Exhibit No.: Issues:

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Sponsoring Party:

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Corporate Allocations; Six Sigma; Payroll Expense; Incentive Compensation; Payroll Taxes; Employee Benefits; Pension Expense; Prepaid Pension Assets; ERISA Minimum Tracker and Amortization Lesley R. Preston, CPA MoPSC Staff Direct Testimony ER-2005-0436 October 14, 2005

## MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## UTILITY SERVICES DIVISION

# DIRECT TESTIMONY

## OF

## LESLEY R. PRESTON, CPA

#### AQUILA, INC.

### d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS-MPS - ELECTRIC

## AND AQUILA NETWORKS – L&P – ELECTRIC

CASE NO. ER-2005-0436

Jefferson City, Missouri October 2005

#### **BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

#### **OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

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In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of Aquila, Inc., to Implement a General Rate Increase for Retail Electric Service Provided to Customers in Its MPS and L&P Missouri Service Areas.

Case No. ER-2005-0436 Tariff No. YE-2005-1045

#### AFFIDAVIT OF LESLEY R. PRESTON

STATE OF MISSOURI	)	
	)	ss.
COUNTY OF COLE	)	

Lesley R. Preston, being of lawful age, on her oath states: that she has participated in the preparation of the following Direct Testimony in question and answer form, consisting of 20 pages to be presented in the above case; that the answers in the following Direct Testimony were given by her; that she has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; and that such matters are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  $\frac{1}{12}$  day of October 2005.



Notary

TONI M. CHARLTON Notary Public - State of Missouri My Commission Expires December 28, 2008 Cole County Commission #04474301

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1		DIRECT TESTIMONY			
2		OF			
3	LESLEY R. PRESTON, CPA				
4	А	QUILA, INC. d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS-MPS – ELECTRIC			
5		AND AQUILA NETWORKS – L&P – ELECTRIC			
6		CASE NO. ER-2005-0436			
7	Q.	Please state your name and business address.			
8	A.	My name is Lesley R. Preston, Fletcher Daniels Office Building, 615 E. 13th			
9	St., Suite G-8	, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.			
10	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?			
11	A.	I am a Regulatory Auditor for the Missouri Public Service Commission			
12	(Commission	or MoPSC).			
13	Q.	Please describe your education and other qualifications.			
14	А.	In May of 2005, I graduated with a Masters of Science in Accounting from the			
15	University of	Missouri-Kansas City. My undergraduate degrees of Bachelor of Science in			
16	Accounting a	nd Business Administration, emphasis in Finance, were earned from Truman			
17	State Univers	ity in Kirksville, Missouri, in May of 2002. I am a licensed Certified Public			
18	Accountant in	n the state of Missouri. I commenced employment with the Commission in			
19	September 20	02.			
20	Q.	Have you previously filed testimony before this Commission?			
21	А.	Yes, I have. Please see the attached Schedule 1.			
22	Q.	Have you worked on any other cases since your employment with the			
23	Commission?				

A. Yes. I have participated in other types of cases, such as small water cases.
 The information is also included on Schedule 1 attached to this direct testimony.

3 **PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY** 

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Q. With reference to Case No. ER-2005-0436 have you made an examination of the books and records of Aquila Networks-MPS (MPS) and Aquila Networks-L&P (L&P), divisions of Aquila, Inc (Aquila or Company)?

7 A. Yes, I have, with the assistance of other members of the Commission Staff
8 (Staff).

What are your areas of responsibility in regard to Case No. ER-2005-0436?

10 A. I will be sponsoring the areas of payroll expense, payroll taxes, incentive
11 compensation, employee benefits and corporate allocations.

12 Q. What knowledge, skill, experience, training or education do you have in13 regulatory matters?

14 A. In addition to my education background and professional license, since 15 beginning employment with the Commission, I have attended various in-house training 16 seminars and have reviewed in-house training materials. I worked on three small water and 17 sewer cases, which has provided a strong basis in the ratemaking process and an in-depth 18 understanding on certain issues. I have also worked closely with senior auditors and 19 supervisors, with extensive regulatory knowledge and experience. I have been assigned to 20 and filed testimony as described in Schedule 1. I have also extensively reviewed other utility 21 rate cases related to the issues I am sponsoring to ensure the consistency of the Staff's method 22 and procedures. My prior academic education helped prepare me to successfully sponsor the 23 ratemaking areas I've been assigned in this case. I have received a certificate of training from

1	the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in a seminar it has sponsored							
2	concerning utility cost of service and regulation.							
3	Q. Which adjustments are you sponsoring in this case?							
4	A. I have numerous payroll adjustments for both MPS and L&P, which I have							
5	listed on Schedule 2 attached to this direct testimony. In addition to these adjustments, I am							
6	sponsoring the rate base components found on Accounting Schedule 2, Rate Base, for Prepaid							
7	Pension Asset, and ERISA Minimum Tracker.							
8	I am sponsoring the following additional adjustments for MPS:							
9	Payroll Taxes: S-93.1, S-93.2, S-93.3, S-93.4;							
10	Long-Term Incentive Plan: S-85.10;							
11 12 13 14 15	Variable Compensation: S-9.8, S-11.8, S-13.8, S-16.8, S-18.8, S-19.8, S-21.8, S-24.8, S-26.8, S-33.8, S-34.8, S-35.8, S-36.8, S-37.8, S-38.8, S-40.8, S-42.8, S-44.8, S-45.8, S-47.8, S-48.8, S-49.8, S-50.8, S-54.8, S-55.8, S-56.8, S-58.8, S-60.8, S-61.8, S-65.8, S-66.8, S-67.8, S-68.8, S-69.8, S-71.8, S-72.8, S-73.8, S-74.8, S-75.8, S-76.8, S-79.8, S-80.8, S-82.8, S-85.8, S-88.8, S-90.8;							
16	401(k): S-85.15;							
17	Profit Sharing: S-85.14;							
18	Medical, Dental & Vision: S-85.16, S-85.17;							
19	Pension Expense: S-85.11;							
20	ERISA Minimum Amortization: S-85.9;							
21	Corporate Allocations:							
22 23	Aquila's Updated Factors: S-34.11, S-69.11, S-80.10, S-82.10, S-89.10, S-93.6;							
24 25	Staff's Modified Massachusetts Formula: S-34.12, S-69.12, S-80.11, S-82.11, S-89.11, S-93.7;							
26 27	<i>Impact of South Harper on Massachusetts Formula</i> :S-34.13, S-69.13, S-80.12, S-82.12, S-89.12, S-93.8;							

1	Six Sigma S-34.19, S-69.19, S-80.18, S-82.18, S-82.19, S-89.18, and S-93.14.						
2	I am sponsoring the following additional adjustments for L&P:						
3	Payroll Taxes: S-94.1, S-94.2, S-94.3, S-94.4;						
4	Long-Term Incentive Plan: S-84.9;						
5 6 7 8 9	Variable Compensation: S-9.8, S-11.8, S-13.8, S-14.8, S-17.8, S-18.8, S-19.8, S-20.8, S-21.8, S-24.8, S-27.8, S-33.8, S-34.8, S-35.8, S-36.8, S-37.8, S-40.8, S-42.8, S-43.8, S-44.8, S-45.8, S-46.8, S-47.8, S-51.8, S-52.8, S-54.8, S-58.8, S-59.8, S-63.8, S-65.8, S-66.8, S-67.8, S-69.8, S-70.8, S-71.8, S-72.8, S-73.8, S-74.8, S-75.8, S-78.8, S-79.8, S-81.8, S-84.8, S-88.8, S-90.8;						
10	401(k): S-84.14;						
11	Profit Sharing: S-84.16;						
12	Medical, Dental & Vision: S-84.16, S-84.17;						
13	Pension Expense: S-84.13;						
14	ERISA Minimum Amortization: S-84.8;						
15	Corporate Allocations:						
16 17	Aquila's Updated Factors:S-34.11, S-67.11, S-79.11, S-81.11, S-89.10, S-94.5;						
18 19	<i>Staff's Modified Massachusetts Formula</i> : S-34.12, S-67.12, S-79.12, S-81.12, S-89.11, S-94.6;						
20 21	Impact of South Harper on Massachusetts Formula: S-34.13, S-67.13, S-79.13, S-81.13, S-89.12, S-94.7;						
22	Six Sigma: S-34.19, S-67.19, S-79.19, S-81.19, S-81.20, S-89.18, and S-94.13.						
23	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY						
24	Q. Please provide a summary of each of the issues you have identified.						
25	A. Aquila corporate departments incur expenses that are allocated to its operating						
26	business units by various allocations. A general allocator, the Massachusetts Formula, is used						
27	to distribute costs to departments that do not have a specific cost driver. The Staff has						

modified the Massachusetts Formula to allocate a more accurate level of cost to the nonregulated business unit. The Massachusetts Formula has also been modified to include the impact of the South Harper generating facility on net plant. Aquila has implemented a new management process, Six Sigma, to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Six Sigma costs are also included in the corporate cost pool. The Staff is proposing to normalize outside consulting costs, related to the Six Sigma project, over a five-year period and include any identified Six Sigma savings on an annualized basis.

The Company's payroll is comprised of both direct and allocated employee costs. The Staff is proposing to include the employee and salary levels at June 30, 2005. The allocated portion of the payroll costs are impacted by the changes in the corporate allocation factors that were updated as of July 1, 2005, the modifications to the Massachusetts Formula, and specific adjustments proposed by Staff witness Charles R. Hyneman. Payroll taxes were also annualized based upon the current tax rates and annualized level of payroll expense.

Incentive Compensation was updated to reflect the appropriate corporate allocations. Medical, dental and vision insurance was annualized to reflect an appropriate level of expense for the self-insured and premium based insurance. 401(k) and Profit Sharing were annualized based upon an appropriate ratio of the expense to the annualized level of payroll expense. Pension expense and related components which include the ERISA Minimum contribution, prepaid pension asset and the ERISA Minimum Tracker are reflected based upon the same methodology presented in the Stipulation and Agreement for Case No. ER-2004-0034.

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## **CORPORATE ALLOCATIONS-MASSACUSETT'S FORMULA**

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Q.

Please describe the corporate structure of Aquila.

A. Aquila's corporate allocations consist of two groups, both organized in specialized departments. Enterprise Support Functions (ESF) provide general corporate services such as executive, legal, payroll and tax to the business units. Aquila currently has approximately 55 corporate ESF departments with 213 employees. Intra Business Units (IBU) provide services such as customer service, regulatory, and operations to the Network's business units. Aquila currently has approximately 145 corporate IBU departments with 787 employees.

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Q. How many people does Aquila employ as of June 30, 2005?

A. In total, Aquila has 3,233 employees. In addition to the ESF and IBU employees, 2,037 employees are assigned to the various utility business units, 178 employees are under Aquila's non-regulated Everest Communications, and 18 employees are assigned to other non-regulated business units.

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Q. Please describe the process Aquila uses to allocate costs to its business units.

A. Aquila has developed a comprehensive corporate overhead allocation procedure to allocate costs to its domestic business units. Aquila's primary method of allocating ESF and IBU costs is a three-factor formula referred to as the "Massachusetts Formula." Aquila uses the factors of gross profit (margin), net plant in service, and payroll to calculate the relative allocation percentage for each business unit.

The Massachusetts Formula is used to allocate costs to the business units when a specific cost driver cannot be identified. Such departments that are allocated in this manner include the executive officer departments, financial reporting, tax, board of directors, and audit services.

In addition to the Massachusetts Formula, Aquila uses other allocation factors to
 allocate ESF and IBU department costs to its business units. For example, the costs charged
 to ESF department of 4179 (Payroll) are allocated based on the number of paychecks issued in
 that business unit to the total number of all business unit checks issued.

Q. Does Aquila allocate all corporate costs incurred to its operating companies like MPS and L&P?

A. No. Aquila has created departments where certain costs are accumulated but not allocated to the regulated business units. These are referred to as corporate retained departments. A significant portion of costs charged to the retained departments is associated with Aquila's continued exit from non-regulated activities and restructuring and do not get recovered in rates. Please refer to Staff witness Charles Hyneman as he further addresses these issues in his testimony.

Q. Is the Staff proposing adjustments to MPS and L&P test year corporate
allocated costs in this case?

A. Yes. The Staff's adjustments can be classified into several categories of
adjustments to MPS and L&P per book corporate allocated costs. These adjustments are
included in Accounting Schedule 10, Adjustments to Income Statement:

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1. Adjust test year costs to reflect Aquila's July 1, 2005 corporate allocations;

2. Adjust corporate expenses to reflect the Staff's adjustment to the Massachusetts Formula;

3. Adjust the Massachusetts Formula to reflect the Staff's level of net plant
associated with the South Harper generating facility;

23

4. Adjust certain corporate expenses related to restructuring;

1	5. Adjust lobbying expenses;					
2	6. Adjust Community Relations Department expenses;					
3	7. Adjust corporate expenses to reflect 20 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> lease revenue;					
4	8. Adjust corporate expenses to reflect Staff's SERP adjustment;					
5	9. Reflect the Staff's adjustment associated with Six Sigma.					
6	Q. Please explain adjustments S-34.11, S-69.11, S-80.10, S-82.10, S-89.10, and					
7	S-93.6 for MPS and adjustments S-34.11, S-67.11, S-79.11, S-81.11, S-89.10 and S-94.5 for					
8	L&P.					
9	A. These adjustments update MPS and L&P corporate allocated costs in 2004					
10	using the updated July 1, 2005 allocation factors provided by Aquila. These adjustments are					
11	simply the difference between the level of MPS and L&P per books net residual allocated					
12	corporate costs and the annualized level of net residual allocated corporate costs proposed by					
13	Aquila.					
14	Q. Please explain what you mean by "net residual" corporate costs.					
15	A. Net residual corporate costs simply mean total corporate costs less the					
16	corporate costs that are being annualized and adjusted by other witnesses. For example, both					
17	Aquila and the Staff have witnesses that are sponsoring corporate payroll and benefits,					
18	pensions, insurance, dues and donations, advertising, depreciation and injuries and damages.					
19	These witnesses are sponsoring adjustments to MPS and L&P direct costs as well as the					
20	related corporate costs. Thus, the corporate costs have been removed from the total corporate					
21	pool of expense dollars subject to allocation to the business units. The remaining costs left in					
22	the corporate pool after removal of these costs are referred to as net-residual corporate costs.					

Q. Please explain adjustments S-34.12, S-69.12, S-80.11, S-82.11, S-89.11 and
 S-93.7 for MPS and adjustments S-34.12, S-67.12, S-79.12, S-81.12, S-89.11 and S-94.6 for
 L&P.

4 A. These adjustments reflect the impact of the Staff's adjustment to the 5 Massachusetts Formula. As discussed above, the Massachusetts Formula is comprised of 6 three factors including margin, net plant and payroll. I have attached Schedule 3 to show the 7 calculation of the Massachusetts Formula that would be applied to a department such as 4030. 8 Chief Operating Officer. The first calculation demonstrates the result as included in the 9 Company's direct filing. The margin (gross profit), in the first line for MEP, is a negative 10 \$57,760,000. A negative number in the calculation will cause less cost to be allocated to the 11 business unit with the negative number and more to the other business units included in the 12 calculation.

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Q.

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Q.

What is department 1150 MEP General?

A. Department 1150 is the department that corporate costs are allocated to for the non-regulated Aquila Merchant Services.

16

Has the Company's allocation factors changed since their direct filing?

A. Yes. The Company, in response to Data Request No. 121, indicated that the
"use of the negative figure for the Merchant gross margin was an oversight…our intent [is] to
treat any negative gross margin amount as null (zero)." The Company provided the Staff with
updated workpapers that reflected this change and the July 1, 2005 allocation factors. This
calculation is shown by the second calculation on Schedule 3.

22

How is the Staff proposing to treat the margin associated with MEP?

1	A. The Staf	ff proposes to	use the actual 1	margin for MEP	, but included it as a	
2	positive number. The actual margin for MEP had decreased further to negative \$72,962,000.					
3	The calculation that Sta	ff performed is	shown by the th	ird example on S	Schedule 3.	
4			2	1	he application of the	
5	Massachusetts Formula	1 1	1		11	
6			re is Company `	X with Division	s A and B, which has	
7			1 0		·	
	\$100,000 in corporate s					
8 9	Company X	/largin	Payroll	Net Plant	Average= Mass. Formula	
9 10		100 63%	<u>1 ayıon</u> \$75 60%	\$200 57%	<u>60%</u>	
11		<u>60</u> 37%	\$ <u>50</u> 40%	\$ <u>150</u> 43%	40%	
12		160	\$125	\$350		
13	Division A is allocated \$60,000 (\$100,000 x 60%) of the corporate costs, and					
14	Division B is allocated	1 \$40,000 (\$1	00,000 x 40%)	of the corporat	e costs based on the	
15	respective weighting of	each of the thr	ee allocation fac	tors.		
16	Assume again fo	or 2004, \$100,	000 was incurred	d for corporate c	osts. The only change	
17	from the above example	e is that Divisio	on B lost \$35 ins	tead of earning \$	660. Due to this single	
18	change, Division A is	allocated \$90	0,000 (\$100,000	x 90%) and D	ivision B is allocated	
19	\$10,000 (\$100,000 x 10	%). The calcul	ation of the alloc	ation is illustrate	ed below.	
20	Company X				Average=	
21		/largin	Payroll	Net Plant	Mass. Formula	
22		100 154%	\$75 60%	\$200 57%	90%	
23	Division B §	(35) -54%	\$ <u>50</u> 40%	\$ <u>150</u> 43%	10%	
24		65	\$125	\$350		
25	This example ill	ustrates the co	unterintuitive eff	ect of including	a negative number in a	
26	component of the Ma	ssachusetts Fo	ormula. This w	rould lead to a	smaller allocation of	
27	management time to a c	livision that is	losing money.	This is counterint	uitive as it is expected	
		_			1	

that management will focus more of its energy on a division that is losing money over a
 division with stable earnings.

Q. Please explain adjustments S-34.13, S-69.13, S-80.12, S-82.12, S-89.12 and S-93.8 for MPS and adjustments S-34.13, S-67.13, S-79.13, S-81.13, S-89.12 and S-94.7 for L&P.

These adjustments represent an additional change to the Massachusetts 6 A. 7 Formula, and are included as the fourth calculation listed on Schedule 3. This simply adjusts 8 the net plant for MPS to reflect the Staff's level of plant for the South Harper generating 9 facility. This is consistent with the amount recommended by Staff Auditing witness 10 Phillip K. Williams. The total plant value for the facility of \$124,993,519 can be found on 11 Schedule 3, Total Plant in Service. The Company's direct filing reflected estimated costs for the South Harper generating facility at \$140,000,000, and the updated workpapers reflecting 12 13 the July 1, 2005 allocation factors included \$155,000,000 as the total estimated cost.

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Will you be addressing the remaining proposed adjustments?

A. I will address issue 9, Six Sigma in the next section of my testimony. Staff
witness Hyneman will address the remaining corporate issues listed above.

## SIX SIGMA

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Q.

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<u>X SIGMA</u>

Q. Please explain what is meant by Six Sigma?

A. Six Sigma is a methodology Aquila has implemented to improve its processesand efficiency. Aquila began training and implementation of Six Sigma in 2004.

21

Are there costs associated with the introduction of Six Sigma?

Q.

Q.

Q.

A. Yes. Aquila has established corporate IBU department 6134, to capture costs
 associated with Six Sigma. This department is then allocated to the business units through the
 allocation process.

4

How have the costs for this function been treated in this case?

A. The Staff has not adjusted any departmental costs except for the outside
consulting fees. The Staff proposes to normalize those costs over a five-year period. This
period is typically used by the Staff on costs that are non-investment related.

8

Q. Has Six Sigma resulted in improved efficiency?

A. Yes. In implementing Six Sigma, the Company identified specific projects
where improvements can be made. Data Request No. 209 response identified several
successfully completed projects since 2004, which resulted in improved efficiency and cost
savings.

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What other adjustments has the Staff made in regards to Six Sigma?

A. Also in the response to Data Request No. 209, Aquila identified potential cost savings that can be recognized for each project that is proposed. These savings may affect the income statement or balance sheet and may be a recurring savings (cost reduction), or a one-time benefit. In 2004, Aquila identified savings that were recurring and impacted the income statement. These cost reductions are embedded in the per book amounts in the income statement. The Staff has made an additional adjustment to realize additional savings Aquila identified that have occurred through June 30, 2005.

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Which adjustments are you sponsoring associated with Six Sigma?

A. For MPS, I am sponsoring adjustments S-34.19, S-69.19, S-80.18, S-82.18,
 S-82.19, S-89.18 and S-93.14, and for L&P, adjustments S-34.19, S-67.19, S-79.19, S-81.19,
 S-81.20, S-89.18 and S-94.13.

PAYROLL EXPENSE

Q.

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Please explain the payroll adjustments you are sponsoring.

A. A listing of the payroll adjustments can be found on Schedule 2.1 for MPS and
7 Schedule 2.2 for L&P.

Q. Please explain the process taken to annualize payroll.

A. As Staff witness Williams explains in his direct testimony, the Staff is filing a
calendar year 2004 test year updated for known and measurable events through June 30, 2005.
Therefore, I have developed the payroll expense by annualizing payroll costs at June 30,
2005, for MPS, L&P and the corporate ESF and IBU departments. The annualized payroll
expense is based upon actual employees and the authorized wage levels paid as of June 30,
2005.

15

How did Staff develop payroll costs in this case?

A. The Staff requested payroll information for each department and individual
employed by Aquila and its operating divisions. This information was analyzed to track
changes in the work force and to identify any areas that needed to be reviewed in further
detail. Salary and wage rates were reviewed to determine the pay levels of the Aquila
employees.

I determined the salary and wage rates as of June 30, 2005, and applied those rates to employees that were included in the payroll costs as of that date. The annualized amount was compared to the test-year per-book amount at December 31, 2004, to identify the related

adjustment to the annualized level as of June 30, 2005. The annualized amount was
distributed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Uniform System of
Accounts by a payroll distribution percentage based on the payroll distribution percentage
used for the test year. I also developed the payroll annualization by applying a capitalization
ratio to assign part of the payroll to construction activities. This essentially assigns a portion
of payroll costs for employees who work on construction projects.

I have also included an allowance for overtime and "other than standard" labor costs by including them at the test year level. These costs were reviewed over a three-year historical time frame to determine the reasonableness of the test year levels.

Finally, I was provided changes to the costs, subject to allocation, for specific corporate departments by Staff witness Hyneman to incorporate into the payroll and payroll related costs. For a discussion on the specific corporate adjustments, please refer to Mr. Hyneman's direct testimony.

Q. How did Staff account for the payroll costs of Aquila's corporate departments and other business units that provide service to MPS and L&P?

A. These costs have been allocated to MPS and L&P using an appropriate allocation factor using the updated factors as of July 1, 2005, the modified Massachusetts Formula and the impact of South Harper.

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Q. Has Aquila paid any executive bonuses in 2004?

A. No. However, Aquila announced the sale of four of its utility properties on
September 21, 2005. The Compensation and Benefits Committee of the Board of Directors
determined that the chief executive officer and eight other top executives will receive a cash

bonus of 25% of their current salary. Upon the consummation of the sales transactions, the
 executives are eligible for an additional 75% cash bonus of their current salary.

- Q. Has the Staff reflected the announced executive bonuses in its direct filing?
- A. No.
- Q. Will the executive bonuses be reflected in the true-up?
  - A. No.

Q. Why will these bonuses not be reflected?

8 A. These bonuses are associated with the corporate restructuring activities and
9 should not be recovered in rates. Staff witness Hyneman discusses this further in his direct
10 testimony.

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## **INCENTIVE COMPENSATION**

Q. Please explain what is meant by incentive compensation.

A. Incentive compensation is additional compensation, above base wages/salary,
that employees receive if certain pre-set goals are met.

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Q. What is the nature of Staff's review in auditing this area?

A. Among other things, the Staff's audit scope includes a review of the goals of
the plan and a determination as to who benefits by achieving the goals and, therefore, who
should pay for achieving the goals. Historically, the Staff has recommended that ratepayers
pay for progress made towards accomplishing goals of improving safety, reliability and
customer service, and that goals intended to improve the Company's earnings/rate of return be
assigned to shareholders.

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- Q. What types of incentive compensation plans does the Company have?

A. The Company has a Variable Compensation Plan (VCP), and a Long-Term
 Incentive Plan (LTIP).

3 Variable Compensation Plan

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What is the purpose of the Variable Compensation Plan?

A. Aquila's response to Data Request No. 53 identifies the purpose to "reward the accomplishment of operation business objectives and to motivate participants to accomplish significant business group and individual goals. Achievement of these goals will further enhance Aquila's mission to enhance business stability and service reliability."

9

How are incentive payments determined under the VCP?

A. Incentive payments for the 2004 VCP are made based upon the achievement of established goals for each of the components of reliability, safety, customer service and effective use of capital.

Q. Is the Staff recommending any disallowance of payments made under theVCP?

A. No. No disallowance to the VCP program is being proposed in this case because the goals are not directly related to the Company achieving a specific rate of return or financial earnings benchmark. Future recommendations made to support inclusion in rates for the VCP in future rate cases will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the information at the time.

Q. Please explain adjustments S-9.8, S-11.8, S-13.8, S-16.8, S-18.8, S-19.8,
S-21.8, S-24.8, S-26.8, S-33.8, S-34.8, S-35.8, S-36.8, S-37.8, S-38.8, S-40.8, S-42.8, S-44.8,
S-45.8, S-47.8, S-48.8, S-49.8, S-50.8, S-54.8, S-55.8, S-56.8, S-58.8, S-60.8, S-61.8, S-65.8,
S-66.8, S-67.8, S-68.8, S-69.8, S-71.8, S-72.8, S-73.8, S-74.8, S-75.8, S-76.8, S-79.8, S-80.8,

1 S-82.8, S-85.8, S-88.8 and S-90.8 for MPS and adjustments S-9.8, S-11.8, S-13.8, S-14.8, 2 S-17.8, S-18.8, S-19.8, S-20.8, S-21.8, S-24.8, S-27.8, S-33.8, S-34.8, S-35.8, S-36.8, S-37.8, 3 S-40.8, S-42.8, S-43.8, S-44.8, S-45.8, S-46.8, S-47.8, S-51.8, S-52.8, S-54.8, S-58.8, S-59.8, 4 S-63.8, S-65.8, S-66.8, S-67.8, S-69.8, S-70.8, S-71.8, S-72.8, S-73.8, S-74.8, S-75.8, S-78.8, 5 S-79.8, S-81.8, S-84.8, S-88.8 and S-90.8 for L&P. These adjustments reflect the test-year levels of incentive compensation 6 A. 7 adjusted to reflect the July 2005 corporate allocation factors. 8 Long-Term Incentive Plan 9 Q. Please explain the adjustments S-85.10 for MPS and S-84.10 for L&P for the 10 long-term incentive plan (LTIP). 11 A. These adjustments remove LTIP expenses from the cost of service. The 12 Company is not seeking recovery of this plan in rates at this time. 13 **PAYROLL TAXES** 14 Q. Please explain adjustments for S-93.1, S-93.2, S-93.3 and S-93.4 MPS and 15 adjustments S-94.1, S-94.2, S-94.3 and S-94.4 for L&P related to payroll taxes. 16 A. These adjustments serve to ensure the appropriate level of Social Security 17 (FICA), Medicare, state unemployment (SUTA) and federal unemployment (FUTA) taxes 18 associated with the level of Staff's annualized payroll are included in rates. 19 Q. Please briefly explain how you computed the correct level of payroll taxes. 20 A. The current 2005 tax rates for the individual tax components were used for this 21 calculation. Applying these rates to the current annualized level of payroll expense produces 22 an appropriate level of payroll taxes on a going forward basis.

### 1 **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

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### 2 Medical, Dental & Vision Expense

Q. Please describe adjustments S-85.16 and S-85.17 for MPS and adjustmentsS-84.16 and S-84.17 for L&P associated with the health, vision and dental benefits.

A. The Staff's adjustment regarding health, vision and dental benefits is two-fold.
An adjustment was made to eliminate the historical over-accrual on the Company's books for the self-insured portion of health, dental and vision benefits. The second adjustment reflects the change in premium-based insurance based on Aquila's Election Report dated for June 2005.

10 401(k) Expense

Q. Please describe adjustment S-85.15 for MPS and adjustment S-84.14 for L&P
associated with 401(k) expense.

A. The 401(k) benefits matching expense incurred by MPS and L&P in the test year represent a certain percentage of payroll. I have maintained this same relationship, but multiplied it by the Staff's annualized level of payroll to produce the Staff's 401(k) benefit level. The difference between this and the test-year level generates the adjustment.

17 Profit Sharing Plan

Q. Please describe adjustment S-85.14 for MPS and adjustment S-84.16 for L&P
associated with the profit sharing plan.

A. The profit sharing plan was formerly known as the employee stock
contribution plan. The change occurred in 2004 and is a cash contribution to the employees
investment account.

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Q. Please explain how your adjustment was determined.

A. The profit sharing contribution expense incurred by Aquila in the test year represents a certain percentage of payroll. I have maintained the same relationship, but multiplied it by the Staff's annualized level of payroll to produce the Staff's profit sharing contribution expense level. The difference between this and the test year level gives rise to my adjustment.

#### 6 PENSION EXPENSE

Q. How has the Staff reflected pension expense in the instant case, adjustment S-85.11 for MPS and adjustment S-84.13 for L&P?

A. The Staff has taken the same approach in calculating pension expense as outlined in the Stipulation and Agreement (Stipulation) for Aquila's last case, Case No. ER-2004-0034. The annual pension cost is based upon a five-year average of the Company's ERISA contributions to the pension fund and is intended to reflect the Company's funding requirement under ERISA minimum.

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### PREPAID PENSION ASSET

Q.

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Q. Please explain the prepaid pension asset.

A. The prepaid pension asset represents the level of negative Financial
Accounting Standard (FAS) 87 expense flowed back in rates in prior years. The amount was
determined as part of the settlement of the pension issue in Case No. ER-2004-0034. The
unamortized balance has been included as an addition to Rate Base, Schedule 2.

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Please explain the adjustments to amortize the prepaid pension asset.

A. The adjustments to amortize the prepaid pension assets are based upon a 5.5 year amortization period for MPS and 9.25 year amortization period for L&P. The amortization periods correspond with the time frame since the adoption of FAS 87 for

ratemaking purposes for MPS and L&P and are in accordance with the Stipulation in Case
 No. ER-2004-0034.

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## ERISA MINIMUM TRACKER AND AMORTIZATION

Q. What is the ERISA minimum tracker and associated amortization expense?

A. The Stipulation in Case. No. ER-2004-0034 provided that the difference between annual ERISA minimum and the ERISA minimum included in rates in Case No. ER-2004-0034 be recorded as a regulatory asset or liability. The Company has not made any ERISA minimum contributions since the effective date of rates for Case No. ER-2004-0034. Thus, as of June 30, 2005, the Company had recovered funds for 14.3 months, which results in a regulatory liability that is being included as an offset to rate base.

The terms of the Stipulation provided for a five year amortization of the regulatory asset or liability. This has been reflected as adjustment S-85.9 for MPS and S-84.9 for L&P.

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Does this conclude your direct testimony?

A. Yes, it does.

Q.

## CASE PARTICIPATION LESLEY PRESTON

Part	Testimony		
			Issues
Missouri Gas Energy	GR-2004-0209	Direct	Advertising, Dues & Donations, Plant in Service, Depreciation Reserve, Depreciation Expense, Rate Case Expense, PSC Assessment, Injuries & Damages
Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-L&P and Aquila Networks-MPS	GR-2004-0072	Direct	Cash Working Capital, Account Receivable Sales, Materials & Supplies, Prepayments, Customer Deposits and Interest, Customer Advances, Postage, Maintenance Expense
Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-L&P and Aquila Networks-MPS	GR-2004-0072	Rebuttal	Cash Working Capital
Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-L&P and Aquila Networks-MPS	ER-2004-0034 & HR-2004-0024 (Consolidated)	Direct	Cash Working Capital, Account Receivable Sales, Materials & Supplies, Prepayments, Customer Deposits and Interest, Customer Advances, Maintenance Expense, Postage
Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-L&P and Aquila Networks-MPS	ER-2004-0034 & HR-2004-0024 (Consolidated)	Surrebuttal	Cash Working Capital

SMALL COMPANY CASE PARTICIPATION						
Company	Case No.	Tracking No.				
Middlefork Water Company		QW-2005-0005				
Central Rivers Wastwater	SA-2005-0302					
Hickory Hills Water & Sewer Compay, Inc.	WR-2005-0126	QW-2004-0008				
Hickory Hills Water & Sewer Compay, Inc.	SR-2005-0125	QS-2004-0009				
Raytown Water Company	WR-2005-0052	QW-2003-0023				
Taney County Utilities	WR-2004-0450	QW-2003-0016				
Taney County Utilities	SR-2004-0451	QS-2003-0015				

#### Income Statement Adjustments-MPS

#### **Payroll Adjustments**

			South	Restructuring		Community
<u> </u>	June 30, 2005	Adjusted	Harper	(Per C.	Lobbying (Per	
CS-5	Payroll	Massachusetts S-9.3	Impact S-9.4	Hyneman)	C. Hyneman)	C. Hyneman) S-9.7
S-9.1 S-11.1	S-9.2 S-11.2		S-9.4 S-11.4	S-9.5 S-11.5	S-9.6 S-11.6	
S-11.1 S-12.1	S-11.2 S-12.2	S-11.3 S-12.3	S-11.4 S-12.4	S-11.5 S-12.5	S-11.6 S-12.6	S-11.7 S-12.7
S-12.1 S-13.1	S-13.2	S-13.3	S-12.4 S-13.4	S-13.5	S-12.0 S-13.6	S-13.7
S-16.1	S-16.2	S-16.3	S-16.4	S-16.5	S-16.6	S-16.7
S-17.1	S-17.2	S-17.3	S-17.4	S-10.5	S-17.6	S-17.7
S-18.1	S-18.2	S-18.3	S-18.4	S-18.5	S-18.6	S-18.7
S-19.1	S-19.2	S-19.3	S-19.4	S-19.5	S-19.6	S-19.7
S-20.1	S-20.2	S-20.3	S-20.4	S-20.5	S-20.6	S-20.7
S-21.1	S-21.2	S-21.3	S-21.4	S-21.5	S-21.6	S-21.7
S-23.1	S-23.2	S-23.3	S-23.4	S-23.5	S-23.6	S-23.7
S-24.1	S-24.2	S-24.3	S-24.4	S-24.5	S-24.6	S-24.7
S-26.1	S-26.2	S-26.3	S-26.4	S-26.5	S-26.6	S-26.7
S-27.1	S-27.2	S-27.3	S-27.4	S-27.5	S-27.6	S-27.7
S-28.1	S-28.2	S-28.3	S-28.4	S-28.5	S-28.6	S-28.7
S-33.1	S-33.2	S-33.3	S-33.4	S-33.5	S-33.6	S-33.7
S-34.1 S-35.1	S-34.2 S-35.2	S-34.3 S-35.3	S-34.4 S-35.4	S-34.5 S-35.5	S-34.6 S-35.6	S-34.7 S-35.7
S-36.1	S-36.2	S-36.3	S-35.4 S-36.4	S-36.5	S-36.6	S-36.7
S-37.1	S-37.2	S-37.3	S-30.4 S-37.4	S-37.5	S-37.6	S-37.7
S-38.1	S-38.2	S-38.3	S-38.4	S-38.5	S-38.6	S-38.7
S-40.1	S-40.2	S-40.3	S-40.4	S-40.5	S-40.6	S-40.7
S-41.1	S-41.2	S-41.3	S-41.4	S-41.5	S-41.6	S-41.7
S-42.1	S-42.2	S-42.3	S-42.4	S-42.5	S-42.6	S-42.7
S-44.1	S-44.2	S-44.3	S-44.4	S-44.5	S-44.6	S-44.7
S-45.1	S-45.2	S-45.3	S-45.4	S-45.5	S-45.6	S-45.7
S-47.1	S-47.2	S-47.3	S-47.4	S-47.5	S-47.6	S-47.7
S-48.1	S-48.2	S-48.3	S-48.4	S-48.5	S-48.6	S-48.7
S-49.1	S-49.2	S-49.3	S-49.4	S-49.5	S-49.6	S-49.7
S-50.1	S-50.2	S-50.3	S-50.4	S-50.5	S-50.6	S-50.7
S-51.1	S-51.2	S-51.3	S-51.4	S-51.5	S-51.6	S-51.7
S-52.1 S-53.1	S-52.2 S-53.2	S-52.3 S-53.3	S-52.4 S-53.4	S-52.5 S-53.5	S-52.6 S-53.6	S-52.7 S-53.7
S-55.1 S-54.1	S-54.2	S-54.3	S-55.4 S-54.4	S-54.5	S-54.6	S-54.7
S-55.1	S-55.2	S-55.3	S-54.4 S-55.4	S-55.5	S-55.6	S-55.7
S-56.1	S-56.2	S-56.3	S-56.4	S-56.5	S-56.6	S-56.7
S-58.1	S-58.2	S-58.3	S-58.4	S-58.5	S-58.6	S-58.7
S-60.1	S-60.2	S-60.3	S-60.4	S-60.5	S-60.6	S-60.7
S-61.1	S-61.2	S-61.3	S-61.4	S-61.5	S-61.6	S-61.7
S-62.1	S-62.2	S-62.3	S-62.4	S-62.5	S-62.6	S-62.7
S-63.1	S-63.2	S-63.3	S-63.4	S-63.5	S-63.6	S-63.7
S-64.1	S-64.2	S-64.3	S-64.4	S-64.5	S-64.6	S-64.7
S-65.1	S-65.2	S-65.3	S-65.4	S-65.5	S-65.6	S-65.7
S-66.1	S-66.2	S-66.3	S-66.4	S-66.5	S-66.6	S-66.7
S-67.1 S-68.1	S-67.2 S-68.2	S-67.3 S-68.3	S-67.4 S-68.4	S-67.5 S-68.5	S-67.6 S-68.6	S-67.7 S-68.7
S-69.1	S-69.2	S-69.3	S-69.4	S-69.5	S-69.6	S-69.7
S-71.1	S-71.2	S-71.3	S-09.4 S-71.4	S-71.5	S-71.6	S-71.7
S-72.1	S-72.2	S-72.3	S-72.4	S-72.5	S-72.6	S-72.7
S-73.1	S-73.2	S-73.3	S-73.4	S-73.5	S-73.6	S-73.7
S-74.1	S-74.2	S-74.3	S-74.4	S-74.5	S-74.6	S-74.7
S-75.1	S-75.2	S-75.3	S-75.4	S-75.5	S-75.6	S-75.7
S-76.1	S-76.2	S-76.3	S-76.4	S-76.5	S-76.6	S-76.7
S-79.1	S-79.2	S-79.3	S-79.4	S-79.5	S-79.6	S-79.7
S-80.1	S-80.2	S-80.3	S-80.4	S-80.5	S-80.6	S-80.7
S-81.1	S-81.2	S-81.3	S-81.4	S-81.5	S-81.6	S-81.7
S-82.1	S-82.2	S-82.3	S-82.4	S-82.5	S-82.6	S-82.7
S-85.1	S-85.2	S-85.3	S-85.4	S-85.5	S-85.6	S-85.7
S-88.1 S-89.1	S-88.2 S-89.2	S-88.3 S-89.3	S-88.4 S-89.4	S-88.5 S-89.5	S-88.6 S-89.6	S-88.7 S-89.7
S-89.1 S-90.1	S-89.2 S-90.2	S-89.3 S-90.3	S-89.4 S-90.4	S-89.5 S-90.5	S-89.6 S-90.6	S-89.7 S-90.7
5 70.1	5 70.2	5 70.5	5 70.7	5 70.5	5 70.0	5 70.1

#### Income Statement Adjustments-L&P

#### **Payroll Adjustments**

		Pay	roll Adjustı	nents		
			South			Community Relations
	June 30, 2005	Adjusted	Harper	Restructuring	Lobbying (Per	(Per C.
CS-5	Payroll	Massachusetts	Impact	(Per C. Hyneman)	• /	Hyneman)
S-9.1	S-9.2	S-9.3	S-9.4	S-9.5	S-9.6	S-9.7
S-11.1	S-11.2	S-11.3	S-11.4	S-11.5	S-11.6	S-11.7
S-13.1	S-13.2	S-13.3	S-13.4	S-13.5	S-13.6	S-13.7
S-14.1	S-14.2	S-14.3	S-14.4	S-14.5	S-14.6	S-14.7
S-17.1	S-17.2	S-17.3	S-17.4	S-17.5	S-17.6	S-17.7
S-18.1	S-18.2	S-18.3	S-18.4	S-18.5	S-18.6	S-18.7
S-19.1	S-19.2	S-19.3	S-19.4	S-19.5	S-19.6	S-19.7
S-20.1	S-20.2	S-20.3	S-20.4	S-20.5	S-20.6	S-20.7
S-21.1	S-21.2	S-21.3	S-21.4	S-21.5	S-21.6	S-21.7
S-22.1	S-22.2	S-22.3	S-22.4	S-22.5	S-22.6	S-22.7
S-24.1	S-24.2	S-24.3	S-24.4	S-24.5	S-24.6	S-24.7
S-25.1	S-25.2	S-25.3	S-25.4	S-25.5	S-25.6	S-25.7
S-26.1	S-26.2	S-26.3	S-26.4	S-26.5	S-26.6	S-26.7
S-27.1	S-27.2	S-27.3	S-27.4	S-27.5	S-27.6	S-27.7
S-28.1	S-28.2	S-28.3	S-28.4	S-28.5	S-28.6	S-28.7
S-33.1 S-34.1	S-33.2	S-33.3 S-34.3	S-33.4 S-34.4	S-33.5 S-34.5	S-33.6	S-33.7
S-34.1 S-35.1	S-34.2 S-35.2	S-34.3 S-35.3	S-34.4 S-35.4	S-34.5 S-35.5	S-34.6 S-35.6	S-34.7 S-35.7
S-35.1 S-36.1	S-36.2	S-35.3 S-36.3	S-35.4 S-36.4	S-36.5	S-36.6	S-36.7
S-30.1 S-37.1	S-30.2 S-37.2	S-30.3 S-37.3	S-30.4 S-37.4	S-30.5 S-37.5	S-30.0 S-37.6	S-30.7 S-37.7
S-37.1 S-38.1	S-38.2	S-38.3	S-37.4 S-38.4	S-38.5	S-38.6	S-38.7
S-40.1	S-40.2	S-40.3	S-40.4	S-40.5	S-40.6	S-40.7
S-40.1 S-42.1	S-40.2 S-42.2	S-40.5 S-42.3	S-40.4 S-42.4	S-40.5	S-40.0 S-42.6	S-40.7 S-42.7
S-42.1 S-43.1	S-43.2	S-42.5 S-43.3	S-42.4 S-43.4	S-43.5	S-43.6	S-42.7 S-43.7
S-43.1 S-44.1	S-44.2	S-44.3	S-43.4 S-44.4	S-44.5	S-44.6	S-44.7
S-45.1	S-45.2	S-45.3	S-45.4	S-45.5	S-45.6	S-44.7 S-45.7
S-46.1	S-46.2	S-46.3	S-46.4	S-46.5	S-46.6	S-46.7
S-47.1	S-47.2	S-47.3	S-40.4 S-47.4	S-47.5	S-47.6	S-40.7 S-47.7
S-48.1	S-48.2	S-48.3	S-48.4	S-48.5	S-48.6	S-48.7
S-49.1	S-49.2	S-49.3	S-49.4	S-49.5	S-49.6	S-49.7
S-50.1	S-50.2	S-50.3	S-50.4	S-50.5	S-50.6	S-50.7
S-51.1	S-51.2	S-51.3	S-51.4	S-51.5	S-51.6	S-51.7
S-52.1	S-52.2	S-52.3	S-52.4	S-52.5	S-52.6	S-52.7
S-53.1	S-53.2	S-53.3	S-53.4	S-53.5	S-53.6	S-53.7
S-54.1	S-54.2	S-54.3	S-54.4	S-54.5	S-54.6	S-54.7
S-58.1	S-58.2	S-58.3	S-58.4	S-58.5	S-58.6	S-58.7
S-59.1	S-59.2	S-59.3	S-59.4	S-59.5	S-59.6	S-59.7
S-60.1	S-60.2	S-60.3	S-60.4	S-60.5	S-60.6	S-60.7
S-61.1	S-61.2	S-61.3	S-61.4	S-61.5	S-61.6	S-61.7
S-62.1	S-62.2	S-62.3	S-62.4	S-62.5	S-62.6	S-62.7
S-63.1	S-63.2	S-63.3	S-63.4	S-63.5	S-63.6	S-63.7
S-64.1	S-64.2	S-64.3	S-64.4	S-64.5	S-64.6	S-64.7
S-65.1	S-65.2	S-65.3	S-65.4	S-65.5	S-65.6	S-65.7
S-66.1	S-66.2	S-66.3	S-66.4	S-66.5	S-66.6	S-66.7
S-67.1	S-67.2	S-67.3	S-67.4	S-67.5	S-67.6	S-67.7
S-69.1	S-69.2	S-69.3	S-69.4	S-69.5	S-69.6	S-69.7
S-70.1	S-70.2	S-70.3	S-70.4	S-70.5	S-70.6	S-70.7
S-71.1	S-71.2	S-71.3	S-71.4	S-71.5	S-71.6	S-71.7
S-72.1	S-72.2	S-72.3	S-72.4	S-72.5	S-72.6	S-72.7
S-73.1	S-73.2	S-73.3	S-73.4	S-73.5	S-73.6	S-73.7
S-74.1	S-74.2	S-74.3	S-74.4	S-74.5	S-74.6	S-74.7
S-75.1	S-75.2	S-75.3	S-75.4	S-75.5	S-75.6	S-75.7
S-78.1	S-78.2	S-78.3	S-78.4	S-78.5	S-78.6	S-78.7
S-79.1	S-79.2	S-79.3	S-79.4	S-79.5	S-79.6	S-79.7
S-80.1	S-80.2	S-80.3	S-80.4	S-80.5	S-80.6	S-80.7
S-81.1	S-81.2	S-81.3	S-81.4	S-81.5	S-81.6	S-81.7
S-84.1	S-84.2	S-84.3	S-84.4	S-84.5	S-84.6	S-84.7
S-88.1	S-88.2	S-88.3	S-88.4	S-88.5	S-88.6	S-88.7
S-89.1	S-89.2	S-89.3	S-89.4	S-89.5	S-89.6	S-89.7
S-90.1	S-90.2	S-90.3	S-90.4	S-90.5	S-90.6	S-90.7

Company Direct Filing						
	Margin Payroll Net Plant					
MEP	-57,760	14,336	183,038	3.65%		
MPS	206,954	22,062	927,360	29.68%		
L&P	84,906	10,043	190,459	9.76%		
Other Units	426,859	73,921	1,053,604	56.92%		
_	660,959	120,362	2,354,461	_		

Company Updated Filing						
	Margin	Payroll	Net Plant			
MEP	-	2,560	164,018	3.21%		
MPS	196,418	16,836	1,065,126	30.68%		
L&P	66,172	7,167	191,577	8.57%		
Other Units	409,538	63,834	989,631	57.53%		
_	672,128	90,397	2,410,352			

Staff's Proposed Massachusetts Formula						
	Margin	Payroll	Net Plant			
MEP	72,962	2,560	164,018	6.48%		
MPS	196,418	16,836	1,065,126	29.72%		
L&P	66,172	7,167	191,577	8.25%		
Other Units	409,768	63,834	989,631	55.55%		
	745,320	90,397	2,410,352			

Staff's Proposed Massachusetts Formula-South Harper Net Plant							
	Margin	Payroll	Net Plant				
MEP	72,962	2,560	164,018	6.50%			
MPS	196,418	16,836	1,035,120	29.49%			
L&P	66,172	7,167	191,577	8.28%			
Other Units	409,768	63,834	989,631	55.72%			
	745,320	90,397	2,380,346				