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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
  
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING  
December 15, 2016  
  
Gladstone Community Center  
Gladstone, Missouri  
Volume III  
  
In the Matter of KCP&L )  
Company's Request for Authority ) File No.  
to Implement a General Rate ) ER-2016-0285  
Increase for Electric Service )  
  
Ronald D. Pridgin, Presiding  
Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
  
William P. Kenney  
Maida J. Coleman  
Commissioners  
  
Reported By:  
Sarah A. Davison, CCR 1397

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

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Good  
3 evening. This is the Gladstone Local Public Hearing  
4 in Kansas City Power & Light's proposed rate  
5 increase. This is in the file number ER-2016-0285.  
6 I am Ron Pridgin. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge  
7 assigned to preside over this Local Public Hearing  
8 that's being held December 15th, 2016, in Gladstone,  
9 Missouri. The time is 6:00 p.m.

10 With me are two of the commissioners. To my  
11 left, Commissioner Kenny. To my right, Commissioner  
12 Coleman.

13 And the purpose of this evening's hearing is  
14 to hear from members of the public about Kansas City  
15 Power & Light's proposed rate increase. The company  
16 will not be presenting any evidence or any witnesses  
17 tonight, but you are certainly free and encouraged  
18 to speak with any company representatives after the  
19 testimony has concluded. And we also have members  
20 of the Commission staff and the Office of the Public  
21 Counsel if you have any questions or comments for  
22 them.

23 I only have a couple people signed up to  
24 testify. We'll go through the list here in just a  
25 moment, and then I'll see if anybody else who did

1 not sign up who wish to testify. When we begin I  
2 will just ask the witness to come forward to this  
3 lectern, raise your right hand to be sworn, and then  
4 I'll ask a few preliminary questions such as your  
5 name and if you're a customer of KCP&L, and then  
6 I'll allow you to make your statement. But when  
7 you're finished, please remain at the lectern in  
8 case the commissioners have any questions for you.  
9 And if you are unable to take an oath for religious  
10 reasons, please let me know and I'll ask your  
11 testimony to be affirmed instead.

12 Before we begin with testimony, let me see if  
13 the commissioners have any opening statement.

14 Commissioner Kenny?

15 COMMISSIONER KENNY: I would just like  
16 to welcome you here tonight. Appreciate your  
17 attendance. And we are here in order to hear what  
18 you might have to say. We have five commissioners.  
19 We do have a court reporter here and your testimony  
20 will be taken down to be part of the evidence and  
21 they will have a chance to read what you've spoken.

22 As the Judge mentioned, this is our second of  
23 four local public hearings, and then in February  
24 we'll begin a -- the case will begin a -- kind of  
25 like a trial. It will go on, everybody presents the

1 information, and the parties before the commission  
2 work out and come -- try to come to a fair,  
3 reasonable rate. So thank you very much for your  
4 attendance.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

6 Commissioner Coleman?

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, thank you.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Let me see if we have  
9 entries of appearance from counsel, please. Let's  
10 begin with Kansas City Power & Light.

11 MR. HACK: Appearing for KCP&L, Robert  
12 Hack.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Hack, thank you.

14 On behalf of the Staff of Commission, please.

15 MS. MERS: Appearing on behalf of the  
16 Staff, Nicole Mers.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Mers, thank you.

18 On behalf of the Office of Public Counsel.

19 MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Judge. Tim  
20 Opitz for the Office of Public Counsel.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Opitz, thank you.

22 On behalf of Ameren.

23 MS. FINDLEY: Beth Findley for Ameren.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Findley, thank you.

25 Are there any other counsel that wish to enter

1 an appearance?

2 All right. Let's go ahead and proceed to the  
3 first witness. I hope I can read these names  
4 correctly. If I don't, I apologize. Please correct  
5 me. Rod, is it Heelan?

6 MR. HEELAN: Right.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes sir, if you'll come  
8 forward and be sworn, please.

9 Do you swear the evidence you're about to give  
10 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
11 the truth, so help you, God?

12 MR. HEELAN: Yes, I do.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Would you  
14 please state your name and spell it for the court  
15 reporter.

16 MR. HEELAN: Rod, R-O-D, Heelan,  
17 H-E-E-L-A-N.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you a Kansas  
19 City Power & Light customer?

20 MR. HEELAN: Yes, I am.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. What is  
22 your statement for the Commission, sir?

23 MR. HEELAN: Well, it seems like  
24 everything they do, Power & Light does for any part  
25 of their system, they want the ratepayer to pay for

1 it. I understand that they have a lot of big  
2 expenses, but every time they do, they come to us to  
3 get -- seven times in the past ten years. I think  
4 it's kind of like the fox guarding the henhouse.  
5 They have a hearing, they get a rate increase, goes  
6 on year after year after year.

7 If you come -- if you -- if you raise rates  
8 seven or eight times within ten years, I don't think  
9 your company's very efficient. You're doing  
10 something that's causing all these costs. I  
11 understand that it costs money to build power lines  
12 and get right-of-way and all that kind of stuff, but  
13 you should know that going in. It's not like you  
14 don't know those things if you're in the power  
15 business.

16 This fuel adjustment charge: Is the price of  
17 coal stable; does it go up and down like gasoline  
18 and motor oil and all of that stuff; is it a stable  
19 fuel; if I had to go out and buy a ton of coal,  
20 would it be the same this week as it is next week;  
21 and what do you pay for a ton of coal?

22 It just seems like every thing that you do, we  
23 have one of these meetings. And it's not fair to  
24 the ratepayer. Just like this woman sitting back  
25 here, a lot of people in this room are probably on

1 limited income. I had my pension cut two months ago  
2 \$1,500 a month. Got two kids in school. I'm  
3 retired. So it does make a difference, big  
4 difference to me. Thank you.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNY: Thank you, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you for  
8 speaking.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any questions? Okay.

10 And, I'm sorry, I may not be able to read this  
11 next name. Is it EJO; am I reading that correctly?  
12 Yes, if you'll come forward to be sworn, please.

13 If you'll raise your right hand to be sworn,  
14 please.

15 Do you swear the evidence you're about to give  
16 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
17 the truth, so help you, God?

18 MR. O'HERIN: Yes.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you  
20 would please state and spell your name for the court  
21 reporter.

22 MR. O'HERIN: My name is Edward Joseph  
23 O'Herin. I'm a ratepayer for Kansas City Power &  
24 Light.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Would you spell your



1 last name for the court reporter?

2 MR. O'HERIN: O-H-E-R-I-N.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Thank you.

4 What's your statement for the Commission, please?

5 MR. O'HERIN: I thank you for trying to  
6 keep our rates down. I'd ask you to consider a  
7 couple of issues. I get these old energy reports.  
8 I don't know how many thousands of millions of  
9 dollars they're spending to send them. I like  
10 during the winter to use an electric space heater so  
11 I don't draw more power than I normally do. Of  
12 course, I get letters from you that says I'm a bad  
13 person. Not from you, but I get letters that say  
14 I'm a bad person. Some I get some saying I'm great.  
15 They, you, don't need to send me these letters. You  
16 can keep them.

17 Another issue I would ask you to consider is  
18 your political contributions. When I see  
19 officeholders being outrageous, and I already spoke  
20 with the very nice lady, and I'll speak with whoever  
21 afterwards, when I see political officeholders being  
22 outrageous, and I don't want to elaborate too much  
23 on that, I'll save that for afterwards, I also look  
24 at their contributions. I would seriously urge you  
25 to consider your political contributions and who

1 you're giving them to. Thousands of dollars. Right  
2 here in Clay County we have an officeholder, got  
3 \$4,500 from Kansas City Power & Light. I realize  
4 that Kanas City Power & Light has power plants in  
5 the area, but they're not officially representing  
6 you. When they're not representing the people,  
7 you've got to ask yourself who are they  
8 representing? They can't possibly be representing  
9 Kansas City Power & Light. And I won't elaborate,  
10 but I'll be happy to make comments after the  
11 meeting.

12 But thank you again for keeping the rates down.  
13 I also am on a fixed income, so it really helps, and  
14 everything's going up. I got a letter from Social  
15 Security today that I guess we're going up .02% next  
16 year. Every little bit helps, but thank you.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. O'Herin, thank you.

18 Mr. Kenny, any questions?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNY: No.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Coleman?

21 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Mr.  
22 O'Herin.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I don't have anyone  
24 else who has signed up to testify, but let me make  
25 sure, is there anyone else who wants to make any

1 remarks to the Commission? Going once, going twice.

2 Anything from counsel before we close?

3 Commission Kenny, Commissioner Coleman, closing  
4 arguments?

5 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I just have a  
6 question.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure.

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I just would  
9 like to know who all these people are in the room  
10 since no one else wants to comment. So who's  
11 represented, please? Who's this -- I know you.  
12 Who's this group back here? Oh, I see you, Matt.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Several of us are  
14 from the Missouri Public Service Commission.

15 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I didn't  
16 recognize down on the end.

17 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: KCP&L.

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Is all that  
19 KCP&L?

20 Yes, ma'am?

21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm a customer of  
22 KCP&L, and I keep wondering why my rates keep going  
23 on when my fixed income is going down?

24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: You're welcome  
25 to come up and speak to that if you'd like.

1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I just did.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Is there anyone else  
3 who wishes to testify?

4 All right. That will conclude then this  
5 evening's hearing in ER-2016-0285. Thank you very  
6 much. We are off the record.

7 (The Evidentiary Hearing was concluded.)

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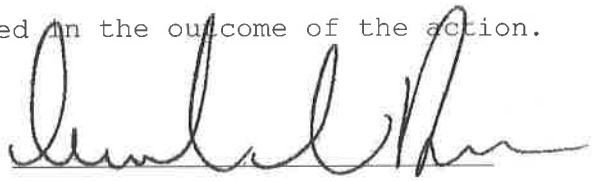
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSOURI        )  
                                          ) ss.  
CITY OF GLADSTONE        )

I, Sarah A. Davison, a Certified Court Reporter, within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



Sarah A. Davison, CCR

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><b>ability</b> 14:10  <b>able</b> 8:10  <b>action</b> 14:13,17  <b>adjustment</b> 7:16  <b>affirmed</b> 4:11  <b>ago</b> 8:1  <b>ahead</b> 6:2  <b>allow</b> 4:6  <b>Ameren</b> 2:3 5:22              5:23  <b>anybody</b> 3:25  <b>apologize</b> 6:4  <b>appearance</b> 5:9              6:1  <b>Appearing</b> 5:11              5:15  <b>appears</b> 14:8  <b>Appreciate</b> 4:16  <b>area</b> 10:5  <b>arguments</b> 11:4  <b>assigned</b> 3:7  <b>attendance</b> 4:17              5:4  <b>attorney</b> 2:3,9              14:15  <b>Authority</b> 1:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p><b>back</b> 7:24 11:12  <b>bad</b> 9:12,14  <b>behalf</b> 5:14,15,18              5:22  <b>best</b> 14:10  <b>Beth</b> 5:23  <b>Bethany</b> 2:3  <b>big</b> 7:1 8:3  <b>bit</b> 10:16  <b>Box</b> 2:6,9,14,19  <b>build</b> 7:11  <b>Building</b> 2:4,13              2:18  <b>business</b> 7:15  <b>buy</b> 7:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: 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