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

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In the matter of the application of Union Electric Company for an order authorizing: (1) certain merger transactions involving Union Electric Company; (2) the transfer of certain assets, real estate, leased property, easements and contractual agreements to Central Illinois Public Service Company; and (3) in connection therewith, certain other related transactions.

Case No. EM-96-149

#### **AFFIDAVIT OF RYAN KIND**

STATE OF MISSOURI ) ) ss COUNTY OF COLE )

> COLE COUNTY MY COMMISSION EXP. NOV 3,1996

Ryan Kind, of lawful age and being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. My name is Ryan Kind. I am the Chief Public Utility Economist for the Office of the Public Counsel.

2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my cross-surrebuttal testimony consisting of pages 1 through 19 and Schedule RK-1.

3. I hereby swear and affirm that my statements contained in the attached testimony are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

day of June, 1996. Subscribed and sworn to me th chards Richards Bobbie J. Notary Public My commission expires November 3, 1996. BOBBLE | RICHARDS UBLIC STATE OF MISSOUR

#### **CROSS-SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY** 1 OF 2 3 RYAN KIND UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY 4 5 CASE NO. EM-96-149 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS. 6 Ryan Kind, Chief Public Utility Economist, Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, 7 A. 8 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 9 Q. ARE YOU THE SAME RYAN KIND WHO HAS TESTIFIED PREVIOUSLY IN THIS CASE? 10 Yes, I am. Α. Q. 11 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY? 12 Α. I will respond to some of the comments made by other witnesses in their rebuttal testimony and supplemental rebuttal testimony. I will also provide further information regarding 13 14 some of the documents (Goldman Sachs Presentation to Union Electric Company, June 15, 1995, and Doloitte Touche Intermediate Work Products provided in response to OPC 15 DR No. 573) that the Office of the Public Counsel received from UE shortly before our 16 17 filing of rebuttal testimony. This testimony will also cover issues related to follow-up 18 discovery based on information found in the above-referenced documents.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE RATEMAKING TREATMENT PRESENTED BY MR. MAURICE BRUBAKER ON BEHALF OF THE MISSOURI INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSUMERS (MIEC) IS REASONABLE?

A. While I am in general agreement with many aspects of his proposed ratemaking treatment,
 I have some differences.

#### Q. WHICH PARTS OF MR. BRUBAKER'S PROPOSAL DO YOU AGREE WITH?

A. I agree with the first recommendation page 3 of his rebuttal testimony that the Commission "should indicate to UE that it will permit recovery of merger costs in future proceedings if UE can demonstrate the existence of these costs and establish that savings which have resulted from the merger are larger than the costs for which recovery is sought." Of course, in agreeing with this statement, I am assuming that Mr. Brubaker is not including the "merger premium" as a potential merger cost that might be eligible for future recovery from ratepayers since neither UE or its ratepayers actually incurred any costs in association with the "merger premium."

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### DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. BRUBAKER'S SECOND RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 3 OF HIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

A. No. I disagree with his recommendation that "[i]f the Commission does decide to approve
a regulatory plan in this proceeding, then it should require that the 'earnings sharing' plan
be modified so that customers receive their intended share." I do not agree with this
recommendation because I do not believe that it would be appropriate for the Commission
to approve a regulatory plan within the context of this merger application case.

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Approval of a regulatory plan in this merger case would be inappropriate for a couple of reasons. First, it would not be appropriate because ratemaking issues should be decided in rate cases or complaint cases where all relevant factors can be considered when determining a reasonable level of rates. Second, it would be inappropriate to approve any extraordinary ratemaking treatment in association with this merger since UE chose to enter into this merger primarily because of the benefits that it is expected to provide to UE's shareholders and management.

I believe UE entered into this merger agreement on the basis of: (1) the long-run strategic and earnings benefits that it expected the merger to achieve and (2) the short-run earnings benefits that UE expected to receive as a result of the normal ratemaking process. In the case of UE, the normal ratemaking process provides the utility with an opportunity to retain a portion of earnings above the level that is normally allowed through: (1) regulatory lag and (2) UE's alternative regulatory plan (and the possibility of extending this plan in the future) which allows for sharing of excess earnings within a certain range.

## Q. WHAT IS MR. BRUBAKER'S THIRD RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 3 OF HIS REBUTTAL

#### A. He states that

[if] UE is to be permitted to make claims, in the future, for recovery of merger costs and a share of merger savings, then it its essential to define the starting point for the measurement of merger savings. Under these circumstances, UE should be required to undergo a complete rate case proceeding in order to establish appropriate costs and rate levels on a premerger basis. This is essential to avoid counting as merger savings those cost reductions and efficiencies that occurred prior to the merger.

Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. BRUBAKER'S THIRD RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 3 OF HIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

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Α.

No. First of all, as explained earlier in this testimony, OPC does not believe that it would be appropriate for the Commission to approve a regulatory plan within the context of this merger application case. Second, if the Commission were to approve a regulatory plan that allowed for some extraordinary treatment of merger costs or savings in the future, we do not believe that Mr. Brubaker's recommendation would be sufficient to ensure that merger-related savings could be isolated from other savings.

## Q. WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT MR. BRUBAKER'S RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THAT MERGER-RELATED SAVINGS COULD BE ISOLATED FROM OTHER SAVINGS?

A. While Mr. Brubaker's recommendation would be very helpful in isolating cost reductions that have been achieved prior to the merger from those achieved after the merger, his recommendation would not provide a method for isolating merger-related savings from other savings that are achieved subsequent to the merger. The importance of this additional separation is obvious, given the pre-merger plans that UE and CIPS already had for reducing costs with re-engineering and staffing reductions. It should be noted, however, that many of the parties to this case (including UE) have already acknowledged the extreme difficulties associated with tracking savings that are solely attributable to a utility merger.

## Q. DO YOU SEE ANY ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WITH MR. BRUBAKER'S THIRD RECOMMENDATION?

A. Yes, the limited extent to which this recommendation could be effective is dependent on
 expeditious progress in a Commission initiated complaint case. While the Commission has
 authority to initiate a complaint case, it could hindered by the following: it has limited

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Staff resources and other priorities may prevail, UE's Alternative Regulatory Plan prevents the Staff from filing a rate reduction case prior to July 1, 1998, and the Commission would not be bound by any statutory clock in deciding the case. Therefore it would appear difficult for the Commission to commit to resolving a complaint case in a timely manner that would resolve the isolation of pre-merger savings from post-merger savings.

## Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE OPC'S POSITION REGARDING MR. BRUBAKER'S THIRD RECOMMENDATION.

A. Public Counsel does not believe that a case can be made for granting any extraordinary ratemaking treatment to UE in this merger application case. Mr. Brubaker's suggestion for limiting the adverse affect on ratepayers that might result from granting any extraordinary ratemaking treatment to UE in this merger application case is totally inadequate and unworkable due to: (1) the extreme difficulties associated with tracking merger savings to isolate merger-related savings from other post-merger savings, (2) the inability to have 100% certainty that the Commission could commit itself, within this merger case, to proceed expeditiously with "a complete rate case proceeding" that would "establish appropriate costs and rate levels on a pre-merger basis."

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 Q.
 ON WHICH OF THE ISSUES THAT WERE RAISED BY COMMISSION STAFF (STAFF)

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 WITNESS DAN BECK IN HIS SUPPLEMENTAL REBUTTAL TESTIMONY WOULD YOU LIKE

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 TO COMMENT?

A. I will comment on his recommendations regarding the ten year System Support Agreement (SSA) and his analysis of UE's potential stranded cost exposure.

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Q. ARE YOU IN AGREEMENT WITH MR. BECK'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOT "COMMIT TO PREAPPROVAL OF THE CAPACITY THAT IS RETURNING DURING THE PHASE OUT OF THE 10 YEAR SSA TO MEET THE LOAD GROWTH OF THE MISSOURI JURISDICTION"?

A. Yes. I support this recommendation for the following reasons. First, the uncertainties associated with both UE's future resource needs and the range of resources that may be available to satisfy these needs make it inappropriate for the Commission to preapprove, at this time, a specific means by which these potential resource needs should be satisfied. Second, the issue would not even have arisen at the present time, were it not for the present merger proposal which has been prompted by UE's desire to enhance its ability to be an effective competitor in a more competitive energy industry. Since the issue has arisen as a result of a transaction which was initiated for the benefit of the utility and its shareholders, I do not believe the Commission should be forced to adjust its normal procedure for protecting ratepayers by assessing the prudency of utility investments at the time the utility seeks ratemaking treatment for those investments.

Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. BECK'S POSITION THAT HE WOULD NOT OPPOSE A TEN YEAR SYSTEM SUPPORT AGREEMENT IF UE IS WILLING TO TAKE THE FINANCIAL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH RETURNING THE UE ILLINOIS CUSTOMERS' CAPACITY TO UE?

A. Yes, I do. As Mr. Beck states at line 5 on page 14 of his testimony:

Missouri retail ratepayers should not bear any risk of the stranded costs associated with generation built to serve UE's Illinois ratepayers. If UE's stranded generation costs turn out to be positive, then Missouri retail ratepayers should not have to bear the burden of those costs. Therefore, I recommend that if the Commission accepts the 10 year SSA plan, that it be subject to the condition that Missouri retail ratepayers be held harmless for any stranded generation costs associated with the return of UE generation capacity from the phase out of the sale of capacity and energy to CIPS.

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Like the Staff, Public Counsel also would not oppose the ten year SSA if its acceptance by the Commission is subject to the condition that "Missouri retail ratepayers be held harmless for any stranded generation costs associated with the return of UE generation capacity from the phase out of the sale of capacity and energy to CIPS."

Q. DOES MR. BECK'S ANALYSIS OF UE'S POTENTIAL STRANDED COST EXPOSURE AT PAGES 12 THROUGH 14 OF HIS TESTIMONY REINFORCE YOUR BELIEF THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOT APPROVE UE'S MERGER APPLICATION UNLESS THE COMPANY MAKES A COMMITMENT TO BEAR THE FINANCIAL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CAPACITY THAT WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IF UE'S SSA IS PHASED OUT AFTER **ONLY FIVE YEARS?** 

Α. Yes.

#### Q. WHAT IS UE'S POSITION REGARDING ITS OVERALL POTENTIAL STRANDED COST **EXPOSURE?**

A. As I noted in my rebuttal testimony, UE's response to Staff DR No. 77 stated that "...we have reviewed stranded cost studies done by industry analysts over the past several years, 16 and we agree with their conclusions that neither UE nor CIPS has any material stranded cost exposure." Based on this response, it appears that UE does not believe that it has 17 18 any significant stranded cost exposure.

#### IS THERE ANY REASON WHY UE'S STRANDED COST EXPOSURE MIGHT INCREASE IN 19 Q. 20 THE FUTURE?

Α. No. In fact, the opposite is likely to occur for the following reasons. First, UE is not 21 22 currently in the process of building new generating assets that might lead to stranded cost

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exposure in the future. Second, stranded costs will generally decrease with the passage of time as the utility collects revenues based on rates which compensate it for annual depreciation expense on generation assets. This compensation for depreciation expense of generation assets serves to increase accumulated depreciation which reduces the net book plant value of assets. Third, a utility also has the means to reduce its stranded cost exposure by taking advantage of opportunities (e.g. reducing heat rates or fine-tuning to increase capacity) to mitigate some or all of this exposure before these costs have the possibility of becoming stranded.

9 Q. BASED ON UE'S ASSESSMENT OF ITS EXPOSURE AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOME 10 OF WHATEVER STRANDED COSTS DO EXIST WILL GO AWAY WITH THE PASSAGE OF 11 TIME, DO YOU BELIEVE UE SHOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO NOT 12 PURSUE RECOVERY OF ANY STRANDED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SERVICE 13 THAT IT HAS PROVIDED TO ITS ILLINOIS CUSTOMERS?

14 Α. Yes. Since UE believes its stranded cost exposure is currently minimal, and as noted above, whatever exposure currently exists should be less in five or ten years, I don't see 15 why UE would hesitate to make this commitment. I would also note that since UE's 16 17 ratemaking proposal puts much of the business risk associated with the merger on ratepayers, it seems entirely inappropriate for the Company to ask ratepayers to underwrite 18 19 a merger that was undertaken to better position the Company for a more competitive future 20 and then leave open the possibility that it may also try to recover any stranded costs that are unrelated to the service that the UE has been providing to Missouri ratepayers. 21

In fact, given UE's assertion that "that neither UE nor CIPS has any material stranded cost exposure," I do not see why the Company would not use this merger case as an opportunity to make a commitment that it will not seek recovery of stranded costs (other

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than those directly attributable to regulatory mandates) in any future ratemaking proceedings before the Missouri PSC.

Q. DO YOU NEED TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR PREVIOUSLY FILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS THAT YOU RECEIVED SHORTLY BEFORE THAT TESTIMONY WAS FILED?

A. Yes, I do. As I noted on pages 9 and 39 of my rebuttal testimony, OPC received some documents from UE shortly before our rebuttal testimony was due even though these documents were within the scope of data requests that UE had answered quite some time ago.

Q. PLEASE REVIEW THE PORTION OF YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY THAT DISCUSSED THE \*\* \_\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* SAVINGS THAT UE IDENTIFIED IN ITS ANALYSIS OF AREAS WHERE POTENTIAL MERGER-RELATED SAVINGS WERE AVAILABLE.

 A. At line 17 on page 39 of my rebuttal testimony, I stated that:

Another area where the savings estimate did not appear to reflect the full potential for savings was in the area of capacity deferral savings. On April 25, 1996 OPC obtained copies of some intermediate work products of Deloitte & Touch (in response to OPC DR No. 573) which provided additional insight into how the savings estimate contained in UE's filing was arrived at. Unfortunately, since we have only had access to these documents for a short time (even though OPC believes they were within the scope of long outstanding Staff DR Nos. 1, 5, and 30), I have been unable to analyze them in detail or do any follow-up discovery on them at this time. For this reason, OPC reserves the right to file supplemental rebuttal testimony based on UE's responses to DRs that follow-up on the documents received in response to OPC DR No. 573.

Two of the documents that OPC received in response to DR No. 573 were copies of August 1, 1995 and August 8, 1995 Deloitte & Touch Board of Directors presentations. The relevant portions of both documents are included in Schedule RK-3. Both of these documents indicate that UE and CIPSCO believed \*\*

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7 8		One of the concerns I have with this is that UE asserts that it has gained control of CIPSCO's assets by paying a premium to CIPSCO's
9 10		shareholders. If this is true, then why isn't UE utilizing these assets ** to the fullest extent possible
10		to obtain savings?
12	Q.	WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT THIS ISSUE SINCE THE TIME YOU FILED YOUR
13		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?
14	A.	On May 29, Public Counsel received UE's response to OPC DR No. 679 which requested
15		information related to the capacity deferral savings information that was in Deloitte &
16		Touche's intermediate work products discussed in the above quote from my rebuttal
17		testimony. This response included an August 4, 1995 memo regarding Capacity/Dispatch
18		Savings Issue Resolution from Gene Meehan to Craig Nelson, Gary Rainwater, Tom
19		Flaherty, Rob Robinson, Mark Vantrease, and Bob Mill. This memo and the rest of UE's
20		response to OPC DR No. 679 are included in Schedule RK 1.
21		The introductory portion of this memo states that its purpose is **
22		** The
23		major topics that are covered in this memo are: **
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25		** The portion of this memo that discusses the
26		** ** topic cites three areas from which ** ** could
27		potentially be obtained. These areas are: **
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Q.	WHAT DOES THIS MEMO SAY ABOUT **
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А.	It states that:
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Q.	WHAT DOES THE ABOVE QUOTE FROM THE AUGUST 4, 1995 MEMO INDICAT
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	**?
A.	The primary reason appears to be UE's desire to **
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	Surret Ryan	buttal Testimony of Kind
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3	Q.	DOES THIS MEMO REINFORCE YOUR BELIEF THAT THE PRIMARY REASON FOR UE'S
4		DECISION TO MERGE WITH CIPSCO WAS TO PROVIDE UE'S SHAREHOLDERS WITH
5		LONG-RUN STRATEGIC AND EARNINGS BENEFITS?
6	А.	Yes, it certainly does. In fact, the second paragraph of the above quote indicates that the
7		maximization of **** has guided UE's decisions in this area.
8	Q.	DOES THIS MEMO ILLUSTRATE UE'S KNOWLEDGE OF SOME LONG RUN STRATEGIC
9		BENEFITS THAT IT EXPECTS TO ACHIEVE BY THIS MERGER WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN
10		PREVIOUSLY DISCLOSED BY THE COMPANY?
11	А.	Yes, it clearly does. In my rebuttal testimony, I discussed the long run strategic and
12		earnings benefits that UE will achieve by the increased amount of generation assets that it
13		would own after the merger. I did not, however, discuss the advantages that UE would
14	;	attain from **
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19	Q.	DID UE'S PROFORMA FINANCIAL ANALYSIS INCLUDE IMPACTS OF REVENUE
20		ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW ENTITY'S ENLARGED PORTFOLIO OF
21		GENERATION ASSETS?

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A. No, as I stated in my rebuttal testimony, "neither UE's merger saving estimates or its proforma financial analysis included impacts of revenue enhancement associated with the new entity's enlarged portfolio of generation assets."

Q. DID ANY OTHER PARTS OF UE'S RESPONSE TO OPC DR NO. 679 ADDRESS \*\*

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A. Yes, UE's response to part a) of OPC DR No. 679 stated that:

Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH UE'S ASSERTION THAT \*\*

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A. Yes, I do agree with this. I am somewhat puzzled, however, that UE raises this objection as a potentially insurmountable barrier to acquiring these \*\* \_\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* benefits for ratepayers. This objection is inconsistent with UE's approach to acquiring merger savings benefits in other areas where the ratepayers in one state may have benefited at the expense of ratepayers in the other state.

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A couple of examples where UE has devised mechanisms that will allow ratepayers to achieve merger-related benefits (achievement is, of course, subject to the limitations imposed by UE's ratemaking proposal) without allowing ratepayers in one state to benefit at the expense of ratepayers in the other state include: savings arising from joint dispatch and the sharing of information services hardware and software. In the area of joint

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Surrebuttal	Testimony of
Ryan Kind	

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1		dispatch, UE created the Joint Dispatch Agreement so that a set of principles were put in
2		place to prevent ratepayers in one state from benefiting at the expense of ratepayers in the
3		other state. In the area of information services, UE's response to an OPC data request
4		indicated that it believed its cost allocation procedures would ensure that UE's ratepayers
5		would not be subsidizing CIPSCO ratepayers by sharing the information system
6		enhancements that UE had already acquired prior to the merger announcement.
7	Q.	DID THIS AUGUST 4, 1995 MEMO CONTAIN OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT
8		POTENTIAL CAPACITY SAVINGS FROM AREAS THAT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN
9		ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS THAT HAD BEEN PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY BY UE?
10	A.	Yes, it did. This memo addressed potential savings that UE may obtain as a result of
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12	Q.	PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE MEMO'S DISCUSSION OF **
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14	А.	The memo states that:
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1	Q.	WHAT ESTIMATES DO THE MEMO CONTAIN FOR THE APPROXIMATE SAVINGS THAT
2		WOULD RESULT FROM A REDUCTION IN THE ****
3	А.	It is estimated that a **
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7	Q.	DOES THE MEMO RECOMMEND THAT UE INCORPORATE ** **
8		SAVINGS IN ITS ESTIMATE OF MERGER-RELATED SAVINGS?
9	<b>A</b> .	Yes, it does. The memo states:
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12	Q.	DID UE CHOOSE TO INCORPORATE ** ** SAVINGS IN ITS
13		ESTIMATE OF MERGER-RELATED SAVINGS?
14	<b>A</b> .	No.
15	Q.	DOES PUBLIC COUNSEL BELIEVE THAT THE MEMO'S ESTIMATES OF **
16		** SAVINGS ARE REASONABLE?
17	A.	We have not had significant time to evaluate these estimates since UE only provided this
18		memo to us several days ago. These estimates do, however, appear to be reasonable based
19		on an initial cursory review of this analysis.
20	Q.	ARE THESE ** ** SAVINGS LIKELY TO PROVIDE SOME EARNINGS
21		ENHANCEMENT TO UE IN THE FUTURE?

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Surrebuttal Testimo	ony of
Ryan Kind	

А.	Yes. I believe these savings will provide an enhancement to UE's earnings in the long-run.
	While there is some uncertainty as to when these savings will begin to accrue to UE, they
	are likely to begin within the next ten years.

Q. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT LENDS CREDIBILITY TO THE EXPECTATION THAT RESERVE REQUIREMENTS MAY FALL OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS?

A. Yes, on page IV-9 in Volume 4 of St. Joseph Light & Power's May 1996 Electric Utility
 Resource Planning filing, St. Joseph Light & Power (SJLP) states that:

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13		This page of SJLP's IRP filing also contains a table of **
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17		**
18	Q.	YOU STATED PREVIOUSLY THAT UE HAD JUST PROVIDED THE AUGUST 4, 1995
19		MEMO TO PUBLIC COUNSEL A FEW DAYS AGO. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS
20		DOCUMENT WAS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PREVIOUS OPC AND STAFF DRS, SOME OF
21		WHICH WERE SENT TO UE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO?
22	А.	Yes, I do. I believe that the August 4, 1995 memo was within the scope of Staff DR Nos.
23		1 and 30 and OPC DR Nos. 573, 655, 679, and 681.

## Q. DID THE LATE ARRIVAL OF THIS DOCUMENT INTERFERE WITH OPC'S EFFORTS TO EVALUATE UE'S MERGER PROPOSAL?

A. Yes, as I stated previously in my rebuttal testimony:

[t]his document's late arrival (1) prevented OPC from doing follow up discovery on this document prior to this testimony, (2) prevented us from raising questions pertaining to this document in the interviews conducted with UE witnesses in this case, and (3) left OPC with inadequate time to evaluate the contents of this document.

Q. EARLIER IN THIS TESTIMONY, YOU STATED THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER DOCUMENT, GOLDMAN SACHS PRESENTATION TO UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY, JUNE 15, 1995, THAT YOU RECEIVED SHORTLY BEFORE YOUR TESTIMONY WAS FILED. WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED ABOUT UE'S REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING THAT DOCUMENT?

A. UE's response to OPC DR No. 670 stated that this document (see Schedule RK 1 of Ryan Kind's rebuttal testimony) was not provided previously in response to OPC DR No. 527 because "[t]he June 15, 1995 document does not deal with the merger and, therefore was not provided in response to this request." UE's response to OPC DR No. 670 also stated that this document was not provided previously in response to OPC DR No. 535 (d) because "[t]he June 15, 1995 document did not relate to the merger and, therefore was not provided in response to this request."

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#### Q. DID YOU FIND THESE EXPLANATIONS FROM UE CREDIBLE?

A. No. I believe only a cursory review of this document (see Schedule RK-1 of Ryan Kind's rebuttal testimony) is necessary to conclude that this document does deal with this merger and that this document does relate to this merger.

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Q. DO YOU BELIEVE UE'S LACK OF FULL AND PROMPT RESPONSIVENESS TO PUBLIC COUNSEL'S DISCOVERY REQUESTS IN THIS CASE HAVE HINDERED YOUR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY ANALYZE UE'S MERGER APPLICATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

A. Yes. For complex cases such as this one, the Commission sets up a procedural schedule that allows adequate time for parties to acquire information from the utility, through the discovery process. An extensive amount of time is necessary because parties may have other commitments that prevent them from focusing solely on one case, and because the discovery process, by its very nature requires an extensive amount of time.

## Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID, "THE DISCOVERY PROCESS, BY ITS VERY NATURE REQUIRES AN EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF TIME?"

A. Discovery is not just a one-step process. Often, facts and documents that are relevant to a case are found in small increments. Facts and documents contained in one response can be helpful in identifying issues and documents that merit further discovery. When a company is not fully responsive to DRs, then a crucial first step may be missed which prevents or defers further steps in the discovery process from occurring.

Q. CAN YOU CITE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A DOCUMENT RECEIVED LATE IN THE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE CAN HINDER A PARTY IN INVESTIGATING AN ISSUE?

### A. Yes. The August 4, 1995 memo that was discussed above contains a section on merger related \*\*

\*\* Public Counsel was not aware of this issue until we received this document. We did not expect to find information related to this topic in UE's DR response. However, upon receiving information on this subject in UE's DR response, it became apparent that

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this information should have been provided in previous UE DR responses. If this information had been provided earlier, OPC would have been able to send follow-up DRs to UE in order to learn more about this issue.

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IN THE EXAMPLE GIVEN ABOVE, WOULD OPC HAVE HAD OTHER WAYS TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL TIME ALLOWED TO ANALYZE THE \*\*

\*\* ISSUE IF UE HAD RESPONDED MORE FULLY TO EARLIER DRS BY

A. Yes, if this document was provided earlier, OPC would have been able to conduct a more thorough investigation of this general topic (from sources other than UE) and OPC would have been able to raise questions about this document in interviews that were conducted with UE personnel.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

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Α.

Yes, it does.

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KIND CROSS-SURREBUTTAL CASE NO. EM-96-149

## THIS ENTIRE

## **14-PAGE SCHEDULE**

## (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF

PAGES RK-1.5 and RK-1.7)

HAS

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## DEEMED

## HIGHLY

CONFIDENTIAL

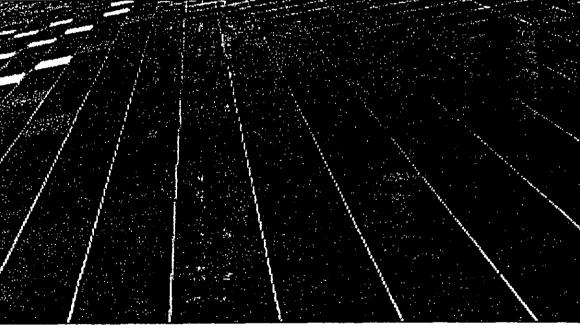
**SCHEDULE RK-1** 

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# **Project Gateway PROPRIETARY** Board of Directors Presentation

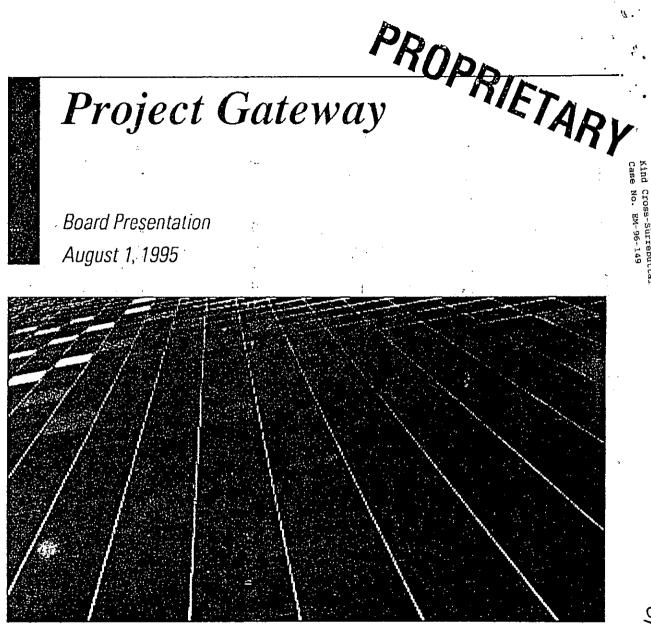
August 8, 1995



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