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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
December 2, 2010
Kansas City, Missouri
Volume 6

In the Matter of the Application of)
Kansas City Power & Light Company) File No.
for Approval to Make Certain Changes) ER-2010-0355
in its Charges for Electric Service)
to Continue the Implementation of its)
Regulatory Plan)
In the Matter of the Application of)
KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations) File No.
Company for Approval to make Certain) ER-2010-0356
Changes in its Charges for Electric)
Service)

NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding

DEPUTY REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

Reported by:

Janet H. Wimer, CCR

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Starting time of the Hearing: 6:28
3 p.m.)

4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Missouri Public Service
5 Commission has set this time for a Public Comment
6 Hearing in Case Numbers ER-2010-0355 and ER-2010-
7 0356, in which Kansas City Power and Light Company
8 and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company,
9 formerly known as Aquila, seek to implement a
10 general rate increase for electric service in
11 Missouri.

12 My name, like I said, is Nancy Dippell.
13 I'm a Regulatory Law Judge for the Commission, and
14 my job is to run the formal part of the Local
15 Public Hearing and take your testimony.

16 I'd like to thank the community center
17 here tonight for letting us use their facilities
18 and just state that the opinions expressed here
19 tonight don't have anything to do with the
20 community center itself; they've just been gracious
21 enough to let us use their facilities.

22 The Missouri Public Service Commission
23 will take down testimony and the statements of
24 witnesses about the rate increase and any service
25 and billing issues that you have that you would

1 like to bring to the Commission's attention, and
2 those statements will be recorded by our court
3 reporter and will be taken under oath or
4 affirmation. Then, all of the Commissioners will
5 have an opportunity to review the transcripts.

6 Also, we are recording this hearing, and
7 that will also be placed on our website, that can
8 be accessed from the internet. Sometimes the
9 Commissioners also review that instead of reading
10 the transcript.

11 So the purpose of this hearing tonight
12 is to receive your comments regarding the rate
13 increase and so the company at this point will not
14 be presenting any witnesses and won't be answering
15 questions while you're talking. I also am not here
16 to answers questions tonight.

17 I hope you got your questions answered
18 earlier. If you didn't, our Staff is happy to stay
19 and answer questions. The company has
20 representatives here that will be happy to answer
21 questions, and also, Mr. Mills from the Office of
22 Public Counsel is here, and he will also be happy
23 to stay afterwards and answer any questions that
24 come up.

25 When your name is called, if anybody -

1 well, I don't think I had anybody on the sign-up
2 sheet, so I'm about to ask you, if you would like
3 to come up and give some formal testimony, and if
4 you do, then I'll ask you to come forward here to
5 this podium and spell your name for me, and then
6 give me - let me swear you in, and then give you -
7 give me your comments, and then I may have some
8 questions for you when you're done. The attorneys
9 may have some questions for you to clarify some
10 things also.

11 So that pretty much is the procedure.
12 Would anybody like to give some formal comments, so
13 that the Commissioners can hear your concerns? Oh,
14 I'm sorry. Let me start by - thank you, Gregg.

15 Let me start by asking the attorneys to
16 make their entries of appearance. I'll start with
17 you, Mr. Mills.

18 MR. MILLS: My name is Lewis Mills. I'm
19 the Public Counsel for the State of Missouri. My
20 address is Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City,
21 Missouri, 65102.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Ms. Gilbreath?

23 MS. GILBREATH: My name is Lisa
24 Gilbreath. I'm an attorney for Kansas City Power &
25 Light Company and KCP&L GMO. I'm with SNR Denton,

1 LLP, 4520 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri,
2 64111.

3 MS. OTT: I'm Jaime Ott, Legal Counsel
4 for Staff of the Missouri Public Service
5 Commission. Address, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City,
6 Missouri, 65102.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: And then we also have one
8 of our Interveners here this evening. Mr. Wagner,
9 would you like to make your entry?

10 MR. WAGNER: Robert Wagner, Pro Se
11 Intervener. My address is 9005 North Chatham, K.C.
12 MO 64154.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Was there anyone else
14 that wanted to make their entry? Alright, thank
15 you.

16 Now, I will ask is there anyone that
17 would like to come forward and give some formal
18 comments? Ma'am? If you could give us your name
19 and spell it, please?

20 MS. ULMER: Kathleen Ulmer, K-A-T-H-L-E-
21 E-N, U-L-M-E-R.

22 KATHLEEN ULMER, being sworn-in by Judge
23 Dippell, testified as follows:

24 MS. ULMER: I would just like to make a
25 comment. As a residential customer to KCP&L, my

1 concern with this type of rate increase in this
2 economy right now, at a 14 percent rate increase is
3 pretty excessive.

4 Many people are not getting raises. I
5 know myself, I have not had a personal raise for
6 four years. Bonuses are pretty much a zero right
7 now. Times are tough. Everything seems to be
8 going up, healthcare and other issues.

9 When we have a rate increase with KCP&L,
10 we will not only be paying the increase monthly in
11 our residential service, it will be passed on to
12 other customers within KCP&L, which will be the
13 large companies, businesses, and they in turn will
14 have to raise their rates, which will again, go
15 back to a residential consumer, and then we will,
16 in essence, be double rate increased on this tax
17 here. Thank you.

18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you very much.
19 Would there be any questions for Ms. Ulmer?

20 Ms. Ulmer, just let me ask you a couple
21 of quick questions. Do you have any service- or
22 billing-related issues that you've had with the
23 company?

24 MS. ULMER: No. We've had good service,
25 I can say that. We have underground lines in our

1 community, so even the years my elderly mother has
2 had issues with the older neighborhood with the
3 overhead lines that have broke or in the ice, in
4 the weather, they've been able to come out to our
5 house and stay because we've got the underground
6 lines, and so we have really very few even outages
7 at our house.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Are you in the KCPL
9 territory or the old Aquila, which is now Greater
10 Missouri-

11 MS. ULMER: I think we're in the old
12 Aquila.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you very much. I
14 appreciate you giving comments tonight.

15 MS. ULMER: Thank you.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would anyone else like to
17 testify? Sir?

18 MR. HUNTER: My name is John Hunter, J-O-
19 H-N, H-U-N-T-E-R.

20 JOHN HUNTER, being sworn-in by Judge
21 Dippell, testified as follows:

22 MR. HUNTER: One of the young men who
23 spoke before you proceeded indicated that the
24 Missouri Public Service Commission allows KCP&L to
25 have profits in the range of 10 to 11 percent. I

1 think this - I don't want to say it's outrageous,
2 but when most people are looking for income in the
3 neighborhood of 4 to 5 percent, and lucky to get
4 that, I think allowing a utility of this size to
5 earn 10 or 11 percent on their investment is
6 excessive.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Can I ask you
8 just a couple questions before you leave?

9 MR. HUNTER: Sure.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Do you have any service
11 or billing issues? Have you had any issues like
12 that with the company?

13 MR. HUNTER: No. We were out of town
14 July 11th when a thunderstorm hit our area, and we
15 got home and we had no power, no TV, no nothing,
16 but it wasn't the fault of KCP&L. That was on a
17 Sunday, and by Tuesday morning, we had power
18 restored, and so no one's on a ventilator or
19 anything like that in our home. We just, like
20 everybody else, tough it out until power is
21 restored, and we don't blame KCP&L for acts of God.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Alright, thank you very
23 much. Were there any questions for - thank you,
24 sir. Thank you.

25 Is there anyone else who would like to

1 give comments? Come forward, please.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: My name is Jason Gonzalez,
3 J-A-S-O-N, G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z.

4 JASON GONZALEZ, being sworn-in by Judge
5 Dippell, testified as follows:

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Earlier I spoke about a
7 portion of allocating the rate increase based on
8 businesses and kind of allocating it based on
9 revenue generated. I did listen to the answer and
10 I'm in a similar industry that I'm aware of peak
11 demand versus nominal demand. I'm fully cognitive
12 of that.

13 But I would just like to ask the Counsel
14 to please look at again at - I understand that
15 there, you know, has to be a rate increase at times
16 to keep up with demands. Whatever that rate
17 increase may or may not be, if there is a rate
18 increase, I would just like the Counsel to really
19 seriously consider looking at prorating that across
20 the businesses rather than residential customers,
21 because the residential customers will see it
22 anyway through pass-thru's, and maybe perhaps - you
23 have all the data in the billing system and all the
24 databases, all the information systems, you know
25 what all the customers are paying from the billing

1 records. Maybe perhaps considering a proportionate
2 rate increase based on individual customer's usage.

3 I know we have enough computing power
4 now to handle things of that sort. So instead of
5 some flat rate increase across the board, if you'd
6 look at that, I would appreciate if the Counsel
7 would put some consideration into that.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: And do you mind if I ask
9 what business you're in that also has a peak
10 demand?

11 MR. GONZALEZ: I design wireless
12 networks, so I have to make sure that callers can
13 call during the busy hours of the day.

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Alright, okay. And do
15 you yourself have any other, any service or billing
16 issues or anything like that?

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Nothing that KCP&L didn't
18 resolve quickly.

19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any
20 questions of Mr. Gonzalez?

21 MS. GILBREATH: Are you a customer of
22 KCPL or GMO?

23 MR. GONZALEZ: KCPL.

24 (WHEREIN, a discussion was held off the
25 record.)

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there anyone else that
2 would like to speak this evening? Sir? Thank you.

3 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Stanley Johnson,
4 S-T-A-N-L-E-Y, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

5 STANLEY JOHNSON, being sworn-in by Judge
6 Dippell, testified as follows:

7 MR. JOHNSON: My concern is the size of
8 this increase at this time in our economy. I'm a
9 retired GM worker, and my retirement is shrinking
10 at a rapid rate because of the butcher, the baker
11 and the candlestick maker, whatever's going on
12 here. Everybody is raising and everybody else is
13 raising, but I'm staying the same.

14 When my Social Security goes up, my GM
15 retirement goes down. When Social Security don't
16 go nowhere, my GM retirement stays the same. So
17 I'm just stuck in one spot, but everything else is
18 just fluctuating around me and my spending budget
19 is getting smaller every year, and, you know, it
20 just seems like that at this time in our economy
21 situation, it's just a bad time to ask for that big
22 of a rate increase.

23 Everybody's having a hard time now,
24 people losing their jobs, they can't get a job, and
25 I think unemployment has just about got cut off.

1 That's my major concern.

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Do you have any billing
3 or service issues with the company?

4 MR. JOHNSON: No. The service is fine,
5 but I'd like it to stay the same.

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: I understand. Would
7 there be any questions for Mr. Johnson?

8 And I didn't ask you, do you know which
9 service area you're in? Are you in the old Aquila
10 service area or are you in-

11 MR. JOHNSON: I'm in KCP&L.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: KCP&L, okay, thank you.

13 Is there anyone else who would like to
14 comment? Anyone? Don't be shy. We are happy to
15 hear from you. Well, I'm going to take that as a
16 sign that hopefully, you got some of your questions
17 answered during the initial question and answer
18 session.

19 The Commissioners do take your comments
20 very seriously, and they appreciate your coming
21 out. I appreciate your coming out this evening.
22 It's an important part of our process.

23 So with that then, I believe we can
24 conclude the Public Comment Hearing. Thank you all
25 for coming.

1 (WHEREIN, the Hearing is concluded at

2 6:43 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI) ss
COUNTY OF CLAY)

I, JANET H. WIMER, Certified Court Reporter, the officer before whom the foregoing hearing was taken, do hereby certify that the testimony in said hearing was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Notary Public in and for
the State of Missouri

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