

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

CHRIS B. GILES

**ON BEHALF OF
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
TO MODIFY ITS TARIFFS TO BEGIN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS REGULATORY PLAN**

DOCKET NO. 06-KCPE-____ - ____

1 **Q: Please state your name and business address.**

2 A: My name is Chris B. Giles. My business address is 1201 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri
3 64106-2124.

4 **Q: By whom and in what capacity are you employed?**

5 A: I am employed by Kansas City Power & Light Company (“KCPL”) as Vice President,
6 Regulatory Affairs.

7 **Q: What are your responsibilities?**

8 A: My responsibilities include all aspects of regulatory activities including cost of service,
9 rate design, revenue requirements, and tariff administration.

1 **Q: Please describe your education, experience and employment history.**

2 A: I graduated from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1974 with a Bachelor of
3 Arts degree in Economics and in 1981 with a Master of Business Administration degree.
4 with concentrations in accounting and quantitative analysis. I was first employed at
5 KCPL in 1975 as an Economic Research Analyst in the Rates and Regulation
6 Department. I held positions as supervisor and manager of various rate functions until
7 1988 when I was promoted to Director of Marketing. In January 1993, I returned to the
8 rate area as Director, Regulatory Affairs. In March of 2005, I was promoted to Vice
9 President, Regulatory Affairs.

10 **Q: Have you previously testified in a proceeding at the Kansas Corporation**
11 **Commission (“KCC”) or before any other utility regulatory agency?**

12 A: I have previously testified before both the KCC and the Missouri Public Service
13 Commission (“MPSC”) in numerous dockets and on many issues regarding utility rates
14 and regulation.

15 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

16 A: The purpose of my testimony is to provide a summary and overview of this case and the
17 testimony of the KCPL witnesses. I will do so by describing the background leading up
18 to the Stipulation and Agreement concerning KCPL’s Regulatory Plan, which the KCC
19 approved in Docket No.04-KCPE-1025-GIE(“Regulatory Plan Stipulation and
20 Agreement”), identify the planned investment, provide a description of rate cases
21 associated with implementation of and completion of the investments set out in the
22 Regulatory Plan Stipulation and Agreement, explain the status of those investments,
23 describe the major drivers of and how the proposed rate increase was determined. As

1 part of my testimony, I will also identify Company witnesses that will provide additional
2 support and detail regarding this summary and overview. A list of topics and supporting
3 witnesses is contained in the direct testimony of KCPL witness Don A. Frerking as
4 Schedule DAF-3.

5 **Q: Please provide background leading up to the Regulatory Plan Stipulation and**
6 **Agreement?**

7 A: On May 18, 2004, KCPL filed in Docket No. 04-KCPE-1025-GIE (“the 1025 Docket”)
8 its Application To Establish Investigatory Docket And Informal Panel Discussion
9 Process (“Application”). In its Application, KCPL requested that the KCC open an
10 investigatory docket regarding the future supply and pricing of the electric service
11 provided by KCPL, and establish a forum in which to discuss constructive regulatory
12 responses to emerging issues that will affect the supply, delivery and pricing of the
13 electric service provided by KCPL.

14 **Q: Did KCPL file a similar Application in Missouri ?**

15 A: Yes, we filed a similar Application in Missouri on May 6, 2004. The MPSC conducted
16 workshops in that case concurrent with the investigation occurring in the Kansas docket.
17 In order to avoid as much duplication of effort and resources as possible, the KCC staff
18 and other Kansas parties were invited to attend and participate in the Missouri
19 workshops. The Staffs of both Commissions were helpful in working with KCPL to
20 coordinate the proceedings.

21 **Q: Did other parties file applications for intervention in the Kansas docket?**

22 A: Yes. The Citizen’s Utility Ratepayer’s Board (“CURB”), Sprint, the Kansas Hospital
23 Association (KHS), Aquila, Inc. (“Aquila”), and The Empire Electric District Company

1 (“Empire”), filed to intervene at the inception of the docket. Subsequently, the Kansas
2 Sierra Club (“Sierra Club”) also filed for and was granted intervention in the docket.

3 **Q: How did the investigation proceed?**

4 A: In conjunction with the Missouri docket, a series of presentations and workshops were
5 held on June 21, June 30, July 21, July 30, August 10-11, August 19, August 24-26,
6 September 7, September 15, September 29, and October 29, 2004. During this period
7 KCPL conducted numerous informal meetings with interested groups and individuals to
8 discuss the many issues raised by this proceeding.

9 **Q: How was the workshop organized?**

10 A: The workshop was organized into two teams. Team A reviewed issues concerning
11 Integrated Resource Planning, including load forecasting, generation planning, demand
12 side management, environmental issues, and distribution and transmission technologies.
13 A sub-team within Team A reviewed affordability, efficiency, and demand response
14 programs. Team B reviewed the financial issues associated with KCPL's various plans,
15 including maintaining KCPL's current investment grade credit rating. Meetings also
16 occurred on dates subsequent to October 29, 2004. On July 19, 2004, the KCC held a
17 formal conference at which KCPL's representatives made a presentation to the
18 Commission and other interested parties regarding the issues involved in the docket.

19 **Q: Why was this collaborative workshop process necessary?**

20 A: The issues presented by KCPL in this proceeding included the following:

- 21 1. The future need for additional generating capacity in the KCPL service territory;
- 22 2. The mix of new generation that would result in a reliable and cost efficient service
23 for Kansas customers;

1 **Q: How does this collaborative approach compare to the traditional process used by**
2 **utilities to undertake major initiatives?**

3 A: Traditionally, utilities conducted their planning and project work in a “near vacuum.”
4 The utility would conduct its studies, determine the best alternative, secure financing,
5 seek approvals for financing and certificates as needed, and at the end of the project seek
6 approval to adjust rates as necessary to recognize major investments.

7 **Q: Why did KCPL choose not to use the traditional model?**

8 A: The traditional model often focuses upon historic information rather than looking forward
9 five to ten years--something a utility must do to plan and develop a strategy to continue to
10 provide reliable reasonably priced service for its customers. In addition, the traditional
11 model does not facilitate a convenient method of informally discussing different
12 perspectives on public utility issues, and as a result, it does not take advantage of the
13 “collective wisdom” of other parties. KCPL believed that the traditional model was
14 therefore not the best approach for developing and implementing a regulatory plan when
15 a more collaborative, informal approach was available.

16 **Q: Please explain.**

17 A: In the traditional model, the utility does not spend much if any effort to gain acceptance
18 from the interested parties for its plan. While this can save time at the beginning of the
19 process, it can lead to contentious and time-consuming disputes concerning the prudence
20 of its decisions after the investments are made. The public utility must defend its actions
21 and runs the risk that it will not be awarded full recovery of its investments.

1 **Q: Why were these issues of particular concern to KCPL?**

2 A: KCPL recognized that during the planning horizon, it would require additional generation
3 to meet the needs of its customers. KCPL also believed that the construction of a base
4 load coal plant was necessary. At the same time, environmental concerns needed to be
5 addressed along with distribution investments to maintain reliability, and customer
6 programs for managing electricity use. In order to meet these needs, KCPL needed a
7 plan that would facilitate attracting capital at a low cost. Investors needed some
8 assurance that KCPL would be allowed to recover its investment, and continue to be an
9 attractive component of the investors' portfolio. KCPL needed a plan that the parties
10 could agree to in order to reduce risk and move ahead with implementation of the
11 collaboratively developed strategy. For these reasons, KCPL chose to pursue the
12 collaborative approach described earlier.

13 **Q: What are the key benefits to be realized with the implementation of the plan**
14 **outlined in the Regulatory Plan Stipulation and Agreement?**

15 A: The key benefits are as follows:

- 16 1. KCPL can meet the growing demand in our service area for years to come;
- 17 2. KCPL will meet this need and avoid increasing our reliance on high cost and
18 volatile natural gas as a fuel source, providing less volatile and more predictable
19 long-term rates;
- 20 3. The environmental investments included in the plan will substantially reduce
21 emissions from our fossil fleet, even with the addition of a new, efficient coal unit
22 at the Iatan plant site;
- 23 4. KCPL will add renewable wind energy to our generation portfolio;

- 1 5. Subject to further KCC review and approval, customers will be offered a broad set
- 2 of customer-focused demand response, efficiency and affordability programs;
- 3 6. KCPL will maintain top-tier reliability for our customers;
- 4 7. Temporary and permanent jobs will be created in the Kansas City metropolitan
- 5 area; and
- 6 8. KCPL will have regulatory authority to support the investment plan and maintain
- 7 key credit ratios through future rate increases, treatment of certain revenue and
- 8 expense items and a mechanism to better match revenue with the cost of fuel and
- 9 purchased power.

10 **Q: Please describe the key investments set out in the Regulatory Plan.**

11 A: KCPL has committed to investing over \$1.3 billion over the course of the Regulatory

12 Plan. This investment includes the completion or substantial progress on the following

13 projects:

- 14 • 800-900 MW of new coal-fired generation capacity, Iatan Unit 2, to be regulated
- 15 capacity excepting that interest that may be owned by a municipality or joint
- 16 municipal utility commission, located at the Iatan site near Weston, Missouri, of
- 17 which KCPL will own approximately 500 MWs;
- 18 • Environmental investments related to Iatan Unit 1 and LaCygne Unit 1 for
- 19 accelerated compliance with environmental regulations; the Iatan Unit 1 and
- 20 LaCygne Unit 1 environmental equipment will provide significant reductions in
- 21 site emissions of sulfur dioxide (“SO₂”), nitrous oxides (“NO_x”), particulate
- 22 matter and mercury, and will position the units to meet compliance requirements
- 23 set forth in the Clean Air Interstate Rule, which was recently promulgated by the

1 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). With the addition of Iatan
2 Unit 2 at this site, compliance on Iatan Unit 1 will ensure that total site emissions
3 after completion of Iatan Unit 2 will be less than the current site emissions from
4 Iatan Unit 1 and will help address the environmental concerns of citizens living in
5 the area around the Iatan plant site.

6 In addition, the early installation of a selective catalytic reduction (“SCR”)
7 facility at LaCygne Unit 1 is designed to help maintain attainment of the 8-Hour
8 Ozone standard within the metropolitan Kansas City region. Installation of this
9 SCR before the 2007 Ozone season is considered a significant component of the
10 region’s proposed Ozone mitigation plan by the Mid-America Regional Council,
11 regional EPA officials, Kansas Department of Health & Environment and the
12 Missouri Department of Natural Resources (“MDNR”). With respect to any of
13 the expenditures anticipated for environmental compliance, KCPL will continue
14 to assess the environmental laws to ensure that its expenditures will comply with
15 existing or expected environmental regulations.

- 16 • 100 MW of new wind generation facilities to be installed in 2006. An additional
17 100 MW of new wind generation facilities will be installed in 2008 if a detailed
18 evaluation (made with input from interested parties to the Regulatory Plan
19 Stipulation and Agreement [“Signatory Parties”]) supports such an action to
20 proceed with its construction.
- 21 • Subject to KCC review and approval, KCPL has committed to implement a
22 number of customer programs including demand response, efficiency and
23 affordability programs throughout the period of the Regulatory Plan. The initially

1 budgeted expenditure for the five (5) year period for Kansas programs is \$23.8
2 million.

- 3 • KCPL will make investments totaling \$42.4 million over the period of the
4 Regulatory Plan into the transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure a
5 highly reliable transmission and distribution system.

6 **Q: Please describe the rate cases contemplated to be filed in the Regulatory Plan**
7 **Stipulation and Agreement.**

8 A: KCPL committed to file rate schedules on February 1, 2006 with an effective date of
9 January 1, 2007 ("2006 Rate Case"). This case fulfills the commitment to file the first of
10 four potential rate cases related to the Regulatory Plan. This 2006 Rate Case includes
11 estimated expenditures related to new plant anticipated to be in service by December 31,
12 2006.

13 **Q: Did KCPL file a Class Cost of Service Study in this 2006 Rate Case?**

14 A: Yes. KCPL agreed that the 2006 Rate Case would include the filing of a Class Cost of
15 Service Study. This filing contains both a Kansas jurisdictional revenue requirement cost
16 of service study covering the twelve (12) months ended December 31, 2005 (nine months
17 actual and three months budgeted) updated to September 30, 2006, and a class cost of
18 service study covering the twelve (12) months ended September 30, 2005. The class cost
19 of service study and rate design is contained in the testimony of KCPL's witnesses Tim
20 Rush and Lois Liechti.

21 **Q: What other rate case filings are anticipated?**

22 A: Over the course of the Regulatory Plan, four rate case filings are contemplated. The first
23 described above as the 2006 Rate Case, and the last to be filed on or before August 15,

1 2009, are mandatory. The other two rate cases are optional. If KCPL chooses to file the
2 second rate case, rate schedules with an effective date of January 1, 2008 will be filed
3 with the KCC no later than March 1, 2007. This 2007 Rate Case will include new
4 investment in plant anticipated to be in service by December 31, 2007.

5 **Q: If KCPL chooses to file the third rate case, when would that happen?**

6 A: If KCPL chooses to file the third rate case, rate schedules with an effective date of
7 January 1, 2009 will be filed with the KCC no later than March 1, 2008. This 2008 Rate
8 Case will include new investment in plant anticipated to be in service by December 31,
9 2008.

10 **Q: When would the fourth mandatory rate case be filed?**

11 A: Rate schedules with an effective date of June 1, 2010, will be filed with the KCC on or
12 before August 15, 2009. This 2009 Rate Case will include new investment in plant
13 anticipated to be in service as of May 31, 2010.

14 **Q: Please describe the status of the investments in power supply infrastructure.**

15 A, A contract has been executed with enXco, a leading developer of wind generation, to
16 construct, operate and maintain approximately 100 MW of wind generation at a site near
17 Spearville, Kansas. enXco will operate and maintain the wind generation for a period of
18 five years. enXco will utilize General Electric wind turbines and construction is expected
19 to begin in February of 2006.

20 A contract has been executed with Babcock and Wilcox to engineer, procure, and
21 construct the SCR at the LaCygne Unit 1 generating plant. The SCR is scheduled to be in
22 operation prior to the summer of 2007.

1 Burns and McDonald, a local engineering firm recognized worldwide, is the owner's
2 engineer for the Iatan Unit 2 project. Bid packages for the turbine and boiler were
3 released in the fall of 2005 and bids are due to be received in February and March 2006,
4 respectively. KCPL witness John Grimwade, Senior Director, Construction, is managing
5 the generation infrastructure projects and additional information is contained in his direct
6 testimony in this case.

7 **Q: Please describe the status of securing partners for the Iatan Unit 2 generation plant.**

8 A: Although final agreement on contract language is not yet complete, KCPL does not
9 believe that any substantive issues remain with the potential partners. The partners in the
10 project and their respective ownership shares, based upon a total of 850 MW, are as
11 follows: KCPL - 465 MW, Empire - 102 MW, Aquila – 153 MW, MJMEUC – 100 MW,
12 and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative – 30 MW. These ownership shares may change
13 slightly depending on the ultimate size of the plant.

14 **Q: Please describe the status of the transmission and distribution infrastructure**
15 **investments.**

16 A: The Regulatory Plan Stipulation and Agreement was approved in August of 2005. Since
17 that time, KCPL's transmission and distribution engineers have conducted a pilot
18 program to assess the overhead distribution system and have developed a plan of work.
19 In addition, a full distribution system assessment is scheduled to be completed by the end
20 of the year 2008. Similarly, a plan of work for the transmission system and for
21 distribution automation has been completed. The objectives of the Asset Management
22 and Distribution Automation infrastructure investments include: 1) mitigate risks of
23 major outage events to customers, 2) minimize the System Average Interruption Duration

1 Index (“SAIDI”), and 3) minimize the number of customers with multiple interruptions;
2 each objective to be met at the most optimal cost. A detailed description of the status
3 together with scope of work for asset management and distribution automation is
4 contained in the direct testimony of KCPL witness John R. Marshall. In addition, past
5 performance metrics, strategic objectives, and initiatives for Delivery are included in the
6 Delivery Business Plan attached to his testimony.

7 **Q: Please describe the status of customer programs.**

8 A. The Regulatory Plan Stipulation and Agreement stated that none of the Demand
9 Response, Efficiency and Affordability programs would be implemented until the KCC
10 had reviewed and approved them. Further evaluation of the programs was anticipated
11 and KCPL was to work with the parties to complete the necessary evaluations. A formal
12 collaborative process has not yet begun in Kansas, but is expected to. A more detailed
13 description of the status of customer programs is contained in the direct testimony of
14 KCPL witness Ms. Susan K. Nathan.

15 **Q: How long has it been since KCPL requested a rate increase?**

16 A: It has been twenty years since KCPL last filed a request to increase rates. The last rate
17 increase resulting from that case became effective in 1987. Several rate decreases, have
18 been implemented since the last increase. Each of these decreases resulted from
19 stipulation and agreements with the Staff, and other parties. The KCC approved each
20 agreement.

21 **Q: Please describe in general terms the conditions that led to increases or decreases or**
22 **lack of change in rates during the period 1987 through 2005.**

1 A: The increase in the year 1987 was the last increase related to placing the Wolf Creek
2 generation plant into rate base. Subsequent to the filing of the last rate increase request,
3 interest rates declined from historic high levels during the construction of and at the time
4 Wolf Creek was placed into rate base. Tax law revisions in 1987, reduced the corporate
5 income tax rate. Depreciation of the investment in the Wolf Creek generation plant
6 offset, to a large extent, additions to rate base from on-going capitalized maintenance and
7 new infrastructure investments. Fuel costs were beginning to stabilize and actually
8 declined in cents per mmbtu during the late 1980's and early 1990's. The combination of
9 these conditions offset other cost increases and led to stable or declining electricity
10 prices. In 1999, a boiler explosion occurred at the Hawthorn Unit 5 generating plant.
11 The plant was out of service for about two and one half years to rebuild the boiler and
12 other facilities destroyed during the explosion. During this outage, additional
13 environmental equipment consisting of a scrubber, bag-house, and SCR were installed at
14 the plant.

15 **Q: Did KCPL file for a rate increase as a result of the Hawthorn Unit 5 boiler**
16 **explosion, and related two and one half year outage?**

17 A: No, even though KCPL had to purchase replacement power, sometimes at exorbitant
18 prices during this period, the Company did not request a rate increase. As a consequence,
19 earnings were reduced during the period of the outage.

20 **Q: Why didn't the Company request an increase to recover the costs of replacement**
21 **power during the outage of Hawthorn Unit 5?**

22 A: KCPL agreed to a moratorium on rate changes in the 1998 Stipulation and Agreement for
23 a period of two years. Although, the Agreement allowed the moratorium to be waived

1 for major changes in circumstance - such as a two and one half year plant outage- KCPL
2 believed it had negotiated, in good faith, a rate reduction, and chose not to reopen those
3 discussions or subsequently file a rate increase request during the moratorium.

4 **Q: Why did KCPL choose not to request a rate increase after the moratorium expired?**

5 A: Beginning in late 2002 after Hawthorn Unit 5 returned to service, and continuing through
6 2005, KCPL has been able to utilize its generation assets to sell power (off-system sales)
7 primarily from its base-load coal units to other utilities or marketers during those hours
8 not required to serve retail customer load. The margin (revenue less fuel and variable
9 cost) on these sales has increased during the last three years, and the volume of sales has
10 increased over that same time frame. The profit or margin from these sales has offset the
11 cost increases in other areas of the business during this period, as well as revenue
12 requirement related to increases in rate base from capitalized maintenance and
13 infrastructure investments. In addition, in a number of areas, KCPL has reduced costs as
14 it strives to either reach or maintain a position of costs within the top 25% of
15 benchmarked utility companies. Based on the budget for 2007, the first year rates from
16 this case would be in effect, the off-system sales margin is expected to result in nearly
17 ****[REDACTED]**** of KCPL's total earnings and return on equity. The magnitude of the profit
18 from a volatile, competitive, off-system sales market compared with the amount of profit
19 from off-system sales at the last time KCPL filed a request for a rate increase, or even
20 since the last rate decrease in 2003, compels the KCC and all parties to this case to
21 examine and take into account the participation in this new profit market, in terms of its
22 benefits, as well as its additional risks for customers and shareholders. One simply
23 cannot view return on equity or cost of capital in the same light for utilities with nearly

1 **[REDACTED]** of earnings from an unregulated volatile market compared with a utility with
2 90% to 100% of earnings source from retail customers whose prices are regulated, using
3 the same return on equity or cost of capital metrics. I will discuss this further later in my
4 testimony.

5 **Q: Hasn't KCPL always had the opportunity to sell power not required for retail load**
6 **into the off-system sales market?**

7 A: Yes, however, until the wholesale power market was deregulated, utilities could only sell
8 into this market at cost plus ten percent. Beginning in the late 1990's, activity in the
9 regional wholesale power market increased dramatically and power was sold at market
10 clearing prices where the prices were determined by market forces. KCPL was limited
11 in its opportunity to participate in this unregulated off-system sales market until the
12 return to service of its Hawthorn Unit 5 generating plant. Since that time KCPL has
13 focused on selling every MWh it can generate to other utilities or marketers in the off-
14 system sales market when the price received is greater than the variable cost of
15 generating the MWh. This strategy benefited and continues to benefit customers. As an
16 example, during the period following the return of Hawthorn 5 to service, the off-system
17 sales margin largely covered the cost increases related to on-going operations and
18 revenue requirement related to the increases in KCPL's rate base resulting from
19 capitalized maintenance and infrastructure investments. KCPL was able to forego rate
20 increase requests as a result of the off-system sale activity. The Company also benefited
21 to the extent that the off-system sales market provided additional opportunities for
22 increased earnings. KCPL has continued to squeeze the gap between capacity factor (the
23 total amount of power that the capacity would allow to be generated from the plant

1 compared to how much is actually generated) and availability factor of its base-load coal
2 units as a result of this market. Operations and maintenance personnel and management
3 of the Company continue to focus on maintaining the availability of the base-load coal
4 fleet as high as possible without negatively impacting the life of the equipment or length
5 of potential outages. Detailed production operations objectives, past performance, and
6 strategic initiatives are contained in the Supply Business Plan attached to the direct
7 testimony of KCPL witness Dana Crawford.

8 **Q: Has KCPL added additional generation capacity in the past ten years?**

9 A: Yes, KCPL added Hawthorn Unit 6, a Siemens gas turbine and Siemens air-cooled
10 generator in May 1997. In July 2000, a heat recovery steam generator (“HRSG”), and a
11 re-powered steam turbine with supplemental natural gas duct firing were added. The
12 combination is identified as Hawthorn Unit 6/9. In fired conditions, *i.e.*, combined-cycle
13 with supplemental duct firing, Unit 6 is rated at 132 MW, and Unit 9, 137 MW.
14 Hawthorn Units 7 and 8 were installed in May 2000. Each unit is rated 77 MW at peak
15 capacity. Hawthorn Unit 5 was rebuilt after the boiler explosion, and was in service in
16 June 2001. The current capacity of the unit is 565 MW. West Gardner simple cycle
17 combustion turbines 1, 2, 3 and 4 were added in May 2003. Each unit is rated 77 MW at
18 peak capacity. Osawatomie Unit 1, a simple cycle gas-fired turbine was added in June
19 2003. The unit is rated 77 MW at peak capacity. KCPL has added over 800 MW of gas-
20 fired peaking capacity and an additional 75 MW of coal capacity without a rate increase.
21 Additional detail regarding these additions, and in-service criteria is contained in the
22 direct testimony of KCPL witness Dana Crawford.

1 **Q: How was the rate case test year data and resultant rate increase amount**
2 **determined?**

3 A: Pursuant to the Regulatory Plan Stipulation and Agreement, the test year is the 2005
4 calendar year. Nine (9) months actual and three (3) months projected data was used for
5 calendar year 2005. The data were restated to a Kansas jurisdictional basis, annualized,
6 and normalized, as appropriate. The rate case data are then allocated between FERC,
7 Missouri and Kansas jurisdictions. The production allocation was made on the basis of
8 twelve coincident monthly peaks (12 CP). A list of adjustments and witnesses
9 sponsoring those adjustments is contained in Schedule DAF-3 of the testimony of KCPL
10 witness Don Frerking. The cost of service and revenue requirement determination is
11 contained in Schedule DAF-1 and is supported by the direct testimony of Mr. Frerking.

12 **Q: What is the amount of rate increase requested in this case?**

13 A: The amount of the rate increase is approximately 10.56% or \$42.27 million dollars based
14 on test year revenue of \$400.36 million.

15 **Q: Does this amount include amortization expense to meet credit ratios?**

16 A: The amortization required to meet credit ratios in this case is zero (\$0) and is described in
17 detail in the direct testimony Michael Cline.

18 **Q: Do the additional amortization provisions in the Regulatory Plan Stipulation and**
19 **Agreement in any way limit the ability of the Signatory Parties to recommend a**
20 **specific capital structure or rate of return for ratemaking purposes?**

21 A: No, they do not. The agreement allows the Signatory Parties to propose a return on
22 equity and capital structure in rate cases utilized to determine rates. The amortization, if
23 triggered, will only help KCPL meet the credit ratio metrics. In addition, the

1 amortization will result in an offset to rate base, which in future KCPL rate proceedings
2 results in lower rates attributable to the amortization offset to rate base.

3 **Q: What is the return on equity KCPL is requesting in this case?**

4 A: KCPL is requesting a minimum return on equity of 11.5% based upon the 53.81% equity
5 capital structure of KCPL's parent holding company Great Plains Energy, Inc. ("GPE").

6 **Q: What is the basis of an 11.5% return on equity?**

7 A: The return on equity recommendation of 11.5% includes an estimate of the baseline cost
8 of equity capital for a sample of electric companies, and a risk premium adjustment for
9 the heightened risks associated with KCPL's construction program. The baseline cost of
10 capital is estimated at 11.0%, and is sponsored by KCPL witness Dr. Samuel Hadaway.
11 Dr. Hadaway has utilized a traditional approach to estimate the underlying cost of equity
12 capital for a group of electric utility companies. Dr. Hadaway's comparison utility
13 companies, however, have significantly smaller construction activity than KCPL. As a
14 consequence, the traditional approach and sample does not fully account for KCPL's
15 higher investment risks, as perceived by investors currently in the cost of capital estimate.
16 Dr. Hadaway indicates that the risk premium associated with KCPL's high level of
17 construction increases the cost of capital to the Company by about 50 basis points. A
18 return level greater than the baseline 11.0% is also justified by KCPL's high level of
19 utility performance, which has added substantial value to customers. The Company's
20 performance has been subject to an independent benchmarking study and review, as
21 conducted by Christensen Associates Energy Consulting ("CA Energy Consulting").
22 KCPL witness Robert Camfield of CA Energy Consulting reviews the study of KCPL's
23 performance, showing ample evidence exists to support a performance allowance and

1 demonstrating why an allowance is in the interests of retail customers and investors. Mr.
2 Camfield's testimony also discusses the underlying reasons why investors face higher
3 risks associated with the electric industry as a whole. The high level of performance of
4 the Company results in lower prices and higher levels of productivity, resource
5 utilization, and service. In summary, the Company's performance has created value to
6 retail customers and the State of Kansas, particularly in recent years. Accordingly, the
7 Company respectfully requests that the Commission and the parties to the current
8 proceeding give consideration to KCPL's performance when recommending a rate of
9 return on equity in this proceeding.

10 **Q: Did KCPL calculate its rate increase request based upon a performance allowance?**

11 A: No. As I mention above, a return on equity level of 11.5% is requested. KCPL believes
12 that given the combined risks of its fast-paced construction program, coupled with the
13 Company's exceptional performance and cost reduction efforts, a minimum of 11.5%
14 return on equity is sufficient to sustain the Company and fairly compensate investors.
15 However, this is a minimum necessary level. Anything less leaves the Company in
16 danger of not satisfying the requirements of the investment community as a whole. As
17 discussed elsewhere, the construction program is vital to the region served by KCPL, and
18 ready access to outside capital is absolutely necessary for the timely completion of the
19 construction. Acquiring outside capital on reasonable terms requires that GPE continue to
20 maintain the value of its common stock. To this end, a return level of at least 11.5% on
21 equity is necessary. GPE must issue a substantial amount of equity during the five-year
22 regulatory plan. An equity return level of less than 11.5%, however, is costly to the
23 Company because it does not compensate shareholders for investment risks that they

1 assume, and it does not provide sufficient flexibility to manage business risks under the
2 condition of an on-going high level of construction.

3 **Q: Does an 11.5% return on equity adequately address the substantial risk of KCPL's**
4 **off-system sales?**

5 A: No, it does not. The risk of the off-system sales market consists of several components,
6 including market price, volumetric risk associated with generation variable cost,
7 generation unit outages, coal supply availability, weather, and uncertainty of retail sales
8 growth. A detailed risk analysis of the off-system sales market has been prepared by the
9 Northbridge group, Inc., ("Northbridge") and is contained in the testimony of Michael
10 Schnitzer. The risk of this market is too large for either the Company or its customers to
11 bear entirely. Because these risks are so large, the Company believes that it would not
12 be acceptable to retail consumers to incorporate the full costs of the risks to capital
13 within the rate of return. In our request, the Company has decided to hold the rate of
14 return request to 11.5%, and to then share the off-system sales risk between customers
15 and shareholders.

16 **Q: How does KCPL propose to share the risk of off-system sales margins between**
17 **customers and investors?**

18 A: Based upon the analysis of Mr. Schnitzer of Northbridge, KCPL included approximately
19 **** [REDACTED] **** of off-system sales margin in the test year revenue requirement. The
20 expected level of off-system sales margin included in the budget for the year 2007, the
21 first year increased rates would be in effect, is approximately **** [REDACTED] ****. At the
22 time the budget was prepared (late summer/early fall 2005) it was estimated based upon
23 MIDAS modeling that the Company has about a 50/50 chance of reaching this level of

1 off-system sales margin. This amount of off-system sales margins is approximately the
2 median of the distribution recently developed by Mr. Schnitzer and shown in Schedule
3 MMS-6 attached to his testimony.

4 **Q: What was the actual off-system sales margin for the year 2005?**

5 A: Model simulations indicate that the actual off-system sales margin for the year 2005 was
6 approximately \$100 million. This margin represents revenue less fuel cost.

7 **Q: Why did the Company not use \$100 million as the margin in the test year revenue
8 requirement?**

9 A: As I stated earlier in my testimony, and as further explained in the testimony of Burton
10 Crawford and Mr. Schnitzer, a variety of factors will influence off-system sales profit
11 margin in any given year. It is not appropriate to include historical profit margins as a
12 basis for determining the revenue requirement. As commonly recognized, off-system
13 sales margins are highly uncertain, and, at a level that represents nearly ** [REDACTED] ** of
14 KCPL's total earnings, cannot be viewed as providing an equivalent level of continuous
15 and dependable flow of returns to capital as retail revenues for purposes of inclusion
16 within test-year revenue requirement determination. This is particularly true when KCPL
17 is in the first year of implementing a five-year \$1.3 billion comprehensive energy plan.

18 **Q: Is it appropriate to use historical data to determine off-system sales margin for
19 determining test-year revenue requirement?**

20 A: No, it is not. As I indicated previously, the only reasonable and responsible method to
21 determine the appropriate amount to include in test year revenue is to project the amount
22 of off-system sales margin expected during the first year that the increased rates would
23 be in effect, calculate the risk of those off-system sales and share that risk between retail

1 customers and Company. This method provides the best balance of the interests of
2 customers, investors, and creditors, particularly in view of the scale of KCPL's
3 construction program through the 2010 timeframe.

4 **Q. How did KCPL determine the amount of projected 2007 off-system sales margins to**
5 **include in determination of test-year revenue requirement?**

6 A. Our estimate of the off-system sales margin included in test year revenue is based on Mr.
7 Schnitzer's probability distribution shown in Schedule MMS-6 of his testimony. Based
8 on this analysis it is 75 % likely that the Company will exceed ** [REDACTED] ** in off-
9 system sales margin in 2007. However, this means a 25% chance exists that the off-
10 system sales margin will be below this amount. Traditional return on equity
11 determinations are based upon the assumption retail revenue is predominantly
12 contributing to return on equity. As stated previously, retail revenue and uncertain off-
13 system margins should not be considered equal. KCPL selected the 75/25 point on the
14 probability curve as a risk the Company was able to accept given the return on equity,
15 amortization, and other factors in the regulatory plan, e.g., potential annual rate filings.

16 **Q. Did KCPL consider a hedging strategy to reduce the risk of its off-system sales**
17 **margins?**

18 A. Yes, both Burton Crawford and Mr. Schnitzer are evaluating potential hedging strategies
19 to reduce this risk. As described in Mr. Schnitzer's testimony, the opportunity to hedge
20 spot market price risk is limited. KCPL could construct a gas hedge by selling NYMEX
21 gas contracts forward, or attempt to enter into bilateral contracts. Bilateral power sales
22 are more highly correlated to the off-system contribution margin and thus are a more
23 effective hedge. However, the ability of the Company to enter into these bilateral sales is

1 not certain. Mr. Schnitzer estimates a hedging strategy may reduce the probability of off-
2 system sales margins falling below ** [REDACTED] ** in 2007 from 25% to 19% with a gas
3 hedge that may cost around \$3 million. As indicated previously, bilateral power sales are
4 more highly correlated to the off-system sales contribution to margin. Mr. Schnitzer
5 estimates a bilateral hedge strategy may reduce the probability of falling below ** [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] ** margin to 11%. However, it is unknown whether a hedge strategy based upon
7 bilateral contracts would be possible. Such a strategy is entirely dependent on finding
8 buyers of the product. In addition, the cost of a bilateral hedge strategy is not known at
9 this time and could be substantially higher than a gas hedge strategy. KCPL, in
10 conjunction with Mr. Schnitzer and Northbridge Group, Inc., will continue to evaluate
11 hedging strategies throughout the next several months and will provide additional
12 information in the update of this proceeding. Given KCPL's risk sharing proposal of off-
13 system sales margins in this proceeding, KCPL would not expect or propose that
14 customers contribute to the cost of hedging even though both the Company and
15 customers will benefit from such strategy.

16 **Q: Wouldn't a fuel adjustment clause eliminate the risk of off-system sales profit**
17 **margin for KCPL?**

18 **A:** A fuel adjustment clause could certainly be designed to eliminate all risk of off-system
19 sales margins for the Company. This type of fuel clause would automatically pass
20 through actual monthly fuel costs, offset by any off-system sales margins. Under this
21 type of clause the Company bears no risk for outages, prices, volume, weather, or any
22 other risk. However, under this arrangement, the risks of off-system sales margins and
23 other factors are entirely borne by customers. While the off-system market provides

1 potential benefits to retail consumers, it also exposes them to a high degree of risks. The
2 KCC has historically rejected placing all risks of the wholesale market on ratepayers and
3 KCPL has not proposed one in this case.

4 **Q: Is KCPL proposing an Energy Cost Adjustment (“ECA”) in this case to recover**
5 **projected fuel costs excluding off-system sales margins?**

6 A: No, KCPL is not proposing to utilize an ECA in this case. KCPL anticipates it will file
7 rate cases annually during the five-year Regulatory Plan period. Although the cost of
8 coal, both F.O.B. mine and transportation costs, are increasing, the cost of coal is largely
9 locked in for 2007, other than transportation cost adjustments such as diesel fuel.
10 Increases in natural gas costs will likely cause KCPL’s total costs of generation to
11 increase. However, because the market price for electricity is correlated with natural gas
12 prices, natural gas price increases will be muted by increased prices for off-system
13 electricity sales. With annual rate case filings, KCPL does see the need for an ECA given
14 its risk-sharing proposal in this case.

15 **Q: Does a significant upside exist for the Company from the off-system sales market?**

16 A. Yes, the Company recognizes that at the time the budget was prepared the probability of
17 exceeding its projected off-system sales margin in 2007, was 50/50. More recent analysis
18 by Mr. Schnitzer indicates **** [REDACTED] **** represents the median of his probability
19 distribution. KCPL intends to account for this potential earnings increase in some
20 manner in the proceeding, given the Company’s proposed risk sharing of off-system
21 sales. As time gets closer to the effective date of new rates, KCPL anticipates additional
22 information will be valuable in determining different approaches to this issue. A number
23 of alternatives exist in this proceeding to account for the potential up side to the

1 Company of increased off-system sales margins. These alternatives may include, but are
2 not limited to; return on equity sharing mechanisms, earmarking of additional earnings
3 for future CIAC, adjustments to the risk sharing of off-system sales, and potential refunds
4 to customers.

5 **Q: Did the Regulatory Plan Stipulation and Agreement contain a provision regarding**
6 **treatment of off-system ratemaking purposes?**

7 A: Yes, it did. The provision reads as follows:

8 “The parties also agree that profits from off-system sales should continue to be treated
9 above-the-line in the regulatory process during the term of the Five-Year Regulatory
10 Plan. KCPL specifically agrees not to propose any adjustment or modification that would
11 remove any portion of its off-system sales costs and revenues from being passed through
12 the ECA mechanism. The specific details of the ECA mechanism will be determined in
13 the 2006 rate proceeding.”

14 **Q: Does KCPL believe it has complied with this provision contained in the Regulatory**
15 **Plan Stipulation and Agreement?**

16 A: Yes, KCPL has determined a reasonable estimate for revenues from off-system sales
17 during 2007 and is placing those margins above the line for ratemaking purposes.
18 KCPL’s proposal represents a means to recognize significant benefits of the off-system
19 sales markets in customer rates and, at the same time, share the risk of not achieving
20 expected yet unknown benefits between rate cases. This represents an effort to balance
21 the interest of customers, investors, and creditors. As already described, KCPL is not
22 proposing an ECA in this proceeding.

23 **Q: Has KCPL implemented its SO2 allowance plan?**

1 A. Yes. KCPL witness Edward Blunk describes the current plan, its implementation and the
2 revised plan recently submitted to the Commission's Staff and CURB.

3 **Q: Are there other potential issues that may impact this case that may be better defined**
4 **or known by the time of the update or true up in this proceeding?**

5 A: Yes, legislation is currently proposed in Congress to require Companies with employee
6 pension plans to reach a specific level of funding of those pension plans over a five-year
7 period. Should such legislation become law it may require additional cash funding of the
8 employee pension plan. This will impact the cash requirements of the Company and may
9 impact the amortization amount needed to maintain the financial ratios established in the
10 Stipulation and Agreement.

11 **Q: Does that conclude your testimony?**

12 A: Yes, it does.

