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4	STATE OF MISSOURI
5	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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7	IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF GREAT PLAINS
8	ENERGY, INCORPORATED, KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY AND AQUILA, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF THE MERGER OF AQUILA, INC. WITH A SUBSIDIARY OF GREAT PLAINS ENERGY
9	INCORPORATED AND FOR OTHER RELATED RELIEF
10	Case No. EM-2007-0374
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13	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
14	PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE
15	VOLUME 8
16	FEBRUARY 28, 2008
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1 2 STATE OF MISSOURI 3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 4 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 5 Pre-Hearing Conference 6 February 28, 2008 7 Jefferson City, Missouri 8 Volume 8 9 10 In the Matter of the Joint ) Application of Great Plains 11 ) Energy Incorporated, Kansas City ) 12 Power & Light Company and ) Aquila, Inc., for Approval of ) Case No. EM-2007-0374 the Merger of Aquila, Inc. with ) 13 ) a Subsidiary of Great Plains 14 Energy Incorporated and for ) Other Related Relief ) 15 16 NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding, DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE 17 18 19 20 REPORTED BY: 21 Patricia A. Stewart RMR, RPR, CCR 22 Midwest Litigation Services 3432 West Truman Boulevard, Suite 207 23 Jefferson City, Missouri 65109 (573) 636-7551 24 25

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PROCEEDINGS 1 2 JUDGE DIPPELL: This is Case 3 No. EM-2007-0374 in the matter of the joint application of 4 Great Plains Energy Incorporated, Kansas City Power & 5 Light and Aquila, Inc., for approval of the merger of 6 Aquila, Inc. with a subsidiary of Great Plains Energy 7 Incorporated and for other related relief. 8 My name is Nancy Dippell, and I'm the 9 regulatory law judge assigned to this case, and we've come here today for a pre-hearing conference. 10 11 I believe I've already ordered for you to 12 file either a joint procedural schedule or the procedural 13 schedule that the parties who do not agree with the one 14 that has already been proposed, to file your proposals, 15 and I believe that deadline is Monday. 16 Is it Monday or Tuesday? MR. DOTTHEIM: Tuesday, I believe, 17 18 March 4th. JUDGE DIPPELL: March 4th, yes. 19 20 I'd like to go ahead then and begin with 21 entries of appearance, and I'm just going to go down my 22 list. 23 So Great Plains Energy. 24 MR. FISCHER: Yes. Let the record reflect the appearance of James M. Fischer and Curtis Blanc this 25

morning for Great Plains and Kansas City Power & Light 1 2 Company. Our addresses will be reflected on written 3 entries. 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. 5 Aquila. 6 MS. PARSONS: Yeah. This is Renee Parsons 7 with Aquila, and we also have James Swearengen and Paul 8 Boudreau with Brydon, Swearengen and England, representing 9 Aquila today. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: And KCP&L. MR. FISCHER: Yes, James Fischer and Curtis 11 12 Blanc. 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Black Hills Corporation. 14 MR. DEFORD: Paul DeFord with the law firm of Lathrop & Gage, 2345 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, 15 16 Missouri 64108, appearing on behalf of Black Hills Corporation. 17 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Mr. DeFord and those of you that aren't sitting near a microphone, if we get into 19 20 anything beyond entries of appearances that the parties on 21 the phone might need to actually hear, I think you'll have 22 to come up and speak into a microphone. For now that's 23 fine. 24 Staff. 25 MR. DOTTHEIM: Steven Dottheim, Kevin

1 Thompson, Nathan Williams, Sarah Kliethermes, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on 2 3 behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service 4 Commission. 5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Counsel. 6 MR. MILLS: On behalf of the Public Counsel 7 and the public, my name is Lewis Mills. My address is Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 8 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: AG Processing, Praxair and Sedalia Industrial. 10 11 MR. WOODSMALL: Yes, Your Honor. Let the record reflect the appearance of David Woodsmall and 12 Stu Conrad of the firm of Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson. 13 14 Our address has previously been noted in the record. 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Dogwood Energy. 16 MR. LUMLEY: Carl Lumley of the law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe, 130 South Bemiston, 17 18 Suite 200, Clayton, Missouri 63105. JUDGE DIPPELL: City of Independence. 19 20 MR. ROBBINS: Good morning, Your Honor. 21 Alan Robbins with the law firm of Jennings, Strouss and 22 Salmon, 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington 23 D.C. 20006, on behalf of the City of Independence. 24 And I'd like to also enter the appearance of 25 Allen Garner and Dayla Schwartz on behalf of the City of

1 Independence.

2 Do I need to enter their addresses in the 3 record, that we previously entered, of course? 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: I think I can get those 5 addresses to the court reporter. MR. ROBBINS: Okay. I do have them handy if 6 7 you'd like them. 8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Go ahead with them. 9 MR. ROBBINS: The Law Department, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: City of Kansas City. 11 12 Is there anyone? 13 MR. COMLEY: Yes, there is. 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Excuse me, Mr. Comley. 15 MR. COMLEY: Let the record reflect the 16 entry of Mark W. Comley today of Newman, Comley and Ruth for the City of Kansas City and also for Cass County. 17 And the record will reflect that there are 18 other attorneys that represent both entities, and for the 19 sake of my voice, I'm just going to let the record speak 20 21 as it is for those other attorneys, if that's all right. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: I appreciate that, 23 Mr. Comley. Sorry that you're not feeling well today. 24 IBEW Locals. MS. WILLIAMS: This is Jane Williams on 25

behalf of all of the IBEW locals from the law firm of 1 Blake and Uhlig. The address is 753 State Avenue, 2 3 Suite 475, Kansas City, Kansas 66101. JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. 4 5 City of St. Joseph. 6 Seeing neither Ms. Young or Mr. Steinmeier. 7 City of Lee's Summit. 8 South Harper Residents. Mr. Coffman, are 9 you --MR. COFFMAN: Yes. On behalf of the 10 individuals identified as the South Harper Residents, my 11 name is John B. Coffman. My address is 871 Tuxedo 12 13 Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63119. 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: The U.S. Department of Energy, Nuclear Security Administration. 15 16 Seeing no one for them. 17 Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility 18 Commission. Mr. Stewart actually notified me by e-mail 19 20 that he had a conflict and would not be attending today. 21 All right. Is there anyone else that I 22 missed? 23 All right then. Well, like I say, we basically came here today to get this case moving again. 24 25 I've been asked to find out from some of the

1 Commissioners your thoughts on the timing of this and whether or not there are known objections to the 2 3 procedural schedule that has been proposed by the Company 4 at this point. 5 Mr. Mills, do you have any comments on that? 6 MR. MILLS: Well, given the Commission's 7 schedule and the Commission's apparent desire to move this along fairly quickly, as well as the joint applicants' 8 9 desire, I don't know that I have any real alternative to 10 the hearing dates that the joint applicants have proposed. We're going to have some discussion today about some of 11 12 the intervening events. 13 But the end game, the hearing dates, I think 14 we're willing to live with that that the joint applicants have proposed. 15 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Mr. Woodsmall, 17 do you have any comments on that? 18 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, I would agree with what Mr. Mills said. I think later on in this 19 proceeding we're going to be talking about the 20

21 possibilities of some depositions.

22 So long as the joint applicants make such 23 deponents available and provide us with access to records 24 and those individuals, we will agree to the hearing dates. 25 If something changes as far as the

1 availability of those witnesses, we will be seeking to change those hearing dates. 2 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Does anyone else have 4 comments they'd like to share? 5 Mr. Dottheim. MR. DOTTHEIM: Yes. I would like to 6 7 indicate similarly, as Mr. Mills and Mr. Woodsmall indicated, so long as the Staff obtains timely responses 8 9 from the joint applicants to discovery by the Staff, data requests, and as Mr. Woodsmall indicated, depositions that 10 11 the Staff is going to propose, the evidentiary hearing 12 dates of April 21 to May 2 will be acceptable to the 13 Staff, but we're looking forward to discussing that with 14 the joint applicants this morning. 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Are there any other comments about the current proposed procedural schedule? 16 17 We've got some interference on the phone over there. 18 MR. FISCHER: Your Honor, on behalf of Great 19 Plains and Kansas City Power & Light, we certainly would 20 21 like to work with the parties to resolve the procedural 22 questions. 23 We have not been approached about any 24 outstanding requests for depositions or DRs, but we'd 25 certainly be willing to work with the folks to try to get

1 that taken care of so that we can have a timely hearing. It appears that Missouri may be the last to be reviewing 2 3 this particular transaction. 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Does anyone anticipate 5 asking this case to be closed and a new one opened after 6 reviewing the additional supplemental testimony? 7 I'm not seeing any comments in that way. 8 With the proposal that the -- or the 9 revisions to the earlier proposal that the company has put forward, I realize you've only had a couple days to look 10 at it, not even that, but are there -- can you give me 11 12 your sense of the issues that remain outstanding? 13 Is it still the -- I guess my question is, have the issues been lessened by these filings? 14 15 Mr. Mills. MR. MILLS: Well, certainly that's one of 16 17 the things that we hoped to talk to the joint applicants 18 about today, but, you know, we can go through the list of issues that were originally proposed and I can tell you at 19 20 least my take on whether or not those are still at issue. 21 The overview, I mean, that was never really 22 a contested issue per se. 23 Merger Synergy Savings, the sharing proposal, the sharing proposal may certainly be different 24 25 than it was initially proposed. I think there still needs

1 to be something in the record, and whether or not it's a contested issue or not, with regard to Synergy Savings, 2 3 because if they're not Synergy Savings, then it's going to 4 be more difficult for the joint applicants to prove that 5 the transaction is not detrimental. So I think we still 6 need to be talking about Synergy Savings. 7 In terms of transaction cost recovery, I think that is still an issue as I read the second or 8 9 third -- whatever the most recent supplemental direct testimony is. I think the transaction cost recovery is 10 still at issue. 11 12 Actually debt cost recovery, I think that one may be off the table, as I read the testimony, but, 13 14 again, we'll need to firm that up. The additional amortization mechanism, that 15 one is a little more questionable. I mean, it doesn't 16 17 seem to be a request in the same way that it was 18 originally requested. It's still discussed in Mr. Giles' testimony. So whether or not that's an issue I think is 19 20 still up in the air. 21 Affiliate transactions rule waiver, I think 22 that is still an issue. 23 Service quality, I think regardless of how anything else goes, service quality is always going to be 24 25 an issue.

1 And then with respect to -- and I'm looking at the original list of issues, and I'm up to Roman 2 3 Numeral VIII. There are a number of issues, VIII, IX, X 4 and XI, that are really issues more towards -- that 5 were -- that were pushed, for lack of a better word, by 6 the intervenors, and I'm not going to address those. Most 7 of them are on the phone or here and can address that. 8 The legal issues, certainly some of the 9 legal issues are still very much at issue. No. 1, for example, have the joint applicants received approval from 10 the Board for the integration of operations? I think that 11 12 is an open question. 13 Whether they've sought authorization for the integration of operations I think is still an open 14 question. 15 16 No. 3 under legal issues, I think that's 17 still an open question. The net detrimental test, certainly that is 18 still an issue. And the transaction -- affiliate 19 20 transaction rule, I think those are all still issues. 21 And, you know, some of them may certainly be 22 different or lessened than the original ones, and they 23 may, in fact, not even be contested. But I think they're 24 still issues that will ultimately need to be decided by 25 the Commission.

JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Thank you for 1 going through that for me. 2 3 Mr. Woodsmall, I'm coming to you guys first, 4 because in the original hearing it seemed that you-all and 5 Staff were the sort of lead on some of these major issues. 6 So would you agree with Mr. Mills at this 7 point? 8 MR. WOODSMALL: I would agree that 9 Mr. Mills' characterization is accurate. It may change based upon what we talk about today and what we discuss. 10 And, certainly, if there are changes, that 11 will be reflected either in our procedural schedule or in 12 13 some other list of issues or something to the Commission. JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Thank you. 14 And Mr. Dottheim. 15 16 MR. DOTTHEIM: Yes, I would agree with 17 Mr. Mills. 18 In particular, I might note on Issue No. V, additional amortization mechanism, that, in particular, 19 the issue that may still be involved with that item, even 20 21 with the testimony that was filed on Monday of this week, 22 is the applicability of the Missouri Supreme Court 23 decision in 2003, the State ex rel AG Processing decision, 24 which I think in one manner or another is possibly covered 25 under the legal issues, which is under Section XII also.

1 Actually, there may be an additional issue that will be addressed this morning that is not on the 2 3 list that has arisen in the intervening time that I think 4 various of the parties want to broach with the joint 5 applicants, which are the reason in particular for the 6 depositions that have been mentioned, is an item that 7 various of the parties will add to the list of issues, and will either be jointly agreed to or will be submitted by 8 9 individual parties on next Tuesday with the filing of that schedule for March 4. 10 11 So there's at least one, and I think it may be only one additional issue, that will be presented to 12 13 the Commission that is not on the listed issues that was filed with the Commission on November 21, 2007. 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Thank you, 15 16 Mr. Dottheim. For the parties who represent the cities and 17 the other intervenors that had sort of individual issues, 18 are there any additions or any issues that have been 19 resolved by the additional testimony? 20 21 MR. ROBBINS: Your Honor, Alan Robbins for 22 the City of Independence. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. 24 MR. ROBBINS: We have ongoing discussions 25 that may affect the issues that concern us, but, you know,

1 those discussions remain ongoing. So I cannot predict the -- you know, what the resolution, if any, might be. 2 3 Putting that aside, I'm not aware of 4 anything in the filings that alter the scope of issues as 5 far as the City is concerned. 6 Separately from the scope of issues -- if 7 I'm a little untimely with this discussion, I apologize -but I do have one comment on the proposed schedule. 8 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. MR. ROBBINS: Should I raise that now? 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes, go ahead. 11 12 MR. ROBBINS: And that is that the proposal of starting the hearing the week starting April 21st, as I 13 14 understand it, and, of course, that's the week following the week for which hearings in the pending case involving 15 Aquila's application to participate in MISO will be held. 16 17 And it would certainly be helpful to have 18 more than a day or two in between the two hearings. And I would think that if Your Honor and other parties agree, 19 20 that it might be well to consider slipping the 21 commencement of this hearing by one week, so that there's 22 at least one full week in between those two hearings, 23 those proceedings, where efforts relating to them are going to overlap necessarily in certain respects, but 24 25 having the hearing room back to back, you know, adds to

1 the difficulty, and that's one part that I think could be 2 avoided.

JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. I'm going to -- I 3 4 mean, that's the kind of thing I was wanting to know, if 5 there was going to be some opposition to those weeks. 6 And so I will let you all discuss that part 7 and again make either a joint recommendation or your 8 opposition to that, and we'll let the Commission decide 9 it. Mr. Mills, you look like you want to say 10 11 something. 12 MR. MILLS: The only thing I was going to add to that is I'm certainly -- because I'm going to be in 13 14 that MISO hearing as well, but if you start pushing in any different direction, things pop up somewhere else. 15 16 And if you push it back a week, then you 17 butt up against the beginning of the Empire rate case hearing, which many of us will be involved in. 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Right. 19 20 MR. MILLS: I would love to have time off 21 between those two, but it's not always going to work out 22 as well as we'd like it to. There is just going to be a

23 lot of hearings right in a row.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Right. And if you all can't 25 reach an agreement, then, like I say, you'll just have to

bring those -- because that's the kind of thing you'll 1 have to bring to the Commission's attention, and 2 3 ultimately if you can't agree to those particular weeks, 4 then the Commission will have to make the decision. 5 But thank you, Mr. Robbins. That's the kind 6 of thing I was wanting to know about. 7 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you, Your Honor. 8 JUDGE DIPPELL: And was there anyone else on 9 the phone that had comments about the pending issues? MS. WILLIAMS: This is Jane Williams for the 10 Union. I would echo what Mr. Robbins said about my 11 clients as well. We have ongoing talks and nothing has 12 13 necessarily been resolved, so I cannot predict the outcome of that either. 14 15 However, you know, nothing has changed with regard to the outstanding issues that you all have talked 16 about. I mean, we don't have any more or less interest in 17 18 any of those. JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. 19 20 Anyone else on the phone? 21 All right then. 22 MR. DOTTHEIM: Judge Dippell. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes, Mr. Dottheim. 24 MR. DOTTHEIM: Maybe I just might broach 25 this, and maybe somebody can correct me if I'm mistaken.

1 But I thought back in December when we were in hearings, we were getting very close to, the parties 2 3 that had issues, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI -- that is 4 transmission and RTO/ISO criteria, municipal franchise and 5 energy audit, quality of service plan and earnings sharing 6 mechanism and future rate case, we were on the verge of, I 7 thought, agreeing to submit that to the Commission on the record that had been created. 8 9 So I don't know if those talks can be revived again and whether some agreement might be able to 10 be reached. 11 12 Also, I hesitatingly broach this. I've indicated that from the Staff's perspective, with timely 13 14 responses to discovery and agreement on depositions, the hearing dates proposed by the joint applicants are okay 15 16 with the Staff. 17 Hopefully we can fit it into two weeks. 18 Based upon how fast we were moving back in December, maybe we should even look at a third week. I haven't looked to 19 see if the Commission's schedule is open for a third week, 20 21 but that's maybe something we should even discuss when we 22 break. 23 But those are the only other thoughts that 24 the Staff has. JUDGE DIPPELL: Well, certainly any 25

stipulations with regard to submitting testimony, and if 1 there is not a request by the Commission for those 2 3 witnesses to appear, that will certainly speed things up. 4 Yes, I think we set some kind of slow-pace 5 record for the first four days of hearing on this, but I 6 have faith that because of that, things will move along a 7 little more efficiently when we get to starting this 8 hearing again. 9 Well, that brings me to, were there any 10 other comments about the issues? Anyone else? MR. FISCHER: Judge, I haven't really 11 12 commented. 13 Certainly our intention when we filed the motion for leave to file additional supplemental direct 14 testimony and notice to withdraw certain regulatory plan 15 request was to take three of the most hotly contested 16 issues off the table and try to resolve those and simplify 17 the hearing, and we would hope that that will indeed move 18 19 the process forward in a more expeditious way. 20 I'd also like to let the Commission know 21 that yesterday the joint applicants did file a joint 22 motion and settlement agreement in the Kansas 23 jurisdiction. 24 And it appears that the other jurisdictions that have reviewed the Black Hills' transaction have also

1 moved forward, and it looks like Missouri will be the last jurisdiction to deal with this particular transaction. 2 So we would like to move it forward 3 4 expeditiously and get the transaction closed as soon as we 5 can. 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Let me -- that 7 just brings up the motion to file the supplemental 8 testimony. 9 Would there be any objection to that motion? I'm not hearing any, and I'm going to grant 10 11 that motion. 12 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, along those lines, not an objection to filing it, of course, there may 13 be objections to what's in it and --14 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: It's not being admitted into 16 evidence. MR. WOODSMALL: And there is questions about 17 whether it truly consists of direct testimony, but those 18 can be addressed at the hearing. 19 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: It's merely a motion to 21 file the testimony and make amendments to their case 22 basically. 23 All right. And, also, we still have --Mr. Woodsmall, there is still a pending motion for partial 24 25 summary determination.

In light of the new revised testimony, do 1 you believe that that motion is still relevant? 2 3 MR. WOODSMALL: I'm not -- I can't give you 4 a definitive answer right now. I think after we have 5 discussions here today, I'll know more. 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. 7 MR. WOODSMALL: We'll certainly let you know if that needs to be dismissed based upon what they've put 8 9 in their testimony and what we agree to. We'll certainly 10 do that. JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Yeah. That's one of 11 the things that I will need to know is whether that motion 12 13 is being revived or whether it's now moot. 14 All right. And I think I might have cut somebody else off on the phone earlier. Was there someone 15 else that was going to make a statement? 16 17 Okay. Not hearing any. 18 Well, I think that's all of the questions 19 and items I wanted to bring up, except that if we do go forward with the hearing, then we'll try to stick with our 20 21 exhibit numbering scheme that we had going. If you have 22 questions about what number you're on, you can ask me. I 23 do actually have a coherent list. 24 If you have questions about what is highly

confidential and what is not, I also actually have that

25

1 figured out.

2 Mr. Mills. 3 MR. MILLS: I can tell you right now I would 4 appreciate getting that list. I think that would be very 5 helpful. 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll publish a list of 7 the hearing list exhibits, as well as the formal rulings 8 from the last -- that's sort of my master list of that, 9 and that will make it a little easier for you all to pre-mark your exhibits and stuff for the hearing going 10 11 forward. 12 MR. MILLS: Great. Thank you. 13 MR. ROBBINS: Your Honor, this is Alan Robbins for the City of Independence. 14 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. 16 MR. ROBBINS: This may be more for the parties than Your Honor, but in response to an earlier 17 comment, if I heard it correctly, and I'm not sure who the 18 speaker was, but there was an indication that the parties 19 20 may have been close on certain issues, including RTO, 21 criteria participation I think was described. 22 I just want it noted that I'm not aware of 23 that. I'm not voicing an objection, but I'm not sure what 24 that reference is to. And we'd be happy at the 25 appropriate time to engage in discussions about that with

the parties. But since it was mentioned on the record, I
 just wanted to clarify that.

3 I'm not sure that the City of Independence
4 is familiar with whatever discussion or nearness there may
5 be there.

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: I think that was 7 Mr. Dottheim's comment, and I believe what he was 8 referencing was that there were some discussions during 9 the hearing of submitting that testimony as it was and not 10 having formal cross and so forth. I don't believe it was 11 as to an actual resolution of the issues but as to the 12 procedure to get that evidence on the record.

13 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you.

JUDGE DIPPELL: Are there any other issues that should be brought to my attention or the Commission's attention at this time?

All right. I appreciate you all coming in or appearing by phone. I will say that the phone line is open until 5:00 as long as two parties stay on it. It is not secure, in that you don't have to have a password to get in it, but I only gave the number out to parties. So unless some party has given it out, it should only be the parties on the line.

24 Seeing nothing further then, that should 25 conclude the on-the-record portion of the hearing, and we

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3	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
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5	I, Patricia A. Stewart, RMR, RPR, CCR, a
6	Certified Court Reporter in the State of Missouri, do
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