

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

Midwest Energy Consumers Group,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. EC-2017-0107
)	
Great Plains Energy Incorporated,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

APPLICATION TO INTERVENE BY THE CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF MISSOURI

COMES NOW the Consumers Council of Missouri (“Consumers Council” or “CCM”), by and through counsel, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075, and respectfully applies for intervention as a party in this complaint case, initiated by Midwest Energy Consumers Group on October 11, 2016.

In support of this application, Consumers Council states as follows:

1. Consumers Council is a non-governmental, nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation that is dedicated to educating and empowering consumers statewide and to advocating for their interests. Consumers Council of Missouri was originally founded in 1971 as Utility Consumers Council of Missouri, and has participated in numerous cases at the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”), including previous KCPL rate cases.

2. Correspondence, communications, orders and the decision in this matter should be addressed to:

John B. Coffman
John B. Coffman, LLC
871 Tuxedo Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63119-2044
Ph: (573) 424-6779
E-mail: john@johncoffman.net

3. Consumers Council's interest in this matter relates to potential detriments that may result to *residential* electric customers from the proposed merger of Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy, the owner of Kansas City Power & Light Company. This interest is different than the general public interest represented by the Office of the Public Counsel.

4. Consumers Council believes strongly in just and reasonable regulation of monopoly utilities, which includes appropriate regulatory review of mergers and acquisitions involving regulated Missouri utilities in order to ensure that no public detriments result from such transactions. Consumers Council believes just as strongly in the principal of *transparent* regulation, which allows for a full and fair public examination of those merger and acquisitions which involve Missouri utilities or the corporations that control those utilities.

5. The agreement that Great Plains Energy, Inc. ("GPE")¹ entered into with Westar Energy, Inc. ("Westar") for GPE to acquire Westar clearly falls within the purview of the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission's") regulatory and statutory jurisdiction to review. Moreover, the Commission had the jurisdiction and authority to review the 2001 proposal by Kansas City Power & Light Company ("KCPL") to reorganize in the manner that created the GPE holding company. In that regulatory review, Case

¹ GPE is a Missouri holding company that owns 100% of Kansas City Power & Light Company, a regulated Missouri electrical corporation.

No. EM-2001-464, the Commission approved the creation of GPE, but only approved that restructuring based upon the essential condition that GPE agree it would not directly or indirectly acquire a public utility unless it had requested prior approval for such transaction and the Commission had found that no detriment to the public had occurred from that transaction.² The Commission retains the jurisdiction and the right to enforce the commitments made in that Order and Stipulation.

6. Consumers Council believes that the public deserves a full hearing to review the joint application and all aspects of the proposed merger. Consumers Council reserves the right to provide the Commission with more detailed positions in this rate case, following further review of the testimony and supporting materials.

7. Consumers Council believes that its intervention and participation in this proceeding would serve the public interest, and wishes to become a party to this case for all purposes.

WHEREFORE, Consumers Council respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Application to Intervene, entitling it to fully participate in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 23, 2016

/s/ John B. Coffman

John B. Coffman MBE #36591
John B. Coffman, LLC
871 Tuxedo Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63119-2044
Ph: (573) 424-6779
E-mail: john@johncoffman.net
Attorney for Consumers Council of Missouri

² Case No. EM-2001-464, Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement and Closing Case, approving the First Amended Stipulation, Paragraph 7, p. 13.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all parties listed on the official service list on this 23rd day of October, 2016.

/s/ John B. Coffman
