

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

Midwest Energy Consumers Group,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
vs.)	<u>Case No. EC-2017-0106</u>
)	
Westar Energy, Inc.,)	
)	
Respondent)	
Midwest Energy Consumers Group,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
vs.)	<u>Case No. EC-2017-0107</u>
)	
Great Plains Energy, Incorporated,)	
)	
Respondent)	

STAFF’S COMMENT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Comment* on the pending *Motions to Dismiss*, states that it has reached an agreement¹ with Great Plains Energy and Kansas City Power & Light Company and, therefore, does not support a complaint concerning the proposed acquisition of Westar Energy, Inc. Staff states further that the agreement it has negotiated and the separate agreement negotiated by the Office of the Public Counsel, provide important protections and safeguards for Missouri ratepayers and avoid the uncertainty and expense of protracted litigation. With these safeguards, Staff’s

¹ Filed in Case No. EE-2017-0113.

concerns regarding the proposed acquisition have been addressed and Staff notes that the proposed transaction may result in benefits for Missouri ratepayers.

Staff respectfully requests to be relieved of the obligation to file recommendations in these cases as directed on October 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson

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Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served, either electronically or by hand delivery or by First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on all counsel of record this 8th day of November, 2016.

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson