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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing
December 20, 2016
Kansas City, Missouri

Volume IV

In the Matter of:)
)
Kansas City Power & Light)
Company's Request for) File No. ER-2016-0285
Authority to Implement a)
General Rate Increase for)
Electric Service)

RONALD D. PRIDGIN
Presiding Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

WILLIAM P. KENNEY
and
SCOTT T. RUPP
Commissioners

REPORTED BY: CHERIE L. HOUSE, RPR, CCR
Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Court
Reporter of the States of Kansas and Missouri

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1	INDEX	
2	Statement	
3	By Joseph Becker	7
4	By Paul Butler	13
5	By Amrita Burdick	19
6	By Steve Mohler	25
7	By Jay Hardenbrook	27
8	By Evaline Taylor	29
9	Certificate of Reporter	32

10

11 EXHIBITS

12	Hearing	
13	Ex. 1 - Report	13

14

15 Reporter's Note: The exhibit was retained by the
16 judge.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (The hearing on record commenced at
3 10:00 a.m.)

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon. We are on the
5 record. This is a local public hearing for the
6 Missouri Public Service Commission in Case
7 No. ER-2016-0285. This is in the matter of: Kansas
8 City Power & Light's Request For a Rate Increase.
9 This hearing is being held on December 20, 2016, in
10 Kansas City, Missouri. The time is noon.

11 Good afternoon. I am Ron Pridgin. I am
12 one of the judges at the Missouri Public Service
13 Commission. I will be conducting this hearing.
14 With me are two of the five commissioners appointed
15 by the governor. To my left is Commissioner Rupp,
16 and to my left is Commissioner Kenney.

17 The purpose of this hearing is to hear
18 comments from you, the public, about KCP&L's request
19 for the rate increase. You had a question-and-
20 answer session, and when we are done taking
21 testimony, you are certainly free and encouraged to
22 ask more questions of the company, of the staff, or
23 of public counsel if you wish.

24 This is an official hearing of the
25 commission, and your statements and testimony will

1 be recorded by the court reporter and must be given
2 under oath.

3 I will call the names of the witnesses
4 that have signed up to speak, and when I call your
5 name, if you'll please come up to the lectern, I
6 will ask you to raise your right hand to be sworn.
7 I will ask some preliminary questions, such as your
8 name and whether you are a customer of Kansas City
9 Power & Light. I will then ask you to make your
10 statement to the commission. When you are done,
11 please stay at the lectern in case we have any
12 questions from the commissioners. I will ask you to
13 spell your name for the court reporter so she can
14 get it into the record correctly.

15 When I am done with the witness list, I
16 will check to see if anybody else wishes to testify
17 who has not signed up. If you are unable to give an
18 oath, please let me know and I will ask for your
19 testimony to be affirmed instead.

20 Let me get entries of appearance from
21 counsel, please, beginning with Kansas City Power &
22 Light.

23 MR. STEINER: My name is Roger Steiner. I
24 am appearing for Kansas City Power & Light Company.
25 My contact information was provided to the court

1 reporter.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Steiner, thank you.

3 On behalf of the staff commission, please.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Hampton
5 Williams. I will be appearing on behalf of staff.
6 My information has been provided to the court
7 reporter.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Williams, thank you.

9 And on behalf of the Office of Public
10 Counsel, please.

11 MR. OPITZ: Thank you, judge. Tim Opitz
12 appearing for the Office of Public Counsel. My
13 address is P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri
14 65102.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Opitz, thank you.

16 Any other counsel wishing to make an entry
17 of appearance?

18 MS. GIBONEY: For intervener Ameren
19 Missouri, I am Sarah Giboney, and my contact
20 information has been provided to the court reporter
21 as well.

22 THE COURT: Ms. Giboney, thank you.

23 Any other counsel?

24 All right. Let me see if we have any
25 opening remarks from the commission.

1 Mr. Kenney, any remarks?

2 MR. KENNEY: Thank you, judge.

3 Just briefly, I would just like to thank
4 you attending this local public hearing. This is
5 the third of four local public hearings that will
6 conclude tonight in Kansas City. This is just the
7 beginning of the process. We have a lengthy process
8 to go before us.

9 I just want you to know that although
10 there are only two of us, two commissioners here,
11 the other three will have an opportunity to read
12 your comments, those of you who wish to step forward
13 and tell us what's on your mind; so thank you very
14 much for attending.

15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

16 And, Commissioner Rupp, thank you.

17 Let me start with the witness list. The
18 first person who has signed up is Joseph Becker.

19 If you'll come forward and raise your
20 right hand to be sworn, please.

21 JOSEPH BECKER,
22 a witness, being first duly sworn, testified under
23 oath as follows:

24 Q. (BY THE COURT) If you would, please state
25 and spell your name for the court reporter.

1 A. Joseph J. Becker, B-E-C-K-E-R.

2 Q. And are you a KCP&L customer?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. All right. What is your statement for the
5 commission, sir?

6 A. I have a written script I would like to
7 submit if you would like a copy.

8 Q. That's certainly up to you. Will be glad
9 to take it. Thank you.

10 A. Commission's staff, judge, and fellow
11 attendees, North Kansas City Hospital is a
12 not-for-profit hospital organized under Chapter
13 96.150-96.228 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
14 North Kansas City Hospital is a city-owned hospital
15 that operates independent of the City of North
16 Kansas City, Missouri, with respect to any of their
17 revenues and taxes collected for their purposes.

18 North Kansas City Hospital is a 451-bed
19 licensed facility with 550 physicians providing 49
20 medical specialties. North Kansas City Hospital
21 opened our doors in 1958 and has grown to be the
22 largest healthcare provider facility north of the
23 river in Kansas City. We offer an extensive range
24 of inpatient and outpatient services.

25 The following are facts about North Kansas

1 City Hospital and the services that we provide our
2 community:

3 We serve a minimum of 125 zip codes in the
4 northland and surrounding areas, a region that goes
5 far beyond the areas served by Kansas City Power &
6 Light.

7 We provide inpatient services to over
8 21,000 people within our community yearly.

9 We provide outpatient services to over
10 190,000 people within our community yearly.

11 We provide emergency services to over
12 69,000 people who are sick or injured yearly.

13 We have affiliated with the Meritas
14 Healthcare group which gives us over 115 physicians
15 and specialists at 30 locations in the northland
16 area to serve our customer base. All of these
17 locations are within Kansas City Power & Light's
18 service area as shown on reference Attachment A.

19 We give back to the community over \$31
20 million last year while participating in numerous
21 community initiatives and programs. You can
22 reference that in Attachments B and C.

23 We pay annually over \$287 million in
24 salaries for employees. These wages in turn
25 purchase electrical services from Kansas City

1 Power & Light, and these wages support other
2 businesses within the Kansas City Power & Light
3 service area.

4 North Kansas City Hospital tries to strive
5 to operate with a 2.5 percent profit margin. This
6 margin allows our leadership to allocate these
7 excess resources to manage compensation packages for
8 employees and to assure adequate capital investment
9 to put back into our business models and our
10 programs. North Kansas City Hospital is currently
11 operating on a 1.85 percent profit margin, which is
12 26 percent below our goal. A lot of this shortage
13 is due to the challenges we are experiencing under
14 the Affordable Care Act.

15 North Kansas City Hospital is no different
16 than the residents expressing their concerns on
17 these increases against their limited income. Our
18 income is also limited.

19 North Kansas City Hospital is a lot like
20 Kansas City Power & Light. We are imbedded within
21 our community. Restaurants as well as hair salons,
22 bars, supply houses and manufacturing businesses in
23 North Kansas City can move if the utility costs get
24 too high. North Kansas City Hospital cannot move to
25 other electrical service providers because we are

1 anchored to providing healthcare needs to our
2 community.

3 Since 2006, Kansas City Power & Light has
4 been granted regular rate increases equivalent to
5 approximately 77 percent. The requested rate
6 increase for this case is advertised at
7 approximately 10.9 percent. While a national
8 average -- industrial average has gone up
9 approximately 21 percent since that same period of
10 time, Kansas City Power & Light's industrial rate
11 has gone up over three times faster. In 2006 Kansas
12 City Power & Light's industrial rate was 26 percent
13 below the national industrial average rate, and now
14 Kansas City Power & Light industrial rate exceeds
15 the national average.

16 I would like to make these observations if
17 I could:

18 A rate increase of just 10.9 percent will
19 require North Kansas City Hospital to add over
20 \$414,000 to our already significant \$3.6 million in
21 electrical expenses.

22 North Kansas City Hospital would have to
23 find an additional \$22.3 million in new revenue to
24 offset this additional expense to our already
25 competitive healthcare market.

1 North Kansas City Hospital is given
2 neither a guarantee on a return on investment for
3 stockholders. We exist for the benefit of the
4 community -- we have no stockholders -- nor a
5 guarantee for reimbursement of infrastructure
6 improvements, nor a guarantee for operating expenses
7 to the degree given the pleasure to Kansas City
8 Power & Light.

9 North Kansas City Hospital challenges the
10 commission and staff to perform due diligence in
11 assuring that Kansas City Power & Light spends their
12 revenue wisely from their customers in a manner that
13 reflects prudent and conservative operations. This
14 process will assure that residents and North Kansas
15 City Hospital can continue our existence on the
16 limited incomes that we have in order to keep our
17 communities strong and productive.

18 Finally, we would like to know that if
19 North Kansas City Hospital could move, it would take
20 the equivalent of 2,900 new average consuming
21 residences to replace our electrical consumption
22 loads at a significant infrastructure cost to Kansas
23 City Power & Light. We are a steady and faithful
24 paying customer of Kansas City Power & Light, and we
25 deserve a fair review of their request and a fair

1 allocation of any increases by your team to
2 large-buying consumers such as North Kansas City
3 Hospital.

4 Thank you.

5 Respectfully submitted. Joseph J. Becker.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Becker, thank you. Let me
7 see if we have any questions from commissioners.

8 Mr. Kenney?

9 MR. KENNEY: Thank you, Mr. Becker, for a
10 detailed report.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. I do have copies
12 of this. Let me label this as Exhibit No. 1 for
13 today's hearing, and I have copies for counsel if
14 you would like.

15 Mr. Becker, thank you for your time.

16 THE WITNESS: I just appreciate your time.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 The next witness is Paul Butler.

19 Mr. Butler, if you'll raise your right hand.

20 THE WITNESS: I would like to request an
21 affirmation.

22 THE COURT: Affirmation, yes, sir.

23 PAUL BUTLER,

24 a witness, being first affirmed, testified as
25 follows:

1 Q. (BY THE COURT) Can you please state and
2 spell your name for the record?

3 A. My name is Paul Butler. That's P-A-U-L,
4 B-U-T-L-E-R.

5 Q. All right. And are you a customer of
6 Kansas City Power & Light?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right. What is your statement, sir?

9 A. I have two. One goes along what was
10 presented just previously. Because of the way in
11 the United States, wages have tended to go down over
12 the last 40 or so years in terms of buying power and
13 so forth.

14 THE REPORTER: Excuse me, I need you to
15 speak a little bit clearer, please.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay. Let's see if I can
17 get closer here. Is that better?

18 THE REPORTER: Yes.

19 A. Because over the last 40 years or so or
20 more, wages in the United States have tended to go
21 down in terms of after buying power for people. A
22 large number of people are getting to the place
23 where they are basically just barely balanced as far
24 as being able to meet their necessary expenses for
25 food and clothing and utilities and so forth, and

1 the 10 percent increase when -- it may not be making
2 any increase in their ages each year.

3 I'm on social security, and this year I've
4 got a 0.3 percent of an increase. Last year there
5 was no increase. And so these kinds of things --
6 you know, like I said, there should be
7 responsibility for a company to live within its
8 means in the same way that, you know, individuals
9 have to live within their means. So that the rates
10 should be set up in such a way as not to place a
11 terrible burden on people that would cause a lot of
12 them maybe to not even be able to afford electricity
13 anymore, and somehow the company needs to be able to
14 work that out.

15 The second thing to me is more long term
16 and probably more long term than KCP&L wants to
17 consider, but at the same time, I think in the
18 public interest for our children or grandchildren
19 and great-grandchildren, we don't want to have a
20 situation where we have consumed all of the coal,
21 oil, and gas and then find ourselves not being able
22 to produce the fertilizer to feed ourselves, not
23 being able to produce the plastics and things made
24 out of it, not being able to produce the lubricants
25 to keep all of the machinery running and so forth.

1 This kind of thing needs to be considered
2 when we are talking about how we are going to have
3 energy mixed as far as producing electricity because
4 right now large amounts of all of these things are
5 being burned up basically just to produce
6 electricity. When you have free electricity coming
7 from the sun, free energy coming from the sun, it
8 could easily be converted to electricity, the solar
9 energy, which the technology that is developed
10 adequately now could be usable.

11 And as far as even replacing the base
12 structure of -- the base load of the companies, all
13 you need to do is start out with a solar energy
14 field that powers a plant to generate pure water.
15 It could be -- if you want to keep your fresh water
16 system, not only that, but you could just use sea
17 water to be able to make pure water. Then you pass
18 that to a plant to generate hydrogen and oxygen by
19 breaking down the water, and then you pipe the
20 hydrogen and oxygen to hydrogen-burning electric
21 generator to produce electricity.

22 That could provide the base load, and
23 then, you know, of course, it would take many of
24 these plants. Just like now, it takes many plants
25 that you have on the other things.

1 But then the other thing would be to
2 encourage people, residents and businesses, to put
3 the solar energy on their properties because this
4 has several advantages. First, you won't have the
5 whitewashes you have, make a big plant out here and
6 have long distance to the places where electricity
7 is used.

8 Secondly, if you put solar energy panels
9 on structures, they absorb some of the energy; and
10 therefore, the energy for cooling the building, for
11 example, becomes less; so you use less electricity.
12 So there's advantages in doing this.

13 Now, they did have, as mentioned before,
14 this \$2 a watt subsidy to people, and I actually was
15 thinking about doing it because the cost of the
16 solar panels and things were coming down to the
17 point where I figured in about ten years I could
18 break even on it, on investment. And then about
19 that time when it got down to that point, then they
20 discontinued it and slowly cut it back to the point
21 where, you know, it wasn't feasible anymore.

22 So that would be another thing that would
23 be good if there was some way to reestablish that
24 type of incentive for people so that you could get
25 that part of the system developed.

1 I guess what my viewpoint otherwise is it
2 needs to be more than just what is going to be the
3 most economical thing right at this particular time.
4 We need to consider the future also because once you
5 use up this stuff, the cost is going to go way up
6 beyond what most people's ability to afford to even
7 have electricity.

8 So considering all of this and doing it in
9 a way that actually avoids all of the pollution,
10 because the hydrogen, when you burn it, just as
11 water that can be recycled back to the plant to make
12 more hydrogen and so forth, and once you build up
13 the hydrogen system, you can also use that to power
14 motor vehicles that -- you know, we can get rid of
15 the use of gasoline and pollution from all of those
16 thing. You could have a complete pollution-free
17 system that, you know, would be very desirable
18 compared to what you have now. Yes, whatever can be
19 done by you guys to promote that.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Butler, thank you. Let me
21 see if we have any questions from our commissioners.

22 No questions.

23 All right. Thank you.

24 The next witness -- I hope I pronounce
25 this name correctly -- Amrita Burdick. Was I close?

1 THE WITNESS: Close.

2 THE COURT: I apologize for mispronouncing
3 it.

4 If you'll raise your right hand and be
5 sworn, please.

6 AMRITA BURDICK,
7 a witness, being first duly sworn, testified under
8 oath as follows:

9 Q. (BY THE COURT) If you would, please state
10 and spell your name for the court reporter.

11 A. It's -- I don't know if you can hear me.
12 It's Amrita, A-M-R-I-T-A, last name Burdick,
13 B-U-R-D-I-C-K.

14 Q. And are you a customer of Kansas City
15 Power & Light?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. Do you have a statement for
18 the commission?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 I, too, am a retired woman on a fixed
21 income, and I too a week ago got a letter from
22 social security telling me I had this grand raise of
23 0.3 percent of -- for cost-of-living adjustment,
24 which last year we had none. And I compare this on
25 the other hand, KCP&L has increased rates seven

1 times in the last -- or requested increased rates
2 seven times in the last ten years according to the
3 Kansas City Star; and these rates, to my best of my
4 knowledge, have been in the range of 10 to 15
5 percent that they have been requesting.

6 Older folks, of course, are not the only
7 people on limited incomes. Young folks trying to
8 raise a family that are out on the streets asking
9 for \$15 an hour are also having trouble making ends
10 meet. People are not keeping up with increased
11 rates; and, quite frankly, it's getting to a stage
12 where people are going to have to take more serious
13 measures, such as dropping electrical services and
14 living without electricity if we can, going off the
15 grid individually, creating community electrical
16 service alternatives which go around the company, or
17 moving to another place where there are more
18 reasonable rates. It's getting just about that bad.
19 It's not quite there, but it's getting there.

20 Of course, it's not simply the series of
21 high rate increases. It's how these increases are
22 being used. We recently saw Arctic temperatures 36
23 degrees above normal in November. We had a series
24 of 16 months ending in August and September was real
25 close -- 16 months of record global temperatures.

1 This summer we saw the highest recorded verifiable
2 global temperatures ever at about 129 degrees which
3 is definitely a temperature which people would like
4 to stay inside rather than be outside. That was in
5 the Middle East.

6 And in the midst of this climate process,
7 KCP&L is still focusing on fossil fuel sources. The
8 2016 estimates for percentages of fuel used for
9 electrical generation is listed -- well, in the 2015
10 annual report, it's their -- what they were
11 estimating ahead. They show KCP&L energy use of
12 coal as 81 percent -- that's pretty high -- 2
13 percent natural gas, 15 percent nuclear, and only 2
14 percent wind energy. And I looked after the
15 gentleman mentioned that they had perhaps access to
16 wind energy, and in their list, at least in the
17 table of wind energy, it shows a 15 and 31 megawatt
18 capacity, which is a very small portion of their
19 megawatt capacity.

20 And according to their report -- I hope
21 this is true that they are -- but they have more
22 capacity and are actually obeying the law, but
23 Missouri actually has mandated that at least that 5
24 percent of the energy comes from renewable resources
25 and 2 percent of energy would not even meet that.

1 We definitely need to move to renewable resources,
2 and 5 percent is really not enough.

3 Okay. Note that -- okay. Renewable
4 resources are better business choices. Solar and
5 wind energy production is cheaper, and although
6 nuclear power looks like it might be cheaper on the
7 balance sheet, but that doesn't figure in, I don't
8 believe, the decommissioning cost, the risk
9 insurance, and the maintenance on a very old nuclear
10 power facility that was built in 1985, besides which
11 nuclear energy is really an unfeasible economic and
12 environmental solution. We do not need another
13 Three Mile Island or Chernoby or anything like that
14 in the Midwest. We definitely need to make sure
15 what is happening is safe and is decommissioned
16 safely.

17 Renewable resources are better business
18 choices. Solar and wind energy production is
19 cheaper as I said earlier. According to the 2014
20 report -- I didn't recalculate it according to the
21 latest report -- coal costs about \$2.50 per net
22 kilowatt hour compared to \$7.75 for natural gas and
23 oil, and with wind running about a 1.10 per net
24 kilowatt hour; so wind is cheaper than coal by about
25 half. Sun and wind don't pollute the air and water,

1 and there are no costs subject to commodity prices;
2 so fuel adjustment factor would never be needed for
3 those.

4 A report by a venture capital firm, DBL
5 Investors, in early 2015 showed that states that use
6 the most green energy sources have the cheapest
7 electricity, and that's the latest report I could
8 find. But the states using dirty, carbon, or
9 nuclear fuels have the most expensive electricity.
10 In that particular report, Missouri was listed among
11 the ten so-called laggard states at the bottom of
12 the barrel.

13 The thrust of the KCP&L rate increase is,
14 quote -- well, is essentially to conform with
15 environmental requirements and upgrade, but let's
16 tell it like it really is. The company is using
17 dirty fuels and older plants. Most of them built
18 from 1960 to 1980, although a newer coal plant was
19 built in 2010. The nuclear plant was completed in
20 1985 and is over 30 years old.

21 In the face of aging infrastructure,
22 rather than moving to cleaner sources that would not
23 pollute, KCP&L wants to put a bandage on the old
24 plants. This attachment to older superseded
25 technology is akin to a company wanting to repair

1 the typewriters just one more time because the
2 computers will never really work, or to keep the
3 horses and carriages because the automobile thing
4 will never fly.

5 In light of the serious impact of rate
6 increases on consumers, in light of the better
7 business practices available, and in light of the
8 environmental difficulties, I ask the Public Service
9 Commission to fulfill their name and ensure that
10 this utility company actually serves the people.
11 The commission must stand firm against rate
12 increases that only put a bandage on aging plants
13 and that continue to use the most expensive, the
14 most risky, and the dirtiest fuels.

15 In closing, I ask the Public Service
16 Commission only to allow rate increases in any
17 future request by -- or this request for KCP&L if
18 they are tied to a developing clean energy
19 infrastructure.

20 It's time to move forward not to look
21 backward. Clean energy is the way to serve people,
22 it is a way to serve the planet, and it is the
23 better way to do business. Clean energy is the
24 future.

25 Any questions?

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 Commissioner Kenney?

3 Commissioner Rupp?

4 Thank you for your time and your
5 testimony.

6 All right. That is the last person that I
7 have signed up to testify. Is there anyone else who
8 wishes to make any comments to the commission?

9 Yes, sir. If you'll come forward and
10 raise your right hand to be sworn, please.

11 STEVE MOHLER,
12 a witness, being first duly sworn, testified under
13 oath as follows:

14 Q. (BY THE COURT) Please, state and spell
15 your name for the court reporter.

16 A. My name is Steve Mohler, M-O-H-L-E-R.

17 Q. And are you a KCP&L customer?

18 A. Yes, I am.

19 Q. All right. Any comment for the
20 commission?

21 A. Yeah, I have comments on two separate
22 issues. The first is the return on equity that the
23 staff is recommending as appropriate if the rate
24 increase is given and permitted. The 8.65 percent
25 of return on equity to me does not seem consistent

1 with our current economy nor with the Public Service
2 Company; so I would be opposed to using that as the
3 standard for return on equity.

4 The second issue has to do with the
5 current billing practices of KCP&L. I have solar
6 collectors on my roof, and there are several months
7 a year where I collect more energy than I can use.
8 I am currently required to sell that back to the
9 utility company at a wholesale rate on a monthly
10 basis for whenever my generation of power exceeds my
11 use. It would seem to me in the interest of
12 promoting distributed election and generation of
13 power that that should be zeroed-out on an annual
14 basis so that I am not forced to sell my generation
15 of power back at a much lower rate than in the
16 months that I have to pay for additional power --
17 charges that are made for that. So I would speak to
18 the accumulation of power generation throughout the
19 year to be zeroed-out on an annual basis.

20 Those are the two comments I wanted to
21 make. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Kenney?

24 Commissioner Rupp?

25 All right. Thank you, sir. I appreciate

1 your time and testimony.

2 Anyone else wishing to testify?

3 Come forward, raise your right hand, and
4 be sworn, please.

5 JAY HARDENBROOK,
6 a witness, being first duly sworn, testified under
7 oath as follows:

8 **Q. (BY THE COURT) Please state and spell**
9 **your name for the court reporter.**

10 A. My name is Jay Hardenbrook,
11 H-A-R-D-E-N-B-R-O-O-K.

12 **Q. And are you a customer of Kansas City**
13 **Power & Light?**

14 A. I am.

15 **Q. All right. Any statement for the**
16 **commissioner, sir?**

17 A. Sure. So I will start by saying I am the
18 advocacy director for AARP here in the state of
19 Missouri. Certainly, we have been hearing from a
20 lot of our members about the rate hikes that
21 continue to seem to sort of come from the KCP&L
22 service area.

23 Certainly, you all have heard from our
24 members in the past. This is not the first case
25 where certainly their view have -- you would have

1 been in front of.

2 So I will start by saying that we do see a
3 concern that the amount of power actually being used
4 throughout the entire state of Missouri continues to
5 go down as people start using more efficient
6 appliances, more efficient light bulbs; and
7 certainly we believe we are getting into a phase of
8 electric generation in the state of Missouri where
9 you should start seriously considering lowering the
10 rates on consumers rather than continuing to
11 increase them as the demand for power sort of
12 continues to go down.

13 We would also ask that you consider
14 residential customers. Certainly that is our
15 membership, people who we feel are most affected by
16 these rate hikes, especially people, as you're heard
17 today, who are living on fixed incomes or on low
18 incomes. Our membership actually starts at age 50;
19 so many of our members are not yet on social
20 security or retired yet; but they are feeling the
21 strains of the economy right now in the United
22 States and here in Missouri.

23 I would also say it's difficult, as I'm
24 sure you know, coming from other parts of the state
25 as well, to get out to December meetings like this;

1 and that is one of the things that we've heard back
2 from a lot of our members that we've asked them to
3 communicate to the Public Service Commission their
4 stories and how the rate hikes are affecting them.
5 So I would ask -- we certainly will be encouraging
6 our members to call in to the Public Service
7 Commission and also to make comments on the website.
8 We would respectfully request that as those comments
9 continue to come in, given the poor weather for
10 these hearings and also that it's so close to the
11 holidays, that you would take those in as part of
12 the record for this rate case as well.

13 Thank you so much.

14 THE COURT: Thank you for your time and
15 your remarks.

16 Anyone else wishing to testify?

17 EVALINE TAYLOR,
18 a witness, being first duly sworn, testified under
19 oath as follows:

20 **Q. (BY THE COURT) If you would, please state**
21 **and spell your name for the court reporter.**

22 A. Okay. My name is Evaline Taylor, and I'm
23 here on behalf of the Human Dignity and Economic
24 Justice Coalition.

25 **Q. Can you spell your name for the court**

1 **reporter?**

2 A. E-V-A-L-I-N-E, Taylor, T-A-Y-L-O-R.

3 **Q. Right. Thank you. I'm sorry. You may**
4 **continue.**

5 A. And we just have a brief statement.
6 Senior citizens are on fixed income. They are on a
7 budget. They receive social security, which there
8 may be a change in that with the new administration
9 coming in in January. People who make minimum wages
10 working sometimes two or three jobs would not be
11 able to keep up with the increase. Lots more people
12 may move to solar energy to reduce their costs, and
13 maybe KCP&L does not need to continue as a monopoly.
14 There is a big concern about customers in the urban
15 core, and we would like for them to take that into
16 consideration.

17 Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 Any questions?

20 All right. Thank you.

21 Anyone else?

22 Anything from counsel before we close?

23 Any closing remarks, Commissioner Kenney?

24 Commissioner Rupp?

25 All right. I just thank everyone for

1 coming out to this hearing and thank you for your
2 time and your testimony. This concludes this
3 afternoon's local public hearing in Case
4 No. ER-2016-0285.

5 Thank you very much.

6 We are off the record.

7 (The hearing concluded at 12:33 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Cherie L. House, a Certified Court Reporter within and for the States of Kansas and Missouri and a Registered Professional Reporter, hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings as herein set forth was first taken before me and thereafter transcribed into computer-aided transcription under my direction and control, and is a true and correct record of the proceedings reported.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorneys or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorneys or counsel, or financially interested in the proceedings.

Cherie L. House

Cherie L. House, RPR, CCR (KS, MO)
Registered Professional Reporter #18811
Certified Court Reporter #275 (MO)

Date: December 21, 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>A-M-R-I-T-A 19:12 a.m 4:3 AARP 27:18 ability 18:6 able 14:24 15:12 15:13,21,23,24 16:17 30:11 absorb 17:9 access 21:15 accumulation 26:18 Act 10:14 add 11:19 additional 11:23 11:24 26:16 address 6:13 adequate 10:8 adequately 16:10 adjustment 19:23 23:2 administration 30:8 advantages 17:4 17:12 advertised 11:6 advocacy 27:18 affiliated 9:13 affirmation 13:21,22 affirmed 5:19 13:24 afford 15:12 18:6 Affordable 10:14 afternoon 4:4,11 afternoon's 31:3 age 28:18 ages 15:2 aging 23:21 24:12 ago 19:21 ahead 21:11 air 22:25 akin 23:25 allocate 10:6</p>	<p>allocation 13:1 allow 24:16 allows 10:6 alternatives 20:16 Ameren 2:14 6:18 amount 28:3 amounts 16:4 Amrita 3:5 18:25 19:6,12 anchored 11:1 annual 21:10 26:13,19 annually 9:23 answer 4:20 anybody 5:16 anymore 15:13 17:21 apologize 19:2 appearance 5:20 6:17 APPEARANC... 2:1 appearing 5:24 6:5,12 appliances 28:6 appointed 4:14 appreciate 13:16 26:25 appropriate 25:23 approximately 11:5,7,9 Arctic 20:22 area 9:16,18 10:3 27:22 areas 9:4,5 asked 29:2 asking 20:8 Assistant 2:8 assure 10:8 12:14 assuring 12:11 attachment 9:18 23:24 Attachments</p>	<p>9:22 attendees 8:11 attending 7:4,14 attorney 32:12 attorneys 32:13 32:15 August 20:24 Authority 1:13 automobile 24:3 available 24:7 average 11:8,8 11:13,15 12:20 avoids 18:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>B 9:22 B-E-C-K-E-R 8:1 B-U-R-D-I-C-K 19:13 B-U-T-L-E-R 14:4 back 9:19 10:9 17:20 18:11 26:8,15 29:1 backward 24:21 bad 20:18 balance 22:7 balanced 14:23 bandage 23:23 24:12 barely 14:23 barrel 23:12 bars 10:22 base 9:16 16:11 16:12,22 basically 14:23 16:5 basis 26:10,14,19 Becker 3:3 7:18 7:21 8:1 13:5,6 13:9,15 beginning 5:21 7:7 behalf 6:3,5,9 29:23</p>	<p>believe 22:8 28:7 benefit 12:3 best 20:3 better 14:17 22:4 22:17 24:6,23 beyond 9:5 18:6 big 17:5 30:14 billing 26:5 bit 14:15 bottom 23:11 Box 2:11,17,22 6:13 break 17:18 breaking 16:19 brief 30:5 briefly 7:3 budget 30:7 build 18:12 building 2:10 17:10 built 22:10 23:17 23:19 bulbs 28:6 burden 15:11 Burdick 3:5 18:25 19:6,12 burn 18:10 burned 16:5 business 10:9 22:4,17 24:7,23 businesses 10:2 10:22 17:2 Butler 3:4 13:18 13:19,23 14:3 18:20 buying 14:12,21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C 4:1 9:22 call 5:3,4 29:6 capacity 21:18 21:19,22 capital 10:8 23:4 carbon 23:8 Care 10:14 carriages 24:3</p>	<p>case 4:6 5:11 11:6 27:24 29:12 31:3 cause 15:11 CCR 1:24 32:20 Centre 2:16 certainly 4:21 8:8 27:19,23,25 28:7,14 29:5 Certificate 3:9 32:1 Certified 1:24 32:2,22 certify 32:5,11 challenges 10:13 12:9 change 30:8 Chapter 8:12 charges 26:17 cheaper 22:5,6 22:19,24 cheapest 23:6 check 5:16 Cherie 1:24 32:2 32:20 Chernoby 22:13 Chief 1:16 children 15:18 choices 22:4,18 citizens 30:6 City 1:7,12 2:2,4 2:11,16,23 4:8 4:10 5:8,21,24 6:13 7:6 8:11 8:14,15,16,18 8:20,23 9:1,5 9:17,25 10:2,4 10:10,15,19,20 10:23,24 11:3 11:10,12,14,19 11:22 12:1,7,9 12:11,15,19,23 12:24 13:2 14:6 19:14 20:3 27:12 city-owned 8:14</p>
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<p>clean 24:18,21,23 cleaner 23:22 clearer 14:15 climate 21:6 close 18:25 19:1 20:25 29:10 30:22 closer 14:17 closing 24:15 30:23 clothing 14:25 coal 15:20 21:12 22:21,24 23:18 Coalition 29:24 codes 9:3 collect 26:7 collected 8:17 collectors 26:6 Columbia 2:17 come 5:5 7:19 25:9 27:3,21 29:9 comes 21:24 coming 16:6,7 17:16 28:24 30:9 31:1 commenced 4:2 comment 25:19 comments 4:18 7:12 25:8,21 26:20 29:7,8 commission 2:7 2:10 4:6,13,25 5:10 6:3,25 8:5 12:10 19:18 24:9,11,16 25:8 25:20 29:3,7 Commission's 8:10 commissioner 1:2 4:15,16 7:16 25:2,3 26:23,24 27:16 30:23,24 commissioners 1:19 4:14 5:12</p>	<p>7:10 13:7 18:21 commodity 23:1 communicate 29:3 communities 12:17 community 9:2,8 9:10,19,21 10:21 11:2 12:4 20:15 companies 16:12 company 4:22 5:24 15:7,13 20:16 23:16,25 24:10 26:2,9 Company's 1:12 compare 19:24 compared 18:18 22:22 compensation 10:7 competitive 11:25 complete 18:16 completed 23:19 computer-aided 32:7 computers 24:2 concern 28:3 30:14 concerns 10:16 conclude 7:6 concluded 31:7 concludes 31:2 conducting 4:13 conform 23:14 conservative 12:13 consider 15:17 18:4 28:13 consideration 30:16 considered 16:1 considering 18:8 28:9 consistent 25:25</p>	<p>consumed 15:20 consumers 13:2 24:6 28:10 consuming 12:20 consumption 12:21 contact 5:25 6:19 continue 12:15 24:13 27:21 29:9 30:4,13 continues 28:4 28:12 continuing 28:10 control 32:8 converted 16:8 cooling 17:10 copies 13:11,13 copy 8:7 core 30:15 Corporate 2:3 correct 32:9 correctly 5:14 18:25 cost 12:22 17:15 18:5 22:8 cost-of-living 19:23 costs 10:23 22:21 23:1 30:12 counsel 2:3,8,20 2:21,22 4:23 5:21 6:10,12,16 6:23 13:13 30:22 32:12,14 32:15 course 16:23 20:6,20 court 1:24 4:4 5:1,13,25 6:2,6 6:8,15,20,22 7:15,24,25 13:6 13:11,17,22 14:1 18:20 19:2 19:9,10 25:1,14 25:15 26:22 27:8,9 29:14,20</p>	<p>29:21,25 30:18 32:2,22 creating 20:15 current 26:1,5 currently 10:10 26:8 customer 5:8 8:2 9:16 12:24 14:5 19:14 25:17 27:12 customers 12:12 28:14 30:14 cut 17:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>D 1:16 4:1 Date 32:25 DBL 23:4 December 1:6 4:9 28:25 32:25 decommissioned 22:15 decommissioni... 22:8 definitely 21:3 22:1,14 degree 12:7 degrees 20:23 21:2 demand 28:11 Department 2:9 Deputy 1:16 deserve 12:25 desirable 18:17 detailed 13:10 developed 16:9 17:25 developing 24:18 Development 2:9 different 10:15 difficult 28:23 difficulties 24:8 Dignity 29:23 diligence 12:10 direction 32:8 director 27:18</p>	<p>dirtiest 24:14 dirty 23:8,17 discontinued 17:20 distance 17:6 distributed 26:12 doing 17:12,15 18:8 doors 8:21 dropping 20:13 due 10:13 12:10 duly 7:22 19:7 25:12 27:6 29:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>E 2:15 4:1,1 E-V-A-L-I-N-E 30:2 earlier 22:19 early 23:5 easily 16:8 East 21:5 economic 2:9 22:11 29:23 economical 18:3 economy 26:1 28:21 efficient 28:5,6 election 26:12 electric 1:14 16:20 28:8 electrical 9:25 10:25 11:21 12:21 20:13,15 21:9 electricity 15:12 16:3,6,6,8,21 17:6,11 18:7 20:14 23:7,9 emergency 9:11 employee 32:12 32:13,15 employees 9:24 10:8 encourage 17:2</p>
---	---	---	--	---

<p>encouraged 4:21 encouraging 29:5 ends 20:9 energy 16:3,7,9 16:13 17:3,8,9 17:10 21:11,14 21:16,17,24,25 22:5,11,18 23:6 24:18,21,23 26:7 30:12 ensure 24:9 entire 28:4 entries 5:20 entry 6:16 environmental 22:12 23:15 24:8 equity 25:22,25 26:3 equivalent 11:4 12:20 ER-2016-0285 1:12 4:7 31:4 especially 28:16 essentially 23:14 estimates 21:8 estimating 21:11 Evaline 3:8 29:17,22 Ex 3:13 example 17:11 exceeds 11:14 26:10 excess 10:7 Excuse 14:14 exhibit 3:15 13:12 EXHIBITS 3:11 exist 12:3 existence 12:15 expense 11:24 expenses 11:21 12:6 14:24 expensive 23:9 24:13</p>	<p>experiencing 10:13 expressing 10:16 extensive 8:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>face 23:21 facility 8:19,22 22:10 factor 23:2 facts 8:25 fair 12:25,25 faithful 12:23 family 20:8 far 9:5 14:23 16:3,11 faster 11:11 feasible 17:21 feed 15:22 feel 28:15 feeling 28:20 fellow 8:10 fertilizer 15:22 field 16:14 figure 22:7 figured 17:17 File 1:12 Finally 12:18 financially 32:16 find 11:23 15:21 23:8 firm 23:4 24:11 first 7:18,22 13:24 17:4 19:7 25:12,22 27:6 27:24 29:18 32:6 five 4:14 fixed 19:20 28:17 30:6 fly 24:4 focusing 21:7 folks 20:6,7 following 8:25 follows 7:23 13:25 19:8</p>	<p>25:13 27:7 29:19 food 14:25 forced 26:14 foregoing 32:5 forth 14:13,25 15:25 18:12 32:6 forward 7:12,19 24:20 25:9 27:3 fossil 21:7 four 7:5 frankly 20:11 free 4:21 16:6,7 fresh 16:15 front 28:1 fuel 21:7,8 23:2 fuels 23:9,17 24:14 fulfill 24:9 further 32:11 future 18:4 24:17 24:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>G 4:1 gas 15:21 21:13 22:22 gasoline 18:15 General 1:13 generate 16:14 16:18 generation 21:9 26:10,12,14,18 28:8 generator 16:21 gentleman 21:15 getting 14:22 20:11,18,19 28:7 Giboney 2:15 6:18,19,22 give 5:17 9:19 given 5:1 12:1,7 25:24 29:9 gives 9:14</p>	<p>glad 8:8 global 20:25 21:2 go 7:8 14:11,20 18:5 20:16 28:5 28:12 goal 10:12 goes 9:4 14:9 going 16:2 18:2,5 20:12,14 good 4:4,11 17:23 governor 2:10 4:15 grand 19:22 grandchildren 15:18 granted 11:4 great-grandchi... 15:19 green 23:6 grid 20:15 group 9:14 grown 8:21 guarantee 12:2,5 12:6 guess 18:1 guys 18:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>H-A-R-D-E-N-... 27:11 hair 10:21 half 22:25 Hampton 2:8 6:4 hampton.willia... 2:12 hand 5:6 7:20 13:19 19:4,25 25:10 27:3 happening 22:15 Hardenbrook 3:7 27:5,10 healthcare 8:22 9:14 11:1,25 hear 4:17 19:11 heard 27:23</p>	<p>28:16 29:1 hearing 1:5 3:12 4:2,5,9,13,17 4:24 7:4 13:13 27:19 31:1,3,7 hearings 7:5 29:10 held 4:9 high 10:24 20:21 21:12 highest 21:1 hikes 27:20 28:16 29:4 holidays 29:11 hope 18:24 21:20 horses 24:3 hospital 8:11,12 8:14,14,18,20 9:1 10:4,10,15 10:19,24 11:19 11:22 12:1,9,15 12:19 13:3 hour 20:9 22:22 22:24 House 1:24 32:2 32:20 houses 10:22 Human 29:23 hydrogen 16:18 16:20 18:10,12 18:13 hydrogen-bur... 16:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>imbedded 10:20 impact 24:5 Implement 1:13 improvements 12:6 incentive 17:24 income 10:17,18 19:21 30:6 incomes 12:16 20:7 28:17,18 increase 1:13 4:8</p>
--	--	---	---	--

<p>4:19 11:6,18 15:1,2,4,5 23:13 25:24 28:11 30:11 increased 19:25 20:1,10 increases 10:17 11:4 13:1 20:21 20:21 24:6,12 24:16 independent 8:15 INDEX 3:1 individually 20:15 individuals 15:8 industrial 11:8 11:10,12,13,14 information 5:25 6:6,20 infrastructure 12:5,22 23:21 24:19 initiatives 9:21 injured 9:12 inpatient 8:24 9:7 inside 21:4 insurance 22:9 interest 15:18 26:11 interested 32:16 intervener 6:18 investment 10:8 12:2 17:18 Investors 23:5 Island 22:13 issue 26:4 issues 25:22 IV 1:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>J 8:1 13:5 January 30:9 Jay 3:7 27:5,10 Jefferson 2:11,23</p>	<p>6:13 jobs 30:10 Joseph 3:3 7:18 7:21 8:1 13:5 judge 1:16 3:16 6:11 7:2 8:10 judges 4:12 Justice 29:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>Kansas 1:7,12,25 2:2,4 4:7,10 5:8 5:21,24 7:6 8:11,14,16,18 8:20,23,25 9:5 9:17,25 10:2,4 10:10,15,19,20 10:23,24 11:3 11:10,11,14,19 11:22 12:1,7,9 12:11,14,19,22 12:24 13:2 14:6 19:14 20:3 27:12 32:3 KCP&L 8:2 15:16 19:25 21:7,11 23:13 23:23 24:17 25:17 26:5 27:21 30:13 KCP&L's 4:18 keep 12:16 15:25 16:15 24:2 30:11 keeping 20:10 Kenney 1:17 4:16 7:1,2 13:8 13:9 25:2 26:23 30:23 kilowatt 22:22 22:24 kind 16:1 kinds 15:5 know 5:18 7:9 12:18 15:6,8 16:23 17:21</p>	<p>18:14,17 19:11 28:24 knowledge 20:4 KS 32:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>L 1:24 32:2,20 label 13:12 laggard 23:11 large 14:22 16:4 large-buying 13:2 largest 8:22 latest 22:21 23:7 law 1:16 21:22 leadership 10:6 lectern 5:5,11 left 4:15,16 lengthy 7:7 let's 14:16 23:15 letter 19:21 LEWIS 2:15 licensed 8:19 light 1:12 2:2 5:9 5:22,24 9:6 10:1,2,20 11:3 11:14 12:8,11 12:23,24 14:6 19:15 24:5,6,7 27:13 28:6 Light's 4:8 9:17 11:10,12 limited 10:17,18 12:16 20:7 list 5:15 7:17 21:16 listed 21:9 23:10 little 14:15 live 15:7,9 living 20:14 28:17 LLP 2:15 load 16:12,22 loads 12:22 local 1:5 4:5 7:4 7:5 31:3</p>	<p>locations 9:15,17 long 15:15,16 17:6 look 24:20 looked 21:14 looks 22:6 lot 10:12,19 15:11 27:20 29:2 Lots 30:11 low 28:17 lower 26:15 lowering 28:9 lubricants 15:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>M-O-H-L-E-R 25:16 machinery 15:25 Madison 2:11 Main 2:4 maintenance 22:9 making 15:1 20:9 manage 10:7 mandated 21:23 manner 12:12 manufacturing 10:22 margin 10:5,6,11 market 11:25 matter 1:11 4:7 means 15:8,9 measures 20:13 medical 8:20 meet 14:24 20:10 21:25 meetings 28:25 megawatt 21:17 21:19 members 27:20 27:24 28:19 29:2,6 membership 28:15,18 mentioned 17:13</p>	<p>21:15 Meritas 9:13 Middle 21:5 midst 21:6 Midwest 22:14 Mile 22:13 million 9:20,23 11:20,23 mind 7:13 minimum 9:3 30:9 mispronouncing 19:2 Missouri 1:1,7 1:25 2:4,9,11 2:14,17,23 4:6 4:10,12 6:13,19 8:13,16 21:23 23:10 27:19 28:4,8,22 32:4 mixed 16:3 MO 32:20,22 models 10:9 Mohler 3:6 25:11 25:16 monopoly 30:13 monthly 26:9 months 20:24,25 26:6,16 motor 18:14 move 10:23,24 12:19 22:1 24:20 30:12 moving 20:17 23:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>N 4:1 name 5:5,8,13,23 6:4 7:25 14:2,3 18:25 19:10,12 24:9 25:15,16 27:9,10 29:21 29:22,25 names 5:3 national 11:7,13</p>
---	---	---	---	---

<p>11:15 natural 21:13 22:22 necessary 14:24 need 14:14 16:13 18:4 22:1,12,14 30:13 needed 23:2 needs 11:1 15:13 16:1 18:2 neither 12:2 net 22:21,23 never 23:2 24:2,4 new 11:23 12:20 30:8 newer 23:18 Ninth 2:16 noon 4:10 normal 20:23 north 8:11,14,15 8:18,20,22,25 10:4,10,15,19 10:23,24 11:19 11:22 12:1,9,14 12:19 13:2 northland 9:4,15 not-for-profit 8:12 Note 3:15 22:3 November 20:23 nuclear 21:13 22:6,9,11 23:9 23:19 number 14:22 numerous 9:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O 2:11,17,22 4:1 oath 5:2,18 7:23 19:8 25:13 27:7 29:19 obeying 21:22 observations 11:16 offer 8:23 Office 2:10,20,22</p>	<p>6:9,12 official 4:24 offset 11:24 oil 15:21 22:23 okay 14:16 22:3 22:3 29:22 old 22:9 23:20,23 older 20:6 23:17 23:24 once 18:4,12 opened 8:21 opening 6:25 operate 10:5 operates 8:15 operating 10:11 12:6 operations 12:13 Opitz 2:21 6:11 6:11,15 opportunity 7:11 opposed 26:2 order 12:16 organized 8:12 outpatient 8:24 9:9 outside 21:4 oxygen 16:18,20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P 1:17 2:11,17,22 4:1 P-A-U-L 14:3 p.m 31:7 P.O 6:13 packages 10:7 panels 17:8,16 part 17:25 29:11 participating 9:20 particular 18:3 23:10 parties 32:13,14 parts 28:24 pass 16:17 Paul 3:4 13:18,23 14:3</p>	<p>pay 9:23 26:16 paying 12:24 people 9:8,10,12 14:21,22 15:11 17:2,14,24 20:7 20:10,12 21:3 24:10,21 28:5 28:15,16 30:9 30:11 people's 18:6 percent 10:5,11 10:12 11:5,7,9 11:12,18 15:1,4 19:23 20:5 21:12,13,13,14 21:24,25 22:2 25:24 percentages 21:8 perform 12:10 period 11:9 permitted 25:24 person 7:18 25:6 phase 28:7 physicians 8:19 9:14 pipe 16:19 place 14:22 15:10 20:17 places 17:6 planet 24:22 plant 16:14,18 17:5 18:11 23:18,19 plants 16:24,24 23:17,24 24:12 plastics 15:23 please 5:5,11,18 5:21 6:3,10 7:20,24 14:1,15 19:5,9 25:10,14 27:4,8 29:20 pleasure 12:7 point 17:17,19,20 pollute 22:25 23:23 pollution 18:9,15</p>	<p>pollution-free 18:16 poor 29:9 portion 21:18 power 1:12 2:2 4:8 5:9,21,24 9:5,17 10:1,2 10:20 11:3,10 11:12,14 12:8 12:11,23,24 14:6,12,21 18:13 19:15 22:6,10 26:10 26:13,15,16,18 27:13 28:3,11 powers 16:14 practices 24:7 26:5 preliminary 5:7 presented 14:10 Presiding 1:16 pretty 21:12 previously 14:10 prices 23:1 Pridgin 1:16 4:11 probably 15:16 proceedings 1:3 32:5,9,16 process 7:7,7 12:14 21:6 produce 15:22,23 15:24 16:5,21 producing 16:3 production 22:5 22:18 productive 12:17 Professional 1:24 32:4,21 profit 10:5,11 programs 9:21 10:10 promote 18:19 promoting 26:12 pronounce 18:24 properties 17:3 provide 9:1,7,9</p>	<p>9:11 16:22 provided 5:25 6:6,20 provider 8:22 providers 10:25 providing 8:19 11:1 prudent 12:13 public 1:2,5 2:7 2:10,20,22 4:5 4:6,12,18,23 6:9,12 7:4,5 15:18 24:8,15 26:1 29:3,6 31:3 purchase 9:25 pure 16:14,17 purpose 4:17 purposes 8:17 put 10:9 17:2,8 23:23 24:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>question-and- 4:19 questions 4:22 5:7,12 13:7 18:21,22 24:25 30:19 quite 20:11,19 quote 23:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>R 4:1 raise 5:6 7:19 13:19 19:4,22 20:8 25:10 27:3 range 8:23 20:4 rate 1:13 4:8,19 11:4,5,10,12,13 11:14,18 20:21 23:13 24:5,11 24:16 25:23 26:9,15 27:20 28:16 29:4,12 rates 15:9 19:25</p>
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<p>20:1,3,11,18 28:10 read 7:11 real 20:24 really 22:2,11 23:16 24:2 reasonable 20:18 recalculate 22:20 receive 30:7 recommending 25:23 record 4:2,5 5:14 14:2 20:25 29:12 31:6 32:9 recorded 5:1 21:1 recycled 18:11 reduce 30:12 reestablish 17:23 reference 9:18,22 reflects 12:13 region 9:4 Registered 1:24 32:4,21 regular 11:4 Regulatory 1:16 reimbursement 12:5 relative 32:11,13 32:14 remarks 6:25 7:1 29:15 30:23 renewable 21:24 22:1,3,17 repair 23:25 replace 12:21 replacing 16:11 report 3:13 13:10 21:10,20 22:20 22:21 23:4,7,10 reported 1:24 32:10 reporter 1:24,25 3:9 5:1,13 6:1,7 6:20 7:25 14:14 14:18 19:10</p>	<p>25:15 27:9 29:21 30:1 32:1 32:3,4,21,22 Reporter's 3:15 request 1:12 4:8 4:18 12:25 13:20 24:17,17 29:8 requested 11:5 20:1 requesting 20:5 require 11:19 required 26:8 requirements 23:15 residences 12:21 residential 28:14 residents 10:16 12:14 17:2 resources 10:7 21:24 22:1,4,17 respect 8:16 respectfully 13:5 29:8 responsibility 15:7 Restaurants 10:21 retained 3:15 retired 19:20 28:20 return 12:2 25:22,25 26:3 revenue 11:23 12:12 revenues 8:17 review 12:25 Revised 8:13 rid 18:14 right 5:6 6:24 7:15,20 8:4 13:19 14:5,8 16:4 18:3,23 19:4,17 25:6,10 25:19 26:25 27:3,15 28:21</p>	<p>30:3,20,25 risk 22:8 risky 24:14 river 8:23 Roger 2:3 5:23 roger.steiner@... 2:5 Ron 4:11 RONALD 1:16 roof 26:6 RPR 1:24 32:20 running 15:25 22:23 Rupp 1:18 4:15 7:16 25:3 26:24 30:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>S 4:1 safe 22:15 safely 22:16 salaries 9:24 salons 10:21 Sarah 2:15 6:19 saw 20:22 21:1 saying 27:17 28:2 SCOTT 1:18 script 8:6 sea 16:16 second 15:15 26:4 Secondly 17:8 security 15:3 19:22 28:20 30:7 see 5:16 6:24 13:7 14:16 18:21 28:2 sell 26:8,14 Senior 2:21 30:6 separate 25:21 September 20:24 series 20:20,23 serious 20:12 24:5</p>	<p>seriously 28:9 serve 9:3,16 24:21,22 served 9:5 serves 24:10 service 1:2,14 2:7 2:10 4:6,12 9:18 10:3,25 20:16 24:8,15 26:1 27:22 29:3 29:6 services 8:24 9:1 9:7,9,11,25 20:13 session 4:20 set 15:10 32:6 seven 19:25 20:2 sgiboney@smi... 2:18 sheet 22:7 shortage 10:12 show 21:11 showed 23:5 shown 9:18 shows 21:17 sick 9:12 signed 5:4,17 7:18 25:7 significant 11:20 12:22 simply 20:20 sir 8:3,5 13:22 14:8 25:9 26:25 27:16 situation 15:20 slowly 17:20 small 21:18 SMITH 2:15 so-called 23:11 social 15:3 19:22 28:19 30:7 solar 16:8,13 17:3,8,16 22:4 22:18 26:5 30:12 solution 22:12</p>	<p>sorry 30:3 sort 27:21 28:11 sources 21:7 23:6 23:22 South 2:16 speak 5:4 14:15 26:17 specialists 9:15 specialties 8:20 spell 5:13 7:25 14:2 19:10 25:14 27:8 29:21,25 spends 12:11 staff 2:8 4:22 6:3 6:5 8:10 12:10 25:23 stage 20:11 stand 24:11 standard 26:3 Star 20:3 start 7:17 16:13 27:17 28:2,5,9 starts 28:18 state 1:1 2:9 7:24 14:1 19:9 25:14 27:8,18 28:4,8 28:24 29:20 statement 3:2 5:10 8:4 14:8 19:17 27:15 30:5 statements 4:25 states 1:25 14:11 14:20 23:5,8,11 28:22 32:3 Statutes 8:13 stay 5:11 21:4 steady 12:23 Steiner 2:3 5:23 5:23 6:2 step 7:12 Steve 3:6 25:11 25:16 stockholders 12:3,4</p>
---	---	--	--	---

<p>stories 29:4 strains 28:21 Street 2:4,11,16 streets 20:8 strive 10:4 strong 12:17 structure 16:12 structures 17:9 stuff 18:5 subject 23:1 submit 8:7 submitted 13:5 subsidy 17:14 Suite 2:10,16 summer 21:1 sun 16:7,7 22:25 superseded 23:24 supply 10:22 support 10:1 sure 22:14 27:17 28:24 surrounding 9:4 sworn 5:6 7:20 7:22 19:5,7 25:10,12 27:4,6 29:18 system 16:16 17:25 18:13,17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>T 1:18 T-A-Y-L-O-R 30:2 table 21:17 take 8:9 12:19 16:23 20:12 29:11 30:15 taken 32:6 takes 16:24 talking 16:2 taxes 8:17 Taylor 3:8 29:17 29:22 30:2 team 13:1 technology 16:9</p>	<p>23:25 tell 7:13 23:16 telling 19:22 temperature 21:3 temperatures 20:22,25 21:2 ten 17:17 20:2 23:11 tended 14:11,20 term 15:15,16 terms 14:12,21 terrible 15:11 testified 7:22 13:24 19:7 25:12 27:6 29:18 testify 5:16 25:7 27:2 29:16 testimony 4:21 4:25 5:19 25:5 27:1 31:2 thank 6:2,8,11 6:15,22 7:2,3 7:13,15,16 8:9 13:4,6,9,11,15 13:17 18:20,23 25:1,4 26:21,22 26:25 29:13,14 30:3,17,18,20 30:25 31:1,5 thing 15:15 16:1 17:1,22 18:3,16 24:3 things 15:5,23 16:4,25 17:16 29:1 think 15:17 thinking 17:15 third 7:5 three 7:11 11:11 22:13 30:10 thrust 23:13 tied 24:18 Tim 2:21 6:11 time 4:10 11:10</p>	<p>13:15,16 15:17 17:19 18:3 24:1 24:20 25:4 27:1 29:14 31:2 times 11:11 20:1 20:2 today 28:17 today's 13:13 tonight 7:6 transcribed 32:7 TRANSCRIPT 1:3 transcription 32:8 tries 10:4 trouble 20:9 true 21:21 32:9 trying 20:7 turn 9:24 two 4:14 7:10,10 14:9 25:21 26:20 30:10 type 17:24 typewriters 24:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>unable 5:17 unfeasible 22:11 United 14:11,20 28:21 upgrade 23:15 urban 30:14 usable 16:10 use 16:16 17:11 18:5,13,15 21:11 23:5 24:13 26:7,11 utilities 14:25 utility 10:23 24:10 26:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>vehicles 18:14 venture 23:4 verifiable 21:1 view 27:25</p>	<p>viewpoint 18:1 Volume 1:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>W 2:3 wages 9:24 10:1 14:11,20 30:9 want 7:9 15:19 16:15 wanted 26:20 wanting 23:25 wants 15:16 23:23 wasn't 17:21 water 16:14,15 16:17,17,19 18:11 22:25 watt 17:14 way 14:10 15:8 15:10 17:23 18:5,9 24:21,22 24:23 we've 29:1,2 weather 29:9 website 29:7 week 19:21 whitewashes 17:5 wholesale 26:9 WILLIAM 1:17 Williams 2:8 6:4 6:5,8 wind 21:14,16,17 22:5,18,23,24 22:25 wisely 12:12 wish 4:23 7:12 wishes 5:16 25:8 wishing 6:16 27:2 29:16 witness 5:15 7:17 7:22 13:16,18 13:20,24 14:16 18:24 19:1,7 25:12 27:6 29:18</p>	<p>witnesses 5:3 WM 2:8 woman 19:20 work 15:14 24:2 working 30:10 written 8:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>Yeah 25:21 year 9:20 15:2,3 15:4 19:24 26:7 26:19 yearly 9:8,10,12 years 14:12,19 17:17 20:2 23:20 Young 20:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <p>zeroed-out 26:13 26:19 zip 9:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>0.3 15:4 19:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1 3:13 13:12 1.10 22:23 1.85 10:11 10 15:1 20:4 10.9 11:7,18 10:00 4:3 111 2:16 115 9:14 12:33 31:7 1200 2:4 125 9:3 129 21:2 13 3:4,13 15 20:4,9 21:13 21:17 16 20:24,25 18811 32:21 19 3:5</p>
--	--	--	--	---

<p>190,000 9:10 1958 8:21 1960 23:18 1980 23:18 1985 22:10 23:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2 17:14 21:12,13 21:25 2,900 12:20 2.5 10:5 2.50 22:21 20 1:6 4:9 200 2:11,16 2006 11:3,11 2010 23:19 2014 22:19 2015 21:9 23:5 2016 1:6 4:9 21:8 32:25 21 11:9 32:25 21,000 9:8 22.3 11:23 2230 2:22 6:13 25 3:6 26 10:12 11:12 27 3:7 275 32:22 287 9:23 29 3:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>3.6 11:20 30 9:15 23:20 31 9:19 21:17 32 3:9 36 20:22 360 2:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>40 14:12,19 414,000 11:20 443-3141 2:18 451-bed 8:18 49 8:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p>5 21:23 22:2 50 28:18 550 8:19 556-2314 2:5 573 2:12,18,23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>64105-2122 2:4 65102 2:23 6:14 65102-0360 2:11 65205-0918 2:17 69,000 9:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>7 3:3 7.75 22:22 751-4857 2:23 751-8517 2:12 77 11:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>8.65 25:24 800 2:10 81 21:12 816 2:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>918 2:17 96.150-96.228 8:13</p>			
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