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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
September 12, 2012
Riverside, Missouri
Volume 10

In The Matter of Kansas City Power)
& Light Company's Request For) File No. ER 2012-0174
Authority To Implement A General)
Rate Increase For Electric Service)
In The Matter Of KCP&L Greater)
Missouri Operations Company's) File No. ER 2012-0175
Request For)
Authority To Implement A General)
Rate Increase For Electric Service)

DANIEL JORDAN, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

ROBERT S. KENNEY
COMMISSIONER

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 Mr. Lewis R. Mills, Jr.

4 State of Missouri

5 Department of Economic Development

6 Office of the Public Counsel

7 P.O. Box 2230

8 Jefferson City, MO 65102

9

10 Ms. Tanya Alm

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16 Ms. Lisa A. Gilbreath

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20

21 REPORTED BY:

22 FRAN HOLLAND, CCR

23

24

25

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

2 (Starting time of the Hearing: 7:30
3 p.m.)

4 JUDGE JORDAN: Let's go on the record.

5 The Missouri Public Service Commission calls the
6 actions in files number ER-2012-0174 and ER-2012-
7 0175. These actions are providing and appearance
8 and application for rate increases. This the local
9 public hearing in those actions. We are here to
10 record the testimony of witnesses in these actions.

11 My name is Daniel Jordan and I'm not a
12 Commissioner, I'm a Regulatory Law Judge, I'm an
13 employee of the Commission. My job's to conduct
14 proceedings like these.

15 To my right is Commissioner Robert
16 Kenney. Commissioner do you have remarks?

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Good evening
18 everybody. Thank you for taking the time to come
19 out at seven o'clock on a Wednesday night and share
20 your thoughts with us regarding the Kansas City
21 Power & Light of the Greater Missouri Operations
22 Rate case.

23 I am Robert Kenney. I am one of the
24 four Commissioners, there are typically five of us,
25 but we're short one Commissioner, I'm one of the

1 four. And your testimony is very important and is
2 a critical part of this process. It's something
3 that we do take very seriously in the course of our
4 deliberations.

5 As Judge Jordan indicated, your
6 testimony will be taken down by a court reporter
7 and be transcribed and it will become a part of the
8 record. And the other Commissioners who aren't
9 here today will have the opportunity to read and
10 review that testimony as a part of their
11 deliberations, so please don't assume by the fact
12 that they are not here that they are not going to
13 take into account, take serious consideration of
14 your remarks.

15 So again, thank you for taking part in
16 the process and I look forward to hearing your
17 testimony.

18 JUDGE JORDAN: I will now have entries of
19 appearance from the parties. We will begin with
20 the Applicant's Utilities.

21 MS. GILBREATH: On the behalf of Kansas
22 City Light & Power Company and KCP&L of Greater
23 Missouri Operations Company, Lisa Gilbreath, SNR
24 Denton US, LLP, 4520 Main Street, Suite 1100,
25 Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

1 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. And for the
2 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

3 MS. ALM: Tanya Alm appearing on behalf
4 of Staff for the Missouri Public Service
5 Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri
6 65102.

7 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. And for the
8 Office of the Public Counsel?

9 MR. MILLS: Thank you, Judge. Lewis R.
10 Mills appearing on behalf of the Office of the
11 Public Counsel and the public. My address is P.O.
12 Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

13 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. And are any of
14 the interveners present today? I'm not seeing any
15 intervening parties.

16 The purpose of this proceeding is to
17 hear testimony and it will become part of the
18 official file. As I've mentioned the court
19 reporter to my right, just beyond Commissioner
20 Kenney, is recording testimony. And that will be
21 testimony under oath, or if you prefer, I will
22 administer an affirmation if your convictions
23 forbid you from taking an oath.

24 And as Commissioner Kenney mentioned
25 there is a transcript. I'd also like to mention

1 that we are recording by video also.

2 So if you wish to testify on matters
3 subject to these actions, then I will be calling
4 names that are on my list in order. When I call
5 you, please come up to the podium. I will
6 administer an oath or affirmation and I may ask you
7 a few questions to get you started, making sure
8 that I've pronounced your name correctly, making
9 sure it's spelled right and what your relationship
10 is to the Applicant's in this case.

11 Do speak clearly, and the commission
12 wants to hear what's on your mind and so be
13 complete, but in respect for the time of everyone
14 that's been here throughout the question and answer
15 session and are still here now, please be concise
16 so that everybody can have their turn.

17 And if you agree with something that's
18 already been said, you can come up and say that,
19 just refer to the earlier speaker and say that you
20 feel that way, too. But do feel free to come up
21 and say that. If something was said in the
22 question and answer session that you would like the
23 Commission to consider, you have to tell us that
24 here. The rest of that was not on the record, this
25 is on the record, so do come up and mention that.

1 Your job here today in testifying is to
2 be the witness and you're a special kind of witness
3 because you're not really subject to the control of
4 direct examination. Usually, a witness can't just
5 come up and start talking. Usually they have to
6 wait for direct examination, but you're free to say
7 the things that are on your mind. You will be
8 subject to cross examination, in that if you have
9 some clarification and the parties have some
10 questions to clarify what you said, they will be
11 asking.

12 Here's what I'm going to do on that
13 since it's a little bit difficult, since it's a
14 little bit of a challenge for our court reporter,
15 what I'll do is, I will after you've said what you
16 say, I'll ask Commissioner Kenney if he has any
17 questions and then I'll just throw the floor open
18 to Counsel for Utility, for Staff and for OPC, and
19 if you have questions, please jump up and say so,
20 otherwise I'll assume you're done and then I'll
21 move on.

22 In your testimony, it's a good time to
23 bring up service issues. The Commission needs to
24 know about service issues because of Staff does
25 it's best to find out about these things. They

1 cannot be everywhere at once, so do keep those in
2 mind. Also keep in mind that the things you say do
3 matter to the Commission. A couple of examples of
4 that like that are relevant now are our rate
5 stabilization recommendations that the Commission
6 is considering.

7 Those will be ideas that would make it
8 possible for the - to have fewer of these
9 reactions, so the Utility doesn't come back right
10 after it's finished it's last rate action with
11 another rate action, so we don't have to keep
12 coming back here.

13 Also, the Commission is considering, for
14 example, lots of rates for the very low income
15 persons. Things like that arise from the ideas
16 brought forward in these local public hearings. So
17 when you've given your testimony, wait for
18 questions and then I'll excuse you.

19 Any questions on our procedure so far?
20 Not seeing any, I'll begin to call names from the
21 list of those who have signed up to testify.

22 The first name on that list is Billy S.
23 Edwards. Billy S. Edwards, come forward to be
24 sworn. And for the reporter, Billy S. Edwards is
25 pretty much the way it sounds.

1 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

2 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you for your time.

3 BILLY S. EDWARDS, being first duly sworn
4 by Judge Jordan, testified as follows:

5 JUDGE JORDAN: And you are Billy S.
6 Edwards?

7 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, sir.

8 JUDGE JORDAN: And what's your
9 relationship with the Applicant for a rate
10 increase?

11 MR. EDWARDS: Customer located in
12 Smithville, Missouri.

13 JUDGE JORDAN: What would you like the
14 Commission to know about this?

15 MR. EDWARDS: Well, I just - I've got a
16 statement here I'm going to try to go over and be
17 brief as possible. Again, my name is Bill Edwards.

18 I live in Smithville, Missouri. In
19 2001, my wife and I designed and built an extremely
20 energy efficient home. The best windows extremely
21 tightly insulated as possible, even went to
22 extremes of putting in a geothermal heating and
23 cooling system. And only D florescent lights
24 throughout. In other words, the point I'm making
25 is I have done everything I possibly can to cut

1 costs at my end. I've seen nothing in this dog and
2 pony show, sorry, that I just saw, to convince me
3 that KCP&L feels our pain, has done anything to cut
4 their costs.

5 I work in Tulsa, Oklahoma where the
6 electric rates down there are about 8 cents a
7 kilowatt. When I built this house in Smithville,
8 they were about 6 and now I'm paying 12. That's a
9 44 percent rate as told to us by their own
10 employees right here. Every year they keep coming
11 back and want us to pay for severance costs, flood
12 costs.

13 I should make it clear that I'm a union
14 employee. I'm not saying people do not deserve to
15 make decent wages. Their employees are extremely
16 well paid and I'm just talking about their union
17 employees, extremely well paid, excellent benefit
18 package. Their pamphlet they sent out to us in the
19 mail, one of the things that are laid out, the
20 reason they needed a rate increase was health care
21 costs.

22 We all, or most of us here all pay our
23 own health care costs. It's a serious situation.
24 I don't believe I need to be paying my health care
25 costs and their employees' health care costs, as

1 well. Now, I'm not blaming this all on labor, I'm
2 saying the company in general could make their
3 plant more efficient. They could find other ways,
4 but labor is unfortunately, in this environment, is
5 part of the equation. And I know that you
6 gentlemen cannot tell them to address their labor
7 costs.

8 But however, if you tell them no, they
9 will be forced to look within and they will -
10 they've looked to us outside for the last four -
11 well, the 44 percent. So I believe it's time that
12 they look within, at their own costs and quit
13 coming back to this well that's about gone dry.
14 Thank you for your time.

15 JUDGE JORDAN: Just a second.
16 Commissioner Kenney, any questions?

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I don't have any
18 questions for Mr. Edwards, but you've given this a
19 lot of thought and so I do appreciate you taking
20 the time to come here--

21 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: --and share with us
23 your thoughts. Thank you.

24 JUDGE JORDAN: Not seeing anything from
25 the other parties, thank you, sir. The next name

1 on my list is Robert B. Bonsee. I hope I
2 pronounced that correctly?

3 MR. BONSEE: Yes, sir.

4 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Bonsee, will you spell
5 your name for the court reporter?

6 MR. BONSEE: B-o-n-s-e-e.

7 JUDGE JORDAN: And that's a double e. Is
8 that correct?

9 MR. BONSEE: Yes, yes, sir, two e's.

10 JUDGE JORDAN: Very good.

11 ROBERT B. BONSEE, being first duly sworn
12 by Judge Jordan, testified as follows:

13 JUDGE JORDAN: Now, what would you like
14 to tell the Commission?

15 MR. BONSEE: Yes, sir. As part of my
16 comments, I want to comment on something that the
17 Kansas City P&L people made in their presentation
18 where they said, and I believe this attorney
19 pointed out that as they are going to put on a very
20 elaborate case before the Public Service Commission
21 using public relations people and accountants and
22 lawyers and probably a very costly case, it is
23 their intention to make the customers pay for this
24 case.

25 The very fact that they are doing that,

1 to me, is indicative of their attitude and the
2 basic thinking behind this, that we are the ones
3 facing now a fifth price increase. They are coming
4 before the Commission to do it. They are going to
5 put on an expensive case and make the customers pay
6 for their own loss, which I think is indicative of
7 again, not to repeat, of a abusive attitude on
8 their part, abuse of values on their part, to do
9 that, to put that case on to hurt the customers and
10 then make the customers pay for it.

11 As we talk about this utility rate
12 increase, we're talking about a very serious matter
13 that affects people in a serious way. Because of
14 the economy many people are living on the edge.
15 There are people in Kansas City that have an
16 electric bill laying on their table tonight and
17 they're not exactly sure how they're going to pay
18 it. That's what we're talking about.

19 The increase that's being proposed by
20 Kansas City Power & Light is not being proposed by
21 working people or people living on minimum wage
22 jobs. This increase is being proposed by
23 executives and it's planned and proposed by
24 executives running a large business, who are on
25 huge salaries, far out of proportion to what they

1 actually do. Their electric bill to them is an
2 incidental expense. They probably don't even know
3 how much it is.

4 But the people who are facing this rate
5 and who are going to balance the books for them,
6 are sitting there and they're choosing many cases
7 the elderly, the under employed or the unemployed
8 and they're choosing between electricity, water,
9 food and medicine. Those are the people - it's
10 affecting all of us, but it's affecting them very,
11 very, very seriously.

12 And as we have said, they have come to
13 us now and they have made four increases totaling,
14 if this one passes, it will be 6-0, 60 percent in
15 five years. We were hit again, and again, and
16 again, it's gone up. And we're all having to pay
17 for it. We absorbed the last four increases and my
18 thought is now it's their turn.

19 They say that this rate increase has to
20 come about because they have looked at their books
21 and they just can't operate without it. They say,
22 well, we're going to put this case on. We just
23 have to have the money because we can't operate
24 without it. But the customers could say the very
25 same thing. We have people sitting out there that

1 paid the last four increases and they're not sure
2 how they're going to pay for it. If they had the
3 money to hire the lawyers and the public relations
4 people, they could make a case for themselves that
5 they've looked at their books and they simply can't
6 operate, either.

7 So my question is, why do we always have
8 to take the hit? We took the hit the last four
9 times. We looked at our books and said, look, we
10 can't pay it, either. And we had to pay it. So
11 after we have absorbed the last four increases, now
12 it's their turn to figure out what on earth they're
13 going to do to balance their books because that's
14 what we've been doing.

15 They say we've got this airtight case.
16 We've got an airtight case. We can't pay it,
17 either. We don't know where the money is going to
18 come from, just the same case that they would make.
19 Why do we always have to give in? We have found
20 the money the last three times.

21 I want to say also, the Public Service
22 Commission cannot continue to create this
23 negotiation charade by saying, well the utility
24 company has asked for this, but we're going to give
25 you this. So we didn't give into them because we

1 told them no and the rate isn't going to be here,
2 it's going to be here, when this is what they
3 wanted to begin with. All this is hot air.
4 They're going to get what they want and make it
5 appear that we got a deal.

6 They - and as said before, if the Public
7 Service Commission sells us out on this, we don't
8 need them. We need people who are going to stand
9 up for us and who are, for once, going to look
10 directly at these people and say your answer to a
11 rate increase is no. It is an absolutely
12 categorically no. There will be no increase. If
13 that is not the answer, I will won't believe in the
14 Public Service Commission. These folks now, after
15 we have had four increases, if this one passes, 60
16 percent, now they are the ones that should be told
17 no and not us.

18 I want to say also at this point, that
19 Kansas City Power & Light is a monopoly. I would
20 like to be in a business where every single person
21 in the society had to buy what I was selling. And
22 not only did they have to buy what I was selling,
23 but they had to buy it from me. Now how would you
24 like to be in a business like that? Where
25 everybody's got to buy what you're selling and not

1 only that, they've got to buy it from you.

2 Once the Public Service Commission hands
3 the stick to them, they're going to beat us with
4 it. As anyone knows, they have a very strict way
5 of disciplining us. When you don't pay that bill,
6 you know what happens. You can sit there in the
7 dark, you can sit there in the cold, you can sit
8 there in the heat in the summer. They're free to
9 charge what they want and because of this business
10 arrangement they cannot be free to just charge what
11 they want, because of this lock tight monopoly that
12 they have. All other businesses are regulated by
13 the free market economy.

14 Now, a man mentioned at the beginning of
15 the meeting, he said, well, this is not like
16 Walmart, you know, Walmart and these other
17 businesses, they can just raise the price and the
18 public utility company can't do that, they have to
19 ask permission to raise the price. But every other
20 business runs into these cost problems and they get
21 together with their people and say, look, we've
22 looked at the books, it's tight, it's bad, we've
23 got to have more revenue.

24 But they say, well okay, we'll raise the
25 price and the boss says no, we can't raise the

1 price. Because if we raise the price, we're going
2 to lose our customers and we're going to be out of
3 business altogether. So raising the price is not
4 an option for many businesses. Many businesses
5 would like to say, just kick it, just kick them,
6 run the price up, jack it up. And they say, we
7 can't. If we do that, we'll be at - these people
8 have no such fear.

9 They know that this price increase is
10 not going to lose them one single customer. Not
11 one. Nobody is going to say, look folks, I've had
12 it with you, I'm going over here. I'm going to buy
13 it from your competitor. There is no competitor.
14 Well, they say, well, I'll just do without it.
15 I'll just stop buying Wendy's hamburgers or I'll
16 just stop buying - you can't stop buying what
17 they're selling.

18 I don't mean to be offensive, these
19 people have us by the throat and they know it.
20 They know it. Other businesses know they cannot
21 raise prices. There is, as some man mentioned
22 earlier, there is absolutely no real incentive for
23 them to economize. They don't have to economize
24 because they can always raise their price and their
25 customers ain't going nowhere, not one.

1 When they need money, they just come to
2 us. We are powerless against this monopoly. We
3 don't know where the money will come from and they
4 will not lose their customers in raising these
5 rates.

6 These things being the case, I'm going
7 to ask the Public Service Commission to defend us,
8 and if I'm harsh, please forgive me, against this
9 vicious and insensitive monopoly. Stand up for us
10 and look at them say, go back and you go through
11 your books, you lay off who you need to lay off,
12 you cut where you need to cut.

13 Like Winston Churchill said to the
14 British Navy in 1940, I don't care you do it, get
15 out there and sink that boat. Okay, you get the
16 books in line because you cannot raise rates. You
17 have hit these people four times in a row and not
18 it's your turn to sit down and say my goodness,
19 what are we going to do. That's we did. We had to
20 figure it out and now you're going to have to
21 figure it out. Thank you very much.

22 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you for your
23 testimony. Commissioner Kenney?

24 Commissioner Kenney: Nothing. No
25 questions. Thank you, Mr. Bonsee.

1 JUDGE JORDAN: Anyone else? Thank you.

2 The next name on my list is Michael A. Patterson.

3 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

4 MICHAEL A. PATTERSON, being first duly
5 sworn by Judge Jordan, testified as follows:

6 JUDGE JORDAN: Go ahead.

7 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. I'm a customer of
8 KCP&L and I'm opposed to this rate increase for
9 several reasons. The first being that we have had
10 so many so close together. It's on a fixed income
11 on disability, it's beginning to get really hard.
12 I've cut everything I can cut to reduce my bill,
13 short of turning off the refrigerator and the
14 freezer and the air conditioner. So on a fixed
15 income, this is hard.

16 Now being as how KCP&L is a wholly owned
17 subsidiary of Great Plains Energy, these figures
18 will come from both Great Plains and KCP&L. We've
19 talked about we've lost revenue, but according to
20 the Great Plains year end statement for 2011, they
21 show an operating increase from 2010 to 2011 of
22 approximately an increase of 62 million dollars in
23 operating revenue. KCP&L, in the same time from
24 2010 to 2011, shows an increase of 41 million
25 dollars in operating revenues.

1 Now, Great Plains total assets at year
2 end in 2011, from their year end statement shows an
3 increase of 300 million dollars. KCP&L's total
4 assets at year end from their same statement, shows
5 an increase of 266 million dollars of assets from
6 the previous years.

7 Now, the stock prices on Great Plains in
8 2010, was about \$19.63 and that's the high point of
9 the stock for that year, for what I can find. Now,
10 in 2012, the stock is up to roughly \$21.77 a share
11 as a high point for 2012. Currently, as of closing
12 bell today, the stock was at \$22.01, which means
13 we've had an asset increase in growth for the
14 company and all the stockholders. Not only are
15 they getting just their dividends, they're also
16 getting some growth with this now too.

17 Now, we're stating that costs are
18 because of lower natural gas prices and they can't
19 sell as much as they'd like to and I can understand
20 that, even though with the heat the way it's been
21 this last two months, I find that hard to believe.
22 But the thing is, we have assets and these are from
23 the second quarter of 2012, pulled from Great
24 Plains. I couldn't find KCP&L. The only place
25 I've been able to find theirs is on their year end

1 statements.

2 So basically, a total asset increase of
3 339 million dollars as of the second quarter, 2012.
4 Now, the total liabilities for that same period is
5 still an increase of 53 million dollars. So
6 basically, you've got a total overall net increase
7 of 286 million dollars.

8 It's not like these companies are losing
9 money year after or year or even breaking even,
10 they're actually gaining each and every year, even
11 with their expenses tending to go up. So like I
12 said, I'm kind of opposed to this.

13 The other problem I have is we've raised
14 the dividend either the last quarter of 2011 or the
15 first quarter of 2012. It was .2075, it was raised
16 a half a cent to .2125, which I agree doesn't sound
17 like much, but in the information I've been able to
18 find, 73 percent of the stock is owned by
19 institutions, not individuals, institutions and
20 mutual funds.

21 The prime example here is the top
22 institutional holder is Vanguard Group,
23 Incorporated. They own 7.4 million shares. Black
24 Rock owns 6.5 million shares. Stradins, the mutual
25 fund owns 4.5 million shares. These are just the

1 top two in each of these categories. Prudential
2 owns 3 million shares. And we have a total shares
3 hold from what I could locate of 112.8 million of
4 Great Plains stock. Since you can't own KCP&L,
5 you're going to own Great Plains, so this all - the
6 dividends are all going to come out of this.

7 The annual dividend now is 85 cents a
8 year, paid to 112.8 million people. That comes out
9 to roughly 95 million, 880 thousand dollars per
10 year. With the dividend increase, the difference
11 between what it was in 2011 and what it is now, is
12 still 564 thousand dollars, annually.

13 At some point, businesses in the private
14 sector, in order to grow would not spend their
15 dividends to their customers, they would say, okay,
16 we want to grow, we want to build new equipment,
17 repair equipment, upgrade equipment; therefore, our
18 stock will become more valuable as we get newer
19 equipment, better capabilities. They would suspend
20 dividends because dividends are after everything
21 else is paid. This is money left over at the end
22 of the year to give to your investors.

23 But most investors understand that when
24 you're retooling a business, adding equipment,
25 adding plants to upgrade you, that sometimes the

1 dividends have to stop or be reduced because part
2 of that money has to be used in order to do those
3 things. You can't expect your customers to pick up
4 the total cost for your upgrades and everything
5 else. That's usually spread out over a period of
6 time and prices over that period of time. And as I
7 said, we've had way too many rate increases for a
8 very large percentage, too close together.

9 I mean, at some point, I'd hate to find
10 myself to where I can't pay my light bill because
11 it's exceeded what I have money left over to do
12 with. And on a fixed income the money doesn't go
13 up that often or that much.

14 So, I mean, I would prefer that if we
15 absolutely have to give a rate increase, instead of
16 a percentage increase, why don't we make it like a
17 supplemental rate increase. KCP&L figured that if
18 they got their 15 percent, it would raise the
19 normal bill \$15 a month, I believe is what was
20 stated. Okay, so if we get a lower percentage,
21 they should still be able to figure out what the
22 monthly increase should be for the average
23 customer.

24 So why don't we, at this point because
25 of so many percentage rate increases, if we just

1 absolutely have to do this no matter what, then why
2 don't we just go and put in like a supplemental
3 rate increase and make it a set dollar figure. I
4 can deal with a set dollar figure, per month, much
5 easier in my budget than trying to figure out a
6 percentage increase and how I'm going to pay for
7 it. So if we're going to have - this should be an
8 average cost, then just take that average cost and
9 say okay, here's what you get for a rate increase.
10 Because, like I said, the percentages add up.

11 Right now, we're say roughly 30 percent,
12 I believe without this 15 percent they want. Well,
13 when you add that 15 percent, that's on all the
14 other percent rate increases, too. It's not just
15 this time from what it was five years ago or six
16 years ago. That percentage isn't based on a price
17 from five or six years ago. And it multiplies
18 rather quickly. And basically, that's all I got -
19 have.

20 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Commissioner
21 Kenney?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Patterson,
23 thank you for your taking the time out here. Your
24 comments seem very well researched and well thought
25 out. Where did do your research?

1 MR. PATTERSON: Okay, basically, I pulled
2 up the internet and pulled up Great Plains Energy
3 end of year statement, and also went to CMBC.com,
4 pulled up the stock quote for Great Plains Energy,
5 which is the 2012 quarterly amounts.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Obviously, it's
7 clear that you have done your homework and thank
8 you for taking the time out.

9 MR. PATTERSON: Okay.

10 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the other
11 parties? Not seeing any, I'll don't have anything
12 for you. Thank you.

13 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you.

14 JUDGE JORDAN: The next name on our list
15 is Marcia Ball.

16 MARCIA BALL, being first duly sworn by
17 Judge Jordan, testified as follows:

18 MS. BALL: I'm against this proposed
19 electric rate increase that KCP&L would like to
20 impose, for various reasons. Electricity, people
21 don't realize, runs everything, so it affects all
22 aspects of our lives, more than people really
23 realize. For one thing, gas pumps, they use
24 electricity to pump the gas through the gas pumps
25 to the car, so you're gas is going to go up,

1 because then, you know, the gas station has to pay
2 more. Your groceries are going to go up because
3 the lights, refrigeration, etcetera, so your food
4 goes up.

5 They mentioned earlier that milk costs
6 like 3.79 to 3.80 dollars, 3.83 a gallon. It's
7 going to go up even higher, so the rest of your
8 food's going to go up higher. Pharmacies are going
9 to have to pay more, so your medicine's going to go
10 up. And so it goes on and on for every business
11 uses electricity, so they will have to charge more,
12 in effect, so they will be able to operate. And so
13 we, in effect, will have to pay more. So it won't
14 just affect our home bills, but it will affect
15 everything because - everything we buy basically
16 from a company, they use electricity. Money only
17 goes so far.

18 Everything already is going up, but for
19 us as individuals as everybody has already
20 mentioned, our wages aren't going up while
21 everything else is, resulting in people having to
22 make a choice in their lives between having
23 electricity to live, while only gaining other
24 things such as food, medical care, medicine and
25 clothing. This especially is true for individuals

1 that are on a fixed income, such as myself, who
2 can't get raises and senior citizens who are on
3 like Social Security, and who have to - who could
4 lose their homes as a result due to making a
5 choice. And they may have no heat, trying to
6 conserve, when they need to pay the electricity.

7 So, just let the companies who are
8 saying they have issues that they have to address
9 that they're wanting an increase, we have issues
10 too. And they want us to help them take care of
11 those issues. Well, who's going to help me or all
12 the other people. We have the same issues of
13 things going on. Nobody helps me. I can't go to
14 my neighbor or these other people here and ask them
15 to help pay my bills. It doesn't work that way.

16 We have to tighten our belts, so I
17 believe they should also, like other companies such
18 as the hospital I work for, should have to tighten
19 their belts. They send me home without pay when
20 our census is low, so that they can conserve money
21 to prevent having to increase their costs to
22 patients more and more.

23 And just like they said, they have a
24 diversified work force. They have people at
25 different levels getting paid, so do we. We have

1 doctors, we have nurses, we have CNA's, we have x-
2 ray technologists, and so on, and they're all paid
3 differently. So did they, but you know, it's
4 across the board for all of us. We all had to take
5 cuts there.

6 I have other problems too with what's
7 going on. Yes, they said that their - with their
8 people that they have dangerous jobs, okay. I had
9 an uncle that was a lineman. He worked in Texas.
10 He got electrocuted doing that, but he knew when he
11 took that job what his problems were going to be,
12 what the consequences were. That's part of having
13 a job.

14 I also have problems where I work, or
15 consequences. I work with radiation and the
16 machines are very, very heavy. If some of the
17 counterweights get out of whack and they're not in
18 there securely, the machines can come down and
19 crush and kill you. It's happened to people
20 already in the city, years ago, so that can happen.
21 So my job is dangerous, too.

22 They also have other things like, I know
23 for fact that they are allowed to get unlimited
24 overtime. And I don't think that's fair. You
25 know, that's - and they said well, they've cut some

1 of their employees. Okay, well if that's the case,
2 maybe they need to bring some employees back to cut
3 down the overtime, something they need to do to
4 help in this case, I don't know what it could be.

5 But they also send or allow their
6 employees to go down, and this is very helpful, to
7 situations to areas that need help, like Katrina or
8 places that have lost power due to ice storms,
9 etcetera, so on. But along the way, their people
10 get to have - buy other things that have other
11 purposes for going along that I don't get. They
12 can stop, and I've heard them say this, from their
13 employees, they can buy cigarettes, they can buy
14 alcohol, they can buy this and that and it's paid
15 for on the company dime. And that's just not fair.

16 You know, so and I know that they're
17 going to say, well, people that are on a fixed
18 income, you know, like senior citizens who make the
19 choice and won't lose their electricity, yeah, I
20 think there's a law in Missouri, that if you're on
21 a - and I could be wrong, and if I am correct me -
22 that if you can't pay your electric bill or heat
23 bill, for cooling or heating, you're not going to
24 be allowed to turn it off because if they don't
25 want them to die or whatever, but somehow they

1 still have to end up paying a bill, so there may
2 never get it, you know, situations leveled out.
3 And that's kind of basically what I have to say,
4 and so, that's all I really have.

5 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you for testifying.
6 Commissioner Kenney?

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions, thank
8 you very much.

9 JUDGE JORDAN: Any others? Thank you.
10 The next name on my list it looks like it's Susan
11 Leeds. Is that correct? I got that right? I'm
12 not getting any response from that. It looks like
13 L, double e-d-s, to me. Okay, we'll pass that one
14 and go to the next one which is Russell
15 Wojtkiewicz. What did you say?

16 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: You got it, sounded
17 pretty close.

18 JUDGE JORDAN: I would say Wojtkiewicz.

19 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: Yeah, Wojtkiewicz, uh-
20 huh.

21 JUDGE JORDAN: Please spell that for our
22 court reporter.

23 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: W-o-j-t-k-i-e-w-i-c-z.

24 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

25 RUSSELL WOJTKIEWICZ, being first duly

1 sworn by Judge Jordan, testified as follows:

2 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: Thank you for holding
3 this hearing this time instead of noon, at six p.m.
4 Even though the hour is getting on, it is more
5 helpful for those of us, as myself, are self-
6 employed try to handle the clients through the day
7 or those of us that work and try to pay our utility
8 bills.

9 You're heard many passionate statements
10 to make mine a little more concise, I'm going to
11 say I agree and ditto with Mr. Bonsee and each of
12 the other testifiers also made some very good
13 points of that I thought the gentleman, and I
14 missed his name, a stark, stark, revelation and I
15 am investor. I do own stocks and stuff like and 96
16 million dollars in dividends. That's an incredible
17 amount. That sounds like more than what they are
18 asking for or close to, if I read the little
19 pamphlet here right, 106 million dollar in a raise.

20 You know, we are a monopolized utility.
21 It's not as though they have to compete for our
22 business and really tackle it. That seems like
23 that's a little bit - that's out of whack for that.
24 To give a point to the - they are trying to base
25 the rates that they need to get a return on equity,

1 largest company in the world, bounces back between
2 the largest company in the world, Apple, doesn't
3 even pay a dividend. And people just flock to
4 their stock. They flock so much it's worth \$600
5 and when I had it three years ago, I was tickled to
6 death to sell it at \$175.

7 The recovering from the flood. It was
8 mentioned that for the fires and the accidents that
9 happen, and industrial accidents that are prone to
10 happen, KCP&L carries insurance. Why do they not,
11 if they know that Iatan is at the same level as
12 Bean Lake, has been there for years, has flood
13 insurance, why not flood insurance. I mean, that
14 needs to be covered not by us rate taxpayers but by
15 them. The can switch the grid around when they
16 need to shut that plant down.

17 It just, from what I've heard on the
18 testimony from what I've heard from each of the,
19 both Missouri Public Service Commission and KCP&L
20 since I've been attending these rate hearings each
21 year, it seems as though they've all kind of gotten
22 - it's all kind of an incestuous little circle of
23 folks trying to do business and it completely left
24 out any free market or any what the market does.
25 Now, it's a monopoly and only one utility can

1 provide each customer with a utility, but we're in
2 a day and age now where that may be - ought to be
3 looked at to be changed. We're got the technology.

4 And back in 2007 or '08, when they were
5 building Iatan, it was known to most of us that
6 they had a five year come back for rate increase
7 plan. They were going to come back for a rate
8 increase, no matter if they got one or did not get
9 one, we were going to pay for that. It seems like
10 they just - it's not costing them anything to build
11 it. They didn't take a ROI risk or anything on
12 this, on building these plants.

13 I understand about the federally
14 mandated, unfunded regulatory. To that I would say
15 that that needs to stop, that's a governmental
16 situation that our elected representatives need to
17 say, unless you're going to fund it, you can't
18 mandate it, even to a private business that's a
19 monopoly. It's really not fair to KCP&L, but
20 that's about where it ends.

21 I have - the last I happen to paying
22 bills today, so I have this month's electric bill,
23 which you guys aren't billing but I apologize, it's
24 going to be a day late or so, so I have to pay the
25 extra two dollars. It sat on my desk too long.

1 But we - they said it's about normal usage. I'm
2 for this month, I'm 300 kilowatt hours more than I
3 did last year; last month I'm 400 kilowatt hours
4 than I did last year. Usage is up, that's a
5 dramatic increase. That ought to pay for the
6 plant, just in usage.

7 And I would urge that the Commission to
8 inject a little free market as much as they
9 possibly can, a little free market incentives that
10 they need to look at that, if they're going to - if
11 they're needing for the capacity, then they need to
12 pay for it out of the sales of that extra capacity,
13 whether it be wholesale sales or retail sales for
14 that extra capacity. So I am officially against
15 any more raises. It's too expensive.

16 As the person that spoke just before me,
17 so eloquently said, this rate increase as it's done
18 every year, it will raise everything as a base line
19 we've got. And that has to weigh heavily on the
20 Commission's decisions, because it will just affect
21 everything that we do.

22 Also, I realize we get a lot of rebates.
23 There's programs to put in alternative energy. It
24 needs to be even easier. We need to be able to
25 take off of the grid if DNR will let us be off the

1 grid. If Missouri Public Service Commission, we
2 can just say, hey, we want to take the meter away
3 and I can run a generator from time to time.
4 That's where DNR comes in, maybe I can't run a
5 generator as often enough in my backyard to
6 supplement my electricity, I don't know. But that
7 would be competition that how much gas does it cost
8 me per kilowatt of I run versus paying them, paying
9 KCP&L.

10 And that's really the only concept I've
11 got other than just say I'm against, with most of
12 the rest of the folks, that we're against the rate
13 increase.

14 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, Mr.
15 Wojtkiewicz. Commissioner Kenney?

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Just one question,
17 Mr. Wojtkiewicz.

18 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: Sure.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thanks for coming
20 down tonight. You mentioned it should be easier to
21 - for getting us all on alternative energy of some
22 sort of - ot to take advantage of rebates. Have
23 you taken advantage of any of the rebates that
24 KCP&L--

25 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: I haven't. There's

1 enough initial outlay on that that I have not yet.
2 Probably it won't do anything for the value of this
3 current house. If I build and if I get to build a
4 basically small cottage that, I'm sorry, live out
5 the rest of my days in, probably would start off in
6 that, put solar, maybe some sort of small wind to
7 it and back up generation and see if I couldn't
8 just operate without even being hooked up to power
9 on that.

10 That brings up the other point of KCP&L
11 frankly kind of whining about the rebates, that was
12 sort of, I'm sure, a give and take, that, well, if
13 you're going to have these rates, you need to - you
14 need to also pay for the rebates. The less we use,
15 the more we're having to pay for, the higher rates
16 we're having to pay for it.

17 So conservation isn't working here and
18 it's really kind of a misnomer. We're being asked
19 as a - as Mr. Edwards first said, he built a very -
20 as energy efficient as he could. His rates have
21 constantly gone up. We're not in any incentive -
22 you know, we're losing incentives like, well, if we
23 didn't do this and we had a lot of electricity,
24 then would we get a scale of economies and we get a
25 lower volume, would - could we do it like Walmart?

1 The more we sell, the cheaper the product is.

2 You know, maybe not, but you know,
3 asking us to use less, many of us use less. I have
4 my problems, window 10 X 10, putting in a brand new
5 high efficiency windows to help in this current
6 house, getting ready to put a new roof on and we'll
7 double insulate the ceiling at that point. But, I
8 expect the rates to keep going up because I'll use
9 less electricity.

10 And my bill will not - I mean, I won't
11 impact my bill any because it will go up. You can
12 try to define all the fuel charges and surcharges
13 and keep the kilowatt hour rates down, the bottom
14 line is that the last figure that I have to write a
15 check for doesn't go down on this.

16 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, sir. Questions
17 from the other parties? Not seeing any, thank you,
18 Mr. Wojtkiewicz.

19 MR. WOJTKIEWICZ: Thank you.

20 JUDGE JORDAN: The last name I have on my
21 list is David Wiese. I hope I pronounced that
22 correctly.

23 MR. WIESE: It's Wiese.

24 JUDGE JORDAN: Wiese. Please spell your
25 name for the reporter?

1 MR. WIESE: W-i-e-s-e. First name,
2 David.

3 DAVID WIESE, being first duly sworn by
4 Judge Jordan, testified as follows:

5 JUDGE JORDAN: What would you like the
6 Commission to know?

7 MR. WIESE: Well, I see everyone else was
8 prepared with something to say or had done their
9 research. I did a little bit before I came to this
10 public hearing, this is actually my first one. But
11 I will say, I'm going to speak from the heart just
12 a little bit instead of having facts on my side.

13 To me it just seems like short sided
14 that a company that's in business for 120 years
15 can't predict five years out or ten years out. You
16 know that they have a plan, you know that they're
17 sitting having meetings to decide what plant is
18 going to retire, what time, when or how are we
19 going to replace it.

20 In my own home, if I have an air
21 conditioner or a refrigerator or a car that I know
22 will have a lifetime of three or four years, I
23 budget that amount to buy my next car. I feel like
24 what we are doing here is we're having to fund
25 their lack of vision and I really feel like that's
important to remember because I have to look ahead
and say, how long am I going to have my

1 refrigerator? Is it a fifteen year refrigerator,
2 and if I have eight years on it, that gives me a
3 ballpark of I have seven years to budget for that.

4 I don't think it's fair that we have to
5 continually come up with money for this, so I do
6 oppose the rate hike and I agree with a lot of what
7 was said. That's really all I have to say.

8 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you for coming and
9 saying that. Commissioner Kenney?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I don't have any
11 questions, but you did just as well as if you had
12 done the research and facts and figures, so thank
13 you very much.

14 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the other
15 parties? Not seeing any, thank you.

16 That is the last name on my list. Is
17 there anyone else here who would like to testify?
18 I do not see any.

19 So please remember that if anything else
20 occurs to you or to your neighbors, you can come
21 and chat with the Commission Staff or the Office of
22 the Public Counsel which represents the public in
23 these actions.

24 On behalf of the Missouri Public Service
25 Commission, thank you all for attending and for

1 giving your input, putting in so much thought and
2 time and effort into this as you obviously have.
3 With that we will adjourn and we will go off the
4 record.

5 (WHEREIN, the Hearing is concluded at
6 8:25 p.m.)

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COUNTY OF CLAY)

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