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**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**CASE NO.: ER-2012-0175**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**DARRIN R. IVES**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**KCP&L GREATER MISSOURI OPERATIONS COMPANY**

**Kansas City, Missouri  
February 2012**

GMO Exhibit No. 123  
Date 10-22-12 Reporter KF  
File No. ER-2012-0175

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**DARRIN R. IVES**

**Case No. ER-2012-0175**

1 **Q: Please state your name and business address.**

2 A: My name is Darrin R. Ives. My business address is 1200 Main, Kansas City, Missouri  
3 64105.

4 **Q: By whom and in what capacity are you employed?**

5 A: I am employed by Kansas City Power & Light Company ("KCP&L") as Senior Director  
6 - Regulatory Affairs.

7 **Q: On whose behalf are you testifying?**

8 A: I am testifying on behalf of KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company ("GMO" or  
9 the "Company") for the territories served by St. Joseph Light & Power ("L&P") and  
10 Missouri Public Service ("MPS").

11 **Q: What are your responsibilities?**

12 A: My responsibilities include oversight of KCP&L's Regulatory Affairs Department, as  
13 well as all aspects of regulatory activities including cost of service, rate design, revenue  
14 requirements, and tariff administration.

15 **Q: Please describe your education, experience and employment history.**

16 A: I graduated from Kansas State University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Business  
17 Administration with majors in Accounting and Marketing. I received my Master of  
18 Business Administration degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2001. I  
19 am a Certified Public Accountant. From 1992 to 1996, I performed audit services for the

1 public accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. I was first employed by KCP&L in  
2 1996 and have held positions of progressive responsibility in Accounting Services until  
3 named Assistant Controller in 2007. I served as Assistant Controller until I was named  
4 Senior Director – Regulatory Affairs in April 2011.

5 **Q: Have you previously testified in a proceeding before the Missouri Public Service**  
6 **Commission (“Commission” or “MPSC”)?**

7 A: Yes, I have previously testified before the MPSC in Case Nos. ER-2009-0089, ER-2009-  
8 0090, HR-2009-0092, ER-2010-0355 and ER-2010-0356.

9 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

10 A: The purpose of my testimony is to provide an overview of the Company’s proposed rate  
11 increase, including a description of the major drivers in the case. I also address the  
12 Company’s requests in this case for certain expense trackers, a regulatory mechanism that  
13 we believe can provide relief from extensive regulatory lag that prevents the Company  
14 from realizing an earned return on equity that is reasonable in relation to the return on  
15 equity allowed by this Commission.

16 **CASE OVERVIEW AND DRIVERS**

17 **Q: Please briefly summarize the Company’s case.**

18 A: The Company is requesting an increase for MPS of \$58.3 million or 10.9 percent, based  
19 on a current Missouri jurisdictional base revenue requirement of \$537.2 million. The  
20 Company is requesting an increase for L&P of \$25.2 million or 14.6 percent, based on a  
21 current Missouri jurisdictional base revenue requirement of \$173.0 million. The  
22 Company’s case is based on a historical test year that ended September 30, 2011. GMO

1 anticipates a true-up as of August 31, 2012. Accordingly, test year data was annualized  
2 and normalized and reflects projected values for true-up items as of August 31, 2012.

3 Company witness John Weisensee's Direct Testimony supports the cost of service  
4 and revenue requirement determination, which is included in his Schedules JPW-1  
5 through JPW-3.

6 **Q: What effective date do the Company's proposed tariffs being filed in this case bear?**

7 A: The tariffs bear an effective date of March 28, 2012. We would expect the Commission  
8 to suspend this filing up to an additional 10 months beyond this effective date.

9 **Q: What are the major drivers underlying GMO's proposed rate increase?**

10 A: This is the first rate case since the completion of the Iatan 2 generating station. Iatan 2  
11 was completed in August 2010 and rates that went into effect on June 25, 2011, reflected  
12 the completion of that major undertaking.

13 This case can be considered a general rate case with no single issue making up the  
14 majority of the increase. Infrastructure investments and continued focus on our ability to  
15 reliably serve our customers are reflected in GMO's requested increase. The case also  
16 includes the impact of new cost recovery mechanism requests for energy efficiency  
17 ("EE") in the Company's December 2011 filing under the Missouri Energy Efficiency  
18 Investment Act ("MEEIA") and increased fuel costs as GMO has rebased base fuel costs  
19 for its FAC in this filing.

20 Additionally, while GMO has actively managed its cost structure, the regulatory lag  
21 inherent in the current Missouri regulatory framework has made it difficult, if not  
22 impossible, to manage cost increases imposed on us by others, which are also driving the  
23 need for this requested increase. To better manage regulatory lag for certain cost

1 increases, in addition to amounts requested in this case, we are proposing certain expense  
2 trackers as more fully outlined in later sections of this testimony and described by other  
3 Company witnesses.

4 **Energy Efficiency Costs** – In December 2011, the Company made a filing under the  
5 MEEIA requesting a rider for recovery of EE costs. The MEEIA filing in December has  
6 not yet been approved. GMO has included in this filing cost recovery for its requested  
7 EE programs in its MEEIA. If the Commission approves GMO's MEEIA filing before  
8 the completion of this case, the increase in this case would be lowered.

9 **Transmission Costs** – Transmission is another area that is seeing significant increases  
10 because of the expansions in the regional transmission network that serves Southwest  
11 Power Pool ("SPP"). SPP administrative fees and GMO's load share responsibility for  
12 transmission upgrade costs in the SPP region are driving the significant increases in this  
13 area. Company witnesses John Carlson will address this subject. For the MPS  
14 jurisdiction, the expense of its Crossroads transmission is included as discussed later in  
15 my testimony and supported by Company witness Burton Crawford.

16 **Infrastructure Investments** – The August 31, 2012 projected true-up of plant in service  
17 amounts, net of reserve for depreciation, have increased about \$49.4 million and \$47.9  
18 million for MPS and L&P, respectively, over the December 2010 period, the true-up date  
19 for GMO's last rate case. A substantial portion of this net increase relates to routine  
20 replacements of transmission and distribution infrastructure. Also included in the net  
21 increase are final costs for completion of the Iatan 2 generating facility after October 31,  
22 2010, the cut-off used in the last case. The request as a result of infrastructure  
23 investments is addressed in the testimony of Company witness John Weisensee. For the

1 MPS jurisdiction, the full value of its Crossroads generating facility is included as  
2 discussed later in my testimony and discussed by Company witnesses Tim Rush, Burton  
3 Crawford and William Edward Blunk.

4 **Fuel Costs** – GMO has a fuel adjustment clause (“FAC”) in both the MPS and L&P  
5 jurisdictions which allows for recovery of 95% of fuel cost increases above amounts in  
6 base retail rates. The increases in this case represent the impact of resetting the fuel costs  
7 in base rates consistent with the Commission’s order in GMO’s last rate case.

8 **Other Operations & Maintenance (“O&M”) Expenses** – Other expenses have  
9 increased, including payroll and employee benefits, maintenance, and other non-fuel  
10 O&M expenses. These expense increases are covered in the testimony of Company  
11 witness John Weisensee.

12 The Company implemented an organizational realignment in early 2011. The  
13 program was called Organizational Realignment and Voluntary Separation (“ORVS”)  
14 and will result in substantial ongoing savings to the Company. The voluntary separation  
15 portion of the program was used to achieve the workforce reductions identified in the  
16 realignment portion of the program. The Company is requesting recovery of the  
17 associated severance payments over a five-year period to recover the cost of the program.  
18 Company witness Kelly Murphy will address this in her testimony.

19 **Q: Has GMO taken steps to control costs during the test year for this case?**

20 **A:** Absolutely. As mentioned above, the Company implemented an organizational  
21 realignment initiative, coupled with a voluntary separation program, in early 2011 which  
22 yielded considerable savings which will continue into future years. In addition to the  
23 Company’s usual efforts to keep its costs as low as possible, in light of the economic

1 conditions affecting the Company and its customers, the Company has redoubled its  
2 efforts to control costs and conserve capital. Additionally, the synergy savings  
3 attributable to Great Plains Energy's acquisition of GMO continue to flow to customers  
4 and are reflected in this case in the test period and the true-up levels. As was addressed  
5 in the last rate case, the Company has been able to realize greater savings than initially  
6 anticipated, which flow back to customers based on the test period levels.

7 In 2010 and again in 2011, the Company held to flat non-fuel operations and  
8 maintenance budgets in all areas in which we could control the costs. Additionally, as  
9 the economy continued to lag, we completed a review of capital projects budgeted for  
10 2011 and delayed non-critical capital projects in an effort to preserve liquidity. In 2011,  
11 we also initiated our Supply Chain Transformation ("SCT") Program. The SCT is a  
12 significant, multi-year program what will streamline, modernize and improve upon the  
13 way GMO operates—both internally and with our suppliers. The SCT will help our  
14 Supply Chain organization become more forward looking, strategic and innovative,  
15 which in turn will enable all areas of our company to operate much more efficiently and  
16 cost effectively. By improving operations and processes, the SCT program will deliver  
17 cost savings, improve stakeholder value and allow managers to focus on their core  
18 responsibilities and job functions. To date, we are on schedule to achieve our targets for  
19 the SCT program. Finally, in 2011 our generation business began an intensive  
20 benchmarking process utilizing the expertise of the nationally recognized Solomon  
21 group. The focus of this process is to utilize Solomon's national benchmarking database  
22 to be able to analyze costs in our generation organization, specifically focused on  
23 benchmarking to similar generating units and activities. We are early in this process but

1 have already been able to realize improvements as we begin to implement best practices  
2 identified through the benchmarking process. The synergy savings attributable to Great  
3 Plains Energy's acquisition of GMO continue to flow to customers and are reflected in  
4 this case in the test period and the true-up levels. As was addressed in the last rate case,  
5 the Company has been able to realize greater savings than initially anticipated, which  
6 flow back to customers based on the test period levels. Additionally, since the mid-2008  
7 acquisition, we have reduced our total number of executives by eight and our annual  
8 executive base labor and incentive dollars by \$1.7 million. We have done this through  
9 managing attrition and expanding executive scopes of responsibility where appropriate.

10 **Q: What is the return on equity ("ROE") GMO is requesting in this case?**

11 A: GMO is requesting a ROE of 10.4 percent based upon the projected capital structure of  
12 Great Plains Energy Incorporated, GMO's parent holding company, as of August 31,  
13 2012, 52.5% percent of which is comprised of common equity. The August 31, 2012  
14 projected capital structure reflects remarketing of the subordinated notes component of  
15 Great Plains Energy's Equity Units as Senior Notes which have been included in the  
16 long-term debt component of the projected capital structure. Additionally, on June 15,  
17 2012, the purchase contract component of the Equity Units will be settled with the  
18 issuance of common stock which has been included in the equity component of the  
19 projected capital structure. GMO witness Dr. Samuel Hadaway presents in his Direct  
20 Testimony his cost of capital study results and recommendations in support of the  
21 Company's requested ROE. Dr. Hadaway's approach is based on a traditional approach  
22 to estimate the underlying cost of equity capital for a group of comparable, investment-  
23 grade electric utility companies.

1 **OTHER MISSOURI ACTIVITY**

2 **Q: Please describe why GMO made a MEEIA filing.**

3 A: GMO and KCP&L were actively involved in the passing of legislation in Missouri—  
4 Senate Bill 376 (SB376) which mandated the adoption of MEEIA rules. At its  
5 foundation, SB376 became law on the principle that greater implementation of cost-  
6 effective EE programs will be beneficial for all Missourians. SB376 specifically  
7 recognizes this fact and includes provisions designed to align the interests of electric  
8 service providers and their customers in achieving this goal. GMO made a MEEIA filing  
9 in December 2011, due to the fact that its current recovery mechanism for demand-side  
10 management (“DSM”) and EE investments is inadequate.

11 **Q: Please describe GMO’s MEEIA filing and its status.**

12 A: This is discussed in detail in the Direct Testimony of Company witness Tim Rush. In  
13 Case No. EO-2012-0009, GMO is requesting a change in the recovery mechanism of the  
14 existing demand-side programs established by this Commission in Case No. ER-2010-  
15 0356, to a new recovery mechanism under the Commission’s recently enacted rules.  
16 Additionally, GMO is requesting to implement several new programs under the MEEIA  
17 rules.

18 **Q: Why have you included MEEIA recovery in this increase request even though GMO**  
19 **asked for a demand-side investment mechanism rider in its December 2011 MEEIA**  
20 **filing?**

21 A: The MEEIA filing in December has not yet been approved. It is anticipated to be  
22 addressed by the Commission as early as June 2012. Our request in this case is the full

1 amount we are requesting based on the MEEIA plan. If the Commission approves  
2 GMO's application in June, the increase in this case would be lowered.

3 **Q: Can you provide an update on the potential merger filing by KCP&L and GMO")?**

4 A: Yes. In December 2011, KCP&L and GMO jointly filed a 60-day Notice of Intent to File  
5 a merger application. As the companies continued to evaluate the benefits of a merger as  
6 well as finalizing rate case filings, it was determined to suspend efforts on the merger  
7 application at this time. Considerations for suspending the filing included:

- 8 1) the significant amount of synergy savings and corporate integration already  
9 achieved as a result of the July 14, 2008, acquisition of GMO by Great Plains  
10 Energy ("GPE"),
- 11 2) potential detrimental property tax impacts to certain counties based on the State  
12 property tax assessment and county allocation process currently in place,
- 13 3) the potential to request variances/waivers to achieve certain operational  
14 efficiencies contemplated by the merger, and
- 15 4) the volume of GMO activity already scheduled to be in front of the Commission  
16 in 2012.

17 **Q: Please describe the variances/waivers you mentioned that KCP&L and GMO are**  
18 **requesting in the current cases.**

19 A: As described more fully by Company witness Bill Herdegen, the companies are  
20 requesting a waiver of the affiliate transaction rules to allow the companies to maintain  
21 one, consolidated inventory. We request that inventory be initially purchased and  
22 maintained by Great Plains Energy Services ("GPES"), a services company established  
23 several years ago consistent with the provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company

1 Act of 1935. As Mr. Herdegen further describes, there are numerous operational benefits  
2 from utilizing one consolidated inventory. Purchasing and maintaining the inventory at  
3 GPES and charging the inventory to the appropriate utility and jurisdiction when installed  
4 provides the lowest cost to customers by allowing for maintenance of optimal items on  
5 hand as well as by preserving appropriate sales tax treatment.

6 **Q: Please describe the Company's plans for infrastructure improvements in its L&P**  
7 **service territory.**

8 A: GMO is requesting approval by this Commission to implement an infrastructure  
9 improvement program. We are submitting a comprehensive five-year, \$27 million plan  
10 that will address the overall distribution reliability, condition, and future capacity needs  
11 of the City of St. Joseph electrical system. The plan will include proposed substation  
12 additions and asset replacement to improve distribution reliability and the overall level of  
13 service to our St. Joseph customers. The focus of our work will be on improving service  
14 to customers located in the older core areas of the City, as well as address and benefit  
15 other customers served by the City of St. Joseph electrical system. The plan is described  
16 more fully in the Direct Testimony of Company witness William Herdegen.

17 **Q: Is the Company requesting special accounting treatment for these infrastructure**  
18 **improvements?**

19 A: Yes. The Company is requesting a ratemaking process referred to as Construction  
20 Accounting. This is explained further in the Direct Testimony of Company witness John  
21 Weisensee.

1 **OTHER REQUESTS**

2 **Q: Does the Company request Commission authorization on any additional matters?**

3 A: Yes, in addition to the other requests discussed below, we have an Accounting Authority  
4 Order ("AAO") request pending with the Commission at this time.

5 **Renewable Energy Standard ("RES")/Solar AAO** – By a filing made on December 30,  
6 2011, in Case No. EU-2012-0131, the Company has also requested certain accounting  
7 treatment associated with renewable energy standards. This includes the \$2 per watt  
8 rebate currently provided to customers in the GMO service territory that install solar  
9 facilities, costs associated with meeting the renewable energy standards requirements and  
10 the solar standard offer agreement that a utility may offer to customers that have installed  
11 solar facilities. See my additional discussion below concerning the request for  
12 establishment of an ongoing tracker for deferral and recovery of new costs as well as  
13 those incurred for 2010 and after in excess of costs recovered in base rates.

14 **TRANSMISSION TRACKER**

15 **Q: What is the Company's proposal regarding a transmission tracker?**

16 A: The Company requests that a transmission tracking mechanism be authorized in this case  
17 to ensure the appropriate recovery of transmission costs. The Company's request for a  
18 transmission tracker would be treated similarly to the tracking mechanism for its RES  
19 and property tax expense trackers also being requested in this filing, although there are  
20 differences in the rate at which carrying costs are calculated for the different trackers.  
21 Other similar authorized tracking mechanisms are Empire District Electric Company's  
22 Vegetation Management/Infrastructure Inspection and pension trackers, and Ameren  
23 Missouri's SO<sub>2</sub> and pension trackers, as well as KCP&L's and GMO's pension trackers.

1           In the last rate case, the Company recommended transmission cost recovery  
2 through the FAC, or a transmission tracker mechanism in lieu of that, and the Staff of the  
3 Commission supported, with modification, the Company's proposed tracker mechanism.  
4 Both the Company and Staff did not pursue the tracker mechanism beyond the initial  
5 testimonies.

6           Trackers are valuable tools for costs that are material and may fluctuate from  
7 year-to-year. Use of the tracker ensures that in the years between rate cases the utility  
8 does not under-recover or over-recover its costs.

9 **Q: Why is a tracker appropriate for GMO's transmission costs?**

10 **A:** Transmission costs can vary significantly from year-to-year, and such costs are a material  
11 cost of service component. Historically, transmission costs have fluctuated due to load  
12 variations, both native and off-system. An added factor in the coming years relates to the  
13 SPP's regional transmission upgrade projects and increasing SPP administrative fees,  
14 which will increase GMO's costs significantly in coming years.

15 **Q: Does GMO discuss in more detail SPP's transmission expansion plans in this filing?**

16 **A:** Yes, Company witness John Carlson provides additional insight into SPP's transmission  
17 upgrade plans and its expected impact on GMO and its customers in the next several  
18 years. SPP's expansion plan proposes regional transmission additions and includes a  
19 detailed list of projects in order to achieve the plan. SPP employs a cost allocation  
20 methodology to provide fair and equitable sharing of costs for base-plan transmission  
21 additions.

1 **Q: What factors are driving the transmission expansion plans?**

2 A: A major factor is the push for renewable energy resources in the region, in particular  
3 wind generation. Significant transmission upgrades are necessary to capture the full  
4 potential of wind resources in the region. Another major driver of new upgrades is the  
5 need to reduce congestion on key transmission paths in order to facilitate more efficient  
6 power markets.

7 **Q: How do the Company's projected transmission costs compare to historical levels?**

8 A: As can be seen on attached Schedule DRI-1, transmission costs have increased  
9 significantly in recent years and are projected to grow at an even faster pace in the future.

10 **Q: What types of costs are included on this schedule?**

11 A: This schedule includes FERC Account 565 costs (standard point-to-point transmission  
12 charges and base plan funding), SPP Schedule 1-A fees charged to Accounts 561 and  
13 575, and FERC Schedule 12 fees charged to Account 928.

14 **Q: Are these the same costs that the Company proposes to be included in a  
15 transmission tracker?**

16 A: Yes, they are.

17 **Q: How does the Company propose that a transmission tracker be implemented?**

18 A: We propose that transmission costs, as defined in this tracker, be set in the true-up  
19 process in this rate proceeding. The Company would then track its actual charges on an  
20 annual basis against this amount, with the jurisdictional portion of any excess treated as a  
21 regulatory asset (Account 182) and the jurisdictional portion of any shortfall treated as a  
22 regulatory liability (Account 254). The regulatory asset or liability would be included in  
23 rate base.

1 **Q: Is this amount supported by other Company witnesses in this case?**

2 A: Yes, Company witnesses John Weisensee and John Carlson support this amount in their  
3 discussion of adjustments CS-45 (Transmission of Electricity by Others), CS-85  
4 (Regulatory Assessments- Schedule 12 Fees) and CS-86 (Schedule 1-A Fees).

5 **Q: Is the Company requesting carrying costs on the amounts added to the regulatory  
6 asset or regulatory liability for the period before amounts are included in rate base?**

7 A: Yes. Similar to the process authorized by the Commission for DSM program costs in  
8 Case No. ER-2010-0356, the Company is requesting that carrying costs be accrued on  
9 amounts not yet included in rate base. The carrying costs would be calculated monthly  
10 by applying the monthly value of the annual Allowance for Funds Used During  
11 Construction ("AFUDC") rate to the eligible costs.

12 **Q: How would the regulatory asset or liability be dealt with in GMO's next rate case?**

13 A: We propose that the regulatory asset or liability be amortized to cost of service in the  
14 Company's next rate proceeding, over the same length of period as costs are accumulated  
15 with the unamortized balance included in rate base. The Company would reset the level  
16 of ongoing transmission costs in base rates in the next rate case, similar to how ongoing  
17 pension costs are reset in each case. The regulatory asset or liability would include  
18 accrued carrying costs from the time costs are incurred until they are included in rate  
19 base.

20 **Q: Is this proposed treatment consistent with GMO's other regulatory tracker, the  
21 pension tracker?**

22 A: Yes, with two exceptions; the pension tracker uses a fixed amortization period of five  
23 years rather than matching the future recovery period to the accumulation period between

1 rate cases. The pension tracker also does not accrue carrying costs for amounts in the  
2 regulatory asset that are not yet in rate base. However, as pointed out above, the  
3 proposed accrual of carrying costs for the transmission tracker is consistent with that  
4 currently authorized for DSM costs.

#### 5 RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD

6 **Q: Is the Company requesting a tracker mechanism for the Renewable Energy**  
7 **Standard ("RES")?**

8 A: Yes. As discussed above, on December 30, 2011, the Company filed an application for  
9 an accounting authority order in Case No. EU-2012-0131, requesting authority to defer  
10 costs associated with the implementation of the RES law. At the time of this filing, the  
11 Commission has not issued an Order either approving or rejecting the Company's  
12 request. As part of this filing, the Company is requesting implementation of an  
13 associated tracker mechanism.

14 **Q: What has the Company requested in its AAO filing?**

15 A: The Company requested that the Commission issue an AAO authorizing GMO: (i) to  
16 defer and record in Account 182 of the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA") certain  
17 incremental costs incurred by KCP&L to comply with Missouri's Renewable Energy  
18 Standard, Section 393.1020, et seq., which establishes requirements for electric utilities  
19 to generate or purchase electricity generated from renewable energy resources; (ii) to  
20 include carrying costs on the balances in those regulatory assets and (iii) to defer such  
21 amounts in a separate regulatory asset with their disposition to be determined in the  
22 Company's next general rate case. At the writing of this testimony, the Commission has  
23 not acted on GMO's application.

1 **Q: Has the Company included any RES costs in its revenue requirement in**  
2 **conformance with the AAO filing that it made in December?**

3 A: Yes, the recovery of solar rebates and renewable energy credit costs have been included  
4 in annualized O&M expense (adjustment CS-116 on Schedule JPW-4) and rate base  
5 (Schedule JPW-2), sponsored by Company witness John P. Weisensee.

6 **Q: Is the Company requesting a continuing RES expense tracker in this filing?**

7 A: Yes, due to the unpredictability of costs expected to be incurred under the RES law  
8 prospectively, the Company requests that the Commission authorize an RES expense  
9 tracker authorizing GMO: (i) to defer and record as a regulatory asset in Account 182 or  
10 as a regulatory liability in Account 254 of the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA")  
11 certain incremental costs incurred by GMO above, or below, the base ongoing costs as  
12 determined in the true-up process in this case to comply with Missouri's Renewable  
13 Energy Standard, Section 393.1020, et seq. This standard establishes requirements for  
14 electric utilities to generate or purchase electricity generated from renewable energy  
15 resources; (ii) to include carrying costs based on the Company's short-term debt rate on  
16 the balances in those regulatory assets or liabilities; and (iii) to defer such amounts in a  
17 separate a regulatory asset or liability with their disposition to be determined in the  
18 Company's next general rate case.

19 **Q: Would the regulatory asset include amounts incurred prior to the establishment of**  
20 **this tracker?**

21 A: Yes. Based on GMO's AAO request, the regulatory asset would also include the costs  
22 incurred for 2010 through 2012 less amounts recovered in base rates for those periods as  
23 determined in the true-up process in this case. This amount has been reflected in rate

1 base in the current case. The current filing includes a five year amortization of the  
2 projected regulatory assets, as reflected in adjustment CS-116.

3 **Q: How would the regulatory asset or liability be dealt with in GMO's next rate case?**

4 A: We propose that new amounts added to the regulatory asset or liability after the effective  
5 date of rates in this case, including carrying costs, be amortized to cost of service in the  
6 Company's next rate proceeding over the same length of period as costs are accumulated,  
7 with the unamortized balance included in rate base. The Company would reset the level  
8 of ongoing RES costs in base rates in the next rate case, similar to how ongoing pension  
9 costs are reset each case. The regulatory asset or liability would include accrued carrying  
10 costs from the time costs are incurred until they are included in rate base.

11 **Q: Is this proposed treatment consistent with GMO's proposed transmission and  
12 property tax regulatory trackers requested in this filing?**

13 A: Yes, it is, except that the carrying costs are calculated using the Company's short-term  
14 debt rate as required by the Commission's rules on RES rather than the Company's  
15 AFUDC rate.

#### 16 **PROPERTY TAX TRACKER**

17 **Q: Is the Company proposing a property tax tracker?**

18 A: Yes. The Company requests that a property tax tracking mechanism be authorized in this  
19 case to ensure the appropriate recovery of rising property tax expenses. The Company's  
20 request for a property tax tracker would be treated similarly to the tracking mechanism  
21 for its transmission and RES trackers requested in this filing, allowing for differences in  
22 the rate used to calculate carrying costs, and to other tracker mechanisms approved by the  
23 Commission for other utilities.

1 **Q: Why is a tracker appropriate for GMO's property tax expenses?**

2 A: Property tax expenses have been escalating over past four years as described more fully  
3 by Company witness Harold (Steve) Smith. Property taxes are determined by Missouri  
4 state assessors, are a significant component of the Company's cost of service, and  
5 amounts assessed are out of the control of the Company to manage. Cost of service  
6 components, such as property taxes, that are out of Company management's control to  
7 contain or manage are significant contributors to regulatory lag and impact the  
8 Company's ability to earn returns reasonably close to returns allowed by this  
9 Commission. Property taxes, and similar costs such as RES costs and transmission costs  
10 discussed above, are costs ideally addressed through regulatory mechanisms such as  
11 expense riders and trackers.

12 **Q: How does the Company propose that a property tax tracker be implemented?**

13 A: We propose that annual property tax expenses, as defined in this tracker, be set in this  
14 rate proceeding at the expense level determined in the true-up in this case. The Company  
15 would then track its actual property tax expenses on an annual basis against this amount,  
16 with the jurisdictional portion of any excess treated as a regulatory asset (Account 182)  
17 and the jurisdictional portion of any shortfall treated as a regulatory liability (Account  
18 254), with such regulatory asset or liability included in rate base in the next case.

19 **Q: Is this amount supported by other Company witnesses in this case?**

20 A: Yes, Company witnesses John Weisensee and Harold (Steve) Smith support this amount  
21 in their discussion of adjustment CS-126 (Property Tax Expense).

1 **Q: Is the Company requesting carrying costs on the amounts added to the regulatory**  
2 **asset or regulatory liability for the period before amounts are included in rate base?**

3 A: Yes. Similar to the process authorized by the Commission for DSM program costs in  
4 Case No. ER-2010-0356, the Company is requesting that carrying costs be accrued on  
5 amounts not yet included in rate base. The carrying costs would be calculated monthly  
6 by applying the monthly value of the annual AFUDC rate to the eligible costs.

7 **Q: How would the regulatory asset or liability be dealt with in GMO's next rate case?**

8 A: We propose that the regulatory asset or liability be amortized to cost of service in the  
9 Company's next rate proceeding over the same length of period as costs are accumulated,  
10 with the unamortized balance included in rate base. The Company would reset the level  
11 of ongoing property tax expense in base rates in the next rate case, similar to how  
12 ongoing pension costs are reset each case. The regulatory asset or liability would include  
13 accrued carrying costs from the time costs are incurred until they are included in rate  
14 base.

15 **Q: Does the Company have additional requests of the Commission in this filing?**

16 A: Yes, GMO requests Commission authorization on the following items:

- 17 • GMO requests that the Iatan 2 and Iatan Common O&M tracker continue to be  
18 utilized until at least the Company's next rate case, as proposed by Company  
19 witness John Weisensee in his Direct Testimony.
- 20 • GMO requests that the plant accounting practice referred to as general plant  
21 amortization be approved on a permanent basis, as proposed by Company witness  
22 John Weisensee in his Direct Testimony.

- 1           •     GMO requests that the Commission order that no re-allocation of KCPL's  
2                   advanced coal credit be made to GMO, for the reasons stated by Company  
3                   witness Salvatore P. Montalbano in his Direct Testimony.
- 4           •     GMO requests use of the accounting process known as Construction Accounting  
5                   for its L&P Infrastructure project, as proposed by Company witness John  
6                   Weisensee in his Direct Testimony.
- 7           •     KCP&L requests that the Commission approve the Economic Relief Program  
8                   tariffs as proposed by Company witness Jimmy Alberts.

9    **Q:    Does that conclude your testimony?**

10 **A:    Yes, it does.**



**KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company  
Transmission Expenses**

**MPS**

Account	Account Description	2008	2009	2010	2011	Projected 8/31/2012	Projected 12/31/2012	Projected 12/31/2013	Projected 12/31/2014	Projected 12/31/2015
561400	Trans Op-Schd,Contr & Dis Serv	3,210,350	137,310	1,078,148	1,331,134	1,662,525	1,642,357	1,749,272	2,192,453	2,192,264
561800	Trans Op-Reli Plan&Std Dv-RTO	23,475	127,636	178,015	160,751	208,323	205,031	222,486	294,842	294,811
565XXX	Transm Oper-Elec Tr-By Others	18,766,493	12,677,949	9,567,879	9,387,378	11,700,015	13,839,819	14,238,495	15,218,190	16,655,485
575700	Trans Op-Mkt Mon&Comp Ser-RTO	104,444	931,957	774,240	863,729	1,119,738	1,102,040	1,195,864	1,584,777	1,584,612
928003	Reg Comm Exp-FERC Assessment	239,669	335,565	413,388	403,941	521,027	429,482	434,365	482,660	443,983
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22,344,431</b>	<b>14,210,417</b>	<b>12,011,670</b>	<b>12,146,933</b>	<b>15,211,629</b>	<b>17,218,729</b>	<b>17,840,482</b>	<b>19,772,923</b>	<b>21,171,156</b>

**L&P**

Account	Account Description	2008	2009	2010	2011	Projected 8/31/2012	Projected 12/31/2012	Projected 12/31/2013	Projected 12/31/2014	Projected 12/31/2015
561400	Trans Op-Schd,Contr & Dis Serv	785,029	295,720	359,451	488,013	574,504	567,425	608,689	763,005	762,176
561800	Trans Op-Reli Plan&Std Dv-RTO	3,061	39,351	52,711	59,919	71,623	70,467	77,204	102,399	102,263
565XXX	Transm Oper-Elec Tr-By Others	4,545,173	2,719,644	2,810,184	2,030,474	1,708,388	2,021,521	2,067,572	2,710,102	3,106,088
575700	Trans Op-Mkt Mon&Comp Ser-RTO	-	286,699	255,363	321,951	384,974	378,762	414,973	550,393	549,666
928003	Reg Comm Exp-FERC Assessment	82,859	118,314	142,758	148,932	168,090	153,217	153,123	178,947	155,678
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,416,122</b>	<b>3,459,728</b>	<b>3,620,467</b>	<b>3,049,289</b>	<b>2,907,578</b>	<b>3,191,393</b>	<b>3,321,562</b>	<b>4,304,845</b>	<b>4,675,872</b>