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THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS Oral Arguments October 2, 2015 Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 2 STAFF OF THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, Complainant, File No. EC-2015-0315 VS. UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI, Respondents. MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE. DANIEL Y. HALL, Chairman STEPHEN M. STOLL (by phone), WI LLI AM P. KENNEY, SCOTT T. RUPP, COMMI SSI ONERS. **REPORTED BY:** ANGLE D. THRELKELD, CCR TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

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1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Let's go ahead 2 and get started. 3 We're here today for oral arguments in a complaint brought by Staff against Ameren Missouri. It's 4 File Number EC-2015-0315. 5 We'll begin today by taking entries of 6 7 appearance, beginning with Staff. 8 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. Kevi n 9 Thompson for the Staff of Missouri Public Service 10 Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 11 65102. 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. 13 And for Public Counsel. 14 MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Judge. For Public 15 Counsel, I'm Tim Opitz, PO Box 2230, Jefferson City, 16 Missouri 65102. 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for Ameren Missouri. 18 MR. LOWERY: Good morning, Judge. Jim 19 Lowery, Smith Lewis, LLP, PO Box 918, Columbia, Missouri 20 65205, appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri. 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for the Division of 22 Energy. 23 MR. ANTAL: Appearing on behalf of the 24 Missouri Division of Energy, Alexander Antal, 301 West 25 High Street, PO Box 1157.

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1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you. 2 As I indicated, we're here today for oral 3 argument on cross-motions for summary determination. And I'll ask you to come up to the podium when you make your 4 5 statements. 6 The commissioners are invited to respond with 7 questions at any time they wish or, if they want to wait 8 until the end, they can do that too. So we'll have kind 9 of a free forum argument here. 10 So we'll begin with Staff. 11 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. If I may, 12 Judge, I'd like to do a couple of introductions before I 13 start the argument. I have two new employees here today, 14 Senior Counsel Mark Johnson and Jacob Weston, who have 15 just joined the Commission. 16 CHAIR HALL: Wel come. 17 MR. THOMPSON: I have some handouts here. 18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. 19 MR. THOMPSON: Do you want copies for the 20 commissioners who aren't here? 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes, if you have them. 22 MR. THOMPSON: I do. Here you go, sir. 23 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you. 24 MR. THOMPSON: Here you are, sir. 25 CHAIR HALL: Thank you.

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1	MP THOMPSON: May it plaase the Commission
	MR. THOMPSON: May it please the Commission.
2	As the Judge said, we're here on cross-motions for
3	summary determination. The case is a complaint case
4	brought by the Staff against Ameren Missouri, a regulated
5	electric utility located in the St. Louis area.
6	The Commission can grant summary
7	determination if it finds that there are no material
8	facts in dispute, if any party is entitled to a favorable
9	determination as a matter of law, and if the public
10	interest supports granting summary determination. That's
11	Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.117, Sub 1.
12	What's this case about? Staff charges that
13	Ameren Missouri was required to provide updated avoided
14	costs to its evaluators for the purpose of calculating
15	the net-shared benefits in the process of determining
16	Ameren Missouri's performance incentive award. Now, that
17	sounds like a lot of gobbledygook, and I will explain
18	what all of those terms mean.
19	This case is brought in the context of the
20	Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act and the plan
21	that Ameren Missouri submitted and that the Commission
22	approved with some modifications in 2012 providing for a
23	three-year energy efficiency plan.
24	Staff contends that by providing the wrong
25	avoided cost information to its evaluators that Ameren

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violated Rule 4 CSR 240-20.093(1)(F), which is drawn from 1 2 the Commission's rules regarding the Missouri Energy 3 Efficiency Investment Act, in particular the rules describing how a DSIM will work. A DSIM is a demand-side 4 5 investment mechanism, and it is the way that the utility 6 receives money for doing the energy efficiency 7 activities. 8 The rule says, in part, that the utility 9 shall use the same methodology used in its most recently 10 adopted preferred resource plan to calculate avoided 11 costs. This is a definitional section defining what 12 avoided costs are. Staff understands the phrase most 13 recently adopted preferred resource plan to mean the 14 avoided costs from Ameren Missouri's most recent 15 integrated resource plan under Chapter 22 of the 16 Commission's rules, which was filed in October of 2014. 17 MEELA is guite complicated. The integrated 18 resource planning rules are quite complicated. But, 19 fortunately, this case is not particularly complicated. 20 It focuses on Staff's charge or allegation that a rule 21 was violated; that Ameren Missouri engaged in one piece 22 of conduct, one activity that violated this particular 23 rul e. The conduct was providing the not updated avoided 24 cost information to the evaluator. 25 The rule that we claim was violated is Rule 4

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1	CSR 240-20.093(1)(F), which I'll just refer to as 1(F)
2	for brevity's sake in the future, the one that we that
3	Staff understands to require the methodology used in the
4	most recently adopted preferred resource plan.
5	Ameren says that its conduct did not violate
6	the rule. Ameren admits that it provided the what
7	Staff would call the stale or unupdated avoided cost
8	information to the evaluator. It admits it, but it says
9	that didn't violate anything. Its argument is that,
10	number one, the rule doesn't mean what Staff says it
11	means; and, number two, that Staff has excuse me, that
12	Ameren has complied with what it thinks the rule actually
13	requires; and, number three, Ameren asserts that its
14	approved plan specifically provides that avoided costs
15	won't be updated, and it points to another rule that it
16	says supports its interpretation. So that's what this
17	case is about.
18	MEELA, which is the background to this
19	dispute, the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act
20	created by the Missouri General Assembly in 2009, it says
21	that it will be the policy of the state to value
22	demand-side investments equal to traditional investments
23	in supply and delivery infrastructure and allow recovery
24	of all reasonable and prudent costs of delivering cost
25	effective demand-side programs.

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1 The supply side. The demand side. The 2 supply side in the electric industry is generation, 3 generation and the transmission and delivery of that 4 energy and that capacity to customers. That's the supply 5 si de. The demand side are the customers. The theory 6 behind energy efficiency is that if we use the power and 7 capacity that we have more efficiently, we will not have 8 to build new supply-side resources. We will not need new 9 power plants if we use the electricity we already have, 10 the generation, the capacity that already exists more 11 efficiently.

12 And some very smart people have thought about 13 numerous ways that both industry and consumers can reduce 14 their power use. And Ameren's MEELA plan consists of a 15 portfolio of, I think it's about 13 different programs, 16 some aimed at consumers, some aimed at industry or 17 business, each of which has been determined to have a 18 particular cost and to result in particular energy and 19 capacity savings.

In implementing the plan, Ameren makes these programs available to the targeted group of customers and encourages the customers to adopt them. And it basically counts how many of each type have been deployed. It's a three-year program; how many of these things have been deployed over these three years. At the end the costs of

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deploying these programs are added up. Those are the
 program costs. And that's one component of this DSIM,
 because the law requires that Ameren will recover its
 reasonable and prudent program costs.

5 How much money did Ameren lose by encouraging 6 people to use energy and capacity more efficiently? ١n 7 other words, in the traditional electric utility world, 8 they make more money if they sell more electricity. lf 9 they sell more service, they make more money. So because 10 the law requires us to value the demand-side investment 11 just as we value the traditional supply-side investment, 12 Ameren has to be compensated for the power it did not 13 sell.

14 The way that's done in Ameren's MEELA is by 15 giving Ameren a particular share of what's called the 16 net-shared benefits, and the net-shared benefits are the 17 projected benefits going 20 years of all of these 18 deployed energy efficiency methods added up. Ri ght? Got 19 You have so many instances of each program. 13 programs. 20 Each one has been rated both for its costs and its 21 potential savings. You add that all up, and you 22 calculate the net-shared benefits. You multiply the 23 energy and capacity and T & D, which is transmission and 24 distribution, costs that have been saved; you multiply 25 that by the avoided costs; and you get the net-shared

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benefits. And so for the lost revenue part, it's been
 replaced by giving Ameren a percentage of net-shared
 benefits.

But what we're arguing about today is the 4 5 third part of their program, the third part, which is the 6 performance incentive. Another element that the statute 7 requires is that the utility be given an investment 8 They have to have an opportunity to earn a opportunity. 9 return on the investment that they're making on the 10 demand-side programs. In the traditional utility world 11 they make a return on their investments on the supply 12 That's what our rate cases are all about; right? si de. 13 They build a new plant; the plant goes into rate base; 14 the Commission determines the rate of return, which is 15 the cost of capital; and over the years the utility earns 16 not just a return on, but a return of the cost of that 17 plant, because they also will get back the money they put 18 into it through depreciation expense. That's the 19 traditional world.

So now under MEELA you have to give them an investment earning opportunity on the demand-side program. That's the performance incentive award, the utility incentive. That's what we're here fighting about.

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Under the law a DSIM may include a utility

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1	incentive based on the achieved performance level of
2	approved demand-side programs. Okay? We all agree
3	that's there. We're fighting over how to calculate it.
4	How do you calculate it? Ameren's DSIM includes
5	\$49.1 million in each of three program years. That's a
6	total of 147.3 million over three year the three-year
7	life of the plan for program costs. That's what it's
8	costs to deploy these energy efficiency plans, programs,
9	methods, whatever you want to call them. Ameren gets all
10	of that back, subject only to a prudence question.
11	They also get 30.45 million in each of three
12	program years. That's the projected throughput
13	disincentive. That is the lost revenues, the share of
14	net-shared benefits that they get to compensate them for
15	the energy they did not sell to make them whole for
16	giving up that opportunity to sell more energy. And
17	that's subject to a true-up. So the actual amount might
18	be more, might be less. That's 91.35 million over three
19	years.
20	The last component is the performance
21	incentive award. Using the numbers in Ameren's plan, the
22	projected numbers, at 100 percent, meaning that they do
23	every bit of the energy efficiency activities that they
24	had projected, that comes to \$18.75 million. That's
25	about 7 percent of the total. So the part that we're

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fighting about is the smallest part of Ameren's Cycle 1 MEELA plan, the very smallest part.

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3 Now, like the throughput disincentive, or the lost revenue piece, which the throughput disincentive 4 5 replaces, the performance incentive award is also a 6 percentage of the net-shared benefit. And as I told you 7 earlier, the net-shared benefit is calculated by taking 8 avoided costs and multiplying that by the energy and 9 capacity and T & D that have been saved. How do you know 10 how much has been saved? It's an estimate. It's 11 projected. It's figured out by the EM & V evaluators. 12 Right? There's a third-party evaluator hired by Ameren 13 who calculates these things, and it's based on the number 14 of programs that have been deployed and the rating of 15 each program.

16 Now, so that's the background. That's the 17 context. And I realize that it's complicated and maybe 18 doesn't even make sense with me attempting to explain it. 19 The fight is about how do we calculate the net-shared 20 benefit. We all agree they're going to get a percentage 21 of the net-shared benefit, but the question is how big is 22 that pie that's going to be cut up? If they use the 23 updated avoided costs, the 2014 avoided costs that Staff 24 says the rule requires them to use, then the pie is going 25 to be smaller. The pie is going to be smaller because

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the energy market has changed.

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Ameren filed an integrated resource plan in 2011, and that included a projection of costs based on the energy markets at that time. When they filed their MEELA, which was not quite a year later, the energy markets had changed from the 2011 LRP, so the avoided costs that Ameren used in its MEELA plan were already a change from the 2011 LRP.

9 Now it's 2015. Now it's time to calculate 10 the performance incentive award, which is paid over two 11 years after the end of the three-year plan. After the 12 end of the plan. And the 2014 IRP filed last October, a 13 year ago, the energy markets had changed still further. 14 Energy and capacity was worth less money. Because it was 15 worth less money, the pie will be smaller. Even if 16 Ameren meets a hundred percent of its goal, the 17 net-shared benefits will be smaller if they're calculated 18 using the avoided costs from the 2014 IRP. Staff's 19 contention is that Rule 1(F) requires that those be the 20 avoided costs that are used.

l'm putting up on the Elmo -- doesn't quite
all fit. This is a graph that Mr. Rogers prepared that
shows the change from the figures used in the MEELA
application -- here we go -- to the 2014 IRP. The red
line, which you can see shows the most significant

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1	change, is the line for capacity. There is also a blue
2	line for energy, and a green line for T & D. So and
3	you understand that these figures are a 20-year
4	projection of estimated savings. Both of them are
5	projections. Both of them are estimates. The argument
6	is whether Ameren should use the most up-to-date or most
7	recent estimates in calculating this performance
8	incentive award. Staff says it should.
9	Staff's position is what kind of a percentage
10	of a performance award is it if it's not based on actual
11	performance as best as we can measure. Ameren has
12	replied and said, well, that's a moving target; those
13	estimates are always going to change because the market
14	is dynamic, right, the market is constantly changing; any
15	day you sit down and calculate that, you're going to get
16	a different number. That's absolutely true; but the
17	rule, in Staff's view, requires them to use the numbers
18	from the most recent adopted preferred plan. That's just
19	the way it is.
20	Now, Ameren will tell you that they complied
21	with the rule, they have not changed their method. What
22	the rule talks about is methodology. And a methodology
23	is a method, a process. It doesn't actually include the
24	numbers. But we looked at our dictionary. I don't know
25	if you can see that. This is from the unabridged

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1	dictionary we have upstairs. It says that the
2	methodology is the processes, techniques, or approaches
3	employed in the solution of a problem or in doing
4	something; a particular procedure or set of procedures.
5	In other words, a methodology can be how you attack a
6	particular problem, how you attack a particular problem.
7	And let me show you, this is the specific
8	methodology from Ameren's MEELA application. See that
9	decision tree? That's what's used and don't ask me
10	how, but that's what was used to calculate avoided costs.
11	That was the avoided cost information used in calculating
12	or projecting the NSB in the MEELA plan, the Cycle 1
13	MEELA plan.
14	Ameren's argument is we haven't changed it.
15	But this (indicating), this is from the 2014 IRP. I wish
16	I could get them both up here at the same time; but
17	there's copies of them, I think, in the handouts I gave
18	you. You can see that that chart is radically different,
19	radically different from the first chart that I showed
20	you. It reflects the changes in the market. The changes
21	have caused a significant change to the specific method
22	that Ameren is using. We think the rule requires them to
23	now go with that specific method, the method from the
24	2014 IRP.
25	Ameren also claims that its plan specifically

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1 says that avoided costs will not be updated. I'm sure 2 you've looked at what they filed, and you'll recall that 3 they've reproduced a table -- I don't have a copy of it here -- a table from their plan with red X's and green 4 5 checks indicating which things would be updated and which 6 things would not be updated. But Staff believes that the 7 intention of the parties, as reflected in the 2012 8 stipulation, the stipulation that settled AmMO's --9 excuse me, Ameren's MEELA Cycle 1 application case where 10 the parties said, okay, we'll adopt your plan with 11 certain changes, we'll ask the Commission to approve it, 12 the Commission did, Staff's view is that the intention of 13 the parties, as reflected in that stipulation, is that 14 for the calculation of this one little piece, the 15 performance incentive award, the intent was to get the 16 real world achievement as closely as possible. So not 17 just the kilowatts saved and the capacity saved, as 18 calculated by EM & V, but also the updated -- the most 19 up-to-date avoided cost information from the 2014 IRP. 20 Staff believes that it should be awarded 21 summary determination in this case because we've shown 22 that Ameren Missouri has violated Rule 1(F), as I told 23 you at the beginning. 24 Thank you. 25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Mr. Chairman.

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1 CHAIR HALL: Good morning. 2 MR. THOMPSON: Good morning. 3 CHAIR HALL: Let me start with this: Do you 4 believe that the Commission has any discretion on this 5 matter? 6 MR. THOMPSON: I believe you do. The rule 7 says that you have to determine that the public interest 8 supports granting summary determination. So you have 9 discretion on granting summary determination. 10 CHAIR HALL: But in terms of our 11 determination as to which interpretation is correct, do we have discretion? 12 13 MR. THOMPSON: No, I don't believe so. 14 CHAIR HALL: So if we were to determine that 15 Staff's interpretation is correct, would it -- would it 16 be Staff's position that -- well, the relief you 17 requested included asking general counsel to go to 18 circuit court and seek damages. 19 MR. THOMPSON: You certainly have discretion 20 over that. 21 CHAIR HALL: Okay. Explain that to me. 22 So -- so you believe that -- that we do not have 23 discretion as to our interpretation of the language; we 24 do have discretion as to whether or not we go to circuit 25 court and seek damages?

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1MR. THOMPSON: Right, I do believe that.2CHAIR HALL: And is that just inherent i3atatute that outborizes up to go to airquit equate of	
	in the
3 statute that authorizes us to go to circuit court of	ris
4 there something are you pointing us to some speci	ific
5 I anguage?	
6 MR. THOMPSON: I believe it's in the sta	atute
7 that authorizes penalties.	
8 CHAIR HALL: Okay.	
9 MR. THOMPSON: I don't think the Commiss	si on' s
10 ever required to seek penalties.	
11 CHAIR HALL: Going to the chart that you	u just
12 identified, and I'm looking at page 5 of Ameren's	
13 memorandum of law in support of its motion for summa	ary
14 disposition, avoided costs, and then there's a big 2	X. My
15 copy doesn't have color, but evidently that's red.	And
16 the description says the avoided energy capacity and	d
17 T & D values are deemed. What does deemed mean in -	that
18 context, according to Staff's interpretation?	
19MR. THOMPSON:I believe it means assume	ed.
20 CHAIR HALL: Does that mean that so	they
21 are assumed, but they can vary?	
22 MR. THOMPSON: I think I think they'	re
23 assumed in the sense that they're not going to be	
24 determined through EM & V. EM & V is the process the	ne
25 evaluator goes through in determining the energy and	d

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capacity and T & D that was saved. And and, really,
they're saying it's going to be one set of numbers. The
argument is which set? Staff says the later set. They
say the earlier set.
CHAIR HALL: So, in other words, they're
going to be provided by the Company based upon an
estimate?
MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIR HALL: And so the question is which
estimate?
MR. THOMPSON: Exactly. Yes, sir.
CHAIR HALL: Whereas the number of measures
will be measured as part of the evaluation process?
MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIR HALL: What is what does what
does that mean in the context of this chart?
MR. THOMPSON: The evaluation process is the
EM & V, which is evaluation, measurement, and
verification I believe, that is carried on by the
third-party evaluator, who's contracted by Ameren.
There's also an auditor, a separate auditor, who then
checks the results produced by the evaluator.
CHAIR HALL: So one number is an estimate;
the other is an actual result?
MR. THOMPSON: It's partially actual and

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1 partially an estimate --2 CHAIR HALL: Well, aren't they both? 3 MR. THOMPSON: -- if that makes sense. 4 CHAIR HALL: Aren't they both, actually? Part actual? 5 Part estimate? 6 MR. THOMPSON: I think so, yes, sir. 7 CHAIR HALL: What is the difference then 8 between the two? 9 MR. THOMPSON: Well, the differences are 10 where do they come from --11 CHAIR HALL: Okay. 12 MR. THOMPSON: -- when were the calculations 13 made, and who made the calculations. Those are 14 differences. The avoided cost information, whichever 15 estimate you use, it was calculated by Ameren Missouri. 16 CHAIR HALL: But couldn't another 17 interpretation be that the difference is that one is 18 updated and one isn't? 19 MR. THOMPSON: It could be. 20 CHAIR HALL: But you don't believe that's the 21 proper interpretation? No, sir, I don't. I think the 22 MR. THOMPSON: 23 rule requires that it be updated. 24 CHAIR HALL: You've alluded to there being a 25 smaller pie if -- if the 2014 IRP is used, as opposed to

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1	the 2011 IRP. And I have spent some time, as has my
2	office, trying to figure out exactly how much smaller
2	
	that pie is. Do you know?
4	MR. THOMPSON: No, sir, I don't.
5	CHAIR HALL: I mean, how many dollars are we
6	talking about here?
7	MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Rogers might know, if
8	CHAIR HALL: I mean, is it is it in the
9	briefing anywhere? Because I couldn't find it.
10	MR. ROGERS: I could answer the question this
11	way: That amount has not been determined
12	CHAIR HALL: Let me stop for a second.
13	Judge, do we need to swear him in for this or
14	JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're here for a motion for
15	summary determination, so we're not really supposed to be
16	taking evidence. But we can swear him in, if the parties
17	don't object.
18	MR. LOWERY: Well, I think I do object.
19	We're on a summary determination motion. The material
20	facts have been stipulated to as undisputed. No one has
21	suggested that this is a material fact to the legal
22	question before you, and that's whether the summary
23	determination is supposed to be granted.
24	So if the question is whether summary
25	determination ought to be granted, then we're stuck with

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1 the facts that the parties have agreed to are the 2 material facts. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. He can answer -- it's 4 my understanding he can answer the question, but it would 5 not be evidence in the case. 6 MR. LOWERY: And I would have no idea of his 7 And I -answers. 8 CHAIR HALL: Yeah. 9 MR. LOWERY: -- I think Mr. Rogers is a 10 perfectly honest person. I don't want there to be any 11 suggestion to the contrary. But I would have no idea if 12 what he's saying is correct or not. 13 CHAIR HALL: Let me withdraw that question 14 for the time being. And, instead, on page 10 of Ameren's 15 memorandum of law in support of its motion for summary 16 disposition, page 10, first full paragraph, it says, 17 Table 7.8 from the 2011 IRP shows the avoided costs 18 underlining the IRP, while Table 3.14 from the report 19 shows the avoided costs used for the MEELA 1 plan. 20 assume that both of those tables in both of those 21 documents are in evidence, are in the record. 22 So can somebody -- would -- would Counsel for 23 Ameren object if someone were to tell me what those two 24 numbers are? 25 MR. LOWERY: I don't have any objections to

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1 you taking notice of those numbers. They're not in the 2 record, per se. The numbers are different, and everybody 3 agrees the numbers are different. 4 CHAIR HALL: Okay. So what are those numbers? 5 6 MR. LOWERY: I don't know. I don't have that 7 information with me. 8 Okay. Mr. Thompson, you said --CHAIR HALL: 9 and I guess all the parties agree, and maybe I'm the only 10 one that doesn't understand that -- but the determination 11 of the avoided costs only re-- that are in dispute here 12 only relate to the performance incentive? 13 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 14 CHAIR HALL: Why do they not also relate to 15 the lost sales in -- in that the -- looking at your --16 your brief -- your suggestions in support of your motion 17 for summary judgment on page 7 where you are describing 18 the lost revenue requirement, it includes taking into 19 account all changes and costs? What is -- what is --20 what is -- the changes in costs, I guess that does not 21 include avoided costs? It's --22 MR. THOMPSON: It --23 CHAIR HALL: -- a separate calculation? 24 MR. THOMPSON: -- specifically includes 25 avoided costs. And the reason that in the stipulation

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1 and agreement --2 CHAIR HALL: By excluded -- and I'm sorry to 3 interrupt. MR. THOMPSON: 4 No. 5 CHAIR HALL: By excluded, do you mean it 6 doesn't take that into account? It's not subtracting it 7 from it; it just it doesn't take it into account? 8 MR. THOMPSON: It doesn't update it. 9 CHAIR HALL: It doesn't take it into account? 10 It's irrelevant in determining --11 MR. THOMPSON: It's still used to calculate 12 the NSB. In other words, to get -- to get to dollars, to 13 get the savings and energy and capacity and the T & D, to get from that to dollars, you have to multiply it times 14 15 the value of those things, and --16 CHAIR HALL: Then why --17 MR. THOMPSON: -- then you get dollars. And 18 NSB, the net-shared benefit, is a pot of money. It's 19 And so when you give Ameren Missouri a share of dollars. the net-shared benefits, you're giving them money. 20 In 21 the parties' stipulation and agreement that modified the 22 plan Ameren had submitted and which the Commission 23 approved, there is an Appendix A -- I don't have it 24 here -- that refers to the calculation of what they call 25 the TD-NSB, the throughput disincentive /net-shared

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1 benefit, because the lost revenue component has been 2 replaced with a percentage of the net-shared benefit. 3 And that Appendix A specifically provides that avoided costs will not be updated. So that's why we don't 4 5 believe that the rule applies --6 CHAIR HALL: So --7 MR. THOMPSON: -- to that part of it. 8 CHAIR HALL: So for the throughput 9 disincentive/net-shared benefit there is no disagreement 10 that it is appropriate to use avoided costs consistent 11 with the 2011 IRP? 12 Well, they'd already been MR. THOMPSON: 13 modified when they filed the MEELA application. They'd 14 been somewhat modified at that time, and Staff accepted those modifications. 15 CHAIR HALL: 16 But you're not arguing that they 17 need to be modified again? 18 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir, we're not. We're 19 accepting them. 20 CHAIR HALL: And you -- and can you point to 21 me again -- I'm sorry I may be going in circles here. 22 But can you point to me again what rule you are relying 23 on for why it does not need to be updated for the 24 throughput disincentive/net-shared benefit but it does 25 need to be updated for the performance incentive award?

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1 MR. THOMPSON: It's a provision on 2 Appendix A --3 CHAIR HALL: Okay. Can someone get me Appendi x A? 4 MR. THOMPSON: -- to what we're calling the 5 6 2012 stipulation. 7 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, I have a copy of 8 Appendix A. I will need it back for my argument, but I 9 can let you look at it. 10 CHAIR HALL: You know where I -- where I 11 Live. 12 MR. LOWERY: And it has some highlighting 13 that doesn't appear in the original. So just to put that 14 caveat. 15 CHAIR HALL: Thank you. 16 MR. LOWERY: Oh, I'm sorry, that's Appendix 17 B. Never mind. You asked for Appendix A. I don't have 18 it with me. 19 MR. OPITZ: I gave Kevin my copy. 20 CHAIR HALL: Must not be important enough. 21 MR. LOWERY: I don't believe it is for this 22 case, Your Honor. But others may disagree. 23 MR. THOMPSON: I've just been corrected by 24 Mr. Rogers. 25 CHAIR HALL: Okay.

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1	MR. THOMPSON: If you knew how little I know
2	about MEELA.
3	CHAIR HALL: I don't think you want to go
4	there, Counsel.
5	MR. THOMPSON: I apologize. Mr. Rogers has
6	corrected me. The stipulation the parties made included
7	a list of rules that they asked to be waived. The rule
8	that Staff is relying on in this case was not one of
9	them. That rule is specific to the calculation of of
10	what, the performance incentive?
11	Anyway, Mr. Rogers is telling me that it was
12	a rule a rule was waived and that's why Staff
13	understands that for the calculation of the NSB for the
14	throughput disincentive, the avoided costs are not
15	updated.
16	CHAIR HALL: Okay. All right. I was
17	intrigued by by the one particular argument that
18	Ameren made and then by your by Staff's response to
19	it; and that is Ameren made the argument that if we were
20	to adopt Staff's interpretation, it would essentially be
21	treating MEELA like a lottery.
22	MR. THOMPSON: Right.
23	CHAIR HALL: That if if we take your
24	interpretation and energy prices go down significantly,
25	avoided costs go down significantly, and then the

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1 performance award goes down proportionally --2 MR. THOMPSON: Right. 3 CHAIR HALL: -- and that's not what Ameren signed up for, and that would be unfair. Staff responded 4 5 with the argument that under -- under Missouri law we are 6 to treat demand-side resources the same way as 7 supply-side resources, and the -- and on supply-side 8 resources that lottery is baked into the regulatory 9 process; that -- that if -- if energy costs go down 10 substantially between rate cases, Ameren wins the lottery; if -- if Ameren -- if energy prices go up in 11 12 between rate cases, Ameren loses the lottery. Didl 13 properly describe Staff's response to Ameren's argument? 14 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. It's not so much 15 whether the market changes, although that certainly does 16 affect how much money they're going to make in the 17 traditional utility paradigm. But, for example, because 18 part of their fixed costs are recovered through 19 volumetric rates, whether or not they recover all of 20 their fixed costs is dependent on how much energy they 21 sell. 22 So if -- if energy sales are flat, then maybe 23 they'll recover all their fixed costs; maybe they won't. 24 If they're not -- if they add new customers, then they'll 25 recover more. And that's how it was in the halcyon days

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1 of the '60s and '70s when they were building out like 2 topsi es. 3 CHAIR HALL: So, I mean, you're just giving 4 another example of how the lottery, in quotes, is part 5 and parcel of --6 MR. THOMPSON: Right. 7 CHAIR HALL: -- a process? So it's not just 8 fuel costs; it's also consumption. 9 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir, it's --10 CHAIR HALL: It's also employee salaries? 11 MR. THOMPSON: It's every cost. 12 CHAIR HALL: It's every -- it's all costs 13 that go into a revenue requirement. If they -- if they 14 move in one direction between rates cases, if they -- if 15 they go down between rates case, they win the lottery; if 16 they go up between rate cases, they lose the lottery? 17 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 18 CHAIR HALL: I don't have any further 19 questions for now, though I'm fairly convinced I'll have a few more later for Staff, as well as other counsel. 20 21 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, sir. 22 CHAIR HALL: Thank you. 23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Commissioner Stoll. 24 25 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no additional

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1	munations I thank Mn. Thompson for for his energing
1	questions. I thank Mr. Thompson for for his opening
2	statement, and I so I will pass at this point.
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you.
4	Do I have any other commissioners on the
5	telephone line? Apparently not.
6	Commissioner Rupp.
7	COMMISSIONER RUPP: Will you walk me through
8	what you handed out, all these different charts? Can you
9	put one of them up on top on the last page? Just walk me
10	through
11	MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
12	COMMISSIONER RUPP: why I should pay
13	attention to these charts.
14	MR. THOMPSON: The three charts that go down
15	the left-hand side they're marked Chart 1, Chart 2,
16	and Chart 3 show the change in avoided cost of energy,
17	avoided cost of capacity, and avoided T & D costs between
18	the 2011 IRP, which is the blue line on each of those,
19	the MEEIA Cycle 1 application, which is the red line on
20	each of those, and the 2014 IRP, which is the green line.
21	So it shows how those have each changed from those three
22	different points at which they've been estimated that
23	we've been talking about.
24	Chart number 4 compares the changes in
25	avoided costs from the 2011 IRP, the earliest of the

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1 estimates that we've talked about today, and the estimate 2 that Ameren filed with its MEELA Cycle 1 application. 3 And on this chart, energy is blue, capacity is red, T & D 4 is green. The final chart, Chart 5, which is the one I 5 6 attempted to show a large version of, shows the change 7 from the MEELA Cycle 1 application to MEELA Cycle 2, 8 which is identical to the 2014 IRP. So it's a change --9 it's the change from the avoided costs used with the 10 application that Ameren Missouri filed to start this 11 Cycle 1 plan and the 2014 IRP estimate, which is the one 12 we say they should use. 13 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So the last two charts on 14 the right column is the crux of what you're arguing 15 about? 16 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 17 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So Ameren's position is 18 Chart 4 and Staff's position is Chart 5, if I had to 19 summarize that? 20 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 21 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Thank you. 22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right then, thank you. 23 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. 24 CHAIR HALL: Let me follow up with that, 25 because that was actually really, really helpful for me.

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1 So on Chart 5 where it says Avoided Costs for MEELA Cycle 2 2, that is the 2014 IRP? 3 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 4 CHAIR HALL: Okay. Thank you. 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We'll move over to Public 6 Counsel. 7 MR. OPITZ: Judge, may I approach? 8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sure. 9 MR. OPITZ: I've got a few handouts. 10 Mr. Chairman. 11 CHAIR HALL: Thank you. 12 May it please the Commission. MR. OPITZ: So 13 the two handouts that I've provided I reference in Public 14 Counsel's response to the Company's motion for summary 15 One of them is Appendix B taken from the determination. 16 2012 stipulation and agreement, and the other one is page 17 22 taken from the Company's 2012 MEELA plan. 18 If I may first address one of the questions 19 as to how big the pie is, I will say that's really why 20 we're here. We're trying to determine how big that 21 amount of money should be for the performance incentive. 22 And it's Public Counsel's position that without updating those avoided costs, we can't know how big that amount of 23 24 money will be. 25 Staff alleges that -- in its complaint that

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1	the Company has provided incorrect inputs for avoided
2	costs to the third-party evaluator, in violation of
3	Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-20.093(1)(F). And I'll refer
4	to that as 1(F), as did Staff counsel. That particular
5	rule, as you've heard, requires that the utility should
6	use the same methodology used in its most
7	recently-adopted preferred resource plan to calculate its
8	avoided costs. Public Counsel agrees that Staff is
9	correct, that the Company's required that rule
10	requires the Company to use the same methodology as was
11	used in its most recently-adopted preferred resource
12	plan. And the Staff is also correct that the Cycle 1
13	stipulation, although it includes many express waivers
14	for other Commission rules, does not include a waiver for
15	this rule.
16	So what does this rule violation mean to
17	ratepayers? As I mentioned at the beginning, it's about
18	determining the amount of money that Ameren Missouri gets
19	for performance incentive. Failing to use the updated
20	avoided costs results in an improper calculation of the
21	Company's performance incentive award.
22	And if I may touch on the lottery commentary,
23	this shouldn't be a lottery. This should be a
24	determination of what the best as we can tell, the
25	actual impact of the Company's MEELA program has been.

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1 Under the Cycle 1 estimation, the Company 2 will recover money in three ways. First, the program 3 costs. Second, for the throughput disincentive. And, third, for the performance incentive. At issue in this 4 5 case is the performance incentive. 6 As it was set up in the Cycle 1 stipulation 7 for Ameren, Ameren has an opportunity to recover a 8 percentage of the net benefits for both the throughput 9 component and for the performance incentive component. 10 Importantly, the Cycle 1 stipulation provides two 11 distinct methods for calculating the net benefits; one 12 for the throughput disincentive, and a second for the 13 performance incentive. 14 And so what does the Cycle 1 stipulation say 15 about calculating the net benefits? Well, the 16 stipulation contains specific terms related to -- in the 17 text of the stipulation, terms related to the calculation 18 of the net-shared benefits for the throughput, and then 19 another paragraph related to the net-shared benefits for 20 the performance incentive. In addition to the text of 21 the stipulation, there is included two appendice-- well, 22 multiple appendices. But for those two net-shared benefits calculations, there's Appendix A, which is 23 24 related to the throughput disincentive calculation, and 25 Appendix B, which is related to the performance incentive

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2 Of particular consequence here, the Cycle 1 3 stipulation specifies within the body of the stipulation that Ameren will be allowed to recover the performance 4 5 incentive, which is a percentage of net-shared benefits 6 as described in Appendix B. Appendix B, which I provided 7 to you -- to you earlier, includes example calculations 8 for determining the performance incentive award. 9 Importantly, the examples in Appendix B make clear that 10 Ameren's performance incentive is based on a percentage 11 of actual net benefits.

12 Further, Appendix B on the second page 13 contains a footnote that explains actual net benefits are 14 based on actual program costs for the three-year MEELA 15 plan and the actual megawatt-hour savings, as determined 16 by EM & V. And this instruction is in contrast to the 17 method for determining the benefits for purposes of the 18 throughput, as in Appendix A or in the body of the 19 stipulation. The throughput does not measure and verify 20 the actual energy savings. It uses deemed values from 21 the TRN. This footnote clarifies that the performance 22 incentive requires EM & V to determine the energy savings 23 so that the actual net benefits can be calculated for the 24 performance incentive.

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So what do the avoided costs have to do with

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1	calculating the actual net benefits? Well, avoided costs
2	are the benefits to customers. And the second handout
3	that I provided is taken from Ameren's 2012 plan. And on
4	page 22, line 6 the Company explains, Benefits are
5	clearly defined as the avoided costs, which include
6	energy, capacity and transmission and distribution costs.
7	In other words, these avoided costs are the very essence
8	of the benefits that customers receive under the MEELA
9	program.
10	Because the Company is to receive a
11	percentage of the shared benefits, it follows that
12	updating these avoided costs is indispensable to
13	determining what the actual benefits are. Without
14	updating these avoided costs, Ameren is not actually
15	compensated as a percentage of benefits based on
16	evaluation, measurement and verification but, rather, on
17	a percentage of some predetermined number, the number
18	that Ameren used in 2012 when they signed the stipulation
19	and agreement.
20	The terms of the Cycle 1 stipulation require
21	Ameren to calculate the actual net benefits. Instead,
22	Ameren applies the method that the parties agreed to use
23	for the calculation of benefits for the throughput
24	disincentive but uses that method to calculate the
25	performance incentive. And by using that throughput

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1 disincentive method, the Company just simply keeps the 2 avoided costs the same and seeks to base its performance 3 incentive payout on predetermined values that are not reflective of the benefits that customers have 4 5 experienced. 6 The terms of the Cycle 1 stipulation provide 7 that the performance incentive will be based on a 8 percentage of net benefits, as described in Appendix B. 9 In turn, Appendix B requires that the performance 10 incentive is a percentage of actual net benefits. 11 Calculating the net benefits requires updating the 12 avoided costs, because avoided costs are the benefits 13 created. 14 Commission Rule 1(F) requires that the 15 avoided costs be calculated using the same methodology 16 used in the Company's most re-- excuse me, most 17 recently-adopted preferred resource plan to calculate 18 avoided costs. And so, consistent with the Cycle 1 19 stipulation and with that Commission Rule 1(F), Ameren 20 must use the avoided costs that were used in its most 21 recently-adopted resource plan when it calculates actual 22 net benefits. 23 Public Counsel believes that the Cycle 1 24 stipulation is clear that Ameren's performance is to be

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based on a percentage of actual net benefits. It's

1	undisputed that the Company did not provide or use the
2	updated avoided costs. And by failing to do so, Ameren
3	has not calculated the actual net benefits, as required
4	by the Cycle 1 stipulation or by Commission Rule 1(F).
5	The Commission should require the Company to abide by
6	this rule and abide by the Cycle 1 stipulation to
7	calculate its performance incentive to calculate that
8	the size of the pie using these avoided updated costs
9	updated avoided costs.
10	Without a Commission order requiring the
11	Company to follow this rule, ratepayers will inequitably
12	and unlawfully be forced to pay Ameren a performance
13	award that is based on projected benefits rather than the
14	actual benefits that ratepayers have experienced under
15	the Company's MEELA program.
16	Thank you.
17	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman.
18	CHAIR HALL: Is it really a matter of
19	determining actual benefits as opposed to a more updated
20	estimate, because isn't that what it's about? I mean
21	I mean, in terms of avoided costs, we have to employ an
22	estimate, and it's just a matter of whether we do an
23	estimate from 2011 versus an estimate from 2014.
24	MR. OPITZ: The avoided costs I think that
25	you are you are right, to calculate benefits you do

1 need to look at the estimate from either the earlier, 2 the -- as Staff called it, the stale avoided costs or the 3 more recent avoided costs from the 2014. CHAIR HALL: I mean --4 5 MR. OPITZ: In -- in --6 CHAIR HALL: -- isn't your position that --7 that by -- by using more updated estimates, you're 8 getting closer to actual, still not actual? 9 MR. OPITZ: Yes. 10 CHAIR HALL: Is that your position? MR. OPITZ: Yes, that's -- that's the best 11 12 estimate of actual that we can determine. And those are 13 the benefits that customers are realizing at the time of 14 the calculation. And -- and -- and we believe that the 15 rule requires the use of these more recent avoided costs. 16 CHAIR HALL: Looking at Commission Rule 1(F), 17 utility shall use the same methodology, what does 18 methodology mean? I mean, is -- well, I'll leave it at 19 What does -- what does methodology mean? Do you that. 20 agree with Mr. Thompson that we should -- we should go to 21 Webster's and look -- and use that definition of 22 methodology and that answers the question? 23 MR. OPITZ: Yes, we support Staff's 24 interpretation of -- that the methodology requires 25 updating these --

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1 CHAIR HALL: Right. But, I mean, what does -- what does methodology mean? Is it an equation or 2 3 is it inputs or is it both? MR. OPITZ: I think that it can be both, and 4 5 I think that in this case it is both. 6 CHAIR HALL: Is there any question as to --7 as to whether or not the same equation was used, and the 8 only question is what inputs to put into that equation? 9 MR. OPITZ: I don't believe that that was a 10 material fact that Public Counsel disputed. 11 CHAIR HALL: And is it -- is it your position 12 that we don't know the monetary effect of adopting one or 13 the other of these two interpretations because the 14 numbers have not been run by Ameren's independent 15 evaluator using the 2014 IRP for avoided costs? 16 MR. OPITZ: Yes. And I don't know that they 17 haven't run that, but that hasn't been provided to Public 18 Counsel or, to my knowledge, to the Staff. 19 CHAIR HALL: Would Public Counsel be taking 20 the same position in this case, assuming that this case 21 had been brought, if energy prices had increased 22 dramatically from 2011 to 2014? 23 MR. OPITZ: I believe so. So -- and here's 24 why --25 CHAIR HALL: Which would have been a position

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1 contrary to the pocketbooks of ratepayers. 2 MR. OPITZ: The -- to explain that, I guess, 3 if I may step back to the big picture of the MEEIA statute, which is to value supply-side investment equal 4 5 to energy efficiency or demand-side investment. And 6 because of that, the, I guess, sub-picture is that 7 ratepayers should only pay Ameren for the value of the 8 energy savings caused by its programs. And that's sort 9 of more related to the throughput disincentive, the value 10 of the energy savings that have been caused by the 11 But for here, the performance incentive, Company. 12 because we have a stipulation and agreement that dictates 13 Cycle 1 which said that the Company gets a percentage of 14 these net-shared benefits that the MEELA program causes, 15 our position is, consistent with the overall, I should 16 say, policy that the Company should get what makes it --17 makes it -- rewards it for the actions they cause, we 18 need to calculate the actual benefits, as best we can, 19 using the most recent information. And here it happens 20 to be that doing so will likely -- and we don't know for 21 sure -- will make the pie smaller or the performance 22 incentive amount smaller. 23 Going forward I don't think that that some --24 that's some -- now, that was part of a stipulation and 25 agreement. I don't know whether our office would support

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1	compthing like that going forward. We light the MEELA
1	something like that going forward. We in the MEELA
2	application we put forward a very different mechanism
3	than what is here. But that's not at issue. This is
4	what we what the parties established in 2012. And I
5	think to be fair to both ratepayers and to the Company
6	requires that we look at the benefits caused by these
7	programs for the performance incentive. And for the
8	throughput disincentive we believe that the statute
9	requires that it be the energy savings cau value of the
10	energy savings caused by the Company's programs.
11	Now, that's not at issue in this case for a
12	variety of reasons, partially because of the way the
13	stipulation was and because Staff brought the complaint
14	for purposes of the performance incentive.
15	CHAIR HALL: You you heard my my
16	questions and Mr. Thompson's responses to the related
17	to that Table 2.12 description of update process, which
18	is contained at least in one place in Ameren's memorandum
19	of law in support of its motion for summary disposition,
20	page 5?
21	MR. OPITZ: If I may grab my binder?
22	CHAIR HALL: Absolutely.
23	MR. OPITZ: This was Table 12?
24	CHAIR HALL: Table 2.12 on page 5, 5 and 6.
25	MR. LOWERY: Tim, I believe he's pointing to

1 page 5 and 6 on our legal memo. 2 Okay. I've got -- I grabbed the MR. OPITZ: 3 Do you know the reference to your plan? Is that pl an. 4 cited in... 5 MR. LOWERY: Yes, probably, but I... 6 MR. OPITZ: 12. This is the chart with 7 the -- I've got it here in front of me. 8 CHAIR HALL: Okay. 9 MR. OPITZ: Thank you. 10 CHAIR HALL: So the chart describes certain 11 components that are to be updated and certain components 12 that are to not -- that are not to be updated. So could 13 you give me OPC's position on why -- why this chart 14 indicates that avoided costs are not to be updated and 15 how that is to be reconciled with Public Counsel's 16 position that we need to take updated estimates to 17 determine avoided costs? How can those two be 18 reconci l ed? 19 MR. OPITZ: The short answer is that the 20 stipulation, in our office's opinion, replaces this 21 portion of it. The stipulation -- the text of the 22 stipulation says it's going to adopt the terms of the 23 plan, as modified by this -- by the terms in these 24 certain paragraphs. Within those paragraphs, 25 particularly relating to the throughput disincentive and

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to the performance incentive, those are different than
what is in here. Table 2.12 talks about the combined
calculation of net benefits, whereas in the stipulation
they're separated entirely. In fact, there's two
separate appendixes with example calculations.
And the text of the stipulation, as I
mentioned earlier, references the performance incentive
is a percentage of NSB, as described on Appendix B. And
so then we look at Appendix B, and Appendix B provides
these examples, and then it says actual let me pull it
up here. The last line of example 2 talks about
5.2 percent of actual net benefits.
CHAIR HALL: So, in your view, actual on
the on the stipulation is in conflict with and trumps
the Language on Table 2.12?
MR. OPITZ: Yes.
CHAIR HALL: And you believe that was the
intent of the parties?
MR. OPITZ: I believe so.
CHAIR HALL: Can you point me to anything
else in the stipulation that would support that
asserti on?
MR. OPITZ: I think when we look at the
stipulation, part of the fact is that we can we see
that there's a clear split between the calculation of the

 shared benefits, or net-shared benefits. For the throughput disincentive, it is similar to what was described in the Company's plan. They used deemed values. It mentions that it's going to use the present value of of avoided costs; energy, capacity, transmission, distribution, probable environmental costs. But then when we look at the separate paragraph there for the net-shared benefits relating to performance incentive, that is absent. In fact, it makes it a point to direct to "as described in Appendix B." And Appendix B is, as I said, where it talks about using the actual net benefits. For CHAIR HALL: So if the word actual was not there, would you still be taking the same position? You're not hanging your hat completely on that one word actual, are you? MR. OPITZ: Well, I don't think that we could ignore that it's there. But I think that we also need to consider the rule, 1(F), which talks about using the most
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18 ignore that it's there. But I think that we also need to
5
19 consider the rule, 1(F), which talks about using the most
20 recent method to calculate the avoided costs. And I
21 believe that's was articulated by Staff, but
22 CHAIR HALL: So is it your position that the
23 plan put forth by Ameren conflicts with 1(F)?
24 MR. OPITZ: No, I don't I don't think that
25 it necessarily conflicts. I think that it can be read

1	together. And I think part of that is because we need to
2	look at what Appendix B says in terms of the actual net
3	benefits. And so to look at the actual net benefits, we
4	should look at these recent costs, which the rule
5	requires, and that rule was not waived. And so reading
6	that in conjunction with the plan and the stipulation, I
7	don't think that there's any conflict there.
8	CHAIR HALL: Do you know how the revised
9	MEELA rule addresses this dispute?
10	MR. OPITZ: I do not know off the top of my
11	head, Mr. Chairman.
12	CHAIR HALL: Okay. All right. I have no
13	further questions. Thank you.
14	MR. OPITZ: Thank you.
15	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll, did you
16	have any questions? Commissioner Stoll, are you still
17	there?
18	Okay. Commissioner Rupp?
19	COMMISSIONER STOLL: I'm sorry, I had it on
20	mute.
21	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.
22	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No, I have no questions.
23	Those have been answered. Thank you.
24	JUDGE WOODRUFF: ALL right. Commissioner
25	Rupp?

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1 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No. 2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. And thank you. 3 MR. OPITZ: Thank you. Your Honor, would it be possible 4 MR. LOWERY: 5 for us to take a five-minute break? 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We certainly can. We'll 7 take a five-minute break. We'll come back at 11:20. 8 (Off the record.) 9 MR. LOWERY: Good morning. May it please the 10 Commission. I'm going to, I think, stick to at least the 11 order of my prepared remarks, because I think they 12 address probably almost every question that's come up. 13 But I will try to work in addressing some of the 14 questions that have been raised, as appropriate, when I 15 get to those items. And, obviously, I'll be happy to 16 take questions as well. When you look at the Staff's position or 17 18 OPC's position, which are basically the same, those 19 positions depend on the MEELA rules, the MEELA 1 20 stipulation, and the report itself providing for things 21 that are totally different than those documents actually 22 provide for. And I'll explain that as I go along. 23 The sole basis for this entire complaint is 24 one sentence in the definition of avoided costs that's in 25 the rules. The truth is that Staff wants to rewrite that

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1 definition. But, of course, neither the Staff nor the 2 Commission have the power to rewrite it. And for that 3 reason, the complaint has to fail. In the complaint itself Staff's argument was 4 5 that the definition of avoided costs, quote, required the 6 utility to use a particular methodology, that is, a 7 formula through the life of the DSIM. We actually agree 8 with that statement. What we don't agree with is the 9 Staff then disregarding the plain and ordinary meaning of 10 the word methodology to come up with a definition that's 11 neither plain nor ordinary. 12 Staff's position and OPC's as well is also 13 completely refuted by their admission of certain 14 undisputed facts in this case. Staff admits Ameren 15 Missouri's undisputed facts 30 to 32, which taken 16 together, are that Ameren Missouri did use the same 17 methodology in its 2011 IRP, in its MEELA 1 plan, and in 18 its 2014 IRP plan, a methodology that is described in 19 detail in undisputed fact number 31, which is backed up 20 by an affidavit of Mr. Michels. And Staff and OPC agree 21 that that's an apt description of the methodology. 22 By the way, that description of the 23 methodology is not reflected on those two pages that 24 Mr. Thompson handed out earlier that shows those decision 25 trees. Those decision trees show the different values,

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1	the different inputs that were used because of the
2	application of that methodology. But that is not the
3	methodology itself. The methodology isn't disputed.
4	Everybody agreed what the methodology is and that the
5	same one was used.
6	Now, how does Staff try to justify its
7	position? Despite its admonition in several places in
8	its filings in this case that the plain and ordinary
9	meaning of various rule provisions have to be has to
10	be followed that is, they admonish the Commission that
11	it must follow that plan or meaning when it suits them
12	the Staff then inconsistently departs from following the
13	plain and ordinary meaning and writes its own not so
14	plain and not ordinary definition of the word
15	methodology. And here's what they say. They say that
16	the methodology, quote, necessarily encompasses the
17	formula, the inputs, and the results of the calculation.
18	Now, that argument caused me to scratch my head the first
19	time I read it, and I think it should cause you to
20	scratch your head as well, because here's what the rule
21	would have to say
22	CHAIR HALL: Where is that in Staff's filing,
23	what you just
24	MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, it's either in
25	their motion for summary determination or it's in their

1 response to ours. And I think it's in the latter. 1 2 can't remember for sure. It's in one of those two 3 filings. I don't believe it's in their reply, but I just can't remember. 4 5 CHAIR HALL: Okay. 6 MR. LOWERY: So here's what -- here's 7 (indicating) the first version of the rewrite that would 8 have to take place if you accept Staff's new and novel 9 definition of what a methodology is. Instead of the rule 10 saying the utility shall use the same methodology, the 11 rule would have to say that the utility shall use the 12 same inputs and results from. That's one way of writing 13 But that really doesn't make sense at all, because it. if that's what you meant, if that's what methodology 14 15 means, then this is what you would have written 16 (indicating). You would have just said what you meant or 17 say -- you would have said what they say that you meant. 18 You would have just flat out said utility shall use the 19 same avoided costs, period. That's all you would have to 20 say. You don't have to go through contortions of the 21 inputs and results are the same thing as a methodology. 22 You just say what you mean. But you didn't say that. 23 That's not what your rule provides for. And that's why 24 the Staff is simply wrong in this complaint, because we 25 did use the same methodology.

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1 Now, the dictionary -- and I'm going to quote 2 to the dictionary as well, and I'm going to put up a few 3 definitions from Merriam Webster's. And, by the way, I 4 don't discount --CHAIR HALL: Counsel, do you have copies of 5 6 those, what you're using right now? 7 MR. LOWERY: I can certainly -- I can 8 certainly supply them. I don't have them with me, but I 9 will supply them. 10 I don't disagree that the dictionary defines 11 methodology as the -- as -- as was defined on the sheet 12 that Mr. Thompson put up. I agree it's a process. But 13 let's look at what a method is. And, of course, 14 methodology is derived from the word method. A method is 15 a way, a technique, or a process of for doing something. 16 Well, to determine avoided costs, of course you follow a 17 process. But an input, one inputs things into a process. 18 The process isn't the input. An input is something that 19 goes into the process. And a result is something that is 20 a consequence of applying the process. And that's what 21 the dictionary tells us. 22 It's simply not the case that the process 23 encompasses inputs and results. They're not the same 24 And I think the dictionary -- and the court thi ng. 25 cases, of course, tell us that when you're looking for

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1 the plain and ordinary meaning of a word, you have to 2 consult the dictionary. That's the first place you look. 3 The process that we used has always been the Mr. Michels' affidavit describes it. 4 same. Everybody 5 agrees that that's the process that we use. Everybody 6 agrees that's the model. We gather a lot of information 7 about a lot of things. We then take that information. 8 Those become inputs. They get inputted into a model, the 9 model gets run, and then avoided cost estimates are a 10 consequence of applying that model. And that's exactly 11 what we did. 12 Now there's another methodology that hasn't 13 been talked about a lot here this morning, but it's 14 equally important in this dispute, and that is the 15 methodology for determining the net benefits to be used 16 for the performance incentive component, or the DSIM. 17 And the reason I say it hasn't been talked about a lot, 18 your rules have a definition of utility incentive 19 component. I think Mr. Thompson referred to the -- I'm 20 going to use the acronym UIC as being the same thing as 21 the performance incentive. And I agree, they are the 22 But you have a very specific definition of same thing. 23 UIC in your rules; and that definition says, not 24 surprisingly, that a UIC is a methodology. And then you 25 couple that with the rule that we -- one of the rules we

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1 rely upon that says that the DSIM is binding on the 2 Commission and everyone else for the entire term of the 3 plan, and what that means is the methodology is binding on all of us. 4 5 So what's the methodology? Well, it can be 6 expressed in an equation. This is a methodology that the 7 report and the stipulation reflect: B times C minus A 8 equal Z, where A are the programs costs -- that's 9 variable, according to the report and the stipulation --10 B are the megawatt hours of energy -- that's also 11 variable, according to the stipulation and the report --12 and C are the avoided cost estimates -- that's fixed per 13 the approved methodology; and I'll explain in a minute 14 why Mr. Opitz is simply incorrect when he contends that 15 the stipulation changed the report in this regard -- and 16 Z are the result -- and Z is the resulting net benefits. 17 That's the process. You put inputs into that process, 18 and then you get Z, the result. But Z and the inputs are 19 not the process itself. 20 Now, how do we know that this is the process,

1 this is the methodology? We know that this is the process,
21 this is the methodology? We know because the
22 Commission-approved stipulation and agreement tells us it
23 is. As Mr. Opitz indicated, the stipulation says that
24 the DSIM that you approved is, quote, described in the
25 MEELA report, modified to reflect the terms and

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1	conditions herein. For the performance incentive, the
2	terms and conditions herein are found in paragraph 5.b.ii
3	of the stipulation and also in Appendix B. 5.b.ii says,
4	as Mr. Opitz also pointed to, that, quote, Ameren
5	Missouri will be allowed to recover the performance
6	incentive, which is a percentage of net-shared benefits,
7	as described in Exhibit B. So to figure out what the
8	method is, to define the method, we have to look three
9	places: We look to the report, we look to the
10	stipulation, we look to Appendix B. I guess it's really
11	two, because the appendix is part of the stipulation.
12	So let's start with the MEELA report. It
13	tells us, when calculating net-shared benefits for the
14	performance incentive to which a percentage has been
15	applied to determine the award, avoided cost estimates
16	are not to be updated. And that is, of course, the red X
17	that Staff and OPC tried to dismiss. Update, question
18	mark, red X, don't update. It couldn't really be much
19	clearer. Then you
20	CHAIR HALL: Well, what did the the and
21	l'm sorry to interrupt
22	MR. LOWERY: No, no problem.
23	CHAIR HALL: but if I don't ask you now,
24	I'll forget it, the question later. So the plan
25	estimated by Ameren had a performance incentive award

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1 estimate, correct, of 18 million, something like that? 2 MR. LOWERY: Right. If -- well, I don't 3 It -- what it did is it had targeted remember. 4 megawatt-hour savings; and it said, based upon those 5 avoided costs that were used and if you hit the targets 6 this level, then this -- it would -- it would produce 7 that amount of money. So I think the answer to your 8 question's yes. It probably had different numbers for 9 different levels of performance. 10 CHAIR HALL: All right. Thank you. 11 MR. LOWERY: 0kay. So if we stop here, I 12 think that -- if this was the only source of information 13 and we didn't have a stipulation that might or might not 14 modify this table, then I think that Staff and OPC would 15 both agree we wouldn't be here today, there would be no 16 complaint, they would agree that's what you approved, you 17 don't update avoided costs, period. But I agree --18 CHAIR HALL: Let me -- let me cut to the 19 Do you guys agree with that statement? chase. 20 MR. THOMPSON: Could you repeat the 21 statement, so I --22 MR. LOWERY: If we --23 MR. THOMPSON: -- can make sure I understand 24 it? 25 MR. LOWERY: -- imagine that we filed the

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1	MEELA plan and the Commission just approved it, said
2	MR. THOMPSON: Approved it
3	MR. LOWERY: approved.
4	MR. THOMPSON: as filed?
5	MR. LOWERY: Approved it as filed.
6	MR. THOMPSON: Right.
7	MR. LOWERY: In that case I think you would
8	agree that we wouldn't be here today.
9	MR. THOMPSON: I agree.
10	MR. OPITZ: I agree.
11	MR. LOWERY: But I agree that we can't stop
12	there because we've got to look at the stipulation. I
13	agree with that, because the stipula because the
14	plan the report, which reflected the original plan,
15	was approved as modified by the stipulation. So the
16	question is did the provisions of the stipulation turn
17	that red X into a green checkmark or erase the red X,
18	however you want to look at.
19	There's not a single word in 5.b.ii or in
20	Appendix B and I'll get to this in a minute that
21	modifies that red X, that says you update avoided costs.
22	In fact, no one has pointed to any, except this one
23	footnote that I'm going to talk about too in a minute
24	that OPC is completely misreading by its plain terms.
25	So how about Appendix B let's get to

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1	that does it erase the red X? Well, in its filing,
2	what OPC said, it pointed to the language that says
3	"percentage of net-shared benefits as described in
4	Appendix B." That language is in 5.b.ii. So it pointed
5	to that, and it said that's what's telling you that you
6	have to update avoided costs.
7	Well, let's take a look at that. And l
8	believe you're looking at it. At least you are,
9	Commissioner Hall. As described the share of
10	net-shared benefits, as described in Appendix B, the only
11	thing it can be pointing to is the table on the first
12	page in Appendix B. And what it's pointing to is the
13	percent of net benefits column in this table. That's the
14	description of net benefits table that Ameren Missouri is
15	eligible to receive, depending on where it lands on the
16	percent of target. That's page 1. That's the as
17	described.
18	But let's go to page 2. And I'll scroll down
19	in a minute. First of all, if you look at this example,
20	you see no discussion whatsoever of changing avoided
21	costs. You see discussion of energy savings, opt out
22	which really isn't at issue here. You have to take opt
23	out into account because, as I think you know, certain
24	industrial customers can opt out. You've got to pull
25	them out of the equation. But you don't see anything

about avoided costs.

1

2 So let's go to this footnote that Mr. Opitz 3 pointed to. Somehow Mr. Opitz thinks that this says you update avoided costs. I've listened to him this morning, 4 5 I've read it, and I -- I don't -- I don't understand it. 6 I don't understand the argument. It says actual net 7 benefits are based on actual program costs. That's one 8 And, two, the actual net megawatt hour savings. thi ng. 9 Well, those don't have anything to do with avoided costs. 10 In fact, for Mr. Opitz to be right, this is what the 11 footnote needed to say (indicating). It needed to say, 12 one, actual program costs; two, updated avoided costs; 13 and, three, actual net megawatt hour savings. 14 The bold and underlined language isn't there. 15 What -- what that footnote actually tells you is it's --

all it's doing is restating -- I don't have the right
one. It's restating the red X. It's restating the
formula that's reflected in the report. The report says
program costs and megawatt hour savings and don't update
avoided costs. It didn't explicitly say don't update
avoided costs, but it didn't need to. It just simply
defined net benefits in accordance with the report.

23 So where you end up is, the report says you 24 don't update and the stipulation doesn't change the 25 report. And you approved the plan as -- as reflected in

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1 the report and as modified, if modified in the 2 stipulation. And it wasn't modified. 3 Now, at this point let me address another 4 issue that came up a little while ago. I think, 5 Commissioner Hall, that you asked a question, well, 6 why -- why aren't you making this argument on the TD-NSB? 7 I think that was sort of a fair characterization of your 8 question. And Mr. Thompson consulted with Mr. Rogers; 9 and I think Mr. Rogers told him, well, there was a 10 waiver, there was a waiver of this avoided cost 11 definition for the TD-NSB. Now, I'll admit I had to -- I had to do this 12 13 quickly, while I'm also trying to listen to Mr. Opitz, 14 but I am 99.9 percent sure -- and maybe that's not what 15 Mr. Rogers said, but that's what I heard this morning. 16 I'm almost 99.9 percent sure that that's not the case. 17 There is no waiver. There doesn't need to be a waiver, 18 by the way, because the rule, as I talked about earlier 19 in my remarks, it doesn't say what the Staff says it 20 says. It doesn't say you shall update the avoided costs. 21 It says you'll use the same methodology, and we are using 22 the same methodology. 23 But, in any event, there isn't -- there isn't 24 a waiver, doesn't need to be a waiver. The reason it 25 doesn't apply to the TD-NSB is really the same reason it

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1	shouldn't be applying here, because the plan says you
2	don't update avoided costs, and the stipulation did not
3	modify the plan in that regard.
4	CHAIR HALL: So, in other words, if we adopt
5	Staff's position in this case, we also need to rewrite
6	the throughput disincentive NSB?
7	MR. LOWERY: Well, let me think about that a
8	second.
9	CHAIR HALL: If we
10	MR. LOWERY: Yeah, I think that's right.
11	I I think I think that's right. Now, I don't know
12	how you do it in either case, since the stipulation
13	didn't modify the red X, and the red X is quite clear.
14	But I guess logically that would be true.
15	CHAIR HALL: I appreciate your honesty on
16	that one.
17	MR. LOWERY: I try to be honest.
18	CHAIR HALL: I know. I didn't I didn't
19	phrase that I didn't
20	MR. LOWERY: No, no, I know. I know. No,
21	no, I didn't take it that way at all. So I think, to put
22	it bluntly, we really ought to be at the end of this case
23	right now. The report says you don't update avoided
24	costs, and the stipulation didn't change the report. You
25	approved it, and that's really the end of the story.

1 Under the plain meaning of the words used, 2 inputs/results aren't the same things as methodology, and 3 the Staff loses -- loses; the complaint has to fail. So while I could sit down now, I think there 4 5 -- if you'll indulge me for a few more moments, l'd like 6 to point out a number of other key and undisputed facts 7 and also maybe try to address some of these questions as 8 they've come up that I think also demonstrate that the 9 rule simply doesn't mean or say what the Staff wants it 10 to say. 11 If, as Staff says, the methodology 12 encompasses the inputs and the results -- and that's what 13 They say that your rule says that. It's that they say. 14 first version of the rewritten rule that I put up. ١f 15 that's true, then that means that the inputs and results, 16 the avoided cost estimates -- they say they're the same 17 thing -- from the 2011 IRP had to be used in MEELA 1 18 Well, they weren't. They weren't the same. And pl an. 19 that means that we violated your rule three years ago 20 when we filed a MEELA 1 plan, and the Staff signed on to 21 the violation when it told you to approve the stipulation 22 reflecting it, and you sanctioned the violation when you 23 approved the plan. There's no escape from that 24 conclusion. If they're right about what methodology 25 means, then we violated the rule three years ago. Not --

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didn't violate it now; we violated it three years ago, 2 and they signed on to it.

1

3 Now, Staff tries to shrug that little problem 4 off. Although it admits it knew that they weren't the 5 same -- it knew we were using a different methodology, 6 from our perspective -- it basically says -- and I'm 7 paraphrasing, I'm making up the message. But I think the 8 message basically was, look, Staff in our judgment 9 thought the estimates were reasonable enough, they were 10 reasonable; in our subjective judgment, we were willing 11 to ignore your rule violation and, in fact, we were not 12 only willing to ignore your rule violation, we were 13 willing to sign on to it and ask the Commission to sign 14 on to it.

15 Now, I've been working with the Staff for 15 16 years. I've been here for dozens of cases and probably 17 hundreds of conferences and interactions with the Staff, 18 and ignoring rule violations, even when they're small, 19 has not been my experience. I'm not criticizing the 20 Staff for that. I think the Staff views its role as 21 enforcing the Commission's rule. And that's not to say 22 that the Staff recommends a complaint be brought every 23 time a rule's violated. But what the Staff doesn't do, 24 at least in my experience, is sign on to violations of 25 rul es.

Г

1	Now, you can draw your own conclusion from
2	this, but I submit the only logical conclusion you can
3	draw from the fact that Staff, according to its version
4	of what a methodology is, knew we were violating a rule
5	that Staff that wasn't Staff's view, and Staff has
6	come up with that view because energy and capacity cost
7	estimates and I'II talk about that more in a minute
8	have gone down, and Staff doesn't like the result. So
9	Staff decided to come up with a different view of what
10	the rule means in order to support this complaint. In
11	any event, that view is just plain wrong, as l've already
12	expl ai ned.
13	Staff also ignored some other things. Your
14	rules require us to file a MEELA report every year, and
15	we've done that twice. That MEELA report, as clear as a
16	bell, says avoided costs are not and are not to be
17	updated. Your rule says that anyone can file comments on
18	those reports within 60 days of their filing. Nobody
19	did, including the Staff, again sort of ignoring
20	something that Staff now tells you is completely wrong.
21	There are other very significant
22	inconsistencies in Staff's and OPC's arguments. We hear
23	a lot we read a lot in their pleadings and we heard a
24	lot today, we heard a lot about things like, quote,
25	measured achievements and actual avoided costs and actual

1	achieved results. But you won't have, we won't have, and
2	they won't have anything that comes close to actual for a
3	very long time. The avoided cost estimates that were
4	produced by the methodology that we consistently used are
5	20-plus-year estimates. Ask us in 17 or 18 years how
6	good they actually turned out to be. The same thing is
7	true of the 2014, 20-plus-year estimates. Ask us in
8	19 years how good they actually turn out to be.
9	The only way to determine actual avoided
10	costs and I would submit it's not going to be easy to
11	completely determine those even retrospectively later,
12	but the only way to attempt to do it is to wait until the
13	light bulbs and the air conditioners and so on wear out
14	that are being installed now and that we expect to
15	produce benefits for 20 years and to then look back and
16	try to figure out what energy and capacity and T & D and
17	environmental costs were actually avoided. We certainly
18	can't do it now with any reasonable level of accuracy.
19	Mr. Opitz
20	CHAIR HALL: But would you agree that using
21	the most recent estimates of energy costs gets you closer
22	to a determination to an accurate determination of
23	actual avoided costs?
24	MR. LOWERY: No, I absolutely wouldn't agree
25	with that. We're we're only two years into the

1	20-plus-year period that was used to estimate them in the
2	first place. We don't know we don't know what it's
3	going to actually turn out to be over 20 years.
4	CHAIR HALL: So it's Ameren's position
5	that that that using updated estimates in no way
6	leads you closer to a determination of actual costs?
7	MR. LOWERY: Not when you're only not when
8	you're only a couple years into the cycle. I mean, I'm
9	not look, Commissioner, I'm not an expert, as you well
10	know, so you're hearing a lawyer give an opinion about
11	that. But just logically to me, we've got 17, 18 years
12	to go before the impact of these measures is going to be
13	actually fully felt and rolled out. We don't know what
14	energy capacity and T & D and environmental costs are
15	going to do for the next 17 years. They could completely
16	change and completely reverse the low the impact of
17	the lower costs that's that's taken place for the last
18	two years. We don't know.
19	CHAIR HALL: And and, in fact, they may
20	they may skyrocket, and ten years from now you may not be
21	happy with the position you've taken in this case.
22	MR. LOWERY: Well, let me address that let
23	me just address that right now. I was going to address
24	it at the end, but you've raised it, so I'm going to
25	address it now.

1	Staff sort of made that point, and here's
2	what Staff said. They said we would not be hearing this
3	sort of argument from AmMO, as they call us, had that
4	happened. And "that happened" is just what you posited,
5	that energy and capacity prices had jumped through the
6	roof. This is pretty close to the equivalent of calling
7	the Company dishonest, unprincipled. And, frankly, the
8	Staff sort of got around to doing that in its last
9	pleading filed in this case when they pointed to one of
10	the sentences in the legal memoranda that I wrote and
11	said the sentence was a, quote, lie.
12	Let me be very clear. It's the Company that
13	put the red X on Table 1.2 when it filed its MEELA plan.
14	We're the ones that said avoided costs were not to be
15	updated. We're the ones that said actual benefits in
16	that footnote in Appendix B is program costs and megawatt
17	hour energy savings. We're the ones that put our stake
18	in the ground. We put our money where our mouth is.
19	It's simply there's no evidence and, in
20	fact, there is contrary evidence, given that we're the
21	ones that said avoided costs aren't going to be updated,
22	that we are opportunistically now or would
23	opportunistically later take different positions because
24	energy and capacity costs jump up and down. We think
25	it's the right thing to do. Mr. Voigt has testified to

1	this a little bit in the MEELA 2 case hearings that we
2	had back in July. I think he said that, based on his
3	experience, looking at other jurisdictions, the best
4	practice is not to update avoided costs.
5	So it's simply not true that we are going to
6	be unhappy later if it changes. If it changes, it
7	changes. You come in with a plan, you estimate the
8	avoided costs, you leave them alone, and everybody lives
9	with them for the entirety of the plan. That's what our
10	plan said, that's what it still says, and that is the
11	Company's position. I don't think we could be any more
12	clear about that.
13	So, anyway, we don't have actual one of
14	the phrases that was used, and I think it was used by
15	OPC, was measured achievements. Well, the Company isn't
16	achieving something if energy and capacity costs go up or
17	down. We don't control them. What we are achieving when
18	we operate energy efficiency programs are we're achieving
19	how well we control our program costs. That is updated.
20	We're achieving how good a job we do to get people to
21	install light bulbs and air conditioners and so, the
22	measures, and that's also updated. If you want to
23	measure achievement, that's what you measure. You don't
24	measure things that the Company can't control.
25	CHAIR HALL: Well, why would you not take

1	into account the impact on ratepayers? I mean, is it
2	is it is it your position that the performance
3	incentive is solely a function of how well Ameren
4	performs and should have no connection relationship at
5	all with how that program impacts ratepayers?
6	MR. LOWERY: I don't think that after the
7	fact that the impact on ratepayers, whether it's a really
8	great impact because the energy capacity costs went way
9	up and it made made it go the other way, ought to be
10	changed after the fact. When we go out and we build
11	T & D infrastructure, we build power plants, whatever
12	we're building, we have to make a decision with the best
13	information we have at the time, and you have to then
14	make a decision were we prudent in making that decision
15	that goes in rate base.
16	It may turn out 10 years later, 15 years
17	later customers would have been better off, revenue
18	requirements would have been less if we hadn't done that.
19	We don't go back and say, you know, with hindsight, maybe
20	you didn't make a bad decision, but you picked the wrong
21	fork in the road. You didn't know and it was reasonable
22	what you did, but you picked the wrong fork in the road,
23	that's costing customers more money, we're going to take
24	it away. We don't do that. Or the converse, we don't do
25	the converse. The Company doesn't get to say, you know

1	what, that was that was an even better decision than
2	we thought it was; we are saving customers millions of
3	dollars because we put in that plant or built that line
4	ten years ago; we ought to get something for that. We
5	don't get to do that either.
6	CHAIR HALL: The problem, though, is that
7	it's not really apples to apples, because in supply
8	side the supply-side incentive is just your return on
9	investment, whereas here we are we are we are
10	determining a performance incentive. We are we are
11	determining an award. That's really not just a
12	percentage of your investment.
13	MR. LOWERY: That's true. But whether or not
14	the impact to ratepayers ought to somehow affect that, I
15	think it is the same. I agree that the mechanisms are
16	different; but the question of whether or not you ought
17	to look back and either reward or detract from a utility
18	because you got different information later, I don't I
19	don't see that as any different.
20	Another thing that Staff says, and
21	Mr. Thompson talked about this morning, he says and
22	they sort of declare that the "most recent" in your rule
23	can only mean the IRP-preferred plan adopted next prior
24	to the date when the avoided cost estimates are
25	calculated. Well, I agree that's what most recent means.

1	While that's what it means, it doesn't answer the
2	question, it begs the question of when the relevant
3	avoided cost estimates are to be calculated. The
4	methodology reflected in the MEELA report and that was
5	not modified by the stipulation says that the avoided
6	cost estimates should be calculated at the time you file
7	the MEELA plan, and the most recent IRP methodology
8	employed at that time was in 2003.
9	A couple other points. Everyone admits and
10	the MEELA rule specifically provide for the submission of
11	an awful lot of data when we file a MEELA plan. We've
12	got to submit TRC, total resource cost, test calculations
13	for every one of our programs. We have to submit rate
14	impacts for every one of our programs. All of those are
15	very heavily dependent on the avoided cost estimates
16	we're using. You then have to decide you have to take
17	that information, you have to say should we approve this
18	three-year plan or not.
19	It makes perfect sense that we all live with
20	the decision that was made based on that information, as
21	opposed to, again, going back two or three years later
22	and looking back and somehow changing our mind because
23	the estimates change, particularly when you're talking
24	about estimates, and 20-year estimates at that.
25	Let me see if seems like there were a

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couple things that come up that I wanted to mention. A
couple other points, and these are in our filings, but I
think came up this morning. I want to be clear, and I
think you understand this, EM & V has nothing to do with
determining avoided costs. Avoided costs are an input.
EM & V contractors don't determine avoided costs. They
don't concern themselves with them in any way, shape, or
form. And everybody admits that.
I think Mr. Opitz said that Ameren's plan
does not conflict with 1(F), 1(F) being the avoided cost
definition that we've been talking about. Well, I guess
I made this point earlier. If if they're right about
what a methodology is, it does, and we violated the rule.
So so under his position, it does conflict with 1(F).
And I don't know if he misspoke or what. But taking his
position, it clearly does conflict.
I appreciate your time. Hope I've answered
your questions the best that I can. If you have any
others, I'd be happy to answer them at this time.
JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman, any other
questions?
CHAIR HALL: Yeah. First of all, I apologize
for that previous statement. I mis I in no way meant
to imply that any of your statements are dishonest. What
I what I meant to say

1 MR. LOWERY: I was just joking, so I -- no 2 offense taken. 3 CHAIR HALL: I think it's important. It was on the record. I mean, what I meant to say is I 4 5 appreciate your candor in that response. I think most 6 lawyers would have tried to muddle through an answer to 7 that and not given a clear, direct answer. And I 8 appreciate that. 9 MR. LOWERY: Thank you. 10 CHAIR HALL: Mr. Thompson said earlier in 11 response to a question of mine that the Commission does 12 not have discretion between the two interpretations, 13 Ameren's interpretation and Staff's interpretation of --14 in this -- in this case. Would you -- would you agree 15 with that statement? 16 MR. LOWERY: Let me answer it this way: You 17 have to apply the plain and ordinary meaning of your 18 And you don't have discretion not to do that. rul e. You 19 don't have discretion to go -- and part of the reason I 20 guess I objected to some of the -- maybe the path we were 21 on earlier in this hearing, it doesn't matter what the 22 calculations show these net benefits to be. This isn't 23 a -- this isn't a policy determination about -- you said 24 something about maybe the rule ought to be changed if you 25 felt differently and that kind of thing. That's not what

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| 1 | this case is about. This case is about what does your |
|----|--|
| 2 | rule provide for and what does it not provide for and |
| 3 | what approved plan do we have and what approved plan do |
| 4 | we not have. So and that's a long answer. But, no, l |
| 5 | don't think you have discretion other you have to |
| 6 | apply the plain and ordinary meaning. And if |
| 7 | CHAIR HALL: It either |
| 8 | MR. LOWERY: You can't do something else. |
| 9 | CHAIR HALL: means A or B? |
| 10 | MR. LOWERY: It can't mean it doesn't |
| 11 | mean it's not a hybrid. It's not a compromise. It |
| 12 | means A or B. I agree. |
| 13 | CHAIR HALL: So what difference does it make |
| 14 | how Staff may have interpreted it previously? I mean, |
| 15 | your you seem to make much of the fact that that |
| 16 | Ameren has been consistent in its interpretation of what |
| 17 | avoided costs mean, and Staff and other parties have not |
| 18 | taken have not objected to it. Why does that matter? |
| 19 | MR. LOWERY: It probably doesn't matter very |
| 20 | much. I think I guess, from my perspective, it |
| 21 | probably just confirms that when you look at the plain |
| 22 | and ordinary meaning in what the rule says, it doesn't |
| 23 | say what they say it means now. It just confirms you |
| 24 | read it. It's pretty plain. It just I think it's |
| 25 | evidence that their definition now isn't isn't |
| | |

1 consistent with the plain and ordinary meaning. 2 CHAIR HALL: Your -- your -- your message 3 saying they changed their mind? MR. LOWERY: I don't know whether they did or 4 5 not. But it struck me -- it was -- it was noteworthy 6 that they signed on to a plan that clearly violated their 7 interpretation of the rule. I mean -- and they did do 8 that, and that's not something I'm used to seeing. 9 CHAIR HALL: Well, let me return to Okay. 10 that -- or continue on that comment, because I'm not sure I completely understand it. When you say that they 11 12 violated the rules by signing on to the plan, can you 13 tell me again what you mean? 14 MR. LOWERY: I'm saying that we violated the 15 rule --16 CHAIR HALL: We? 17 MR. LOWERY: -- if -- we being the Company. 18 If their interpretation's right, then we did not follow 19 the definition of avoided costs that they say exists, 20 because we did not use the same inputs and results when 21 we filed the MEELA 1 plan that we used in the 2011 IRP. 22 They're different. And they say --23 CHAIR HALL: And how are they different? 24 MR. LOWERY: They're -- they're all --25 they're different figures. The energy numbers are

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1 different. Capacity numbers are different. They're --2 they're different --3 CHAIR HALL: So you -- you --MR. LOWERY: 4 -- than what --5 CHAIR HALL: -- you used more -- more updated 6 numbers --7 MR. LOWERY: Yes. 8 CHAIR HALL: -- than -- than were available 9 when you filed the two thousand --10 MR. LOWERY: Yes. 11 CHAIR HALL: -- el even --12 MR. LOWERY: The inputs and the results in 13 the MEELA 1 plan, those avoided cost estimates, those 14 inputs and those results are not the same inputs and 15 results that were in the 2011 IRP. But they say --16 CHAIR HALL: Are they consistent with your --17 with your annual update of the IRP? 18 MR. LOWERY: We hadn't even got to an annual 19 update, I don't think, at that point. And I -- I 20 don't -- I don't know if we changed them again or not 21 after that until the 2014 IRP. I don't have an answer 22 for that. 23 But -- but let me make sure -- I want to make 24 sure you understand this point, though. They say that 25 methodology means inputs and results, it encompasses the

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1	inputs and results. What they mean by that is you've got
2	
	to use the same inputs and results that you used in your
3	most recent IRP. Okay? So they say we've got these
4	inputs and results from the 2014 IRP; you've got to use
5	them now. That's what they say. Well, that would have
6	been true then; we would have had to use them then too,
7	and we didn't. So under their reading of the rule, their
8	reading of the definition of avoided costs, we violated
9	that rule. And as I pointed out, there was no waiver.
10	Now there doesn't need to be a waiver, because we didn't
11	violate the rule. Let me be clear. But that's that's
12	the logic behind their argument.
13	CHAIR HALL: On on the inputs for avoided
14	costs, we've we've obviously got energy costs.
15	That's what other inputs are there? I mean, don't
16	we don't we also have the actual or the energy
17	reduction, capacity, energy transmission? I mean, aren't
18	those inputs as well?
19	MR. LOWERY: They are. Let me see if
20	Mr. Michels how granular he was in his description.
21	CHAIR HALL: Well, let me let me cut to
22	the chase, because maybe you can answer this: Are those
23	updated? The capacity, the energy, the transmission, are
24	those numbers updated?
25	MR. LOWERY: Updated when, Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIR HALL: Are we -- are you getting those 2 from your 2011 IRP, and they're static? 3 MR. LOWERY: I don't believe so. I don't know the answer to that. I don't know whether -- when we 4 5 did the MEELA -- when we did the MEELA plan and we used 6 updated inputs and results, I don't know if they updated 7 all of the inputs or not. I just don't know the answer 8 to that. 9 Well, if, in fact, they were CHAIR HALL: 10 updated, doesn't that conflict with your position that 11 avoided costs are not to be updated, per that chart on... 12 MR. LOWERY: No, that --13 CHAIR HALL: If they --14 MR. LOWERY: Avoided costs are not to be 15 updated through the operation of the DSIM. When the plan 16 was filed, the DSIM's not in place. There's no op--17 there's no operating plan. It's just a proposal. 18 CHAIR HALL: When -- when you calculated the 19 performance incentive award to which you believe you are 20 entitled, did -- what -- what numbers did you use for 21 capacity, energy, and transmission in terms of the 22 reduction? 23 MR. LOWERY: We used the ones that underlie 24 the MEELA 1 plan. Every calculation in the MEELA 1 plan 25 is --

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1 CHAIR HALL: So --2 MR. LOWERY: -- based on the same --3 CHAIR HALL: So those numbers --MR. LOWERY: 4 -- avoided costs. -- are static? 5 CHAIR HALL: 6 MR. LOWERY: They are static. 7 CHAIR HALL: And Staff is not asking that 8 those numbers be updated? 9 MR. LOWERY: Oh, Staff is asking that 10 every -- whatever -- so --11 CHAIR HALL: I thought Staff was just asking 12 that the energy costs be updated. 13 MR. LOWERY: No, I don't think so. I -- I don't believe so. 14 CHAIR HALL: Okay. 15 16 MR. LOWERY: What Staff's saying is -- so let 17 me -- I'll try to give you an example. Let's say that we 18 get to the two thou-- and this isn't true, because I 19 think Mr. Rogers' charts show that it's not true. But 20 let's say that we got to the two thousand-- time to do 21 the 2014 IRP and Ameren goes out and it gathers all this 22 information to come up with inputs to put in its model 23 and, low and behold, the transmission information comes back and it's the same, there's just no change. 24 So --25 I'm making this up. It's \$10 avoided transmission 2011,

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1	and you know what, the input in 2014 is also \$10. Then
2	it wouldn't change. It wouldn't change. But but I
3	believe Staff's saying whatever did change, you've got
4	to you've got to use. And I'm pretty sure almost
5	everything changed. I'd be very surprised if any of the
6	inputs were exactly the same or if any of the results
7	were exactly the same. I'd be surprised.
8	CHAIR HALL: So when we're talking about the
9	energy costs that you believe we should apply versus the
10	energy costs that Staff and OPC believe we should apply,
11	it's including the capacity, energy, and transmission?
12	MR. LOWERY: Ab and environmental
13	and every it's including everything. The reason we
14	talked a
15	CHAIR HALL: By the way
16	MR. LOWERY: lot about
17	CHAIR HALL: environmental, does that
18	include 111(D)?
19	MR. LOWERY: I don't have any idea. When you
20	say does that, do
21	CHAIR HALL: Environmental costs.
22	Environmental costs there, does that include
23	MR. LOWERY: The clean power plan?
24	CHAIR HALL: Yeah, any any costs
25	associated with 111(D)?

1	MR. LOWERY: You're asking you need
2	Mr. Michels here to explain that. I I believe my
3	understanding, Commissioner, is that the 2014 IRP, that
4	the avoided costs did, because there were an assumption
5	about what the probability of carbon regulation was going
6	to be, and then that probability roles through the
7	calculation and the methodology; that there is
8	implicitly, at least, some carbon in those numbers. But
9	you're really you're really stretching me now. John
10	says I was right.
11	CHAIR HALL: I have no further questions.
12	Thank you.
13	MR. LOWERY: Thank you.
14	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll, did you
15	have any questions?
16	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No, I don't. Those have
17	been answered. I do thank Mr. Lowery for his opening
18	statement and the interchange between he and the
19	chairman.
20	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp.
21	COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.
22	JUDGE WOODRUFF: I just have one question
23	that I want to make sure I understand. It's pretty
24	basic, but I want to ask so I'm not confused.
25	Now you're talking about 20-year estimates of

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1	available of avoided costs; right? And these would
2	apply to this three-year MEELA cycle?
3	MR. LOWERY: Um-hum.
4	JUDGE WOODRUFF: If there's a the next
5	MEELA cycle number 2, another three-year cycle, I assume,
6	you would recalculate at that point the estimate of
7	avoided costs?
8	MR. LOWERY: We have to. We would
9	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Correct.
10	MR. LOWERY: That's right. We would we
11	would we would at that point and that's what we
12	did. When we filed MEELA 2, we used the, I think I
13	could just be speaking out of school, but I'm pretty
14	sure because the MEELA plan was filed in December and
15	the IRP was filed in October, so they were they were
16	almost on top of each other. I'm pretty sure that the
17	avoided cost estimates that underlie the MEELA plan are
18	exactly the same as they are in the 2014 IRP. So that
19	second plan, yes, it's it's updated in that respect.
20	Our proposal in that in that filing,
21	however, would not be to then update it again before the
22	three new three-year cycle goes.
23	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Correct.
24	MR. LOWERY: But each new plan, yes, we we
25	are using updated information.

Г

1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you very much.
2	MR. LOWERY: Thank you.
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's move on then to
4	Division of Energy.
5	MR. ANTAL: Good afternoon. May it please
6	the Commission. My name is Alex Antal, and I'll be
7	presenting Division of Energy's remarks in this case
8	today.
9	Before I start my remarks, I did notice right
10	before we started oral arguments today that the case
11	setting on our reply was wrong. So I just wanted to
12	acknowledge that mistake and apologize to the Commission
13	for that clerical error.
14	In the Division of Energy's review of this
15	complaint and the motions for summary determination, we
16	particularly looked at what was the proper standard of
17	review that the Commission should use in reviewing all of
18	these alleged violations. So my remarks today will be
19	underscored by that train of thought.
20	And, you know, we believe that while the
21	Commission is not bound by its prior decisions, that as a
22	neutral and independent administrative agency that
23	constitutes a body of experience and informed judgment,
24	that the courts and litigants may properly resort to the
25	past guidance of the Commission in its orders as as

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1	nonbinding precedent and that it is, therefore, prudent
2	upon the Commission to use and not to be smart, but
3	because I think it's important the same methodology as
4	it has used in prior deci in prior orders in
5	determining what the intent of parties were and what the
6	intent of its rules are. And while the inputs to may
7	change, the words on the page may change in any given
8	case, the methodology for coming to its conclusions
9	should be the same.
10	So the first alleged violation is of the
11	Commission's rule which defines avoided costs. Division
12	of Energy believes that Commission's rule does not
13	require Ameren Missouri to provide its EM & V contractor
14	with updates to the avoided cost inputs used in its most
15	recent IRP filing.
16	Now, what is the legal standard? The primary
17	rule of statutory interpretation and of regulatory
18	interpretation is to give effect to the legislative
19	intent, as reflected in the plain language of the statute
20	at issue where the intent of the legislature is clear and
21	ambiguous (sic) by giving the language used in the
22	statute its plain and ordinary meaning. Then the
23	language must be given that plain and ordinary meaning,
24	without any additional statutory construction in the
25	process of that interpretation.

1	Now, the MEELA statute does not define what
2	methodology means. In that case the courts have told us
3	and the Commission has applied this, that the dictionary
4	definition of words should be used. And we've had a long
5	discussion today about, you know, what does methodology
6	mean. And Division of Energy has we've cited the same
7	definition that Mr. Lowery has cited in his filings on
8	behalf of the Company, that that methodology is a
9	procedure or set of procedures.
10	Using the plain and ordinary meaning of
11	methodology, as it appears in the dictionary, it's clear
12	and unambiguous what the rule means; that the utility is
13	to use the most recent avoided cost process or
14	methodology in coming up or developing its MEELA
15	application. And under this definition, Ameren has
16	complied with the rule because the Company used that same
17	process which it used in its avoided cost calculation for
18	its preferred resource plan as it used when it determined
19	the avoided costs in its MEELA 1 report.
20	Staff proposes an alternative interpretation
21	of what methodology means. Their definition includes the
22	dictionary definition, but also would include the
23	numerical inputs which are fed into that process. And,
24	however, the rules of statutory interpretation state that
25	a contrary definition to the dictionary definition can

1	only be used if the dictionary definition, i.e., the
2	plain and ordinary meaning of those words, results in an
3	unreasonable or absurd result. And the courts have also
4	said that the primary concern in determining whether a
5	rule leads to an unreasonable or absurd result is whether
6	or not that definition or plain meaning results in the
7	rule being illegal or the result of that rule being
8	illegal. However, there is no statutory or regulatory
9	prohibition against using the avoided costs in the
10	Company's MEELA 1 application, which was approved by this
11	Commission in 2012.
12	Since the term methodology does not make the
13	rule or the result of that rule unlawful when the word is
14	given its plain and ordinary meaning of being a process
15	or group of processes, the Commission should, therefore,
16	conclude that the term methodology does not include the
17	numerical inputs used by a utility to calculate its
18	avoided costs in the utility's most recent IRP.
19	Now, the second issue that we addressed in
20	our reply was what was the intent of the parties in the
21	2012 stipulation and agreement. Now, DE agrees with
22	Ameren that the 2012 agreement does not require Ameren
23	Missouri to update avoided cost information for use in
24	calculating the portion of the annual net-shared benefits
25	awarded to the Company as its performance incentive.

1 Now, what is the legal standard? The 2 Commission has previously concluded that stipulation and 3 agreements are, in essence, settlement agreements and that the normal rules of contract construction apply to 4 5 interpretation of settlement agreements. The Commission 6 should, therefore, look to the standards appropriate for 7 interpreting a contract when interpreting the meaning of 8 a stipulation and agreement. A stipulation and agreement 9 between parties that is accepted by the Commission does 10 not prevent the Commission from performing its 11 statutory -- statutory duty to regulate the conduct of 12 Missouri public utilities. 13 Missouri's Court of Appeals has stated that 14 when interpreting a contract, the following standards are 15 to be applied: The terms of the contract are read as a 16 whole to arrive at the intention of the parties. ١n 17 that -- in that exercise each term is construed to avoid 18 an effect which renders other terms meaningless. Α 19 construction which attributes a reasonable meaning to all 20 the provisions of the agreement is preferred to one which 21 leaves some of the provisions without function or sense. 22 With this statutory or -- or standard Okay. 23 of review in mind, I believe there are three questions in 24 this specific order that the Commission should address. 25 The first, what was the intent of the signatories to the

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2012 agreement regarding the calculation of avoided costs relying only on the plain and ordinary words of the 2012 agreement?

1

2

3

4 The second question: Is there any ambiguity 5 in the 2012 agreement regarding the calculation of 6 avoided costs, using, again, the plain and ordinary 7 meaning of the words, which would necessitate the use of 8 extrinsic evidence? And I note that there's been a lot 9 of extrinsic evidence presented here today. And what I 10 mean is evidence, words, and evidence that don't appear 11 on the pages as to what these words mean or what the --12 what the results of different interpretations would be. 13 And as the standard would apply, unless there is 14 ambiguity, extrinsic evidence should not be used; only 15 the words on the page of the document.

Thirdly, does the interpretation of the 2012 agreement regarding the calculation of avoided costs attribute a reasonable meaning to all the provisions of the 2012 agreements or does it leave some terms meaningless?

Now, the parties -- the stipulation agreements in its express words state that the stipulation and agreement includes the stipulation itself; the MEELA report, which has been referred to today, as well as the Company's TRN. And within the

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1	report, as it has also been referred to today, Table 2.12
2	clearly states that avoided costs are not to be updated
3	when calculating net benefits for the purpose of
4	assessing the performance incentive. The intent of
5	the the intent of this is to ensure that the
6	performance incentive is based on the cost of the
7	programs, as controlled by the utility, and the number of
8	measures implemented by the utility. These are both
9	factors that are well within the control of the utility,
10	whereas avoided costs are not.
11	Now, the language of the stipulation the
12	only language of the stipulation that any party has
13	referred to today which allegedly modifies Table 2.12 is
14	Appendix B of the stipulation. And there's been a lot of
15	discussion of what the words mean in Appendix B, and
16	particularly Footnote 1.
17	Footnote 1, in Division of Energy's opinion,
18	does not expressly provide for the updating of avoided
19	costs. It expressly states that net that actual net
20	benefits are to be based on actual program costs, which
21	as Table 2.12 not the table, but the paragraph above
22	Table 2.12 stated was the intent that a performance
23	incentive should be based off program costs and the
24	three-year MEELA plan and the actual net megawatt hour
25	savings. So actual savings. When I turn off the lights,

1	I save energy. When I turn when I switch out my light
2	bulb to a CFL or I get a high-efficiency AC unit, I save
3	energy. That does not mean that I have to necessarily
4	attribute a cost to that or have to update the cost to
5	that. I can use the avoided costs from the 2012 IRP, I
6	can use the avoided costs that were included in the
7	Company's application for MEELA 1, or I can use the
8	avoided costs in the Company's 2014 IRP. These are all
9	avoided cost estimates. That's what they are. They're
10	20-year estimates of what we think avoided costs are
11	going to be based off historical knowledge.
12	Now, while we have seen avoided costs go down
13	since Cycle 1 was initiated, the mark we live in
14	volatile markets. You know, people make agreements, they
15	enter contracts because they want assurance, because
16	businesses and government agencies that contract for
17	services want certainty. They want assurance no matter
18	what the markets do, that we can budget for a certain,
19	you know, likelihood.
20	Now, to give an example. If I were a city
21	administrator and I needed to contract for trash hauling
22	service for my municipality, I would want to have
23	probably a multiyear contract with a private firm to haul
24	the city's trash. I would want to lock in a rate so the
25	city could plan, you know, what type of revenue it would

need to pay that contractor to haul trash for a given
 number of years.

3 Now, as we've seen in the last couple of 4 years, gas prices have fallen considerably. Now, my 5 contract was based off of historical information about 6 the price of gas; and a few years ago nobody really 7 expected the price of gas to fall, most people anyways. 8 Now, as a city administrator I might really like to go 9 back to the table and say, you know, trash collector, you 10 know, your cost of doing business has dropped; I know 11 you're not spending as much money on gas to fuel your 12 trash trucks; why don't we renegotiate that rate for the 13 last year or two years of our contract. Now, you know --14 and if he's -- you know, if the trash collector is a 15 smart business person, I would say that they'd say no, 16 you signed a contract for three years; you're locked into 17 that rate, you know; I had no control over the price of 18 gasoline; you know, we made an agreement off the best 19 information we had at that time, and you're beholden to that contract; otherwise, if you break it, I'm coming 20 21 after you for damages.

I think while the facts are much more
interesting and nuanced, I think that's essentially what
we are dealing with here today. And it's a situation
that the parties, the signatories to this agreement did

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not contemplate.

1

2 Because -- and no party here today has 3 alleged that there's ambiguity in the stipulation and agreements. Everyone has said that there isn't -- that 4 5 the language is clear and I'm right. The stat -- you 6 know, the rules of statutory interpretation say that we 7 have to give the words of a contract their plain and 8 ordinary meaning. It cannot rely on extrinsic evidence 9 unless there's ambiguity.

10 Now, the courts have provided us with 11 guidance on what ambiguity means. A contract is 12 ambiguous only if the terms are susceptible of more than 13 one meaning so that reasonable men may fairly and 14 honestly differ in their construction of the terms. 15 However, a contract is not ambiguous merely because the 16 parties disagree over its meaning. I think we've seen 17 that here today.

18 To determine whether a contract is ambiguous, 19 we consider the whole instrument and give the words in 20 Whether the contract their natural and ordinary meaning. 21 a contract is ambiguous is a question of law. So we 22 obviously disagree over the meaning of the language in 23 the agreements. However, I don't -- however, that does 24 not necessarily mean that the words are ambiguous. 25 When we look at the agreement as a whole and

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1 give meaning to all of those provisions so that none of 2 them are left meaningless, I believe -- DE's position and 3 I believe the position of Ameren is that there's no 4 ambiguity and that you have to construe the agreement in 5 the way that states that avoided costs are not to be 6 updated. 7 Under Staff's interpretation of the 8 Commission's rule, the Commission would have approved and 9 the Staff would have signed on to a stipulation and 10 agreement contrary to the Commission's rule, without also 11 approving a variance from that rule, creating an 12 unreasonable and absurd result. However, Ameren and 13 Division of Energy's interpretation gives the words of Section 2.6, the MEELA report, and the rest of the 2012 14 15 stipulation and agreement, including Appendix B, their 16 plain and ordinary meaning, does not render any of the 17 terms of the 2012 agreement meaningless, and does not 18 result in the Commission having had approved a 19 stipulation and agreement contrary to any of its rules. 20 Addressing some of the comments that were 21 made -- well, I'll just leave it at that. And if there 22 are any questions, I'll be happy to try to answer them. 23 JUDGE WOODRUFE: Mr. Chairman. 24 CHAIR HALL: Good afternoon. Do you agree 25 that what this case boils down to is a determination of

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1	whether or not Appendix B conflicts with and, therefore,
2	trumps the language in 1(F)? Actually, no, I'm sorry.
3	Let me rephrase that, because whether Appendix B
4	conflicts with Ameren's plan that's the 2.12 chart where
5	it lists certain things that are to be updated and
6	certain things that are not to be updated? Do you know
7	the one I'm referring to?
8	MR. ANTAL: Yes, I do. And
9	CHAIR HALL: So so my question is does
10	this case come down to whether whether or not Appendix
11	B conflicts with that chart?
12	MR. ANTAL: I don't know that it's the only
13	thing that matters in this case. I think it's
14	CHAIR HALL: Well, I mean, my understanding
15	is is that OPC and Staff would not be here today but for
16	the Language contained in Appendix B.
17	MR. ANTAL: I believe that's what's been
18	stated by the parties. I believe of equal importance,
19	besides what the words of Appendix B is, is an
20	independent interpretation of what the Commission's rule
21	on the definition of avoided cost is. I think that's
22	as as important, if not as important, as what appendix
23	whether or not Appendix B trumps or makes the 2012
24	agreement ambiguous.
25	CHAIR HALL: Well, do you believe that 1(F)

1 is wholly consistent with 2.12? 2 MR. ANTAL: I'm sorry, I'm trying to remember 3 the reference to 2.12. CHAIR HALL: It's the description of update 4 5 process, and it indicates that avoided costs are not to 6 be updated. So my -- so my question is is that -- in 7 your view, is that consistent with 1(F), which asks for 8 the most recent methodology? 9 MR. ANTAL: Yes, under the Company's and 10 Division of Energy's interpretation of 1(F), I think they 11 are consistent; that a methodology does not include the 12 numerical inputs in the avoided cost calculation. 13 CHAIR HALL: So if we were to determine that 14 Appendix B conflicts with Table 2.12, do you agree that 15 we would have to find in favor of Staff and OPC? 16 MR. ANTAL: If I may just --17 CHAIR HALL: And let me -- let me add to 18 that, conflicts and trumps and requi-- and -- and is consistent with Staff's and OPC's position? 19 Well --20 MR. ANTAL: 21 CHAIR HALL: Or is there -- is there an 22 argument that 2.12 trumps or is there an argument that 23 1(F) trumps or is there some other public policy 24 rationale that would -- that would require a different result? 25

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MR. ANTAL: Well, as the parties have stated,
there is no variance requested from Rule 1(F). The
Company has said it was unnecessary, under its definition
of 1(F), to ask for a variance.
CHAIR HALL: But would a would a request
for a variance be required if there was a stipulation
signed by all the parties that conflicted with it?
MR. ANTAL: If the I'm sorry. And I want
to ask answer your question correctly. I want to make
sure that I understand it. So if the Commission were to
take Staff's position on the definition of 1(F), would
its interpretation require
CHAIR HALL: I'm I'm just going to
withdraw the question.
MR. ANTAL: Okay.
CHAIR HALL: AII right.
MR. ANTAL: I'm sorry.
CHAIR HALL: I have no further questions.
Thank you.
JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?
And I have no questions.
MR. ANTAL: Okay. Thank you very much.
JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
CHAIR HALL: Thank you.
JUDGE WOODRUFF: I believe Staff reserved

1 some time for rebuttal. 2 Very briefly. MR. THOMPSON: 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. First of all, I was instructed 4 MR. THOMPSON: 5 by Mr. Rogers that the reason Staff does not apply Rule 6 1(F) to the TD-NSB is because of a waiver of Rule 4 CSR 7 240-20.0932(H)(3). Yeah, that's how I feel. 8 In a broader sense, if Staff was as 9 opportunist as Mr. Lowery is portraying Staff --10 CHAIR HALL: Could you elaborate on that? I 11 mean, obviously I don't have that rule in front of me, 12 but can you explain --13 MR. THOMPSON: It says --14 CHAIR HALL: -- can you explain to me why --15 MR. THOMPSON: -- any utility incentive 16 component of a DSIM shall be implemented on a 17 retrospective basis, and all energy and demand savings 18 used to determine a DSIM utility incentive revenue 19 requirement must be measured and verified through EM & V. 20 That was waived with respect to the TD-NSB. 21 What I was -- further learned from Mr. Rogers 22 is that Ameren Missouri evidently did not like the lost 23 revenue provision in the rule and replaced it with this 24 TD-NSB percentage to the throughput disincentive a 25 portion of the net-shared benefits and that that was

1 actually a type of incentive award. And so it goes under 2 different rules than would have the lost revenue 3 component envisioned by the rules. Okay? And that's why the part that I just read you was talking about a utility 4 5 incentive component, because the TD-NSB is actually a 6 utility incentive component. It goes under those rules 7 rather than under the lost revenue rules. Okay? And 8 it's based on net-shared benefits. And you can see that 9 makes sense, because net-shared benefits, of course, is 10 the projected achieved savings, a percentage of which is 11 going to go to the utility for the throughput -- to 12 console it for the throughput disincentive, that is, the 13 revenue it didn't make by selling more energy; and 14 another portion of which is going to go to it as the 15 performance incentive award, which is what we are 16 fighting about today.

17 The other thing I need to tell you is that I 18 have to correct a misstatement that I made earlier that I 19 think was an important misstatement. And I apologize, 20 but that's always the danger in an oral argument when you 21 don't have time to reflect and to have other people tell 22 you that what you said was crazy. The question was 23 whether or not Staff would be here if the Company's plan 24 had been adopted and approved by the Commission as 25 submitted. And I think in the heat of the moment I

1	said I agreed that we would not be here, because then
2	the red X on Table 2.12 would control. But on reflection
3	and with, again, some input from Mr. Rogers, I realized
4	we would be here, unless there was a waiver of Rule 1(F).
5	Rule 1(F) and the failure of the Company to seek a waiver
6	of that rule is the reason we're here. We would always
7	be here if that rule had not been waived. It wasn't
8	waived by the stipulation agreement in that case, and
9	that's why we're here. Staff stands by the definition of
10	methodology as including the values and the results. And
11	who's better than the Commission to decide what its own
12	rule means? That's the Commission's place. Staff takes
13	a broad view of that rule, and that's what I think was
14	intended. In Staff's view, a narrow definition defeats
15	the purpose of the rule.
16	Finally, Staff has been accused of having
17	winked at or ignored rule violations. But as Mr. Lowery
18	pointed out, at the time the MEELA Cycle 1 application
19	was filed, there was no DSIM. There was no DSIM. Rule
20	1(F) applies when there is a DSIM. So until it was
21	approved, there was no DSIM. There was no rule violation
22	at that point because the rule didn't apply.
23	Thank you very much. I appreciate the time

and attention you've put to this difficult topic this
morning. If you have any further questions, I will do my

1 best. 2 CHAIR HALL: Well, I would agree, this is a 3 difficult topic. Mr. Lowery is taking the position on behalf of Ameren that what Staff is arguing is a rewrite 4 5 of 1(F), that essentially what you are arguing is that 6 what 1(F) says is that the utility shall use the same --7 and the rule says methodology, but he says in its place 8 you are -- you are placing avoided costs, the utility 9 shall use the same avoided costs used in its most 10 recently-adopted preferred resource plan. Can you 11 respond to that? 12 MR. THOMPSON: I think that's the effect of 13 the rule. I believe that's the effect of the rule. And 14 I believe that any other interpretation renders the rule 15 essentially meaningless. I think -- I think methodol --16 when he put his definitions up there, you'll recall he 17 had the definition of method. And, of course, 18 methodology comes from method, but it's not the same 19 The meaning of methodology and the meaning of word. 20 method are not the same. Methodology has a broader and 21 more encompassing meaning than the word method. 22 CHAIR HALL: If I were to have the 2011 and 23 the 2014 IRP document in front of me, would -- would I be 24 able to find some -- would I be able to point to a page 25 that says this is the avoided cost resulting from the

1	Cycle 1 MEELA plan or, instead of that, would I have a
2	list of the generation mix that the Company anticipates
3	using and the costs and et cetera?
4	MR. THOMPSON: What you'd have is a decision
5	tree. And I put a couple decision trees up. In a
6	handout that I gave you, the pages to consult for what
7	you're talking about are listed. It's in the
8	second-to-last column that's headed Avoided Costs From
9	Integrated Resource Analysis.
10	CHAIR HALL: I'm sorry, which where are
11	you?
12	MR. THOMPSON: In the handout is a
13	document
14	CHAIR HALL: Oh, on the first page. Okay.
15	MR. THOMPSON: I didn't do much with that
16	table. But the table is a chronology of the various
17	filings that did or did not change the avoided cost
18	analysis. And you'll see that the 2011 IRP is in the
19	very top row. It was filed on February 23rd of 2011, and
20	that set the adopted preferred resource plan until such
21	time as it was changed. And the avoided costs are
22	described where it says item number 3, I think it is
23	referring to EFIS item number 3; is that correct? The
24	Chapter 7 demand-side resources is HC, and it's page 26.
25	Immediately following in row number 2, filed on

1 January 20th of 2012, is the MEELA Cycle 1 application. 2 There the avoided costs from integrated resource analysis 3 is item number 3 in that case. And the cases are in the 4 second column, MEELA report 1-20-12 HC page 74. 5 CHAIR HALL: Okay. And those numbers are not 6 the same? 7 MR. THOMPSON: They're not the same. 8 CHAIR HALL: Well, why is not that a rule 9 violation? 10 MR. THOMPSON: Because there was no DSIM at 11 the moment that the application was filed. The rule that 12 Mr. Lowery is talking about, Rule 1(F), refers to what 13 happens when there is a DSIM. There wasn't a DSIM until 14 the Commission adopted the MEELA plan. 15 Well, but when we adopted the CHAIR HALL: 16 MEELA plan, shouldn't we have -- shouldn't we have to 17 adopt the avoided costs, as set forth in the most recent 18 I RP? 19 MR. THOMPSON: I think the way Staff 20 understood it was that when you adopted the DSIM, you 21 adopted the avoided costs that went with the application, 22 and so we applied Rule 1(F) on a going-forward basis. 23 Our -- our comment on those avoided costs filed with the 24 MEELA application was that they were reasonable. We 25 found them to be reasonable.

1	CHAIR HALL: And it was irrelevant to you
2	whether or not they were consistent with the 2011 IRP?
3	MR. THOMPSON: That's correct.
4	CHAIR HALL: And you still believe that it's
5	irrelevant, whether they're consistent with the 2011 IRP?
6	MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir, that's correct.
7	CHAIR HALL: Okay. I have no further
8	questions.
9	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp.
11	Thank you.
12	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.
13	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Lowery, you've been
14	chomping at the bit.
15	MR. LOWERY: I would ask for just a minute or
16	two to respond to a couple of these things. And I'll let
17	Mr. Thompson have the last word, because he does have the
18	burden of proof. But there's a couple of things that I
19	think are just flat wrong.
20	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead.
21	MR. LOWERY: This rationale that Staff's come
22	up with today that suddenly now there was not a violation
23	of 1(F), if their theory is true, doesn't hold water.
24	And it doesn't hold water because the definition of
25	avoided cost isn't only applied to the operation of the

1	DSIM once the DSIM is in place; you have to calculate all
2	kinds of things when you make your MEELA filing, and your
3	rule requires that we do so. And you have to use avoided
4	costs to make the calculations. Are they really telling
5	you that we are not bound by your definition of avoided
6	costs when we use avoided costs in our MEELA filing?
7	That's because that's what they're telling you now.
8	And that's just not it's nonsense, to be to be
9	bl unt.
10	That avoided cost definition binds us when
11	the DSIM operates and it binds us when we submit the
12	MEELA plan, that's about this thick (indicating), through
13	your rules, which, single space, cover 30 pages or
14	something like that. So that argument is just nonsense.
15	And I would point out that, although we
16	raised this issue in our motion for summary determination
17	and Staff's had two additional filings to make since we
18	raised the issue, that the logic of their position means
19	that we violated the rule and they jumped on that
20	violation, this rationale was never brought up in either
21	one of those those filings.
22	So I'm not I'm not attributing bad faith,
23	but they're wrong if they think that the avoided cost
24	definition only applies to the operation of DSIM. By the
25	terms of your rules, it doesn't.

1	
1	I'd also point out that this 20.0932(H)(3)
2	and you can look at it on your own, I'm sure that
3	Mr. Rogers apparently is now pointing Mr. Thompson to,
4	when you look at it, you're going to see it doesn't have
5	anything to do with avoided costs at all. It doesn't
6	support the argument that they're making at all. The
7	bottom line is, if they're right, we should have got a
8	waiver of 1(F). We didn't get a waiver of 1(F).
9	20.0932(H)(3) doesn't waive 1(F), and (1)(F) applied. It
10	doesn't say what they say it means, but it applied.
11	Finally and then I'll sit down they
12	keep pointing to these probability and decision trees.
13	And to answer your question, Chairman Hall, and I
14	don't actually, I do have the page number. Let me get
15	it for you. If you will look if you will look at
16	the if you'll look at Table 7.8 from that 2011 IRP and
17	then you go look at Table 3.14 from our MEELA plan and
18	those aren't the decision trees. By the way, those
19	decision trees don't even show all the avoided costs.
20	They show they have superimposed on them some. But
21	they're just showing probabilities applied to different
22	scenarios.
23	If you go look at those two tables, you're
24	going to see that the numbers are different. And if you
25	go to the 2014 IRP, you're going to find a similar table.

1	I don't have the reference. But you're going to have				
2	dollar figures and the you know, the table has many				
3	many rows in the three or four columns. But looking at				
4	these decision trees isn't giving you the avoided costs				
5	that are actually in those three documents. You need to				
6	look at those tables.				
7	I'd be happy to answer any questions you				
8	might have.				
9	CHAIR HALL: I have no questions. Thank you,				
10	Mr. Lowery.				
11	MR. LOWERY: Thank you.				
12	CHAIR WOODRUFF: Last word, Mr. Thompson?				
13	MR. THOMPSON: My last word is thank you for				
14	listening to us this morning. I don't think Mr. Lowery				
15	said anything that I need to respond to.				
16	JUDGE WOODRUFF: ALL right. Thank you.				
17	With that, then, we are adjourned.				
18	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.				
19	MR. LOWERY: Thank you.				
20	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioners.				
21	(Off the record.)				
22					
23					
24					
25					
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