivers?

19    **MR. LEGE:** No.

20    **MR. RACHAL:** Has the applicant had any complaints from the general public

21    about its drivers?

22    **MR. LEGE:** No.

23    **MR. RACHAL:** Can you please discuss the applicant's safety meetings?

1     **MR. LEGE:** We have a daily safety meeting every morning, recorded, we keep a  
2     binder. You know, we keep them in a binder by date and we can go back and pull  
3     them if we need to. And pre-job meetings, if we happen to do a job we're not, you  
4     know, on location somewhere, we can have a pre-job meeting with all the --  
5     involved at the facility we're at.

6     **MR. RACHAL:** Would that be like a job specific analysis meeting?

7     **MR. LEGE:** Yeah. On locations, they have a pre-job meeting on location. We  
8     have a daily meeting at our facility in Opelousas.

9     **MR. RACHAL:** And what kind of topics are discussed at the safety meetings?

10    **MR. LEGE:** It's depending on what the job we're doing and what the hazards may  
11    be. Also, if anybody got any complaints, concerns, anything that happened the day  
12    before, we can discuss.

13    **MR. RACHAL:** And does the company do weekly or monthly meetings as well?

14    **MR. LEGE:** We've been doing mostly dailies for now. At some point, we'll get  
15    to monthly with everyone involved.

16    **MR. RACHAL:** And who attends these meetings?

17    **MR. LEGE:** All of the employees in the field, you know, the operations guys.

18    **MR. RACHAL:** And are the company's drivers and operators required to attend  
19    the company's safety meetings?

20    **MR. LEGE:** Yes. They report to our facility in Opelousas every morning and  
21    have the meeting with us.

22    **MR. RACHAL:** You may have mentioned this, but are the company safety  
23    meetings documented?



1     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

2     **MR. RACHAL:** And where are they kept?

3     **MR. LEGE:** I have a binder, like a ring binder we keep them in and we fill out a  
4     new one every day and date it.

5     **MR. RACHAL:** At which location?

6     **MR. LEGE:** At the yard in Opelousas.

7     **MR. RACHAL:** Do you believe the company has in place or is capable of  
8     establishing a safety program necessary for the safe and efficient transportation of  
9     waste for disposal?

10    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

11    **MR. RACHAL:** That's all the questions I have, Your Honor.

12    **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you. I do have a couple of questions, Mr. Lege. The safety  
13    manual, are the employees required to sign an acknowledgement that they received  
14    it that you keep on file?

15    **MR. LEGE:** I haven't had them sign any acknowledgement.

16    **JUDGE FREY:** You mentioned documenting the safety meetings in a binder. Just  
17    a general overview, what do you put in the binder? What goes in the binder?

18    **MR. LEGE:** So our safety meetings sheet, it's just basic sheet. Shows the topics  
19    discussed, we fill it all, put the date and whoever gave the safety meeting, and then  
20    everybody prints and signs their name in it. And we just keep a record of them,  
21    what was discussed and all.

22    **JUDGE FREY:** Okay. So the attendees sign that sheet as well?

23    **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** If Mr. Rachal asked this and I didn't catch it, I apologize. Does  
2     the applicant currently have policies specific to waste that would be regulated under  
3     this certificate, if granted?

4     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

5     **JUDGE FREY:** And that's included in the safety manual that was admitted as part  
6     of Exhibit C?

7     **MR. LEGE:** Yes.

8     **JUDGE FREY:** I have no further questions for you. Do you have any follow up,  
9     Mr. Rachal?

10    **MR. RACHAL:** No, Your Honor.

11    **JUDGE FREY:** All right. Anything you'd like to add before you step down?

12    **MR. LEGE:** No, ma'am.

13    **JUDGE FREY:** All right. Thank you. You may step down. Mr. Elliott, do you  
14    have anything else that you would like to present on behalf of the applicant this  
15    morning?

16    **MR. ELLIOTT:** No, ma'am.

17    **JUDGE FREY:** All right. Thank you. Anything from Commission Staff?

18    **MR. RACHAL:** Your Honor, as stated in Staff's Pre-Hearing Statement, Staff  
19    supports this application, as the applicant satisfies and has demonstrated all fitness  
20    requirements, there are currently no outstanding compliance issues involving the  
21    applicant, and the applicant is currently in good standing with the Commission.  
22    Therefore, together with the applicant, Staff prays that the application is granted.

1     **JUDGE FREY:** Thank you, Mr. Rachal. And with regard to any insurance filings  
2     that may be on file, given that they already have a saltwater certificate, will Staff  
3     check on the spelling of the applicant's name on insurance documents and work  
4     with the applicant if there needs to be any clarification there?

5     **MR. RACHAL:** Yes, Your Honor.

6     **JUDGE FREY:** All right. Thank you. If there is nothing further, this hearing is  
7     adjourned.

8

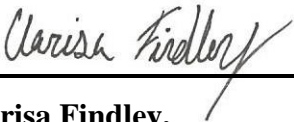
9                     **(WHEREUPON, THE HEARING WAS ADJOURNED)**

10

1 I hereby certify that the foregoing pages 1 through 50 are true and correct to the best  
2 of my knowledge of the Hearing held on October 2, 2024 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

3

4 **Rough Draft by:**

5 

6 **Clarisa Findley,**  
7 **Court Reporter**

**October 5, 2024**

**Date**

8 **Proofed by:**

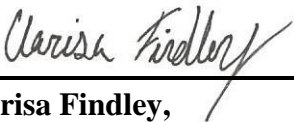
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10 **Kayla Fiorenza,**  
11 **Court Reporter**

**October 11, 2024**

**Date**

12 **Finalized by:**

13 

14 **Clarisa Findley,**  
15 **Court Reporter**

**October 11, 2024**

**Date**