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

In the Matter of an Incident on February 4, 2009 at the Iatan Generating Plant Operated by Kansas	) ) )	Case No. ES-2010-0009
City Power & Light Company.	)	

# REPORT OF KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY'S INVESTIGATION AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS TAKEN REGARDING DIFFERENTIAL EXPANSION

Pursuant to the Order Adopting Recommendations and Directing Filings directing Kansas City Power & Light to file a response containing the results of its investigation and any subsequent actions taken at those plants ("Order Directing Response") issued on March 31, 2010 by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") in the above-captioned proceeding, Kansas City Power & Light Company ("KCP&L") respectfully submits the following response.

- 1. On February 4, 2009, an incident occurred during the attempted start-up of the Iatan Unit 1 generating station. As reported in Incident No. I200900096, the unit tripped during start-up activities due to vibration in the turbine that was beyond its operating parameters. Subsequent testing confirmed that the shape of the rotor shaft had changed and that the unit could not be operated with the shaft in its present condition.
- 2. Staff completed an investigation and filed its Final Report on January 29, 2010. In its Final Report, the Staff recommended and the Commission ultimately ordered in part that,
  - a. KCP&L should investigate the possibility of a similar occurrence at the other coal plants owned by KCPL. If there is a possibility of a similar occurrence, KCPL should implement the actions that it took in response to this incident with regard to these other plants.

- b. The Commission order KCPL to file a response to this incident report which contains the results of its investigation at coal plants owned by KCPL and any subsequent actions taken at those plants.
- 3. Immediately after the differential expansion incident KCP&L took numerous steps to respond including:
  - Revised the Iatan Unit 1 startup operation procedures to avoid high
    differential expansion problems, revised the Iatan Unit 1 operator's control
    screens to include a graphic of the differential expansion values, and added a
    high differential expansion trip which would shutdown the unit at a preset
    level of differential expansion.
  - Prepared new training materials and updated the Iatan operator guides to emphasize differential expansion.
  - Increased its awareness of differential expansion risk by having the Plant
    Management of all KCP&L and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations
    Company (GMO) coal units review their start-up procedures and alarm/trip
    settings for differential expansion exposure.
  - Began evaluating the feasibility of creating standard procedures concerning differential expansion.
  - 4. Additionally, KCP&L Engineering investigated the possibility of differential expansion occurring at other KCP&L and GMO coal units and implemented similar corrective actions if warranted. The final report of those actions is attached as Exhibit 1.

WHEREFORE, KCP&L respectfully requests that the Commission accept this response to Staff's Final Report.

Respectfully submitted

1st James M. Fischer

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Dated: July 30, 2010

### AFFIDAVIT

State of Missouri	)
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County of Jackson	)

I, Scott Heidtbrink, having been duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am the Senior Vice President, Supply at Kansas City Power & Light Company, that I am duly authorized to make this affidavit on behalf of KCP&L and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company, and that the matters and things stated in the foregoing report and exhibits thereto are true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.

Scott Heidtbrink

Subscribed and sworn before me this  $30^{\text{th}}$  day of July 2010.

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Notary Public

## Report concerning KCP&L and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company investigation into Differential Expansion exposure.

June 25, 2010

### BACKGROUND:

On February 4, 2009, while returning to service from an extended outage, the latan Unit 1 turbine experienced a differential expansion event that subsequently required repair of the rotor shaft and extended the time the unit was out of service. The incident was the subject of an investigation by the Missouri Public Service Commission in which the Company was ordered to "investigate the possibility of a similar occurrence at the other coal plants owned by KCPL. If there is a possibility of a similar occurrence, KCPL should implement the actions that it took in response to this incident with regard to these other plants."

### **DEFINITON:**

Differential Expansion: All turbine rotors respond to steam—to—metal temperature mismatches and temperature changes faster than the turbine shells. This is caused by the smaller mass of the rotors, the higher heat transfer coefficients and their almost total immersion in the steam path. Because the axial clearances between the rotating and stationary parts are necessarily small, the changes in metal temperatures, which occur while loading and unloading the unit, result in differences in expansion that could be large enough to cause internal rubbing.

### **INVESTIGATION DETAILS:**

The Supply Services Group conducted the investigation, collaborating directly with Plant Management and the Operations and Maintenance Programs group. The following actions were taken:

- Conducted a review of past start-up data from all KCP&L and KCP&L-GMO locations to evaluate each unit's 'normal' sensitivity to differential expansion. It is clear that the latan Unit 1 dense pack technology displays an enhanced sensitivity to temperature mismatches, therefore increasing the risk of having aborted start-ups/trips due to differential expansion in the high pressure section.
- Completed a system-wide evaluation of the instrumentation and current settings for each of the steam units. Details for each unit are documented in the tables at the end of this report.
- Compared the Company data with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) recommended alarm/trip settings, eliminating any discrepancies and /or inconsistencies found. Most settings were correct or a little more conservative than recommended. Some settings did not match the exact numbers provided by the OEM's. This is mainly due to the graphic capabilities of each plant's digital control system. Efforts were made to insure that if any numbers were changed to allow for

more user friendly graphics, that the OEM recommended relationships for growth were maintained.

- Based on interviews with the operating staffs, we concluded that all locations could benefit significantly from some general theory and unit specific training concerning differential expansion. Supply Services Group collaborated with the Operations and Maintenance Programs Group to develop individualized training modules for each unit. This work is on-going with a timeline of completing the training by year's end.
- Recommended implementation of automatic differential expansion trips at all facilities. Total compliance will take some additional time as Sibley 1, Sibley 2, Sibley 3, and Hawthorn 9 will require a unit outage to implement the trip logic. It should be noted that Toshiba, the turbine manufacturer for the new latan Unit 2, does not recommend implementing automatic trips with its turbine. As this unit is still under construction and the turbine remains under the oversight of the manufacturer, any final decision concerning automatic trips will be held until after final acceptance of the turbine.

### SUMMARY:

The differential expansion investigation has heightened awareness of the conditions across the generation fleet. Our efforts have resulted in the deployment of new differential expansion trips, enhanced/user friendly operator graphic displays, and better OEM recommendation compliance. Additionally, need for unit specific operator training was identified. In total these efforts will help to mitigate the risk of having a significant differential expansion excursion at any of our facilities in the future.

# DIFFERENTIAL EXPANSION SETTINGS DETAIL:

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Current Settings (mils)	-73	-43	0	175	205	Yes	-106	-76	0	348	378	Yes							
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Tag Description	Short	Short	Cold	Long	Long	Auto Trip Enabled	Short	Short	Cold	Long	Long	Auto Trip Enabled
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Current Settings (mils)	110	380	542	700	880	S.	50	100	143	006	950	S.
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Current Settings (mils)	-180	-150	0	150	180	Yes						
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Current Settings (mils)	-180	-150	0	150	180	Yes						
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Manufacturers Recommendations (mils)	840	810	650	190	160		405	435	505	1565	1595							
Current Settings (mils)	800	750	650	250	200	Yes	200	400	200	1600	1800	Yes						
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