

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

In the Matter of the Application of)
Great Plains Energy Incorporated for)
Approval of its Acquisition of)
Westar Energy, Inc.)

Case No. EM-2017-0226

Staff's Notice of No Objections

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Notice of No Objections*, states as follows:

1. On February 23, 2017, Great Plains Energy, Inc. (“GPE”), filed its *Application for Approval of Transaction; Motion to Consolidate Proceedings and Schedule Procedural Conference; and Motion for Expedited Treatment*. Among other relief, GPE requests (1) waiver of the 60-day notice requirement imposed by Rule 4 CSR 240-4.020(2)(B); (2) consolidation of this case with pending case EE-2017-0113; and (3) expedited treatment, such that if a hearing is held, it is held so that a final order in this matter may be effective not later than April 24, 2017.

2. On February 24, 2017, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice, Setting Deadlines, And Scheduling Procedural Conference*. Therein, the Commission directed that objections to GPE's motion to consolidate proceedings be filed not later than February 28, 2017; and that objections to GPE's motion for expedited treatment be filed not later than March 2, 2017.

3. Staff hereby advises the Commission, GPE, and all stakeholders and intervenors, including the Office of the Public Counsel, that it has no objection to any of the three requests detailed in Paragraph 1, above.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Notice of No Objections*; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson

Kevin A. Thompson
Chief Staff Counsel
Missouri Bar Number 36288
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail on each of the parties listed in the Service List for this case maintained by the Commission's Data Center on this 27th day of February, 2017.

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson