Page 17 STATE OF MISSOURI 1 2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 3 4 5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 6 Hearing 7 June 2, 2016 8 Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 5 9 10 In the Matter of The) Empire District Electric) 11 Company for Authority to) File Tariffs Increasing) Case No. ER-2016-0023 Rates for Electric Service) 12 Provided to Customers in) 13 The Company's Missouri) Service Area) 14 15 KIM S. BURTON, Presiding, REGULATORY LAW JUDGE. 16 DANIEL Y HALL, Chairman 17 STEPHEN M. STOLL, WILLIAM P. KENNEY, 18 SCOTT T. RUPP, MAIDA J. COLEMAN, 19 COMMISSIONERS. 20 21 **REPORTED BY:** 22 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR NO. 838 MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES 23 24 25

1 **APPEARANCES:** 2 PAUL A. BOUDREAU, Attorney at Law DEAN L. COOPER, Attorney at Law 3 L. RUSSELL MITTEN, Attorney at Law DIANA C. CARTER, Attorney at Law 4 Brydon, Swearengen & England, P.C. 312 East Capitol 5 P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456 (573)635-7166 6 paulb@brydonlaw.com 7 rmitten@brydonlaw.com 8 FOR: The Empire District Electric Company. 9 STUART CONRAD, Attorney at Law 10 Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson 3100 Broadway 11 1209 Penntower Officer Center Kansas City, MO 64111 (816)753-1122 12 stucon@fcplaw.com 13 FOR: Midwest Energy Users 14 Association. 15 DAVID WOODSMALL, Attorney at Law Woodsmall Law Office 807 Winston Court 16 Jefferson City, MO 65101 17 (573)797 - 0005david.woodsmall@woodsmalllaw.com 18 FOR: MECG. 19 MARC ELLINGER, Attorney at Law STEPHANIE BELL, Attorney at Law 20 Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch 21 308 East High Street, Suite 301 Jefferson City, MO 65101-3237 22 (573)634 - 2500Sbell@bbdlc.com 23 FOR: City of Joplin. 24 25

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1
     ALEXANDER ANTAL, Attorney At Law
 2
            Missouri Division of Energy
            P.O. Box 1157
            Jefferson City, MO 65102
 3
                  FOR: Division of Energy
 4
 5
     CYDNEY MAYFIELD, Deputy Public Counsel
            Office of the Public Counsel
            P.O. Box 2230
 6
            200 Madison Street, Suite 650
 7
            Jefferson City, MO 65102-2230
            (573)751 - 4857
 8
                  FOR: Office of the Public Counsel
                           and the Public.
 9
     KEVIN A. THOMPSON, Chief Staff Counsel
10
     JAMIE MYERS, Legal Counsel
            Missouri Public Service Commission
11
            P.O. Box 360
            200 Madison Street
12
            Jefferson City, MO 65102
            (573)751 - 3234
13
                  FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public
14
                           Service Commission.
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Page 20 PROCEEDINGS 1 2 (WHEREUPON, the hearing began at 3 8:37 a.m.) 4 (EMPIRE EXHIBIT NOS. 1-34, ECG 5 EXHIBIT NOS. 1-5, CITY OF JOPLIN EXHIBIT NO. 1, 6 DIVISION OF ENERGY EXHIBIT NOS. 1-5, MEUA EXHIBIT 7 NOS. 1-3, STAFF EXHIBIT NOS. 1-24 AND OPC EXHIBIT 8 NOS. 1-18 WERE MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 9 JUDGE BURTON: Let's go ahead and go 10 on the record in the matter of the Empire District Electric Company's request for authority to 11 12 implement a general rate increase for electric service, File No. ER-2016-0023. 13 14 Good morning, everyone. It's 8:37 a.m. on June 2nd, 2016. The Commission has 15 set this date and time for an evidentiary hearing 16 17 on Empire's general rate increase request. At this 18 time I will ask the parties and everyone who's here 19 present to please put their phones and electronic devices on silent mode. 20 21 And we'll go ahead and take the entry 22 of appearance by the parties. On behalf of the 23 Empire District Electric Company? MS. CARTER: Diana Carter and Dean 24 25 Cooper with Brydon, Swearengen & England for the

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Page 21
 1
     Empire District Electric Company.
 2
                  JUDGE BURTON: On behalf of the Staff
 3
     of the Missouri Public Service Commission?
 4
                  MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.
 5
     Kevin Thompson, Jamie Myers and Nicole Mers for the
 6
     Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,
 7
     Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri
 8
     65102.
 9
                  JUDGE BURTON: Office of the Public
     Counsel?
10
11
                  MS. MAYFIELD: Thank you, your Honor.
12
     Cydney Mayfield for Office of the Public Counsel
     and for the ratepayers, and my information has been
13
14
     previously provided to the court reporter.
15
                  JUDGE BURTON: Midwest Energy Users
     Association.
16
17
                  MR. CONRAD: Stu Conrad,
     3100 Broadway, Suite 1209, Kansas City, Missouri,
18
19
     64111. I have also provided that information to
20
     the court reporter.
21
                  JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. City of
22
     Joplin?
23
                  MS. BELL: Stephanie Bell and Marc
24
     Ellinger for the City of Joplin. Our information
25
     has been provided to the court reporter.
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		Page 22
1	JUDGE BURTON: Midwest Energy	
2	Consumers Group?	
3	MR. WOODSMALL: David Woodsmall on	
4	behalf of the Midwest Energy Consumers Group.	
5	JUDGE BURTON: Missouri Division of	
6	Energy?	
7	MR. ANTAL: Yes, your Honor. Alex	
8	Antal with the Missouri Department of Economic	
9	Development, appearing today on behalf of the	
10	Missouri Division of Energy, P.O. Box 1157,	
11	Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.	
12	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Now, are	
13	there any procedural matters that we need to	
14	address while we are on the record before we begin	
15	today?	
16	MS. MAYFIELD: Your Honor, previously	
17	I'd indicated that the Office of the Public Counsel	
18	may add an additional witness should the Commission	
19	ask some questions related to policy on the rate	
20	case expense, and that witness would be Chuck	
21	Hyneman.	
22	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you very much.	
23	It's my understanding today that we will be	
24	addressing regulatory policy, rate case expense a	
25	and potential pilot low-income rate for the issues.	

1	The attorneys will be providing an opening
2	statement on those issues and addressing any
3	concerns that the Commission might have.
4	MR. THOMPSON: I think we're not
5	going to be doing opening statements, Judge.
6	JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Will the
7	attorneys be coming up to answer any questions from
8	the Bench?
9	MR. THOMPSON: We'll all be happy to
10	answer questions as best we can.
11	JUDGE BURTON: I believe that this is
12	a little bit different from the procedural schedule
13	we previously had in place, so I would say let me
14	know if we want to adjust the schedule of which
15	parties would go in which order.
16	MS. CARTER: Judge, I think as far as
17	all of us back here are concerned, we do not have
18	anything prepared for you today due to a pending
19	settlement on all of the revenue requirement
20	issues, but we as attorneys are all here ready to
21	answer questions on regulatory policy and then the
22	two issues that the Commission wanted addressed, in
23	addition to what we had put on the issues list.
24	And then we also have each party
25	has their witnesses here today on those three

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		Page 24
1	issues, if the Commission were to want to take	
2	testimony on those issues.	
3	JUDGE BURTON: All right. And let's	
4	begin with regulatory policy. I believe the	
5	witnesses that we have listed are Mr. Beecher, Kim	
б	Bolin and Marke from Empire, Staff and OPC.	
7	MS. MAYFIELD: That's correct.	
8	JUDGE BURTON: Does the Commission	
9	MR. CONRAD: Judge, let the record	
10	note that we strongly support regulatory policy.	
11	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you, Mr. Conrad.	
12	Duly noted.	
13	MR. WOODSMALL: It depends on the	
14	policy.	
15	JUDGE BURTON: We do have the	
16	prefiled testimony that has not been entered yet	
17	from those three witnesses on those issues, but let	
18	me see if the Commission has any questions it would	
19	like to ask any of the attorneys or the witnesses	
20	that were identified for regulatory policy issues.	
21	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no questions	
22	about regulatory policy.	
23	COMMISSIONER STOLL: I've been	
24	totally thrown off, and I have no questions about	
25	regulatory policy either.	

		Page 25
1	JUDGE BURTON: It appears that this	
2	will be a fast day. And let's move on then to the	
3	rate case expense issue, and for this the parties	
4	have identified the following available witnesses:	
5	Keith from Empire, McMellen from Staff, Sarver from	
6	Staff and Conner from the Office of Public Counsel.	
7	MS. MAYFIELD: With the addition of	
8	Hyneman.	
9	JUDGE BURTON: With the addition of	
10	Mr. Hyneman. Are there any questions from the	
11	Bench for the attorneys?	
12	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have a couple. My	
13	understanding is that there is a pending settlement	
14	on the revenue requirement, which I assume would	
15	include rate case expense. Can someone explain	
16	what the whether the settlement would include or	
17	will include specific mention of rate case expense	
18	and how it is being calculated?	
19	MS. CARTER: We have not drafted the	
20	settlement agreement yet. If that's something the	
21	Commission would like us to put in there, we	
22	certainly can specify.	
23	All parties were in agreement early	
24	on in this case that we would utilize for rate case	
25	expense the sharing mechanism that the Commission	

1	ordered in the recent KCP&L rate case. So that is
2	what we were following throughout the case and will
3	be following with the settlement.
4	CHAIRMAN HALL: Well, speaking on my
5	behalf, I would appreciate the stipulation
6	including specific reference to how that was
7	calculated. And I applaud the parties' willingness
8	to agree to that particular mechanism.
9	COMMISSIONER STOLL: I too would like
10	to see that. So I may not have any questions today
11	until we see what the agreement language of the
12	agreement is.
13	JUDGE BURTON: Moving on, if there
14	aren't any
15	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Hold on. You
16	know, one other topic which we don't have on our
17	agenda but in this settlement agreement, one of the
18	things is you mentioned the KCP&L case that we
19	would like as a Commission is dealing with the ROE.
20	A lot of times we get this black box ROE and we
21	don't necessarily appreciate that. We appreciate
22	that the parties are trying to work together, but
23	we would like a range so we can have an idea and
24	calculate where it is.
25	MS. CARTER: We have been listening,

1	and that has also been contemplated throughout our
2	settlement discussion, and the settlement agreement
3	will have actually a very tight ROE range that the
4	settlement is based on.
5	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you.
6	JUDGE BURTON: All right. Thank you.
7	Moving on to the final issue for the day, which
8	would be the potential pilot low-income rate.
9	MR. ANTAL: Judge, if I may. The
10	Division of Energy wasn't in the room or was on the
11	phone line when parties discussed not having
12	opening statements on issues. So we do have some
13	prepared remarks, and if no other party has an
14	objection, I'm prepared to make those remarks.
15	JUDGE BURTON: That sounds fine.
16	Mr. Antal, if you would just like to step up to the
17	podium.
18	MR. ANTAL: May it please the
19	Commission? My name is Alex Antal. I'm here today
20	representing the Missouri Division of Energy.
21	Thought this impromptu issue was worth an opening
22	statement. I know Staff gave its position in its
23	updated statement of positions, and wanted to give
24	the Commission the Division of Energy's position on
25	potential low-income rates or additional low-income

1 programming. 2 As demonstrated in the rebuttal and 3 surrebuttal testimony Division of Energy witness Sharlet Kroll, there is a significant need in 4 Empire's service territory. The average poverty 5 6 rates in the state of Missouri by county is 7 roughly -- well, the state average is 15.5 percent. 8 In the 16 counties that Empire serves, the average 9 poverty level is 19 -- just over 19 percent. So there is, you know, a lot of people living in 10 poverty in Empire's service territory, and I think 11 12 we should be mindful of that. The Division of Energy believes that 13 14 it is in the Commission's statutory authority to 15 implement low-income rates and similar programs to provide economic relief to these customers. 16 The 17 Comprehensive State Energy Plan discussed the implementation of low-income rates and believes 18 that the -- either the Commission or the General 19 20 Assembly should take action. 21 If the Commission wishes to give 22 immediate relief to the people living in poverty in Empire's service territory, it has the ability to 23 24 implement a pilot program in this case. I'll in

25 just a little bit kind of move on to a specific

		Page 29
1	example that the Division has developed. Not	
2	saying it's a perfect or that we're necessarily	
3	recommending this example, but basically we've made	
4	an example based off of the Commission's recent	
5	decision in the Missouri American case, what an	
6	80 percent discount on the customer charge would	
7	look like for this utility.	
8	And then the Division of Energy would	
9	also inform the Commission that there are existing	
10	low-income programs in the state that other	
11	utilities are using and that have shown promise.	
12	One example would be Ameren Missouri's Keeping	
13	Current program, which has a more nuanced approach	
14	than say a flat customer charge discount. It	
15	provides tiered incentives based off of a	
16	customer's percentage of the federal poverty limit	
17	that they find themselves in.	
18	So as I mentioned, there's a	
19	significant need in Empire's service territory.	
20	Generally in the state of Missouri households that	
21	find themselves in with incomes 50 to	
22	100 percent of the federal poverty level have an	
23	average home energy burden of 17 percent of their	
24	annual income. Now, to put that in perspective,	
25	many experts in housing analysis, in affordable	

		Page 30
1	housing have stated and published that an energy	
2	burden of 6 percent of your income is the threshold	
3	for unaffordability. So we're literally talking	
4	about almost three times what is considered by	
5	experts to be unaffordable.	
6	As I said earlier, in 2014 over	
7	15 percent of individuals in the state of Missouri	
8	were found to be in the federal poverty limits, and	
9	in Empire's service territory alone, the average is	
10	19 just over 19 percent.	
11	We did an analysis in again DE	
12	witness Sharlet Kroll's testimony, rebuttal	
13	testimony, which we found that, based on a bill	
14	sample provided by Empire, the current average	
15	monthly residential bill is approximately \$142 or	
16	just over \$1,700 annually, which creates an energy	
17	burden of 8.5 percent for a family at 100 percent	
18	of the federal poverty level. That's assuming a	
19	family size of three persons, which is just over	
20	the average family size in Empire's service	
21	territory, creating a 42 percent greater than	
22	energy burden than what is considered affordable by	
23	national experts.	
24	As I said earlier, the establishment	
25	of a low-income rate or additional low-income	

1	relief pilot programs is was also recommended in
2	the Comprehensive State Energy Plan to be
3	specifically the CSEP stated that recommended
4	the clarification of the explicit that it be
5	made explicit that the PSC has the statutory
6	authority to consider rates specific to low-income
7	utility customers.
8	Now, Staff mentioned in its statement
9	of position a working docket from a few years ago
10	where this specific topic was discussed. The
11	Division of Energy nor myself were involved in that
12	particular docket, but I did review most of the
13	comments that were in that docket or filed in that
14	docket prior to this case or prior to today's
15	hearing.
16	And from my perspective, the
17	consensus was that the Commission does not have the
18	explicit statutory authority to implement a
19	low-income rate class. However, many stakeholders
20	in their comments said that the Commission may have
21	the implicit authority to establish a low-income
22	rate.
23	And essentially, the way I you
24	know, a lot of ink has already been spilled on this
25	issue about whether what is the Commission's

1	authority on this issue, and it's unclear. The
2	courts have not made a determination, and to date,
3	what seems to be the course is that, you know,
4	we're going to wait to see if the general assembly
5	takes action to give the Commission explicit
б	authority, which has not happened.
7	And I see two alternatives. We can
8	continue to wait for the General Assembly to make
9	clarification on this issue, or the Commission can
10	take can test the bounds of its statutory
11	authority. And, you know, as cases of first
12	impression, there is the risk that such a decision
13	may be overturned. But that is the question before
14	the Commission is continue to wait for
15	clarification from the General Assembly or, you
16	know, take action, see where the bounds of the
17	authority lies.
18	As also mentioned in the CSEP, the
19	Commission has considered affordability in past
20	Commission proceedings. We think that considering
21	affordability for a low-income rate class is
22	consistent with past practices. And the Commission
23	should use should consider affordability in this
24	case and when setting rates and in future cases.
25	Now, turning to the example that I

		Page 33
1	mentioned, the Division of Energy took the design	
2	that the Commission approved in the recent Missouri	
3	American case and tried to apply it to what it	
4	would look like for Empire. And this is on page 3,	
5	slide 2 of the handout. We modeled both Staff's	
6	proposed \$15 customer charge, Empire's 14.47	
7	customer charge, and the current customer charge of	
8	12.42.	
9	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Excuse me. Can	
10	I interrupt you?	
11	MR. ANTAL: Yes.	
12	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: These numbers,	
13	this 2,400, 2,399, is that a percentage of LIHEAP	
14	or is that total LIHEAP on page 3, number of	
15	participants.	
16	MR. ANTAL: Number of participants.	
17	That is those are the actual number of LIHEAP	
18	customers that Empire has. They're not	
19	percentages.	
20	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Where were you	
21	on the position with American Water on this?	
22	MR. ANTAL: The Division of Energy	
23	supported the establishment of the low-income	
24	customer charge pilot.	
25	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: This Commission	

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Page 34
     just less than a month ago said they would not do a
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 2
     state -- or an all --
 3
                  MR. ANTAL: A service territory wide.
 4
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yeah, pilot
 5
    program.
 6
                  MR. ANTAL: I'm aware of that, yes.
 7
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: So you're
    recommending we do that, and you think we have
 8
 9
     statutory authority to do that, correct? Possibly?
10
     It's questionable?
                  MR. ANTAL: The Division of Energy
11
12
    believes that the Commission has the authority to
     establish a low-income rate.
13
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Because I
14
     looked at your numbers, and the 24 cents a customer
15
16
    per month it would cost the other customers is
17
    almost identical to what a pilot program
18
     encompassing the entire service territory of
19
    American Water would cost. Actually, this is a
20
     little more, that this Commission denied. They
21
    didn't want to go there. So you're recommending we
22
    do that now?
23
                  MR. ANTAL: The Division of Energy is
24
    not specifically recommending this approach in this
     case. We're purely providing this for the
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1	Commission, this example for the Commission's, you
2	know
3	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Because
4	I didn't see this similar information in the
5	American Water case, which is we just concluded.
б	MR. ANTAL: Well, to be clear, the
7	Division of Energy did not take a position on the
8	low-income pilot in the Missouri American case
9	until the briefing occurred. So we did not take a
10	position at hearing
11	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank
12	you.
13	MR. ANTAL: in that case.
14	So based off essentially qualifying
15	all LIHEAP customers for this type of 80 percent
16	discount on the customer charge, you would see a
17	monthly cost to residential customers, assuming
18	that you applied the cost of such a program
19	specifically to residential customers.
20	And the Division acknowledges that
21	that's not the only option that the Commission has.
22	The Commission could spread costs over all rate
23	classes. But for this example, we looked at just
24	spreading the cost to residential, and you're
25	looking at a cost of, you know, just over 20 cents

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1	to just over 24 cents per customer. And that would
2	provide a discount of just over \$10 to just over
3	the \$12, depending on the customer charge that the
4	Commission ultimately would approve or someplace in
5	the middle if parties are able to settle on a
б	customer charge. A purely illustrative example.
7	However, as I said earlier, this type
8	of approach doesn't necessarily have all the
9	nuances you would want to have in a low-income
10	pilot program. As I said, Ameren Missouri's
11	Keeping Current program is a more nuanced approach.
12	It has different tiers of bill rebates or customer
13	rebates based off of a customer's percentage in the
14	federal poverty limits.
15	This also takes into account things
16	such as heating customers versus non-heating
17	customers. Now, heating customers who use
18	electricity obviously are going to have larger
19	bills than customers who use another source of
20	energy for their heating needs.
21	Keeping Current also requires LIWAP
22	or LIWAP rather participation or that they sign up
23	for it to ensure that if we're going to give people
24	rebates, that they're at least in the queue to get
25	weatherization services so that their housing stock

Page 37 is as efficient as possible. 1 2 There are also educational 3 requirements and tiered cooling programs for customers who just go on such a program during the 4 5 summer cooling period and need the extra additional 6 support to get through the hot summers. 7 The Division of Energy has two 8 witnesses that are willing to field Commissioner 9 questions. We have Sharlet Kroll, who this will be 10 her first time appearing before this Commission. She can field questions on the need for low-income 11 12 relief in Empire's service territory as well as 13 low-income program administration. And then we have had Mr. Martin 14 Hyman, who has appeared here before, who can field 15 16 questions on rate and program design as well as 17 bill and customer impacts. So that is the conclusion of my 18 19 prepared remarks. 20 CHAIRMAN HALL: Good morning. Will 21 one of your witnesses be able to discuss Empire 22 District's experimental low-income program that was in place, I believe, from 2002 maybe to 2009 or 23 24 2010? 25 MR. ANTAL: Neither of our witnesses

		Page 38
1	were involved in that program. However, I believe	
2	Ms. Kroll has reviewed the evaluation of that	
3	program and may be able to field some questions.	
4	CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you.	
5	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Good morning.	
б	Have the parties been discussing a low-income rate	
7	as part of this settlement or part of this case?	
8	MR. ANTAL: The parties, to my	
9	knowledge, have not considered this until the	
10	Commission brought it to our attention.	
11	COMMISSIONER STOLL: So is it even	
12	possible that there would be a low-income pilot	
13	project established? How would that work? Why are	
14	we going to hear witnesses about something that	
15	can't happen?	
16	MR. ANTAL: I believe it's within the	
17	Commission's authority	
18	COMMISSIONER STOLL: To hear it?	
19	MR. ANTAL: to order a pilot	
20	program. But, I mean, in direct testimony, there	
21	has not been any specific proposals as we had in	
22	at least in Missouri American case we had	
23	surrebuttal testimony that had outlined a pilot	
24	program. But here we have nothing in testimony.	
25	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Also, so your	

		Page 39
1	statement that says the Commission has the	
2	authority to establish a low-income rate and doing	
3	so is consistent with the recommendations of the	
4	Comprehensive State Energy Plan, that is you have	
5	nuanced that. That is not exactly correct,	
6	correct? You're saying we hear you say we have the	
7	authority, and then I think you just said you	
8	didn't think we really did, that would have to be	
9	legislative action, or was I	
10	MR. ANTAL: No. To be clear, what I	
11	meant to convey was that the Division believes that	
12	the Commission has the authority to establish a	
13	low-income class. However, it's not it's not	
14	explicit. There's no explicit authority.	
15	COMMISSIONER STOLL: So establish a	
16	low-income class, but we would have to do that to	
17	square our action with state law? Because doesn't	
18	it say in state law, and I don't have the	
19	reference, that you have to treat all customers in	
20	a class the same?	
21	MR. ANTAL: The Commission has the	
22	authority to you have to treat them the same,	
23	unless the Commission establishes a new class. The	
24	Commission has approved multiple pilot programs	
25	that give rebates to low-income customers who today	

		Page 40
1	are still considered to be residential customers.	
2	COMMISSIONER STOLL: So they could be	
3	residential customers, but they would be in a	
4	separate class, a low-income residential customer;	
5	is that correct?	
6	MR. ANTAL: We believe the Commission	
7	has the authority to do so. I don't know if this	
8	is the case to do it in since those issues have not	
9	been discussed in testimony, but we do believe it	
10	is within the Commission's authority.	
11	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay. Thank	
12	you.	
13	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: In our recent	
14	case, American Water, could it be considered that	
15	we set up a separate class? It might be a small	
16	class. It's a pilot program, right? But it's	
17	still we gave them a special rate.	
18	MR. ANTAL: Legally, I don't know	
19	that I would be comfortable today saying that you	
20	have established a separate class. I know that the	
21	Commission established a pilot program based off	
22	its experimental rate authority, but I don't	
23	believe	
24	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Well, are they	
25	going to receive a different rate?	

Page 41 1 MR. ANTAL: In practice, yes. 2 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: And are the 3 other customers picking up that charge? 4 MR. ANTAL: Yes, they are. For 5 practical purposes --6 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: The Commission 7 just decided to make it a smaller amount. Instead 8 of -- this separate group. Instead of giving 9 everybody it, the entire LIHEAP, they said let's 10 take a percentage of LIHEAP? 11 MR. ANTAL: Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you. 13 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you, Mr. Antal. Ms. Carter, would you like to --14 15 MS. CARTER: Judge, this may be a 16 good time. Empire has marked as Exhibits 32, 33 17 and 34 certain documents from Empire's ELIP, 18 experimental low-income program, that went in in 19 2002, and that may help answer some of the 20 questions that Commissioners have regarding how 21 that functioned in the past. They had a very 22 thorough evaluation done and many years of data to 23 go off of with that program. 24 JUDGE BURTON: Would you like to 25 offer?

Page 42 MS. CARTER: Yes, Exhibit 32, 33 and 1 2 34. 3 JUDGE BURTON: And just for the record to be clear, I have 32 as marked the direct 4 5 testimony of Sherrill McCormack, Case No. ER-2011-0004, and 33 is the ELIP Evaluation from 6 7 March 29, 2010? 8 MS. CARTER: Correct. 9 JUDGE BURTON: And Exhibit 34 is the 10 Global Agreement for File No. ER-2011-0004? 11 MS. CARTER: Yes, those are connect. 12 JUDGE BURTON: Are there any 13 objections to the admissions of those three exhibits, Empire's Exhibits 32, 33 or 34? 14 15 (No response.) 16 JUDGE BURTON: Seeing none, they are 17 admitted into the record. (EMPIRE EXHIBITS 32, 33 AND 34 WERE 18 19 RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 20 MS. CARTER: Judge, I believe I gave 21 you one copy of each of those. Here are four more 22 copies of each. 23 JUDGE BURTON: Does the Commission 24 have any questions for Ms. Carter or any of the 25 other --

Page 43 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'd like them 1 2 explained. Can we have the summary explained, 3 No. 34? 4 JUDGE BURTON: Ms. Carter, could you 5 please step up to the podium --6 MS. CARTER: Sure. 7 JUDGE BURTON: -- and explain this 8 exhibit? COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Can you 9 summarize the, I guess it was -- what are these, 10 33, 34, 35? 11 12 MS. CARTER: 32, 33, 34. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: 33 was the 13 summary of the program through 2010; is that 14 15 correct? MS. CARTER: It's the program 16 17 evaluation that --18 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Could that be 19 explained? Because we're just receiving it. I 20 don't want to sit here and try to read it. 21 MS. CARTER: Yes. And just to 22 briefly summarize, this has not been an issue in 23 the case between the parties. It was not in any 24 testimony, and we had not contemplated discussing 25 it at the hearing. The Commissioners requested

		Page 44
1	that be added as an issue. So we are all here to	
2	do our very best, but there was not a substantial	
3	amount of preparation time on this issue because	
4	the parties were not contemplating a low-income	
5	rate coming out of this case, but we will do our	
6	very best.	
7	Empire started in 2002 with an ELIP,	
8	an experimental low-income program, and what you	
9	have is Mrs. McCormack's testimony from 2010, which	
10	is when Empire and the parties were looking to	
11	terminate the low-income program, and they had the	
12	evaluation done and then there was a settlement	
13	agreement to discontinue it.	
14	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Was that	
15	established in a rate case?	
16	MS. CARTER: Yes.	
17	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: A Commission	
18	set up that pilot program in 2002?	
19	MS. CARTER: Yes. And on page 15 of	
20	Ms. McCormack's testimony, which is Exhibit 32,	
21	that has the case number where it was established.	
22	It was set up with two tiers, depending on poverty	
23	level, and they received a bill credit depending on	
24	the LIHEAP poverty level. You could either have a	
25	bill credit up to \$20 or a bill credit up to \$50,	

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1	and you could be on the program for a 12-month	
2	period and then you could reapply at the end of	
3	that 12-month period to continue.	
4	Unfortunately, what Empire and the	
5	parties involved found is that when customers went	
6	off the program, their bill paying habits were	
7	worse than when they went on the program. So	
8	looking at before the program and after the	
9	program, bill-paying habits were less after they	
10	graduated from the program.	
11	And so it was determined to	
12	discontinue the program due to that, that it wasn't	
13	helping bill-paying habits in this case, and also	
14	there was an evaluation on the cost effectiveness	
15	of the program and it was determined not to be cost	
16	effective using the agreed-upon rating scale.	
17	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: So you're	
18	saying that as the program went on, when the	
19	customers got off the program, they had taken	
20	advantage of it and it wasn't a they just	
21	their late pays got worse than before the program	
22	started?	
23	MS. CARTER: Yes.	
24	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you.	
25	MS. CARTER: It does not mean we	

1	wouldn't be willing to look at it again and give it
2	another try. So that is the experience that we had
3	2002 to 2010.
4	COMMISSIONER RUPP: I have a
5	question. So you say when they got off the
6	program. Is that because the program pilot ended
7	or because they no longer qualified due to an
8	increase of income or parameters or
9	MS. CARTER: I cannot say
10	specifically on that. And I don't know that it's
11	broken down to that level in the evaluation. It
12	certainly could be that they decided not to reply.
13	It's not because the funding was ending.
14	JUDGE BURTON: Is it possible that
15	Empire's witness Mr. Keith would be available to
16	answer?
17	MS. CARTER: He is certainly
18	available. I don't know if he can answer that
19	question, though.
20	MR. KEITH: I don't know that level
21	of detail. It wasn't because funding was ending.
22	MS. CARTER: Yeah.
23	COMMISSIONER RUPP: That's all I
24	needed to know.
25	MS. CARTER: It was not a funding

Page 47 1 issue. 2 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Very good. 3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: But that's different than the pilot program we just approved 4 5 in American Water was just a discount in the 6 customer charge, period, and then I think Division 7 of Energy's approach is just a discount in the 8 customer charge. 9 MS. CARTER: Correct. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Which is 10 completely different than the program that Empire 11 12 established in 2002, correct? MS. CARTER: It was a bill credit 13 14 amount not specific to the customer charge, 15 although that is what would come off first. 16 Everyone has the customer charge and then their 17 energy charges and it was a credit. So it was a 18 higher amount that they would have been receiving. 19 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Much higher. 20 MS. CARTER: Much higher. 21 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you. 22 CHAIRMAN HALL: Do you believe that 23 the Commission would have the authority to implement some type of low-income program, be it a 24 25 pilot or service-territory-wide, outside of a rate

Page 48 1 case? 2 MS. CARTER: I am not prepared to 3 answer that question for you because we haven't been anything about it until just a few days ago in 4 5 this case. Certainly the Commission has experimental authority, and utilities and parties 6 7 have been able to do many things in settlements 8 that perhaps couldn't be done through an order of 9 the Commission. CHAIRMAN HALL: You indicated and the 10 11 report also indicates that the program was dis--12 was discontinued in part because it was deemed to be not cost effective. What does that mean? 13 14 MS. CARTER: In looking at it, it appears similar to the standards we're now using on 15 16 MEEIA programs on the cost effectiveness test, and 17 I would not be able to explain the details for that 18 on what all goes into that calculation. But it seems that this program evaluation was similar to 19 20 what we now use on MEEIA-type programs to determine 21 cost effectiveness. 22 CHAIRMAN HALL: Would your witness be 23 able to provide more information on that? It seems 24 to me that one of the purposes of a low-income program is to promote affordability, and I can't 25

1	imagine how your company's cost effective analysis
2	would include that particular parameter, but maybe
3	it does.
4	JUDGE BURTON: We'll just plan on
5	having Mr. Keith up here to answer those questions
б	and he can state what he knows, what he's familiar
7	with, if it's outside your scope.
8	MS. CARTER: Yes. He has been warned
9	that he will be put up here.
10	CHAIRMAN HALL: And I'll go ahead and
11	let you know, the company and all the other parties
12	here, this issue was thrown at you a little late in
13	the game. I absolutely understand why counsel and
14	witnesses may not be as prepared as they would
15	otherwise be on other issues. And it may, in fact,
16	be too late in the game for the Commission to take
17	action on this issue.
18	But I think, speaking for myself, I
19	wanted more information on Empire's program from
20	2002 to 2010 and particularly in light of the
21	Commission's order, recent order in Missouri
22	American where we implemented, as Commissioner
23	Kenney indicated, a somewhat different program.
24	Thank you.
25	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Do you have an

Page 50 idea of what the total dollar amount was for those 1 2 programs or range? 3 MS. CARTER: I know it is --4 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Again, I 5 appreciate your --6 MS. CARTER: It was shared funding. 7 There were some shareholder funds and some 8 ratepayer funds, and I imagine Mr. Keith will know 9 those dollar amounts. Otherwise, maybe not. I know it is in one of these documents. 10 11 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: And I -- again, 12 I echo Chairman Hall's comments. I know this is very late in the game, and if you don't know them, 13 I understand that, but I'm just curious because I 14 15 know in the Division of Energy's proposal they're looking at about 367,000 to cover the entire 16 17 district-wide at a reduction of \$12 using Staff's 18 members. I was just curious about how much money 19 was spent in those. 20 MS. CARTER: That's definitely 21 something we can follow up with for you. That will 22 be easy to find. I don't know the dollar amounts offhand. 23 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I just briefly 24 ran through 33, and I didn't see the totals 25

Page 51 1 anywhere. That's fine. I was just curious. 2 MS. CARTER: We can definitely follow 3 up with that. Like you said, it would have been higher. It was a substantial bill credit depending 4 5 on the poverty level, and it was for all who 6 qualified under LIHEAP. 7 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: And was that a 8 district-wide program? 9 MS. CARTER: It was Empire's service 10 territory. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Maybe we 11 12 shouldn't talk about that. The Commission doesn't like that. 13 MR. ANTAL: Commissioner, if I may. 14 I've been directed to the tariff, the ELIP tariff, 15 and it's our understanding that the annual funding 16 17 was approximately \$300,000. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: That almost 18 covers what your proposal is, right? I think you 19 20 were about 367, if I remember right. 21 MR. ANTAL: Again, it's not our 22 recommendation. It's purely an illustrative 23 example, but yes, the budgets are pretty close. 2.4 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you. 25 MS. CARTER: Mr. Keith would be happy

1	to get up there and answer other questions,
2	including on other low-income programs that Empire
3	has available, although not a low-income rate.
4	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Are there
5	any other parties that would like to have counsel
6	address the Commission? Are there any attorneys
7	that the Commission would like to have?
8	CHAIRMAN HALL: Yeah. I'll ask
9	Mr. Thompson a question, and perhaps other
10	attorneys might be interested in responding as
11	well. It's the same question I asked Ms. Carter.
12	I'm curious as to whether or not Staff has a
13	position as to whether or not the Commission could
14	put some type of low-income tariff in place, be it
15	pilot or service territory-wide, outside of a rate
16	case.
17	MR. THOMPSON: Without having done
18	any research on the issue, my reaction would be no.
19	I think you would have to do that in a rate case.
20	The Commission does not have authority to treat
21	some residential ratepayers differently than other
22	residential ratepayers. The statute clearly
23	forbids discrimination and preferences.
24	The Commission has the authority to
25	establish classes of service based on differences
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1	of service, and there are some early Supreme Court,
2	Missouri Supreme Court cases addressing the
3	Commission's power to classify. It's not
4	arbitrary. You can't classify simply because you
5	want to. You have to classify based on cost.
б	Traditional regulation is all about cost, cost of
7	service.
8	So you certainly have a
9	well-recognized power to do experimental things,
10	such as an experimental low-income program, in
11	order to investigate what the result would be or
12	how it would work or whatever the issues are that
13	you would want to gather information about by doing
14	the program.
15	But as far as permanently
16	establishing a low-income class or a low-income
17	rate mechanism, I don't think the Commission has
18	the statutory authority to do that.
19	CHAIRMAN HALL: I think perhaps
20	you're combining two issues. One issue is whether
21	we have the authority to establish a low-income
22	rate, and then the second issue is whether we have
23	that authority outside of a rate case.
24	MR. THOMPSON: Right.
25	CHAIRMAN HALL: And the first issue I

		Page 54
1	understand the legal issues involved without	
2	question.	
3	MR. THOMPSON: Okay.	
4	CHAIRMAN HALL: The second issue is	
5	whether it can be done outside of a rate case. So	
6	for this question, assume we have the authority to	
7	put some kind of low-income tariff in place. I'm	
8	curious as to whether or not we can do it outside	
9	of a rate case.	
10	MR. THOMPSON: Again, I think you	
11	can't. In the telephone world, they would	
12	establish new service offerings outside of rate	
13	cases all the time, and that was permissible	
14	because it was new. Here, the only thing that's	
15	new is the way you're charging for it. It's the	
16	same old service but perhaps charged in a different	
17	way.	
18	So I think it would have to be done	
19	in a rate case where all relevant factors would be	
20	considered.	
21	CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Any other	
22	counsel wish to comment on that?	
23	MS. MAYFIELD: I would just respond	
24	that I would agree with Mr. Thompson's analysis.	
25	I'm starting to dig into this just a little bit,	

		Page 55
1	and I would agree that the Commission would not	
2	have authority outside of a rate case to implement	
3	a low-income rate absent a review of all inclusive	
4	factors. So I would just mirror the eloquent	
5	statement Mr. Thompson made.	
6	CHAIRMAN HALL: And that would be	
7	your position whether it was a new class or if it	
8	was simply a low-income pilot similar to the pilot	
9	put in place in Missouri American?	
10	MS. MAYFIELD: Well, certainly to the	
11	class. I'm not so much for sure about the Missouri	
12	American example, but certainly to the class	
13	itself. I would have to research more on the other	
14	part.	
15	CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Any other	
16	attorneys wish to	
17	MR. CONRAD: Judge, let me the old	
18	gray-haired guy. There is an old case, and I think	
19	that it is at least one of those to which	
20	Mr. Thompson is referring. I wish I could recall	
21	the citation. It is referred to generally as the	
22	Londray case. And I see him nodding his head. It	
23	essentially tells the Commission this was	
24	reversed by the Court. Told the Commission at that	
25	time that they were free to classify customers	

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1	based on load and usage characteristics and on no	
2	other characteristics.	
3	Now, that did not involve residential	
4	customers and staying within a class. I have to	
5	agree with Mr. Thompson's analysis, and as he warns	
6	you, he hasn't researched it, and honestly I	
7	haven't either for a long time since the Londray	
8	case, but that does limit your ability to classify	
9	customers. And perhaps that's one that	
10	Mr. Thompson was referring to.	
11	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no further	
12	questions.	
13	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Thompson?	
14	MR. THOMPSON: Sir?	
15	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: What was your	
16	involvement in that 2002 Empire rate case? I know	
17	you have a plethora of knowledge.	
18	MR. THOMPSON: A plethora of I do	
19	not recall what involvement, if any, I had in the	
20	2002 Empire rate case.	
21	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'm curious	
22	because the Commission established a program for	
23	low-income or low-income program. That's what	
24	I've been told today, and it ran till 2010 until it	
25	was determined that it was not effective. So it	

Page 57 must have gone through several rate cases. 1 2 MR. THOMPSON: I'm sure it did. 3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'm told now that we can't do that. 4 5 MR. THOMPSON: No. You can do an 6 experimental program. 7 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Was that an 8 experimental program? 9 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, it was. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Well, did it 10 11 only encompass so many qualified people or how did 12 it work? MR. THOMPSON: It may have 13 encompassed all eligible ratepayers within the 14 15 entire service area. 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: So in other words, 17 Commissioner, it was experimental because it was 18 called experimental. 19 MS. CARTER: That is exactly correct. 20 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Thompson, I 21 notice Staff had recommended that we consider this 22 in a future rate case, the low-income program, 23 correct? That's Staff's position, correct? 2.4 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 25 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: What's Staff's

		Page 58
1	position if this Commission wanted to impose an	
2	experimental low-income program?	
3	MR. THOMPSON: Staff would do	
4	whatever it could to facilitate the Commission	
5	achieving its desire.	
6	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: So I wish I	
7	would have known about that experimental deal about	
8	a month ago.	
9	JUDGE BURTON: I do have a question	
10	to follow up on that. If it is an experimental	
11	program, let's say, for instance, would it be	
12	available to consider through a tracker program	
13	where it's considered a regulatory asset?	
14	MR. THOMPSON: Well, I think that's	
15	what's that was what was done in the Missouri	
16	American one, if I recall correctly, was that the	
17	revenue that was forgone by the company was	
18	deferred.	
19	JUDGE BURTON: And would that be an	
20	option outside of this rate case?	
21	MR. THOMPSON: I think you could	
22	probably, and I say probably, because the question	
23	is as Diana said very eloquently, a lot of	
24	things can be accomplished by agreement that cannot	
25	be imposed by fiat. In other words, if all the	

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	1	stakeholders are willing to sign on and nobody's	
	2	running to the Court of Appeals saying make them	
	3	stop, make them stop, then many things can be done.	
	4	So I believe that a revenue-neutral	
	5	program and by revenue-neutral I mean the	
	6	company may not be collecting the money now, but	
	7	the company gets to collect the money later with a	
	8	carrying cost. Right?	
	9	So that kind of program could	
1	LO	probably be imposed outside of a rate case because	
1	11	it doesn't impact all moving parts. Right? It's	
1	L2	neutral. The only the only part it impacts is	
1	L3	the company has to accept collecting less money	
1	14	now, but it's satisfied because it will collect	
1	15	more money later. So you could probably do that	
1	16	between rate cases, outside of a rate case.	
1	L7	JUDGE BURTON: Would any of the other	
1	L8	parties like to respond to that?	
1	19	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Thompson,	
2	20	now that we've had this introduced by the Division	
	21	of Energy, couldn't the parties put this into some	
	22	type of black box settlement?	
	23	MR. THOMPSON: There is no question	
	24	that if the Commission wants an experimental	
	25	low-income pilot program to come out of this case,	

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1	then the parties can put one together for you. I	
2	do not doubt that for a moment.	
3	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Well, I would	
4	recommend that I think the Division of Energy's	
5	approach would be a good approach to adopt, but I'm	
6	just one commissioner.	
7	MR. ANTAL: Judge, if I may. There	
8	was a couple of questions from the commissioners	
9	that I wanted to address.	
10	Based off a review of the former ELIP	
11	tariff, it appears that the program was available	
12	to the first 1,000 customers who applied and the	
13	applications went through.	
14	And to Commissioner Rupp's question,	
15	it appears based off the tariff that the program	
16	customers were allowed to participate in the	
17	program for 12 months and then would have to	
18	reapply to participate.	
19	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Was the program	
20	reauthorized in the next rate case then for it to	
21	go that long, I assume, or was there a time limit?	
22	MS. CARTER: There were multiple rate	
23	cases. There was no automatic end to the program.	
24	It ended through a settlement in the 2011 rate	
25	case.	

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1	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay. Thanks.	
2	JUDGE BURTON: The parties have	
3	identified witnesses that are available to answer	
4	any questions the Commission may have on these	
5	issues, and they are Mr. Keith from Empire,	
6	Ms. Kliethermes from Staff, Marke from OPC, Kroll	
7	and Hyman from Division of Energy. Does the	
8	Commission wish to hear any testimony from those	
9	entities?	
10	CHAIRMAN HALL: Yeah. I think	
11	Mr. Keith from the company to start on my	
12	recommendation.	
13	JUDGE BURTON: All right. Mr. Keith,	
14	would you please step forward.	
15	(Witness sworn.)	
16	JUDGE BURTON: Would you please state	
17	and spell your name for the record.	
18	THE WITNESS: My name is Scott Keith,	
19	K-e-i-t-h.	
20	JUDGE BURTON: Okay. And could you	
21	state what your current position is?	
22	THE WITNESS: My current position is	
23	director of planning and regulatory at Empire	
24	District Electric Company.	
25	SCOTT KEITH testified as follows:	

Page 62 1 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 2 Q. Good morning. 3 Α. Good morning. 4 0. So my understanding based on the 5 comments this morning and my brief review of the 6 report prepared by -- well, Exhibit 33, is that 7 this was a program, the experimental low-income 8 program was a program that was designed by the 9 company; is that correct? 10 I wasn't employed at Empire when it Α. 11 was first put into place. I came along in 2005. 12 So I'm not sure who designed the program. It might have been a collaborative effort between a group of 13 14 people. 15 So there was a \$20 credit or a \$50 0. 16 credit based on income; is that correct? 17 Α. Yes. And who determined eligibility? Was 18 Q. 19 that something determined by the company or --20 Α. No, it wasn't. My recollection is we 21 used two CAP agencies, one in Joplin and one in 22 Ozark, and the program wasn't really service area wide. That kind of limited it to several of our 23 24 larger counties. And I think there's some 25 discussion of that in the evaluation that it could

	Ι	Page 63
1	be expanded by using some of the CAP agencies in	
2	the Branson area, for example.	
3	Q. So the two CAP agencies were	
4	A. I think it was Economic Security in	
5	Joplin and OACAC in Ozark.	
6	Q. And it was available for the first	
7	1,000 eligible applicants?	
8	A. I don't recall that. I know we had	
9	participation issues. It didn't seem like we got	
10	the participation everybody thought we were going	
11	to have. So we really never expended the budget.	
12	Q. So you never reached the caps?	
13	A. That's correct.	
14	Q. Ms. Carter indicated that the program	
15	was discontinued in part because it was deemed not	
16	to be cost effective. Can you explain to me what	
17	that means?	
18	A. Yes. I'll try. The consultant we	
19	hired to review it, everybody agreed it needed to	
20	be evaluated again, and we had to hire an	
21	independent consultant to do it. In looking I	
22	briefly looked at the document a couple of days ago	
23	when this came up, and it looked like it had a cost	
24	effectiveness of .31. It was below 1. Which meant	
25	to the consultant that was doing the evaluation	

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1	that it actually cost more than it saved, so that
2	it turned into an adder to everybody's bill.
3	Q. So the cost side of that equation I
4	think I understand. That's the amount that is
5	being essentially subsidized on customers' bills.
6	But the savings, what is that?
7	A. I'm not sure what they used. I could
8	see maybe bad debt savings as an offset. I'm not
9	sure what benefits they used to offset the cost.
10	It was below one, though. For example, like
11	affordability you mentioned earlier might be this
12	subjective cost that they did not consider, but it
13	would it would never show up on our books and
14	records.
15	Q. Yeah. Because for me, that is the
16	goal of a low-income tariff is to promote
17	affordability so that individuals or families with
18	low income are able to afford electricity. And I
19	don't understand how that I think you
20	acknowledged this as well. I don't know how that
21	could be part of a formula used to determine cost
22	effectiveness.
23	A. Correct.
24	Q. So it was also indicated earlier this
25	morning that the that this program was funded by

1	shareholders and ratepayers; is that correct?
2	A. That's correct. That's how it
3	started. As I recall, it was 50/50. It was say
4	150,000 was in rates and 150,000 was funded by the
5	shareholders, given a \$300,000 budget.
6	Q. So the \$300,000 budget was set by
7	either commission order or tariff or both, correct?
8	A. It was probably part of a settlement.
9	So that dollar amount was derived at the settlement
10	and then brought forward to the Commission for
11	approval and got into the tariffs that way.
12	Q. If the Commission were to indicate
13	its desire that the company work with Staff, OPC
14	and the other and the other parties to put
15	together some type of experimental low-income
16	program, do you have any thoughts as to what that
17	might look like, what might make sense in light of
18	the company's prior experience?
19	A. Well, for sure one of the things we'd
20	certainly like to see is the evaluation of the
21	customer eligibility taken out of our hands, in
22	other words, determined by some independent CAP
23	agency or something. We don't want to get into the
24	business of trying to track income of customers.
25	Q. Yeah. And I for one would agree with

1	that completely.
2	A. But certainly we'd be happy to work
3	with them. We did it before with this ELIP
4	program, and we'd be willing to do it again to come
5	up with some design to present.
6	Q. In the Missouri American case, the
7	Commission ordered a pilot program that involved an
8	80 percent reduction of the customer charge. It
9	left the variable rates in place. And I don't know
10	if the order spelled this out, but at least from my
11	perspective that made sense because we didn't want
12	to do anything to encourage additional consumption.
13	We didn't want to encourage inefficient use of
14	water.
15	I think the same principle would
16	apply here, that if we were going to put in place
17	some kind of low-income tariff, doesn't it make
18	more sense to focus on the customer charge as
19	opposed to the variable charge?
20	A. Yes. However, given what happened to
21	our old program at 20 and \$50, with our charge only
22	being around 12.50, \$13 now, it's not doesn't
23	appear to be a lot of bill credit or not as much
24	help as we were trying to give before.
25	And then, you know, over the term of

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		Page 67
1	our program, it appeared all the payment	
2	participants and their payment methods were	
3	became worse once they were off the program. So it	
4	didn't seem to encourage, I don't know, quicker	
5	payments or more efficient usage necessarily.	
6	Q. Though I must say, I'm I don't	
7	understand why anyone would be surprised that if	
8	somebody if a low-income family was receiving a	
9	20 or a \$50 credit on their bill and then all of a	
10	sudden they weren't, why anyone would be surprised	
11	that that didn't cause additional payment problems.	
12	A. I agree.	
13	Q. Well, I I'll just say that I I	
14	very much appreciate the company's willingness to	
15	put this program in place from 2002 to 2010. I	
16	think it was a very progressive effort by the by	
17	the company and the parties.	
18	One of the criteria for eligibility I	
19	believe included some type of conservation efforts	
20	or weatherization.	
21	A. I believe they had to sign up for	
22	assistance for one thing. They had to be on the	
23	list of assistance. At that time I doubt if Empire	
24	had a weatherization program, but we do right now,	
25	and certainly that could be added, that they get	

		Page 68
1	into that queue, too. And they had to sign up for	
2	average pay, try and spread out some of their spike	
3	bills over 12 months.	
4	Q. Is there any information on the	
5	results of participants applying for available	
6	energy assistance programs, including	
7	weatherization?	
8	A. In the report?	
9	Q. Or otherwise.	
10	A. I'm trying to think. If I I don't	
11	know that we would track that internally. The CAPs	
12	may have that. They would be able to, say, match	
13	customers up that way.	
14	Q. If the Commission were to direct the	
15	parties to put together some type of experimental	
16	program, if we were to direct the company to work	
17	with the parties to find some type of discrete	
18	geographic area to do that, do you have any sense	
19	now as to what that discrete geographic area might	
20	be?	
21	A. Well, we have two major areas, the	
22	Branson area and then we have the Joplin area. I'd	
23	have to think about that a little bit. But I would	
24	think it would be between those two, one of those	
25	two.	

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1	CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. I have no	
2	further questions. Thank you.	
3	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.	
4	Thank you.	
5	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I have a	
6	question or two and then a comment.	
7	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY:	
8	Q. You stated one of the failures with	
9	this program was the lack of participation?	
10	A. Yes. We really never came close to	
11	spending that budget. So we always had these	
12	excess funds that we essentially rolled over into	
13	other DSM and energy efficiency programs.	
14	Q. You know, we had a recent Kansas City	
15	Power & Light rate case, and I recall that their	
16	low-income weatherization program, that our Staff	
17	had requested not increasing any money. This	
18	Commission voted to raise that, not because of this	
19	lack of participation. I notice that a lot of	
20	these programs in the low-income communities there	
21	is a lack of participation, maybe because they	
22	don't know the programs exist.	
23	What type of methods do you have, if	
24	you know, did Empire use to inform the low-income	
25	community that this program was available?	

1 Α. The ELIP, the ELIP that was in place 2 for a number of years? 3 Yes. ο. 4 Α. I don't recall exactly what we did. 5 I know that currently we do market the existing 6 programs, and we try and get out the word through 7 advertisement and things like that and the CAPs, 8 make sure the CAPs help market them. 9 A lot of times low-income customers ο. 10 don't have the access to as much media or 11 information as others. They're strapped. I can 12 understand that they don't realize the programs are 13 out there. 14 Α. I know that would be an important 15 aspect to put into the new program. 16 I think if it was just based off of a ο. 17 customer charge and they'd have to sign up for it, 18 if somehow we knew we can -- a process that's not 19 cumbersome to the company but that we could use 20 would be much easier to implement than it be just 21 on a customer charge. I think it would be easier to have them sign up for. 22 23 I would agree, except we'd certainly Α. 24 want the CAPs to determine the eligibility because they also manage our weatherization programs. 25 So

Page 71 they can match up that customer and see if they're 1 2 eligible for weatherization, too. 3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Great. Thank 4 you very much. 5 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER RUPP: 6 Q. Good morning, sir. 7 Good morning. Α. 8 Q. I'm going to stop and ask -- and step 9 back and question, why are we even considering 10 this? So I want to verify some facts. In the 11 previous program people can apply for 12 months and 12 then they can reapply, but what you found was that people had a bigger difficulty when they got off 13 14 the program of paying their bills than when they 15 were on the program? 16 Α. Yes, that's correct. 17 0. Okay. 18 MS. CARTER: And just to clarify 19 that, the comparison was before they went on the 20 program with after, not during. 21 BY COMMISSIONER RUPP: 22 Not during. Right. So you could Q. 23 simply basically -- you could make the assumption 24 that, unless their economic situation changed, that 25 once they were on the program, they were going to

be dependent on the program moving forward to help
meet their pay their electric bill.
So my question is, gets back to the
old saying, you can give a person a fish and
they're hungry for feed them for a day, but if
you teach them how to fish, they can not be hungry
for the rest of their life. I butchered that
saying, but you know what I'm trying to say.
So shouldn't the goal if we think
about a low-income, is there a way to structure a
program that, rather than just giving them the
money, a credit on their bill, you take the amount
that you would have given them in the credit on the
bill and you do energy efficiency upgrades to their
apartment, to their house, and you can tie it to
the deed? I know that Kentucky has done this and
they have some programs. And use that money that
would help them lower their bill long-term rather
than just give them a credit on their bill.
Is there a way that is there a
possibility of structuring it in a way that would
provide long-term benefits to the end user?
A. Such as like educational benefits,
too, maybe a what do they call them, behavioral
change program. I can't remember what they're

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1	called now. But there certainly would be some
2	opportunity and probably should be it should be
3	coupled with something other than just money so
4	that there's some longer-term benefit for increased
5	energy efficiency or they use energy in the most
6	efficient manner.
7	Q. Because I'm going to make the
8	assumption that if you're a low-income person that
9	is on here, there probably is a statistical strong
10	correlation between how energy efficient your
11	appliances, your air conditioning, your heating and
12	your house, the weatherization of the house,
13	there's probably a strong correlation between those
14	two. I'm sure it probably can be statistically
15	verified.
16	So if we were to look at if we
17	were to have a program and structure it in that
18	way, then there would be so much more impact on the
19	dollars that would be spent, and when a person
20	if they do leave or whatever, then that benefit
21	stays with that meter and that deed for the next
22	person then that comes in.
23	So I would really encourage you guys
24	to explore that. I'm sure you probably can't in
25	this rate case. But I do know that several other

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1	states have programs like this where they tie it to
2	the deed. The question comes into financing, but
3	if you can do it in a rate case or a low-income
4	rider, then there will be some monies in there.
5	A. I'm sure the group that gets together
6	to try and collaborate on this, we can think of
7	some things to couple it with that hopefully would
8	meet what you're talking about.
9	Q. That would be great. Thank you.
10	MR. ANTAL: Judge, if I may? Just to
11	address Commissioner Rupp's comments, we do have
12	you know, the company and the Division of Energy do
13	have, you know, weatherization programs currently,
14	and there have been discussions of whether or not
15	additional low-income programs can be developed.
16	But we'll definitely take your comments into
17	consideration in developing any future programs.
18	Thank you.
19	MR. RUPP: Just to follow up on your
20	comment. My thoughts are to go beyond
21	weatherization. Go into I have a furnace that's
22	50 years old that is completely not energy
23	efficient, but I'm low income and I can't afford
24	\$3,000 to go have my furnace replaced, but that
25	would be a huge savings towards energy efficiency,

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1	or my air conditioner or what have you. And if you	
2	can somehow tie the financing to the deed, get	
3	beyond weatherization, beyond weather stripping,	
4	because that's only going to get you so far, get	
5	into some of the big energy users.	
6	But I appreciate your comments. I	
7	think that's great.	
8	MR. ANTAL: Thank you.	
9	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: You know,	
10	looking at Exhibit 33, the evaluation of the	
11	low-income program, certainly low-income programs	
12	are can be very convoluted, I think, as far as	
13	what happens to a person that's getting the	
14	subsidy, and it's a lot more involved, a lot more	
15	complicated than we have the time to go into.	
16	I do have a lot of questions about	
17	this evaluation, which I understand it covers a	
18	period from 2003 to 2009. And so that makes a big	
19	difference, too, in the different things we've been	
20	talking about. I certainly look forward to reading	
21	this information.	
22	But I do think, know from experience	
23	and from folks that I have worked with as a	
24	legislator that it does appear to be a subsidiary	
25	during the time that people are getting the	

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1	assistance because just because a person is	
2	participating in a low-income program, it doesn't	
3	mean that their financial situation is getting any	
4	better. They may be getting help with a utility	
5	but not getting help overall. So there's, you	
б	know, so many other things that are part of what's	
7	going on in the life of a person that needs these	
8	services.	
9	And Commissioner Rupp, the question	
10	is feed a man for feed a let me see. Give a	
11	man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to	
12	fish, you feed him for a lifetime. Thank you,	
13	Judge.	
14	JUDGE BURTON: Were there any	
15	questions from the parties for this witness? Okay.	
16	Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. Keith. You're	
17	excused.	
18	THE WITNESS: Thank you.	
19	JUDGE BURTON: Would the Commission	
20	like to hear from any other witness that was	
21	offered for this issue?	
22	CHAIRMAN HALL: If there are any	
23	witnesses that are prepared to discuss the final	
24	report of the experimental low-income program by	
25	Tech Market, Exhibit 33, I'd be interested in	

Page 77 getting different parties' perspectives on that 1 2 report. If there's nobody here who's prepared to 3 talk about it, then... MS. MERS: I believe Staff's witness 4 5 Sarah Kliethermes can speak on that. 6 MS. MAYFIELD: And OPC's witness 7 Dr. Marke can also speak on that as well. 8 MR. ANTAL: And Division of Energy's 9 witness Sharlet Kroll can speak to it, too. 10 (Witness sworn.) 11 JUDGE BURTON: Would you please state 12 and spell your name for the record. 13 THE WITNESS: Sarah Kliethermes, S-a-r-a-h, K-l-i-e-t-h-e-r-m-e-s. 14 15 JUDGE BURTON: And would you please 16 state your position and place of employment. 17 THE WITNESS: Regulatory Economist 3 with the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff. 18 19 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 20 SARAH KLIETHERMES testified as follows: 21 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 22 Good morning. Q. 23 Α. Good morning. 24 Q. So my understanding is that this 25 particular report indicated that the program was

Page 78 not cost effective and it had an adverse effect on 1 2 bill-paying habits? 3 Α. Yes. And I think there's an important aspect of the experiment that hasn't 4 5 really come out yet this morning, and that was that 6 part of what the experiment was, to get around some 7 of the issues that have been raised with legal 8 challenges of relief for low-income customers, the 9 experiment was to see if reducing the bill burden for customers who were often in arrearage 10 situations would have an effect on reducing the 11 12 overall revenue requirement by reducing cash lead lag problems, bad debt problems, that sort of 13 14 thing. So while low-income relief I think in 15 16 the minds of many parties was a very laudable 17 latent benefit, the technical design of the program 18 I believe was to the experiment of reducing the 19 company's cash flow issues and bad debt burden. 20 And upon what do you base that Q. 21 understanding? I was the attorney for Staff on the 22 Α. 23 rate cases from 2006 through 2010 or something like 24 that. 25 Is there anything in the record that 0.

Page 79 1 would indicate that that was the purpose of the 2 program? 3 It is my recollection -- although Α. given how this came up, I frankly didn't think to 4 5 look at it. It is my recollection that there's 6 some testimony in that 2002 rate case probably from 7 Staff witness Ann Ross that would address that 8 issue. That's my recollection. 9 Because that -- the effect of the ο. low-income program on a company's bad debt was 10 11 expressly one of the things that the Commission 12 cited in the Missouri American case. Yes. And if I may just a bit 13 Α. further. 14 15 0. Please. 16 Α. Part of the experiment was that there 17 were defined criteria to be tested and that were 18 tested, you know. So essentially the program ran 19 when it ran with the intent to study those aspects, and I think it was viewed that the benefit to the 20 21 low-income customers during the time, if that's 22 something the Commission couldn't objectly seek 23 out, that that was certainly a desirable, you know, 24 benefit that came about as part of that study. 25 Do you, sitting here today, have ο.

1	thoughts as to how a program could be better
2	structured either from the perspective of
3	affordability or from the perspective of minimizing
4	bad debt?
5	A. Frankly, off the top of my head
6	well, not entirely off the top of my head. The
7	Commission's approach in Missouri American at least
8	from a, can Staff and the company work together to
9	design tariffs to implement this and know how to
10	process it approach, that addressed a lot of the
11	problems that have come up in the past when we've
12	looked at this.
13	As far as an implementation approach,
14	you're avoiding having a separate class that we
15	have to have load research data for. You're
16	avoiding having to estimate normalized volumetric
17	usage.
18	So certainly from the part of it that
19	I work with, the Commission's Missouri American
20	approach is a very workable solution. As far as
21	how that has a better impact on customers, frankly,
22	there's probably better people on Staff to answer
23	that question. I apologize for that.
24	Q. So if the Commission were to ask the
25	company to work with Staff, OPC and the other

		Page 8
1	parties to put together some type of either	
2	experimental program or pilot program, do you	
3	sitting here today have a thought as to whether it	
4	would make sense to do it like Missouri American	
5	where there was a discount exclusively on the	
6	customer charge or would you think there's some	
7	other approach that makes sense?	
8	A. Speaking only from a, you know, I	
9	guess technologically feasible side, if you do it	
10	on volumetric, I frankly don't know how we would do	
11	that. If you do it as a flat dollar value, whether	
12	it's applied to the customer charge or similar to	
13	how the ELIP program worked, we can do that math.	
14	Q. Well, if you were to do it as a	
15	credit	
16	A. Yes.	
17	Q separate and apart from either the	
18	volumetric or the customer charge, from a from a	
19	mechanical perspective, that's something new?	
20	A. Yes, absolutely. That worked with	
21	ELIP and I think it could work for, you know, as	
22	far as the ability to bill it and process it and	
23	keep track of the money.	
24	Q. Yeah. I guess I was asking more from	
25	a policy perspective, would it make sense to do it	

	Page 82
1	exclusively on the customer charge? There is the
2	issue that on a \$140 bill reducing 13 to \$15 may
3	not have much effect.
4	A. Exactly. You know, not while
5	there are better people on Staff to answer probably
6	more detailed questions than that, yeah, I mean,
7	intuitively you don't have a lot of play there with
8	the size customer charge that Empire has relative
9	to total bill.
10	Q. Now, the average bill is \$140 or so;
11	is that correct?
12	A. That sounds roughly right, and
13	yes.
14	Q. And my understanding, and this may
15	not be the case specifically with Empire, but I
16	think there is data out there that shows that there
17	is a rough correlation between income and
18	consumption. Do you agree with that, that the
19	low-income customers tend to consume less than
20	high-income customers?
21	A. I know there have been different
22	studies on that over time. I don't know what the
23	most current view of that is. I know at one time
24	there was a I believe there was a U-shaped
25	graph, but I don't know if that is currently still

Page 83 the belief. 1 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. I have no 3 further questions. 4 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 5 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER RUPP: 6 Q. Good morning. 7 Good morning. Α. 8 Q. You're a regulatory economist level 9 three? 10 Yes. Α. 11 All right. Let's just put on the Q. 12 economist hat. Not considering any social benefit 13 or social positives that could come out, what --14 after reviewing this study that they did, what are 15 the purely economical benefits to ratepayers, to 16 the company, the shareholders, of having a program 17 like this besides the people that got the 18 reduction? Sure. In that bad debt -- and I'm 19 Α. 20 struggling with the term right now. It's one of 21 the accounting terms. But the uncollectibles and 22 the lead lag cash flow issue, those all factor in 23 to the revenue requirement. So all customers end up paying bad debt. So if you reduce the level of 24 25 bad debt, you reduce what those customers pay. You

Page 84 reduce the carrying cost on bad debt. 1 2 0. But with this study specifically 3 showing that they did not have any, what is the --4 if that study is showed to be true, then what is 5 the economic benefit of having a program like this? 6 Α. For these customers during this time 7 period as studied, this showed that you spent more 8 money reducing customers' bills than what bad debt 9 was reduced, is my understanding. 10 So is there an economic benefit to Q. having -- to having had this program? 11 12 Α. This program, no. 13 Q. Thank you. 14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions. 15 Thank you. JUDGE BURTON: Any questions from the 16 parties? You may be excused. 17 Would the Commission like to hear 18 19 next from -- I believe we have Marke available or 20 Mr. Hyneman from the Office of Public Counsel or 21 Kroll from the Division of Energy. 22 MS. MAYFIELD: We have Dr. Marke 23 available. 2.4 (Witness sworn.) 25 JUDGE BURTON: Would you please state

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 1
     and spell your name for the record.
 2
                  THE WITNESS: It's Geoff Marke,
 3
     G-e-o-f-f, M-a-r-k-e.
 4
                  JUDGE BURTON: And would you please
 5
     state your current position and place of
 6
     employment.
 7
                  THE WITNESS: I'm an economist with
 8
     the Missouri Office of Public Counsel.
     GEOFF MARKE testified as follows:
 9
     QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL:
10
11
                  Good morning.
            Q.
12
            Α.
               Good morning.
13
            Q.
                  Here is a wide-open question. You've
14
     been in the hearing room all morning?
15
            Α.
                  Correct.
16
            0.
                  You've listened to the discussion
17
     about the experimental low-income program and
18
     the -- and the report that was issued about that
     program that is Exhibit 33?
19
20
            Α.
                  Yes.
21
                  Do you have any thoughts?
            Q.
22
            Α.
                  I do have some thoughts.
23
                  Yes.
            Q.
24
            Α.
                  Okay. I didn't think it was a very
25
     good program or a report. I've got a handout if
```

Page 86 1 you're interested. 2 JUDGE BURTON: Would you please hold 3 on one second and let's have your counsel review that and see if it' going to be marked for the 4 5 record. MS. MAYFIELD: Did you prepare this 6 7 handout? 8 THE WITNESS: I did. 9 MS. MAYFIELD: Did the information on the handout come from the report that is Exhibit 33 10 offered by the Empire District? 11 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. MS. MAYFIELD: And is there also 13 information contained in here, a chart that was 14 prepared based on your rebuttal testimony that will 15 be submitted in this case later on? 16 17 THE WITNESS: Yes. 18 MS. MAYFIELD: Your Honor, I would like to mark this as OPC Exhibit 19, and I will 19 20 pass it out to the parties for review. 21 JUDGE BURTON: One moment and we'll 22 see if there are any objections. 23 (OPC EXHIBIT 19 WAS MARKED FOR 24 IDENTIFICATION.) 25 JUDGE BURTON: What's been marked as

Page 87 OPC Exhibit 19, Ms. Mayfield, did you want to move 1 2 for this to be admitted? 3 MS. MAYFIELD: I would move for the 4 admission of this, OPC Exhibit 19. 5 JUDGE BURTON: Are there any 6 objections? 7 (No response.) 8 JUDGE BURTON: Seeing none, 9 Exhibit OPC 19 is admitted into the record. 10 (OPC EXHIBIT 19 WAS RECEIVED INTO 11 EVIDENCE.) 12 THE WITNESS: Okay. So I had an 13 opportunity to review the evaluation last night and the attached surrebuttal. So on the -- on the page 14 with all the text, No. 1 is highlights of the 15 16 actual evaluation itself. Some of these points 17 have already been fleshed out. The bullet points under the Tier 1 and Tier 2, the highlights that 18 19 I'd just like to bring to the Commission's 20 attention. 21 So there are two tiers. That second 22 tier with the larger number, you're talking zero to 23 50 percent of the federal poverty line, that's very, very poor. So all the observations are -- I 24 25 think are spot on in terms of it's very difficult

		Page 88
1	to get out of this cycle once you're stuck into it.	
2	So it's not a surprise that bad debt and arrears	
3	went up after.	
4	It should be noted within the study	
5	that when they were on the program, bad debt and	
б	arrears went down. So there's that.	
7	We do have programs like this with	
8	KCPL. We do have programs like this in Ameren.	
9	They're mildly successful. They're getting better.	
10	It's a work in progress.	
11	BY CHAIRMAN HALL:	
12	Q. Excuse me. I'm sorry to interrupt.	
13	You said that while customers were in the program,	
14	bad debt and arrearages went down?	
15	A. Correct.	
16	Q. Can you direct me to the report where	
17	that is set forth?	
18	A. As soon as I find my report. So	
19	there's two sections within the report. There's	
20	several bar graphs that are listed there. The	
21	first set of bar graphs talks about bad debt and	
22	arrears in conjunction with other payment programs.	
23	So it's not just the ELIP program that a family	
24	might be receiving. They might also be receiving	
25	LIHEAP, some other form of assistance,	
Page 89 weatherization, so forth. 1 2 That can -- in terms of data, that 3 can make it more difficult to go ahead and clean and see what the actual impact of just ELIP is. 4 5 Again, the vast majority of these customers you're 6 talking a \$20 discount. 7 The second set tries to control for 8 just the ELIP numbers. So I want to say several 9 different breakdowns here. 10 Q. Where are you in the report? I'm 11 sorry. 12 Α. I'm on page 17, and I'm trying to 13 take --JUDGE BURTON: And this is of 14 Empire's Exhibit 33? 15 THE WITNESS: It is. And to be 16 17 honest with you, Chairman, I'm -- caught me off 18 guard. I know that it's in here, but I don't know 19 which bar graph that speaks to that. 20 BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 21 Q. Would you agree that -- I mean, and I 22 think this was your point -- that that indicates at 23 least one significant benefit from the program? 24 Right. Α. 25 And so in a sense, that evidence Q.

1	would go directly to affordability?
2	A. It would. It would. The program
3	itself, though, the evaluation kind of it opines
4	on some of the faults of it. The program had
5	difficulty advertising.
6	So I think one of my bullet points
7	refers to this, that the information provided on
8	the website is not listed under programs offered by
9	Empire in Missouri. So Missouri ratepayers, if
10	they had access to the Internet, would see that and
11	they wouldn't see anything under Missouri.
12	You couldn't find this information on
13	any of the CAP agency websites. The report itself
14	says that, you know, points out that a lot of
15	low-income customers at this period might not have
16	access to the Internet anyway. I think that was a
17	point raised earlier.
18	There was a lot of speculation, I
19	guess, on the evaluators that said that customers
20	might not be inclined to sign up for this program
21	because, and this is the third point, customers may
22	want to let their utility bill rise to a high level
23	of arrearage and receive notice of disconnection.
24	When this occurs, they can often qualify for
25	temporary emergency relief through the emergency

1 crisis intervention program. Essentially these 2 customers then would have access to a larger 3 credit. 4 If they stayed on the ELIP program, 5 part of that contingent -- part of that requirement 6 of the ELIP program was that they were essentially 7 put into budget billing, a levelized bill. For 8 some customers this can be a bit confusing because 9 your bill in any given month might be larger than 10 your actual usage. In that sense, if you're on a 11 12 levelized payment, you're also not eligible for any emergency relief funds. So that's one -- one trip 13 14 to the hospital. That's one, you know, fill in the blank, whatever emergency and all of a sudden it 15 becomes that much more difficult. 16 17 Weighing those options, those realities on a day-to-day basis, customers might 18 19 not opt to go into an ELIP program. 20 We've spoken a lot about the benefit 21 cost test. I think there's a reference that the 22 same test is used in MEEIA. I'm fortunate to have 23 spent a lot of time in MEEIA. It's not the same 24 test. The low-income -- I'd never heard of this test before. It's called the low-income -- the 25

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1	low-income public purpose test. I had to go ahead
2	and Google that. I found the Tech Mark report that
3	actually describes that test. So this is from a
4	2001 study.
5	The key thing to note here and
6	this is the third black bullet point on that page.
7	So what was referenced is the results of the
8	low-income public purpose test is 0.22.
9	I bolded the statement coming up in
10	the next sentence. This program, like many most
11	low-income programs, is essentially a subsidy to
12	the customers that participate. From an evaluation
13	standpoint, from a social researcher standpoint,
14	this gives me pause, any time you have somebody
15	making a bold statement that low-income programs
16	are all subsidies. The idea behind it is that the
17	evaluator themselves would want to remain neutral.
18	So right off the bat again, I'm I paused.
19	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Excuse me. If
20	it's not a subsidy, what is it?
21	THE WITNESS: So I follow you down to
22	the next part, and we've been trying to kind of
23	wrestle with this idea. Are there any benefits
24	that can be had from low-income programs? There's
25	been several different progressive utilities that

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1	really tried to make an impact in this area. The
2	graph there refers to Citizens Gas. It's an
3	Indiana utility. Essentially they came to the
4	conclusion that some money's better than no money.
5	So they gave a discount and essentially were able
6	to net a greater amount of revenue than they
7	otherwise would with the control group.
8	Essentially, this no longer makes it
9	a subsidy. You've got customers utility's
10	better off. Customers are better off. Reference a
11	couple other programs. Colorado, Excel, and New
12	Jersey, Pennsylvania both have similar programs.
13	This is an important distinction,
14	though, because I would say that I'm fairly
15	confident that most of these states actually had a
16	low-income designation, so they can actually offer
17	a low-income rate. It's been statutorily driven.
18	There's in my mind a difference
19	between a bill credit program and a low-income rate
20	program or a low-income classification. We've got
21	bill credits. We've got lots of we have a
22	history of pilots of bill credit programs that have
23	died for various reasons.
24	I've got mixed feelings about all of
25	this. On one hand, I think it's absolutely

		Page 94
1	important, and I hear what the Commission is	
2	saying. My hesitation just lies I echoed this	
3	in the Missouri American case. I think it's just	
4	important that we design it right. I'd hate to	
5	have another pilot program just go to the graveyard	
6	at the end of the day.	
7	And that's what I feel like going	
8	through the four years' worth of rate case	
9	testimony, that's what I saw was that we had good	
10	intentions to start off, and for all sorts of	
11	reasons things changed.	
12	We have been talking about other	
13	low-income programs. It's been an active	
14	discussion in terms of the DSM and the energy	
15	efficiency and weatherization. To Commissioner	
16	Rupp's point, we looked into the Eastern Kentucky	
17	PACE tariff program, and we spoke with Holz Home	
18	(phonetic), is the head of a fraction out of the	
19	DOE that's pushing the PACE tariff program.	
20	My understanding of program as it	
21	stands right now is that it's a it's been	
22	successful with coops. They don't have any	
23	examples nobody there hasn't been an	
24	investor-owned utility that's attempted to do the	
25	program yet.	

1	Given the parameters of where Empire
2	is, the desire of the Commission to do a low-income
3	program, it's largely rural community as opposed to
4	some of the other utilities. I think the PACE
5	tariff is an excellent idea to move forward, and to
6	the extent that we're looking at low-income
7	programs to bridge into some of the DSM programs,
8	again, Empire doesn't have a MEEIA. It seems like
9	it would be a good fit. So we have had discussions
10	about that.
11	On the back of the page, this is
12	actually from my rebuttal testimony. There were
13	questions about is there any data to substantiate
14	whether or not low-income customers use less energy
15	or not. This is primary data from Empire Electric
16	themselves. This isn't any other party. This is
17	Empire. This was used to support their IRP and
18	their DSM programs.
19	There's a lot of numbers going on
20	there and there's a lot to kind of take in. Empire
21	is a unique company in the sense that there are a
22	lot more electric space heating customers, but
23	so any time that we're talking about just
24	reducing this is somewhat ironic given our
25	position in a lot of testimony. As far as the

Page 96 customer charge goes, I think we just be cognizant 1 2 that -- well, let me step back. 3 BY CHATRMAN HALL: 4 0. Let me -- so I'm looking at the 5 bottom four rows of page 2 of that exhibit, and 6 though the numbers don't line up directly, it would 7 appear that from those numbers there is a 8 correlation between income and consumption. Is 9 that correct? 10 That's how I interpret it. Α. 11 And so with that -- and this came Q. 12 directly from what source? This is the Empire's triennial IRP. 13 Α. 14 0. So with that information, if a 15 program were designed that involved exclusively a 16 reduction or a possible elimination of the customer 17 charge for low-income residents, in light of the 18 fact that low-income residents tend to have lower 19 consumption, that could have a significant impact, 20 could it not? 21 Α. For those customers, yes. 22 Okay. I'll let you continue. Q. I'll finish with the low-income 23 Α. 24 public purpose test. The fact that it's a low 25 number is largely because of the inputs that are in

1	there. You have a copy of the exhibit. It's on
2	page 23. So the benefits in that case are speaking
3	strictly to fewer shutoffs, fewer reconnects and
4	fewer notices.
5	It's what you value, I mean, at the
6	end of the day, what you want to deem as a benefit.
7	We can I wouldn't put a lot of stock in these
8	numbers at the end of the day, the low-income
9	public purpose test. Outside of this evaluation
10	and the reference of the 2001, I couldn't find it
11	anywhere else. All right.
12	If this evaluation just looked at was
13	there an increase in revenues, like Excel did, I
14	think you would automatically see benefits right
15	there. That in turn would change. So, you know,
16	that just speaks to the design and the importance
17	of really crafting this in a tight manner.
18	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no further
19	questions. Thank you.
20	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER STOLL:
21	Q. I appreciate your testimony and the
22	information that you passed out. I mean, to me one
23	of the important things you said is that we need
24	to design this right, whatever if there is a
25	low-income program, it needs to be designed

1 I'm not sure what that looks like. correctly. 2 Α. Right. 3 But that's my only reason to pause in Q. 4 this case because I don't want to do something just 5 to say or just to do something. I really would like to see it designed right and have all the 6 7 parties give input and -- and try to come up with a 8 product that we think would be useful or a model or 9 looking at the Excel project, how would that fit in 10 Missouri. 11 I also think there are a lot of 12 things that could be done and hopefully are being 13 done as far as weatherization and -- and other 14 means to give people an opportunity to live in a 15 home or an apartment that is more energy efficient. 16 Frankly, many places don't have 17 building codes, and I heard testimony in previous 18 cases from people who lived in apartments, young 19 people who said, you know, I would love to reduce 20 my bill, but the apartment I'm in is just not up to 21 par. So I think there's always things we can work 22 on there, and I know people are doing that. 23 But I think when we do implement a 24 program for low-income participants in Empire, I'd 25 like to see it done right and to get input from all

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1	the parties. So that's more of a statement than a
2	question, but I did appreciate the design right
3	aspect. I think that's that's crucial in
4	it's crucial in anything we do, but in this
5	program, too. Thank you.
б	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER RUPP:
7	Q. Good morning.
8	A. Good morning.
9	Q. Would you give a brief overview of
10	the PACE program for the benefit of the
11	Commissioners and those in the audience and the
12	thousands listening online?
13	A. Actually, DE might be better able to
14	speak to the PACE program, but it's my
15	understanding the PACE program was selected as one
16	of Time Magazine's 100 best ideas moving into the
17	new millennium. It was this idea that on-bill
18	financing and energy efficiency, that you could go
19	ahead and retrofit your property, to go ahead and
20	reduce your consumption and pay off those debt
21	through your monthly bills.
22	The program basically ran into a lot
23	of problems because of the housing crisis, and
24	Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac essentially said that if
25	you owed a lot of money on your house, you had to

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1	pay the bank first as opposed to going through the	
2	utility and the on-bill financing.	
3	Subsequently the program has been	
4	really focused on commercial customers. It's my	
5	understanding that there might be a rural component	
6	that's being introduced right now. It's it's	
7	something that a lot of people feel very passionate	
8	about and move forward, and we're trying our best	
9	to promote that in both Ameren and KCPL's service	
10	territory with their commercial and industrial	
11	programs.	
12	Q. So I know one of the issues that they	
13	were running into was with a mortgage you can	
14	bundle these and you can securitize these and you	
15	can sell them in the other market. There hasn't	
16	been a market for this. But I believe that some	
17	financial products have emerged that have allowed	
18	this, which has brought some of the financing costs	
19	down.	
20	So when you look at a district like	
21	Empire that has 77 percent of the people that own	
22	their own home and you have almost 70 percent of	
23	the people's homes were built in the last century,	
24	would you think that the PACE program would be a	
25	good match for what is trying to be accomplished	

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Page 101 1 through the comments you've heard here in that 2 district? I mean, if you can get around the, I 3 Α. 4 quess the earlier stated hurdles of PACE, I think 5 it's a phenomenal match for Empire. Yeah. I mean, just building things better to code, better to 6 7 standards is going to go a long way. And I think 8 it's something that people and families can 9 understand. It goes through your bill and it's not 10 a piecemeal process. So you can go ahead and get that HVAC but also get that insulation, get the 11 12 whole retrofit process. 13 Too often we just do things 14 singularly, and when you're trying to conserve 15 energy through air conditioning or heating, it's 16 really a systematic approach. It's the whole 17 house. So PACE enables that process. 18 Q. And so in your testimony, you had 19 seen multiple pilots that have been tried over the 20 period of years that have been done and then just 21 went to the wayside and failed. And to your point 22 of designing and to Commission Stoll's question of 23 designing it, would it be prudent to look at a 24 program that has been -- received a lot of 25 attention, has been vetted, has gone through some

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1	ups and downs and some tweaks and try to model that	
2	versus recreating the wheel?	
3	A. I mean, that's the key. We just I	
4	don't think most people would probably accuse	
5	Missouri of being a first mover. So we can	
6	there's plenty of examples to go ahead and the best	
7	practices that we do lean on.	
8	Q. Thanks.	
9	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN:	
10	Q. Good morning. I'd like a	
11	clarification on the statement about the some of	
12	these low-income programs were not a subsidy,	
13	because I think that people in general who are	
14	receiving the assistance would certainly believe	
15	that it's a subsidy because now they're getting	
16	credited and getting a grant for something they	
17	didn't have to pay. So give me your reasoning	
18	behind your comments, please.	
19	A. I mean, I would agree with you,	
20	Commissioner. And to clarify my comment in terms	
21	of the subsidy comment, I think subsidy within the	
22	context of rate design sometimes has a negative	
23	connotation that we can't justify doing X because	
24	it's a subsidy because you're favoring one	
25	intraclass or one group over another, and we're	

1	supposed to be nondiscriminatory.
2	I guess the only point I was trying
3	to make is that there are a number of utilities
4	that have gone on record and said that by helping
5	and enabling this group, it's actually a benefit
6	for all. And we make that comment all the time as
7	a societal benefit, but now we have empirical
8	evidence where at the bottom line there's actually
9	revenues that are being created, being captured
10	that otherwise would not. In that sense, I look at
11	that as just good business practice.
12	Q. Okay. I think I had another. Under
13	your item No. 1, your bullet point No. 3, that
14	customers let their utility bills rise in order to
15	receive a notice of disconnection. They can then
16	go to some agency to receive assistance. That
17	doesn't always happen, though, does it?
18	A. No, and I would caution with that,
19	that as I read those, I mean, it seemed it was
20	speculative, that these are reasons maybe that it
21	was taking place. There's a lot of uncertainty
22	with that evaluation, whether the numbers at the
23	end of the day, if we were you know, if we had
24	to go back in time and do this over, I think it

Page 104 1 that data says. There's a lot of ways to interpret 2 that. 3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. 4 Thank you, Judge. 5 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Any questions from the parties? 6 7 MR. ANTAL: Judge, I would have a 8 couple questions for Dr. Marke, if I may. 9 OUESTIONS BY MR. ANTAL: 10 Dr. Marke, you were discussing the Q. 11 findings of the evaluation and some of the 12 challenges with marketing the ELIP program with the 13 Commissioners, and I wanted to ask you if you 14 recalled the finding that the CAP agencies 15 indicated that they lacked program brochures to 16 explain the program to their clients? 17 Α. I mean, that seemed to be -- there 18 was definitely a disconnect between the agencies, 19 utility, I think stakeholders, as far as really 20 promoting the program. Again, I think \$300,000 was 21 the annual budget. I think expenditures didn't 22 exceed maybe 50,000 at any given year. I think we 23 know that the level of poverty, I think you cited 24 to this earlier, is obviously very great in that To suggest that that money couldn't get 25 area.

1 spent raises some doubt. 2 And would you think that, in your 0. 3 opinion, that having a brochure that explains the 4 program would be essential to promoting a program 5 such as this? 6 Α. I think it would help. I think the 7 best thing we could do is probably bring the CAP 8 agencies themselves to the table and ask them 9 directly, what can we do to empower you? 10 MR. ANTAL: Okay. Thank you. No further questions. 11 12 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Rupp has an additional question. 13 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER RUPP: 14 15 0. I'm sorry. I forgot a question. On 16 your handout, Exhibit 19, on the page with the 17 text, you mentioned that some individuals could 18 qualify for emergency relief through the emergency 19 crisis intervention program. Who funds that and 20 where's that program housed? 21 I couldn't speak to that directly. Α. 22 My understanding from reading the evaluation is 23 that that's a component of Empire itself, but that 24 was a quote lifted directly from the evaluation 25 itself.

Page 106 1 0. So you believe it's like another 2 program offered from the utility, it's not through 3 some other social benefactor, government agency 4 or --5 I guess I would put it that way. The Α. sheer fact that I don't know that, the fact that 6 7 we've got multiple different streams, and then if 8 you cross one of these streams all of a sudden 9 you're out of the program suggests to me that 10 there's a flaw there. Again, the design is really important, but I don't know. 11 12 MR. ANTAL: Judge, if I may, I believe DE's witness Ms. Kroll could answer that 13 question when she takes the stand. 14 15 JUDGE BURTON: Were there any further questions for this witness based off of the 16 17 questions from the Commission or from Division of 18 Energy? 19 (No response.) 20 JUDGE BURTON: All right. Seeing 21 none, you're excused. Why don't we take a brief ten-minute recess and we will return at about 22 23 10:45. 2.4 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 25 JUDGE BURTON: At this time why don't

Page 107 we go ahead and call up Division of Energy's 1 2 witness Kroll. 3 MR. ANTAL: Yes. Division of Energy calls Ms. Sharlet Kroll to the stand. 4 5 (Witness sworn.) JUDGE BURTON: Would you please state 6 7 and spell your name for the record after you're 8 seated. 9 THE WITNESS: Sharlet Kroll, S-h-a-r-l-e-t, K-r-o-l-l. 10 11 JUDGE BURTON: And would you please 12 identify your job title and place of employment? THE WITNESS: I am a Planner 2 within 13 the Missouri Division of Energy. 14 15 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Are there 16 any questions for Ms. Kroll? 17 SHARLET KROLL testified as follows: QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 18 19 Q. Good morning. 20 Α. Good morning. 21 What would your view be of Q. 22 implementation of a program that included an either 23 elimination or reduction in the customer charge for 24 LIHEAP eligible customers in Empire's service 25 territory limited to some specific geographic

1 region yet to be determined? Is that a program 2 from a policy perspective that you believe would 3 make sense? Α. So I want to make sure I understand 4 5 correctly. So you're asking about limiting the 6 program just to LIHEAP customers within the 7 geographic area and my viewpoint on whether that 8 would be a good design? 9 Well, and the benefit would be a Q. 10 reduction or elimination of the customer charge. 11 Α. Okay. So in my surrebuttal 12 testimony, I looked at the average bill currently 13 of an Empire customer based on Mr. Hyman's analysis of the usage data that we received, and I compared 14 15 that looking to a family of three for Empire 16 customers because the average household size, 17 according to U.S. Census data, is 2.46 for that 18 area. 19 And based on that, those customers 20 currently have an energy burden of 8.5 percent. So 21 if there was, say, a \$12 reduction on the customer 22 charge, on the fixed charge, that would reduce the 23 energy burden not quite a full percent. So they 24 would drop it from 8.5 down closer to 7 point --25 and I can't remember the exact number.

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1 0. Is that analysis based on average 2 consumption and average bills or is that analysis 3 based upon --4 Α. It is based on average consumption. 5 Well, that's a pretty significant 0. 6 distinction, isn't it? 7 I will let Mr. Hyman -- I will defer Α. 8 that question to Mr. Hyman. As far as other 9 benefits, any time the bill goes down, customers do have more income to spend in other areas, it helps 10 11 reduce their energy burden. 12 One of the challenges to the program from looking at Empire's Exhibit 33 was that the 13 incentive amount wasn't significant enough for 14 15 consumers to take advantage of, and I believe Dr. Marke alluded to this, that some customers --16 17 some customers didn't want to be part of the 18 program because if they did go into a situation 19 where they received a notice of termination, then 20 they could apply to the Energy Crisis Intervention 21 Program through the LIHEAP program and receive a 22 more significant payment onto their bill. 23 So that would be a program 24 implementation challenge that would have to be 25 addressed.

1 Any other comments from a policy 0. 2 Or -- policy perspective or from a mechanical 3 implementation perspective on such a program? So any time you implement a new 4 Α. 5 program there is a lot of energy that a program 6 manager needs to put into that program to get it up 7 and off the ground. So Empire would need to be 8 committed to having a designated person assigned to 9 be able to get this program moving. 10 It's more than just cutting a check, handing it off to your contracted partners and 11 12 hoping at the end of 12 months that it ran right. Based on my experience, having managed statewide 13 14 programs and done contract management, you have to 15 be following up at least on a quarterly basis with 16 your contractors, making sure that they are hitting 17 the measures that you have in place, making sure 18 that they have the support, the technical support, 19 being available to answer calls to them, having the 20 education that they need, the guidelines that they 21 need to know the parameters, the scope of work is 22 for this contract expectation, making sure that, 23 you know, they're a quarter way through their 24 annual budget -- excuse me -- they're a quarter of 25 the way through their contract period, are they a

1	quarter of a way through their budget. So you want
2	to make sure they're on track with their budget.
3	So there's a lot of program
4	management that the company will be taking on. And
5	I feel that, you know, that probably needs to be a
6	designated person within the company, not just
7	handing it off to Mr. Hackney as other duties
8	assigned, because he covers all of their energy
9	efficiency programs and weatherization programs for
10	both Missouri and for Arkansas. So he has a huge
11	responsibility of overseeing programs, multiple
12	programs.
13	So that would be one concern that I
14	would have is the time commitment and the personnel
14 15	would have is the time commitment and the personnel designated to the program. The other issue would
15	designated to the program. The other issue would
15 16	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies
15 16 17	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies do multiple programs in their communities. So this
15 16 17 18	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies do multiple programs in their communities. So this is another aspect that we would be asking them to
15 16 17 18 19	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies do multiple programs in their communities. So this is another aspect that we would be asking them to take on, which they've done in the past, but there
15 16 17 18 19 20	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies do multiple programs in their communities. So this is another aspect that we would be asking them to take on, which they've done in the past, but there is an administrative cost for them.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies do multiple programs in their communities. So this is another aspect that we would be asking them to take on, which they've done in the past, but there is an administrative cost for them. And just having done a quick review
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	designated to the program. The other issue would be the contract agencies, because the CAP agencies do multiple programs in their communities. So this is another aspect that we would be asking them to take on, which they've done in the past, but there is an administrative cost for them. And just having done a quick review of Ameren's Keeping Up evaluation that was done in

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1	agencies were asked to take on in order to identify	
2	and process and follow up with customers that were	
3	enrolling in Keeping Current was not significant	
4	enough for those CAP agencies to incur that burden	
5	of managing the program.	
б	The other point I'd like to make is	
7	you want to keep the program simple and easily	
8	understood. You're dealing with a population that	
9	has multiple challenges that they deal with in	
10	their everyday lives, and this will be another	
11	application that they will need to apply for. So	
12	the application process needs to be very	
13	streamlined and very simple so that it doesn't	
14	become a burdensome process for them that they	
15	don't then not follow forward with.	
16	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no further	
17	questions. Thank you.	
18	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.	
19	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.	
20	Thank you.	
21	COMMISSIONER RUPP: No questions.	
22	MR. ANTAL: Ms. Kroll can answer the	
23	questions about the funding for that emergency	
24	program.	
25	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER RUPP:	

Page 113 1 Ma'am, would you please answer that ο. 2 question. 3 Α. Yes. So LIHEAP has two components to 4 it: Their energy assistance, which assists with 5 heating, and then they also have their crisis program, which is their Energy Crisis Intervention 6 7 Program, their ECIP, and that requires verification 8 of a verifiable crisis, so a shutoff, in order for 9 a client to apply for and receive that. 10 And LIHEAP is funded by? Q. 11 Α. It is a federal program, and Missouri 12 through the Department of Social Services applies for that federal grant and manages it. 13 14 So once again, to your point, if Q. 15 you're going to design a program, look at the other 16 programs that are out there and make sure there's 17 not a cross-cutting disincentive to participate. 18 Thank you. 19 OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: 20 I think I do need a clarification. Q. 21 It was the doctor's testimony that I think said 22 that -- I may be wrong here. Been listening to a 23 little bit of testimony this morning -- that if a 24 person could possibly be in the LIHEAP program but 25 not receive funding from other places, there can't

1 be like a -- you can't dip out of two pots. Have 2 you ever heard of that in that type of a situation? 3 Because I know, as you just mentioned, that Social 4 Services administers the program. They send those 5 funds out to different nonprofits throughout the 6 state, like community action organizations and 7 other nonprofits. 8 Are people able to receive funds from 9 other entities if they receive LIHEAP funds? So I believe what Dr. Marke was 10 Α. 11 referring to is the possibility, and I've not 12 reviewed the policy manual for LIHEAP, but if I understand correctly, there may be language in the 13 LIHEAP stipula -- policies and procedures that if 14 15 they're participating in this type of budget 16 billing program, then they wouldn't be eligible. 17 And again, I am speculating because I have not reviewed those. 18 19 MR. MARKE: Commissioner, if I may? 20 It's just the reverse. My understanding was that 21 part of the condition on the ELIP program was that 22 customers could not apply for the emergency 23 program. 24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. Thank Thank you, Judge. 25 you.

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1	THE WITNESS: Well, they would need a	
2	verifiable shutoff notice in order to be eligible	
3	for ECIP.	
4	BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN:	
5	Q. And LIHEAP also, wouldn't they, or is	
6	LIHEAP just funding provided based on your income?	
7	A. It is	
8	Q. That's subsidy.	
9	A. It is income based at 145 percent of	
10	poverty.	
11	Q. Okay. Thank you.	
12	QUESTIONS BY JUDGE BURTON:	
13	Q. I just have a quick question. This	
14	is sort of a follow-up on Commissioner Rupp's	
15	question. Concerning the Emergency Crisis	
16	Intervention Program, are you familiar with the	
17	percentage of the individuals in Empire's area who	
18	would use that?	
19	A. I did not request that data from the	
20	company. I only requested the number of LIHEAP	
21	recipients, so those who were receiving energy	
22	assistance. So I don't have that information.	
23	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Are there	
24	any questions from the parties?	
25	(No response.)	

Page 116 1 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you very much. 2 You're excused. 3 I believe the Commission will hear 4 next from Mr. Hyman. 5 MR. ANTAL: DE calls Mr. Martin Hyman 6 to the stand. 7 (Witness sworn.) 8 JUDGE BURTON: You may be seated. 9 Would you please state and spell your name for the 10 record. 11 THE WITNESS: Martin Hyman, 12 H-y-m-a-n. 13 JUDGE BURTON: And what is your current job title and place of employment? 14 15 THE WITNESS: I am a Planner 3 in the 16 Missouri Division of Energy. 17 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Any 18 questions from the Commission? MARTIN HYMAN testified as follows: 19 20 OUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 21 I think I'm going to ask you the same Q. 22 question I asked Ms. Kroll. That is, what would 23 your view be of the establishment of a low-income 24 program that involved the elimination or reduction 25 of the customer charge for LIHEAP-eligible

1	customers of Empire that resided in some specific
2	geographic region of the service territory?
3	A. So as a division, I don't think we've
4	discussed this, the issue of limiting it to a
5	specific geographic area. For example, when I was
б	running my calculations I did it as all LIHEAP
7	participants that Ms. Kroll got in her from her
8	data request. I think that the 80 percent customer
9	charge reduction option is certainly one option,
10	and that's as Mr. Antal stated. But I think that's
11	sort of the simple, quick and easy if you want to
12	provide immediate relief option.
13	If you want to do something more
14	detailed, I think you need to have a working docket
15	to examine what the proper rate design would be.
16	So, for example, if you wanted to move towards
17	Ameren's Keeping Current program, which is a pretty
18	good model from what we've seen, that that would be
19	something certainly you could discuss in a docket.
20	Q. Well, what about the specific program
21	that was contemplated by the Commission with regard
22	to Missouri American?
23	A. As I said, I think that's certainly
24	one option. That's sort of your simple quick fix
25	option. That's relatively easy to implement

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	1	compared to if you wanted to add in some other	
	2	things that you see, for example, in Keeping	
	3	Current, such as arrearage reductions, maybe even	
	4	throw in some sort of education component.	
	5	So like I say, I think we there's	
	6	definitely a need for some type of program in the	
	7	Empire territory. I think the questions are how	
	8	soon do you want to do this, and what design do you	
	9	want?	
	10	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no further	
	11	questions. Thank you.	
	12	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.	
	13	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.	
	14	Thank you.	
	15	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you very much.	
	16	Are there any questions from the parties? You're	
	17	excused.	
	18	I believe that is all the witnesses	
	19	that the Commission is looking to hear from today	
	20	on that issue. So unless there are any final	
	21	statements from the parties on that, we can go and	
	22	address procedural issues for the remainder of the	
	23	hearing.	
	24	Now, it's my understanding the	
	25	parties have tentatively reached a settlement as	
- 1			

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1	far as revenue requirement and still are working to	
2	address some issues as far as rate design and some	
3	fuel issues. We do have the hearing scheduled to	
4	resume next week, and I believe there was	
5	discussion about perhaps canceling Monday's hearing	
6	to give parties an opportunity to work on	
7	settlement, then resuming on Tuesday because of	
8	some issues of potential conflict with witnesses.	
9	MR. THOMPSON: That's correct, Judge.	
10	MS. MAYFIELD: That's correct.	
11	JUDGE BURTON: So looking at next	
12	Tuesday, and that would be June 7th, unless I hear	
13	otherwise from parties, are we fine beginning at	
14	8:30 in the morning?	
15	Now, as it is right now, the parties	
16	have obviously heard the testimony and the issues	
17	that have been brought up and the questions that	
18	the Commission had on the issue low-income pilot	
19	program, both one in the past and the current one.	
20	Since the parties haven't formalized any final	
21	agreement to submit to the Commission as far as the	
22	revenue requirement for the agreement, if this is	
23	something that is to be added by the parties in any	
24	final settlement of potential low-income program,	
25	that's obviously something the Commission will	

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1	review. If not, we can review this as part of	
2	something that might be addressed in the briefing	
3	at the conclusion of the hearing, and that would be	
4	an issue of what potential options the parties	
5	would recommend or suggest for the low-income	
б	program or other options and the legality of any	
7	potential conflicts or issues that the parties	
8	might see or challenges to the Commission looking	
9	into an experimental program perhaps in either this	
10	case or in a separate filing.	
11	Now, just for some housekeeping, the	
12	only exhibits that we have admitted into the record	
13	today are Empire's Exhibits 32, 33 and 34, which	
14	Ms. Carter have clarified they have been provided	
15	to the court reporter, and Office of the Public	
16	Counsel's Exhibit 19.	
17	MS. MAYFIELD: Yes.	
18	JUDGE BURTON: Is there anything else	
19	that needs to be addressed while we're on the	
20	record?	
21	MS. BELL: Just one thing, your	
22	Honor. If we do move forward with this list of	
23	issues, the City of Joplin only takes a position on	
24	certain issues and so requests for next week to be	
25	excused from time to time.	

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1	JUDGE BURTON: That would be fine. I
2	just state, provide notice of what days you will be
3	unavailable.
4	MS. BELL: Thank you.
5	MS. CARTER: Judge, we'll try to get
6	a new schedule to you by the end of tomorrow,
7	depending on how things go this afternoon and
8	tomorrow.
9	JUDGE BURTON: I was hoping for one
10	today, but I will definitely take tomorrow. Thank
11	you, everyone, and we're off the record.
12	(WHEREUPON, the hearing concluded at
13	11:12 a.m.)
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Page 130 1 2 CERTIFICATE 3 STATE OF MISSOURI)) ss. COUNTY OF COLE 4) 5 I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest 6 7 Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was personally present at the proceedings had in the 8 9 above-entitled cause at the time and place set 10 forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and 11 there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct 12 13 transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such 14 time and place. 15 Given at my office in the City of 16 Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri. 17 Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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