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

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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 of Aquila, Inc. with a Subsidiary of Great Plains Energy Incorporated and for other related relief

Case No. EM-2007-0374

## JOINT APPLICANTS' DETAILED STATUS REPORT

The Joint Applicants Great Plains Energy Incorporated ("Great Plains"), Kansas City Power & Light Company ("KCPL"), and Aquila, Inc. ("Aquila") (collectively, "Joint Applicants") provide the following detailed status report as ordered by the Commission on February 14, 2008 in its Order Granting Motion to Withdraw Proposed Procedural Schedule and Directing Filing of Detailed Status Report.

1. The evidentiary hearing in this case was recessed on December 6, at the Joint Applicants' request, so that the Joint Applicants could attempt to address concerns raised during the hearing by certain parties, as well as Commissioners, about some of the proposals contained in the Joint Application and in the pre-filed testimony of the Joint Applicants. Since that time, the Joint Applicants have worked diligently to respond to those concerns. The Joint Applicants met with representatives of the other parties to the case in settlement discussions on several occasions, including sessions that were conducted at the Commission's offices in Jefferson City on January 24, February 1, February 5, and February 19. These discussions were both productive and useful. The Joint Applicants thank the Staff, the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), and the intervenors for attending these sessions and for providing valuable comment

and analysis of the many complex issues that are raised by the merger being proposed by the Joint Applicants.

2. Despite these valuable settlement negotiations, which were conducted in good faith by all parties, no comprehensive agreement has yet been reached. An August termination deadline exists for the approval and closing of this transaction. Therefore, the Joint Applicants' recommend that it is now appropriate to establish a procedural schedule so that this case may continue and be resolved in an appropriate timeframe.

3. The Joint Applicants will file on Monday, February 25 additional supplemental direct testimony in this case. This testimony will be responsive to the concerns raised during the hearing by the Commissioners, the Staff, OPC, and other parties in that the Joint Applicants anticipate withdrawing some of the prior requests connected with the proposed regulatory plan that were made of the Commission in either the Joint Application or the previous supplemental direct testimony filed on August 8, 2007. However, the Joint Applicants will not be proposing any changes to the structure of the transaction as set forth in the Joint Application or to the proposed operational structure of the companies after closing. Rather, the Joint Applicants will simply withdraw or eliminate from consideration certain of the requests contained in the Joint Application, which will be explained in the additional supplemental direct testimony filed on February 25. The witnesses filing this testimony will be Terry Bassham, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Great Plains Energy and Chief Financial Officer of KCPL; Michael W. Cline, Vice President-Treasury and Investor Relations of Great Plains Energy and Treasurer of KCPL; and Chris B. Giles, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs of KCPL. Pursuant to the Commission's rules, the Joint Applicants will move for the Commission to accept their additional supplemental direct testimony at the time such testimony is submitted.

4. Because the only changes addressed in the testimony will be the withdrawal of the certain requests already made of the Commission, a new application and proceeding is neither necessary nor appropriate. With the addition of the Joint Applicants' new testimony, and any new testimony by other parties that responds to it, the hearing should simply resume at the point at which it was recessed.

5. Other parties will likely want an opportunity to file rebuttal testimony in response to the Joint Applicants' February 25 additional supplemental direct testimony. The Joint Applicants should be permitted to file surrebuttal testimony in response to any such rebuttal testimony. The evidentiary hearing should then be reconvened. Once again, however, because the only changes proposed are the withdrawal of certain requests previously made of the Commission, the following procedural schedule will provide the Joint Applicants and the other parties with more than sufficient time to prepare for the resumption and conclusion of the hearings in this case. In fact, it would be reasonable for the hearings to occur earlier than April 21, if not for the Commission's current hearing schedule. Specifically, Joint Applicants propose the following procedural schedule:

Date	Event
February 25, 2008	Joint Applicants' Additional Supplemental Direct Testimony
March 24, 2008	Rebuttal Testimony
March 31, 2008	Surrebuttal Testimony of Joint Applicants and Cross Surrebuttal
April 15, 2008	List of Issues and Order of Witnesses
April 21-May 2, 2008	Evidentiary Hearings

6. This proposed procedural schedule is recommended only by the Joint Applicants.

It is the understanding of the Joint Applicants that other parties will file responses to this proposal with the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the Joint Applicants submit this detailed status report to the Commission and respectfully request that a procedural schedule be issued consistent with the foregoing proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

# |s| Curtis D. Blanc\_

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has hand-delivered, emailed or mailed postage prepaid, first class, this  $20^{th}$  day of February, 2008, to all counsel of record.

|s| Curtis D. Blanc\_\_\_\_