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Issue(s): Crossroads Energy Center  
and Resource Planning

Witness: Cary G. Featherstone

Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff

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Case Nos.: ER-2018-0145 and

ER-2018-0146

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**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION STAFF DIVISION**

**AUDITING DEPARTMENT**

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**CARY G. FEATHERSTONE**

Staff Exhibit No. 206  
Date 9-25-18 Reporter JT  
File No. ER-2018-0145 +  
0146

**KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
CASE NO. ER-2018-0145**

**AND**

**KCP&L GREATER MISSOURI OPERATIONS COMPANY  
CASE NO. ER-2018-0146**

*Jefferson City, Missouri  
July 2018*

**\*\* Denotes Confidential Information \*\***







1 proposed recovery of approximately \$6.4 million of Crossroads transmission expense in this  
2 case.<sup>3</sup> According to its testimony, GMO believes the increased cost to transmit power from  
3 Crossroads to GMO's service territory over those levels determined in 2010 and 2012 rate cases  
4 should be recovered from customers in full. Staff disagrees with GMO's position.

5 However, the Commission excluded all transmission costs related to Crossroads in both  
6 the 2010 and 2012 rate proceedings, not a limited disallowance of approximately \$4.9 million,  
7 resulting in no recovery of any of this power plant's transmission costs.

8 To the extent the Commission determines some amount of the Crossroads transmission  
9 costs should be allowed rate recovery, then Staff recommends that there be a corresponding  
10 review of the rate base investment for Crossroads determined by the Commission in its original  
11 decision in GMO's 2010 rate case, and reaffirmed in the 2012 rate case. This rate base amount  
12 would be the value of Crossroads at the time of the Aquila acquisition in July 2008,  
13 approximately \$51.6 million before any depreciation is considered and would be a further  
14 reduction to Crossroads rate base investment. Depreciation and related deferred taxes would  
15 have to be determined to develop a full rate base value.

## 16 BACKGROUND OF CROSSROADS ENERGY CENTER

17 Q. What is the Crossroads Energy Center?

18 A. Crossroads' generating site has four 75 megawatt combustion turbines,  
19 fired by natural gas with a total capacity of approximately 300 megawatts (currently accredited  
20 292 megawatts<sup>4</sup>) located near Clarksdale, Mississippi. These four units are General Electric  
21 model 7 EAs, and were installed in 2002 as a merchant plant for the former Aquila Merchant,

<sup>3</sup> Case No. ER-2018-0146 EFIS #12 - Klote direct testimony, pages 25 and 26 – the forecast amount of \$11.3 million less amount of transmission costs at time of 2012 rate case of \$4.9 million resulting in \$6.4 million or GMO's requested transmission recovery for Crossroads.

<sup>4</sup> Crossroads is identified as 292 megawatts in Great Plains 10-K as of December 31, 2016 - page 30.

1 a non-regulated wholly-owned subsidiary of Aquila. The generating facility is operated by the  
2 City of Clarksdale, Mississippi under an agreement entered into at the time of plant completion  
3 in 2002. This arrangement continues today.

4 A non-regulated affiliate of Aquila, Aquila Merchant Services ("Aquila Merchant")  
5 built Crossroads in 2002 as a non-regulated independent merchant power plant ("IPP"),  
6 originally built to serve the constrained transmission area in and around Clarksdale, Mississippi.  
7 However, because the power market collapsed just prior to the completion of Crossroads,  
8 it never operated as a merchant plant. In fact, other than testing the units during installation,  
9 it never operated until 2005, when it generated electricity for Aquila's regulated affiliate, MPS,  
10 under a short-term purchased power agreement in the summer of 2005. In July 2008,  
11 Great Plains Energy purchased Crossroads as part of the Aquila acquisition. Great Plains Energy  
12 and Aquila estimated what each thought the market value of Crossroads would be in the spring  
13 of 2007 and again in late summer of that same year. It was determined Crossroads had a value of  
14 \$51.6 million, which was communicated to both Great Plains and Aquila shareholders in a  
15 May 8, 2007, Joint Proxy Statement and again in an August 27, 2007, Joint Proxy Statement,  
16 both filed with the SEC.

17 D - The pro forma adjustment represents the adjustment of the estimated  
18 fair value of certain Adjusted Aquila non-regulated tangible assets and  
19 reduction of depreciation expense associated with the decreased fair value.  
20 The adjustment was determined based on **Great Plains Energy's**  
21 **estimates of fair value based on estimates of proceeds from sale of**  
22 **units to an unrelated party of similar capacity in the current market**  
23 **place. The preliminary internal analysis indicated a fair value**  
24 **estimate of Aquila's non-regulated Crossroads power generating**  
25 **facility of approximately \$51.6 million.** This analysis is significantly  
26 affected by assumptions regarding the current market for sales of units of  
27 similar capacity. The \$65.4 million adjustment reflects the difference  
28 between the fair value of the combustion turbines at \$51.6 million and the  
29 \$117.0 million book value of the facility at June 30, 2007.

1 Great Plains Energy management believes this to be an appropriate  
2 estimate of the fair value of the facility. The adjusted value will be  
3 depreciated over the estimated remaining useful lives of the underlying  
4 assets and could be materially affected by changes in fair value prior to the  
5 closing of the merger. An additional change in the fair value of the  
6 facility of \$15 million would result in an additional change to annual  
7 depreciation expense of approximately \$0.5 million.

8 [Emphasis added; Great Plains Energy & Aquila Joint Proxy  
9 Statement/Prospectus the SEC on August 27, 2007, page 194]

10 Q. How did Crossroads become part of GMO's rate base?

11 A. When Great Plains Energy acquired Aquila in July 2008, GMO sought to include  
12 the merchant plant, Crossroads, in its rate base. Crossroads was the selected choice on meeting  
13 GMO's continued short fall of capacity. GMO sought to include the full depreciated value  
14 reflected on the non-regulated Aquila Merchant's books, as though that was the value paid by  
15 Great Plains for this asset. The Commission determined Crossroads should be included in rate  
16 base at a market value, not the depreciable value the non-regulated entity paid for the unit.

17 **CROSSROADS TRANSMISSION COSTS**

18 Q. What is GMO's position regarding transmission costs related to Crossroads in this  
19 rate proceeding?

20 A. Several GMO witnesses support the inclusion of certain transmission costs  
21 relating to Crossroads:

- 22 • Mr. Klote states at page 25 through 26 that "the Company included the  
23 forecasted amount of Crossroads transmission expense for the period July  
24 2017 to June 2018 less the amount of disallowed transmission cost associated  
25 with Crossroads Generating Station that was established in Case Nos.  
26 ER-2010-0356 and ER-2012-0175" and "the forecasted amount of Crossroads  
27 transmission expense for the period July 2017 and June 2018 was  
28 \$11,345,896. The amount of the Crossroads generating facility's transmission  
29 expense that was previously disallowed in the 2012 Case that was removed  
30 from this case was \$4,915,609. This nets to a projected annual amount  
31 associated with Crossroads transmission expense of \$6,430,287 that is  
32 included in this rate case."

Rebuttal Testimony of  
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- 1           • Mr. Crawford states at page 15 of his direct testimony that “while GMO is not  
2 seeking recovery of transmission costs previously disallowed by the MPSC,  
3 GMO is seeking recovery of the increase in transmission costs above the  
4 amount of the original \$4.9 million disallowance” and at page 17 “GMO is  
5 requesting cost recovery for the increase in transmission costs for Crossroads  
6 above the amount of the original \$4.9 million disallowance in ER-2010-0356.  
7 GMO is not asking to recover the transmission costs previously disallowed by  
8 the Commission nor the Crossroads capital costs previously disallowed by the  
9 Commission.”
- 10           • Mr. Rush states at page 26 of his direct testimony that “the Company is not  
11 asking the Commission to reverse any of its prior decisions. GMO proposes  
12 to continue the disallowance levels adopted by the Commission in Case Nos.  
13 ER-2010-0356 and ER-2010-0175 with respect to rate base and transmission  
14 costs. GMO proposes to include in rates the incremental increase in  
15 transmission cost above the \$4.9 million, which was the amount disallowed in  
16 Case No. ER-2012-0175.”

17           Q.     Does Staff agree with the inclusion of any of GMO’s Crossroads transmission  
18 costs in GMO’s revenue requirement used to set rates?

19           A.     No. Staff excluded all the test year transmission costs for Crossroads in the  
20 Accounting Schedules filed with its direct testimony on June 19, 2018.

21           These costs were eliminated consistent with the Commission’s treatment of these costs  
22 in GMO’s 2010 and 2012 rate cases. See pages 16 to 26 of Staff’s Cost of Service Report  
23 (EFIS #66) for a discussion of Crossroads and Adjustment E 85.1 in Accounting Schedule 10 -  
24 Adjustments to Income Statement. In addition, Staff witness Keith Majors makes Adjustments  
25 E-58.2, E-61.3, E-88.1 and E-194.1 to remove transmission and other costs for Crossroads that  
26 would not be incurred but for the location of this power plant facility. (See EFIS #73 -  
27 Accounting Schedules)

28           Q.     GMO stated in its direct testimony that it accepts the disallowance made by the  
29 Commission for Crossroads rate base valuation in the last two rate cases. How did Staff treat  
30 Crossroads in rate base in this proceeding?

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1           A.     Consistent with the Commission's decision in the 2010 and 2012 rate cases, Staff  
2 made a series of adjustments to GMO's recorded plant in service ("plant") and accumulated  
3 depreciation reserve ("reserve") to reflect the Commission ordered rate base values for this  
4 generating unit determined in both Case Nos. ER-2010-0356 (the "2010 rate case") and  
5 ER-2012-0175 (the "2012 rate case"). An adjustment for deferred taxes relating to Crossroads  
6 was also made. GMO made these same plant, reserve and deferred tax adjustments in its direct  
7 filing in this current rate case. All these adjustments will be updated for the true-up ending  
8 June 30, 2018.

9           Q.     What is the nature of the transmission service Crossroads requires that GMO  
10 witness Mr. Crawford discusses at pages 15 and 16 of his direct testimony?

11           A.     Because Crossroads is not located in the SPP, but rather in MISO, GMO obtained  
12 firm transmission service to transmit power back to western Missouri from this generating  
13 facility. In 2009, GMO signed a 20-year transmission agreement with Entergy to provide  
14 firm transmission service for Crossroads. Mr. Crawford states in his direct testimony this  
15 "... transmission service is required for GMO to count the 300 MWs of Crossroads capacity  
16 towards meeting GMO's capacity obligations. Without this service, GMO would be required  
17 to build or purchase 300 MWs of additional generating capacity and obtain firm  
18 transmission service."<sup>5</sup>

19           Q.     Is the location of this plant the key point supporting Staff's recommendation to  
20 disallow recovery of transmission costs?

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<sup>5</sup> Case No. ER-2018-0146 - Crawford direct, page 16, line 11 - EFIS #9.

1           A.     Yes. The Commission decided in GMO's 2010 rate case that Crossroads could be  
2 included in rate base but at a substantial reduction in value as long as no transmission costs were  
3 included in rates.<sup>6</sup>

4           The Commission stated at page 90 of its Case No. ER-2010-0356 Order:

5                           **Ultimate Finding Regarding Prudence of Crossroads**

6           262. Considering the costs involved, the fact that this was an affiliate  
7 transaction rather than an arms-length transaction, the relative reliability of  
8 transmission, the excessive costs of that transmission, the reduced costs for  
9 natural gas and the alternative supply source, the distance of the power location to  
10 the customers served, and the other facts set out above, the Commission finds that  
11 the decision not to build two more 105 MW combustion turbines at South Harper  
12 was not imprudent. In addition, **the decision to include Crossroads in the**  
13 **generation fleet at an appropriate value was prudent with the exception of**  
14 **the additional transmission expense, when other low-cost options were**  
15 **available.** Paying the additional transmission costs required to bring energy all  
16 the way from Crossroads and including Crossroads at net book value with no  
17 disallowances, is not just and reasonable and is discussed in detail below.

18                           **Conclusions of Law- Crossroads**

19           29. In addition to the valuation, the Commission concludes that but for the  
20 location of Crossroads customers would not have to pay the excessive cost of  
21 transmission. Therefore, **transmission costs from the Crossroads facility,**  
22 **including any related OSS shall be disallowed from expenses in rates and**  
23 **therefore also not recoverable through GMO's fuel adjustment clause**  
24 **("FAC").**

25                           **Decision – Crossroads**

26           The Commission further determines that it is not just and reasonable for GMO  
27 customers to pay the excessive cost of transmission from Mississippi and it shall  
28 be excluded.

29           [emphasis added]

30           Q.     What is the current level of transmission costs incurred for Crossroads?

31           A.     For 2017, Crossroads actual transmission costs were \$11.1 million.<sup>7</sup> This  
32 compares with the level of Crossroads transmission expenses incurred at the time of the 2010

<sup>6</sup> Commission's Order in Case No. ER-2010-0356, pages 90-91, 98-100 - EFIS #1085.

<sup>7</sup> For other years' transmission costs, refer to page 25 of the Cost of Service Report filed on June 19, 2018 in this case, EFIS #66.

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1 | GMO rate case at \$4.9 million. Starting in 2014, Crossroads transmission costs increased  
2 | substantially over previous levels, to over \$12.9 million. The transmission costs for Crossroads  
3 | appears to have stabilized over the past couple of years.

4 | Q. What caused the dramatic increase in transmission costs?

5 | A. Entergy, who supplies transmission service for Crossroads, joined MISO in  
6 | December 2013. Entergy's move to MISO caused the substantial increase in transmission costs  
7 | for 2014 to \$12.7 million and almost \$13 million in 2015.

8 | Q. In Staff's opinion, should the disallowance for Crossroads' transmission costs be  
9 | capped at the \$4.9 million level?

10 | A. No. In both the 2010 and 2012 rate cases, KCPL and GMO requested special  
11 | ratemaking consideration ("tracker mechanisms") for the increases expected to occur for  
12 | transmission costs. GMO and KCPL, as well as Staff, presented extensive information on actual  
13 | and projected costs for transmission services in every recent rate case, including the 2010 and  
14 | 2012 rate cases. Those proposals were presented and decided by the Commission and there is no  
15 | reason to believe the Commission intended the disallowed transmission costs of \$4.9 million to  
16 | be the only amount disallowed in the future.

17 | Q. What amount of transmission costs relating to Crossroads has been removed from  
18 | this case?

19 | A. Staff removed the entire amount of transmission costs identified for the twelve  
20 | months ending June 30, 2017 test year of approximately \$11.0 million. The transmission costs  
21 | are primarily charged to FERC Account 365 so Adjustment E-85.1 represents the vast majority  
22 | of those costs. Nevertheless, other accounts contain Crossroads related transmission costs that  
23 | needed to be adjusted, identified in the following table:

FERC Account	Adjustment No.	Adjustment Amount of Removed Costs
365.0	E 85.1	\$10,812,698
575.7	E 88.1	\$15,622
928.0	E 164.4	\$147,764
Total		\$10,976,084

Other costs relating to travel to Mississippi by KCPL employees and costs incurred from the state of Mississippi have been removed from the test year. Those costs were removed consistent with how transmission costs were treated in the 2010 and 2012 rate cases.

Q. Have all costs relating to Crossroads been removed from the test year?

A. No. All operating costs for Crossroads other than transmission costs and those identified as related to the physical location of the generating facility have been included in GMO's cost of service. Costs associated with operating Crossroads by City of Clarksdale have been included. Other costs for maintenance of Crossroads have been included in costs for recovery from GMO customers. Amounts for insurance and property taxes, or its equivalent Pilot payments, have been included as well. Any costs to operate the power plant that would normally be incurred if located in GMO's service area were included GMO's cost structure.

Q. GMO witness Crawford states at page 15 of his direct testimony that "as a result of prior MPSC decisions, GMO does not recover FERC-approved transmission rates associated with Crossroads." Does Staff view the dispute relating to Crossroads as primarily involving a FERC-approved transmission rate issue?

1           A.     No. The dispute with Crossroads transmission costs has nothing to do with FERC  
2 authorized and approved transmission tariff rates but the incurrence of transmission costs based  
3 on the facility being located outside the RTO.

4           Crossroads transmission costs relate only to the location of the generating facility which  
5 causes GMO to be charged for the transmission of electricity to serve its customers in western  
6 Missouri. If the Crossroads facility were located in the Southwest Power Pool, no transmission  
7 costs would be recognized under network services since SPP allows its members to transmit  
8 power throughout its RTO area without incurring additional transmission costs. There would not  
9 be an issue regarding transmission costs because those costs would be "zero."

10 **NATURAL GAS SUPPLY AND COSTS**

11           Q.     At page 26 of Mr. Rush's direct testimony he references a time when natural gas  
12 supply was limited in early 2014. Is natural gas typically available in the Kansas City region?

13           A.     Yes. Natural gas is generally available throughout the year. Mr. Rush referenced  
14 a tight market for natural gas in January and February 2014 at a time of extreme cold  
15 temperatures. This was a temporary, short term condition.

16           While Mr. Rush indicates natural gas was unavailable for the gas-fired combustion  
17 turbines in GMO's service area, Greenwood produced electricity using both natural gas and oil  
18 during January and February of 2014 as follows:

19

Month for 2014	Greenwood MWhs (gas & oil)	Crossroads MWhs
January	6,888	19,587
February	3,668	27,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,556 MWhs</b>	<b>46,635 MWhs</b>

20

1 Clearly, Crossroads generated greater megawatt hours than Greenwood, but Greenwood  
2 had natural gas available to produce needed electricity during this extreme and unusual  
3 weather pattern.

4 In addition, KCPL had natural gas available in Kansas City to operate its natural gas fired  
5 units to generate electricity during the first quarter of 2014.<sup>8</sup>

Month for 2014	Osawatomie 1 MWhs	West Gardner 1 – 4 MWhs
January	2,308	365
February	1,112	0
Total	3,420 MWhs	365 MWhs

7  
8 Q. With respect to GMO's natural gas supply, are there differences between the  
9 region Crossroads operates in and the Kansas City region where all other GMO and KCPL  
10 generating units are located?

11 A. Yes. Historically, the Mississippi-based Crossroads has experienced higher  
12 natural gas costs when compared to actual purchases of natural gas prices and costs in and about  
13 Kansas City, Missouri. Schedule CGF-r1 contains historical natural gas prices for GMO and  
14 KCPL natural gas-fired generating facilities.

15 **CROSSROADS IS NOT THE LOWEST COST OPTION**

16 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Rush's and Mr. Crawford's statements that Crossroads is  
17 the "lowest cost supply option" for GMO?<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> KCPL's natural gas-fired combustion turbines consumed for January and February 2014-January 631,261 mmBtu and February 501,914 mmBtu. The two months total 1,133,175 mmBtu, representing significantly higher usage by KCPL's natural gas-fired units compared to previous January and February generation from 2009 through 2013. GMO Greenwood natural gas & oil consumed January and February 2014—January 148,424 mmBtu gas and 5,413 mmBtu oil and February 39,198 mmBtu gas and 54,222 mmBtu oil; GMO Crossroads natural gas consumed January and February 2014—January 291,550 mmBtu gas and February 266,072 mmBtu gas.

<sup>9</sup> Mr. Rush at pages 23, line 19 and 24, line 2 of direct - EFIS #16 and Mr. Crawford at pages 15, line 9 of direct - EFIS #9.

1           A.     No. Because Crossroads is located in MISO and GMO is a member of the  
2 Southwest Power Pool, the cost to transmit Crossroads' generation to western Missouri is  
3 extremely expensive.

4           Q.     Does Staff agree with Mr. Crawford's statement at page 15 of his direct testimony  
5 that "in 2007 when the decision to add this asset to GMO's supply portfolio was evaluated,  
6 [Crossroads] was the lowest cost supply option for GMO customers?"

7           A.     No.

8           The Commission rejected the 2007 least cost study in GMO's 2010 rate case stating the  
9 following regarding the 2007 study in its Order at page 93:

10                   268.     GMO claims that the fair market value of Crossroads is  
11 established by an RFP conducted in March 2007, prior to the SEC  
12 disclosures. GMO postulates that, the responses to this RFP,  
13 demonstrates that fair market value is comparable to the proposed net  
14 book value. GMO fails to explain, however, given the alleged results  
15 of the RFP, why it announced to the Securities Exchange Commission,  
16 mere months later, that 'fair value' was only \$51.6 million.

17                   275.     Considering the depressed market as exhibited by the sale of  
18 similar turbines to Ameren, and the valuation of these assets reported  
19 to the SEC by GPE, the Commission finds that \$61.8 million is an  
20 accurate reflection of the fair market value of Crossroads as acquired  
21 by the affiliate transaction rule as of July 14, 2008.

## 22 LOCATION OF POWER PLANTS

23           Q.     Mr. Crawford states at page 17 of his direct testimony that it is not unprecedented  
24 in Missouri for recovery of transmission costs related to an out-of-state generating facility to be  
25 allowed. Do you agree with this assessment?

26           A.     Yes. There are many examples of power plants that are located in another state or  
27 even outside the service territory of a utility. KCPL itself has several examples of its power  
28 plants located in areas not serve by it. Iatan 1 and 2, the Montrose units, LaCygne 1 and 2, and  
29 Wolf Creek are all examples where generating facilities are located outside of service territory.

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1 However, the difference is KCPL does not incur millions of dollars of transmission costs  
2 to benefit from the electricity generated from these power units. While these units may be  
3 located in regions outside those served by KCPL, all the units have in common being within the  
4 SPP footprint. None of the units incur any transmission costs to move power generated to  
5 KCPL's customers.

6 Q. Is it common for a utility to pay for transmission service to receive power from its  
7 own generating facilities?

8 A. No. None of GMO's other generating units and none of KCPL's power plants  
9 incur transmission costs because all those generating units are located within the SPP regional  
10 transmission organization.

11 Q. Mr. Crawford cites Empire's Plum Point generating unit as an example of a power  
12 plant being located in another state where Empire is able to get this plant's transmission costs in  
13 rates. What is Plum Point?

14 A. Plum Point is a 665 megawatt coal-fired generating unit located near Osceola,  
15 Arkansas that went into commercial operation on September 1, 2010, with combination  
16 ownership. Empire has 50 megawatts of ownership with the option to purchase another  
17 50 megawatts, pursuant to a long-term purchased power agreement.

18 Q. Why does Empire receive rate treatment for Plum Point transmission costs, when  
19 the Commission determined it was not appropriate for Crossroads to receive rate treatment for its  
20 transmission costs?

21 A. There are several reasons why Empire has successfully obtained rate recovery of  
22 Plum Point transmission costs:

- 23 • Empire's ownership share of Plum Point was always intended to be a  
24 regulated facility. As such, during the economic decision-making process  
25 with regulators and stakeholders, all costs of Plum Point, including its

1 transmission costs, were considered. When Empire considered investing in  
2 Plum Point, it approached the Commission, Staff, and various stakeholders to  
3 fully examine the merits and economic consequences of participating in Plum  
4 Point. Extensive analysis and review took place before Empire, and  
5 ultimately stakeholders, agreed to Empire's investment in this base load  
6 facility. Ultimately, Empire and the various stakeholders agreed to a  
7 Regulatory Plan in Case No. EO-2005-0263, very similar to the plan parties  
8 agreed to with KCPL's Regulatory Plan (Case No. EO-2005-0329). It was  
9 during this extensive evaluation where all the cost estimates, including  
10 transmission costs, were considered. Crossroads, as a merchant plant, was  
11 never intended to be part of regulated utilities operations. Consequently,  
12 there was never an assessment and evaluation by a regulatory body and the  
13 various stakeholders that considered Crossroads costs, and especially its  
14 transmission costs.

- 15 • Crossroads is used very little while Plum Point is a base load unit that  
16 generates a significant amount of Empire's energy needs. Crossroads'  
17 limited usage drives up the transmission costs on a per megawatt hour basis  
18 compared to the base load generation of Plum Point. Plum Point output is  
19 simply more critical to Empire than Crossroads generation. (See Rebuttal  
20 Confidential Schedule CGF-r2)
- 21 • Crossroads' transmission costs are substantial as a peaking unit. For base  
22 load unit, Plum Point's total transmission costs are significantly less than the  
23 transmission cost amounts incurred by Crossroads.
- 24 • Plum Point serves customers for each state Empire operates in, including the  
25 state of Arkansas where this generating facility is located.
- 26 • Unlike combustion turbine peaking units, Plum Point is a base load unit  
27 requiring large amounts of land and water to operate the generating unit. It is  
28 far more difficult to find suitable sites for large-scale base load units  
29 compared to peaking stations. While it is typical for base load units to be  
30 further away from utility service areas, peaking units are generally much  
31 closer to customers, and, with the exception of Crossroads, are within the  
32 utilities' RTO.
- 33 • Empire was too small of a utility to be able to build a base load unit like Plum  
34 Point or Iatan 2 on its own and, therefore, had to partner with others to  
35 participate in these large scale generating units. With such a small share of  
36 Plum Point, Empire was at the mercy of where these plants are built such as  
37 where KCPL's Iatan 1 and 2 power plants and the Plum Point station are  
38 located. Both Iatan and Plum Point facilities are well outside the service  
39 areas of Empire. But those circumstances were well known at the time of  
40 decisional-prudence reviews by regulators and taken into consideration.  
41 There were no such decisional reviews conducted for Crossroads, as that

1 power plant was developed as a merchant plant and did not have to through  
2 the scrutiny of state regulation.

3 **CROSSROADS RATE RECOVERY**

4 Q. Mr. Rush states at page 27 of his direct testimony, that “GMO customers have had  
5 the capacity of the Crossroads facility at a bargain price and had reflected in rates since 2008...”

6 Have customers benefited from Crossroads at bargain prices?

7 A. When the Commission assessed all the evidence in the 2010 GMO rate case, and  
8 again in the 2012 rate case, , it determined that GMO’s utilization of Crossroads was reasonable  
9 and prudent *only* if the plant value was substantially reduced and no rate recovery for  
10 transmission costs was included.. The Commission recognized the fact Great Plains acquired  
11 this generating facility at a much lesser value than what was on the books of Aquila Merchant,  
12 and reflected such in its original rate decision in 2010 and again in 2012. Thus, the inclusion of  
13 Crossroads was not a “bargain” price, but was reflected as a fair market price a willing buyer  
14 would pay for the Crossroads generating units.

15 Q. Mr. Rush indicates, at page 27 of his direct testimony, that “while Crossroads  
16 costs \$132 million, the Commission disallowed nearly \$70 million of gross plant from the actual  
17 costs.” Do you agree with this assessment?

18 A. No. Great Plains did not pay \$132 million for Crossroads.<sup>10</sup> Crossroads was  
19 acquired in the Aquila acquisition in July 2008<sup>11</sup> as a distressed asset, deeply discounted  
20 from the value on Aquila Merchant’s books. The price paid by Great Plains was closer to  
21 the estimate made by both Aquila and Great Plains of approximately \$51 million at the time of  
22 the transaction.

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<sup>10</sup> Commission’s Order in Case No. ER-2010-0356, at pages 93-95 EFIS #1085.

<sup>11</sup> The Commission approved the Aquila acquisition in Case No. EM-2007-0374.

1 Q. Mr. Rush indicates at page 27 of his direct, GMO shareholders have lost money  
2 from Crossroads for the disallowed transmission costs. Have GMO shareholders lost money  
3 from Crossroads transmission costs?

4 A. Yes. GMO clearly incurs yearly operating costs for Crossroads transmission  
5 service. None of those transmission costs have been allowed in rates by the Commission.  
6 The Commission determined, in the 2010 and 2012 rate cases, that transmission costs incurred to  
7 deliver power back to GMO's customers from this Mississippi power plant only made economic  
8 sense if there was no recovery of these costs in rates. The Commission's rate orders in 2010 and  
9 2012 ensured customers would not be over charged for a plant investment that did not exist.  
10 However, the Commission in GMO's 2010 rate case, considered the nature of the costs incurred  
11 by GMO for its Crossroads generating plant. To the extent some of the plant investment costs  
12 were deemed to be prudent and reasonable using a market based analysis, in the 2010 rate case,  
13 the Commission "...afford[ed] the utility an opportunity to recover a reasonable return on the  
14 assets it has devoted to the public service."<sup>12</sup> But to the extent costs were not considered  
15 appropriate, the Commission made a determination not to allow cost recovery. Amounts relating  
16 to the power plant that were in excess of market values were not afforded rate recovery as were  
17 costs believed to be improper, such as the transmission costs.

18 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION ON CROSSROADS TRANSMISSION**

19 Q. What is Staff's recommendation on Crossroads transmission?

20 A. Staff recommends the Commission maintain its decisions in the 2010 and 2012  
21 rate cases and deny recovery of Crossroads transmission costs in rates. GMO has agreed to the  
22 rate base valuation of Crossroads determined by the Commission in the 2010 and 2012 rate

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<sup>12</sup> Commission's order GMO's 2010 rate case (page 16), Case No. ER-2010-0356 - EFIS #1085.

Rebuttal Testimony of  
Cary G. Featherstone

1 cases, and both the Company and Staff have made the necessary adjustments to reflect the proper  
2 levels for plant and reserve.

3 Q. Does Staff have a recommendation if the Commission allows any transmission  
4 costs in rates for Crossroads?

5 A. Yes. If the Commission were to include any level of transmission costs for  
6 Crossroads, as GMO has suggested in this proceeding, then Staff recommends the Commission  
7 further discount the rate base value of this plant, by reducing the value of Crossroads from the  
8 levels found in the 2010 and 2012 rate cases to the level identified by Great Plains and Aquila in  
9 2007. The issue of transmission costs and the valuation of the generating plant are interrelated -  
10 one decision affects the other.

11 Q. Does Staff have a recommendation as to how to determine the rate base value  
12 should the Commission allow transmission costs for Crossroads?

13 A. Yes. Staff recommends an amount determined in a Joint Proxy Statement issued  
14 by Great Plains Energy and Aquila in August 2007 that found a value of \$51.6 million for  
15 Crossroads to be appropriate.<sup>13</sup> This same value was also communicated to each company's  
16 shareholders in May 2007, so it is logical that Great Plains paid no more than this \$51.6 million  
17 amount when it determined the appropriate and fair price to pay for Aquila as a whole in  
18 July 2008.

19 Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?

20 A. Yes.

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<sup>13</sup> August 27, 2007 Joint Proxy/ Prospectus issued by Great Plains Energy and Aquila - page 194.



Generating Unit	Natural Gas Commodity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>South Harper</b>											
	mmbtu	1,267,064	609,228	716,227	901,270	1,712,254	647,856	74,159	26,369	92,797	46,939
	Commodity	per mmbtu \$ 6.56	per mmbtu \$ 3.37	per mmbtu \$ 4.50	per mmbtu \$ 4.39	per mmbtu \$ 2.77	per mmbtu \$ 3.57	per mmbtu \$ 4.49	per mmbtu \$ 2.97	per mmbtu 2.80	per mmbtu 2.66
	Commodity with variable transportation	\$ 6.92	\$ 3.85	\$ 4.78	\$ 4.70	\$ 2.98	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.70	\$ 3.15	2.88	2.75
	Commodity with all firm & variable transportation	\$ 9.80	\$ 9.87	\$ 9.87	\$ 8.75	\$ 5.11	\$ 9.61	53.13	\$ 108.73	35.48	67.16
For all years, South Harper has pipeline reservation charges											
<b>Greenwood</b>											
	mmbtu	333,734	437,199	454,293	285,837	253,322	104,684	1,024,162	773,883	397,371	226,986
	Commodity	per mmbtu \$ 7.08	per mmbtu \$ 3.74	per mmbtu \$ 4.43	per mmbtu \$ 4.21	per mmbtu \$ 2.51	per mmbtu \$ 3.59	per mmbtu \$ 4.23	per mmbtu \$ 2.57	per mmbtu 2.52	per mmbtu 2.66
	Commodity with variable transportation	\$ 7.25	\$ 4.26	\$ 4.92	\$ 4.69	\$ 2.75	\$ 4.61	\$ 4.62	\$ 2.89	3.13	3.38
	Commodity with all firm & variable transportation	\$ 9.15	\$ 4.31	\$ 4.92	\$ 4.69	\$ 2.75	\$ 4.61	\$ 4.62	\$ 2.89	3.13	3.38
In 2008 and early 2009, Greenwood had firm transportation pipeline charge- no reservation payment in years 2010 through 2017											

Generating Unit	Natural Gas Commodity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Crossroads</b>											
	mmbtu	121,736	121,326	306,454	1,081,911	1,043,560	538,504	859,546	267,710	304,876	155,680
	Commodity	per mmbtu \$ 8.03	per mmbtu \$ 4.71	per mmbtu \$ 4.89	per mmbtu \$ 4.53	per mmbtu \$ 3.08	per mmbtu \$ 3.87	per mmbtu \$ 5.87	per mmbtu \$ 2.88	per mmbtu 2.97	per mmbtu 3.01
	Commodity with variable transportation	\$ 8.14	\$ 5.03	\$ 5.03	\$ 4.64	\$ 3.24	\$ 4.07	\$ 6.07	\$ 3.23	3.37	3.43
	Commodity with all firm & variable transportation	\$ 20.50	\$ 7.69	\$ 6.08	\$ 4.96	\$ 3.58	\$ 4.55	\$ 6.35	\$ 4.15	4.06	4.77
For all years, Crossroads has pipeline reservation charges											

Source: GMO Data Requests 70 & 70.2, Case No. ER-2018-0146; GMO Data Requests 70, Case No. ER-2016-0156; GMO Data Requests 70 & 70.1, Case No. ER-2012-0175; GMO Data Request 70 & 70.1, Case No. ER-2010-0356

<b>Lake Road</b>											
	mmbtu		1,379,068	1,295,384	1,256,743	1,635,931	1,747,749	1,836,376	2,188,971	1,785,727	1,464,801
	Commodity		per mmbtu \$ 3.54	per mmbtu \$ 4.32	per mmbtu \$ 3.93	per mmbtu \$ 2.66	per mmbtu \$ 3.63	per mmbtu \$ 4.35	per mmbtu \$ 2.50	per mmbtu 2.28	per mmbtu 2.67
	Commodity with variable transportation		\$ 3.72	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.11	\$ 2.88	\$ 3.78	\$ 4.61	\$ 2.73	2.54	2.97
	Commodity with all transportation		\$ 3.78	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.13	\$ 2.89	\$ 3.79	4.62	\$ 2.74	2.55	2.98

<b>Ralph Green</b>											
	mmbtu		5,075	11,689	18,815	7,250	16,591	180,154	264,947	179,205	124,257
	Commodity		per mmbtu \$ 3.44	per mmbtu \$ 4.17	per mmbtu \$ 4.20	per mmbtu \$ 3.02	per mmbtu \$ 3.57	per mmbtu \$ 4.06	per mmbtu \$ 2.58	per mmbtu 2.49	per mmbtu 2.66
	Commodity with variable transportation		\$ 4.18	\$ 4.61	\$ 4.54	\$ 3.27	\$ 4.65	\$ 4.55	\$ 2.90	3.10	3.50
	Commodity with all transportation		\$ 4.18	\$ 4.61	\$ 4.54	\$ 3.27	\$ 4.65	\$ 4.55	\$ 2.90	3.10	3.50

Source: GMO Data Requests 70, Case No. ER-2016-0156; GMO Data Requests 70 & 70.1, Case No. ER-2012-0175; GMO Data Request 70 & 70.1, Case No. ER-2010-0356

**Kansas City Power & Light Company**  
**Case No. ER-2018-0145**

**Combustion Turbines Natural Gas Prices**

<u>Generating Unit</u>	<u>Natural Gas Commodity</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>West Gardner</b>					
	mmbtu	482,667	475,518	178,281	149,110
	Commodity	per mmbtu \$ 4.16	per mmbtu \$ 2.67	per mmbtu \$ 2.29	per mmbtu \$ 2.46
	Commodity with variable transportation	\$ 4.66	\$ 3.01	\$ 3.16	\$ 3.06
	Commodity with all firm & variable transportation	\$ 4.66	\$ 3.01	\$ 3.16	\$ 3.06
West Gardner has no firm pipeline reservation charges					
<b>Hawthorn</b>					
	mmbtu	850,583	1,089,764	1,372,298	1,125,949
	Commodity	per mmbtu \$ 3.27	per mmbtu \$ 2.52	per mmbtu \$ 2.47	per mmbtu \$ 2.57
	Commodity with variable transportation	\$ 4.07	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.36
	Commodity with all firm & variable transportation	\$ 7.31	\$ 6.22	\$ 5.78	\$ 6.24
Hawthorn has firm transportation pipeline reservation charge-					
<b>Osawatomie</b>					
	mmbtu	171,182	59,609	23,650	12,504
	Commodity	per mmbtu \$ 3.79	per mmbtu \$ 2.94	per mmbtu \$ 2.37	per mmbtu \$ 2.87
	Commodity with variable transportation	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.03	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.28
	Commodity with all firm & variable transportation	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.03	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.28
Osawatomie, had firm transportation for four months in 2016. All other years, this facility has no firm pipeline reservation charges.					

Source: KCPL Data Requests 70 & 70.2, Case No. ER-2018-0145; GMO Data Requests 70, Case No. ER-2016-0285; GMO Data Requests 70 & 70.1, Case No. ER-2012-0174; GMO Data Request 70 & 70.1, Case No. ER-2010-0355

1                    **TRANSMISSION COSTS FOR PLUM POINT COMPARED TO CROSSROADS**

2                    Below is a table that identifies Plum Point's levels of generation by year since its  
3 operations began in 2010. Included in this table are the transmission costs by year incurred by  
4 Empire to transmit power back to Empire's service area:

5

Year	Plum Point Transmission Costs	Plum Point Net Generation MWhs (includes ownership & PPA)	Plum Point Transmission Costs per MWh
2017	\$3,977,003	484,964	\$8.21
2016	\$4,363,436	653,841	\$6.67
2015	\$4,337,333	555,997	\$7.80
2014	\$4,234,424	500,740	\$8.46
2013	\$1,975,245	531,933	\$3.71
2012	\$1,899,967	558,992	\$3.40
2011	\$1,331,846	506,899	\$2.63
2010	\$1,162,500 (partial year in-service)	52,309 (partial year in service)	\$22.22

6                    *Source:* Empire Case No. ER-2016-0023 Data Request Nos. 0108 and 0196 and Case No. EO-2018-0244  
7                    Data Request No. 0063

1 Below is a table that identifies the transmission cost and net megawatt hour generation  
 2 for Crossroads since 2010:

Year	Transmission Costs	Net Generation MWhs	Transmission Costs per MWh
2019 Estimate	** _____ ** estimate (a)	** _ ** expected (b)	** _____ ** paid for ** _ ** expected generation
2017	\$11,127,897 excluding settlement	12,353	\$900.83
2016	\$7,967,289 excluding settlement	23,261	\$342.52
2015	\$12,927,935	19,992	\$646.66
2014 Entergy in MISO	\$12,458,641	70,616	\$176.40
2013	\$4,650,299	44,559	\$104.36
2012	\$3,690,558	84,865	\$43.49
2011	\$4,747,065	88,681	\$53.53
2010	\$4,744, 507	23,719	\$200.03

3 *Source:* GMO Case No. ER-2018-0146 Data Request Nos. 367 and 390, Case No. ER-2016-0156 Data Request Nos.  
 4 0054 and 0155.1S, 0160 and 0167.3S and Case No. ER-2012-0175 Data Request Nos. 0154.1 and 0313.

5 (a) 2019 Estimate is the 2017 actual costs rounded

6 (b) Crossroads expected dispatch by year 2019-2022- Crawford direct HC Schedule BLC-5 in Case No.  
 7 ER-2018-0145

1 The following table identifies the energy produced in megawatt hours by Crossroads  
 2 from 2002 to 2017:

Year	Crossroads Net MWh		Year	Crossroads Net MWh
2002	2,567		2010	23,719
2003	0		2011	88,681
2004	0		2012	84,865
2005	10,787		2013	44,559
2006	0		2014 SPP Integrated Market	70,616
2007	16,865		2015	19,992
2008 acquisition	2,885		2016	23,261
2009	9,029		2017	12,353

3  
 4 The following table identifies the expected generation at Crossroads and its forecasted  
 5 transmission costs.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crossroads Megawatt Hours	**_** MWh	**_** MWh	**_** MWh	**_** MWh
Expected Transmission Costs	** _____ **	** _____ **	** _____ **	** _____ **

6 *Source:* Crawford Highly Confidential Schedule BLC-5. For planning purposes, GMO does not expect  
 7 Crossroads to dispatch generation in next four years. Expected transmission costs for Account 565  
 8 only, Confidential Data Request No. 0357.