Page 1 1 STATE OF MISSOURI 2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 3 4 5 6 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 7 Evidentiary Hearing 8 September 26, 2013 9 Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 1 10 11 12 In the Matter of the Verified ) Application and Petition of ) 13 Liberty Energy (Midstates) ) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities ) File No. to Change its Infrastructure ) GO-2014-0006 14 System Replacement Surcharge ) 15 16 MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding, 17 Regulatory LAW JUDGE. 18 19 ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman, STEPHEN M. STOLL, 20 WILLIAM P. KENNEY, COMMISSIONERS. 21 22 23 REPORTED BY: 24 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR NO. 838 MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES 25

1 APPEARANCES: 2 3 LARRY W. DORITY, Attorney at Law Fischer & Dority 4 101 Madison, Suite 400 Jefferson City, MO 65101 5 (573)636-6758 6 Lwdority@springmail.com 7 8 FOR: Liberty Energy Corp. 9 MARC D. POSTON, Senior Public Counsel 10 Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 11 Jefferson City, MO 65102-2230 12 (573)751 - 485713 14 FOR: Office of the Public Counsel and the Public. 15 16 JOHN BORGMEYER, Deputy Counsel/Gas 17 18 JEFF KEEVIL, Senior Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission 19 P.O. Box 360 200 Madison Street Jefferson City, MO 65102 20 (573)751 - 323421 FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public 2.2 Service Commission. 23 24 25

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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(LIBERTY EXHIBIT NOS. 1 AND 2, OPC	
3	EXHIBIT NO. 1 AND STAFF EXHIBIT NOS. 4 AND 5 WERE	
4	MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)	
5	JUDGE BUSHMANN: On the record. Good	
6	morning. Today is September 26, 2013. The	
7	Commission has set this time for an evidentiary	
8	hearing in in the matter of the verified	
9	application and petition of Liberty Energy	
10	(Midstates) Corp, d/b/a Liberty Utilities, to	
11	change its infrastructure system replacement	
12	surcharge, File No. GO-2014-0006.	
13	My name is Michael Bushmann. I'm the	
14	Regulatory Law Judge that's been assigned to this	
15	matter. Let's begin with counsel making their	
16	entries of appearance, please. For Liberty	
17	Utilities?	
18	MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge	
19	Bushmann. For Liberty Utilities, please let the	
20	record reflect the appearance of Larry W. Dority,	
21	Fischer & Dority, PC. Our address is 101 Madison,	
22	Suite 400, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.	
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And for Staff of the	
24	Public Service Commission?	
25	MR. KEEVIL: Appearing on behalf of	

1	the Staff, Jeffrey A. Keevil and John D. Borgmeyer,
2	P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And for Office of
4	Public Counsel?
5	MR. POSTON: Thank you. Marc Poston
6	appearing for the Office of the Public Counsel.
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'd like to advise
8	anyone in the audience who's watching to please
9	silence any cell phone that you might have so you
10	don't interfere with the recording equipment.
11	I don't have any pending motions.
12	Anything by the parties that we need to take up
13	preliminarily?
14	MR. DORITY: I don't believe so,
15	Judge.
16	JUDGE BUSHMANN: The witness list I
17	have indicates that the witnesses for today and
18	tomorrow if necessary would be in this order: For
19	Liberty, David Swain, Mark Caudill; for Staff,
20	Thomas Imhoff, Roberta Grissum and Joel McNutt; and
21	for Public Counsel, Ted Robertson; is that correct?
22	And did anybody need to premark any exhibits? I
23	know that you did some of that ahead of time.
24	MR. POSTON: No, sir.
25	JUDGE BUSHMANN: All right. I think

1	we're ready for opening statements now. First
2	opening statement will be by Liberty Utilities.
3	MR. DORITY: Good morning. May it
4	please the Commission?
5	For the record, my name is Larry
6	Dority, and our firm represents Liberty Utilities
7	in its petition to change its rates to the
8	infrastructure system replacement surcharge, or
9	ISRS.
10	In the 30-plus previous ISRS filings
11	that have been processed and approved by this
12	Commission, I believe this is the first filing that
13	has been set for hearing. I believe the record
14	will also show that this is the first filing that
15	the Office of the Public Counsel has chosen to
16	actively participate in, save the legal argument it
17	presented in the last MGE case, a legal position
18	that was unanimously rejected by this Commission.
19	To be clear, this case is not parties
20	simply looking at ratemaking issues from different
21	perspectives due to competing interests. To grant
22	Public Counsel the relief it seeks in this
23	proceeding would materially alter the playing field
24	by departing from well-established practices
25	I hope you like that background. It's working

1 great, just as we planned. 2 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Very Star Wars. 3 MR. DORITY: That's right. JUDGE BUSHMANN: I believe the 4 5 Chairman is trying to hook in. 6 I'm sorry, sir. Go ahead. 7 MR. DORITY: Okay. Sure. As I was saying, to grant Public Counsel the relief it seeks 8 9 in this proceeding would materially alter the playing field by departing from well-established 10 practices and procedures that have existed for a 11 12 decade and would interject regulatory uncertainty 13 into a process built upon advancing the protection of public safety and welfare. 14 15 To very briefly set the stage for this matter, I would like to take you back to the 16 17 1987-89 time frame starting in September '87 when several natural gas accidents occurred in the 18 Kansas City metropolitan area on both sides of the 19 Missouri/Kansas border. Thereafter, in October 20 21 1988, right here in downtown Jefferson City over on Jefferson Street, a leak from a fractured cast iron 22 natural gas main ignited an office building and 23 24 turned that building and the adjacent buildings around it into nothing but smoldering rubble. 25

1	As former PSC Chairman Bill
2	Steinmeier would later write in a Public Utilities
3	Fortnightly article, that dramatic explosion in our
4	state capital on October 30, 1988 marked the
5	beginning of a winter of crisis in natural gas
6	safety in Missouri. Several tragic accidents
7	followed in Missouri, Kansas City, Fulton, reaching
8	a new level of concern when in February '89 an
9	explosion in Oak Grove resulted in the death of an
10	elderly couple in their home.
11	These accidents resulted in
12	unprecedented actions by this Commission, including
13	the promulgation of an emergency rule requiring all
14	natural gas companies in Missouri to conduct
15	emergency leak surveys over all steel service lines
16	and yard lines not protected against corrosion and
17	to make immediate and necessary repairs.
18	During the 1989 legislative session,
19	House Bill 938 was passed giving the PSC the
20	authority to enter certain types of emergency
21	orders with regard to pipeline safety matters and
22	also provided the Commission with safety
23	jurisdiction over the municipally-owned gas systems
24	in Missouri.
25	Also during 1989, the Commission and

1	the many stakeholders involved in these issues
2	worked on far-reaching modifications to the
3	Missouri natural gas pipeline safety regulations,
4	culminating in new rules taking effect on
5	December 15th, 1989, making Missouri's regulations
6	more stringent than the comparable federal
7	regulations in numerous respects and arguably some
8	of the most stringent in the whole nation.
9	Of course, Mr. Bob Leonberger and the
10	gas safety section of your staff is responsible for
11	the Commission's gas pipeline program, and it's my
12	understanding that Mr. Leonberger will be available
13	should you have any particular questions regarding
14	gas safety issues.
15	As you are acutely aware, those staff
16	members are involved in ongoing field inspection
17	programs and, in fact, at least two such safety
18	audit inspections have been conducted in the
19	Hannibal and Jackson, Missouri service areas since
20	Liberty Utilities acquired its Missouri properties,
21	both audits being conducted and concluded in a very
22	positive manner.
23	Now, fast forward to 2003 as the
24	stakeholders grappled with the issue of how do we
25	encourage the gas utilities to replace and maintain

1	their aging infrastructure to protect against
2	threats to public safety. The General Assembly
3	enacted House Bill No. 208 in 2003 I believe,
4	Commissioner Stoll, you were still in the Senate at
5	that point in time the ISRS statute, and that is
6	codified in Sections 393.1009 to 393.1015, and that
7	took effect on August 23rd, 2003.
8	In this Commission's rulemaking
9	docket addressing the ISRS statute, Case
10	No. GX-2004-0090, the Staff succinctly
11	characterized the purpose of these enabling
12	statutory sections as follows: It appears from the
13	language and structure of those sections that the
14	purpose of the legislation is to address the single
15	issue of relief for natural gas utilities from
16	regulatory lag attributable to safety-related
17	infrastructure investments.
18	Liberty Utilities is presenting the
19	testimony this morning of Mr. Mark Caudill,
20	vice president of MCR Performance Solutions from
21	Atlanta, an expert witness in the area of rates and
22	regulatory compliance with a very extensive
23	background and experience regarding infrastructure
24	replacement rate mechanisms, such as the ISRS we
25	have in place here in Missouri. We would encourage

1	you to inquire of Mr. Caudill regarding the
2	regulatory and policy implications that he
3	addresses in his testimony.
4	As I noted earlier and as this
5	Commission's records will reveal, over 30 ISRS
6	petitions have been filed since the law's enactment
7	with virtually all having been resolved by
8	agreement between the natural gas utility and your
9	Staff.
10	In this proceeding Liberty Utilities
11	filed its verified application and petition to
12	change its existing ISRS on July 2nd, along with a
13	proposed rate schedule that would generate a total
14	incremental annual revenue requirement of \$650,670.
15	The company requested such an adjustment to its
16	rate schedule to provide for the recovery of costs
17	incurred in connection with ISRS eligible
18	infrastructure system replacements made during the
19	period beginning June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013.
20	In accordance with the statutes, the
21	company's petition presented infrastructure system
22	replacements eligible for ISRS treatment because
23	they did not increase revenues by directly
24	connecting to new customers, they are currently in
25	service and used and useful, they were not included

1	in rate base in the most recently completed general
2	rate case, and they replaced and/or extended the
3	useful life of existing infrastructure.
4	These eligible gas utility plant
5	projects meet the specific statutory parameters of
6	Section 393.1009, sub 5 as they consist of system
7	components installed as replacements for existing
8	facilities that have worn out or in deteriorating
9	condition, they're projects extending the useful
10	life or enhancing the integrity of pipeline system
11	components, or they're unreimbursed infrastructure
12	facility relocations.
13	Pursuant to statute, when a petition
14	to establish or change an ISRS is filed, the
15	Commission is required to conduct an examination of
16	that proposed ISRS. In connection with the
17	Commission's examination, the Staff may examine
18	information to confirm that the underlying costs
19	are in accordance with the ISRS code provisions and
20	to confirm that the proposed charges are
21	appropriately calculated. The findings and
22	determinations of Staff's examination may be
23	submitted to the Commission as a report.
24	In this docket, the company filed its
25	petition to change its authorized ISRS, the Staff

1	undertook an examination as described above, and
2	the Staff submitted its report to the Commission on
3	September 3rd in accordance with Judge Bushmann's
4	directive. The company filed its notice of
5	agreement with that report on September 13th.
6	As thoroughly discussed its updated
7	report filed on September 20th, Staff from the
8	auditing and energy units participated in the
9	investigation of Liberty's application. That
10	investigation included a review of the application,
11	all supporting documentation, the ISRS Missouri
12	statutory sections and all of the voluminous
13	additional data provided by Liberty.
14	Staff notes that its review of all
15	the supporting work papers and calculations
16	included an audit sample of work orders. During
17	its review, the Staff identified several errors and
18	omissions in the data provided by Liberty, but as
19	Staff stated, Staff has worked with Liberty in an
20	effort to sort out all of the concerns and believes
21	this recommendation addresses all of the items
22	identified. Staff then lists the adjustments it
23	makes to the company's application.
24	As noted in the Liberty Utilities
25	state president David Swain's testimony, while

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1	compiling information for both the Staff and OPC	
2	the company identified four ineligible projects	
3	that had been included in its petition. The	
4	company notified the parties, and the total cost of	
5	the ineligible projects was around \$34,000 in	
6	total.	
7	He also testifies that to further	
8	ensure the accuracy of the costs included in the	
9	filing, he instructed his staff to conduct an	
10	additional review of the ledger and subledger,	
11	which revealed two additional issues which also	
12	were communicated to the Staff and OPC.	
13	The Staff acknowledged receipt of	
14	this information in its updated report, addressed	
15	the matter in its exhibit list filing, and	
16	reflected this new information in its updated	
17	statement of position.	
18	As the company previously testified,	
19	it supports the Staff's resulting recommendation	
20	for approval of an incremental ISRS revenue	
21	requirement increase in the amount of pretax	
22	revenues of \$579,662.	
23	The company also supports the	
24	composite ISRS rates for each customer class by	
25	district as shown on Schedule JM1 Updated, which is	

1	reflected on the Staff's updated statement of
2	petition that's been filed with the Commission.
3	The company has worked tirelessly to
4	provide additional data and information on both a
5	formal and informal basis to both the Staff and the
6	Public Counsel. However, on September 9th Public
7	Counsel filed its motion in this matter requesting
8	that the Commission reject or deny Liberty's
9	application to increase its ISRS rates or, in the
10	alternative, set this matter for an evidentiary
11	hearing.
12	In the direct testimony of OPC
13	witness Ted Robertson, Mr. Robertson claims that
14	the purpose of his testimony is to address the
15	Public Counsel's concerns regarding the company's
16	application to change its ISRS and the accounting
17	support that it provided to Public Counsel to
18	verify the accuracy of the revenues that it's
19	requesting.
20	Simply put, irrespective of the
21	company's best efforts, Mr. Robertson continued to
22	contest the information he was provided, and his
23	objections and inquiries appear to create a
24	self-fulfilling prophesy that no acceptable support
25	could be offered, certainly not within the time

1	frame afforded by the ISRS statutes, if ever.
2	However, the ISRS statutes and this
3	Commission's implementing rule specifically provide
4	substantial consumer protections regarding the
5	ability of the Commission and other parties to
6	examine issues in the company's subsequent rate
7	case, but they also spell out what the ISRS process
8	is not designed to address. And I'll just briefly
9	highlight some of those protections.
10	ISRS revenues shall be subject to
11	refund. After the Staff of the Commission has made
12	its examination of the ISRS filings, no other
13	revenue requirement or ratemaking issues may be
14	examined in consideration of the petition or
15	associated proposed rate schedules filed pursuant
16	to the ISRS statutes.
17	Commission approval of a petition and
18	any associated rate schedules shall in no way be
19	binding upon the Commission in determining the
20	ratemaking treatment to be applied to these
21	eligible infrastructure system replacements during
22	a subsequent general rate case proceeding where the
23	Commission may undertake to review the prudence of
24	those costs.
25	That's where that examination is to

1	take place, in the company's next rate case. And
2	if there are any disallowances in terms of the
3	recovery of those costs in that subsequent rate
4	case, the gas corporation is mandated in its ISRS
5	to offset in its ISRS in the future, as necessary,
6	to recognize and account for any overcollections
7	that may be determined in that subsequent rate
8	case.
9	And finally, the statutes provide
10	that nothing shall be construed as limiting the
11	authority of the Commission to review and consider
12	these infrastructure system replacement costs along
13	with other costs during any general rate
14	proceeding.
15	As Liberty Utilities' witness Mark
16	Caudill points out, after more than 30 filings
17	under the current statutory and regulatory
18	structure, the practices and procedures followed by
19	the Commission, the Staff and the regulated
20	companies are fairly well established.
21	Applying the Commission's rules in
22	the manner suggested by OPC in its September 9th
23	motion would be a significant departure from such
24	practices and procedures and is likely to introduce
25	a higher level of regulatory uncertainty into the

1 process. 2 If the Commission were to consider 3 adopting an interpretation of its implementing regulations that departs from this well-established 4 5 practice and procedure, we respectfully submit that 6 this docket is not the place. Such consideration 7 should be addressed in a workshop docket that would allow all interested stakeholders to participate 8 and have their voices heard. 9 10 To sum up, Liberty Utilities' evidence will show the company provided a complete 11 12 petition setting forth the projects that are eligible for ISRS, and the company's state 13 president David Swain is available to respond to 14 15 questions you may have regarding that. 16 The company's petition is essentially 17 in the same format and contains essentially the same information as all of the 30-plus other ISRS 18 petitions that have been filed with this 19 Commission, and that's confirmed by the testimony 20 21 of our witness Mark Caudill. The company's petition complies with 22 the statutory and regulatory requirements for ISRS 23 24 filings, as demonstrated in the testimony of both 25 of our witnesses.

1	The Staff's report was factually
2	supported, and the company concurs with the
3	modifications to the rates that result from those
4	agreed-to changes. The evidence in this docket
5	fully supports a Commission decision to implement
6	these revised rates.
7	If the Commission wants to adopt a
8	new interpretation of its rules governing ISRS
9	filings, the more appropriate forum, as suggested
10	by Mr. Caudill, is an industry-wide process that
11	provides notice and opportunity for all affected
12	parties to participate.
13	Again, this is not a typical rate
14	case where the parties are locked in disputes over
15	elements of cost of service and rate design. This
16	case has very significant policy implications which
17	directly affect and impact public health and
18	safety.
19	The ISRS statutes and the rules were
20	designed eliminate the disincentives that natural
21	gas companies would otherwise have to make
22	incremental investments in infrastructure
23	improvements, improvements that are required to
24	operate safe and reliable natural gas systems
25	between traditional rate cases. Those

1	disincentives were removed by allowing gas
2	companies to recover incremental safety and
3	relocation revenue requirements without a full rate
4	case.
5	Over the last decade and in the more
6	than 30 ISRS filings, the practices and procedures
7	of this Commission have been well established. OPC
8	is now asking you to introduce regulatory
9	uncertainty into that process. If you accept our
10	position and if, as OPC suggests, we have included
11	projects that perhaps would not be eligible, the
12	worst that can happen is that the Commission can
13	fix the problems, if any, in the company's next
14	general rate case.
15	If, however, you accept OPC's
16	position and you reject a petition that looks like
17	and contains the same level of information as all
18	other ISRS petitions filed to date, the worst thing
19	that can happen may not be something that can be
20	fixed in the next rate case or ever.
21	The public policy of this state is
22	not well served by introducing regulatory
23	uncertainty. OPC is asking you to adopt an
24	interpretation that undermines the purpose of ISRS
25	and imposes disincentives to doing all that is

1	required to ensure safe and reliable operations.
2	If you believe that OPC's interpretations may have
3	any merit, then we would urge you to explore that
4	interpretation in an open and inclusive forum.
5	In any event, we urge you to listen
6	to the evidence that's presented and take full
7	advantage of the opportunity to question the
8	witnesses in this proceeding. Based on that
9	evidence, we respectfully request the Commission to
10	approve the petition as modified by Staff's updated
11	statement of position.
12	Thank you very much for your
13	attention this morning.
14	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you,
15	Mr. Dority.
16	MR. DORITY: Thank you.
17	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Opening statement by
18	Staff.
19	MR. BORGMEYER: Good morning. May it
20	please the Commission?
21	We're here today to consider
22	Liberty's petition to change its ISRS. Staff's
23	position is that the Commission should grant
24	Liberty's petition in the amount described in
25	Staff's updated exhibits. In a moment I'll

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	1	introduce the Staff witnesses who are here to talk	
	2	about their recommendation in this case, but first	
	3	I want to take just a minute to explain some of the	
	4	elements of the ISRS statute that are particularly	
	5	relevant to this case. May I approach?	
	6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may.	
	7	MR. BORGMEYER: I just passed out a	
	8	copy of the statute so that the Judge and the	
	9	Commission have that in front of them as the case	
	10	goes on today.	
	11	Now, ISRS stands for infrastructure	
	12	system replacement surcharge, and the gas ISRS law	
	13	is located in the Revised Statutes of Missouri	
	14	Chapter 393, Sections 1009 to 1015. The Missouri	
	15	Legislature enacted this law in 2003, and the	
	16	purpose of the statute is to encourage utilities to	
	17	make timely investments in projects that would help	
	18	keep their gas systems in good working order and	
	19	protect against threats to public safety posed by	
	20	aging infrastructure.	
	21	I think everyone here is well aware	
	22	of the danger to public safety that is presented by	
	23	natural gas escaping from the system. I don't	
	24	think anybody here needs to be reminded how serious	
	25	an issue this is.	
1			

1	If I may approach one more time?
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may.
3	MR. BORGMEYER: What I've handed you
4	is a is a this is the veto letter that Jay
5	Nixon, Governor Jay Nixon sent to the Secretary of
6	State of Missouri, and I just want to point out
7	that the Governor's view is that the ISRS mechanism
8	has had the intended effect of encouraging the gas
9	utilities to replace and maintain their
10	infrastructure. And that is also Staff's view.
11	Over the past ten years, the ISRS
12	statute has worked pretty well to encourage the
13	utilities to make these investments, while at the
14	same time preserving the Commission's ability to
15	review the prudence and reasonableness of the
16	investments and their costs in a rate case and to
17	disallow recovery if necessary.
18	Now, the statute strikes this balance
19	by drawing a clear distinction between Staff's
20	review of an ISRS petition which must be completed
21	in 60 days and the Commission's authority to
22	scrutinize the projects in an 11-month rate case.
23	In reviewing the ISRS petition, the
24	statute instructs Staff to do two things within
25	60 days: To confirm that the costs are in

1	accordance with the provisions of the ISRS statute
2	and to confirm proper calculation of the proposed
3	charge. If the Commission finds that the petition
4	meets those requirements, the statute states that
5	the Commission shall enter an order authorizing the
6	company to impose an ISRS.
7	Then the statute explicitly states,
8	no other revenue requirement or ratemaking issues
9	may be examined in the consideration of the
10	petition. The statute goes to great length to
11	state that approval of an ISRS petition shall in no
12	way be binding upon the Commission in determining
13	the ratemaking treatment to be applied to these
14	projects in a general rate proceeding.
15	The statute is clear. Even if the
16	Commission grants an ISRS petition and allows the
17	company to collect an ISRS surcharge, the
18	Commission in a subsequent rate case still has the
19	power to review the prudence and reasonableness of
20	these projects and costs and to make disallowances
21	if necessary.
22	And all this is to say that even
23	though the ISRS statute imposes a strict timeline
24	on Staff's review in order to fulfill the purpose
25	of the statute, the statute also provides plenty of

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-	l opportunity to get things right.	
2	2 In its position statement OPC argues	
	3 that the Commission should reject liberty's	
4	4 petition because its initial filing did not include	
ŗ	all the documents required by the Commission's	
6	6 minimum filing rule for gas ISRS petitions.	
	7 Public Counsel states that their	
8	8 argument on this point will be explained more fully	
0	9 in its brief, but at this point I'm I can't say	
1(	) I am exactly sure what their whole argument is.	
11	1 The rule seems to say that the	
12	2 company's supporting documentation should include a	
13	3 citation to a state or federal safety requirement	
14	4 with which the project is complying. This seems to	
15	5 track the statutory language in 1009 sub 5 about	
10	6 mains, valves, et cetera, and other pipeline system	
1'	7 components installed to comply with state or	
18	8 federal safety requirements.	
19	But I will point out that the statute	
20	) does not require the companies to provide those	
21	l citations, nor does the statute define what it	
22	2 means by state or federal safety requirements.	
23	3 That's something that, to my knowledge, has never	
24	4 been litigated. I believe in this case OPC	
25	5 submitted DRs to Liberty about this. Liberty	

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1	statute. I don't believe the statute contemplates
2	that we be having arguments before the Commission
3	about whether this pipe or that pipe is really
4	unsafe enough to qualify for ISRS treatment.
5	It would be most unreasonable and I
6	think more than a little ironic to use this
7	harmless error about citations to a safety
8	requirement to completely disregard the intent of
9	the Legislature and totally defeat the purpose of a
10	statute which is designed to improve public safety
11	in the first place.
12	In Staff's view, like I said, the
13	ISRS statute works well to encourage companies to
14	replace or extend the useful life of their
15	infrastructure. In Staff's view, this is a good
16	thing. Staff does not see the need for the
17	Commission to embark on a radical reinterpretation
18	of the ISRS statute in this case.
19	Public Counsel also argues the
20	Commission should reject the ISRS because it has
21	been more than three years since the company's last
22	rate case. This argument is based on a reading of
23	the ISRS statute that the Commission recently
24	rejected in Case No. GO-2013-0391.
25	Finally, OPC argues that Liberty has

1	failed to meet its burden of proving that the
2	petition includes only expenses authorized by
3	statute. Staff's view is that the petition does
4	comply with the statute. And Staff is concerned
5	that the kinds of arguments that OPC are calling
6	for in this case are actually the kind of
7	wide-ranging and deep-diving ratemaking analysis
8	that the statute specifically prohibits.
9	Staff witness Roberta Grissum
10	conducted the audit, and she is here to testify
11	about her review and her calculation of the revenue
12	requirement. Staff witness Joel McNutt performed
13	the rate design portion of the calculation, and
14	Staff witness Tom Imhoff is available to answer
15	questions, provide background about the company,
16	its ISRS, and I believe he can speak about ISRS
17	applications in general.
18	In the witness list that the parties
19	provided, Staff also stated that Staff's gas safety
20	manager, Bob Leonberger, would be available to
21	answer questions that the Commission have related
22	to the technical aspects of gas safety. I'm not
23	sure if he's in the room, but if the Commissioners
24	or the Judge have questions for him, he's on notice
25	that we're having this hearing today and so we can

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1	go get him if you have any questions for him.	
2	And I thank you for your attention	
3	this morning.	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Opening by Office of	
5	the Public Counsel.	
6	MR. POSTON: Good morning. May it	
7	please the Commission?	
8	I had always understood that the	
9	purpose of the ISRS was to allow a gas utility to	
10	recover government-mandated investments in	
11	infrastructure such as Commission-mandated programs	
12	requiring gas companies to replace steel and cast	
13	iron mains and service lines due to the corrosive	
14	nature of those metals.	
15	The purpose was not to allow the	
16	utility to raise rates between rate cases for the	
17	routine business expenses of patching a leak or	
18	repairing a damaged piping or other	
19	maintenance-type expenses, expenses that were	
20	already being recovered through base rates.	
21	And I also have to disagree with what	
22	I just heard about that the purpose is to encourage	
23	investments in safety. The purpose is to allow the	
24	utility to recover investments between rate cases.	
25	There's no need to encourage the investments that	

1	are eligible for ISRS because those investments
2	are that are eligible are required. It's not
3	optional for the company. So we disagree that the
4	ISRS serves the purpose of being an incentive to
5	the utilities to make these investments.
6	When we received Liberty's petition,
7	the descriptions it provided of the expenses that
8	the company was claiming were eligible for ISRS,
9	they appeared to include many routine expenses.
10	They were not the government-mandated type of
11	investments contemplated by the ISRS statute.
12	We decided it was our duty to dig a
13	little deeper, and so we asked for specific data on
14	50 different projects or investments identified by
15	Liberty in its petition, which is about 7 percent
16	of the approximately 643 different investments.
17	We initially asked Liberty for three
18	things, and we truly hoped that Liberty's response
19	would confirm that the 50 investments included only
20	what was lawful under the statute and that no
21	additional follow-up was necessary.
22	The first data we asked for were work
23	orders for the 50 projects because we thought the
24	work orders would identify the work that was
25	performed and the cost of the project. The second

1	thing we asked for was the category of expense per
2	the ISRS statute for all 50 expenses.
3	Subsection 393.1009 or
4	Section 393.1009, subsection 5A, 5B and 5C list the
5	three categories of expense that are allowed in
6	ISRS, and we asked Liberty to identify the category
7	that applied to each of the 50 investments. This
8	information should have been filed with Liberty's
9	petition as required by the Commission's ISRS rule,
10	but it wasn't, and so we had to ask for something
11	that we should have already had.
12	The last thing we asked for was a
13	citation to the law or regulation that required
14	Liberty to incur the expense. This information is
15	also required to be filed with the petition per the
16	Commission's ISRS rule, but it wasn't. We had to
17	ask for it.
18	We asked for this information on
19	July 17th, which was 15 days after Liberty filed
20	its petition. It was day 15 of a 120-day window of
21	time for the Commission to issue an order resolving
22	the petition.
23	Liberty's answer was due 20 days
24	later, or August 6th, per Commission rule. On
25	July 29th Liberty notified us that they wouldn't be
1	

1	able to meet their 20-day deadline and needed
2	another ten days. Ten days later we received
3	Liberty's reply.
4	In regard to our work order request,
5	Liberty's reply gave us work orders but the work
6	orders did not include sufficient cost detail to
7	allow us to verify the costs that they were
8	claiming.
9	Regarding the second thing we asked
10	for, the category of expense under the statute that
11	requires the 50 investments for ISRS, Liberty did
12	provide this information. This was day 45 of the
13	120-day window.
14	Regarding the third thing we asked,
15	the specific law or regulation requiring Liberty to
16	incur the expense, Liberty's day 45 response simply
17	stated that they were in compliance with state and
18	federal safety regulations. This did not answer
19	what we asked for.
20	Four days later on August 20th we
21	advised Liberty that we intended to oppose the
22	petition and request a hearing. Liberty asked us
23	to withhold our filing and give them an opportunity
24	to supplement their response with the law/
25	regulation information that we requested. We

1	agreed and we waited.
2	A week later, August 28th, we didn't
3	have the information, so we asked again. Two days
4	after that, on August 30th, Liberty supplemented
5	its response to our data request and finally
6	provided citations to Commission rules it claims
7	required Liberty to make the 50 investments. This
8	was day 59. Our 120-day window was halfway closed,
9	and we were just getting information we should have
10	received on day one.
11	Liberty did not provide the required
12	information for all 643 investments until Liberty's
13	direct testimony just last week. That was day 80,
14	only 40 days before the Commission's order needs to
15	be effective.
16	Our office prefers working with the
17	companies informally to resolve our differences,
18	and we certainly tried to do that here, but in
19	hindsight perhaps we should have filed our motion
20	opposing immediately once we recognized that
21	Liberty had not provided all required information
22	with its petition. We just can't receive this
23	information halfway through the process and expect
24	to have time to adequately represent ratepayers.
25	We hope you'll reject this petition

1	because it failed to provide the required
2	information, and this can be done without
3	addressing any of the other issues that we've
4	raised because those issues would become moot by an
5	order rejecting the petition.
6	I recognize that in the 30-plus ISRS
7	petition that have been filed before this
8	Commission this issue has not been raised before,
9	but that doesn't alter the rule or what the rule
10	requires. When the Commission adopted the ISRS
11	rule it addressed the very timing issue we raise
12	here.
13	And I've handed out copies of the
14	Commission's order of rulemaking, and there should
15	be one on your desk, Commissioner, and I've
16	highlighted page 665 and the word response, which
17	was the Commission's response where the Commission
18	recognized that the statutory time frame for a
19	Staff or OPC analysis requires the level of
20	detailed filings outlined in the rule. And I'm not
21	going to quote from it, but I just ask that at some
22	point you please read that section that I've
23	highlighted.
24	We have one witness in this case, our
25	chief accountant, Mr. Ted Robertson. His testimony

		Page 3
1	mostly identifies his concerns with the data	
2	provided in the work orders, issues that could be	
3	explored further should the Commission reject the	
4	petition and allow Liberty to refile.	
5	Our issues in this case are mostly	
6	legal issues at this point, which we will address	
7	fully in our post-hearing brief. On behalf of all	
8	Liberty customers, we ask that you protect their	
9	interests and enforce your rules by rejecting the	
10	petition and allowing Liberty to refile at a later	
11	date. Thank you.	
12	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you,	
13	Mr. Poston.	
14	We're now ready to start with witness	
15	testimony. The first witness will be David Swain.	
16	(Witness sworn.)	
17	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated.	
18	Counsel, you may proceed.	
19	MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge.	
20	DAVID SWAIN testified as follows:	
21	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DORITY:	
22	Q. Good morning, Mr. Swain.	
23	A. Good morning.	
24	Q. Would you please state your full name	
25	and business address for the record.	

Page 35 Α. David Swain. My address is 1 2 2370 North High Street in Jackson, Missouri. 3 Q. Mr. Swain, by whom are you employed? Α. By Liberty Utilities. 4 5 And what is your position with Q. 6 Liberty Utilities? 7 Α. I'm president of the Liberty Energy 8 (Midstates), doing business as Liberty Utilities, and I have authority over the states of Missouri, 9 10 Illinois and Iowa. 11 Did you cause to be prepared and 0. 12 filed in this case direct testimony that's been 13 marked for identification as Liberty Exhibit No. 1? 14 Α. I did. 15 Q. Do you have any corrections to that 16 testimony? 17 Α. No, I don't. If I ask you the questions that are 18 Q. 19 contained in that testimony today, would your 20 answers be the same? 21 Α. Yes, they would. 22 0. Are those answers true and correct to the best of your knowledge, information and belief? 23 24 Α. Yes, they are. 25 MR. DORITY: Your Honor, with that,

Page 36 Liberty Utilities would offer Liberty Exhibit No. 1 1 2 into evidence. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? 4 (No response.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Hearing none, 6 Liberty Exhibit 1 will be received into the record. 7 (LIBERTY EXHIBIT NO. 1 WAS RECEIVED 8 INTO EVIDENCE.) MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge. We'd 9 tender for cross-examination. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: First 11 12 cross-examination is by Staff. MR. KEEVIL: If my hip doesn't give 13 out, Judge, I'll make it. 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL: 15 16 Q. Good morning, Mr. Swain. 17 A. Good morning. 18 Just a couple of quick questions Q. 19 here, I think. 20 During his opening statement your 21 counsel, Mr. Dority, indicated, I believe, that 22 Liberty agrees with the position statement of Staff as reflected in the updated statement of position 23 24 that Staff filed yesterday -- was it yesterday --25 25th, on the 25th. I'm just trying to confirm that

1 with you as the witness for Liberty. Is that 2 correct? 3 Α. That is correct, yes. 4 Q. Okay. So you've seen the updated 5 Staff position and agree with that? Yes. That's correct. 6 Α. 7 MR. KEEVIL: Okay. No further 8 questions. Thank you. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross-examination by 10 Public Counsel. MR. POSTON: Thank you. Can I 11 examine from here? 12 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That will be fine. 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 15 Q. Good morning, Mr. Swain. 16 Α. Good morning. 17 Q. Can you please tell me what type of 18 distribution main and service line maintenance expenses are not eligible for ISRS recovery? 19 20 Α. Yes. Any that are growth related and 21 any that are not used and useful at the time of 22 filing. 23 Q. So does that mean that everything 24 else you would consider to be ISRS eligible? 25 I would consider those that are ISRS Α.

1	eligible are those that I filed in my testimony.
2	There's a lengthy description of those that are,
3	and I still believe that to be true.
4	Q. I'm saying do you think anything
5	that's not growth related and not used other
6	than the growth related and used and useful,
7	everything else would be allowed in ISRS?
8	A. Yeah. Well, I would refer back to my
9	testimony. There I went into great length to
10	describe what is eligible and to make an open
11	statement to say that those that those are the
12	only two things that are not, I think it requires
13	more detail, and that's why I provided that in the
14	testimony.
15	Q. Can you think of any other type of
16	distribution main or service line maintenance
17	expense other than growth or not used and useful
18	that would make that investment not eligible?
19	MR. DORITY: Your Honor
20	THE WITNESS: Do you have something
21	in mind?
22	MR. DORITY: Excuse me, Mr. Swain.
23	I'm sorry, but I have to object. The question's
24	been asked and answered. I think this is the third
25	time.

Page 39 1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'll sustain the 2 objection. 3 BY MR. POSTON: 4 Q. These investments that you claim are 5 not eligible, how were these expenses recovered 6 from ratepayers? 7 Α. Would you ask that question again, 8 please? 9 **Q**. These investments that you state are not eligible for ISRS recovery, how are those 10 11 expenses recovered from ratepayers? 12 Α. The ones that are not eligible? 13 Q. Correct. 14 In a general rate case. Α. 15 And so your general rate case, when Q. your rates are set, they include an amount for 16 17 these type of main and service line maintenance expenses; is that correct? 18 19 Α. I'm not sure I understand what you 20 just said. 21 Well, when your rates are set, the Q. 22 rate base is set based in part upon a level of 23 expense for these non-ISRS-eligible main and 24 service line maintenance expenses, correct? 25 For non-eligible, but I'm not sure Α.

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1	that the things that you described previously are
2	not eligible. So I'm not sure the question that
3	you're asking.
4	Q. Well, I was referring to the
5	non-eligible ones that you had identified.
6	A. If we deem that one is not eligible
7	under the ISRS filing, we believe that it would be
8	eligible under a general filing, yes.
9	Q. Can you tell me what type of
10	distribution main and service line maintenance
11	expenses are included in your base rates?
12	A. In a general filing?
13	Q. That's right.
14	A. Well, again, the I guess I'm
15	thinking of that list that you gave. I would think
16	that most of those are covered under the ISRS
17	filing.
18	Q. And what list are you referring to?
19	A. The one that you cited just a few
20	moments ago.
21	Q. I don't know what list you mean. I
22	was restating what you had said about the growth
23	related and not used and useful, the only ones you
24	identified that were not ISRS related.
25	So I was asking if I assume you

1	believe that the expenses for those are included in
2	base rates. And I was asking, are there any other
3	type of distribution main or service line
4	maintenance type expense that would be included in
5	base rates as opposed to ISRS?
6	A. I'm confused about what you're
7	asking.
8	Q. Okay. I'll move on. Do all leaking
9	gas mains and service lines need to be replaced or
10	are there some leaking mains and service lines that
11	can be repaired instead of replaced?
12	A. A leaking gas a leaking main or
13	service or any type of facility has to either be
14	replaced or repaired as you say, yes.
15	Q. Can you please describe how those
16	facilities are repaired?
17	A. Traditionally they're repaired by
18	replacing, and in some instances a repair could be
19	made by applying a repair fitting on that facility
20	that would encapsulate that leak and render it
21	safe.
22	Q. And are those type of expenses you
23	believe eligible for ISRS recovery?
24	A. Yes, I do.
25	Q. If a third-party contractor

1 accidentally strikes a Liberty main or service line 2 while digging, is it your opinion that Liberty's 3 costs to repair that main or service line are 4 eligible for ISRS? 5 Α. Yes. We -- obviously a damaged -- a 6 damage that's done by a third party causes that 7 line to leak, and so my previous answer is the 8 same. 9 **Q**. And did any of the expenses that 10 Liberty seeks to include in this ISRS petition result from damage to Liberty's facilities caused 11 12 by a contractor or contractors or other third 13 parties? 14 Α. It would have. 15 Do you agree that Liberty is Q. primarily responsible for ensuring that its ISRS 16 17 petition complies with the Commission rules? Α. Of course. 18 19 MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all I 20 have. 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That's all the cross-examination. Do any Commissioners have any 22 23 questions? 2.4 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no questions, your Honor. 25

Page 43 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I've got some. 1 2 Judge Bushmann, can you hear me? 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Yes, Chairman, I 4 can. 5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just a brief -- one 6 brief question, just to follow up on Mr. Poston's 7 question. QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY: 8 9 Q. Can you hear me, sir? 10 Yes, I can. Α. 11 I just want to clarify. So if there Q. 12 is a main leak caused by a contractor, your 13 testimony is that that would be ISRS eligible? 14 Yes, it is. Α. 15 And so the only category of items Q. that are not ISRS eligible, according to your 16 17 testimony, are those that are caused by growth or that are not in use and useful? 18 19 Yeah. Again, I think that statement Α. can be somewhat open-ended, and that's why in my 20 21 testimony I went to great lengths to describe those that are and cited the parts of the ISRS that go 22 into that detail. And what we do when we file the 23 24 ISRS is to ensure that each of those things that are included meet the requirements of the ISRS. 25

	Page	e 44
1	Q. Right. So your testimony answers in	
2	the affirmative what is ISRS eligible, and I'm	
3	asking you a question as you sit here today in the	
4	converse. Is it your testimony that the items that	
5	are not ISRS eligible are those items that are	
6	caused by growth and those items that are not in	
7	use and useful?	
8	A. Specifically, the ISRS states that	
9	those those additions to plant that are intended	
10	for growth and will be and will receive	
11	treatment in the general filing cannot be and	
12	should not be included in the ISRS, that's correct.	
13	Q. So your I'm trying I don't mean	
14	to be obtuse, but I just want to make sure that	
15	you're answering my question.	
16	A. Okay.	
17	Q. It's your understanding of the	
18	statute that everything else is ISRS eligible but	
19	for those items caused by growth and those items	
20	that are not in use and useful?	
21	A. Well, obviously	
22	Q. And I'm not asking you for a legal	
23	opinion. I'm asking you for your interpretation as	
24	you understand the statute.	
25	A. Yes. Yes. Obviously it has to be	

1	capital of nature. We do O&M work on a daily basis
2	that is not capital of nature. That's not to be
3	included. When it comes to capital projects, then
4	those that are growth are not, and running a
5	service line, running a main, those types of
6	additions. But we do believe that those that, as
7	identified in the ISRS, that extend the life of the
8	system, that deal with a replacement, either of
9	those do fall into that category.
10	So other than growth and if there is if
11	there's something specific other than growth or
12	those other two that I just described, I'd be glad
13	to answer the question.
14	CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. Well, I
15	guess that's the best I'm going to get. That's all
16	I have. Thank you.
17	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Recross based on
18	questions from the Bench, Staff?
19	MR. KEEVIL: Nothing.
20	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel?
21	MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you.
22	RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
23	Q. Is a simple leak repair, would you
24	consider that capital in nature, repairing a simple
25	leak?

Page 46 I'm not sure what you mean by simple, 1 Α. 2 but a leak -- but I believe that a leak repair 3 does, yes. 4 Q. In reply to Commissioner Kenney's 5 questions, you stated that daily O&M is also not to 6 be included. You added that to your list? 7 Α. That's correct. 8 Q. And can you explain what is this, 9 what is daily O&M? What kind of expenses are 10 these? 11 Α. We have to -- we get calls for 12 marking lines to show people where those facilities That's big portion -- a big portion of our 13 are. O&M. We read meters that deal with the billing and 14 customer care aspects of our business. None of 15 those are capital. Certainly certain aspects of 16 17 supervision are not. There's a long list of those that are O&M and are -- and are not capital-type 18 19 projects. 20 MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all I 21 have. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect? 23 MR. DORITY: Yes. Thank you, Judge. 24 Just a couple of questions. 25 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DORITY:

		Page 47
1	Q. Mr. Swain, in response to	
2	Commissioner Kenney, I think you were trying to	
3	identify the areas that were not covered by ISRS.	
4	I guess could I refer you back to pages 9 and 10 of	
5	your testimony? And at the top of page 10, I	
6	believe you discuss the eligibility for ISRS in	
7	terms of growth, which I'll refer to as new	
8	connecting to new customers. Could you go ahead	
9	and read those A, B, C and D?	
10	A. Yes. A is did not increase revenues	
11	by directly connecting to new customers. B, are	
12	currently in service and used and useful. C, were	
13	not included in the rate base in the most recently	
14	completed general rate case. And D, replaced or	
15	extended the useful life of the existing	
16	infrastructure.	
17	Q. Thank you. There have been some	
18	questions regarding leak repairs. Now, it's my	
19	understanding that by virtue of the Atmos Energy	
20	Corporation/Liberty Utilities asset sale case that	
21	Liberty Utilities essentially stepped into the	
22	shoes of Atmos, is that correct, for these	
23	purposes?	
24	A. That's correct.	
25	Q. And is it your understanding that	

1 leak repairs were, in fact, capitalized in Atmos, 2 in the last Atmos general rate case? 3 Α. They were. And are you still booking those 4 Q. 5 expenses that way today? 6 Α. Yes, we are. 7 So there's no double dipping, if you Q. 8 will, between what would be capitalized versus what 9 would be recovered in O&M-type expense? 10 Α. There's not. MR. DORITY: Thank you. That's all I 11 12 have. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Swain, that 14 completes your testimony, sir. You may step down. 15 Next witness is Mark Caudill. 16 MR. DORITY: Mr. Caudill. 17 (Witness sworn.) 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may be seated. 19 You may proceed. 20 MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge. 21 MARK CAUDILL testified as follows: 22 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DORITY: 23 0. Good morning Mr. Caudill. Would you 24 please state your full name and business address 25 for the record?

			Page
1	Α.	Good morning. I'm Mark Caudill, and	
2	my business :	is 3290 Commons Gate Bend, Berkeley	
3	Lake, Georgia	a.	
4	Q.	Mr. Caudill, by whom are you	
5	employed?		
6	Α.	MCR Performance Solutions.	
7	Q.	And what is your position with MCR	
8	Performance	Solutions?	
9	Α.	I am a vice president and a practice	
10	lead, regulat	cory practice lead.	
11	Q.	On whose behalf are you appearing in	
12	this proceed	ing?	
13	Α.	On behalf of the company.	
14	Q.	Did you cause to be prepared and	
15	filed in this	s case direct testimony that's been	
16	marked for i	dentification as Liberty Exhibit No. 2?	
17	Α.	Yes, sir, I did.	
18	Q.	Do you have any corrections to that	
19	testimony?		
20	Α.	Unfortunately, I do, a couple of	
21	Q.	Would you please go through those?	
22	Α.	Absolutely. A couple of minor	
23	changes that	I did not catch prior to the time they	
24	were filed.	The first one doesn't get off the	
25	first page.	The first one is in the tracking	

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1	number. Identified this as YG2014004. I omitted a
2	zero. It should have been 0004. Over on page 8,
3	line 9, you'll notice that I have a reference to
4	one of the governing statutes, 393 I have
5	105.2(4). Again, I left out a digit. It should
6	have been 1015.2. So again, with that omission.
7	And then although not a correction,
8	if I could direct your attention to page 13, at
9	line 12, I have a reference to the petition at,
10	quote, P6. Just to be perfectly clear, I was
11	referring to paragraph 6, not page 6.
12	And with those, those are all the
13	ones that I am aware of.
14	Q. Thank you, Mr. Caudill. With those
15	corrections, if I asked you the questions that are
16	contained in the testimony today, would your
17	answers then be the same?
18	A. As corrected, they would be, yes.
19	Q. And are those answers true and
20	correct to the best of your knowledge, information
21	and belief?
22	A. Yes, sir, they are.
23	MR. DORITY: Thank, you. Judge, at
24	this point we would offer Liberty Exhibit No. 2
25	into evidence.

JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections?
MR. POSTON: Yes, Judge, I do object
to the Commission accepting this testimony.
Mr. Caudill's not licensed to practice law in
Missouri. His testimony states he's licensed in
Alabama and Georgia. Section 448.020 sub 1 of the
Revised Statutes of Missouri state that no person
shall engage in the practice of law or do law
business unless he shall have been duly licensed
therefore. Law business is defined by 484.010 as
the advising or counseling for any valuable
consideration of any person, firm, association or
corporation as to any secular law.
We assert Mr. Caudill's testimony
violates this prohibition against unauthorized
practice of law because it's essentially a legal
brief with legal advice and counsel to both Liberty
and the Commission. Missouri law should be
interpreted by Missouri attorneys.
For these reasons, we object to the
Commission accepting this testimony into the
record.
JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Dority, do you
have a response?
MR. DORITY: I certainly do, Judge.

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1	We would absolutely reject all of that. I mean,	
2	this witness is being offered as a regulatory	
3	compliance expert. He is not being offered as an	
4	attorney. He's not being offered for his legal	
5	expertise.	
6	Everything that he is stating he is	
7	providing from a regulatory consultant. As	
8	Mr. Caudill just testified, that's the role that he	
9	was engaged by Liberty Utilities, and that's how	
10	we're offering his testimony today.	
11	JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'll overrule the	
12	objection.	
13	MR. DORITY: Thank you, your Honor.	
14	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Then Liberty Exhibit	
15	No. 2 will be received into the record.	
16	(LIBERTY EXHIBIT NO. 2 WAS RECEIVED	
17	INTO EVIDENCE.)	
18	MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge.	
19	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross-examination by	
20	Staff?	
21	MR. KEEVIL: No questions, Judge.	
22	JUDGE BUSHMANN: OPC?	
23	MR. POSTON: Thank you.	
24	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:	
25	Q. Good morning, Mr. Caudill.	

Page 53 1 Α. Good morning. 2 Could you please turn to page 12 of 0. 3 your testimony? Α. Certainly. I'm there. 4 5 Q. I'd like to ask you a few questions 6 about the Q and A that begins there. First I want 7 to clarify that on line 8 where you refer to 8 Rule 3.265(L), you really mean 2.265 subsection 9 20(L); is that correct? 10 Actually, that reference is in the Α. question, not the answer, but yes, it should 11 12 appropriately 20(L), that is correct. 13 0. And here on page 12, you ask if this 14 rule requires ISRS petitions to specify the legal 15 requirement being satisfied by each project, 16 correct? 17 Α. Well, the questions says, does the rule, Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.265, and again 18 19 with your correction, (20)(L) specifically require that petitions for ISRS rate changes specify the 20 21 specific order, rule, regulation, et cetera that is being satisfied by the ISRS project and 22 specifically enumerate the statute, commission 23 order, rule or regulation, if any, requiring the 24 project? That's the question. 25

1	Q. And your answer basically states that
2	if you read the rule in isolation, it can lead to
3	the conclusion that identifying the requirement
4	being satisfied is required, but that one could
5	also reach an opposite conclusion; is that correct?
6	A. Those are the first essentially
7	the first two sentences of that answer that, yes,
8	read in isolation it may lead one to that
9	conclusion. However, it can also take it away.
10	And specifically it goes on to talk about
11	Q. And I've got more questions about
12	that, too. It was a yes or no question. You
13	answered my question. Thank you.
14	But the basis for your assertion that
15	one could reach the opposite conclusion is based
16	upon the words "if any" that appear in the rule; is
17	that correct?
18	A. That is a part of the basis of that
19	conclusion, yes.
20	Q. And what you're saying here is that
21	the words "if any" contemplate infrastructure
22	replacements that are not required as a result of
23	any statute, commission order, rule or regulation;
24	is that correct?
25	A. No, I don't think that is correct.

Can you restate that? 1 2 What you're saying here is that the 0. 3 words "if any" contemplate infrastructure 4 replacements that are not required as a result of 5 any statute, commission order, rule or regulation, so in that sense that that type of a requirement 6 7 would not need to be cited because it was not one 8 of those forms of requirements in statute, order, 9 rule or regulation? 10 Well, there's several points. Do you Α. have a copy of the regulation with you? 11 12 Yes, I do. Ο. 13 Α. If you look back at L, the language says in subpart L, for each project for which 14 15 recovery is sought, the statute, the commission order, rule or regulation, if any, requiring the 16 17 project. Where the "if any" is placed creates a great deal of ambiguity. There's not an option to 18 do nothing when you have a leak, where you have a 19 20 relocation, where you have a qualifying ISRS 21 project. They have to do something. So the concept that there would not 22 be a regulation or a rule requiring action is -- I 23 can't contemplate that. I can't imagine a 24 situation where the "if any" makes any sense. 25 Ιf

1	the "if any" had been limited to the commission
2	order, then there very possibly could be a rational
3	interpretation.
4	So when you look at the face of the
5	regulation and again, I'm doing this not as a
6	lawyer but as a guy who deals with regulatory
7	compliance every day and you see that there is
8	ambiguity on the face of the reg that's there, then
9	before advising a client that they ought to change
10	a format, the natural thing to do is to go and look
11	to see what the standing precedent is.
12	Well, they didn't make up this for
13	this filing. They had a very well-established
14	track record of more than 30 other ISRS filings.
15	I'll be honest with you, I didn't look at all the
16	other filings. I went back through those through
17	2007. I looked at approximately two dozen of the
18	filings.
19	MR. POSTON: Judge, I object. He's
20	going well beyond the questions that I've asked him
21	about this word, this short phrase "if any".
22	MR. DORITY: Your Honor, he asked him
23	for his opinion and he's giving it to him. He
24	should be entitled to conclude his remarks.
25	MR. POSTON: He's diving into other

	Page 57
1	parts of his testimony that aren't contemplated
2	here by my question.
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: I think
4	Mr. Caudill's answer the question. Mr. Dority can
5	ask him about that on redirect also.
6	BY MR. POSTON:
7	Q. Would you agree with me that Liberty
8	now claims that every one of its ISRS-eligible
9	expenditures were required pursuant to a commission
10	rule?
11	A. I agree that they suggest that they
12	are either a commission rule or a statute that
13	requires it, yes.
14	Q. Have you seen the attachment to
15	Mr. Swain's testimony?
16	A. I have.
17	Q. And did he cite to any statutes that
18	require the investments or did he cite to just
19	rules?
20	A. With regard to the qualifications, he
21	cited to statutes. With regard to the underlying
22	requirement that the company take action, he cited
23	to rules that are based on statutes.
24	Q. And isn't it true that the rule
25	that he cites a rule for every investment?

		Page 58
1	A. He cites more than one rule for some	
2	of the investments, but he cites to at least one	
3	rule for each of them, yes.	
4	Q. And did Liberty provide these rule	
5	citations with this petition?	
6	A. Well, if you're asking specifically	
7	did he include what is now DS3 with its petition,	
8	the answer is no.	
9	Q. I'm asking did he provide any	
10	citation to any rule requirement in his petition,	
11	in the company's petition?	
12	A. To me, it is obvious when you look at	
13	petition as filed that each of those projects, with	
14	the exception of the ones three that were	
15	identified	
16	Q. You're not answering my question.	
17	Does it provide or not? It's really a yes or no	
18	question.	
19	A. Well, there is not in this	
20	petition	
21	MR. POSTON: Judge, can you ask the	
22	witness to answer the question? It's a yes or no	
23	question. Is it provided or not?	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: I think he's asking	
25	a yes or no question.	

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1	THE WITNESS: It is not specifically	
2	provided with a cite to a specific piece, like all	
3	the others that have been filed since this rule was	
4	enacted.	
5	BY MR. POSTON:	
6	Q. Can you please turn to page 13?	
7	A. Certainly.	
8	Q. I'm going to ask you questions about	
9	the question and answer that begins at the top of	
10	page 13.	
11	A. I'm there.	
12	Q. Would you agree with me that	
13	Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.265(20) subsection	
14	(20) (K) requires ISRS petitions to identify which	
15	of the categories of expenses applies to the costs	
16	that Liberty claims are eligible?	
17	A. Yes.	
18	Q. And here you state that Liberty	
19	complied with this rule when it grouped its	
20	expenses under four headings, correct?	
21	A. Well, I say that that is part of the	
22	way in which it complied. The complete answer is	
23	that, No. 1, you have a specific enumeration within	
24	paragraph 6 to which it was an attestation that, in	
25	fact, they were compliant. Secondly, they grouped	

	Page 60
1	them in headings that make it clear what the nature
2	of it was. Thirdly, the project descriptions, I
3	mean, if you look at the project descriptions, it's
4	main replacement, it's leak repair, it's cathodic
5	protection, each of which clearly falls within one
6	of the three categories of what qualifies as an
7	ISRS recoverable expense under the statute. So
8	yes, it is in their petition.
9	Q. And what are those headings that you
10	stated that they
11	A. Well, they're set out at 393.1009(5).
12	It's in the definitional piece.
13	Q. I'm saying what are the headings that
14	the company used that you're claiming satisfied the
15	rule by grouping it under these headings? What are
16	those headings?
17	Let me just ask this and tell me if
18	this is right. Isn't it true that the headings
19	you've stated that satisfy the rule are the
20	headings of main replacements, service
21	replacements, meter and house regulator
22	replacements, and measurement and regulator station
23	equipment replacements?
24	A. Let's be very, very clear. The
25	answer to your immediate question is, those are the

		Page 61
1	numeration of the headings. But the answer is that	
2	the numeration of the headings together with the	
3	attestation within the petition itself that they	
4	were in one of those permissible categories and the	
5	project descriptions cumulatively, like all of the	
6	other petitions that have been filed since these	
7	rules have been in place, give the Staff adequate	
8	notice that these were qualifying projects.	
9	Q. And all those headings refer to	
10	replacements, correct?	
11	A. It's very clear that some of the	
12	project descriptions refer to cathodic	
13	Q. That's not what I asked you. I asked	
14	you what the headings say.	
15	A. And I'm looking. Yes and no, and let	
16	me please explain my answer, if I may. The titles	
17	themselves	
18	Q. I asked you, do all of the headings	
19	refer to replacements?	
20	A. And the answer is they all refer to	
21	additions. All the ones in Part B refer to	
22	retirements.	
23	Q. They all have the word replacements	
24	in the heading; is that correct?	
25	A. I don't know. Let me look. Yes.	

	Pag	ge 62
1	Schedule 1 of Appendix A, every single heading has	
2	within the words there included the word	
3	replacement at one point or other.	
4	Q. Is there a heading for main relining	
5	project, service line insertion project or joint	
6	encapsulation project?	
7	A. No, there is not.	
8	Q. And at the bottom of page 13, you	
9	state that you reviewed the company's accounting	
10	procedures; is that correct?	
11	A. That's correct.	
12	Q. Are you a certified public	
13	accountant?	
14	A. No, I'm not.	
15	Q. Thank you.	
16	A. It's tough enough.	
17	MR. POSTON: That's all I have.	
18	Thank you.	
19	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Do the Commissioners	
20	have any questions?	
21	COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no	
22	questions, your Honor.	
23	CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions.	
24	Thank you.	
25	JUDGE BUSHMANN: There's no need then	

for recross based on Commissioner questions, so 1 2 redirect. 3 MR. DORITY: Very briefly, Judge. REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DORITY: 4 5 Q. Mr. Caudill, at one point when you 6 were responding to Mr. Poston, I believe he cut you 7 off and you were trying to explain the examination 8 that you did of the other comparable ISRS filings. 9 Could you please explain what those efforts were? 10 MR. POSTON: Judge, I object. This 11 is not in response to any question I asked. He was 12 being cut off because he was going into areas where I had not asked. So now he's trying to bring in 13 things that were not responsive to any question I 14 asked. 15 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Based on the 17 witness' comments, I think he was attempting to respond to a question you asked. So I'll allow 18 19 Mr. Dority to continue. 20 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, sir. Can 21 you repeat the question? BY MR. DORITY: 22 23 0. Yes. Could you please explain the 24 process that you went through in terms of looking 25 at the other comparable ISRS petitions that have

# been filed? 1 2 Α. Certainly. I did not look at all of 3 them. I wanted to go back at least five years. I went back through 2007, looked at approximately 4 5 24 of them. In the course of doing that, this is essentially the same format that has been filed by 6 7 every single petition filed. And the significance of that again 8 9 was that my engagement with the company was to not only review what they did, but to make 10 recommendations to them about how they should 11 12 change, what if any changes they should make going 13 forward. 14 And again, because of the ambiguity 15 that's there with the placement of it, the fact that there was a well-established record about what 16 17 was and was not an acceptable approach to this, I indicated to them that there would be a certain 18 amount of regulatory risk with changing and 19 departing from such a well-established practice. 20 21 Let me observe, too, that as project descriptions were an integral part of the 22 conclusion, that it was clear from the filing that 23 24 they were there, this particular one and the ones previously done, the one previously done by Liberty 25

1	and the ones that it essentially replicates that
2	were previously done by Atmos are really far
3	superior to some of the others in terms of being
4	descriptive. In some of them you simply get
5	project numbers, which is very hard to ascertain.
6	These go to great detail in
7	explaining cathodic protection or clamps being
8	applied or non-growth main functional replacements.
9	Very, very descriptive and, again, an easy read of
10	the combination of the sworn petition, the headings
11	in which they were classified and the specific
12	project descriptions leads one to a conclusion that
13	the projects qualify.
14	The three that were found in the 50
15	could have been identified essentially as growth
16	projects and ergo not included.
17	MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge.
18	That's all I have.
19	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Caudill, that
20	completes your testimony, sir.
21	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. I
22	appreciate it, your Honor.
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Why don't we go
24	ahead and take one more witness before we break.
25	Staff witness Thomas Imhoff.

1 (Witness sworn.) 2 (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 1 WAS MARKED FOR 3 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Go right 4 5 ahead. 6 THOMAS M. IMHOFF testified as follows: 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL: 8 Q. Good morning, Mr. Imhoff. Would you 9 please --10 A. Good morning. 11 Sorry. Would you please state your Q. 12 full name for the record. My name is Thomas M. Imhoff, 13 Α. 14 I-m-h-o-f-f. 15 By whom are you employed? Q. I am employed by the Missouri Public 16 Α. 17 Service Commission. 18 Q. And what is your position? 19 I am the manager over the energy Α. section for rate design and tariffs. 20 21 Did you contribute to or participate Q. 22 in the preparation of what has been premarked as Staff Exhibit No. 1, which is the Staff Updated 23 24 Report on Infrastructure System and Replacement Surcharge for Liberty Utilities? 25

1 Α. Yes, I did. 2 And do you have any updates or Q. 3 changes to your portion of that report? 4 Α. No, I do not. 5 So the portions of that report which Q. 6 were prepared by you or under your supervision, are 7 they true and correct to the best of your 8 information, knowledge and belief? 9 Α. Yes, they are. 10 MR. KEEVIL: Okay. Judge, we've got three witnesses who wrote that report. Do you want 11 12 us to wait until the last one to offer it as an 13 exhibit or do you want me to go ahead and offer it 14 now? JUDGE BUSHMANN: Well, let's see if 15 there's any objections to the introduction of the 16 17 report. Do any parties object to that exhibit? 18 MR. DORITY: No objection, Judge. 19 MR. POSTON: I prefer to wait, your Honor, until we've heard the last witness. 20 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Then why don't we just wait until the last witness? 22 23 MR. KEEVIL: All right. With that, then, I would tender Mr. Imhoff for 24 25 cross-examination.

Page 68 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross-examination by 1 2 Liberty? MR. DORITY: No questions, your 3 4 Honor. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Office of Public 6 Counsel? 7 MR. POSTON: Thank you. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 8 9 Q. Good morning. 10 A. Good morning. 11 Can you please just briefly explain Q. 12 the division of, I quess, Staff's work on this 13 case, who -- who did what between you and the other two witnesses? 14 Okay. Basically, Staff witness 15 Α. Roberta Grissum, she's the one that did the audit, 16 17 the actual audit of the books of the Liberty Utilities. And then Joel McNutt, who is under my 18 department, he is the one who calculated out the 19 20 rates. 21 Okay. And then I guess your role was Q. 22 supervising their work, the work that they did? 23 I supervised over Joel McNutt. Α. 24 Q. And that was your only involvement in 25 this, in I guess the review of the petition?

Page 69 That was my primary involvement was 1 Α. 2 overseeing that, but I also participated in putting 3 the Staff rec-- the Staff recommendation together. So I guess the actual audit, you 4 Q. 5 didn't have involvement in the actual audit then, 6 just the calculation of the rates? 7 That would be correct. Α. 8 Q. Just a minute. Can you explain why 9 your name is on the report when it appears the work 10 was done by the other two witnesses? I'm the one that actually provided 11 Α. 12 the background to the report itself, such as the merger between Atmos Energy and Liberty itself that 13 14 is in the report. 15 MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all 16 the questions I have. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Do any Commissioners have any questions? 18 19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no 20 questions, your Honor. Thank you. 21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions. 22 Thank you. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect? 24 MR. KEEVIL: Very briefly, Judge. REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL: 25

1 **Q**. Mr. Imhoff, just to follow up on what 2 Mr. Poston was asking you there at the end, do you 3 have a copy of the Staff Report with you? Α. Yes, I do. 4 5 I believe your name appears at the Q. 6 bottom of page 1 as sponsoring the background 7 section of the report, which you mentioned, and 8 then your name also appears as the sponsoring --9 over on page 3 as the sponsoring witness for sections 2 and 3, which again is more of a -- would 10 11 you refer to that as a background nature, 12 background of the application type? 13 Α. Yes. 14 Q. So when Mr. Poston asked you why you 15 were -- why your name was on the report, it's 16 because you're sponsoring sections 1, 2 and 3 of 17 the updated report; is that correct? Α. That is correct. 18 19 MR. KEEVIL: Okay. Thank you. That's all, Judge. 20 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, 22 Mr. Imhoff. 23 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Why don't we take a short break? We'll be in recess until about 10:15. 25

Page 71 1 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: The next witness is 3 Roberta Grissum. 4 (Witness sworn.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may be seated. 6 MR. KEEVIL: Thank you, Judge. 7 ROBERT GRISSUM testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL: 8 9 **Q**. Ms. Grissum, would you please state your name for the record. 10 Roberta A. Grissum, spelled G-r-i-s 11 Α. 12 as in Sam s-u-m as in Mary. 13 Q. And by whom are you employed? 14 Α. The Missouri Public Service 15 Commission. 16 Q. And what is your position? 17 Α. I'm a Utility Regulatory Auditor 4. 18 Did you contribute to or assist in Q. 19 the preparation of the -- what has been marked as 20 Staff Exhibit No. 1, the Staff Updated Report on 21 Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge for Liberty Utilities? 22 23 Α. Yes, I did. 24 And do you have any updates or Q. 25 corrections to your portions of that report?

		Page 72
1	A. We do have an update, and I believe	
2	it's going to be filed as an exhibit.	
3	(STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 2 WAS MARKED FOR	
4	IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.)	
5	BY MR. KEEVIL:	
6	Q. Ms. Grissum, I've handed you what's	
7	been premarked as Staff Exhibit No. 2 and ask if	
8	you recognize that document?	
9	A. Yes, I do.	
10	Q. And actually, let me further explain.	
11	It consists actually of four pages, I believe. Is	
12	that your understanding?	
13	A. Yes, it does.	
14	Q. And does Staff Exhibit No. 2 reflect	
15	your updates to your position in this case?	
16	A. Yes, it does.	
17	Q. Okay. And was Staff Exhibit No. 2	
18	prepared by you?	
19	A. Yes, it was.	
20	Q. Now, with $$ with the updates there,	
21	are your sections of Exhibit No Staff Exhibit	
22	No. 1 and Staff Exhibit No. 2 true and correct to	
23	the best of your information, knowledge and belief?	
24	A. Yes, they are.	
25	MR. KEEVIL: Judge, with that, I	

would offer Exhibit No. 2. It is my understanding 1 2 you want to hold off on offering the report until 3 the last witness. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Correct. 5 MR. KEEVIL: So I'd just offer Exhibit 2 into the record. 6 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? MR. DORITY: No objection. 8 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Hearing none, then Staff Exhibit No. 2 is received into the record. 10 (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 2 WAS RECEIVED 11 12 INTO EVIDENCE.) 13 MR. KEEVIL: Thank you. I would tender the witness for cross, then, Judge. 14 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross-examination by 16 Liberty? 17 MR. DORITY: No questions, Judge. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Office of the Public 18 19 Counsel? 20 MR. POSTON: Thank you. 21 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 22 Q. Good morning. 23 A. Good morning. Ms. Grissum, you're the auditor that 24 Q. 25 did the audit for this Liberty petition; is that

1 correct? 2 Α. That is correct. 3 Q. And were you the only auditor or were there other --4 5 Α. No. I was the only auditor on this. 6 I did have Lisa Hanneken review my work before I 7 filed my positions. 8 Q. And did your examination of Liberty's 9 ISRS expenses look at the underlying costs to 10 confirm that they are correct costs to include in ISRS? 11 12 Α. Yes. Did you look at all costs? 13 Q. 14 I looked at work orders. I also Α. 15 looked at a file that was provided to me I believe on August 7th that gave a breakdown of individual 16 17 components of the costs reported in their initial petition. 18 19 Q. Did you look at all work orders for 20 all 643 investments or was it a sample? 21 Α. Well, actually, you're in my mind mischaracterizing. There were only 275 distinct 22 projects. There were 643 line items that made up 23 24 those projects. I also examined the retirements, which there were 40 of those. Of those, I 25

1	requested 36 work orders, which covered a dollar
2	amount of approximately \$2.2 million, which is
3	about 58 percent of the amount requested by the
4	company in its petition.
5	Q. Thank you. Just knocked out about
6	eight of my questions.
7	A. Try to be thorough.
8	Q. And Staff found a number of errors in
9	the ISRS revenue calculation; is that correct?
10	A. That is correct. There were some
11	formula errors as well as some omissions of
12	adjustments that should have been made as required
13	by the rule.
14	Q. And you found those errors?
15	A. Yes. And I also found an error that
16	I actually made in a previous ISRS that I wanted to
17	reflect in this ISRS case, and I discussed those
18	with the company
19	Q. Could you briefly
20	A when I found those.
21	Q. Sorry. Could you briefly just
22	explain the errors that you found?
23	A. The major error that I found was in a
24	summation formula that was used in adding up the
25	eligible replacements. That resulted in a double

1	counting, which I believe stated their rate base
2	eligible placements as 6 million when it was only
3	3.6 million.
4	Other adjustments that had to be made
5	was they were using an incorrect depreciation rate
6	in the Kirksville operating district. Another
7	correction that had to be made was in the
8	calculation of their accumulated depreciation, they
9	had a formula that was only taking into
10	consideration 12 months of depreciation when in
11	cases the item had actually been in service longer
12	than that, so it should have had a larger
13	accumulated accumulation reserve amount associated
14	with it.
15	Other corrections I made dealt with
16	property tax. They included a lot of 2013
17	in-service property, which we don't believe is
18	appropriate to include because it has not yet been
19	assessed and the company will not have to pay taxes
20	on it until 2014. So we removed that.
21	There was there also a transposition
22	error in the property tax rate that they were
23	applying, so I corrected that and made adjustments.
24	There was another adjustment where they had
25	inadvertently included some growth items, and so I

excluded those as well. 1 2 And then there were additional 3 corrections we made along the way after the initial September 3rd filing. 4 5 Q. And those additional corrections, those are explained in your revised -- Staff's 6 7 revised --That is correct. 8 Α. 9 0. Okay. 10 Another correction that I wanted to Α. make sure that I pointed out is that when they went 11 12 to calculate their deferred income tax, originally they only took it out through May of 2013, and they 13 should have taken it out through September of 2013 14 15 to correspond with the accumulated depreciation calculation that we took out through September 13th 16 17 as well, because we tried to take it out as close to the effective date of the new surcharge as 18 19 possible. 20 Do you have the company's petition Q. 21 with you? 22 I do not have it with me. Α. 23 Okay. Q. 2.4 I am familiar with it. Α. 25 Okay. In the company's ISRS revenue Q.

1	calculation, after the return on rate case
2	calculation, the company added an annual level of
3	depreciation expense.
4	A. Correct.
5	Q. Is that appropriate?
6	A. Yes, I believe it is.
7	Q. And does Staff's calculations also
8	add an annual level of depreciation expense?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. And does Staff's depreciation expense
11	include an offset for deferred income taxes?
12	A. I'm not sure what you're referring to
13	there. I saw that in Mr. Robertson's testimony.
14	We do a deferred income tax calculation that does
15	reflect both additions and retirements. So in that
16	regard, if that's speaking to what you're talking
17	about as an offset, I believe we have taken that
18	into consideration. If you're talking about
19	something else, I don't I don't know what you're
20	talking about.
21	Q. I don't know if I know what I'm
22	talking about either. I need to confer with my
23	accountant. Hang on.
24	A. Okay.
25	Q. In your review of this petition, how

	Page 79
1	many leak repair jobs are included in the projects
2	that the company seeks to include in its ISRS?
3	A. I don't know that I could tell you a
4	specific amount of leak projects. I know that when
5	I reviewed the work orders, there were some items
6	referred to as gas leaks. But in my review of the
7	work orders, it had more detail that led me to
8	believe that it was more of a capital project
9	rather than a maintenance-type item. It was
10	replacing either steel pipe or the polyethylene
11	pipe that has also been a problem with brittling.
12	It also included some installations of either gas
13	safety valves or excess flow valves, which also
14	speak to a safety requirement.
15	Q. And this was based off of the 36 out
16	of 275
17	A. Correct.
18	Q projects that you looked at?
19	A. Yes. And there was additional
20	information that noted to me what age the pipe was
21	that was being replaced, whether there was any
22	corrosion or any other defects that was leading to
23	the safety concern.
24	Q. Are simple leak repairs where the
25	main or service line is repaired and not replaced,

1 is that considered a betterment, a replacement or 2 an enhancement of the system according to normal 3 accounting definitions? Α. Well, again, I don't know exactly how 4 5 you're defining simple replacement. The way I 6 looked at the project was, was it an item that rose 7 to the level of the company's threshold for capitalization and whether that led to an 8 improvement in the integrity and safety of the 9 10 system. 11 So you can't say whether under normal Q. 12 accounting definitions leak repairs where we're not 13 replacing anything is considered a betterment, a 14 replacement or an enhancement to the system? 15 Well, if it's a simple wrapping of a Α. pipe or something like that, yes, I would 16 17 categorize that as a maintenance expense and something that should not be capitalized. But in 18 19 the work orders that I reviewed, it appeared that there was also pipe being replaced that improved 20 21 the integrity of the system. 22 0. Okay. If the source of a direct cost 23 that's incurred is actually known, is it appropriate to allocate the cost as if it is a 24 25 common cost?

		Page 81
1	A. Well, in the context of this case, I	
2	did not review allocations because of the limited	
3	scope that I'm allowed to review in an ISRS filing.	
4	That would be something that Staff would look at in	
5	a rate case filing.	
6	Q. Can you explain, what is a common	
7	cost?	
8	A. In the context you're talking, no, I	
9	don't know that I could do that today sitting here.	
10	Q. Do you know how common costs are	
11	assigned to a job	
12	A. No.	
13	Q by Liberty?	
14	A. Not by Liberty.	
15	Q. And did you review the company's	
16	subledger?	
17	A. I did on the one file that they	
18	provided to us in the deferred income tax	
19	calculation.	
20	Q. And are the costs included in the	
21	project number subledger, are those detailed enough	
22	to identify and understand the activities and costs	
23	incurred for each job whose cost is then aggregated	
24	into the larger project number?	
25	A. I believe they are. Not only in one	

	]	Page 82
1	column did they designate whether it was material,	
2	supplies, overhead or labor, there was an	
3	additional column that designated whether it was	
4	done for the integrity of the system or whether it	
5	was a growth-type item.	
6	I will admit that the company did	
7	fail to remove the growth items, but when I redid	
8	the calculations, I removed those.	
9	Q. If a plant item is placed in service	
10	in January, is it appropriate to wait to place the	
11	cost in plant in the subsequent March or April?	
12	A. Say that again.	
13	Q. If a plant item is placed in service	
14	in January, is it appropriate to wait until March	
15	or April to put the cost of the plant?	
16	A. Well, the plant you'd put in the	
17	records when it is placed in service. The property	
18	tax associated would have to wait because it has	
19	not yet been assessed.	
20	MR. POSTON: That's all I have.	
21	Thank you.	
22	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any questions from	
23	Commissioners?	
24	COMMISSIONER STOLL: I do have one	
25	question, your Honor.	

QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER STOLL: 1 2 Q. I believe you answered this, 3 Ms. Grissum, but the -- you took like a sampling of 4 the information pertaining to the pipe replacement, 5 et cetera that was part of the ISRS? 6 Α. Yes, I did. 7 Q. And then in the next rate case do you 8 fully review that, you along with others, or how 9 does that part work? 10 My understanding is that anything Α. approved in an ISRS case can be rereviewed in the 11 12 context of a rate case, and if there is something 13 inappropriate about something that was included in an ISRS surcharge, it can be addressed in the 14 15 concept -- or in the context of that next rate 16 case. 17 Q. Okay. Α. So if there's anything that has been 18 misallocated as far as a cost, that can be reviewed 19 in the next rate case and be disallowed and 20 21 addressed in developing the revenue requirement that is ultimately proposed by Staff. 22 23 Q. And is that something that you do? Or I'm sure there's other Staff involved. 24 25 It's usually the auditors that do the Α.

1	reconciliation and the review of those types of
2	items in the context of a rate case.
3	Q. And at that time all of the 275
4	distinct projects would be reviewed?
5	A. Correct.
6	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay. Thank
7	you.
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Recross based on
9	Bench questions. Any questions by Liberty?
10	MR. DORITY: No, thank you, Judge.
11	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel?
12	MR. POSTON: Yes.
13	RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
14	Q. Have you ever done the audit review
15	in a rate case of an ISRS?
16	
10	A. I have not personally, no. I've done
17	A. I have not personally, no. I've done reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases.
17	reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases.
17 18	reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases. Q. But you know for a fact that when
17 18 19	reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases. Q. But you know for a fact that when past ISRS petitions have or ISRS reviews have
17 18 19 20	reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases. Q. But you know for a fact that when past ISRS petitions have or ISRS reviews have occurred in a rate case, that every single cost of
17 18 19 20 21	reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases. Q. But you know for a fact that when past ISRS petitions have or ISRS reviews have occurred in a rate case, that every single cost of every single project was analyzed?
17 18 19 20 21 22	reconciliations within the context of ISRS cases. Q. But you know for a fact that when past ISRS petitions have or ISRS reviews have occurred in a rate case, that every single cost of every single project was analyzed? MR. KEEVIL: Judge, I'm going to

1	the costs that were previously included in ISRS,
2	but I mean, it's like you have we have an ISRS
3	review in this case, but this is not a rate case.
4	So that's where I'm making the objection.
5	MR. POSTON: I can rephrase.
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Clarify the
7	question.
8	BY MR. POSTON:
9	Q. The review or I guess the work that
10	Staff does regarding ISRS in the rate case, when
11	those rates are being proposed to be put into base
12	rates, you testified you haven't done that type of
13	an analysis before. Have you supervised that type
14	of analysis before?
15	A. No, I have not supervised. It's just
16	my understanding is that type of review does occur
17	in the context of a rate case when reviewing plant
18	in service and whether those items were
19	appropriately capitalized.
20	Q. And so at that point, based on your
21	understanding, is every work order requested from
22	the company and analyzed to ensure that every
23	single investment is being calculated correctly?
24	A. I cannot speak to whether every work
25	order is reviewed because again I have not done

that review myself. I've just been told in a broad 1 2 sense that that review is done. 3 MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all I 4 have. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any redirect 6 questions? 7 MR. KEEVIL: Very briefly, Judge. REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL: 8 9 0. Just to follow up on what Mr. Poston 10 was just asking you, Ms. Grissum, in that 11 subsequent rate case when the costs which were 12 previously included in the ISRS are being reviewed, 13 you said you don't know if all 275 work orders or 14 project work orders would be looked at, but is it 15 fair to say that because of the additional time --16 MR. POSTON: Objection. This is a 17 leading question the way it's -- ask him to 18 rephrase. 19 MR. KEEVIL: I'll rephrase. BY MR. KEEVIL: 20 21 Is it your understanding that Staff Q. has more time to conduct its rate case audit than 22 23 you had to conduct this audit in the ISRS case? That is true. 24 Α. 25 And given the additional time in a Q.

1	rate case audit, is it your understanding that
2	additional documentation from the company is
3	reviewed by Staff in the course of a rate case?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. So while all 275 project work orders
6	might not be reviewed, significantly more could be
7	reviewed than you were than you reviewed in this
8	ISRS case?
9	A. Correct.
10	Q. Mr. Poston was also asking you about
11	what errors of the company you corrected in your
12	filing, and I just want to make sure I understand.
13	The reference was made to, I think by either you or
14	Mr. Poston, to Staff Exhibits 1 and 2, and is it
15	correct that in Staff Exhibits 1 and 2 you have set
16	forth a rather detailed explanation of the errors
17	which you corrected?
18	A. That is correct.
19	Q. So if you forgot to mention one live
20	on the stand a moment ago, it should be in the
21	prefiled either Exhibit 1 or 2 of Staff?
22	A. Absolutely.
23	Q. I should have also asked you this
24	when I introduced Staff Exhibit 2 and I neglected
25	to so, so I apologize. But is anything in that

1 exhibit, to your knowledge, highly confidential or 2 proprietary? 3 Α. No. 4 Q. Okay. So that is a public exhibit, 5 as far as you know? 6 Α. Yes. 7 And at the very beginning of your Q. 8 questioning by Mr. Poston, you mentioned Lisa 9 Hanneken reviewed your work. Just so the record is clear, who is Lisa Hanneken? 10 A. Lisa Hanneken is an Auditor 5, and 11 12 she worked as a supervision advisor to me on this 13 case. Q. Auditor 5 on Staff? 14 15 A. Yes. 16 MR. KEEVIL: That's all I have, 17 Judge. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Ms. Grissum, thank 19 you. You may step down. 20 Next witness is Joel McNutt. 21 (Witness sworn.) 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may be seated. You may proceed. 23 24 MR. BORGMEYER: Thank you, Judge. 25 JOE McNUTT testified as follows:

Page 89 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BORGMEYER: 1 2 Good morning, Mr. McNutt. Q. 3 Α. Good morning. 4 Q. Would you state your name for the 5 record, please. 6 Α. Joel Ryan McNutt. 7 And how are you employed? Q. I'm a Regulatory Economist 1 with the 8 Α. Missouri Public Service Commission. 9 10 Q. Did you cause to be prepared portions of the Staff Updated Report on Infrastructure 11 12 System Replacement Charge for Liberty Utilities that's been marked as Exhibit 1 in this case? 13 14 Α. Yes. 15 Q. And do you have any corrections to 16 that document? A. Not at this time. 17 18 Let's see. Did you cause to be Q. 19 prepared -- hold on just a minute. 20 MR. BORGMEYER: May I approach, your 21 Honor? JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may. 22 (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 3 WAS MARKED FOR 23 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 24 25 BY MR. BORGMEYER:

1	
1	Q. Do you recognize this document that I
2	just handed you?
3	A. Yes, I do.
4	Q. Did you prepare this document?
5	A. Yes, I did.
6	Q. And what is this document?
7	A. Basically, this is a document that I
8	prepared. In the process that Staff undertakes to
9	process these ISRS applications by companies, this
10	was the part that I did. I received numbers from
11	Roberta, the approved numbers after her review, and
12	based on those numbers, then, it was my charge in
13	this process to complete the ISRS calculation that
14	was going to be used for this case.
15	Q. Okay. And so is this document, then,
16	did you prepare that basically as an updated as
17	a correction to this document based on what Roberta
18	provided as Staff Exhibit 2?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. And is everything in this document
21	marked Exhibit 3 true and correct to the best of
22	your knowledge and belief?
23	A. Yes, it is.
24	Q. Is anything here HC or proprietary?
25	A. Not that I'm aware.

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1	MR. BORGMEYER: With that, your	
2	Honor, I would offer Staff's Exhibit 1 into	
3	evidence and Staff's Exhibit No. 3.	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections to	
5	the receipt of those?	
6	MR. DORITY: No objection.	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Hearing none, then	
8	Staff Exhibits 1 and 3 are received into the	
9	record.	
10	(STAFF EXHIBIT NOS. 1 AND 3 WERE	
11	RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)	
12	MR. BORGMEYER: Thank you, Judge. I	
13	tender this witness for cross-examination.	
14	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any questions from	
15	Liberty?	
16	MR. DORITY: No questions.	
17	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Office of Public	
18	Counsel?	
19	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:	
20	Q. Is this your first time testifying?	
21	A. Yes, it is.	
22	MR. POSTON: That's all the questions	
23	I have. I just wanted to let him answer a	
24	cross-examine question his first time.	
25	THE WITNESS: I appreciate that.	

Page 92 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any questions from 1 2 the Commissioners? 3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions, 4 your Honor. 5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No, thanks. 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any redirect? 7 MR. BORGMEYER: No, your Honor. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Then you may step 9 down, Mr. McNutt. 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you. JUDGE BUSHMANN: The last witness is 11 12 Ted Robertson. 13 (Witness sworn.) 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may proceed. TED ROBERTSON testified as follows: 15 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 16 17 Q. Please state your name. A. Ted Robertson. 18 19 Q. And by whom are you employed and in 20 what capacity? 21 A. The State of Missouri, Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. I'm the Chief Public 22 Utility Accountant. 23 24 Are you the same Ted Robertson that Q. 25 caused to be prepared and filed OPC Exhibit No. 1?

1 Α. I am. 2 And do you have any corrections to Q. 3 that testimony? 4 Α. I do not. 5 Q. If I asked you the questions in your 6 testimony today, would your answers be the same? 7 Α. They would. MR. POSTON: Your Honor, I offer OPC 8 Exhibit No. 1 and tender this witness for 9 10 cross-examine. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Are there any 11 12 objections to receipt of that exhibit? MR. BORGMEYER: Yes, your Honor. 13 Make an objection as to relevance, and I'd refer to 14 15 Mr. Robertson's testimony, page 3, line 4. Beginning at line 4 the testimony says that the 16 17 testimony does not address Public Counsel's legal arguments in opposition to the application. Legal 18 arguments will be addressed in Public Counsel's 19 post-hearing brief, and it will include arguments 20 21 that Liberty failed to file all required documents, Liberty seeks to exclude expenses that are not 22 authorized, and the Commission does not have 23 24 authority to approve the ISRS rates because more than three years have passed. 25

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1	Those three arguments are the only	
2	three arguments that Public Counsel presented in	
3	its position statement, and so this because this	
4	testimony doesn't address any of the Public Counsel	
5	stated positions to the issues that are on the	
6	issues list, I believe it is irrelevant to this	
7	case.	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any response,	
9	Mr. Poston?	
10	MR. POSTON: Yeah. I think what this	
11	testimony is stating is that he's not going to be	
12	making legal arguments n his testimony. I mean,	
13	the issues that he raises in his testimony all go	
14	to these issues. It's just that this was in there	
15	just to say that he's not making legal arguments in	
16	his testimony. But it's all relevant to these	
17	issues.	
18	JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'll overrule the	
19	objection. Any other objections to that exhibit?	
20	In that case, OPC Exhibit 1 is received into the	
21	record.	
22	(OPC EXHIBIT NO. 1 WAS RECEIVED INTO	
23	EVIDENCE.)	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: First	
25	cross-examination is by Staff.	

1	MR. BORGMEYER: Staff has no
2	questions for this witness, your Honor.
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Questions by
4	Liberty?
5	MR. DORITY: No questions, Judge.
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any Commissioners
7	have any questions?
8	COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no
9	questions, your Honor.
10	CHAIR KENNEY: No, thank you.
11	JUDGE BUSHMANN: No need for recross
12	and no need for redirect. Mr. Robertson, you may
13	step down, sir.
14	THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
15	JUDGE BUSHMANN: That concludes all
16	the witnesses. Do any parties have any other
17	matters that need to be brought up at this time?
18	MR. DORITY: I don't believe so, your
19	Honor.
20	JUDGE BUSHMANN: My schedule
21	indicates that an expedited transcript should be
22	available on September 30th, and briefs are due on
23	October 4th. Anything else the parties want to
24	address before we adjourn the hearing?
25	(No response.)

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: In that case, we're	
2	off the record. Hearing is adjourned. Thank you	
3	very much.	
4	(WHEREUPON, the hearing in this case	
5	concluded at 10:45 a.m.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MISSOURI )
3	) ss.
4	COUNTY OF COLE )
5	I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified
6	Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest
7	Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was
8	personally present at the proceedings had in the
9	above-entitled cause at the time and place set
10	forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and
11	there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had;
12	and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct
13	transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such
14	time and place.
15	Given at my office in the City of
16	Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR
22	
23	
24	
25	

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