

depreciation expense and reallocation of depreciation reserve to the list of issues to be resolved in arbitration.

6. Staff also has no objection to a local public hearing in this matter.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this *Response to the Office of the Public Counsel* to the Commission for its information and consideration, stating there is no objection to a local public hearing in this matter and no objection to additional issues being added to the list of issues submitted to arbitration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Samuel D. Ritchie

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this Response has been provided, by first-class mail, electronic mail, facsimile transmission or by hand-delivery, to each attorney and/or party of record for this case on this 14th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Samuel D. Ritchie