

Exhibit No.:

Issues: Gas Prices
Corporate Allocation Adjustments
SJLP Merger Transition Costs

Witness: Charles R. Hyneman

Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff

Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony

Case No: ER-2005-0436

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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

UTILITY SERVICES DIVISION

DIRECT TESTIMONY

FILED

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OF

Missouri Public
Service Commission

CHARLES R. HYNEMAN

**AQUILA, INC. d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS-MPS
AND AQUILA NETWORKS - L&P**

CASE NO. ER-2005-0436

*Jefferson City, Missouri
October 2005*

****Denotes Highly Confidential Information****

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Exhibit No. 418 NP
Case No(s) ER-2005-0436
Date 1-09-06 Rptr LS


BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of Aquila, Inc.,)	
to Implement a General Rate Increase for)	Case No. ER-2005-0436
Retail Electric Service Provided to Customers)	Tariff No. YE-2005-1045
in Its MPS and L&P Missouri Service Areas.)	

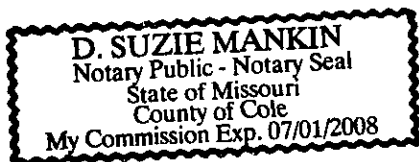
AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES R. HYNEMAN

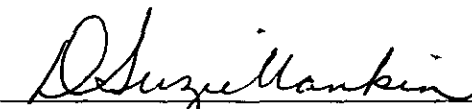
STATE OF MISSOURI)	
)	ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)	

Charles R. Hyneman, being of lawful age, on his oath states: that he has participated in the preparation of the following Direct Testimony in question and answer form, consisting of 36 pages to be presented in the above case; that the answers in the following Direct Testimony were given by him; that he has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; and that such matters are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.


Charles R. Hyneman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of October 2005.




Notary

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TABLE OF CONTENTS OF
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CHARLES R. HYNEMAN
AQUILA, INC. d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS-MPS
and AQUILA NETWORKS - L&P
CASE NO. ER-2005-0436

Executive Summary 2

Natural Gas Prices..... 6

Corporate Allocation Adjustments 19

 Corporate Restructuring Adjustment 20

 Community Relations Adjustment..... 29

 Corporate Lobbying Adjustment 30

 20 West 9th Headquarters Adjustment 31

 Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) 33

SJLP Merger Transition Costs..... 35

Direct Testimony of
Charles R. Hyneman

1 Q. With respect to Case No. ER-2005-0436, have you made an examination of
2 the books and records of Aquila Inc. (Aquila or Company) and its Missouri Public
3 Service (MPS) and Light & Power (L&P) operating divisions?

4 A. Yes, in conjunction with other members of the Commission Staff (Staff).

5 Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?

6 A. The purpose of this testimony is to provide a recommendation to the
7 Commission that it should order an Interim Energy Charge (IEC) for MPS and L&P's
8 variable fuel costs, including costs of natural gas purchased for electric generation. If an IEC
9 is not adopted in this case, I provide a recommendation on what the Staff believes to be an
10 appropriate cost of natural gas for MPS' and L&P's electric operations. This price is
11 representative of an amount on which an IEC price range can be developed. Finally, I will
12 describe Aquila's natural gas hedging policies.

13 In addition to my recommendation on natural gas costs, I will be supporting certain
14 Staff adjustments to Aquila's allocated corporate overhead charges to both of its MPS and
15 L&P operating divisions.

16 Finally, I will be proposing to include an amortization of the transition costs incurred
17 by Aquila in the integration of L&P into its corporate structure after the acquisition of
18 St. Joseph Light & Power Company (SJLP). This acquisition was approved by the
19 Commission in December 2000.

20 **Executive Summary**

21 Q. Please summarize the Staff recommendations included in your testimony.

22 A. The Staff is proposing an IEC in substantially the same format as Aquila's
23 current IEC. The Staff believes an IEC is needed in this period of historically high and very

1 volatile gas prices. In his direct testimony, Staff witness Cary G. Featherstone will provide
2 additional information on the IEC and the Staff's proposed modification to Aquila's existing
3 IEC.

4 I am also proposing the Staff's recommended cost of natural gas burned for electric
5 generation if an IEC is not granted in this case. This price is representative of an amount on
6 which an IEC price range can be developed. The Staff is proposing MPS' and L&P's actual
7 natural gas costs in the month of June 2005 (the end of the Commission's ordered updated
8 test year in this case) as the level of natural gas costs to include in cost of service, absent an
9 ordered IEC in this case. Aquila's pre-hedged cost of natural gas for MPS' and L&P's
10 electric generation was approximately ** \$7/MMBtu ** in June 2005.

11 Finally, with respect to natural gas prices, my testimony includes a description of
12 Aquila's natural gas hedging procedures.

13 On the issue of corporate allocations, I will be supporting several Staff adjustments to
14 Aquila's proposed level of corporate overhead costs. I will be sponsoring the adjustment to
15 allocate fifty percent of the cost of several corporate departments to Aquila's current
16 corporate restructuring operations.

17 I will also be sponsoring adjustments to reclassify corporate lobbying costs and a
18 portion of corporate community development costs from above the line accounts (included in
19 cost of service) to below the line accounts (not included in cost of service). The nature of the
20 costs that I am reclassifying have traditionally been treated by this Commission as below-the-
21 line costs for ratemaking purposes.

22 My other adjustments to corporate allocated costs is to remove all of Aquila's
23 supplemental executive retirement plan (SERP) costs and ** _____

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In the last section of my testimony I will be proposing an amortization of transition costs incurred by Aquila in its acquisition of its L&P division in 2000.

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Q. What knowledge, skill, experience, training or education do you have with regard to auditing Aquila's natural gas costs and its corporate cost allocation procedures?

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A. I have significant experience auditing Aquila's corporate overhead cost allocations as I have audited these costs in both of Aquila's most recent rate cases, Nos. ER-2001-672, ER-2004-0034, HR-20040024 and GR-2004-0072. In addition, I was the primary Staff witness on the issue of corporate overhead cost allocations in other major rate cases before this Commission.

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My college undergraduate and graduate coursework included accounting and auditing classes. I also completed several high-level federal contract administration classes through the Air Force Institute of Technology which included an emphasis on cost causation and cost allocation methods.

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As it relates to natural gas prices and hedging activities, my formal education at the undergraduate and graduate level included courses in business statistics and finance. I participated in post-graduate work on financial stock options, calls and puts, which included a study and presentation at a financial symposium of the variables that influence the prices of stock options. I also recently completed two training sessions specifically focusing on natural gas purchasing and natural gas hedging procedures.

22

23

Q. What Income Statement adjustments to the Staff Accounting Schedules are you sponsoring?

1 A. I am sponsoring numerous adjustments to Accounting Schedule 9, Income
2 Statement, that are listed on Accounting Schedule 10, Adjustments to Income Statement.

3 These adjustments are:

4 Corporate Allocations Adjustment Numbers

5 MPS (Electric)

6 Restructuring: S-34.14, S-69.14, S-80.13, S-82.13, S-89.13, S-93.9

7 Lobbying: S-34.15, S-69.15, S-80.14, S-82.14, S-89.14, S-93.10

8 Community Relations: S-34.16, S-69.16, S-80.15, S-82.15, S-89.15, S-93.11

9 20 W 9th: S-34.17, S-69.17, S-80.16, S-82.16, S-89.16, S-93.12

10 SERP: S-34.18, S-69.18, S-80.17, S-82.17, S-85.18, S-89.17, S-93.13

11 L&P (Electric)

12 Restructuring: S-34.14, S-67.14, S-79.14, S-81.14, S-89.13, S-94.8

13 Lobbying: S-34.15, S-67.15, S-79.15, S-81.15, S-89.14, S-94.9

14 Community Relations: S-34.16, S-67.16, S-79.16, S-81.16, S-89.15, S-94.10

15 20 W 9th: S-34.17, S-67.17, S-79.17, S-81.17, S-89.16, S-94.11

16 SERP: S-34.18, S-67.18, S-79.18, S-81.18, S-84.18, S-89.17, S-94.12

17 The adjustment to include merger transition costs is S-88.12 for MPS and S-88.13 for
18 L&P.

19 Q. Are you sponsoring any other components of the Staff's Accounting
20 Schedules?

21 A. Yes. I am also sponsoring Shared Corporate Plant, listed on Accounting
22 Schedule 3, Total Plant in Service.

1 Q. Are you sponsoring any adjustments to Shared Corporate Plant for either MPS
2 or L&P?

3 A. No, not at this time. The Staff still has some questions on some of the
4 individual shared corporate plant accounts that have not been resolved. The Staff anticipates
5 resolving these questions soon after its direct filing in this case. The Staff is currently
6 reviewing corporate plant workorders to ensure that all capitalized costs are appropriate to
7 include in rates.

8 **Natural Gas Prices**

9 Q. What is the Staff's recommendation on the cost of natural gas used for
10 generation this case?

11 A. Aquila currently has an IEC in place from its last rate case, No.
12 ER-2004-0034. This IEC is scheduled to expire when new rates from this case go into effect
13 in April 2006. The volatility in the natural gas and energy markets that caused the need for
14 an IEC in the 2004 case has not subsided. This continued volatility is the basis for the Staff's
15 recommendation that the IEC process for MPS' and L&P's fuel costs should be continued.
16 Staff witness Cary G. Featherstone presents a detailed discussion on the IEC from a historical
17 perspective and the current need for a continuation of the IEC in his direct testimony in this
18 case.

19 Q. Is the Staff recommending a range of natural gas prices to be used as a
20 "ceiling" and "floor" in its direct filing?

21 A. No. The Staff is not proposing a specific dollar range of an IEC in direct
22 testimony. The Staff believes it is in the best interests of this case if the actual range of
23 natural gas prices to include in an IEC are negotiated by the parties to this case during the

1 | upcoming case settlement discussions. This has been the process in which past IEC
2 | mechanisms have been developed. The Staff believes that Aquila's actual costs of natural
3 | gas in June 2005 will serve as a basis around which the IEC "floor" and "ceiling" prices can
4 | be negotiated.

5 | Q. Will the Staff continue to evaluate Aquila's natural gas prices through the
6 | remainder of this case including the true-up phase of its audit?

7 | A. Yes. The Staff will evaluate the recent extreme volatility in the energy market
8 | and will address this issue and Aquila's post June 2005 natural gas costs in the true-up audit.

9 | Q. If a new IEC is not ordered in this case, what level of natural gas prices is the
10 | Staff recommending be included in cost of service for both MPS and L&P?

11 | A. The Staff is recommending that Aquila's cost of natural gas for electric
12 | generation during the month of June 2005, weighted by generation unit, be used as the level
13 | of natural gas costs to include in both MPS' and L&P's cost of service in this case.

14 | Q. Please describe MPS' and L&P's electric generation units that use natural gas
15 | as a fuel source.

16 | A. The MPS generating units that use natural gas as a fuel source are Greenwood,
17 | Ralph Green, KCI and the newly constructed South Harper generating facilities. The L&P
18 | generating unit that use natural gas as a fuel source is the Lake Road plant. Please see the
19 | direct testimony of Staff witness Graham A. Vesely for a more detailed discussion of
20 | Aquila's MPS and L&P generation facilities.

21 | Q. What are the June 2005 natural gas prices per MMBtu by generation unit
22 | recommended by the Staff if an IEC is not ordered in this case?

1 A. ** _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____ **. This pricing data was obtained from Aquila

6 in response to Staff Request Nos. 158, 158.1 and 158.2.

7 Q. Where will these natural gas prices be reflected?

8 A. Staff witness David W. Elliot of the Commission's Energy Department used
9 these natural gas prices as input data into the RealTime TM production cost model (fuel
10 model) to prepare the fuel and purchased power cost calculations used in the Staff's direct
11 filing.

12 Q. Do the prices you listed above include the impact of Aquila's natural gas
13 hedging operations?

14 A. No, they do not. These prices represent actual prices paid to Aquila's natural
15 gas suppliers. However, as will be described later, only one-third of Aquila's gas purchases
16 are subject to current market prices. Two-thirds of its supplies are hedged either through
17 NYMEX futures contracts or options contracts.

18 Q. How did you develop your current recommended level of natural gas prices?

19 A. I had many discussions with Company personnel responsible for Aquila's gas
20 purchases and hedging operations. I reviewed several publications that report on natural gas
21 prices and current issues in the natural gas industry. I read many articles and publications on
22 hedging, especially hedging with natural gas futures contracts and options. I read the
23 testimony on the issue of natural gas prices in this case and previous Aquila rate cases. I read

1 the testimony of Staff witnesses and Company witnesses in other rate cases. I reviewed
2 workpapers and analysis of natural gas purchases produced by the Staff and Company
3 witnesses in other rate cases. I reviewed the response to data requests on natural gas and
4 hedging operations in this case. I attended training sessions on natural gas purchasing and
5 hedging practices. Finally, I had discussions with senior staff auditors with vast experience
6 on this issue as well as other auditors who have recently worked on natural gas prices in
7 utility rate cases.

8 Q. Is the Staff's proposed level of natural gas prices representative of today's
9 current market prices?

10 A. No. Recently, natural gas prices have been in the \$11 to \$14/MMBtu range at
11 the Henry Hub. The Henry Hub is the pricing point for natural gas futures contracts traded in
12 the New York Mercantile Exchange, or NYMEX, and is a common reference point for the
13 current price of natural gas. The Henry Hub is a point on the natural gas pipeline system in
14 southern Louisiana. It is owned by Sabine Pipe Line LLC.

15 Q. Does Aquila buy any of its natural gas from the Henry Hub?

16 A. No. Aquila purchases its natural gas from sources in the Texas, Oklahoma
17 and Kansas region. Natural gas prices in these markets are typically less than prices at the
18 Henry Hub.

19 Q. Is there a significant difference in the prices of natural gas sourced in the Gulf
20 region, such as the Henry Hub and the region where Aquila purchases its natural gas for
21 generation because of the recent hurricane activity?

22 A. Yes. For example, in the Wednesday October 12, 2005 Gas Daily, the
23 October 11, 2005 price at the Henry Hub was \$13.665/MMBtu, which was representative of

1 all the natural gas prices in the Gulf region. The average natural gas price where Aquila
2 purchases its natural gas in Oklahoma was around \$10.75/MMBtu.

3 Q. What has led to the current high level of natural gas prices?

4 A. The recent hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico (Hurricanes Katrina and
5 Rita) has led to reduced energy production, which has contributed to lower supplies and
6 therefore higher prices. According to the September 29, 2005 edition of its Natural Gas
7 Weekly Update, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported that "the
8 combination of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has disrupted natural gas supplies and continued
9 to prop up prices at near-record highs around the nation." In its October 6, 2005 edition, the
10 EIA reported that "with large amounts of offshore production still shut-in in the Gulf of
11 Mexico, natural gas spot prices increased at all market locations over the period covered by
12 this report (September 28 to October 5)."

13 Q. What is the EIA?

14 A. The EIA was created by Congress in 1977. It is a statistical agency of the
15 U.S. Department of Energy. The EIA provides policy-independent data, forecasts, and
16 analyses to promote sound policy making, efficient markets, and public understanding
17 regarding energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment. On its website,
18 the EIA produces a weekly report entitled Natural Gas Weekly Update.

19 Q. What was the price of natural gas at the Henry Hub the month before the
20 impact of Hurricane Katrina was felt in the market?

21 A. Hurricane Katrina's impact was reflected in the Henry Hub price on
22 August 26, 2005. On that date, the market price of natural gas was \$9.86. On August 31,
23 2005, market prices at the Henry Hub closed at \$12.70 an almost 30 percent increase.

1 Q. Have you looked at natural gas price forecasts made prior to the impact of
2 Hurricane Katrina?

3 A. Yes I have.

4 Q. What have you found?

5 A. A summary of the price forecasts is shown below:

6 *In early June 2005, the EIA lowered its estimate of the 2005 overall Henry
7 Hub price by 11 cents to \$6.90/Mcf and its 2006 estimated price by 23 cents
8 to \$7.10/Mcf.

9
10 *In its July short-term energy outlook, the EIA adjusted its full year 2005 and
11 2006 projections to \$7.21/Mcf and \$7.41/Mcf respectively.

12
13 *On August 1, 2005, Mark Rodekohr, director of EIA's Energy Markets and
14 Contingency Information Division told a Denver, Colorado audience of
15 executives attending the Rocky Mountain Natural Gas Strategy Conference
16 that U.S. natural gas prices will remain at or near current levels for at least
17 two more years. The week prior to his prediction, natural gas prices at the
18 Henry Hub were trading in a range of \$7.38 to \$7.77.

19
20 *On June 16, 2005, Energy and Environmental Analysis projected gas prices
21 for 2007 at the Henry Hub to be a very bullish \$8.50/MMBtu. EEA kept its
22 2005 price prediction of \$6.45/MMBtu unchanged and left its 2006 forecast of
23 \$7.50/MMBtu intact.

24
25 *On Thursday July 21, 2005 Jeffries & Co. energy analyst Frank Bracken
26 increased his 2005 Henry Hub natural gas price forecast to \$6.80/MMBtu and
27 adjusted his 2006 forecast to \$6.20/MMBtu.

28 Q. What do these natural gas forecasts indicate?

29 A. These forecasts indicate that when you carve out the extraordinary impacts of
30 the Hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico (these forecasts were made prior to
31 Hurricane Katrina), the projections of the 2006 average "market price" of natural gas
32 prices by experts in this field were all at or under \$7.50 per MMBtu. If these forecasts are
33 reasonably accurate, and assuming that the market impact of the hurricane activity has faded
34 from the market in April 2006 (when rates from this case go into effect), these forecasts

1 indicate that the ** _____ **. The
2 Staff's proposal is even further substantiated if Aquila's hedging strategy results in a net
3 lower natural gas cost than the ** _____ ** level proposed by the Staff.

4 Q. Does Aquila have a hedging program in place to help address volatile natural
5 gas prices?

6 A. Yes. Aquila began its current hedging program in July 2004. The program
7 was implemented around the same time Aquila's current IEC took effect. Prior to July 2004
8 Aquila did not have any significant hedging activities.

9 Q. What is the purpose of a natural gas hedge?

10 A. The sole purpose of a hedge is to lock in a price today for natural gas that will
11 be delivered in the future. Locking in a price now for a future delivery of a commodity such
12 as natural gas is an attempt to mitigate or lessen price risk. While this describes the purpose
13 of a physical hedge (taking actual delivery of the gas) it is equally applicable to a financial
14 hedge (selling the financial instrument at current market prices prior to taking delivery of the
15 gas). In a financial hedge, the gain on the sale of the financial hedge instrument (futures
16 contract or option) is used to offset the current market price that you pay for the gas.

17 Q. Please describe Aquila's 2004 hedging program.

18 A. ** _____
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Q. What percentage of Aquila's natural gas volumes is hedged?

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Q. What is a natural gas futures contract?

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A. A natural gas futures contract is a rigidly standardized, monthly forward

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contract that is traded on the NYMEX for 72 months into the future. It is a firm obligation to

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buy or sell a defined monthly quantity of natural gas at a specific future time, price and

13

location. Delivery of the physical commodity is possible but occurs infrequently. Most

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contracts are sold at prevailing market prices prior to the contract expiration.

15

Q. How far in to the future does Aquila hedge?

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A. **

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Q. Does Aquila engage in any physical hedges, where it would actually take

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delivery of hedged natural gas or does Aquila engage solely in financial hedges?

20

A. Aquila engages solely in financial hedges. It does not take physical

21

ownership of any of the gas it hedges.

22

Q. Mechanically, how does Aquila transact its financial hedges?

1 A. ** _____

2 _____

3 _____ ** Aquila has decided to record these financial settlements, which result in
4 either a gain or a loss, in FERC account 417.1 Expenses of non-utility operations.

5 Q. Has Aquila reflected any of its hedging operations in its direct filing in this
6 case?

7 A. No. No impact of Aquila's hedging is reflected in its rate case filing. In fact,
8 the Staff has found no reference to Aquila's hedging operations in any testimony filed by
9 Aquila in this case.

10 Q. Has Aquila reflected the results of its natural gas hedging in the monthly IEC
11 reports submitted to the Staff?

12 A. No. In tracking its variable fuel and purchase power costs since the
13 implementation of the IEC in its last rate case, Aquila has not reflected the results of its
14 hedging operations.

15 In discussions with Aquila personnel the Staff has learned that since they believe that
16 the IEC language included in the Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. ER-2004-0034 did
17 not call for the IEC to be adjusted for gains and losses from Aquila's financial hedges, it did
18 not include these gains and losses in the monthly IEC calculations. In other words, hedging
19 gains, which would reduce fuel expense and hedging losses, which would increase fuel
20 expense, are not being reflected in Aquila's current estimate of its over or under recovery of
21 variable fuel expense under its existing IEC.

22 Q. Prior to this rate case was the Staff under the impression that Aquila's current
23 IEC calculations included the impact of its hedging operations?

1 A. Yes. Through discussions with Company personnel, the Staff was aware that
2 Aquila's administrative costs of its hedging program was not in the IEC calculation.
3 However, the Staff was under the assumption that the actual gains and losses of the hedges
4 were reflected in the monthly IEC calculations. The Staff made it known to Aquila that it
5 intended to include the administrative costs of the hedging program in the IEC.

6 Q. Has Aquila's hedging program been successful?

7 A. This has been hard for the Staff to determine. The Staff has asked Aquila to
8 provide it with monthly pre-hedged and post-hedged gas prices since it instituted its hedging
9 program. Aquila has advised the Staff that it has had great difficulty doing this calculation
10 and has to date not provided this information to the Staff.

11 However, when you look at the gains and losses from its financial hedging
12 transactions that Aquila records in a below the line FERC account No. 417.1, the results, to
13 date, do not appear to be impressive. Since it began recording gains and losses from this
14 hedging plan in July 2004, Aquila has recorded a cumulative loss of \$269,840.

15 For calendar year 2004 it recorded a loss of \$2,192,610. In 2005, with the recent
16 escalation of natural gas prices, the financial results of Aquila's hedging program have
17 improved. From January through September 2005, Aquila has recorded a gain of
18 \$1,922,770, with all of this gain occurring in the last three months of July, August and
19 September, with Aquila recording close to a \$1 million gain in September. This information
20 was provided to the Staff in response to Data Request No. 448.

21 Q. What are some of the variables that could influence whether a gain or loss on
22 financial hedging transactions is realized?

1 A. With all other factors remaining equal, when prices rise in the physical
2 market, a gain is more likely on an existing futures contract as the futures contract becomes
3 more valuable (contract price is less than current market price). The opposite is true. When
4 current market prices of natural gas drop, the value of the futures contracts also drops which
5 causes a loss in the hedging program for that period.

6 This is one reason why it is difficult to determine at this point if Aquila's hedging
7 program has been successful without further analysis. Its continuing losses up until the
8 recent months could simply be the result of declining gas prices. The Staff has done no
9 analysis to make this determination.

10 Q. Please provide an example of a hedge where a NYMEX futures contract
11 results in a gain.

12 A. Assume it is October 10, 2005 and you are a natural gas buyer who plans to
13 purchase December natural gas at the Henry Hub. You are concerned that actual December
14 prices will be higher than the current price of the December futures contract, which is
15 currently trading at \$5.00/MMBtu. The first thing you would do is to purchase a futures
16 contract on the NYMEX for December 2005 delivery. Assume now that it is November 25,
17 2005 and you go out and buy your physical natural gas. You were correct and the price has
18 risen to \$7.00/MMBtu. After you purchase your physical gas you no longer have a need for
19 your futures contracts so you call your broker and sell one NYMEX contract at the \$7 current
20 market price. Since one NYMEX contract is for 10,000 MMBtu, you record a gain of
21 \$20,000 (\$2 gain per MMBtu times 10,000 MMBtu).

22 Q. Please provide an example of a hedge where a NYMEX futures contract
23 results in a loss.

1 A. Assume the same facts in the example above except that at November 25,
2 2005 when you go into the market to buy your physical natural gas the price has dropped to
3 \$2.50/MMBtu. You purchased your physical gas so you call your broker and close out your
4 futures position. You take a \$2.50/MMBtu loss on the futures contract (purchased for \$5 and
5 sold for \$2.50 current market price) and you pay \$2.50/MMBtu for your physical gas for a
6 total cost of \$5/MMBtu.

7 Q. Please provide an example of a hedge using options.

8 A. Again, assume it is October 10, 2005 and you are a natural gas buyer that
9 plans to purchase December natural gas at the Henry Hub. You expect that natural gas prices
10 will fall but you want to have some insurance against a spike in prices. One action you could
11 take is to establish a price cap by purchasing a call option. Assume you buy a \$4.50 call
12 option on a December 2005 natural gas futures contract. The premium or price of the option
13 is \$.50 per MMBtu.

14 In late November you go into the market and purchase natural gas. You predicted
15 incorrectly and the market price of natural gas has risen to \$8.00/MMBtu. After you
16 purchase your physical gas you no longer have a need for your call option so you sell your
17 call option. Since the market is at \$8/MMBtu and you purchased the call option at \$4.50, the
18 intrinsic value of the option is \$3.50. This amount, less the \$.50 premium results in a gain of
19 \$3.00. Your cost of natural gas is the market price of \$8.00/MMBtu less the \$3.00 gain for a
20 net cost of \$5.00/MMBtu. By purchasing a call option you are able to participate in a price
21 declining market, but you also establish a ceiling price you will pay. In this example, the
22 ceiling is the sum of the strike price of the call option, \$4.50, and the premium \$.50, or
23 \$5.00/MMBtu.

1 If the price of natural gas had declined as you expected, for example to
2 \$2.50/MMBtu, your cost of the gas would be \$3.00. This is the cost of the gas in the market
3 of \$2.50 plus the \$.50 premium. Since the market price of the gas is less than the option to
4 purchase gas (at the option expiration date) the option would expire worthless. The purchase
5 of the call option allowed you to establish a ceiling price while also allowing you to
6 participate in a declining price market.

7 Q. Is the Staff prepared at this time to provide the Commission with an overall
8 opinion of Aquila's hedging operations?

9 A. No. This is the first rate case in which Aquila has a hedging program. The
10 program is still relatively young and hopefully Aquila is and will be adjusting its hedging
11 program to make it more effective.

12 Q. Will the Staff be closely monitoring the effectiveness of Aquila's hedging
13 program in the future?

14 A. Yes. Because of the impact of Aquila's hedging program on its current and
15 possibly future IEC, the Staff will be paying very close attention to Aquila's hedging
16 operations in the future.

17 Q. While the Staff has not formulated an overall opinion on Aquila's hedging
18 program, does the Staff have any concerns about Aquila's current hedging program?

19 A. Yes. ** _____
20 _____
21 _____
22 _____
23 _____

**

It would be appropriate for Aquila to give serious thought and consideration to delaying the purchase of financial hedges in certain situations. One situation is when the market is experiencing extremely high and even unprecedented prices that could very well be caused by a short term extraordinary event, such as the two major hurricanes of historical levels that hit the Gulf region in the last two months. While the decision to buy the hedge may still be appropriate in this situation, the Staff believes Aquila should at least give serious consideration to delaying such purchases.

Corporate Allocation Adjustments

Q. Please describe the process Aquila uses to allocate costs to its business units.

A. A description of Aquila's corporate overhead cost allocation process is included in the direct testimony of Staff witness Lesley R. Preston.

Q. What adjustments are being proposed by the Staff to MPS' and L&P's test year corporate allocated costs?

A. The Staff's adjustments can be classified into nine categories of adjustments to MPS's and L&P's per book corporate allocated costs. I will be sponsoring adjustments 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Staff witness Preston will be sponsoring adjustments 1, 2, 3, and 9. These adjustments are included in Accounting Schedule 10, Adjustments to Income Statement:

1. Adjust test year cost to reflect Aquila's corporate allocation adjustment;
2. Modify Aquila's Massachusetts factor as a general allocator;
3. Reflect the Staff's proposed South Harper plant costs in the Massachusetts factor;

4. Reclassify 50 percent of the cost of certain corporate departments to restructuring operations (Restructuring adjustment);
5. Charge corporate lobbying costs to below the line accounts (Lobbying adjustment);
6. Charge 25 percent of Community Relations department related to charitable contributions to below the line accounts (Community Relations adjustment);
7. Include rent revenues for Aquila's to reflect a more efficient use of office space in its 20 W 9th Headquarters building (20 W 9th adjustment);
8. Remove supplemental executive retirement costs (SERP adjustment);
9. Include Aquila's Six Sigma costs.

Corporate Restructuring Adjustment

Q. Please describe the corporate restructuring adjustment.

A. This adjustment reclassifies 50 percent of the costs of selected corporate departments to Aquila's restructuring activities. Restructuring activities are activities engaged in by Aquila employees (mostly at the senior management level) with the purpose of restoring Aquila to financial health. Aquila's failed non-regulated business adventures in 2002 have taken the Company to the brink of bankruptcy. Aquila has been working diligently over the last three years, in various restructuring activities, to recover from this financial distress. It is the Staff's position and Aquila's position that the costs of Aquila's restructuring activities should be borne by its utility customers.

Q. Did Aquila make a commitment that its ratepayers would not be negatively impacted by its current financial difficulties?

A. Yes. At page 7 of his direct testimony, in Case No. EF-2003-0465 dated April 30, 2003, Mr. Jon R. Empson, Aquila's Senior Vice President, Regulatory, legislative, and Gas Supply Services stated "...while Aquila accepts full responsibility for its past strategy, Aquila is also taking full responsibility for restoring financial stability without adversely impacting the customer."

1 Q. Which corporate overhead departments did the Staff determine should be
2 allocated restructuring operations?

3 A. The Staff determined that the following corporate departments have been
4 significantly involved in Aquila's restructuring operations:

5 Dept 4030 Chief Operating Officer
6 Dept 4035 Chief Financial Officer
7 Dept 4040 Chairman and CEO
8 Dept 4043 Board of Directors Management
9 Dept 4155 Corporate Compliance
10 Dept 4033 Energy Resources
11 Dept 4120 Corporate Communications
12 Dept 4223 HR Executive
13 Dept 6370 Regulatory Administration

14 Q. Please describe the progress made by Aquila in its restructuring activities over
15 the last three years.

16 A. Aquila has been in a corporate restructuring mode since about March 2002
17 when it launched an initiative, known internally as Project BBB+/Baa1. This project was
18 implemented to reduce costs by \$100 million and sell \$500 million in assets in an effort to
19 improve Aquila's credit standing. For the remainder of 2002 and 2003 Aquila's management
20 was very heavily engaged in its restructuring operations.

21 In a press release dated November 6, 2003, Aquila announced that it is continuing to
22 execute its restructuring plan. Mr. Richard C. Green, Aquila's chairman and chief executive
23 officer (CEO) is quoted in this press release as saying "Aquila still has significant work
24 ahead to ensure a firm foundation for the company. Our focus in the coming months will be
25 finalizing our pending U.K. and Canadian asset sales and continuing to pursue much-needed
26 rate relief. At the same time, we are committed to further improving our financial condition

1 by selling our investment in independent power plants, and by exiting our remaining tolling
2 agreements.”

3 On March 14, 2005 Aquila announced plans to further reposition its business and
4 enhance its ability to realize Aquila's long-term growth opportunity as an integrated natural
5 gas and electric utility focused on providing safe and reliable service to customers.

6 Mr. Green, Aquila's CEO is quoted in the press release:

7 Over the last two years, we have made significant progress on Aquila's
8 repositioning and have successfully executed more than 30 major
9 initiatives to stabilize the company's financial condition and improve
10 the financial performance of our regulated utility business.

11 With these advances, Aquila now has the opportunity to accelerate its
12 repositioning plan, which will significantly improve our credit metrics
13 and increase investment in the years ahead to meet the needs of our
14 customers.

15 This accelerated repositioning effort will include the selective
16 divestiture of regulated utility assets to raise funds to further
17 strengthen the company's balance sheet and provide the catalyst for
18 future investment in regulated capital projects. Aquila has the
19 opportunity to invest in generation, transmission and electric and
20 natural gas distribution capacity, as well as required environmental
21 upgrades. These investments will strengthen our utility business and
22 improve our returns and earnings. We believe the incremental
23 investment opportunity is approximately \$650 million over the next
24 five years. By pursuing this course, our goal is to put Aquila on a clear
25 path to achieve an average annual EBIT growth rate on post-
26 divestiture rate base of 3 percent to 5 percent and move further toward
27 investment grade credit metrics.

28 On September 21, 2005 Aquila announced that it has signed definitive agreements to
29 sell four utility businesses identified for potential sale on March 14, 2005, for a total of
30 \$896.7 million.

31 Q. How long does Aquila estimate it will take to complete the regulatory
32 approvals of the sales?

1 A. Aquila anticipates receiving timely regulatory approvals for these transactions
2 within approximately 12 months.

3 Q. Did several of Aquila's top executives receive significant compensation for
4 the work done on the utility asset sales portion of Aquila's overall restructuring operations?

5 A. Yes. In its Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on
6 September 21, 2005, Aquila described the bonus it was paying to its corporate executive
7 team for the work done on the utility asset sales:

8 On September 22, 2005, the Compensation and Benefits Committee of
9 the Company's Board of Directors adopted an executive cash bonus
10 plan. The objective of the plan is to acknowledge the successful
11 execution of the initial phase of the Company's strategy to reduce
12 debt through the sale of the utility properties described above as
13 well as to provide an incentive to complete each of the four
14 announced transactions. Under the bonus plan, executive officers of
15 the Company will immediately receive a cash bonus of 25% of base
16 salary and, if all of the transactions are consummated, will receive a
17 further cash bonus of 75% of base salary. (emphasis added).

18 Q. Does the Staff consider activities and efforts undertaken by Aquila's senior
19 management to dispose of a significant portion of its utility assets to be efforts to restore
20 Aquila's financial stability?

21 A. Yes, it does. Aquila is engaged in several different types of restructuring
22 activities designed to restore financial health. The sale of a portion of its domestic utility
23 business is only one of these activities.

24 Q. How did you select the corporate departments to be allocated to restructuring
25 operations?

26 A. As I have done in Aquila's two previous rate cases, I reviewed board of
27 director minutes, Aquila's annual reports, SEC filings, press releases, responses to data
28 requests in this case and previous cases, payments to outside contractors, and used the

1 experience gained in auditing Aquila's corporate allocations process in its previous two rate
2 cases to develop a general understanding of the extent of Aquila's corporate department's
3 involvement in Aquila's restructuring operations. I gave significant weight to documents
4 filed with the SEC such as quarterly and annual reports as these documents provide
5 information with a high degree of reliability.

6 Q. Was the Staff's restructuring adjustment influenced by Aquila's Board of
7 Directors' decision to pay \$3.339 million in bonus payments for work done to date on
8 Aquila's utility asset sales and as an incentive to complete the sales over the next year or
9 two?

10 A. Yes. Of all the senior management employees selected for restructuring
11 bonuses, I have only excluded Department 4031, General Counsel. A review of this
12 departments corporate cost allocation showed that 47 percent of payroll costs are charged to
13 corporate retained departments. Corporate retained departments are departments where costs
14 are charged that are not allocated to the utility operating divisions, but are retained at the
15 corporate level. It appears that this is the only Aquila corporate department that made the
16 effort to charge a portion of its payroll costs to non-utility operations, including restructuring
17 operations.

18 I have also included an allocation of 50 percent of the costs of Department 4043,
19 Board of Directors Management. A review of the minutes of the board meetings reveals that
20 a significant part of the board's focus in on Aquila's restructuring operations, including how
21 to sufficiently compensate Aquila's senior executives for its work on restructuring
22 operations.

1 Q. You described Aquila's restructuring operations since it began to experience
2 financial problems in 2002. What was Aquila's corporate structure in 2001, prior to its
3 financial problems?

4 A. In 2001, Aquila was organized and its businesses were independently
5 managed by business segments. Its four business segments were 1) Energy Merchant 2) U.S.
6 Networks 3) International Networks and 4) Services. In November 2001, Aquila combined
7 its U.S. Networks segment and its International Network segment into the Global Networks
8 business segment.

9 Its Energy Merchant business provided risk management products and services,
10 traded energy-related and other commodities, and marketed natural gas and electricity to
11 industrial and wholesale customers in the U.S. and Canada. Aquila also marketed energy in
12 Europe through its offices in the U.K., Germany and Norway. Through its Aquila Gas
13 Pipeline Corporation subsidiary, Aquila gathered, transported and processed natural gas and
14 gas liquids in Texas and Oklahoma. Aquila is still in the process of winding down its
15 merchant operations. In 2001 the Merchant business had \$37.7 billion in sales, which
16 accounted for 94 percent of Aquila's total sales and had \$6.2 billion in assets, or 52 percent
17 of total Company assets.

18 In 2001, Aquila's operating divisions in the U.S. served 349,000 electric distribution
19 customers in three states: Missouri, Kansas and Colorado; and 831,000 natural gas
20 distribution customers in seven states: Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa,
21 Michigan and Minnesota. Its seven domestic utility divisions were, and still are today
22 Missouri Public Service, St. Joseph Light & Power, Kansas Public Service, Peoples Natural
23 Gas, WestPlains Energy, Northern Minnesota Utilities and Michigan Gas Utilities.

1 In 2001, Aquila operated electric and gas utility networks in Australia, New Zealand, and
2 Canada. Aquila was the manager and 34 percent owner of United Energy in the Australian
3 State of Victoria. United Energy has four business units including Distribution, Energy
4 Merchant, Utili-Mode and UeComm. The distribution business serves 1.1 million electricity
5 and gas customers in Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula. UeComm, a
6 telecommunications business, has developed networks in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

7 Aquila and United Energy jointly own 45 percent of AlintaGas Limited, a natural gas
8 distributor in the state of Western Australia. AlintaGas is based in the city of Perth and has
9 more than 430,000 customers.

10 Aquila owned 55 percent of UnitedNetworks Limited, a company that serves
11 approximately 600,000 customers, mostly in the Auckland and Wellington areas.
12 UnitedNetworks Limited is New Zealand's largest electricity lines company and natural gas
13 distributor.

14 Aquila began operating in Canada since its acquisition of West Kootenay Power in
15 1987. In February 2000 Aquila acquired TransAlta Corporation's distribution and retail
16 operations in Alberta for \$480 Million. Prior to its sale, Aquila operated this business as
17 Aquila Networks Canada (Alberta), Ltd.

18 Aquila's Services segment in 2001 consisted of Quanta Services and Aquila
19 Communications Services. During this time period Aquila held a 38.5 percent equity interest
20 in Quanta Services, a Houston-based firm that builds and maintains networks carrying energy
21 and telecommunications. In 2001 and the beginning of 2002, Aquila spend considerable time
22 and resources trying, unsuccessfully, to achieve control over Quanta's operations. Aquila

1 eventually failed in its attempt to take over Quanta and had to record a loss of nearly \$700
2 million on this investment.

3 Formed in early 2000, Aquila Communication Services provided a range of
4 broadband services including local and long-distance voice, high-speed Internet access and
5 digital television. Aquila's joined partners with Unite, a competitive local exchange carrier
6 serving an area north of Kansas City, and Everest Connections Corporation, a St. Louis-
7 based telecommunications company involved in the construction and operation of broadband
8 fiber-optic networks to homes and businesses.

9 Q. When did Aquila's current financial problems begin?

10 A. Aquila's current financial problems occurred with the announcement in April
11 2002 by Moody's Investors Services that it was changing Aquila's outlook to negative. In
12 response to this action, Aquila issued a press release on April 29, 2002 describing its current
13 focus on its balance sheet and investment grade rating. In this press release, Aquila stated
14 that it has taken a number of positive steps over the previous 12 months to strengthen its
15 balance sheet and liquidity position. Aquila announced that it has issued over \$1 billion in
16 equity, plans to sell \$500 million in less strategic assets, and was implementing cost-cutting
17 and revenue-enhancement measures with a goal of increasing earnings by \$100 million. This
18 initiative became known as Project BBB+/Baa1. In addition to these actions, Aquila
19 announced the following steps it has taken to strengthen its financial position:

20 On May 21, 2002 Moody's Investors Service's placed Aquila under review for
21 possible downgrade. In a press release issued on this date, Robert K. Green, Aquila's then
22 President and Chief Executive Officer stated "We've maintained an open dialogue with
23 Moody's and made them aware of our plans to improve cash flow. We've already identified

1 approximately \$96 million in savings as a result of staff reductions, elimination of executive
2 incentives and a tightening on all expenditures. We expect to make significant progress in
3 short order.”

4 The next day, May 22, 2002, Aquila announced today that it is eliminating
5 approximately 200 positions from its Merchant Services and Corporate staffs. This staff
6 reduction is in addition to the elimination of 500 positions with completion of the previously
7 announced restructuring of its Networks business.

8 On Jun 17, 2002 Aquila announced a new three-part plan includes: (1) a significant
9 reduction and downsizing of its wholesale energy services business in response to the
10 increased cost of capital for that business; (2) an anticipated \$.50 per share reduction in the
11 annual common dividend to a new rate of \$.70 per share and (3) the issuance of \$900 million
12 of new equity and debt securities in order to balance the capital structure and satisfy the
13 company's remaining 2002 liquidity needs, including the funding of previously announced
14 acquisitions.

15 Less than a month after it announced that it will restructure the wholesale energy
16 marketing and trading business of its Merchant Services segment, On Aug 6, 2002, Aquila
17 announced that it was totally eliminating all wholesale energy marketing and trading

18 On October 1, 2002, Aquila's President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Green
19 resigned from all executive officer positions with the company and from Aquila's board of
20 directors. Robert Green's separation package has a value of approximately \$7.6 million. The
21 board has reassigned Robert Green's CEO responsibilities to longtime Chairman Richard C.
22 Green, Jr.

1 On October 16, 2002 Aquila reported additional asset sales under its previously
2 announced restructuring program, bringing the current total of assets it has sold or agreed to
3 sell to \$976.6 million. The company's stated goal since May has been to sell at least
4 \$1 billion in assets to strengthen its balance sheet and credit. Aquila's Chairman, President
5 and Chief Executive Officer Richard C. Green, Jr. stated that "we are continuing to focus on
6 our transition back to our roots as a regulated utility company and our exit from the elements
7 of our previous energy merchant strategy that are not consistent with our current business
8 model."

9 Aquila has been continuing in its restructuring mode through 2003, 2004 and
10 continuing into 2005. With the recently announced sale of a significant portion of its utility
11 businesses, its restructuring efforts will continue well into 2006.

12 **Community Relations Adjustment**

13 Q. Please explain the corporate Community Relations department adjustment.

14 A. This adjustment reclassifies 25 percent of the costs accumulated in Aquila's
15 corporate overhead Department 6124, Community Relations – Missouri. This department
16 includes ten employees with a total base payroll cost of \$650,000. From a meeting with
17 representatives of this department the Staff learned the employees assigned are involved in
18 various activities. The community relations activities include working with and maintaining
19 relationships with local government officials, dealing with ice storm issues, right of way
20 ordinances and street light issues. In addition, this department is involved with economic
21 development issues for Missouri and other states, which include managing the economic
22 development data base for total Aquila operations. Department 6124 is also responsible for
23 key customer accounts, which involves working with Aquila's largest 200 customers in

1 Missouri. Finally, this department administers Aquila's charitable contributions program in
2 Missouri.

3 Q. What is the basis for this adjustment?

4 A. In addition to my knowledge and understanding gained through meeting with
5 department employees, I also did an analysis of the types of costs accumulated in this
6 department. Of the non-payroll and benefit costs accumulated in this department,
7 approximately forty percent of the costs are related to charitable contributions, social and
8 community gifts, business promotion, and entertainment costs. All these costs should be
9 charged below-the-line, and the costs of the employees responsible for these costs should
10 also be charged below-the-line. Based on this analysis, the Staff believes that a twenty-five
11 percent allocation to below-the-line non-utility operations is reasonable and appropriate.

12 **Corporate Lobbying Adjustment**

13 Q. Please explain the Staff's corporate Lobbying adjustment.

14 A. The Staff made an adjustment to charge all of Aquila's Department 6376,
15 Regulatory Legislative Services – Missouri costs to a below-the-line account. This
16 department supervises the work of all of Aquila's outside lobbyists, conducts lobbying
17 activities on behalf of Aquila and interacts with other utility-related lobbying groups such as
18 the Missouri Energy Development Association (MEDA).

19 Q. What is the basis of you adjustment to Department 6376?

20 A. I reviewed payment vouchers, work products of outside lobbyists, expense
21 reports and an explanation of Aquila's accounting for lobbying costs obtained from Aquila in
22 response to Data Request Nos. 125, 193, 124 and 124.1.

1 Q. Are there other Aquila employees who engage in lobbying activities that are
2 not in Department 6376?

3 A. Yes. The Staff is aware that Mr. Richard Green, Aquila's Chairman and Chief
4 Executive Officer, Mr. Keith Stamm, Aquila's Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Jon
5 Empson, Aquila's Senior Vice President, Regulated Operations have participated in lobbying
6 activities to some extent. For example, Mr. Stamm is on the Board of Directors of MEDA, a
7 utility-lobbying association.

8 **20 West 9th Headquarters Adjustment**

9 Q. Please describe the 20 West 9th Headquarters adjustment.

10 A. This adjustment adds \$1.0 million of lease revenue to the accumulated costs
11 Department 4010, Corporate Services – 20 West 9th Headquarters building in downtown
12 Kansas City, Missouri.

13 Q. What is the basis of this adjustment?

14 A. Aquila has incorporated the Six Sigma business process improvement
15 methods into its business to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Aquila commissioned
16 Deloitte & Touche USA LLP (Deloitte) to help with its implementation of its Six Sigma
17 program. In October 2003 Deloitte produced a report that included several cost reduction
18 suggestions. One such suggestion was that Aquila should relocate 153 seats occupying
19 floors 5 through 10 at 20 West 9th Headquarters to floors 1 through 4 of the building and the
20 annex building and relocate the remaining 20 to 30 seats to Aquila's office building in
21 Raytown, Missouri. Deloitte's analysis showed that savings to Aquila could start in the first
22 quarter of 2004, but the process could take six to eighteen months. Deloitte also estimated
23 that Aquila could receive \$1.2 million is lease revenue in 2005 and into the future.

1 This recommendation was also included in a November 2003 report by Aquila
2 entitled "Aquila, Inc. Identification of Six Sigma Opportunities." While Deloitte is
3 estimating that Aquila could generate \$1.2 million in annual lease revenue, the Staff is
4 imputing only \$1 million in annual lease revenue. The remaining \$200,000 would be applied
5 to initial and recurring costs of getting the facility ready to lease and for the incremental costs
6 of the personnel relocation.

7 Q. What is the impact of your adjustment on MPS' electric and L&P's electric
8 operations?

9 A. The revenue requirement impact is approximately \$285,000 for MPS and
10 \$83,000 for L&P.

11 Q. Did you take a tour of the 20 W 9th Headquarters building?

12 A. Yes. I have taken several tours of this facility, the most recent one on
13 August 11, 2005 during the audit of Aquila's rate increase filing. From this tour I noticed
14 that a significant amount of office space was unoccupied. Based on this visual inspection of
15 the facility and the recommendation from Deloitte, I believe it is reasonable to include
16 \$1 million in annual lease revenues for this department. These revenues should be realized
17 by a more efficient use of Aquila's available office space.

18 Q. Has Aquila made any attempts to lease this space based on the Deloitte
19 recommendation?

20 A. No. According to Aquila's response to Data Request No. 368, Aquila has not
21 pursued any attempts to lease this space since it investigated a sale/leaseback scenario in
22 2002.

23 Q. Earlier you mentioned Six Sigma. Please define this term.

1 A. A simple definition of Six Sigma is:

2 A rigorous and disciplined methodology that utilizes data and
3 statistical analysis to measure and improve a company's operational
4 performance, practices and systems. Six Sigma identifies and prevents
5 defects in manufacturing and service-related processes. In many
6 organizations, it simply means a measure of quality that strives for
7 near perfection.

8 Staff witness Lesley R. Preston discusses Six Sigma in her direct testimony and
9 explains that the Staff is including all of Aquila's Six Sigma costs in this case either through
10 annual recovery of annual ongoing costs and an amortization of the initial Six Sigma startup
11 costs.

12 **Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP)**

13 Q. Please explain the Staff's adjustment to remove the costs of Aquila's SERP.

14 A. A SERP a promise by a company to pay a future retirement benefit to its
15 executives, over and above any qualified retirement plans that the company may sponsor.
16 The purpose of Aquila's SERP, as described in the plan itself, is to "provide specified
17 benefits to a select group of management and highly compensated employees."

18 The Staff opposes cost of service recovery for MPS and L&P share of Aquila's SERP
19 for three primary reasons. First, Aquila's SERP includes a "Change in Control" provision.
20 This provision requires a funding of the plan in the event of a change in ownership as defined
21 in the "Change in Control" provision of the plan. This provision acts as deterrence for
22 another company to acquire Aquila and thus acts as employment security protection for
23 Aquila's top executives and highly compensated employees. These are the employees who
24 are at a higher risk of not be retained by a company that successfully merges with or acquires
25 Aquila. While this protection may be beneficial to Aquila's executives and highly

1 compensated employees, it is not a cost that could reasonably be considered necessary to run
2 the operations of a utility company.

3 Second, Aquila's SERP was significantly modified on January 1, 2001 to add
4 additional SERP Benefits. The modifications increase the benefits to SERP participants by
5 adding a Bonus SERP Benefit (designed to provide executives an additional retirement
6 benefit based on the executives' annual bonus pay) as well as a Supplemental SERP Benefit
7 (designed to provide executives an additional market-based retirement benefit).

8 Third, the individuals in Aquila's SERP are or have been participants in all of Aquila's
9 other benefit plans, including Aquila's regular pension plan and 401(K) plan. In the Staff's
10 view, these plans provide sufficient retirement benefits for all of Aquila's employees and the
11 addition of another retirement plan is excessive.

12 Q. What is the total amount of SERP expense recorded on MPS' and L&P's
13 books for the test year ended December 31, 2004?

14 A. There is a total of \$717,953 in direct charges and corporate allocated costs to
15 MPS and L&P.

16 Q. Is a significant portion of this total amount related to negotiated SERP
17 payments between Aquila's senior management and SJLP's senior management as part the
18 Aquila's acquisition of SJLP in 2000?

19 A. Yes. At least \$253,688 of this amount is related to the SERP contracts
20 negotiated as a part of Aquila's acquisition of SJLP and relates to payments to former SJLP
21 executives who did not become part of Aquila's senior management after the acquisition.

1 **SJLP Merger Transition Costs**

2 Q. Is Aquila seeking to recover costs it deferred on its books and records that are
3 related to its acquisition of SJLP in the 2001 merger?

4 A. Yes. Company witness Davis Rooney is sponsoring the adjustment to recover
5 costs related to the SJLP merger. Mr. Rooney's direct testimony discusses both the merger
6 transaction and merger transition costs.

7 Q. Please define "transaction costs."

8 A. Transaction costs are expenses that are incurred by combining companies
9 usually prior to the close of the merger and that are necessary to consummate the merger.
10 These include fees charged by the investment bankers related to the transaction; fees for
11 outside consultants for legal, accounting and public relations services; and other merger-
12 related costs directly associated with the acquisition. Since these costs are directly associated
13 with the acquisition, they should be included with the acquisition premium and charged to
14 the acquisition adjustment account.

15 Q. Please define "transition costs."

16 A. "Transition costs" are costs, which the combining companies must incur in
17 order to combine the systems and processes of the pre-merged companies. Generally,
18 accounting systems will be combined; computers will be reprogrammed; procedures and
19 practices will be consolidated; customer service centers will be integrated; human resources
20 will redesign benefit packages for consistency; and these changes all have costs associated
21 with their implementation.

22 Q. What is the Staff's position on rate recovery of transaction and transition
23 costs?

Direct Testimony of
Charles R. Hyneman

1 A. The Staff's position is that transition costs found to be prudent and appropriate
2 should be amortized above-the-line to expense over an appropriate period of time. The Staff
3 has proposed a 10-year amortization period in the past. The Staff believes that here is a
4 correlation between the transition costs, which facilitate the joining of two utilities and the
5 merger savings that result following the completion of the integration process. At that point,
6 Aquila's customers should share in any savings that are generated from the merger, and
7 therefore, should also pay for prudent "costs to achieve" these savings.

8 Q. Has the Staff reflected the amortization of the SJLP merger transition costs in
9 this case?

10 A. Yes. From reading Mr. Rooney's testimony and from a meeting with him on
11 this issue at Aquila's offices, it appears that the Staff and Aquila agree as to what types of
12 costs constitute merger transition costs that should be reflected in rates in this case.
13 However, there appears to be a substantial amount of merger "transaction costs" in the
14 \$7.3 million amount the Company is proposing to recover through an amortization to
15 expense. The Staff has identified approximately \$2 million in costs that are appropriate
16 merger transition costs and has included a 10 year amortization of this \$2 million in this case.
17 The Staff intends to meet with Aquila on this issue prior to or at the prehearing conference to
18 determine the final amount of transition costs eligible for recovery in this case.

19 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

20 A. Yes.

CHARLES R. HYNEMAN

CASE PARTICIPATION

Date Filed	Issue	Case Number	Exhibit	Case Name
7/16/1993	Cash Working Capital; Other Rate Base Components	TR93181	Direct	United Telephone Company of Missouri
8/13/1993	Cash Working Capital	TR93181	Rebuttal	United Telephone Company of Missouri
8/25/1993	Cash Working Capital	TR93181	Surrebuttal	United Telephone Company of Missouri
4/11/1994	Pension Expense; Other Postretirement Benefits	ER94163	Direct	St. Joseph Light & Power Company
5/16/1994	Pension Expense; Other Postretirement Benefits	HR94177	Direct	St. Joseph Light & Power Company
4/20/1995	Pension Expense; OPEB Expense; Deferred Taxes; Income Taxes; Property Taxes	GR95160	Direct	United Cities Gas Company
5/7/1996	Merger Premium	EM96149	Rebuttal	Union Electric Company
8/9/1996	Income Tax Expense; AAO Deferrals; Acquisition Savings	GR96285	Direct	Missouri Gas Energy
9/27/1996	Income Tax Expense; AAO Deferrals; Acquisition Savings	GR96285	Rebuttal	Missouri Gas Energy
10/11/1996	Income Tax Expense; AAO Deferrals; Acquisition Savings	GR96285	Surrebuttal	Missouri Gas Energy
6/26/1997	Property Taxes; Store Expense; Material & Supplies; Deferred Tax Reserve; Cash Working Capital; Postretirement Benefits; Pensions; Income	GR97272	Direct	Associated Natural Gas Company Division of Arkansas Western Gas

Date Filed	Issue	Case Number	Exhibit	Case Name
	Tax Expense			Company
8/7/1997	FAS 106 and FAS 109 Regulatory Assets	GR97272	Rebuttal	Associated Natural Gas Company Division of Arkansas Western Gas Company
11/21/1997	OPEB's; Pensions	ER97394	Surrebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service
3/13/1998	Miscellaneous Adjustments; Plant; Reserve; SLRP; AMR; Income and Property Taxes;	GR98140	Direct	Missouri Gas Energy, A Division of Southern Union Company
4/23/1998	Service Line Replacement Program; Accounting Authority Order	GR98140	Rebuttal	Missouri Gas Energy, A Division of Southern Union Company
5/15/1998	SLRP AAOs; Automated Meter Reading (AMR)	GR98140	Surrebuttal	Missouri Gas Energy, A Division of Southern Union Company
7/10/1998	SLRP AAOs; Reserve; Deferred Taxes; Plant	GR98140	True-Up	Missouri Gas Energy, A Division of Southern Union Company
4/26/1999	Merger Premium; Merger Accounting	EM97515	Rebuttal	Western Resources Inc. and Kansas City Power and Light Company
9/2/1999	Accounting Authority	GO99258	Rebuttal	Missouri Gas

Date Filed	Issue	Case Number	Exhibit	Case Name
	Order			Energy
3/1/2000	Acquisition Detriments	GM2000312	Rebuttal	Atmos Energy Company and Associated Natural Gas Company
5/2/2000	Deferred Taxes; Acquisition Adjustment; Merger Benefits; Merger Premium; Merger Accounting; Pooling of Interests	EM2000292	Rebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. / St. Joseph Light and Power
6/21/2000	Merger Accounting Acquisition	EM2000369	Rebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. / Empire District Electric Company
11/30/2000	Revenue Requirements	TT2001119	Rebuttal	Holway Telephone Company
4/19/2001	Revenue Requirement; Corporate Allocations; Income Taxes; Miscellaneous Rate Base Components; Miscellaneous Income Statement Adjustments	GR2001292	Direct	Missouri Gas Energy, A Division of Southern Union Company
12/6/2001	Corporate Allocations	ER2001672	Direct	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service
12/6/2001	Corporate Allocations	EC2002265	Direct	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service
1/8/2002	Acquisition Adjustment	EC2002265	Rebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service
1/8/2002	Acquisition Adjustment	ER2001672	Rebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service

Date Filed	Issue	Case Number	Exhibit	Case Name
1/22/2002	Acquisition Adjustment	ER2001265	Surrebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service
1/22/2002	Acquisition Adjustment; Corporate Allocations;	EC2001265	Surrebuttal	UtiliCorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service
4/17/2002	Accounting Authority Order	GO2002175	Rebuttal	Utilicorp United Inc. d/b/a Missouri Public Service & St. Joseph Light & Power
8/16/2002	Prepaid Pension Asset; FAS 87 Volatility; Historical Ratemaking Treatments-Pensions & OPEB Costs; Pension Expense-FAS 87 & OPEB Expense-FAS 106; Bad Debt Expense; Sale of Emission Credits; Revenues	ER2002424	Direct	The Empire District Electric Company
3/17/2003	Acquisition Detriment	GM20030238	Rebuttal	Southern Union Co. d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy
12/9/2003	Current Corporate Structure; Aquila's Financial Problems; Aquila's Organizational Structure in 2001; Corporate History; Corporate Plant and Reserve Allocations; Corporate Allocation Adjustments	HR20040024	Direct	Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P
12/9/2003	Corporate Plant and Reserve Allocations; Corporate Allocation Adjustments; Aquila's Financial Problems; Aquila's Organizational Structure in 2001;	ER20040034	Direct	Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P

Date Filed	Issue	Case Number	Exhibit	Case Name
	Corporate History; Current Corporate Structure			
1/6/2004	Corporate Allocation Adjustments; Reserve Allocations; Corporate Plant	GR20040072	Direct	Aquila, Inc.
2/13/2004	Severance Adjustment; Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan; Corporate Cost Allocations	HR20040024	Surrebuttal	Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P
2/13/2004	Severance Adjustment; Corporate Cost Allocations; Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	ER20040034	Surrebuttal	Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P
4/15/2004	Pensions and OPEBs; True-Up Audit; Cost of Removal; Prepaid Pensions; Lobbying Activities; Corporate Costs; Miscellaneous Adjustments	GR20040209	Direct	Missouri Gas Energy
6/14/2004	Alternative Minimum Tax; Stipulation Compliance; NYC Office; Executive Compensation; Corporate Incentive Compensation; True-up Audit; Pension Expense; Cost of Removal; Lobbying.	GR20040209	Surrebuttal	Missouri Gas Energy
1/14/2005	Accounting Authority Order	GU20050095	Direct	Missouri Gas Energy
2/15/2005	Accounting Authority Order	GU20050095	Direct	Missouri Gas Energy

SCHEDULE 2

HAS BEEN DEEMED

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IN ITS ENTIRETY