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1 2	STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5	On-the-Record Proceeding
6	
7	March 2, 2017 Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 15
8	
9	
10	In the Matter of Union Electric) Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's)Case No. ER-2016-0179
12	Tariffs to Increase its Revenues) for Electric Service.)
13	
14	JUDGE MORRIS WOODRUFF, presiding
15	CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
16	
17	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
18	Daniel Y. Hall, Chairman, William P. Kenney (via telephone),
19	Scott T. Rupp, COMMISSIONERS
20	
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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good morning. Come to 3 order, please. We're here for an on-the-record 4 presentation regarding the Stipulation and 5 Agreement that has been filed in this case, which 6 is the matter of Ameren Missouri's request for a rate increase. It's ER-2016-0179. 7 8 We'll begin today by taking entries of 9 appearance, and then we'll just go into questions from Commissioners. So for entries for Ameren? 10 11 MS. TATRO: Wendy Tatro, 901 Chouteau 12 Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63109. 13 MR. LOWERY: Jim Lowery, Smith Lewis, LLP, 14 P.O. Box 918, Columbia, Missouri, 65205, for Ameren 15 Missouri. 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And for the Staff? 17 MS. MYERS: For the Staff of Missouri 18 19 Public Service Commission, Jamie Myers, and my 20 information has been given to the court reporter. 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for Public Counsel? 22 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston, Office of the 23 Public Counsel. 24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For the Division of 25 Energy?

- 1 MR. BEAR: Brian Bear on behalf of the
- 2 Division of Energy. My contact information was
- 3 given to the reporter previously.
- 4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For MECG?
- 5 MR. WOODSMALL: David Woodsmall on behalf
- 6 MECG.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: For MIEC?
- 8 MR. MILLS: Lewis Mills, 221 Bolivar,
- 9 Suite 101, Jefferson City, Missouri, appearing on
- 10 behalf of the MIEC.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: For Brightergy, Andy
- 12 Zellers sent me an e-mail this morning saying he
- 13 would not be here, so he was excused from
- 14 appearing. For Consumers Counsel?
- 15 MR. COFFMAN: On behalf of the ConsumerS
- 16 Council of Missouri, John B. Coffman.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: For NRDC?
- 18 MR. ROBERTSON: For NRDC and Sierra Club,
- 19 Henry Robertson, Great Rivers Environmental Law
- 20 Center, 319 N. 4th Street, Suite 800, St. Louis,
- 21 Missouri, 63102.
- 22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for Renew Missouri?
- 23 MR. COHEN: For Renew Missouri, David
- 24 Cohen, 1200 Rogers Street, Suite B, Columbia
- 25 Missouri, 65203.

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1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And I believe that's all 2 of the parties. And we are here to discuss the --3 the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement that was 4 filed by all the parties. And I'll start with 5 Commission -- Chairman Hall, any questions? 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Good morning. I've got a 7 series of questions starting with revenue 8 requirement and then going into FAC and then going 9 into rate design. So I think what I'll do is I'll -- I'll 10 11 ask my questions related to revenue requirement and 12 then see what other questions other Commissioners -- is -- is Commissioner Kenney on the line? 13 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney is on 15 the line. CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Any other 16 Commissioners? 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: No. 18 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. So the settlement includes a \$92 million increase to the revenue 20 21 requirement. What -- what was the revenue 22 requirement increase that the company sought? 23 The initial filing sought an MR. LOWERY: 24 increase of 206 million. 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: And what was Staff's

- 1 position on that?
- 2 MS. MYERS: Staff believed 52 million
- 3 revenue requirement at direct filing.
- 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: Is there a document
- 5 somewhere that -- that includes -- I mean, I was --
- 6 I was looking for a reconciliation. And maybe this
- 7 case settled before that was filed so there -- that
- 8 -- that does not exist; isn't that correct?
- 9 MR. LOWERY: That's right.
- 10 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. So -- so there's
- 11 not a document somewhere that -- that will answer
- 12 all of these types of questions? I'm going to have
- do it this way; is that correct? Which is fine. I
- 14 don't want to -- okay.
- And, OPC, your position on revenue
- 16 requirement increase?
- 17 MR. POSTON: I'm not aware that we had a
- 18 total position on total revenue requirement.
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. All right. Did any
- 20 other position -- any other -- any other party have
- 21 a position on that? Mr. Woodsmall?
- MR. WOODSMALL: The only issue that we
- 23 filed testimony on was on ROE. So our ROE
- 24 unusually was higher than Staff's but still below
- 25 the company's. 9.2 was the mid point.

1 CHAIRMAN HALL: For -- for your ROE? 2 MR. WOODSMALL: Right. Any other -- any 3 other company? All right. Any other party? 4 MR. MILLS: MIEC didn't develop revenue 5 requirement in the case. 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Let's turn to --7 turn to ROE. What was the -- what was the 8 company's position on ROE? 9 MR. LOWERY: Our position was 9.9. CHAIRMAN HALL: MECG at 9.2. Staff? 10 11 MS. MYERS: Staff was 8.75. 12 CHAIRMAN HALL: Any other party? 13 MR. WOODSMALL: 9.2 for Gorman. 14 MR. MILLS: That's -- Gorman testified for both MIEC and MECG, so we had the same position. 15 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. The settlement is 17 silent on ROE. Is there any -- I mean, is there any information that any party could give me to 18 19 give me any more information about what type of ROE is involved in this settlement other than it's 20 21 somewhere between 8.75 and 9.9? 22 MR. LOWERY: I -- I don't really think 23 that there is. I mean, how -- how various parties got to their number, you know, would vary among the 24 25 parties. So, you know, I -- I don't really think

- 1 you can -- you can say what the ROE is, per se.
- 2 MR. WOODSMALL: And from a consumers
- 3 standpoint, this case was somewhat unusual because
- 4 at the same time we were negotiating developing
- 5 this settlement, we were very cognizant of the fact
- 6 that we had a KCP&L case on the current track.
- 7 So we -- in my mind, when we were
- 8 negotiating, we never moved off of Gorman's 9.2
- 9 mid-point ROE.
- 10 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Well, that's
- 11 actually somewhat helpful. So could any other
- 12 party provide any information on the ROE that it
- 13 believes it agreed to?
- MS. MYERS: Yes. From staff's
- 15 perspective, we did move from our 8.75. We didn't
- 16 go all the way to the company's 9.9. I can say we
- were looking at a range between 9.3 and 9.4 when we
- 18 were working on settlement documents.
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Does the company have
- 20 anything further to add?
- 21 MR. LOWERY: I think -- I think that, you
- 22 know, our last approved ROE was 9.53. If you look
- 23 at what's happened in Treasuries and authorized
- returns and so on since then, which have probably
- 25 remained similar to what they were at the last case

- 1 and I think they're trending up, we can't say
- 2 exactly. But it's probably within shouting
- 3 distance of that number.
- 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: Of which number?
- 5 MR. LOWERY: The 9.53. Somewhere within
- 6 shouting distance, give or take a little. I can't
- 7 give a point number. But probably somewhere in
- 8 that area from our perspective.
- 9 Again, others -- others -- Mr. Woodsmall
- 10 view it differently. Staff views it slightly
- 11 differently. But somewhere in that area.
- 12 CHAIRMAN HALL: Mr. Poston, do you have
- 13 anything to add on that?
- MR. POSTON: No. We didn't have an ROE
- 15 witness in this case.
- 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Would it really
- 17 kill you guys in these settlements to have some
- 18 kind of range on an ROE, something? I mean,
- 19 totally silent?
- 20 I mean, I think at least two or three or
- 21 maybe four Commissioners have made it real clear
- that we are uncomfortable approving settlements
- 23 without an ROE.
- 24 MR. WOODSMALL: I understand your desire
- 25 for an ROE. Again, from our standpoint, it -- it

- 1 was a difficult scenario because KCP&L was right on
- 2 top of Ameren. And so for us to negotiate
- 3 something saying that it was a 9.2 ROE, company
- 4 wouldn't have felt comfortable with that.
- 5 For company to say it's a 9.6 ROE, we
- 6 wouldn't have felt comfortable for that because of
- 7 KCP&L. So implications on another utility was
- 8 always in our mind.
- 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: But a range could have
- 10 been.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Well, and I -- probably --
- 12 CHAIRMAN HALL: How did -- how did we do
- 13 it in -- in the Missouri American case where we
- 14 asked -- I think we asked the parties to each
- 15 calculate the ROE that they believed that they
- 16 agreed to, and then we put a range in the order.
- 17 Is that -- that -- is that correct? Do you know?
- 18 MS. MYERS: Yes. That is correct.
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Is that something that we
- 20 could do -- it is -- would anyone be opposed to
- 21 doing the same thing here?
- MS. MYERS: Staff is not opposed.
- 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.
- MR. POSTON: Chairman, I will say that we
- 25 did attempt to try to put into a range. I don't

- want to get into the settlement discussions too
 much.
 CHAIRMAN HALL: That's fine.
- 4 MR. POSTON: But we tried, and we could
- 5 not come to an agreement on what could be the
- 6 appropriate range. So I'll put that out there.
- 7 MR. COFFMAN: In giving some historical
- 8 perspective of, you know, settlements --
- 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: Which is why you're here.
- 10 Historical perspective.
- MR. COFFMAN: The old guy. No. You know,
- 12 settlements used to be a lot more common, black box
- 13 settlements, than they have been in recent years.
- 14 And this, you know, part of the reason.
- To facilitate settlement, you know,
- 16 parties don't have to be definitive about their
- 17 ROE. That facilitates in resolving these cases.
- 18 CHAIRMAN ALL: There's a trade-off. And
- 19 there's a trade-off been facilitating settlement
- 20 and transparency. You're right. I understand
- 21 that.
- MR. COFFMAN: Okay.
- 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: So --
- MR. COFFMAN: That makes it --
- 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: And -- and under our

1 rules, and I believe maybe even case law, 2 settlements are favored. I mean, there's --3 there's -- there's no question about that. But --Mr. Lowery, did you have something to add? 4 5 MR. LOWERY: No. CHAIRMAN HALL: So would the -- would the 6 7 company be willing to provide a calculation as to 8 how it figured the ROE on the --9 MR. LOWERY: The -- the company could provide a calculation of an ROE. I don't know that 10 11 -- I don't know that I could honestly represent 12 that it's how we figured the ROE because I don't think that's -- I don't think that's really 13 14 possible to say there is the ROE from anybody's 15 perspective. It's --16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Well, it's an ROE. MR. LOWERY: It's an ROE. 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Well, when is our 18 19 operation of law date? 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: May 28th, I believe. 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: Plenty of time. 22 Well, I -- perhaps when this -- when this -- when 23 this comes up for -- for case discussions, Commissioners can discuss whether or not we want to 24 25 require such a calculation be -- be performed.

- 1 It is clearly not my intent to, in
- 2 any way, unravel a settlement on -- on this basis.
- 3 But I do believe that there is value in an ROE
- 4 transparency, at least -- at least as it relates to
- 5 a range.
- And it is -- it is -- it has happened
- 7 where there were settlements that included a range.
- 8 Wasn't -- wasn't there a range in the Empire
- 9 settlement as well?
- MR. WOODSMALL: Yes.
- 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. So, I mean, that's
- 12 -- that is a concept that should -- should not be
- 13 anathema to the settlement process, and it is
- 14 something that at least I personally think is very
- 15 important.
- MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, if I could add
- 17 one thing?
- 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: Yes. Add two things.
- 19 MR. LOWERY: And I -- I don't want to -- I
- 20 don't want to breach settlement discussions because
- 21 I don't think that would be appropriate to do that.
- 22 CHAIRMAN HALL: That would be
- 23 inappropriate.
- MR. LOWERY: But let me -- let me put it
- 25 this way. We didn't agree to a range, but we were

1 also not -- we were also aware of -- of the history 2 and aware of the Commissioners' views. But we did 3 agree, and I think you can probably surmise why we didn't agree, because we couldn't agree. 4 5 And -- and I'm not sure how we -- how we 6 crack that nut. And I -- and I think it may have 7 been because of the reasons Mr. Woodsmall gave. 8 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. 9 MR. LOWERY: So we're not, -- I just want 10 to you know I don't think the company and I -- I'll 11 speak for the parties, and they'll -- they'll 12 disagree with me if I'm speaking out of school. 13 But I don't think we had any intention to 14 ignore the issue that you have or the desire for 15 the Commissioners to see that range. But we were 16 -- we didn't get there, so to speak. 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Okay. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Chairman? 18 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Yes, Commissioner Kenney. 20 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: After hearing this 21 discussion, I've been one of those ones who have 22 always wanted a review also as you discussed. But 23 after hearing the parties, I'm comfortable with no range in this case for the reasons stated. I just 24 25 wanted to state that. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Commissioner Rupp, 2 do you have anything you want to --COMMISSIONER RUPP: Yeah. 3 4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. 5 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Good morning, 6 everyone. 7 MR. LOWERY: Good morning. 8 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Again, I need to back 9 up for just a second because I believe that the 10 Chairman started off asking every single party in 11 this room if they could provide some type of a 12 range or some type of a ballpark, and he met with 13 crickets. 14 And then he individually went around and 15 asked, and Staff said 9.3 on to 9.4. The company said 9.53, and MIEC and MECG said 9.25. 16 So did I 17 hear that wrong? Because like no one wouldn't wanted to 18 19 give a range. And then when specifically asked, you all came up with -- with a number. 20 MR. WOODSMALL: You're correct. 21 22 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Thank you. 23 just wanted to make sure I heard that. So, Mr. Woodsmall, I want to direct this to you. 24 25 Please walk me through again how the KCP&L case is

- 1 affecting this ROE.
- 2 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. The KCP&L case is
- 3 going on concurrently. They filed it at the same
- 4 time. In general, they are comparable companies in
- 5 each other's proxy group.
- The worry is, from a customers standpoint
- 7 that if we agree to an ROE or even an implicit ROE
- 8 range on this case that that would be viewed in --
- 9 one way or the other in the KCP&L case.
- 10 So we were unwilling to negotiate, come
- off of the 9.2 for any reason because of KCP&L,
- 12 because of fear that if we did it in Ameren, it
- 13 would lead to a higher increase in KCP&L.
- 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So it was a -- had
- 15 nothing do with the numbers. It was just how would
- it possibly be perceived by the Commission?
- 17 MR. WOODSMALL: Correct.
- 18 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Even though
- 19 yesterday you quoted some Commissioners who were
- 20 saying that they were not the same company, they
- 21 are completely different and things of that nature?
- MR. WOODSMALL: We agree with those
- 23 statements that they should be viewed -- obviously
- 24 if I was quoting them that they should be viewed
- 25 differently.

1 But the worry still exists. That's one 2 Commissioner. That other four might see it as if 3 one gets one, the other should get it. 4 I mean, you look at last case. Ameren got 5 KCP&L, even though they were getting a newly 6 implemented FAC, got 9.5. So the Commission has 7 tended to come in with comparable ROEs. 8 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Help me -- help 9 assuage my fears. Because every time I -- I see a 10 stipulation that no one can tell me what the ROE is 11 and everyone's kind of reluctant to even kind of 12 walk down this road, why do I always get the vision of Nancy Polosi standing there saying, We won't 13 14 know what's in it until we pass it? 15 I quess -- I understand MR. WOODSMALL: 16 the concern. And -- and I would say this case is 17 somewhat unique because, as the Chairman pointed 18 out, this was negotiated and settled before even a 19 reconciliation was put out there. 20 So you don't have a document to look at 21 and say, Okay, here's the beginning point, here's 22 the end -- Staff's position. How can we look at 23 numbers to determine how reasonable 92 million is? 24 So I -- I think this case is unique. 25 don't think other cases will present the same

- 1 challenge.
- 2 You know, I guess from another standpoint,
- 3 the comfort level with this ought to come from the
- 4 fact that you have so many parties in this case.
- 5 It's not an Empire case. There is a lot more
- 6 parties, and they were all able to agree.
- 7 If you have all the customers and the
- 8 company and the staff all agreeing, every interest
- 9 is represented, isn't the settlement number then
- 10 implicitly reasonable?
- MR. LOWERY: Well, to echo that a little
- 12 bit, it's not just -- I mean, we've got customers
- 13 across the entire spectrum represented here, too,
- 14 form the little guy, so to speak, that I think one
- 15 would sort of associate with OPC to the bigger
- 16 guys.
- 17 We've got environmental groups involved.
- 18 We have -- we have Division of Energy involved. We
- 19 have a broad array of folks that came together and
- 20 agreed that that was a reasonable -- that the
- 21 settlement reached was a reasonable settlement.
- 22 And I think you probably would have a hard
- 23 time imagining that these folks would have agreed
- 24 to the number if the ROE was, you know, way out of
- 25 line one way or the other. Or that are we would

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1 have, for that matter. 2 COMMISSIONER RUPP: All right. So, Staff, 3 you said 9.3 to 9.4. MS. MYERS: Yes. 4 5 COMMISSIONER RUPP: On a scale of zero to 6 100 percent, how confident are you that that is 7 your -- that is where it's going to come in? 8 MS. MYERS: Well, we were a hundred 9 percent confident that that was our number. 10 mean, when we were doing all of our analysis --11 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Not that it was your 12 number. 13 MS. MYERS: That that's the number? 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: When it comes out 15 miscalculated, how confident are you that it's 16 going to be within 9.3 to 9.4? 17 MS. MYERS: I'm not certain that I can 18 give you an answer on that personally. I mean, our 19 number we calculate, we're always going to come up 20 with 9.3 to 9.4. But, again, we have different 21 positions on different issues. 22 MR. WOODSMALL: I think to give you some 23 perspective, there -- just as an example, there was after an issue in this case for Noranda loss 24 revenues that was \$7 million. We didn't come out 25

- 1 with a specific resolution of every issue. That
- 2 one issue is worth ten basis points of ROE. So to
- 3 determine -- how you determine umpteen different
- 4 issues will affect how you view the ROE.
- 5 COMMISSIONER RUPP: I understand. But I
- 6 just want to see. So if we continually get these
- 7 settlements and I'm continually told that this is
- 8 where we see it is, and if I could look back on a
- 9 history and say, You're continually wrong or you're
- 10 continually pretty much in the ballpark -- so can
- 11 you give me a ballpark of where -- how confident
- 12 you are that when everything is said and done that
- 13 that 9.3 to 9.4 number --
- MS. MYERS: I mean, we certainly think it
- 15 would be close to that. I will say we filed direct
- 16 with numbers. We never filed true-ups, which is
- 17 why we don't have the reconciliation to look at and
- 18 compare numbers.
- But we did do runs just for settlement
- 20 purposes, and we were consistently coming within
- 21 that range when -- when we settled on a number.
- So, again, that's taking into
- 23 consideration that those are Staff's positions on
- 24 issues on revenue issues.
- 25 And, also, to kind of discuss some of your

1 concerns, Staff was not staying silent on this --2 COMMISSIONER RUPP: I want to stop you 3 there. MS. MYERS: Okay. Go ahead. 4 5 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Can you give me a number? 6 7 MS. MYERS: A number in terms of you 8 want --9 COMMISSIONER RUPP: A level of confidence 10 that the way you calculated is the way it's going 11 to come out? Yes? No? Can you give me a number? 12 MS. MYERS: How about 85 percent? A solid 13 В. 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Okay. Ameren? 15 MR. LOWERY: I don't -- I don't know how 16 to give you a number. I don't -- I think you're 17 asking a question --18 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. I'm going to 19 stop you right there. So you all have a reluctance 20 to even give me a confidence interval of where you 21 think your numbers are, but I'm supposed to have a 22 comfort level to approve something that you can't 23 even give me a factor of where you think it's going to be in. 24 25 So if it makes you uncomfortable to even

- 1 say, We're 85 percent comfortable that this is
- 2 where we think it's going to be because of how it
- 3 might make you look if you're wrong, how am I
- 4 supposed to have a level of comfort that later on
- 5 it's going to come out and be calculated as
- 6 something that I'm not comfortable with and I have
- 7 to put a yes or no on it?
- 8 MR. LOWERY: Commissioner, may I ask you a
- 9 question? Because maybe I'm not understanding your
- 10 question.
- There is no way for us to know if we were
- 12 right or wrong. If -- if what you're asking is
- 13 what will the company's actual earnings be the
- 14 first year after rates are in effect, I -- nobody
- 15 has any idea.
- But it doesn't necessarily bear any
- 17 relationship to what we think was implicit in the
- 18 settlement because weather and other one-time -- I
- 19 mean, what happens in the real world and the actual
- 20 results may bear no relationship to -- to -- to
- 21 what somebody, in their mind, thinks, Well, I think
- 22 I came out about here on ROE when I settled this
- 23 case. They're two totally different things.
- 24 And so I don't know how to answer the
- 25 question when you say are we right or are we wrong

- 1 in terms of how we assessed the settlement at the
- 2 time we settled.
- 3 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No. No. My -- my --
- 4 my point was more of there was consternation on
- 5 every one of your guys' face when I tried say, How
- 6 comfortable are you that this is where you think --
- 7 when all the numbers come in that this is where
- 8 it's going to be?
- 9 And there was an uncomfortableness of at
- 10 least putting an number out there saying, Oh, I'm
- 11 not this confident, we don't know all this stuff.
- 12 But I'm here. But I have to take a black box
- 13 settlement, and then I have to stand there and say,
- 14 I believe this is in the best interest.
- And if everything doesn't happen the way
- 16 we thought, for all the reasons that you've said
- 17 and it comes out, how am I supposed to have the
- 18 level of comfort to -- to say a yes or no on this
- 19 when you're not willing to have a level of comfort
- 20 to say, I'm 90 percent sure that the way we ran our
- 21 numbers is going to come into this range?
- MR. MILLS: Commissioner Rupp, can I
- 23 answer that? Because I think one of the issues
- 24 we're having is we're singling out one issue, the
- 25 ROE issue, among all the other issues and trying to

- 1 put a number on that.
- 2 The way we approach settlement, there are
- 3 probably two or three dozen issues that would have
- 4 gone to hearing had we gone to hearing. ROE is
- 5 just one of them.
- And so if you say, you know, Give me a
- 7 90 percent certainty that this particular point
- 8 number on ROE is X, you have to have a 90 percent
- 9 certainty on how all those other issues would
- 10 resolve.
- 11 COMMISSIONER RUPP: But I didn't ask you
- 12 for a 90 percent. I asked you for what is your
- 13 comfort level of how you calculated it and what you
- 14 think is it going to be.
- 15 MR. MILLS: And the only way that you can
- 16 get to that is by -- by coming up to an answer of
- 17 what the Commission would have decided every issue
- 18 in the case and what those dollars would have been
- 19 worth.
- 20 And then you can figure out how the ROE --
- 21 once you know all the other issues and you know the
- \$92 million, then you can calculate the ROE on
- 23 that.
- But without knowing 24 other issues, you
- 25 -- you can't calculate an ROE with any degree of

- 1 certainty.
- 2 COMMISSIONER RUPP: You know, I understand
- 3 that.
- 4 MR. MILLS: All it's all -- it's all a big
- 5 pool of dollars.
- 6 COMMISSIONER RUPP: I understand that.
- 7 But my point is, I'm supposed to take that this
- 8 settlement that everybody's agreed on it is going
- 9 to be fine. You wouldn't give us a range.
- 10 The Chairman asked you for a range. You
- 11 guys were silent. Then he specifically went around
- 12 and asked. So I'm looking at a range of 9.25 to
- 9.53 based off of the four answers that I have.
- 14 And --
- 15 MR. WOODSMALL: To get to your question,
- since my witness appeared to be setting the low end
- 17 and I said because of KCP&L, I am a hundred percent
- 18 confident that the way that I negotiated, it based
- 19 on a 9.2 ROE, 100 percent.
- 20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So like in the
- 21 American Water case, we had a range that was put
- 22 into the -- to the Stipulation, correct?
- MS. MYERS: Yes.
- COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. So if we had a
- 25 range that was put into this Stipulation, what

- 1 happens if it's -- if it's not that?
- 2 MR. LOWERY: Commissioner, from our
- 3 perspective, the -- if we were -- we would have
- 4 been willing to agree -- let me put it this way.
- 5 We would have been willing to agree in the
- 6 Stipulation to a range of 9.3 to 9.7. We would
- 7 have been willing to agree to that. Not everybody
- 8 was willing to agree to it, so it's not in the
- 9 Stipulation.
- 10 When I said within shouting distance of
- 11 9.53, that's what I was talking about, that's that
- 12 I was talking about, that range, 17 basis points on
- 13 either side of that range, roughly.
- I'm not doing my math quite right. But
- 15 you get the idea. 9.3 to 9.7 was what was in our
- 16 minds.
- 17 And we -- we -- if you're asking about a
- 18 confidence interval with the caveat I gave, we feel
- 19 pretty comfortable that -- that that's where it is.
- 20 As Mr. Mills said, the reason that I'm
- 21 reluctant to give you these exact numbers is
- 22 because I don't want to misrepresent to you what
- 23 the number is.
- 24 And without knowing the 24 factors and how
- 25 they would have come out, I don't really know.

- 1 Nobody does. So that's my reluctance. It's not
- 2 that I'm not trying to be helpful to you, but I
- 3 don't want to misrepresent what the number is, that
- 4 it has some mathematical certainty that it -- that
- 5 it can't possibly have because of all the variables
- 6 that -- that are unknowable.
- But that's what we would have been willing
- 8 to agree to. That's how we viewed the
- 9 settlement.
- 10 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Staff, do you want to
- 11 comment on that?
- MS. MYERS: Well, I guess to just discuss
- 13 some of your fears you talked about earlier in
- 14 terms of silence and why we were silent, Staff was
- 15 not silent out of any concern for any other ongoing
- 16 case.
- 17 In isolation, we would have preferred to
- 18 have some sort of ROE listed or a range in this
- 19 agreement. But as discussed, that was not possible
- 20 for the parties to come to that sort of agreement.
- 21 And so I can say when we were working on
- 22 settlement documents and numbers to support
- 23 settlement, we were consistently 9.3 to 9.4. So
- 24 100 percent of the time, we came up with that
- 25 number.

- 1 Now, can I say given someone else's
- 2 position on an issue, would that be the number? I
- 3 can't say that because that was considering our
- 4 position on issues. So, you know, that's kind of
- 5 our -- our position.
- 6 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Mr. Woodsmall, do you
- 7 want to --
- 8 MR. WOODSMALL: I already stated. Our
- 9 position when we negotiated and came to a final
- 10 point, we didn't -- in our view, didn't move off of
- 11 9.2.
- We might have changed based upon
- 13 litigation risk how we viewed other issues, but it
- 14 wasn't on ROE. It was on other issues. So it was
- 15 9.2.
- 16 COMMISSIONER RUPP: But, OPC, you couldn't
- 17 come to an agreement on ROE range?
- MR. POSTON: You mean come up with our own
- 19 number for our own range?
- 20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No. In the
- 21 Stipulation, I thought you stated that, no, you
- 22 could not come to an agreement for a settlement
- 23 range for ROE.
- MR. POSTON: Well, the parties generally
- 25 -- you heard Ameren say 9.3 to 9.7, which is above

- 1 any calculation we saw. So that's why we couldn't
- 2 come to a range. And, you know, they were saying
- 3 the 9.25 was below the calculations that -- that
- 4 they were using.
- 5 So that's why -- we -- we tried because we
- 6 knew that, you know, the -- the Commission would
- 7 want this range. But we just couldn't come to an
- 8 agreement.
- 9 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So I have to
- 10 calculate, basically, my own range based off of
- 11 pushing you on -- on questions, which is looking
- 12 like 9.25 to 9.7.
- MR. WOODSMALL: 9.2. Yeah.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: 9.2. Thank you.
- 15 MR. WOODSMALL: That was his mid-point.
- 16 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you. Thank you.
- 17 9.2.
- MR. POSTON: And that was -- like he said,
- 19 that was his mid-point. I think you're not getting
- 20 the low point in that range of 9.2 to 9.7.
- 21 COMMISSIONER RUPP: I have not heard
- 22 anyone say anything lower than 9.2. Staff was at
- 23 9.3 to 9.4. Company was 9.3 to 9.7. MIE -- MECG
- 24 was 9.2. And you didn't have a witness in this
- 25 case.

- 1 MR. POSTON: I guess the point I was
- 2 making was 9.25 was MIEC's mid-point, and 9.53
- 3 seemed to be Ameren's mid-point.
- 4 MR. LOWERY: I don't want to get in a big
- 5 discussion, but I think Mr. Poston is mixing apples
- 6 and oranges. Our mid-point is whatever the math is
- 7 between 9.9 and -- our mid-point was not 9 -- or
- 8 9.53, per se. The range we were willing to agree
- 9 to was 9.3 to 9.7. I think I'm going to leave it
- 10 at that.
- 11 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So how comfortable are
- 12 you all --
- MR. MILLS: And --
- 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: -- that the range is
- 15 going to come in between 9.2 and 9.7?.
- MR. WOODSMALL: I think we're struggling
- 17 with your phrase come in. We gave you what we
- 18 believe was the implicit ROE when we negotiated.
- 19 There is no way from here on out to do --
- 20 for anybody to do any calculations to pinpoint it
- 21 with any more definition than that.
- 22 The first -- as Jim was saying, the first
- 23 year that rates are in effect, there will be an FAC
- 24 surveillance, a calculation of FAC. So that will
- 25 be and ROE that comes in, but that's not based on

- 1 the negotiation -- a hundred percent on the
- 2 negotiation in this case.
- 4 customer case. It's based on -- if Noranda turned
- 5 back on tomorrow, there's going to be a huge spike
- 6 in revenues, and ROE will go up.
- 7 So there is umpteen different variables
- 8 that could affect what the ROE comes in. So it's
- 9 the phrase "comes in" that we we're struggling
- 10 with.
- 11 COMMISSIONER RUPP: But that's kind of my
- 12 whole point is how I have to either vote yes or no
- on something that I don't know when the customer
- 14 count comes in everything that happens where --
- 15 where it's going to fall and what it -- when
- 16 everything -- so when somebody wants to file a
- 17 complaint against to say, Well, they're
- 18 over-earning on their ROE and everything.
- 19 And it comes back to, Well -- which is
- 20 what it was agreed to, but we didn't know what it
- 21 was. And it's -- to me, it's more -- I guess I'm
- 22 struggling with the difficulty from where we
- 23 started this conversation to no one wanted to say
- 24 anything to now you're starting to narrow it down.
- 25 And then -- and then I have to make a decision, you

- 1 know, based on that.
- 2 MR. LOWERY: Commissioner, let me try --
- 3 I'm -- I'm trying to be helpful, so let me try to
- 4 be helpful about this and maybe address what I
- 5 think you're quandry is.
- 6 Let's -- let's imagine that we had tried
- 7 this case and you're in the agenda room and you're
- 8 trying to decide what the ROE should be for
- 9 purposes of setting the revenue requirement.
- 10 You would have exactly the same issue in
- 11 that circumstance that you have right now because
- 12 you don't know, and neither do we, what's going to
- 13 happen once rates are set.
- 14 All -- all you would -- all you know at
- 15 that time is based on the evidence that's been
- 16 adduced what -- what the various capital witnesses
- 17 -- what their various opinions and what those
- 18 ranges are.
- 19 You have a range based on this discussion
- 20 of where various people in their own minds think
- 21 they were -- what they thought they were doing when
- they settled it what the apples to apples number
- 23 that I just gave you.
- You would have had that had we litigated
- 25 the case. But in terms of what happens later, you

- 1 would be in the same position.
- 2 Let me address the -- also, the comment
- 3 you made that if somebody, you know, later says,
- 4 Well, they're over-earning or maybe we say we're
- 5 under-earning or whatever.
- If you -- if you look at the case and you
- 7 said, Ameren, you get a 9.7 ROE, let's say, and
- 8 then two years later Ameren's earning 10 or 10 and
- 9 a half or something, that 9.7 doesn't tell you
- 10 whether they -- Ameren's rates are too high or too
- 11 low necessarily because lots of things could have
- 12 changed in that year or two.
- 13 Treasuries could have gone up. Risks
- 14 could have changed. So there's all kinds of
- 15 things. So when somebody says there's over -- when
- 16 a utility said I'm, quote, under-earning and comes
- in for a rate increase, it doesn't really have
- 18 anything to do with the last authorized ROE.
- Or if Mr. Woodsmall comes in and says,
- 20 Ameren's rates are unjust and unreasonable because
- 21 they're earning 10 and a half now, that doesn't
- 22 have anything to do with the last ROE either.
- What Mr. Woodsmall would be saying is
- 24 capital market conditions are such that their cost
- 25 of capital is 9 and a half, not 10 and half, and so

- 1 they're earning too much. But it wouldn't have
- 2 anything do with that last authorized ROE.
- 3 And I don't think the quandry you're in is
- 4 any different today is -- than what it would have
- 5 been if you were deliberating in agenda room after
- 6 the case has been tried. I think that's exactly
- 7 the same.
- 8 COMMISSIONER RUPP: See, and that's where
- 9 I disagree because I would have had the
- 10 information. I would have had the witnesses. I
- 11 would have had everything to base that number on
- 12 where I could say, This is where I believe -- based
- off all the information that was provided to me,
- 14 this is what is in the best interest of -- of the
- 15 ratepayers and this is how things should be
- 16 calculated in moving forward. Now I'm faced with,
- 17 Trust us. We can't tell you, but it's going to be
- 18 okay.
- MR. LOWERY: Well, I think we have told
- 20 you with the caveats of what the number represents.
- 21 And the evidence all the ROE testimony in this case
- 22 will be of record.
- 23 It will be admitted to the record. And
- it's a record upon which you can make your decision
- 25 in approving the Stipulation.

- So you do have evidence from all of these witnesses that will be of record. You won't have
- 3 had them here for cross-examination, but you will
- 4 have their evidence.
- 5 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Right. So if I found
- 6 that the 8.75 witness was the most credible, and I
- 7 have confident -- then what should I do? Should I
- 8 vote no because I don't know if it's in the range?
- 9 MR. WOODSMALL: Definitely, vote no. I'm
- 10 kidding. The Commission always has the prerogative
- 11 to look at the evidence and reject the Stipulation.
- 12 COMMISSIONER RUPP: And you are saying I
- 13 should not reject it because everyone has agreed
- 14 upon it?
- MR. WOODSMALL: I'm saying, from my
- 16 standpoint, you should not object it -- reject it
- 17 because of the over-arching issues. It's based, in
- 18 my mind, on a 9.2 ROE and a reasonable settlement
- 19 of all other issues.
- 20 Everybody else will get to their reason
- 21 for why it's reasonable for a different reason.
- 22 Boy, that's a lot of reasons in here.
- 23 MR. LOWERY: Okay. Let me try this. In
- order for Mr. Woodsmall to say, in his mind, it's
- 25 9.2, but then 92 million is the right number and

- 1 let's say I say in my mind it's 9.7 and we get to
- 2 the same number, that means Mr. Woodsmall thought
- 3 the ROE issue would come out at 9.2, but he would
- 4 lose some other stuff, and that I thought ROE issue
- 5 would come out at 9.7 and I would win some other
- 6 stuff. Who knows? It's to --
- 7 MS. TATRO: Actually, that's backwards.
- 8 MR. LOWERY: Or I would lose some stuff.
- 9 But I think what you're hearing is that everyone,
- 10 within I think a narrow range, 40, 50 basis point
- 11 range, everyone in their mind thinks that's the
- 12 appropriate result somewhere in that 40, 50 basis
- 13 point range.
- We think it's a little higher than
- 15 Mr. Woodsmall. He thinks it's a little lower. But
- 16 I think everyone is within that area.
- 17 As I said, our reluctance is I don't think
- 18 -- there's no -- there's not a real good science
- 19 behind that, and so we're a little concerned
- 20 representing that there is. At least I am.
- 21 And I think everybody agrees with that,
- 22 that we're just a little concerned with
- 23 representing -- attaching a weight to these
- 24 estimates that that -- that they don't deserve.
- 25 COMMISSIONER RUPP: And I understand that.

- 1 And I'm purposely belaboring this point just to
- 2 show how it -- it annoys me.
- And so I'm purposely trying to call as
- 4 much attention to this because I am one of the
- 5 Commissioners that have stated that I don't like
- 6 these types of black box settlements moving --
- 7 moving forward. So I wanted to kind of just draw
- 8 attention to.
- 9 And then it doesn't help my level of
- 10 comfort that -- that the perception of what the
- 11 range -- or in this case, might appear to affect
- 12 another case that was running at the same time
- 13 based on different factors.
- 14 You know -- you know, it is not an exact
- 15 mathematical science because there's so many
- 16 variables and some people say it's more art than it
- 17 is science and stuff.
- But if we're basing things off a
- 19 perception of what they -- they might be and how it
- 20 might affect another case, you know, that -- that
- 21 -- that sticks in my craw as well. So I think I've
- 22 voiced my displeasure enough.
- CHAIRMAN HALL: What was the company's
- 24 position on -- on rate case expense?
- MR. LOWERY: The company's position was

- 1 that all prudently and fair rate case expense
- 2 should recognized in rate case requirement.
- 3 CHAIRMAN HALL: Which I know that total
- 4 amount is usually set after the -- after the rate
- 5 case has concluded. But did -- is there testimony
- 6 that provided a number up to a certain date?
- 7 MR. LOWERY: Our testimony in direct had
- 8 an estimate.
- 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: Of what?
- 10 MR. LOWERY: I want to say a million three
- 11 to a million and a half. I'm pretty sure it's
- 12 close to that. I -- I could be off by a little.
- 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: And that -- that included
- 14 the depreciation study?
- 15 MR. LOWERY: There wasn't a depreciation
- 16 study in this case.
- 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: There wasn't. Okay.
- 18 Okay.
- 19 MR. LOWERY: We will have to -- in the
- 20 next couple of years, we'll have to file one.
- 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: And so your position was a
- 22 hundred percent of that 1.3 to 1.5?
- MR. LOWERY: That's right. In the -- in
- 24 the -- in some past cases, we've agreed to a
- 25 normalization so that, you know, if there's

- 1 volatility in that number that, you know. You
- 2 might look at an average of three cases or
- 3 something.
- 4 And I -- we never got that far in the
- 5 testimony in terms of debating that. But -- but
- 6 our starting position was that the 1.3 to 1.5.
- 7 Yes.
- 8 CHAIRMAN HALL: And what was Staff's
- 9 position?
- 10 MS. MYERS: Staff believed in sharing of
- 11 rate case expense consistent with the order in the
- 12 KCP&L case ER-2014-0370.
- 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And OPC?
- MR. POSTON: I believe we were also
- 15 proposing a sharing consistent with the
- 16 Commission's past order.
- 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: Any other position -- any
- 18 other party take a position on that issue?
- MR. WOODSMALL: We didn't file testimony,
- 20 but we supported what the Commission had done in
- 21 KCP&L. Our statement of positions was consistent
- 22 with that.
- 23 MR. LOWERY: And Mr. Chairman -- oh, I
- 24 apologize. Go ahead, Lewis.
- MR. MILLS: We didn't -- we didn't file

- 1 testimony. If the case had gone to hearing and
- 2 that was an issue listed, we probably would have
- 3 said that our position is that there should be
- 4 sharing.
- 5 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, since folks
- 6 have brought up the KCP&L case, I did want to say
- 7 that, you know, when that case -- when that case
- 8 went to the Court of Appeals and the Commission, of
- 9 course, defended its decision in that case, the
- 10 Commission was very clear in that case that in that
- 11 Court of Appeals in its briefing that the
- 12 Commission wasn't setting a policy.
- 13 The Commission made the decision in terms
- of how they handled rate case expense in KCP&L"s
- 15 last rate case based upon the facts and
- 16 circumstances of that case.
- 17 And so, you know, I'm sort of hearing a
- 18 theme that folks sort of maybe were following what
- 19 they perceived to be a policy. We didn't perceive
- 20 that to be a policy.
- 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Commissioner Rupp,
- 22 did you have any questions -- any other revenue
- 23 requirement issues? Otherwise, I was going to move
- 24 on to FAC.
- 25 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Yeah. I -- I'm okay

- 1 with revenue, and I guess move on to rate design.
- 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: All right. Turning to the
- 3 -- to the FAC, can somebody explain to me how the
- 4 settlement terms vary from the current FAC?
- 5 MR. LOWERY: Yes. I don't think -- I
- 6 think it's a very easy explanation. The FAC is
- 7 continuing as it is with two changes. And they're
- 8 both changes to what is included in fuel costs that
- 9 were run through the FAC.
- 10 CHAIRMAN HALL: Can you -- can you -- can
- 11 you point me to a page on the settlement?
- 12 MR. LOWERY: I can. It was around three
- or four, but I'll tell you exactly what it is.
- MR. POSTON: Four.
- 15 MR. LOWERY: It starts -- it's four or
- 16 five.
- 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: Are the two changes you're
- 18 talking about?
- MR. LOWERY: Right. Now, you can't see
- 20 the two changes because what -- what we've done is
- 21 we've set forth definitions of fuel costs and
- there's two things left out that used to be there.
- 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.
- MR. LOWERY: But the -- the two things
- 25 that are left out are coal ash revenues and

- 1 expenses and what people generically refer to as
- fuel additives, which they're -- they're
- 3 consumables, like activated carbon in our case that
- 4 are added to the fuel to be burned to the boiler
- 5 help with controlling emissions.
- And I'm sure OPC -- and let me just give a
- 7 nuance because I'm sure OPC will if I don't. From
- 8 OPC's perspective, they felt like -- and we agreed
- 9 -- we agreed with this, where we ended up.
- 10 They felt like fuel costs in the fuel
- 11 adjustment clause should be those costs that are
- 12 within the listings in FERC Account 151, which is
- 13 an inventory account for fuel.
- And so that's what we agreed to. And then
- 15 we agreed that those include --- and we have a
- 16 specific list, which is the same specific list
- 17 we've had in the tariff for many years with the
- 18 exception of the two items that I gave you.
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.
- 20 MR. LOWERY: Other than that -- well, and
- 21 I quess there's also a slice of transmission
- 22 revenue, I forgot about those, that OPC wanted
- 23 transmission revenues.
- 24 You know, we -- we have all transmission
- 25 revenue and costs in before, as you know. So

- 1 there's a slice of transmission revenues equate to
- 2 the slice of transmission costs that have always
- 3 been -- been in.
- In our last case, the percentage of
- 5 transmission charges was, I believe, 3.86 percent.
- 6 It's now 1.71 percent. And the reason those
- 7 percentages changed is you run the fuel model and
- 8 you look -- and you look at the netting in each
- 9 area, what are purchases and sales. It's the same
- 10 calculation that's been done before.
- 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: So the change here is the
- 12 removal of certain transmission revenues?
- MR. LOWERY: No. No. It's the inclusion
- 14 of transmission revenues.
- 15 CHAIRMAN HALL: I'm sorry.
- MR. LOWERY: Yes. I mean, it's a very
- 17 minor change given the percentages. But -- but
- 18 whatever that number -- if that number had been 10
- 19 percent, the calculation, there would have been 10
- 20 percent of the transmission revenues and charges
- in. It happens to be 1.71 percent based on this
- 22 case.
- 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And so no other
- 24 range changes to transmission costs or expenses as
- 25 compared to last rate cases FAC?

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1 MR. LOWERY: That is correct? 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. 3 MR. LOWERY: No changes on the power side at all. I mean, it laterally comes down to an 4 5 agreement that we're going to -- we're going to 6 look to Account 151, the items within that listing 7 for fuel, and that meant that two things had to 8 come out that I mentioned and an agreement to 9 include the appropriate amount of transmission revenues. That is the only difference that we 10 11 have. 12 CHAIRMAN HALL: I assume the company took the position in its initial application to include 13 14 all transmission costs? 15 MR. LOWERY: No. We actually did not. 16 -- we don't agree with your decision from our last 17 case, but we -- we chose to accept it. 18 And we asked for transmission charge and 19 revenue tracker, and -- and we did not -- we don't 20 have that in the settlement. 21 But no, we -- we -- the position reflected 22 in the settlement on transmission is exactly what 23 we filed in this case with the exception there's some transmission revenues there now, too. 24 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And we're still at

- 1 ninety-five?
- 2 MR. LOWERY: And we're still at
- 3 ninety-five five.
- 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.
- 5 MR. LOWERY: And maybe should mention,
- 6 this wasn't a change, so I was trying to describe
- 7 changes.
- 8 But the other component of fuel cost, as
- 9 it's always been, are those costs and revenues
- 10 reported in Account 518, which is the nuclear
- 11 account. But that -- there's no change about that
- 12 from the -- from the current tariff.
- 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Commissioner Rupp,
- 14 any -- anything?
- 15 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.
- 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. All right. Moving
- on to rate design, could somebody, and maybe it's
- 18 Mr. Lowery or -- explain to me what we're doing on
- 19 the revenue neutral shifts?
- 20 MR. LOWERY: Yeah. I think I can. So
- 21 what we're doing is we're moving -- I believe it's
- the LPS and SPS, Mr. Woodsmall will correct me.
- MR. WOODSMALL: LGS and --
- MR. LOWERY: LGS and SPS. We're moving
- 25 those two classes a little bit closer to the point

- 1 estimates that the cost of service studies indicate
- 2 that they should be. We're making a small shift
- 3 that moves them closer to that class cost of
- 4 service studies.
- 5 CHAIRMAN HALL: So -- so the
- 6 \$92 million rate increase, we're -- you're starting
- 7 off with -- with hitting all the classes the same
- 8 but then you're adjusting LGS and small primary
- 9 service down .45 and residential up to .45?
- 10 MR. WOODSMALL: It doesn't come out to
- 11 exactly that. The way you start is revenue neutral
- 12 means assuming no revenue changes for the company.
- So what you do is move LGS, SP down .45.
- 14 And that increases residential about up .32 because
- 15 I think -- they're a larger class.
- 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Right. Okay.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Once you've done that,
- 18 then you shift everybody up the entire 3.48
- 19 percent, which is the overall system increase.
- 20 So when you get done with that netting,
- 21 LGS SP will get approximately 3.03 percent increase
- 22 and Res. will get a 3.77 increase.
- 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Give me those numbers
- 24 again, please.
- MR. WOODSMALL: The overall increase is

- 1 3.48%. And depending on -- I haven't run it
- 2 through the latest set of agreed to billing
- 3 determinants, but it's roughly for LGS SP an
- 4 increase of 3.03 percent and an increase to Res.
- of 3.77 percent. And all other classes -- I don't
- 6 know about lighting, so you'll have to --
- 7 MR. LOWERY: I can give you the numbers,
- 8 and I'm agreeing with Mr. Woodsmall's numbers. I
- 9 mean, we rounded them, but I'm -- to the nearest
- 10 tenth.
- 11 But -- and -- and the consequence, as I
- indicated, of doing that is we're moving those two
- 13 classes a little closer to their cost of service,
- 14 and it also moves residential a little closer to
- 15 their cost of service because they -- the studies
- 16 generally would indicate that -- that residential
- 17 are below what -- what their cost of service would
- 18 -- would indicate as a general matter.
- But I -- do you want the -- do you want
- 20 all the classes? I'll be happy to give them to
- 21 you. I have them here rounded to the nearest
- 22 tenth.
- 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Sure. And then I want to
- 24 give people an opportunity to respond from there.
- MR. LOWERY: Residential is 3.7. SGS is

- 1 3.7. LGS is 3. I think Mr. Woodsmall said three
- 2 3.03. Close. SPS is 2.9. LPS is 3.8. Lighting,
- 3 depending on whether it's company-owned or
- 4 customer-owned is 3.5 and 3.9 respectively. And
- 5 Metropolitan Sewer District is 3.9. For an overall
- of 3.5, as Mr. Woodsmall indicated.
- 7 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Mr. Poston?
- 8 MR. POSTON: Yeah. I just wanted to
- 9 respond to the statement that residential class was
- 10 not covered in the cost of service. We believe
- 11 they were. But for purposes of settlement, we
- 12 agreed to -- to move the way we did.
- 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.
- MR. LOWERY: Yeah. I -- I probably should
- 15 have said that. I mean, I think from our studies
- 16 and their -- their studies that it would be the
- 17 other. But they have a different point of view of
- 18 how the study should come out. So I agree with
- 19 that.
- 20 CHAIRMAN HALL: And Staff's studies on
- 21 that point?
- MS. MYERS: Yeah. We're more in line with
- 23 what Mr. Poston was saying. Our studies don't show
- 24 necessarily this. But because OPC and MIEC and
- 25 MECG were able to come to an agreement on this

- 1 issue, we were not going stand in the way.
- 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: So under this settlement,
- 3 are residential customers paying more than their
- 4 cost of service from Staff's position -- or from
- 5 Staff's perspective?.
- 6 MS. MYERS: Not necessarily more than
- 7 their cost of service. But this isn't necessarily
- 8 what we would have proposed outside of settlement.
- 9 It's more than what we would have proposed.
- 10 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. So then concerning
- 11 large general service and small primary service,
- 12 there's a -- there's a later provision that takes
- 13 40 percent of it -- of that increase and applies it
- 14 to the demand charge; is that correct?
- 15 MR. WOODSMALL: Correct. So what you just
- 16 heard was that LGS SP are getting roughly a 3
- 17 percent increase, which amounts, if you run through
- 18 billing determinants, in LGS SP getting an increase
- 19 of about 15.4 million overall.
- Then you take 40 percent of that,
- 21 6.17 million, and run it through the demand charge.
- 22 The remainder will be run through the energy
- 23 charge. And that's to reflect, in our view, that
- there is too much fixed costs being collected in
- 25 the energy charge currently. So this will collect

- 1 more of the fixed costs through the demand charges.
- 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Does -- does Staff believe
- 3 that's good policy?
- 4 MS. MYERS: I don't -- I don't think we
- 5 were setting policy here. I think in combination
- of the agreement as a whole, we were okay with
- 7 this. But I wouldn't take this in isolation to be
- 8 Staff's policy.
- 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: All right. But from --
- 10 from Staff's perspective, is it good policy to move
- 11 that 40 percent increase to the demand charge? I'm
- 12 not saying it's not. I'm just -- I'm curious as to
- 13 what Staff's position on that is.
- 14 MS. MYERS: I think in combination of the
- 15 entire rate design, we felt it was within our
- 16 reasonableness zone that we had. It was small
- 17 enough that we didn't think it would significantly
- 18 impact price signals.
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And then we are
- 20 also increasing the residential and small general
- 21 service rate class by a dollar a month. It goes --
- 22 what is it currently?
- MR. LOWERY: It's eight.
- 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: \$8 flat?
- MR. LOWERY: Yes.

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1 CHAIRMAN HALL: Which is definitely below 2 KCP&L and GMO's, and I believe it's also below 3 Empire's; is that correct? 4 MR. LOWERY: Yes. I believe they're all 5 north of ten. Maybe not a lot, but --6 CHAIRMAN HALL: And so -- and this is 7 probably a stupid question. But -- it is, but I'm 8 not going to ask it. 9 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Are you calling for me 10 to ask it? 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: All right. So then moving 12 on -- I'm on -- I'm on Page 12. There appears to be a movement towards inclining block rates here, 13 14 which -- which I personally applaud, and I think I 15 know other Commissioner so as well, unless I'm 16 misinterpreting it. But can someone explain 17 Section D, sub 2 on page 12? 18 MS. TATRO: I think, to put it simply, we 19 are flattening the rate differential slightly --20 oh, you're talking about 2. 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: I am. 22 MS. TATRO: Okay. 23 MR. LOWERY: So what we did -- what we did, as I understand it, is we took -- we took 24 25 revenues from the customer charge increase, and we

1 used those to flatten -- we used those to flatten 2 the -- the winter blocks somewhat. 3 CHAIRMAN HALL: Well -- okay. MR. LOWERY: So the winter blocks became 4 5 flatter and --6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Right now -- right now in the winter, you have declining block rates, correct 7 8 MR. LOWERY: Yes. 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And so you -- you 10 are -- you are flattening that decline? 11 MR. LOWERY: That's right. The slope got 12 flatter. The differential got less. 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: So how many blocks do we 14 have in the winter? 15 MR. LOWERY: Two. 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Two. MR. LOWERY: Up to 750 kilowatt hours, I 17 18 believe, and then beyond. 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: And so it's -- it's not -you don't anticipate that it will be flat yet this 20 21 change, but it will be closer to flat? 22 MR. LOWERY: It will be flatter, yes. 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. 24 MR. LOWERY: Yes. 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: Was this a provision that

- 1 the Division of Energy was involved in? 2 Yes, your Honor. And we did MR. BEAR: 3 file testimony to that regard. And, you know, I --4 I'd agree with that characterization that it's a flattening is the goal of that. 5 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Okay. And then in 7 the next rate case, the company has agreed to 8 develop and file inclining block rates for the 9 summer and a further narrowing -- well, and a narrowing of the winter; is that correct? 10 11 MS. TATRO: Right. 12 MR. LOWERY: Right. We're -- we're 13 actually going to calculate and file -- and I'm not 14 saying we will be advocating for or won't be 15 advocating for it, but we're going to file an 16 actual proposal that anyone can advocate for as-is
- But we're going to do all of the work so
- 19 that there's a concrete proposal for addressing the
- 20 inclining blocks in the next case.

or oppose or modify.

- 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: And that would include, I
- 22 guess, an elasticity study or --
- MR. LOWERY: Well, now you're getting a
- 24 little bit beyond -- beyond my -- my expertise, I
- 25 have to admit.

17

1 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. 2 MR. LOWERY: We are going to file --CHAIRMAN HALL: That's the first time 3 that's happened, Mr. Lowery. This is kind of fun. 4 Let's keep talking about this a little bit. 5 MR. LOWERY: I'm a little weak on rate 6 7 I've got to admit it. We are going to 8 peak -- now, there's a stakeholder process we'll be 9 going through, and we will be filing a cost of 10 service study that is in support of that. 11 So if -- if elasticity would be normally 12 part of that, then I bet it's in there. Mr. Coffman is not nodding his head that it will 13 14 be, so --15 CHAIRMAN HALL: This is -- this is a 16 movement that I personally think is very, very 17 important. Again, it's something that a number of Commissioners have -- have advocated for. 18 19 So I -- I wish we could incorporate that 20 in this rate case. But I'm -- I -- I do appreciate 21 at least movement in that direction, not just in 22 terms of studying the next rate case, but the 23 flattening that -- that will occur as a result of -- of this potential settlement in the winter 24 months. 25

1 Okay. And then turning to page 14, what are we doing with -- on -- on the customers' 2 3 ability to aggregate use as cross meters? 4 MR. LOWERY: Well, I believe -- I believe 5 that we agreed that the stand-by service rider, as 6 it exists today and the one that will be adopted 7 here, it -- it doesn't limit the customers' ability 8 to consolidate those meters. 9 There are some rules and regulations in the company's tariff generally that I don't know 10 11 that we believe they necessarily limit it. 12 But there's requirements you have to go 13 through in order to -- in order to get there. What 14 we're really trying to do with the stand by-service 15 rider -- and this was -- this was the result of a 16 broad collaboration. I mean, a lot of folks had 17 input on this, Division of Energy in particular, but it wasn't just them. 18 19 What we're trying to do is -- is provide 20 more transparent price signals to customers that 21 have behind the meter generation to get in line 22 with best practices. 23 And we've agreed to collaborate and study and try to come up with solutions to it if there 24 25 are -- if there are barriers, whatever they might

- 1 be, to -- to aggregating -- or, you know, to -- for
- 2 aggregation across meters.
- 3 So we're going to -- we're going to work
- 4 with DE in particular, but any other stakeholders.
- 5 And if we need to do something further, we're going
- 6 to study what -- what those kind of things may be.
- 7 MR. BEAR: And, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of
- 8 the Division of Energy, that's our understanding,
- 9 that this would provide some transparency and,
- 10 also, start to put that in front for potential
- 11 users on a going forward basis and that we'd
- 12 continue the dialogue as we start to go more
- 13 granular details on it in the future.
- 14 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And I've got a few
- 15 more things, but I think I'm going to --
- 16 Commissioner Rupp, do you have a couple of
- 17 additional questions on rate design?
- 18 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Yeah. Bill, do you
- 19 have any questions or anything first before I go?
- 20 All right. I'm going to just go ahead. He's
- 21 probably still on mute.
- 22 Staff, you answered a question of -- of
- 23 the Chairman's with -- he asked you if -- if
- 24 residential customers are going to be paying more
- 25 than their cost of service. To me, your answer was

- 1 contradictor. So the cost of service for
- 2 residential was below what -- where it is at now
- 3 was below what -- what your position was.
- 4 MS. MYERS: Yeah. Let me clarify that.
- 5 So what I -- what I was trying to convey there is
- 6 the proposal here for the revenue shifts that shift
- 7 some cost to residential is not what Staff would
- 8 have proposed. That's more of a shift than Staff
- 9 would have proposed to residential.
- 10 That said, even with that shift in mind,
- 11 we don't believe that residential is paying more
- 12 than their cost of service. So hopefully that
- 13 clarifies my contradiction.
- 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: That -- that does
- 15 clear it up. Thank you. I appreciate that
- 16 clarification.
- 17 In the inclining block rate section, the
- 18 company is going to file a proposal for
- 19 consideration in the next rate case. Is that to be
- 20 considered as the rate -- if the Commissioners move
- 21 forward, or would that be an optional rate for the
- 22 customers in addition to other rates that -- that
- 23 are -- that are set out?
- 24 MR. LOWERY: I don't know the answer to
- 25 that. But I -- I had understood that it would be

- 1 an alternative to essentially maybe leaving the
- 2 incline the way it is now, and Commissioners would
- 3 -- would probably be choosing between those. Or
- 4 something in between if the Commissioners thought
- 5 something between.
- 6 I -- but -- but -- but there's a collaborative
- 7 that's going to take place. I'm sure everybody in
- 8 this room just heard your question, so it seems
- 9 like that could be -- or maybe has a little
- 10 better --
- 11 MS. TATRO: I just want to make sure I
- 12 understand what you're saying. When you say an
- optional rate, I don't think we're saying we're
- 14 going to have -- we're going to propose it and the
- 15 customer could opt into this rate instead of this
- 16 rate. I don't think that's what's being proposed.
- 17 At the end of the day, you will pick a
- 18 design. And it might be the inclining. It might
- 19 be something more flat. We'll have that
- 20 discussion, but it's not a, Here's an optional
- 21 thing they can opt into.
- 22 COMMISSIONER RUPP: That's what I wanted
- 23 to see is where it said in consideration because a
- 24 couple paragraphs down, it said these optional
- 25 rates. And I just wanted to make sure I was on the

- 1 -- on the same page.
- MS. TATRO: I think when we said optional,
- 3 it meant Ameren is not bound to it if we decide
- 4 that's not what we want. But we are going to put
- 5 one out there. Maybe we support it. Maybe we
- 6 don't. I don't think at this point we know because
- 7 we haven't gone through that yet.
- 8 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So when you go to the
- 9 time of use rates, then you're going to say even if
- 10 Ameren is not in favor of it, it still would be an
- 11 option for the -- for the customers.
- 12 So it -- and then it also talks about
- 13 you're going to be doing studies -- I'm sorry.
- 14 I've got to get back to that page. It's on page
- 15 13. But it was -- talks about how you're going to
- 16 do the studies.
- 17 MS. TATRO: Yeah. You're talking about
- 18 bill impacts that are there in the middle of the
- 19 page?
- 20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Yeah.
- 21 MS. TATRO: Yeah. That's so we all can
- 22 understand the impact of the change on customers.
- 23 For example, customers who use electric heat are
- 24 going to be impacted differently than customers who
- 25 do not.

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1 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So if we're saying we 2 want to go ahead with an inclining block rate, when 3 will this collaborative workshop and the study --4 when will all that take place? So how far after 5 the rate case would these rates go -- I was 6 confused on when you're going to have this 7 collaborative process. 8 MS. TATRO: Yeah. I think the 9 collaborative process working with all the 10 interested stakeholders -- I'm sorry. I can't see 11 you. Happens -- I think it's within a year after 12 this case. 13 MR. LOWERY: Well, I --14 MS. TATRO: But the -- but we'll file it 15 -- we'll have it all completed and filed in the 16 next rate case. And so in that case, if that's 17 what's chosen, that will be the rate that comes out 18 of that next case. Does that make sense? 19 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Okay. When I 20 read through it the first time, I was unclear if it 21 was, yeah, if you want us to do this, we'll do 22 this, but then we're going to have to have a 23 workshop, and then it might be another year and a half, you know, until we actually have, you know, 24 25 something.

- 1 MS. TATRO: It's my understanding that the
- 2 workshop -- the stakeholder process is going to
- 3 happen after this case.
- 4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So when you come in
- 5 for the next rate case, everything has been done.
- 6 The feedback's been given. Here it is. Here's
- 7 what everybody has decided and --
- 8 MS. TATRO: My expert is nodding yes, so
- 9 I'm good.
- 10 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you. Thank you.
- 11 And I believe I saw time of use rates in here. So
- 12 you're -- you're guaranteeing that the next time
- 13 you come in, you will have a time of use rate
- 14 option filed?
- 15 MR. LOWERY: Well, we have a -- we have a
- 16 run.
- 17 COMMISSIONER RUPP: You have a run right
- 18 now that nobody uses because it's just the way it
- 19 is. So you're going to come in with a good time of
- 20 use rate that is, you know, based off of input and
- 21 data and statistics with those goals outlined of
- 22 how it's going to be created?
- 23 So the next time you come in, there will
- 24 be a viable option for time of use rates for the
- 25 customers that choose to opt into that program that

- 1 actually has the proper incentives?
- 2 MR. LOWERY: We intend for -- to file a
- 3 time of use rate that would promote the four goals
- 4 that are listed there. That's right.
- 5 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Excellent. And do you
- 6 intend to file -- provide a good time of use rate
- 7 that has incentives, the proper motivation, for
- 8 instance?
- 9 MR. LOWERY: I think anything that
- 10 Mr. Davis and Mr. Wills design would certainly be
- 11 good.
- 12 COMMISSIONER RUPP: All right. That --
- 13 so, I mean, I -- and I will, you know, comment that
- 14 along the -- with -- echo Mr. Chairman's comments
- 15 about the inclining block rates, the time of use
- 16 rates, I am pleased to see you guys committing
- 17 yourselves to coming back the next time and -- and
- 18 you're studying it and you're going to actually
- 19 present something the next time that you come in.
- 20 And -- and I will say I was very pleased to -- to
- 21 see that. So kudos.
- I didn't see anything in here on pays --
- 23 pays any type of programs. Is that silent what
- 24 your intentions are on that or --
- MS. TATRO: I think that probably ends up

- 1 being handled through our MEEA programs rather than
- 2 -- because there wasn't anything specifically
- 3 decided in this.
- 4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay.
- 5 MS. TATRO: But that should not be read
- 6 that it can't happen or won't happen.
- 7 COMMISSIONER RUPP: All right. That's all
- 8 I have at this point.
- 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: On page 16, there is some
- 10 discussion about the line extension policy. I
- 11 assume that because the only thing that's mentioned
- is that there will be a study conducted that we're
- 13 keeping the current line extension policy or the
- 14 current line extension tariffs in place? Is that
- 15 correct?
- MR. LOWERY: That -- that's correct.
- 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: But a study will be
- 18 conducted consistent with the testimony of company
- 19 witness Bill Davis. Could you give me a brief
- 20 summation as to what that testimony is?
- 21 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Davis could, but neither
- of us are prepared -- have a good enough handle on
- 23 it to give you a fair -- I know what -- I know that
- 24 the -- that the goal was to -- there was a
- 25 recommendation from your under-utilized

- 1 infrastructure workshop regarding line extension
- 2 policies.
- 3 And the idea was to pick up on their
- 4 recommendation and study how -- how some of those
- 5 issues could be addressed.
- 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.
- 7 MR. LOWERY: But I know that's a very
- 8 general answer but that's the only understanding I
- 9 have.
- 10 CHAIRMAN HALL: Well, I understand there's
- 11 a -- there's a pretty significant difference in the
- 12 language on here where you're agreeing to study it
- 13 this. And then in a couple of other places you've
- 14 agreed to study it and file something. So here
- 15 you're going to study it but not necessarily file
- anything in connection with that study; is that
- 17 correct?
- 18 MS. MYERS: I think it was Staff's
- 19 understanding of Mr. Davis' testimony, that it
- 20 would be a 12-month historical study. He was going
- 21 to compare the existing Ameren tariff on that issue
- 22 with GMO's.
- 23 And then I believe they were going to file
- 24 that in their direct filing in the next case. I
- 25 look to the company to correct me if I'm wrong

- 1 there, but that was our understanding.
- 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Well, I like that more
- 3 than what's here.
- 4 MS. TATRO: I don't think we have an
- 5 objection to filing it. But you're right. The
- 6 stipulation is silent on it being filed.
- 7 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Though -- though
- 8 if the -- if the testimony indicates a willingness
- 9 to file it in the next rate case, then that would
- 10 be incorporated in this provision?
- 11 MR. LOWERY: It absolutely would if that's
- 12 what the testimony says.
- 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Well, I -- I do --
- 14 I do support a -- a movement towards the line
- 15 extension tariff that -- that GMO currently has.
- 16 So I appreciate that movement.
- 17 Concerning time of use rates, does it --
- does Ameren currently have the technology to
- 19 implement time of use rates? Does it have the data
- 20 and analysis to do it?
- MS. TATRO: Well, we don't have AMI rates
- 22 -- AMI meters which can impact some of that. But I
- 23 think we have the ability to do it to an -- to an
- 24 extent.
- To the extent that we move to AMI meters

- 1 at some point in the future, then that would be
- 2 improved.
- 3 CHAIRMAN HALL: Does the -- does the
- 4 company intend to move towards AMI readers?
- 5 MS. TATRO: Right now, I think we're
- 6 looking at that. And I think if you're familiar
- 7 with the language that has been proposed at the
- 8 Legislature, that is one of the things we would
- 9 like do and we believe the Legislation is
- 10 consistent with being able to get that done.
- 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: What's it cost to fully
- 12 implement?
- MS. TATRO: It's -- it's quite a bit. I
- don't know that I know the number off the top of my
- 15 head.
- 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: I'll bet you he does.
- 17 MR. BYRNE: I think my recollection, we
- 18 filed a -- a -- an attachment that showed it was
- 19 about -- it was -- it was in the range of like
- 20 \$600 million to do the whole system.
- 21 MS. TATRO: That was in the regulatory
- 22 docket?
- 23 MR. BYRNE: Yeah. I think that was in the
- 24 regulatory docket.
- 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Well, like

- 1 Commissioner Rupp, I -- I very much support a
- 2 movement towards time of use rates and appreciate
- 3 any -- any movement.
- 4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Can I ask a quick
- 5 question?
- 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Sure.
- 7 COMMISSIONER RUPP: If you have a time of
- 8 use rate but you don't have a smart meter and
- 9 someone wants to opt into that rate, are you going
- 10 to provide them a smart meter to -- to maximize the
- 11 program?
- 12 MS. TATRO: Okay. They get a time of use
- 13 meter.
- 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. They would?
- MS. TATRO: Yes.
- 16 COMMISSIONER RUPP: I don't have any
- 17 another questions.
- 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: I don't have any further
- 19 questions. I'll just make a quick note. I mean,
- 20 we started this -- this hearing off with
- 21 Commissioner Rupp and I expressing a significant
- 22 amount of displeasure with the lack of specificity
- 23 on an -- on an ROE. And I still have that concern.
- 24 But I will say that I do very much
- 25 appreciate all of the parties coming together and

- 1 -- and working out an agreement. And -- and even
- 2 though I do believe there is some transparency
- 3 lacking in black box settlements like this, there
- 4 is certainly some comfort that I have when all of
- 5 the parties can agree to a -- to a -- to a
- 6 settlement with a specific number.
- 7 So -- so, again, thank you to all the
- 8 parties for their hard work on putting this
- 9 agreement together. Thank you.
- 10 COMMISSIONER RUPP: And I want to echo the
- 11 same comments. I was -- to get everybody on the
- 12 same page for the same number, it -- it is a fight,
- and you should be congratulated on that because the
- 14 point is well taken that many different interested
- 15 parties are represented here ranging the full
- 16 gamut.
- I do not like that -- the ROE black box
- 18 settlement. I think I -- I said that. But I am
- 19 pleased with some of the other provisions that are
- 20 in here and the fact that -- that there's so many
- 21 different parties represented that all are on board
- 22 and it does speak to the -- to the difficulty of
- 23 getting -- of getting that done.
- 24 And I agree that -- that you should all be
- 25 commended for -- it makes it -- it would make it

- 1 very much difficult if this was a Non-unanimous --
- 2 or if there was people objecting.
- 3 But the fact that you guys were able to
- 4 come to pretty much an agreement. And there are
- 5 other things in here.
- I do want to say I do enjoy these
- 7 on-the-record presentations of the Stipulations.
- 8 It does give us the opportunity to ask these
- 9 questions and come to a level of comfortability
- 10 with that.
- 11 So -- but overall, I just wanted to say
- 12 that I do appreciate the hard work. And -- and to
- 13 a certain extent, you should be said job well done
- on -- on listening to everybody's viewpoints and
- 15 still being able to come up with some type of an
- 16 agreement.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Lowery?
- MR. LOWERY: Judge, there's a couple
- 19 things I wanted to take up on the record real --
- 20 real quickly. One is a typographical error in the
- 21 Stipulation on page 17 that I -- I'd move to amend
- 22 by interlineation if we could.
- And it's in paragraph J on page 17. The
- 24 reference to 386.1075 should have been the
- 25 393.1075. I don't know how all of us missed it,

- 1 but we did.
- 2 The other thing I'd like to mention and
- 3 I'd like to make a request of the Commission is a
- 4 request that the company is making, but it's one to
- 5 which I think almost all of the parties have
- 6 indicated they -- they don't oppose. Nobody's
- 7 indicated that they oppose it.
- 8 The Stipulation calls for the parties to
- 9 use their best efforts to get new rates in effect
- 10 by March the 20th. Given the timing and giving
- 11 case the law that indicates that, presumptively,
- 12 you should put a 10-day effective date on any
- order, we don't think that's probably realistic.
- But we do think there's a path to get the
- 15 tariffs in effect, assuming that you are inclined
- 16 to approve the Stipulation, which we hope you are,
- 17 so that they would become effective on April 1st.
- April 1st is also helpful in a couple
- 19 other respects. We have some owe other customers
- 20 on a calendar a month billing. It makes that
- 21 easier for our billing system, and it also lines up
- 22 with the accounting.
- We're resetting some amortizations
- 24 starting on April 1. So it -- it's a practical
- 25 date that makes a lot of sense. And it's also

- 1 largely consistent with the agreement of the
- 2 parties.
- 3 So what we're going to ask you to do, if
- 4 possible, is to approve the Stipulation at your
- 5 agenda next week, or if there were deliberations,
- 6 but there was consensus that it should be approved
- 7 perhaps to delegate to your Honor to -- to go ahead
- 8 and approve it so that we can file our compliance
- 9 tariffs on or shortly after the 8th.
- 10 We -- we'd ask if you do approve the
- 11 Stipulation, the Stipulation Approval Order be made
- 12 effective April 1, that we then file our compliance
- 13 tariffs. That allows you to approve them on March
- 14 22nd, which is ten days before April 1st.
- So you can put a more than 10-day
- 16 effective date on the Stipulation Approval Order or
- 17 you can put a 10-day effective date on the
- 18 compliance tariff order. And folks will have had
- 19 the compliance tariffs for quite a long while by
- 20 the time you do that on the 22nd.
- 21 And then everything could take effect on
- 22 -- on April 1. So we're making that request. And
- 23 my understanding is we don't have any parties that
- 24 have any issue or -- or oppose that in any way.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. To go back to your

1 -- your correction by interlineation, what page was 2 that on again? 3 MR. LOWERY: Page 17 in paragraph J, 4 which. The next to the last line in paragraph J, there's a statutory reference that's incorrect. 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What is the correct 6 reference? 7 8 MR. LOWERY: 393.1075. 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Mr. LOWERY: Reference to the MEEA 10 11 statute. It is not in Chapter 386. It's inter 393. 12 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Anyone object 14 to that interlineation correction? Hearing no 15 objection, I'll grant that motion, and it is 16 corrected. Anyone else? 17 MS. MYERS: Judge, before we go off the record, Staff had one thing to bring to your 18 19 attention. So on Page 9 of he Stipulation under C, where industrial aluminum smelter is discussed the 20 21 signatories have all agree that the IAS rate schedule should be eliminated. 22 23 But staff believes that, you know, consistent with the Commission's order in 24 25 EO-2016-0203 where you cite that the IAS rate will

- 1 remain in effect until the Commission issues and
- 2 orders in the field, and it continues on that that
- 3 would necessitate that if the Commission should
- 4 choose to approve the Stipulation and Agreement
- 5 that a separate section would need to be in that
- 6 order specifying that statement that the IAS rate
- 7 was no longer in existence.
- 8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. So just be a
- 9 separate ordered provision in the Stipulation?
- 10 MS. MYERS: Exactly.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.
- 12 CHAIRMAN HALL: Judge, I have a couple
- 13 questions about that.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.
- 15 CHAIRMAN HALL: And I meant to ask this
- 16 earlier, and I'm sorry. I forgot. Why are we
- 17 getting rid of this -- this rate?
- MR. LOWERY: Well, because --
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Because Noranda -- because
- 20 Noranda no longer exists?
- MR. LOWERY: Noranda doesn't exist any
- 22 longer. You know, the company's position in the
- 23 case was that the rate would continue. Others had
- 24 a different point of view. And we -- the
- 25 settlement reflects that the tariff goes away. So

- 1 I -- from our perspective, I'm not sure I could say
- 2 much more about it.
- 3 MR. WOODSMALL: In overview, your Honor,
- 4 when Noranda originally came on, they came on as an
- 5 LP customer because that was the schedule that was
- 6 in existence. They then moved to an LTS rate.
- 7 Only recently given the -- the Noranda
- 8 economics was the IAS put into place. This gets
- 9 rid of the IAS. But the LTS would still be
- 10 available if -- if someone did bring the smelter
- 11 back online.
- So while it gets rid of the IAS, it still
- 13 has the beneficial pricing that was in the LTS
- 14 rate.
- 15 CHAIRMAN HALL: So if the current owner of
- 16 the -- of the smelter were to -- were to start
- 17 manufacturing aluminum again, they would do it
- 18 under -- under the LTS rates?
- MR. LOWERY: Right. They have to meet the
- 20 load factor requirements. But -- but, presumably,
- 21 they would -- they would meet the requirements.
- 22 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. And the aluminum --
- 23 the industrial aluminum smelter rate had a
- 24 requirement of -- of load, employment and something
- 25 else. I can't remember,

1 MR. LOWERY: I think it was capital 2 investment, employment. But the load and the 3 operating characteristics in the IAS are the same 4 as in the LTS. 5 But there were these additional, I'm going 6 to call them, sort of economic-based provisions, 7 and, of course, had a lower -- had a lower rate. 8 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. What's the load 9 factor requirement for the -- for the LTS? 10 MR. WOODSMALL: 95 percent. 11 MR. LOWERY: I -- I believe that's 12 right. 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: 95 percent of -- of the 14 load that -- that Noranda was ---15 MR. WOODSMALL: It's not based upon any 16 particular KW. Whatever their demand is, they need 17 to have a 95 percent load factor for that demand. 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Okay. 19 MR. LOWERY: So if they bring one -- one 20 pot line back -- and, you know, I'm just making 21 this up. But if there were a 150 megawatts demand, 22 then they'd need to maintain 95 percent load 23 factor. At 150, they have don't have to be at 450. 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you. 25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anything else? All

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		0
1	right. Then we are adjourned. Thank you all.	
2	(The proceedings were concluded at 11:00 a.m. o	on
3	March 2, 2017.)	
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	1 age 60
1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3 4	STATE OF MISSOURI))ss. COUNTY OF OSAGE)
5	,
6	I, Monnie S. Mealy, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
7	Certified Court Reporter #0538, and Registered Professional
8	Reporter, within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby
9	certify that I was personally present at the proceedings as
10	set forth in the caption sheet hereof; that I then and there
11	took down in stenotype the proceedings had at said time and
12	was thereafter transcribed by me, and is fully and accurately
13	set forth in the preceding pages.
14	
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18	Monsie S. Mealy
19	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
20	Monnie S. Mealy, CSR, CCR #0538
21	Registered Professional Reporter
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