

1 surprisingly, resulted in narrowing those down considerably.
2 And I respectfully suggest that it is unlikely that we are
3 ever going to get unanimity on this. We will undoubtedly
4 have outliers on both ends of the spectrum, if you'd like to
5 look at it that way.

6 But I also happen to think that there is a very
7 large potential group in the center who could, I think with
8 a little -- with a very small amount of effort, could come
9 to a series of understandings that would resolve the issue.

10 Finally, by the way, to my friend Bob Keating, we
11 are in merger negotiations with Rhode Island, but so far
12 haven't been successful.

13 (Laughter.)

14 VOICE: That's just because you want Long Island
15 back, though.

16 (Laughter.)

17 VOICE: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN WOOD: There's Nancy. Hey, Nancy, I
19 hadn't seen you there. Welcome.

20 MS. BROCKWAY: I'm not speaking on behalf of
21 NEPCO. I don't know that what I'm about to say is
22 inconsistent with the position we've taken all along. But I
23 just guess what I want to do is highlight an issue that,
24 although I have been having to go in and out of the room
25 some this session and may have missed, but I have not heard

1 federal government coming down and taking away our hard-won
2 states rights. If you leave us in limbo, it could be worse,
3 because then who do we fight against, for one thing, if we
4 don't like the decision.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MS. BROCKWAY: But seriously, there are some
7 issues that molder and fester if somebody doesn't make a
8 decision. And that somebody is going to have to be you
9 guys.

10 Some of the things which -- thank God, we don't
11 have some of the problems that some of the other regions
12 have, which are storage problems and so forth. But those
13 are actually some tremendously important -- in any regions.
14 Ours are not as big in magnitude as the West, but the ones
15 we've got have got to be dealt with. And as we come out of
16 the shakedown cruise for SMD, there are going to be a budget
17 and review board, and there will be more and more issues
18 that you've -- we've damped down for a while now but they're
19 going to come back.

20 I can think of things like cost allocation and
21 some of the planning questions, you guys have got to come
22 out there with a position at least to shoot against or
23 what's our best alternative to a negotiated agreement.
24 Because if you don't, we may, in effect, get limbo which
25 drags on for a long time, plus which we don't have anybody