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

Application of Kansas City Power & Light )
Company for the Opening Of A Proceeding )
Case No. EO-2008-0224
To File Status Report On Wind Investments )

## FOURTH STATUS UPDATE OF KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY CONCERNING ADDITIONAL WIND GENERATION

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080 and the August 26, 2009 Order Directing Filing issued by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"), Kansas City Power & Light Company ("KCP&L" or the "Company") hereby provides its fourth status update concerning KCP&L's consideration of additional wind generation opportunities.

In support hereof, KCP&L states as follows:

## **BACKGROUND**

- 1. On January 4, 2008, KCP&L submitted an Application and Status Report on Wind Investments, which initiated this proceeding. KCP&L explained that changes in financial markets had rendered it prudent for KCP&L to delay proceeding with a second 100 MW wind generation facility in time for it to be placed into service by the end of 2008, but that KCP&L remained committed to evaluating additional wind generation opportunities.
- 2. In its status report dated July 14, 2008, KCP&L explained that it continued to diligently pursue the possibility of installing wind generation to be placed in service in 2009, but had not yet finalized that decision. In a subsequent status report, submitted September 15, 2008, KCP&L explained that it continued to evaluate whether to proceed with a wind generation project, but that the then-existing uncertainty concerning the renewal of the Section 45 Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit ("PTC") and the timing of such a renewal if it

occurred would make it difficult to complete a project in time for it to be place into service in 2009.

- 3. Although the PTC was ultimately renewed for projects to be completed in 2009, KCP&L concluded that the challenging conditions in financial markets that the Company first described in its January 4, 2008 submission had not shown sufficient signs of improvement for the Company to definitively commit to a wind generation project to be in service in 2009.
- 4. Through agreements completed in February, 2009, however, KCP&L had preserved the flexibility to pursue a wind generation project in 2009 or 2010. Specifically, the Company entered into agreements to acquire thirty-two wind turbines each with a generating capacity of 1.5 megawatts ("MW"), transmission interconnection rights, as well as the land development rights for a site that could accommodate up to sixty-seven wind turbines. The Company continues to evaluate when and how best to proceed with these options.
- 5. The Company also in February, 2009 entered into an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction ("EPC") contract that contemplated the installation of a thirty-five wind turbine project, having an aggregate generation capacity of 52.5 MW, to be completed by May 31, 2010. Under the terms of the EPC contract, KCP&L had until September 30, 2009 to notify the developer whether KCP&L will proceed with the project.
- 6. Through the first nine months of 2009, KCP&L has continued to aggressively pursue several alternatives to allow a wind project to be constructed by May 31, 2010. One such alternative would have allowed KCP&L to purchase wind energy through a Power Purchase Agreement from a 100.5 MW wind facility to be constructed and owned by others through a transfer of ownership of the thirty two 1.5 MW wind turbine generators and land development rights the Company currently holds. This alternative, however, did not come to fruition because

the developer was unable to obtain financing for the project due to the continuing challenging

capital market conditions which have impacted financing for wind development across the

nation.

7. In addition to the PPA alternative discussed above, KCP&L assessed the

alternative for proceeding with the EPC contract for the thirty five wind turbine generators using

land and development rights the Company had previously acquired. In its assessment, KCP&L

determined that proceeding with the EPC contract for thirty five wind turbine generators would

not be in the best interests of KCP&L's customers or the Company and the Company exercised

its option to terminate the contract on September 30, 2009.

8. KCP&L will continue to monitor market conditions and assess opportunities for

future wind resource alternatives. KCP&L will update the Commission if the Company

determines it has become prudent to proceed with a future project.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Victoria Schatz

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Dated: October 15, 2009

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

A copy of the foregoing application has been served this 15th day of October, 2009 upon counsel of record in this proceeding as well as counsel for each of the parties to the Regulatory Plan Stipulation.

/s/ James M. Fischer
James M. Fischer