Exhibit No.:

Issue: Accounting Authority Order

Witness: Greg R. Meyer
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Sponsoring Party: MECG & MIEC
Case No.: EU-2014-0077
Date Testimony Prepared: December 9, 2013

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

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas City Power & Light Company and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company for the Issuance of an Accounting Authority Order relating to their Electrical Operations and for a Contingent Wavier of the Notice Requirement of 4 CSR 240-4.020(2)

Case No. EU-2014-0077

Direct Testimony of

Greg R. Meyer

On behalf of

Midwest Energy Consumers Group and Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers

**PUBLIC VERSION** 

December 9, 2013



Project 9843

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas City Power & Light Company and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company for the Issuance of an Accounting Authority Order relating to their Electrical Operations and for a Contingent Wavier of the Notice Requirement of 4 CSR 240-4.020(2)	) ) ) ) Case No. EU-2014-0077 ) ) ) )
---	--

STATE OF MISSOURI ) SS COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS )

### Affidavit of Greg R. Meyer

Greg R. Meyer, being first duly sworn, on his oath states:

- 1. My name is Greg R. Meyer. I am a consultant with Brubaker & Associates, Inc., having its principal place of business at 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017. We have been retained by the Midwest Energy Consumers Group and the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers in this proceeding on their behalf.
- 2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my direct testimony which was prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in Missouri Public Service Commission Case No. EU-2014-0077.
- 3. I hereby swear and affirm that the testimony is true and correct and that it shows the matters and things that it purports to show.

Grea R. Mever

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

TAMMY S. KLOSSNER
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
St. Charles County
My Commission Expires: Mar. 14, 2015
Commission # 11024862

Notary Public

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas City Power & Light Company and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company for the Issuance of an Accounting Authority Order relating to their Electrical Operations and for a Contingent Wavier of the Notice Requirement of 4 CSR 240-4.020(2)

Case No. EU-2014-0077

# Table of Contents to the Direct Testimony of Greg R. Meyer

AAO Purpose and Conditions	2
·	
Trackers and AAOs	
Mitigating Circumstances	12

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

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas
City Power & Light Company and KCP&L
Greater Missouri Operations Company for
the Issuance of an Accounting Authority
Order relating to their Electrical Operations
and for a Contingent Wavier of the Notice
Requirement of 4 CSR 240-4.020(2)

Case No. EU-2014-0077

### **Direct Testimony of Greg R. Meyer**

- 1 Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.
- 2 A Greg R. Meyer. My business address is 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140,
- 3 Chesterfield, MO 63017.
- 4 Q WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?
- 5 A I am a consultant in the field of public utility regulation and an Associate of Brubaker
- 6 & Associates, Inc., energy, economic and regulatory consultants.
- 7 Q PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE.
- 8 A This information is included in Appendix A to this testimony.
- 9 Q ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING IN THIS PROCEEDING?
- 10 A This testimony is presented on behalf of the Midwest Energy Consumers Group
- 11 ("MECG") and the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers ("MIEC").

#### Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

Α

Α

The purpose of my testimony is to address Kansas City Power & Light Company's ("KCPL") and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company's ("GMO") (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Company") request of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") for an Accounting Authority Order ("AAO") to defer certain transmission costs for future regulatory treatment. Specifically, my testimony will demonstrate that the Company has failed to meet the Commission requirements for an AAO. Therefore, I am recommending that the Commission reject the Company's AAO request.

In addition, I will demonstrate that the Company is using its AAO request as a disguise for another request to implement a transmission tracker. In its Report and Order in the Company's previous rate case, the Commission rejected the Company's request for a transmission tracker. Given that this AAO is the same tracker simply in disguise, the Company's request is inappropriate.

## AAO Purpose and Conditions

#### Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN AAO?

Through an AAO the Commission allows a utility to use special accounting treatment for extraordinary events. Specifically, an AAO allows for the deferral of the cost of extraordinary items to a future period for possible inclusion in a utility's rates.

Without an AAO, a utility would charge all costs arising from an extraordinary event as incurred to expense on its income statement. The AAO mechanism preserves the ability of a utility not to recognize the extraordinary event currently, and to defer the rate ramifications for potential consideration in a future rate case.

#### 1 Q PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY AN AAO IS EXTRAORDINARY RATEMAKING.

Α

Α

In a rate case, rates are set based upon an historical period of time known as a test year. In utilizing a test year concept, particular attention is paid to preserve the careful balancing of expenses, revenues and investment for that period of time. As indicated, an AAO allows a utility to capture certain extraordinary, non-recurring expenses and defer them for treatment in a later rate case. Thus, extraordinary expenses that are incurred prior to the historical test year are considered with the test year expenses, revenues and investment. Therefore, from a technical sense, an AAO violates the test year concept.

# 10 Q CAN YOU PROVIDE SOME EXAMPLES OF AAOs THAT HAVE BEEN 11 REQUESTED BY UTILITIES?

Yes. As indicated, AAOs have been used to allow recovery of extraordinary expenses. AAOs have most commonly been granted for deferring expenses incurred as the result of severe storms and floods. These events required substantial expenses to repair the utility's system. These AAO requests were initiated by the utility because the costs incurred for these events would have had a material impact on current earnings. Further, recognizing that rates are designed to recover recurring expenses, the cost of these extraordinary events were not contemplated in the rates currently charged to ratepayers. I will discuss this concept in greater detail later in my testimony.

1	Q	DO YOU BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY CONDITIONS THAT A UTILITY MUST MEET
2		BEFORE RECEIVING AN AAO?
3	Α	Yes. I believe the following conditions should be met before a utility is granted an
4		AAO:
5		a. The event giving rise to the expense must be extraordinary;
6		b. The event must be non-recurring;
7		c. The event must have a significant impact on the utility's earnings; and
8		d. The AAO request must be timely filed.
9	Q	PLEASE DISCUSS EACH OF THE CONDITIONS YOU LISTED.
10	Α	> a. The event must be extraordinary. General Instructions, 7. Extraordinary
11		Items, of the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA") describes:
12 13 14 15		they will be events and transactions of significant effect which are abnormal and significantly different from the ordinary and typical activities of the company, and which would not reasonably be expected to recur in the foreseeable future.
16		> b. The event must be non-recurring. As the condition suggests, the event is
17		not "expected to recur in the foreseeable future." That is, it must not be part of
18		the ongoing operations of the utility. As I stated previously, prior AAOs have
19		dealt with events that were non-recurring (severe storms and floods). In this
20		instance, the Company has historically and is currently incurring transmission
21		expenses and has stated that it will continue to incur transmission expenses
22		into the foreseeable future. Therefore, these costs are clearly recurring.
23		> c. The event must have a significant impact on the utility's earnings. If the
24		event did not have a significant impact on earnings, there would be no reason
25		to seek deferred recognition. In order to seek deferral of the effects of the
26		event, the financial consequences to the utility must be material (significant).

1		The USOA, General Instructions, 7. Extraordinary Items, describes a
2		threshold of 5% of net income before the extraordinary event is deemed to be
3		material.
4		> d. Finally, the AAO request must be timely filed. The AAO request must be
5		timely filed in order to make sure the books and records of the utility are
6		accurately presented. The utility should file the AAO request before the books
7		and records for that particular year are closed or finalized. Timely filing the
8		AAO will alert investors and the outside auditors that a significant
9		extraordinary event has occurred that could impact current earnings. The
10		AAO must be timely filed to establish the deferral for future ratemaking
11		consideration. If the AAO is not timely filed and the utility files a rate case, the
12		AAO request should not be an issue for consideration when setting new rates.
13		If a rate case is filed and concluded after the occurrence of an extraordinary
14		event, I believe the opportunity to process a prior AAO has been forfeited.
15	Q	HAS THE COMPANY PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED THESE CONDITIONS
16	_	FOR REQUESTING AN AAO?
17	Α	Yes. In its Application for Accounting Authority Order to address Missouri River
18		flooding in Case No. EU-2012-0130 on page 11, the Company made the following
19		statements:
20 21		33. The USOA indicates that an extraordinary item for which special accounting treatment would be appropriate is "of unusual
22		nature and infrequent occurrence." Furthermore, "they will be events
23 24		and transactions of significant effect which are abnormal and significantly different from the ordinary and typical activities of the
25		company, and which would not reasonably be expected to recur in the
26		foreseeable future." 18 CFR part 101 (1992), General Instruction 7.
27		34. The above-described expenditures and losses are

extraordinary, unusual, and significant. Furthermore, permitting

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

KCP&L to defer all expenses and losses related to the Missouri River flooding is consistent with the Commission's prior granting of AAOs for "extraordinary items" as defined in the USOA. Indeed, the Commission has a history of approving deferral and subsequent amortization and recovery through rates of incremental expenses associated with extraordinary casualty losses such as fires, floods, ice, and wind storm damage.

# Q DO YOU BELIEVE THE COMPANY HAS MET THE CONDITIONS AS OUTLINED ABOVE?

No. The Company does not meet the conditions for an AAO. Specifically, the Company has been unable to demonstrate that the transmission expenses that it seeks to include in the AAO are extraordinary. Transmission cost is a typical utility expenditure. In addition, Company witness Carlson discusses in his testimony the potential increase in the Southwest Power Pool's ("SPP") administrative costs. Increases in the administrative costs to operate the SPP are hardly extraordinary.

The Company has also failed to demonstrate that the transmission costs for which they seek an AAO are non-recurring. As I stated previously, the Company has admitted in data request responses that the Company has historically incurred transmission costs and foresees incurring transmission expenses into the indefinite future. These costs are ongoing expenses of the Company, plain and simple.

The Company has not met the conditions for granting an AAO. AAOs are used for extraordinary, non-recurring, and significant events. The Company's transmission costs do not meet all of these conditions. As the Company pointed out in its Application in Case No. EU-2012-0130 on page 11, "...the Commission has a history of approving deferral and subsequent amortization and recovery through rates of incremental expenses associated with extraordinary casualty losses such as fires, floods, ice, and wind storm damage." Annual transmission expense fluctuations do

- not meet this criteria. Because an AAO has historically been limited to extraordinary expenses, any attempts to defer recurring expenses for treatment into a future case is inappropriate.
- 4 Q WHAT STANDARD HAS THE COMPANY APPLIED TO ITS AAO REQUEST?
- In its Application on page 4, the Company makes the following statement. "The Companies believe that these transmission costs are appropriate candidates for an AAO because they are material, expected to change significantly in the near future, and are primarily outside the control of the Companies."

#### 9 Q DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS STANDARD?

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Α

No. As indicated previously, the Company seeks to simply look at whether the cost item is expected to change in the near future. The problem with this standard is that the Company never considers whether the cost is extraordinary or the existence of mitigating relevant factors. Rather, the Company simply wants to extend the application of an AAO to allow for deferral of a recurring cost item. Finally, the mere fact that a specific cost item is expected to increase in the future does not warrant the implementation of an AAO. The Company has projected levels of these transmission costs for many years in the future that can be used to time a rate case to address the incurrence of these cost increases. An AAO should be limited solely to extraordinary, non-recurring cost items and rate cases should continue to be used to reflect changes in all recurring costs.

### 1 Q GIVEN THAT AN AAO SIMPLY DEFERS A COST FOR CONSIDERATION IN A

#### 2 FUTURE CASE, WHY ARE YOU OPPOSING THIS REQUEST?

A Inherent in a Commission order authorizing the deferral of these costs is the notion that the Company is provided a reasonable certainty of recovering these costs. As indicated, these costs do not meet the standard for deferral. Therefore, the Company and the investing community should not be misled into believing that there is a reasonable certainty of recovering these costs.

Furthermore, these costs are recurring and should be addressed in a rate case. If the Company believes that its current levels of recurring expenses, revenues and investments dictate rate relief, then it should file such a rate case.

### Trackers and AAOs

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

17

18

19

20

21

Α

#### 12 Q WHAT IS A TRACKER?

A tracker is a mechanism by which the level of a certain cost incurred by a utility is tracked against a baseline level of that cost. Any deviations from that baseline are then preserved for consideration in a future year.

#### 16 Q PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW AN AAO DIFFERS FROM A TRACKER.

An AAO is historical in nature. The extraordinary event has already occurred and the utility is seeking to capture and defer the costs of that extraordinary event for inclusion in a future rate case. A tracker, on the other hand, is forward looking. A baseline level of costs is established and included in rates. Future deviations from that baseline are then captured and considered in a future case.

1	Q	HAS THE COMPANY PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT A TRACKER FOR TRANSMISSION
2		COSTS?
3	Α	Yes. In its last rate case, the Company sought to implement a tracker mechanism. In
4		the Report and Order in that case, issued in January 2013, the Commission found
5		that the Company had failed to meet its burden for implementation of a transmission
6		tracker.
7		The Company's request for an AAO here is actually a tracker request
8		disguised as an AAO request. The Company has requested to defer transmission
9		costs above or below the baseline amount included in its last rate case. The
10		Company is merely trying for the second time to establish a transmission tracker.
11		The Commission should deny this request as it did in the Company's last rate case.
12	Q	IN REVIEWING THE COMPANY'S TESTIMONY, THE COMPANY APPEARS TO
	~	THE REVIEWING THE GOIN AND A TEAR OF
13		BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION WANTED TO GRANT A TRANSMISSION
	_	
13	A	BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION WANTED TO GRANT A TRANSMISSION
13 14		BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION WANTED TO GRANT A TRANSMISSION TRACKER. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE COMPANY'S ASSERTION?
13 14 15		BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION WANTED TO GRANT A TRANSMISSION TRACKER. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE COMPANY'S ASSERTION?  No. I have reviewed the Commission Report and Order from Case Nos. ER-2012-
13 14 15 16		BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION WANTED TO GRANT A TRANSMISSION TRACKER. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE COMPANY'S ASSERTION?  No. I have reviewed the Commission Report and Order from Case Nos. ER-2012-0174 and ER-2012-0175 and I do not accept that contention. Referring to page 28 of
13 14 15 16 17 18 19		BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION WANTED TO GRANT A TRANSMISSION TRACKER. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE COMPANY'S ASSERTION?  No. I have reviewed the Commission Report and Order from Case Nos. ER-2012-0174 and ER-2012-0175 and I do not accept that contention. Referring to page 28 of the Report and Order, the Commission clearly states:  Applicants have not carried their burden of proving that the Commission should order deferred recording ("a tracker") for

1 2		infrequent event. Thus, "items related to the effects of" transmission cost increases are not rare and, therefore, are not extraordinary.
3		Finally, on page 32 of the Report and Order, the Commission noted:
4 5		Applicants have not carried their burden of proving that the projected transmission increases are extraordinary.
6		In this case, the Company has again failed to demonstrate that these costs
7		are extraordinary and non-recurring.
8	Q	IN PREVIOUS SECTIONS OF YOUR TESTIMONY YOU HAVE CITED THE USOA.
9		WHAT IS THE USOA AND HAS THE COMMISSION ADOPTED ITS USE?
10	Α	The USOA provides instruction for recording financial information about electric
11		utilities. The Commission has adopted the use of the USOA through its rules,
12		specifically 4 CSR 240-20.030, Uniform System of Accounts—Electrical Corporations.
13		The Commission rule on page 6 states the following:
14 15 16 17 18		(1) Beginning January 1, 1994, every electrical corporation subject to the commission's jurisdiction shall keep all accounts in conformity with the Uniform System of Accounts Prescribed for Public Utilities and Licensees subject to the provisions of the Federal Power Act, as prescribed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
19	Q	DO YOU BELIEVE GRANTING AN AAO FOR A RECURRING NORMAL EXPENSE
20		WOULD ESTABLISH BAD REGULATORY POLICY?
21	Α	Yes, for several reasons. If an AAO (or, in this case, a tracker) is adopted, I believe
22		the incentive for the Company to manage and control these transmission costs will be
23		eliminated. There is truly no incentive to manage or control a cost which is ultimately
24		going to be recovered in rates.
25		AAOs in the past have been granted for the cost of extraordinary events,
26		which were not included in a utility's base rates. AAOs allowed the utility to defer

these extraordinary expenses for consideration in the utility's next rate case. Allowing a utility to defer a normal recurring expense through an AAO is also contrary to the concept of considering all relevant factors. This concept requires that all relevant factors of the utility's operations be considered during the same period of time to determine just and reasonable rates.

Q

With an AAO or tracker for normal ongoing expenses, the utility would be able to isolate those areas of its operations which are experiencing cost increases and ignore or protect those areas of its operations that are experiencing cost decreases or revenue increases. This picking and choosing of expenses for extraordinary ratemaking distorts the test year concept, and can ultimately lead to a utility being able to earn above its authorized rate of return.

Not granting an AAO or tracker for recurring costs will require the utility to effectively manage all of its costs of operations. By effectively managing all of its costs of operations, the utility can achieve efficiencies between rate cases, and can keep all of those gains for the benefit of shareholders. Allowing an AAO for a recurring expense removes the incentive for total cost control.

# HOW WOULD A UTILITY NORMALLY SEEK RECOVERY OF AN INCREASE IN A RECURRING EXPENSE?

As previously indicated, the rate case process is used to set rates for recurring expenses, revenues and investment. In the rate case process, all "relevant factors" are considered. Thus, if a utility has an increase in a recurring expense, like transmission costs, it should file a rate case. In such a case, the increasing recurring expense (e.g., transmission costs) are not looked at in isolation. Rather, all expenses, revenues and investment are looked at simultaneously. The Company is

- not simply allowed to increase rates because of a single cost item. Instead, the Company is only allowed to increase rates if the overall level of expenses, revenues and investment dictates a change.
- 4 Q IF A COMPANY IS EXPERIENCING A HIGHER LEVEL OF A RECURRING COST,
  5 WHY WOULDN'T IT SIMPLY FILE A RATE CASE?
- A. The Company may not file a rate case because its overall level of expenses, revenues and investment does not justify a change in rates. Rather, when looking at all relevant factors, the Company may not deserve an increase in rates. The Company would likely realize that an all relevant factors review would not result in higher rates. Therefore, the Company would seek to avoid this review and instead skirt the ratemaking process by singling out one particular expense item that is increasing for treatment in a future case through an AAO or a tracker application.

## **Mitigating Circumstances**

13

16

17

18

19

20

21

- 14 Q ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY CHANGES IN "RELEVANT FACTORS" SINCE THE
  15 COMPANY'S LAST RATE CASE?
  - A Yes. I am aware that the percentage of common equity for Great Plains' capital structure has decreased from 52.5% in the rate case to 49.47% (MECG 1.18). In addition, Great Plains' cost of long-term debt has decreased from 6.4% in the rate case to 5.8% (MECG 1.18) currently. I am also aware that KCPL's and GMO's net plant (plant in service less accumulated depreciation) has decreased from the levels included in its last rate case. All these cost reductions will reduce the cost of service from those levels established in the last rate case.

1		This expense analysis is not all-inclusive and was not intended to be. It is
2		provided to highlight the concerns about picking and choosing certain events which
3		have increased the cost of service while ignoring the events which have decreased
4		cost of service.
5	Q	HAVE YOU PERFORMED ANY OTHER ANALYSES REGARDING THE
6		COMPANY'S OPERATIONS?
7	Α	Yes. In response to MECG 2.10, GMO provided its monthly surveillance reporting of
8		its operations. I have reviewed the monthly surveillance reports from January 2013 -
9		September 2013 (the last report available) and calculated GMO's return on equity.
10		Note that, while I have included January in this analysis, the rates from the most
11		recent rate case did not become effective until January 26, 2013. Therefore, the
12		return on equity for January is primarily based upon the pre-existing rates. **Highly
13		Confidential Information Removed**
14		

### \*\*Highly Confidential Information Removed\*\*

I should note that KCPL does not have to submit surveillance data on a monthly basis, but is instead required to submit data only on an annual basis. Because of this, it is impossible to determine how KCPL has earned since its rate case concluded. Requiring more frequent surveillance reporting and making the surveillance reporting public would enhance the ability to assess a utility's current earnings position.

\*\*Highly Confidential Information Removed\*\*

# 1 Q DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS WITH THE COMPANY'S AAO 2 (TRACKER) REQUEST?

Yes. Company witness Carlson testifies about the transmission upgrades that are being constructed in SPP. He discusses the benefits these projects will provide to the regional and local transmission systems. However, the Company's AAO request only seeks to track the increase in costs and is completely silent on any recognition of benefits. If the benefits from these transmission projects exceed the cost or mitigate the costs, there is no need to preserve the expenses for possible future recovery. If the expenses are preserved for future recovery and the benefits are not captured, the ability of the utility to earn above its authorized return is enhanced to the clear detriment of customers.

# 12 Q WHEN KCPL SOUGHT APPROVAL TO JOIN THE SPP, DIDN'T THE COMPANY 13 INDICATE THAT BENEFITS WOULD EXCEED COSTS?

Yes. In Case No. EO-2006-0142, KCPL sought Commission approval to transfer operation of its transmission assets and join the SPP. As reflected in the following citation from its Application on pages 8 and 9, KCPL clearly indicated that the benefits of joining SPP would exceed the costs of participating by over \$2.0 million.

22. The SPP RSC, with the assistance of the SPP, facilitated and managed the production of an SPP RTO cost-benefit study by an independent consultant - Charles River Associates. This study quantifies the potential costs and benefits associated with participation in the SPP RTO. The initial cost-benefit study projects the effects and benefits of an SPP RTO energy imbalance market (Phase I) implementation and the RSC-approved regional transmission expansion cost allocation policy. On an overall basis, this study shows a net benefit of \$2.073 million to KCPL's Missouri retail electric customers.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup>It is important to note that the net benefits to Missouri electric customers may change dramatically if certain of the Missouri electric utilities do not participate in the SPP RTO.

Today, KCPL seeks to separate the benefits from the costs of that participation. Specifically, KCPL wants to make ratepayers entirely responsible for the costs, by capturing those costs and deferring them in an AAO. On the other hand, KCPL wants to deny the benefits to ratepayers and retain those benefits solely for its shareholders until finally recognized in some future rate case. Such separation of costs and benefits is inherently inequitable.

#### Q DID THE COMPANY ALSO INDICATE THAT BENEFITS WOULD EXCEED COSTS

#### WHEN GMO SOUGHT APPROVAL TO JOIN SPP?

Α

Yes. In Case No. EO-2009-0179, GMO sought Commission approval to transfer its transmission assets and join the SPP. As reflected in the following citation from its Application on pages 8 and 9, GMO clearly indicated that the benefits of joining SPP would far exceed the costs of participating by over \$86 million.

13 Cost-Benefit Analysis

24. As part of its application to join MISO filed with the Commission in Case No. E0-2008-0046, KCP&L-GMO submitted the results of a cost-benefit analysis performed by CRA International ("CRA"). The report of that analysis is included as an attachment to the Direct Testimony of Mr. Odell. As set forth in that testimony, CRA is an independent consulting firm hired by KCP&L-GMO to analyze the costs and benefits of KCP&L-GMO's various options for joining, or not joining, an RTO. The study concluded that over the ten-year study period, the net benefit to KCP&L-GMO of joining SPP amounts to \$86.9 million, contrasted with only a \$21.1 million benefit of joining MISO, compared to moving to a stand-alone status.

#### Q HAS THE COMPANY RECENTLY UPDATED THESE BENEFIT PROJECTIONS?

A Yes. On September 30, 2011, KCPL and GMO sought to extend the Commission approval to transfer operations of its transmission systems to SPP. In that pleading, KCPL and GMO again recognized that benefits would greatly exceed costs.

Α

For both Companies together, the projected annual net benefits of participating in SPP vary from approximately negative \$4 million in the low case to positive \$50 million in the high case, yielding a mid-point net benefit of about \$23 million per year. These numeric results do not capture the full range of benefits that are and can be achieved through SPP membership because many of the benefits are not readily quantifiable. (Submission of Interim Report Regarding Participation in Southwest Power Pool, Case Nos. EO-2009-0179 and EO-2006-0142, filed September 30, 2009).

#### Q PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR POSITION.

The Company has not met the requirements for granting an AAO. Specifically, the Company has failed to demonstrate that these costs are extraordinary and non-recurring. To the contrary, the Company has admitted that these costs are normal recurring expenses.

AAOs were not intended to defer expense recognition for normal recurring expenses and the Company has previously agreed with this standard. The Company requested a tracker for these same transmission costs in its previous rate case. In that case, the Commission determined that these costs were not extraordinary and that the Company had failed to meet its burden to be granted a tracker. Nothing has changed and therefore the Commission should reject this requested AAO.

Finally, my analysis of the current operations of KCPL and GMO indicates that there are mitigating factors to the changes that the Company may be experiencing in transmission expense. This highlights the concerns about picking and choosing certain events, which have increased the cost of service while ignoring the events which have decreased cost of service. By seeking to utilize the extraordinary remedy of an AAO, the Company seeks to avoid the all "relevant factors" analysis that comes with filing a rate case. Instead, the Company seeks to isolate one single expense item that is increasing and defer it for treatment in the next rate case.

- 1 Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
- 2 A Yes.

## **Qualifications of Greg R. Meyer**

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

1

Q

2	Α	Greg R. Meyer. My business address is 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140,
3		Chesterfield, MO 63017.
4	Q	PLEASE STATE YOUR OCCUPATION.
5	Α	I am an Associate in the field of public utility regulation with the firm of Brubaker &
6		Associates, Inc. ("BAI"), energy, economic and regulatory consultants.
7	Q	PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND
8		EXPERIENCE.
9	Α	I graduated from the University of Missouri in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science Degree
10		in Business Administration, with a major in Accounting. Subsequent to graduation I
11		was employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission. I was employed with the
12		Commission from July 1, 1979 until May 31, 2008.
13		I began my employment at the Missouri Public Service Commission as a
14		Junior Auditor. During my employment at the Commission, I was promoted to higher
15		auditing classifications. My final position at the Commission was an Auditor V, which I
16		held for approximately ten years.
17		As an Auditor V, I conducted audits and examinations of the accounts, books,
18		records and reports of jurisdictional utilities. I also aided in the planning of audits and
19		investigations, including staffing decisions, and in the development of staff positions in
20		which the Auditing Department was assigned. I served as Lead Auditor and/or Case

Supervisor as assigned. I assisted in the technical training of other auditors, which included the preparation of auditors' workpapers, oral and written testimony.

During my career at the Missouri Public Service Commission, I presented testimony in numerous electric, gas, telephone and water and sewer rate cases. In addition, I was involved in cases regarding service territory transfers. In the context of those cases listed above, I presented testimony on all conventional ratemaking principles related to a utility's revenue requirement. During the last three years of my employment with the Commission, I was involved in developing transmission policy for the Southwest Power Pool as a member of the Cost Allocation Working Group.

In June of 2008, I joined the firm of Brubaker & Associates, Inc. as a Consultant. Since joining the firm, I have presented testimony and/or testified in the state jurisdictions of Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri and Washington. I have also appeared and presented testimony in Alberta and Nova Scotia, Canada. These cases involved addressing conventional ratemaking principles focusing on the utility's revenue requirement. The firm Brubaker & Associates, Inc. provides consulting services in the field of energy procurement and public utility regulation to many clients including industrial and institutional customers, some utilities and, on occasion, state regulatory agencies.

More specifically, we provide analysis of energy procurement options based on consideration of prices and reliability as related to the needs of the client; prepare rate, feasibility, economic, and cost of service studies relating to energy and utility services; prepare depreciation and feasibility studies relating to utility service; assist in contract negotiations for utility services, and provide technical support to legislative activities.

- 1 In addition to our main office in St. Louis, the firm has branch offices in
- 2 Phoenix, Arizona and Corpus Christi, Texas.

 $\label{local} $$\Doc\Shares\ProlawDocs\TSK\9843\Testimony-BAI\249844.docx $$$