

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Great Plains)	
Energy Incorporated, Kansas City Power & Light)	
Company, and Aquila, Inc. for Approval of the Merger)	Case No. EM-2007-0374
of Aquila, Inc. with a Subsidiary of Great Plains)	
Energy Incorporated and for Other Related Relief)	

**RESPONSE OF JOINT APPLICANTS TO STAFF’S RESPONSE TO
APPARENT PRESUMPTION OF EARLY JANUARY RESUMPTION
OF RECESSED EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS**

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080, Great Plains Energy Incorporated (“Great Plains Energy”), Kansas City Power & Light Company (“KCPL”), and Aquila, Inc. (“Aquila”) (collectively, “Joint Applicants”) hereby respond to Staff’s Initial Response to Apparent Presumption of Early January Resumption of Recessed Evidentiary Hearings (“Initial Response”). Joint Applicants generally agree with the recommendations offered by Staff. However, as discussed herein, Joint Applicants seek to clarify that they will not be in a position to circulate their revised merger regulatory plan proposal until the first week of January 2008. Nonetheless, Joint Applicants believe it would be helpful to convene a settlement conference December 19, 2007, as directed by the Commission, to solicit the parties’ input concerning Joint Applicants’ development of their revised proposal. Joint Applicants further believe that a second settlement conference is warranted after the parties have had an opportunity to review the revised proposal. In support thereof, Joint Applicants state as follows:

1. On December 6, 2007, Joint Applicants requested to recess the evidentiary hearings in this proceeding. Joint Applicants committed to develop and circulate a revised merger regulatory plan proposal. Moreover, Joint Applicants indicated that they anticipated being able to circulate such a proposal to the parties by the end of this week. Joint Applicants

also suggested that the evidentiary hearings could potentially resume as early as the week of January 7, 2008.

2. Based upon that information, the Commission agreed to recess the evidentiary hearings, and Regulatory Law Judge Colleen M. Dale directed Joint Applicants to file their revised merger regulatory plan proposal by December 14, 2007. Judge Dale also requested that the parties provide the dates of their availability for a resumption of the evidentiary hearings in January 2008. On December 13, 2007, the Commission issued an order directing the parties to appear at a settlement conference scheduled for December 19, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. The Commission also directed the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule for the remaining proceedings by December 21, 2007.

3. Joint Applicants no longer believe it will be possible to finalize and circulate a revised merger regulatory plan proposal by December 14, 2007. Joint Applicants intend to circulate such a proposal by January 4, 2008. Nonetheless, Joint Applicants believe the December 19, 2007 settlement conference will be useful to solicit the parties' input as Joint Applicants develop and evaluate their revised proposal. Joint Applicants agree with Staff that it would be premature at this time for the Commission to schedule the resumption of the evidentiary hearings in this case.

4. Joint Applicants believe that a second settlement conference is warranted after the parties have had an opportunity to review the revised merger regulatory plan proposal. Joint Applicants intend to work with the other parties at the December 19 conference to determine when it would be appropriate to schedule the second settlement conference. That settlement conference would then be addressed in the proposed procedural schedule due December 21, 2007.

Wherefore Joint Applicants support Staff's request that the Commission not order at this time the resumption of the recessed evidentiary hearings in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 13, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand delivered, emailed or mailed, postage prepaid, this 14th day of December 2007, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Jim Fischer
James M. Fischer