

STATE OF MISSOURI
MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of Aquila, Inc. d/b/a	)	
Aquila Networks-L&P, for authority	)	
to file tariffs increasing steam	)	HR-2005-0450
rates for the service provided to	)	
customers in the Aquila Networks-	)	
L&P area.	)	

NONUNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

COME NOW Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks - L&P ("Aquila"), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), Ag Processing, Inc. ("AGP"), and the City of St. Joseph, Missouri ("St. Joseph") (collectively "the Signatory Parties") and state to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") as follows:

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. Aquila, doing business as Aquila Networks-L&P, serves steam customers in an area that includes St. Joseph, Missouri (the "L&P service area"). On May 27, 2004, Aquila submitted to the Commission revised tariff sheets designed to increase rates for steam service Aquila provides to its steam customers in the L&P service area. The tariff sheets bore an effective date of June 26, 2005, and were designed to produce an

annual increase of \$5,000,000, exclusive of applicable fees and taxes.

2. On June 1, 2005, the Commission issued its Order suspending the effective date of the tariff sheets until April 24, 2006. Thereafter, various parties intervened in this proceeding. By order issued July 21, 2005, the Commission established a procedural schedule. Thereafter the Commission continued the commencement of the hearing from time-to-time. During these continuances, Aquila and AGP met for the purpose of exploring settlement of the outstanding issues. As a result of those discussions and negotiations, the Signatory Parties have resolved as among themselves all remaining issues in this case and stipulate and agree as follows:

RESOLUTION OF ISSUES

Revenue Requirement.

3. The proposed steam service tariff sheets filed by Aquila with the Commission on May 27, 2005, should be rejected and Aquila should be authorized to file with the Commission revised tariff sheets containing rate schedules for steam service in its L&P service area that are designed to produce an increase in base overall gross annual steam revenues, exclusive of applicable fees and taxes, in the amount of \$4,500,000.

Goal for Effective Date of Rates.

4. The Signatory Parties agree to a goal of a March 1, 2006 effective date for the tariff sheets agreed to herein. In the event the Commission does not deem the March 1, 2006 effective date to be practicable, the Signatory Parties urge the Commission to permit the rate increase to take effect as soon thereafter as possible. The Commission, in any order approving this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement, for good cause shown pursuant to Section 393.143(11), should authorize Aquila to file tariff sheets in conformance with the tariff sheets attached hereto for illustrative purposes as Appendix A, said tariffs to have an effective date of March 1, 2006, or such other date as is ordered, less than thirty (30) days from the filing date, without the necessity of Aquila filing a separate motion seeking such authorization.

Rate Design.

5. The increase in revenues will be accomplished by increasing each rate element on an equal percentage basis. Said percentage is approximately 37.48% and is calculated by dividing the agreed-to increase of \$4,500,000 by the Staff's adjusted steam revenues of \$12,006,485 for calendar year 2004, updated through June 30, 2005, as shown in Schedule 2 attached to the

prefiled direct testimony of Janice Pyatte (a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix B).

Reliability Study.

6. At its cost, Aquila will perform a study of recent reliability problems as recommended in the direct testimony of AGP witness Johnstone. Aquila will identify solutions and report to the Commission Staff and interested parties within 90 days after the final order in this proceeding.

System Resource Study.

7. At its cost, Aquila will perform a system resource study as recommended in the direct testimony of AGP witness Johnstone. Aquila will incorporate applicable results of the reliability study referred to in paragraph 6 above into the steam system resource study, identify economical system resource options, and report the study results to the Commission Staff and interested parties within 240 days after the final order in this proceeding.

Fuel Cost Customer/Utility Alignment Mechanism.

8. Aquila will file rate adjustments quarterly to reflect 80% of the change in the actual fuel costs above or below a base amount of \$3.005 per million BTU.

8.1. The cost of fuel will be the amounts expensed in Account 501. The amounts expensed will continue to be based on the cost definitions currently used for the inclusion of costs in this account and on the currently used cost allocation methods, as explained in some additional detail: The cost of gas in Account 501 will include the cost of physical gas deliveries and financial instruments, when settled, associated with gas delivered in the quarterly period. The cost of coal expenses to Account 501 will continue to reflect the average cost of coal inventory and the cost allocation method(s) described in the excerpt of the direct testimony of Mr. Tim Nelson prefiled in this case, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix C.

8.2. For purposes of the quarterly rate adjustments, there will be defined minimum amounts of coal generation per Appendix D. If coal generation falls below any defined minimum amount, additional coal generation will be imputed up to the defined minimum at a cost according to the attached provision and the amount of natural gas fired generation will be reduced for the purposes of the fuel rate adjustments by a like amount according to economic dispatch principles. Aquila agrees that it will not seek an accounting authority order for fuel costs incurred, but not recovered, due to operation of this minimum coal provision. Further, Aquila will not attempt to recover from its electric customers costs not fully paid for from its steam

operations that should be properly paid for by steam customers absent the agreement to impute coal generation to a defined minimum. As an example, Aquila will not seek to recover steam operation costs from Aquila's electric customers for any costs relating to the coal imputation discussed above.

8.3. Aquila will make quarterly filings with the Commission to adjust the fuel rider. Each quarterly rate adjustment will include the fuel costs from the preceding quarter. The quarterly fuel rider factors will be calculated by dividing the fuel costs by the preceding twelve month billing determinants; provided, however, that any steam load that increases or decreases expected BTU billing units by more than 5 percent can be added or subtracted to the historic billing determinants for the purpose of the quarterly fuel rider computation and rate. Each quarterly rate adjustment will remain in effect for twelve months.

8.4. As detailed below, there will be prudence reviews and true-up of revenues collected and costs. A reconciliation account shall be created to track, adjust and return true-up amounts and prudence amounts not otherwise refunded. The difference between the costs intended for recovery and revenues collected will be tracked in a reconciliation account. Fuel costs collected in rates will be refundable based on true-up results and findings in regard to prudence. Adjustments, if any,

necessary by Commission order pursuant to any prudence review shall also be placed in the reconciliation account for collection unless a separate refund is ordered by the Commission. A reconciliation rate shall be established at a level designed to bring the reconciliation account to zero over a period of not less than 12 months and not more than 24 months. The rate may be adjusted quarterly.

8.5. The fuel rate adjustment will not include carrying costs related to the timing of fuel cost recovery.

8.6. In consideration of the sharing provisions of the fuel rate mechanism, and the intent to rely on an alignment of customer and Company interests in efficient operations, a two-step approach to prudence review will be followed. In step one the Staff will review to ascertain:

8.6.1. that the concept of aligning of company and customer interests is working as intended; and,

8.6.2. that no significant level of imprudent costs is apparent.

8.7. This review may be entirely a part of surveillance activity. Aquila steam customers in the L&P service area will be given timely notice of the results of the step one review. In consideration of Step one results, the Staff may proceed with a full prudence review, if deemed necessary. Such full prudence review shall be conducted no more often than once

every 12 months and shall concern the prior 12 month period or calendar year only, provided however that the full prudence review addressing the first partial year, if pursued, will be included with a full prudence review of the first full calendar year of operation of this rate mechanism.

8.8. Any Aquila steam customer or group of steam customers in the L&P service area may make application to initiate a complaint for the purpose of pursuing a prudence review by use of the existing complaint process. The application for the complaint and the complaint proceeding will not be prejudiced by the absence of a step two prudence review by Staff.

8.9. Pursuant to any prudence review of fuel costs, whether by the Staff or Aquila steam customer(s), there will be no rate adjustment unless the resulting prudence adjustment amount exceeds 10 percent of the total of the fuel costs incurred in an annual review period.

8.10. The fuel rate adjustment mechanism will be set forth in a rate schedule of general applicability.

9. Aquila will continue to allocate the cost of Lake Road operations between steam and electric in the Aquila Networks -- L&P division, and between steam and Aquila, Inc. and any other entities, in accordance with recent practice and as set forth in the steam cost allocation manual and as provided in stipulated agreements in Commission Case Nos. ER-2004-0034 combined with HR-

2004-0024 and incorporating the agreements from Case No. EO-94-36. The allocation method(s) will continue until another approach is presented and approved or agreed among parties in a general rate proceeding.

10. An application for a steam general rate proceeding will not be filed prior to January 1, 2007, unless the reliability study required by Paragraph 6 above or the system resource study required by Paragraph 7 above results in actions, improvements, changes in operating procedures, or projects placed in service before September 1, 2007, which would increase annual steam system revenue requirements by 10% or more.

11. Surveillance:

Quarterly Requirements:

11.1. Monthly reports labeled "Management Report - Steam (Attachment S-1);

11.2. Monthly reports labeled "Plant Statistics" (Attachment S-2);

11.3. Relevant pages from IEC reports including the monthly fuel report concerning Lake Road production statistics (Attachment S-3).

Steam Service Agreement.

12. The Aquila/AGP Steam Service Agreement dated April 22, 2004 will be amended for the purpose of extending the term of

the contract and all provisions including the pricing provisions, to April 21, 2010. The Aquila/AGP letter agreement dated March 22, 2004 will continue in effect. Aquila agrees that for future ratemaking determinations, AGP will be treated as if it were paying the full tariff rate.

Agreements Not Prejudicial.

13. Agreements in this proceeding will not prejudice any party or be determinative of a particular cost allocation approach that could be adopted by the Commission in a proceeding affecting Aquila's electric or steam rates. The absence of an imprudence finding in the context of the steam fuel rate mechanism will not prejudice any party or be determinative in an Aquila electric rate proceeding.

14. None of the signatories to this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement shall be deemed to have approved or acquiesced by their agreement to the fuel adjustment mechanism in this case that the Commission should adopt the same, or a similar, fuel adjustment mechanism by a rulemaking, including, but not limited to, rules the Commission may promulgate under Section 386.266 RSMo Supp 2005 (Senate Bill 179).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Admission of Party Testimony.

15. The Signatory Parties agree that, in the event the Commission approves this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement without modification or condition, then the prefiled testimony of all witnesses in this proceeding may be included in the record of this proceeding, without the necessity of such witnesses taking the stand.

Contingent Waiver of Rights.

16. This Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement is being entered into solely for the purpose of settling all issues in this case as among the Signatory Parties. None of the signatories to this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement shall be deemed to have approved or acquiesced in any ratemaking or procedural principle, including, without limitation, any method of cost determination or cost allocation or revenue related methodology, and none shall be prejudiced or bound in any manner by the terms of this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement in this or any other proceeding, whether this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement is approved or not, except as otherwise expressly specified herein.

17. This Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement has resulted from extensive negotiations among Aquila and AGP, and the terms hereof are interdependent. In the event the Commission

does not unconditionally approve this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement, then this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement shall be void and no Signatory Party shall be bound by any of the agreements or provisions hereof, except as otherwise provided herein.

18. If the Commission does not unconditionally approve this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement without modification, and notwithstanding its provision that it shall become void therein, neither this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement, nor any matters associated with its consideration by the Commission, shall be considered or argued to be a waiver of the rights that any party has for a decision in accordance with §536.080 RSMo 2000 or Article V, Section 18 of the Missouri Constitution, and the Signatory Parties shall retain all procedural and due process rights as fully as though this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement had not been presented for approval, and any suggestions or memoranda, testimony or exhibits that have been offered or received in support of this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement shall become privileged as reflecting the substantive content of settlement discussions and shall be stricken from and not be considered as part of the administrative or evidentiary record before the Commission for any further purpose whatsoever.

19. In the event the Commission accepts the specific terms of this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement, the Signa-

tory Parties waive their respective rights to call and to cross-examine witnesses pursuant to § 536.070(2); present oral argument and written briefs pursuant to §536.080.1 RSMo 2000; their respective rights to the reading of the transcript by the Commission pursuant to §536.080.2 RSMo 2000; their respective rights to seek rehearing, pursuant to §386.500 RSMo 2000; and their respective rights to judicial review pursuant to §386.510 RSMo 2000. This waiver applies only to a Commission Order respecting this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement issued in this proceeding, and does not apply to any matters raised in any other Commission proceeding, or any matters not explicitly addressed by this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement.

Staff Right to Disclose.

20. The Staff shall file suggestions or a memorandum in support of this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement. Each of the parties shall be served with a copy of any such suggestions or memorandum and shall be entitled to submit to the Commission, within five (5) days of receipt of Staff's suggestions or memorandum, responsive suggestions or a responsive memorandum which shall also be served on all parties. The contents of any suggestions or memorandum provided by any party are its own and are not acquiesced in or otherwise adopted by the other signatories to this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement,

whether or not the Commission approves and adopts this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement.

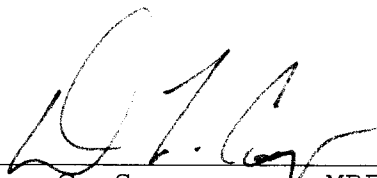
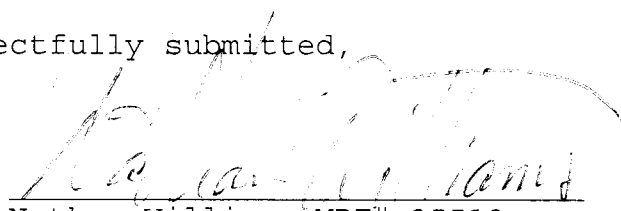
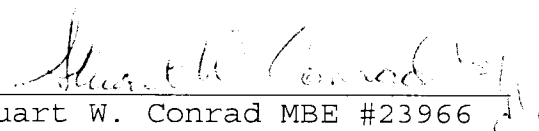
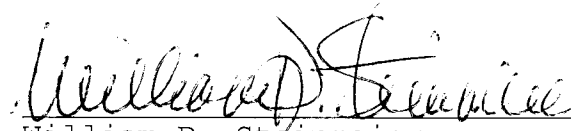
21. At any Commission agenda meeting at which this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement is noticed to be considered by the Commission, the Staff shall have the right to provide, whatever oral explanation the Commission requests, provided that the Commission and Staff shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, provide the other parties with advance notice of when the Staff shall respond to the Commission's request for such explanation once such explanation is requested from the Staff. The Staff's oral explanation, if provided at a meeting where the advanced notice was less than 5 days, shall be disclosed to all the parties, and to the extent it refers to matters that are either privileged as a result of participation in settlement discussions, or are protected from disclosure pursuant to any protective order issued in this case the disclosure shall have appropriate protections. If the Staff is not a signatory or non-opposing party, Staff shall have only those rights that are afforded to any other party in a proceeding before the Commission.

Integration.

22. This Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement incorporates the agreements of the Signatory Parties on all issues that the Signatory Parties presented to the Commission as issues to be decided in Case No. HR-2005-0450.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the Signatory Parties respectfully request that the Commission issue its Order approving all of the specific terms and conditions of this Nonunanimous Stipulation and Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by electronic mail on this 17th day of February, 2006, to the Parties of record as shown by the Commission's records.

