

In the Matter of Great Plains Energy Incorporated for)
Approval of its Acquisition of Westar Energy, Inc.) Case No. EM-2017-0226

COMES NOW the Midwest Energy Consumer's Group ("MECG"), and for its Pleading

Regarding the Applications to Intervene of DOE and KEPCO, respectfully states as follows:

2. On February 2, 2017, the Joint Applicants, as part of the Missouri Energy Development Association, filed comments in the Commission’s pending rulemaking to modify its *ex parte* rules. There, the Joint Applicants stated:

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Commission is to effectively carry out its complex regulatory responsibilities on a reasonably well-informed basis, it must have input from the public, the advice of subject-matter experts on Staff and the views of customer groups and utilities that are directly affected by its decisions.

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This statutory endorsement of open and free communications that has been entrusted to the Commission's jurisdiction is part and parcel of the breadth and scope of the Commission's regulatory responsibilities and the tools the Commission needs to carry out those expansive responsibilities in a well-informed way.¹

3. Recognizing its previous support for the concept of “vigorous and robust exchange of ideas and information”, one necessarily wonders the motivation for the Joint Applicants’ desire, in both Case Nos. EE-2017-0113 and EM-2017-0226, to exclude every other party. Furthermore, given its acknowledged belief that such dialogue is “absolutely essential if the Commission is to properly discharge its duties”, one must question why the Joint Applicants are suddenly attempting to squelch such dialogue. As reflected in the recent hearing at the Kansas Corporation Commission, there are legitimate concerns underlying the GPE / Westar transaction. Clearly, the Joint Applicants, by squelching the exchange of ideas and information, hope to limit the Commission’s ability to hear from parties wanting to present these legitimate concerns. Given the obvious motivation underlying the Joint Applicants’ actions, the Commission should not only grant the applications to intervene of KEPCO and DOE, but the Commission should also question the Joint Applicants’ position regarding the detriments underlying this transaction.

WHEREFORE, MECG respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Applications to Intervene of KEPCO and DOE.

¹ *Comments of the Missouri Energy Development Association*, Case No. AX-2017-0128, filed February 2, 2017, at pages 2-3 (emphasis added).

Respectfully submitted,



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CONSUMERS' GROUP

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the foregoing pleading by email, facsimile or First Class United States Mail to all parties by their attorneys of record as provided by the Secretary of the Commission.



David L. Woodsmall

Dated: March 7, 2017