

**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 Merger with Westar Energy, Inc.)) File No. EM-2018-0012

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S
REPLY BRIEF**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC” or “Public Counsel”) and submits its Reply Brief in this case stating its support for all of the provisions of the Stipulation and Agreement it signed that was filed on March 8, 2018 in this proceeding, including the WHEREFORE clause on p. 10, which reads in full as follows:

WHEREFORE, the Signatories recommend that the Commission find that the merger of Great Plains Energy Incorporated and Westar Energy, Inc., as contemplated by the July 9, 2017 Amended and Restated Agreement and Plan of Merger and pursuant to the provisions of the 2018 S&A as supplemented herein, is reasonable and not detrimental to the public interest. The Signatories further recommend that the Commission approve this Stipulation and Agreement subject to the conditions contained herein, and grant the variance requested in Paragraph 17 of the 2018 S&A regarding 4 CSR 240-20.015 and 240-80.015 as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event with an effective date no later than June 5, 2018. (emphasis added)

The terms of the Second Stipulation and Agreement does not contemplate nor require the conclusion of proceedings in other jurisdictions as necessary to the determination of this case.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel recommends the Commission approve the January 12 and the March 8 Stipulations.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hampton Williams

Hampton Williams

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 13th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Hampton Williams