

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

In the Matter of the Application of                    )  
Great Plains Energy Incorporated for            )  
Approval of its Merger with                    )  
Westar Energy, Inc.                                )  
**File No. EM-2018-0012**

**STAFF’S STATEMENT OF POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and, in compliance with the Commission’s *Order Setting Procedural Schedule and Other Procedural Requirements*, issued and effective on October 19, 2017, hereby submits its *Statement of Positions on the Issues*:

**I. Should the Commission find that GPE’s merger with Westar is not detrimental to the public interest, and approve the merger?**

Staff’s position: Yes, the Commission should approve the merger, subject to the conditions negotiated by Staff and embodied in the *Stipulation & Agreement* filed herein on January 12, 2018, by the Applicants, Staff, Brightergy, LLC, and MJMEUC. In addition, the Commission should condition the approval of the merger on the additional commitments GPE witness Ives proposes in his surrebuttal testimony – increase bill credits to customers by 50% subject to certain Commission determinations; reduce recovery of pre-closing transition costs by 15 percent; to include Westar in the 2019 IRP updates of KCP&L and GMO; include MEGC’s proposed condition regarding bill clarity and clarify Commitment 47 to specifically include Commission authority over future transactions. As so conditioned, the merger is not detrimental to the public interest.

**II. Should the Commission condition its approval of GPE’s merger with Westar and, if so, how?**

Staff’s Position: Yes, the Commission should approve the merger, subject to the conditions negotiated by Staff and embodied in the *Stipulation & Agreement* filed herein on January 12, 2018, by the Applicants, Staff, Brightergy, LLC, and MJMEUC. In addition, the

Commission should condition the approval of the merger on the additional commitments GPE witness Ives proposes in his surrebuttal testimony – increase bill credits to customers by 50% subject to certain Commission determinations; reduce recovery of pre-closing transition costs by 15 percent; to include Westar in the 2019 IRP updates of KCP&L and GMO; include MECG’s proposed condition regarding bill clarity and clarify Commitment 47 to specifically include Commission authority over future transactions. As so conditioned, the merger is not detrimental to the public interest.

**III. Should the Commission grant the limited request for variance of the affiliate transaction rule requested by Applicants?**

Staff’s Position: Yes, as long as the merger is approved subject to the conditions negotiated by Staff and embodied in the *Stipulation & Agreement* filed herein on January 12, 2018, by the Applicants, Staff, Brightergy, LLC, and MJMEUC and subject to the additional commitments GPE witness Ives proposes in his surrebuttal testimony – increase bill credits to customers by 50% subject to certain Commission determinations; reduce recovery of pre-closing transition costs by 15 percent; to include Westar in the 2019 IRP updates of KCP&L and GMO; include MECG’s proposed condition regarding bill clarity and clarify Commitment 47 to specifically include Commission authority over future transactions because, as so conditioned, the merger is not detrimental to the public interest.

**IV. How should the bill credits proposed by Applicants be allocated between and within the various KCP&L and GMO rate classes?**

Staff’s position: The bill credits should be allocated to each retail electric customer based upon a methodology to be approved by the Commission.

**WHEREFORE,** Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Statement of Positions on the Issues*.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Kevin A. Thompson**

Kevin A. Thompson  
Chief Staff Counsel  
Missouri Bar Number 36288

Missouri Public Service Commission  
Post Office Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 751-6514 (Voice)  
(573) 526-6969 (FAX)  
[Kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov](mailto:Kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov)  
Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri  
Public Service Commission

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served, by hand delivery, electronic mail, or First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, to all parties of record on the Service List maintained for this case by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission, on this 5th day of March, 2018.

**/s/ Kevin A. Thompson**