

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

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
Great Plains Energy Incorporated for	)	<b><u>Case No. EM-2017-0226</u></b>
Approval of its Acquisition of	)	
Westar Energy, Inc.	)	

**Staff's Statement of Positions on the Issues**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Statement of Positions on the Issues*, states as follows:

**I. Should the Commission find that GPE's acquisition of Westar is not detrimental to the public interest, and approve the transaction?**

It is Staff's position that that the acquisition could be detrimental without appropriate conditions. See *Staff's Investigation Report*, Case No. EM-2016-0324, attached to the Surrebuttal Testimony of Natelle Dietrich.

**II. Should the Commission condition its approval of GPE's acquisition of Westar and, if so, how?**

Yes, the Commission should approve the *Stipulation and Agreement* between Staff, KCPL, GMO, and GPE filed in Case No. EE-2017-0113 on October 12, 2016; the *Stipulation and Agreement* between OPC, KCPL, GMO, and GPE filed in Case No. EE-2017-0113 on October 26, 2016; and impose the conditions stated therein as well as the additional conditions described by Natelle Dietrich in her Surrebuttal Testimony and further explained in Exhibit A of Staff's Report dated January 18, 2017, filed herein as Exhibit B to the Surrebuttal Testimony of Natelle Dietrich.

**III. Should the Commission address matters such as transmission and power supply services and, if so, how?**

To the extent they are applicable, these matters are addressed by the additional conditions described by Natelle Dietrich in her Surrebuttal Testimony and further explained in Exhibit A of Staff's Report dated January 18, 2017, filed herein as Exhibit B to the Surrebuttal Testimony of Natelle Dietrich.

**IV. Should the Commission grant the limited request for variance of the affiliate transaction rule requested by GPE, KCP&L and GMO?**

Yes, the Commission should grant the requested variances subject to the conditions described above.

**V. Should the Commission condition its approval of GPE's limited request for variance of the affiliate transaction rule requested by GPE, KCP&L and GMO and if so, how?**

Yes, the Commission should grant the requested variances subject to the conditions described above.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Kevin A. Thompson**

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served, either electronically or by hand delivery or by First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017, on the parties and their representatives as identified on the Service List maintained for this docket by the Commission's Data Center.

**/s/ Kevin A. Thompson**