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**History of Staff's Position Regarding**  
**GMO's Capacity Additions Since 2000**

Staff Exhibit No. 4  
Date 8/11/11 Reporter JL  
File No. EE-2009-0237

In 2000, Aquila, Inc. ("Aquila") entered into a five-year purchased power agreement ("PPA") to obtain capacity and energy from the exempt wholesale generator Aries Plant owned by Aquila Merchant and Calpine. At the time when Aquila was planning to replace the power and energy provided through this agreement, Aquila met with Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel twice a year to update them on Aquila's resource needs and plans to meet those needs. The only information given to Staff at those meetings was Aquila's presentation material. Staff provided feedback based on the presentation materials and statements made during the presentations. Staff did not do a formal or informal review of the resource plan updates presented at the meetings. Sometimes, if Staff felt that it was warranted, Staff would respond to Aquila after a meeting by a letter expressing its concerns.

Aquila issued a Request For Proposals ("RFP") in the spring of 2001 for capacity for the delivery of energy in June 2005. The proposals Aquila received included purchased power offers respecting merchant coal, combustion turbine ("CT") and combined cycle ("CC") plants. However, the electric industry changed considerably when Aquila was reviewing the proposals in 2002, so at the urging of Staff, Aquila reissued the RFP in early 2003. At the June 26, 2003 resource planning update meeting with Staff and Office of Public Counsel, Aquila presented the results of its analysis of the bids it received from this second RFP. Included in the responses were proposals for wind, coal, CTs, and CCs. All of the proposals except one were purchased power agreements. Aquila reviewed the bids and then contacted neighboring utilities to see

what other supply options might be available. All of the proposals, including available capacity that Aquila learned of from talking with neighboring utilities, were evaluated against the option of Aquila building a CT/CC plant.

At this June 26, 2003 meeting, Aquila told Staff that an "undisclosed" bidder had offered it an excellent bid for 600 MW, but Aquila could not tell Staff much about the bid at that time. Because this would be more than enough to cover its needs, Aquila felt that no other capacity was needed. Staff filed rebuttal testimony on September 10, 2003 in EF-2003-0465 stating its concerns regarding Aquila's need to replace the Aries contract. Staff learned in a data request response from Aquila in this case that this bid withdrawn and a substitute proposal was not offered to Aquila.

On January 27, 2004, Aquila again met with Staff, this time not in a resource planning meeting, but in a meeting to let Staff know about Aquila's power supply acquisition process for the next five years. In this meeting, Aquila's preferred/proposed resource plan over the short term was to build three combustion turbines and to enter into three-to-five year PPAs based off of the bids to the 2003 RFP. Staff was concerned regarding the short-term nature of Aquila's preferred/proposed plan, so three days later on January 30, 2004, Staff responded with a letter to Mr. Dennis Williams of Aquila in which Staff, expressed its concern regarding Aquila's short-sightedness. Staff also explained in the letter that it was Staff's belief that Aquila needed to be looking at base-load generation because Aquila should not become overly dependent upon short-term PPAs.

Aquila met with Staff on February 9, 2004 to provide its semi-annual resource update. This update, which took into consideration events over a twenty-year time



horizon, showed that Aquila's least cost plan was to build five 105 MW CTs in 2005 and to purchase a small amount of capacity on the market in 2005. Then, between 2005 and 2009, Aquila would meet its growth through purchases on the market; build a CT in 2009 and another in 2010. It also called for Aquila to pursue base load capacity for 2010. Aquila's preferred plan differed from the least cost plan only in that instead of building five 105 MW CTs in 2005, Aquila would build three 105 MW CTs in 2005 and enter into a 200 MW PPA in 2005.

At the next semi-annual update on July 9, 2004, Aquila still showed that the five 105 MW CTs plan was least cost; however the three 105 MW CTs with PPAs was still its preferred plan. Aquila had found a very good 75 MW PPA with Nebraska Public Power District ("NPPD"), but it was still pursuing the other PPAs upon which it had received bids. At subsequent resource planning update meetings Aquila provided updates on the three 105 MW CTs and Aquila's pursuit of PPAs. Other than the 75 MW PPA with NPPD, Aquila was unable to enter into a PPA of more than a few months duration.

Aquila followed its preferred plan by building three 105 MW CTs at its South Harper site near the City of Peculiar and entering into a short-term purchased-power contract for power {capacity and/or energy} from another plant owned by Aquila Merchant - the 300 MW Crossroads plant in Mississippi - to meet its capacity needs for 2005.

In Aquila's first general electric rate increase case after the expiration of the Aries PPA, Case No. ER-2005-0436, Staff asserted that, given the information available to Aquila from its resource planning process when Aquila decided how it would replace the power it was obtaining through the Aries capacity contract, Aquila should have built five



105 MW CTs. In that case, it was Staff's position that utilities should carefully do risk and contingency analysis of their resource plans and chose a resource plan that is robust across many scenarios of possible future events. That is still Staff's position. Prudently building and owning generation, whether it is base load, intermediate or peaking, provides price stability for Missouri consumers. PPAs are useful tools and are typically less expensive than building generation in the short-term, but they should not be relied upon as long-term solutions to capacity needs in the planning process without a firm long-term contract in hand. It was Staff position that, instead of relying on short-term PPAs, Aquila should have had five 105 MW CTs built by 2005 and that it then would have had that capacity available to serve its customers for the next thirty years.

This was the first case, Case No. ER-2005-0436, where, in lieu of costs based on Aquila's three 105 MW CTs South Harper power plant and a purchased power agreement, Staff included the costs of a new site with five installed 105 MW CTs in its case to approximate a self-build option for MPS. At that time there was ongoing litigation involving the South Harper power plant, so Aquila was again using short-term purchased power contracts to meet its capacity needs. The parties in Case No. ER-2005-0436 entered into a Stipulation and Agreement regarding fuel and purchased power expenses. The Stipulation and Agreement was silent regarding how Aquila should meet its capacity requirements.

In Aquila's next rate increase case, Case No. ER-2007-0004, Aquila was still relying on the three 105 MW CTs at South Harper and short-term PPA. Due to Aquila's continued litigation regarding the South Harper power plant, in this case Staff took the position that Aquila should have built five 105 MW CTs in 2005 to meet its capacity and

energy needs, which was consistent with Staff's position in Aquila's preceding rate case. In this case Staff and other parties entered into another Stipulation and Agreement regarding fuel and purchased power expenses that was silent on how Aquila should meet its capacity requirements.

Staff's position remained that Aquila should have built five 105 MW CTs early enough to meet its capacity needs in 2005. In 2008, Section 393.171 RSMo. was passed which allowed the Commission to grant Aquila a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CCN") for South Harper and the substation associated with it. The Commission granted Aquila a CCN for South Harper and the substation effective March 28, 2009 in Case No. EA-2009-0118.

Aquila obtained this CCN during the pendency its next rate increase case (Case No. ER-2009-0090). By that time Great Plains Energy had acquired Aquila and had renamed it KCP&L – Greater Missouri Operations Company ("GMO"). Once the legal issues surrounding South Harper were resolved and the Commission had granted Aquila a CCN for South Harper, Staff's position changed and Staff included the capacity and running costs of the three 105 MW CTs at South Harper in its cost of service determination for GMO, but Staff maintained its position that Aquila should have built five 105 CTs in 2005, not three. Again, in Case No. ER-2009-0090, Staff and other parties entered into another Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement regarding fuel and purchased power expense which was silent on how GMO should meet its capacity requirements.

As a part of this Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement filed on May 22, 2009 in Case No. ER-2009-0090, GMO did agree to provide an analysis to be conducted

by GMO regarding the Crossroads units and capacity additions for the Company. GMO provided this analysis to Staff and parties on May 31, 2010. This study was based on adding capacity at 2009 costs and included the generic CTs at 2009 costs. However, the time GMO needed capacity was the summer peak season of 2005, at the same time as when the Aries PPA expired. Aquila's least cost plan was to build five CTs instead of the three Aquila built at South Harper to be in service during summer of 2005. So GMO's analysis provided to Staff on May 31, 2010, was not useful for determining the prudence of Aquila's actions in 2005.

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