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Issue: Rate Design  
Witness: Maurice Brubaker  
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Sponsoring Party: Midwest Energy Consumers Group and  
Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers  
Case No.: ER-2016-0156  
Date Testimony Prepared: July 29, 2016

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

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**In the Matter of KCP&L Greater Missouri  
Operations Company's Request for  
Authority to Implement a General Rate  
Increase for Electric Service**

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**Case No. ER-2016-0156**

Direct Testimony and Schedule of

**Maurice Brubaker**

On behalf of

**Midwest Energy Consumers Group and  
Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers**

July 29, 2016



Project 10206





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**Case No. ER-2016-0156**

**Direct Testimony of Maurice Brubaker**

**1    Introduction and Summary**

**2    Q     PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

3    A     Maurice Brubaker. My business address is 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140,  
4           Chesterfield, MO 63017.

**5    Q     WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?**

6    A     I am a consultant in the field of public utility regulation and President of Brubaker &  
7           Associates, Inc., energy, economic and regulatory consultants.

**8    Q     PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE.**

9    A     This information is included in Appendix A to this testimony.

**10   Q     ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

11   A     My testimony is presented on behalf of the Midwest Energy Consumers Group  
12           ("MECG") and Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers ("MIEC").

13                 Companies whose interests the MECG and MIEC represent purchase  
14           substantial amounts of electricity from Kansas City Power & Light Company-Greater

**Maurice Brubaker  
Page 1**

1 Missouri Operations (“GMO”) and will be impacted by the decisions made in this  
2 case. Some of these companies purchase electricity from St. Joseph Light & Power  
3 Company (“SJL&P”) and Missouri Public Service Company (“MOPUB”).

4 **Q WHAT IS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

5 A My testimony will address the manner in which any awarded rate increase should be  
6 allocated to customer classes, and the SJL&P and MOPUB rate consolidation issue.

7 My silence in regard to any issue should not be construed as an endorsement  
8 of GMO’s position.

9 **Q ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH GMO’S PROPOSAL TO CONSOLIDATE SJL&P AND**  
10 **MOPUB INTO A SINGLE ENTITY AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE RESPECTIVE**  
11 **CLASSES OF BOTH INTO A SINGLE SET OF TARIFFS?**

12 A Yes.

13 **Q DO YOU SUPPORT THIS CONSOLIDATION?**

14 A Subject to a rate impact caveat and proposal that I will discuss later, I do support the  
15 consolidation.

16 **Revenue Allocation**

17 **Q HOW SHOULD ANY REVENUE INCREASE GRANTED BY THE COMMISSION BE**  
18 **ALLOCATED TO THE VARIOUS CONSOLIDATED CUSTOMER CLASSES?**

19 A On a consolidated basis, any increase in revenues approved by the Commission  
20 should be allocated as essentially an equal percentage increase to each of the  
21 customer classes; namely Residential, Small General Service, Large General

1 Service, Large Power Service, General Service-TOD, Thermal Energy Storage and  
2 Metered Lighting.

3 **Q PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SUPPORT AN EQUAL PERCENTAGE**  
4 **ALLOCATION?**

5 A This is a very complex case. Complexities arise because of the consolidation of  
6 SJL&P and MOPUB tariffs and the divergent rate impacts on individual customers  
7 taking service on the various rate schedules of both SJL&P and MOPUB. I agree  
8 with GMO that an across-the-board increases is appropriate because it allows all  
9 parties to focus on the task of consolidating the rate structures and moderating the  
10 impacts of the consolidation on customer groups who otherwise would receive  
11 increases substantially larger than the overall average percentage increase.

12 In addition, the consolidation is occurring in a case where an overall increase  
13 in rates is being proposed. This adds further to the impacts of the consolidation.

14 **Q WILL YOU BE PRESENTING A CLASS COST OF SERVICE STUDY?**

15 A No. I disagree with the cost of service methodology that GMO has employed, but in  
16 light of the recommendation for an equal percentage increase, I do not believe that it  
17 is an issue that needs to be addressed in this case. Were I to address class cost of  
18 service issues, I would be proposing use of a production fixed cost allocation method  
19 similar to what the Commission has approved for Ameren Missouri, and similar to  
20 what I have proposed in previous KCP&L and GMO cases; namely the average and  
21 excess-4 non-coincident peak allocation method ("A&E-4 NCP"). However, given the  
22 equal percentage increase allocation by customer class, it is not deemed necessary  
23 to present such cost of service analysis.

1 **Rate Impacts and Mitigation**

2 **Q HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE TECHNICAL CONFERENCES THAT HAVE**  
3 **BEEN HELD ON THIS MATTER?**

4 A Yes. I participated in most of the technical conferences that were held both prior to  
5 the official filing of the rate case and those that have occurred subsequently.

6 **Q HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE IMPACTS ON LARGE POWER CUSTOMERS OF**  
7 **BOTH MOPUB AND SJL&P?**

8 A Yes. Table 1 is a summary of the proposed increases to Large Power customers  
9 from both the former MOPUB area and the SJL&P area. Based on data supplied by  
10 GMO, Table 1 shows the number of customers who would receive increases larger  
11 than 10% (the overall average is 8.3%). Table 1 shows that 72, or 40%, of the  
12 MOPUB customers on the Large Power rate would receive an increase in excess of  
13 10%. For SJL&P, only one out of 81 customers would experience an increase larger  
14 than 1%.

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>MOPUB</u></b>	<b><u>SJL&amp;P</u></b>
Total customers	182	81
Number with proposed increases larger than 10%	72	1
Percent greater than 10%	40%	1%

15 **Q WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION?**

16 A Please refer to Schedule MEB-1, which is the cover page and pages 6 through 10  
17 from GMO's Rate Consolidation Technical Conference # 2 presentation that took

1 place on May 23, 2016. These impacts are the ones that occur after each customer  
2 has been put on the rate schedule that is most suitable for its load characteristics.  
3 The data for the Large Power customers appears on pages 2 and 3 of this schedule,  
4 which are pages 6 and 7 from the technical conference presentation.

5 **Q WHAT FEATURES OF THE CONSOLIDATED TARIFF APPEAR TO BE CAUSING**  
6 **SO MANY INCREASES LARGER THAN 10% ON THE MOPUB SYSTEM?**

7 A There appear to be two primary reasons for this. The first is the introduction of a  
8 Facility Demand Charge that is based on 100% of the customers' highest maximum  
9 demand occurring in the 12 preceding months. This is a new feature for MOPUB  
10 rates. It exists in the current SJL&P rate structure, albeit at a lower level of charge.

11 The second feature that appears to be causing these much larger increases  
12 for MOPUB customers than for SJL&P customers is in the definition of the "Annual  
13 Base Demand." Annual Base Demand influences how both demand and energy are  
14 billed. Under current MOPUB rates, the Annual Base Demand is the lesser of:

- 15 1) The customers' maximum demand during the preceding May billing month,
- 16 2) The customers' maximum demand during the preceding October billing month, or
- 17 3) 65% of the maximum measured demand during the preceding four summer billing  
18 months.

19 Under the new consolidated tariff, the Annual Base Demand is redefined as  
20 100% of the maximum demand established during the preceding four summer billing  
21 months. This change places substantially more emphasis on peak demands  
22 occurring during the summer.



1 **Q DOES A CHANGE IN THE FACILITY DEMAND AND THE ANNUAL BASE**  
2 **DEMAND RAISE EQUITY CONCERNS?**

3 A Yes. As mentioned, GMO proposes to introduce a Facility Demand Charge and a  
4 larger Annual Base Demand Charge for MOPUB customers. Both mechanisms have  
5 the practical effect of ratcheting current monthly billing demand and Facilities demand  
6 higher as a result of monthly demands that occurred as much as a year earlier.

7 Customers used energy and incurred monthly demands under one rate design  
8 scheme. Now, GMO proposes to change that scheme without providing customers  
9 an opportunity to modify their usage characteristics. Effectively, customers are being  
10 penalized for usage that occurred under a tariffed rate design and without any  
11 knowledge that a subsequent rate design may be introduced.

12 It seems inequitable to suddenly “change the rules” and impose higher rates  
13 on these customers when those customers had no knowledge that their past usage  
14 patterns could have an increasingly negative impact on future rates and without  
15 providing those customers any opportunity to respond to the new rate design.

16 **Q DO YOU HAVE A RECOMMENDATION ON HOW TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS**  
17 **OF THE CONSOLIDATED LARGE POWER TARIFF?**

18 A Yes. Because of the change in the tariff structure, it is the increased emphasis on  
19 peak demands, especially those occurring during the summer, that contributes to the  
20 relatively large proportion of MOPUB customers that would experience increases  
21 larger than 10%. In order to moderate these impacts, I recommend a two-step  
22 phase-in of some of the rate structure changes. A two-step phase-in will allow  
23 impacts occurring at the conclusion of this case to be moderated, yet preserve the  
24 proposed rate structure for implementation 12 months thereafter.

1 **Q WHAT SPECIFIC PHASE-IN DO YOU RECOMMEND?**

2 A I recommend that for the rates that go into effect at the end of this case, the Facility  
3 Demand be defined as 75% of the maximum demand occurring during the preceding  
4 12 months, and that the Annual Base Demand be defined similarly as 75% of the  
5 maximum demand experienced in any of the four summer months occurring within  
6 the preceding 12 months. In the second step, which would occur one year after these  
7 rates become effective, the 100% ratchet feature in GMO's proposed rates will be  
8 implemented.

9 **Q SHOULD ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE IN THE CHARGES IN THE RATE IN ORDER**  
10 **TO RECOVER ANY REDUCTION IN REVENUE FROM YOUR**  
11 **RECOMMENDATION SOLELY WITHIN THE CONSOLIDATED LARGE POWER**  
12 **SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE?**

13 A Yes. GMO should adjust the pricing in the tariff to preserve revenue neutrality, in a  
14 way that, as much as possible, maintains the benefit of the initial step definitions of  
15 the demand ratchets for the most-affected customers.

16 **Q ARE THERE ANY OTHER WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THE MODERATION?**

17 A Yes. Another approach could be a demand credit, with the revenue reduction offset  
18 by a kilowatthour surcharge in step one, that would be reduced to zero in step two.  
19 For example, in the large power rate, a \$2 per kW demand credit could be paired with  
20 a kilowatthour surcharge of \$0.00396 to maintain revenue neutrality.

1 Q **HAVE YOU MADE SIMILAR ANALYSES FOR LARGE GENERAL SERVICE**  
2 **CUSTOMERS?**

3 A Yes. This summary appears on Table 2. Information for this table comes from pages  
4 4 and 5 of Schedule MEB-1, which are pages 8 and 9 from the May 23, 2016 GMO  
5 Rate Consolidation Technical Conference # 2 presentation.

6 Note that the pattern here is similar to that shown in Table 1 for Large Power  
7 customers, in that 49% of the Large General Service customers would experience  
8 increases larger than 10% on the MOPUB system, but only 11% would experience  
9 increases of 10% or more on the SJL&P system.

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>MOPUB</u></b>	<b><u>SJL&amp;P</u></b>
Total customers	1,602	1,239
Number with proposed increases larger than 10%	777	134
Percent greater than 10%	49%	11%

10 Q **COULD MODERATING ADJUSTMENTS, SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU HAVE**  
11 **RECOMMENDED FOR THE LARGE POWER CLASS, ALSO BE MADE IN THE**  
12 **LARGE GENERAL SERVICE CLASS?**

13 A Yes. The same 75% demand ratchet which I discussed above in connection with the  
14 Large Power rate could be applied to the Large General Service rate as well. The  
15 alternative approach of a \$2 per kW credit could be offset by a kilowatthour surcharge  
16 of \$0.00706 in order to maintain revenue neutrality.

1 Q ARE YOU AWARE OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS THAT PHASED-IN THE IMPACT  
2 OF RATE CONSOLIDATION?

3 A Yes. For example, both MidAmerican Energy Company and Interstate Power and  
4 Light Company in Iowa, and Westar Energy in Kansas, phased-in the consolidation of  
5 rates in those jurisdictions.

6 Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

7 A Yes.

## Qualifications of Maurice Brubaker

1    **Q     PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2    A     Maurice Brubaker. My business address is 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140,  
3        Chesterfield, MO 63017.

4    **Q     PLEASE STATE YOUR OCCUPATION.**

5    A     I am a consultant in the field of public utility regulation and President of the firm of  
6        Brubaker & Associates, Inc. ("BAI"), energy, economic and regulatory consultants.

7    **Q     PLEASE    SUMMARIZE    YOUR    EDUCATIONAL    BACKGROUND    AND**  
8        **EXPERIENCE.**

9    A     I was graduated from the University of Missouri in 1965, with a Bachelor's Degree in  
10        Electrical Engineering. Subsequent to graduation I was employed by the Utilities  
11        Section of the Engineering and Technology Division of Esso Research and  
12        Engineering Corporation of Morristown, New Jersey, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of  
13        New Jersey.

14            In the Fall of 1965, I enrolled in the Graduate School of Business at  
15        Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. I was graduated in June of 1967 with  
16        the Degree of Master of Business Administration. My major field was finance.

17            From March of 1966 until March of 1970, I was employed by Emerson Electric  
18        Company in St. Louis. During this time I pursued the Degree of Master of Science in  
19        Engineering at Washington University, which I received in June, 1970.

20            In March of 1970, I joined the firm of Drazen Associates, Inc., of St. Louis,  
21        Missouri. Since that time I have been engaged in the preparation of numerous  
22        studies relating to electric, gas, and water utilities. These studies have included

**Maurice Brubaker**  
**Appendix A**  
**Page 1**

1 analyses of the cost to serve various types of customers, the design of rates for utility  
2 services, cost forecasts, cogeneration rates and determinations of rate base and  
3 operating income. I have also addressed utility resource planning principles and  
4 plans, reviewed capacity additions to determine whether or not they were used and  
5 useful, addressed demand-side management issues independently and as part of  
6 least cost planning, and have reviewed utility determinations of the need for capacity  
7 additions and/or purchased power to determine the consistency of such plans with  
8 least cost planning principles. I have also testified about the prudence of the actions  
9 undertaken by utilities to meet the needs of their customers in the wholesale power  
10 markets and have recommended disallowances of costs where such actions were  
11 deemed imprudent.

12 I have testified before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"),  
13 various courts and legislatures, and the state regulatory commissions of Alabama,  
14 Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia,  
15 Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri,  
16 Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania,  
17 Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia,  
18 Wisconsin and Wyoming.

19 The firm of Drazen-Brubaker & Associates, Inc. was incorporated in 1972 and  
20 assumed the utility rate and economic consulting activities of Drazen Associates, Inc.,  
21 founded in 1937. In April, 1995 the firm of Brubaker & Associates, Inc. was formed. It  
22 includes most of the former DBA principals and staff. Our staff includes consultants  
23 with backgrounds in accounting, engineering, economics, mathematics, computer  
24 science and business.

1           Brubaker & Associates, Inc. and its predecessor firm has participated in over  
2 700 major utility rate and other cases and statewide generic investigations before  
3 utility regulatory commissions in 40 states, involving electric, gas, water, and steam  
4 rates and other issues. Cases in which the firm has been involved have included  
5 more than 80 of the 100 largest electric utilities and over 30 gas distribution  
6 companies and pipelines.

7           An increasing portion of the firm's activities is concentrated in the areas of  
8 competitive procurement. While the firm has always assisted its clients in negotiating  
9 contracts for utility services in the regulated environment, increasingly there are  
10 opportunities for certain customers to acquire power on a competitive basis from a  
11 supplier other than its traditional electric utility. The firm assists clients in identifying  
12 and evaluating purchased power options, conducts RFPs and negotiates with  
13 suppliers for the acquisition and delivery of supplies. We have prepared option  
14 studies and/or conducted RFPs for competitive acquisition of power supply for  
15 industrial and other end-use customers throughout the United States and in Canada,  
16 involving total needs in excess of 3,000 megawatts. The firm is also an associate  
17 member of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and a licensed electricity  
18 aggregator in the State of Texas.

19           In addition to our main office in St. Louis, the firm has branch offices in  
20 Phoenix, Arizona and Corpus Christi, Texas.

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**Maurice Brubaker**  
**Appendix A**  
**Page 3**



**A TRUSTED ENERGY PARTNER**

# GMO Rate Consolidation Technical Conference #2



*May 23, 2015*



# Best Fit Impact Summary – Large Power

Large Power Service Class				
Impact	Previous Rate			
	MO730	MO944	MO735	MO945
<-50%	0	0	0	0
-50% to -40%	0	0	0	0
-40% to -30%	0	0	0	0
-30% to -20%	1	0	0	0
-20% to -10%	0	1	1	0
-10% to 0%	4	6	0	0
0% to 10%	88	56	15	8
10% to 20%	46	1	24	0
20% to 30%	0	0	0	0
30% to 40%	0	0	0	0
40% to 50%	0	0	0	0
>50%	0	0	0	0
Ave %	8.28%	3.78%	10.63%	3.08%
Total	139	64	40	8

# Best Fit Impact Summary – Large Power

Large Power Service Class				
Impact	Previous Rate			
	MO732	MO939	MO946	MO947
<-50%	0	0	0	0
-50% to -40%	0	0	0	0
-40% to -30%	0	0	0	0
-30% to -20%	0	0	0	0
-20% to -10%	0	0	0	1
-10% to 0%	0	2	2	4
0% to 10%	1	0	0	0
10% to 20%	2	0	0	0
20% to 30%	0	0	0	0
30% to 40%	0	0	0	0
40% to 50%	0	0	0	0
>50%	0	0	0	0
Ave %	9.53%	-4.79%	-6.58%	-8.45%
Total	3	2	2	5

# Best Fit Impact Summary – Large General

Large General Service Class						
Impact	Previous Rate					
	MO720	MO940	MO725	MO938	MO722	MO942**
<-50%	12	19	0	0	0	4
-50% to -40%	5	14	0	0	0	1
-40% to -30%	4	19	0	0	0	4
-30% to -20%	10	38	0	0	0	6
-20% to -10%	23	116	1	0	1	10
-10% to 0%	45	315	1	8	2	32
0% to 10%	667	474	3	0	51	45
10% to 20%	616	124	12	0	56	10
20% to 30%	67	0	6	0	1	0
30% to 40%	10	0	1	0	0	0
40% to 50%	3	0	0	0	0	0
>50%	4	0	1	0	0	0
Ave %	9.40%	-2.34%	20.35%	-4.47%	10.37%	-5.06%
Total	1466	1119	25	8	111	112

\*\*Best fit data for MO942 has been corrected since the direct filing. Corrected work papers will be included with the case update.

# Best Fit Impact Summary – Large General

Large General Service - Select Detailed View						
Impact	Previous Rate					
	MO720		MO940		MO942**	
	Count	Ave. Annual \$	Count	Ave. Annual \$	Count	Ave. Annual \$
<-50%	12	\$ (1,230.40)	19	\$ (1,626.46)	4	\$ (1,639.95)
-50% to -45%	2	\$ (1,903.64)	5	\$ (1,297.18)	0	\$ -
-45% to 40%	3	\$ (1,729.44)	9	\$ (1,522.68)	1	\$ (365.30)
-40% to -35%	1	\$ (3,123.74)	11	\$ (1,302.84)	1	\$ (1,679.00)
-35% to -30%	3	\$ (2,664.15)	8	\$ (1,497.65)	3	\$ (1,255.55)
-30% to -25%	4	\$ (1,982.31)	15	\$ (964.23)	1	\$ (85.74)
-25% to -20%	6	\$ (1,663.35)	23	\$ (1,214.44)	5	\$ (1,357.44)
-20% to -15%	8	\$ (1,321.12)	36	\$ (1,691.38)	5	\$ (1,158.68)
-15% to -10%	15	\$ (1,210.74)	80	\$ (1,087.92)	5	\$ (909.81)
-10% to -5%	10	\$ (625.77)	113	\$ (1,224.75)	9	\$ (1,723.01)
-5% to 0%	35	\$ (306.14)	202	\$ (836.71)	23	\$ (437.14)
0% to 5%	88	\$ 1,403.35	280	\$ 809.42	34	\$ 1,104.81
5% to 10%	579	\$ 4,099.12	194	\$ 1,354.09	11	\$ 1,520.23
10% to 15%	421	\$ 5,532.89	109	\$ 2,221.75	10	\$ 2,726.47
15% to 20%	195	\$ 6,836.22	15	\$ 2,855.95	0	\$ -
20% to 25%	45	\$ 9,101.27	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
25% to 30%	22	\$ 6,366.01	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
30% to 35%	6	\$ 14,845.35	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
35% to 40%	4	\$ 9,319.15	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
40% to 45%	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
45% to 50%	3	\$ 20,743.82	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
>50%	4	\$ 17,348.75	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Ave %	9.40%		-2.34%		-5.06%	
Total	1466	\$ 4,685.13	1119	\$ 178.02	112	\$ 235.74