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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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6	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
7	Discovery Conference
8	September 24, 2012
9	Jefferson City, Missouri
	Volume 2
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12	Ag Processing, Inc.,
)
13	Complainant,)
)
14	vs.) File No. HC-2012-0259
)
15	KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations)
	Company,)
16)
	Respondent.)
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	HAROLD STEARLEY, Presiding,
19	DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
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	REPORTED BY: KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR
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16	Service Commission.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(WHEREUPON, the discovery conference began
3	at 9:01 a.m.)
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: I'm just going to note
5	that the court reporter has everyone's entry of appearance
6	here for HC-2012-0259, the discovery conference scheduled
7	for September 24, 2012. And this was a regularly
8	scheduled conference, but Mr. Conrad has been kind enough
9	to file a motion to compel on Friday, so we kind of know
10	already about the ongoing discovery dispute.
11	Are there any other issues with discovery
12	other than those brought up in the motion that we need to
13	address today?
14	MS. KLIETHERMES: Staff has none pending.
15	MR. CONRAD: Nor do we, other than those
16	mentioned.
17	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. And I'd
18	received e-mails from Lewis Mills and Lowell Pearson
19	saying they were not going to attend, they had no issues.
20	So we'll just go forward. Mr. Conrad, it's your motion.
21	Do you want to start us out?
22	MR. CONRAD: Sure. We can approach it
23	however your Honor would like. We can either do them all
24	four or one at a time. Let me just start and then you
25	can then you can stop as you feel is appropriate.

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1	Our first issue is with respect to an
2	objection posed to our Data Request No. 17, which I note
3	has a grammatical error, but I don't know that that
4	appears to have caused any difficulty. The request says
5	monthly surveillance reports showing the company's
6	financial condition for the steam business for January
7	2006 through December 2009, and the objection appears to
8	be it's calling for information that is not relevant,
9	reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of
10	admissible evidence, because it seeks monthly surveillance
11	financial reports for years not in issue in this case.
12	And I think we have in three following paragraphs to
13	that I'm on page 2 of our motion.
14	JUDGE STEARLEY: I've got it on screen
15	here.
16	MR. CONRAD: A, B and C have tried to state
17	that. Now, I probably could have cited you to, and I'm
18	sorry I did not, the Missouri Supreme Court rule and
19	quoted that.
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: That's okay. I've also
21	got that on screen.
22	MR. CONRAD: But that appears to be not
23	a not a good basis. I notice the rule does put upon us
24	as the party seeking discovery what the relevancy is. And
25	in the past, and particularly looking back to the past

Page 12 case, GMO has taken the position that it was not 1 2 financially able, if you will, to deal with these hedges, 3 to deal with liquidation of them, to deal with the potential losses, whatever. And it is our understanding 4 5 now, I'd have -- I'd be stressed right now to tell you what that's based on, but it is our anecdotal 6 7 understanding that at least in several of those years 8 they've had a profitable operation. And I guess we would just like to look into that and see if that's true or not 10 or, if not, with respect to what years or, if so, with respect to what years. 11 12 So the relevance is not -- you know, if you 13 want to look at 2009, I mean, I agree that 2009 is the year that is in specific dispute here, but that is not a 14 15 year that is -- is able to take out of context because these -- the hedges of which we complain went for several 16 17 years. And, in fact, the charges go back to 2005-2006 when they purchased all of the hedges at one time. 18 Moving -- moving forward, then, are they not able to deal 19 with the financial consequences? 20 21 If that's going to be an argument here, I'd

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just like to kind to eliminate it. If it's not going to

be an argument, then counsel can stipulate that it's not

going to be an argument. I mean, that's -- that's a

certain answer to it.

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1	But even if you say that, you still have
2	2009, and you still have the issue about whether it's
3	reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant
4	evidence. And at least as I read the rule, which may be
5	differently than opposing counsel does, it's not a good
6	objection to say that it is not going to lead to
7	admissible evidence. I can see if it were completely a
8	material issue, but that's not the case here.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Mr. Zobrist, do you
10	want to respond?
11	MR. ZOBRIST: Yes, Judge. First of all,
12	when Mr. Conrad filed the motion, there was not a service
13	copy attached. I did get one available to me about
14	four o'clock on Friday afternoon. I have not been able to
15	talk with anyone at the company about this, and so I
16	really can't provide a detailed answer.
17	But I can say that despite the objection to
18	AGP's No. 17 as well as 44, 46 and 48, the company did
19	provide responses. We did not just stand on our
20	objections. And so, you know, I'm in the process this
21	morning of trying to gather up what we did provide, and I
22	believe perhaps not in No. 17 because it may be that we
23	did not provide material going back to '06 and '07 and
24	'08, although I believe we did in a prior case, so I
25	believe Mr. Conrad may have the information he needs, but

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1	I cannot confirm that this morning.
2	So actually on both or I should say in
3	all four of these requests, I just wanted to advise the
4	Commission that we have provided substantive responses,
5	and I believe actually on 44 and 46 we may have provided
6	Mr. Conrad what he needed, but we did provide responses.
7	And I'd like just another couple of days to be able to
8	confirm what we did provide, and perhaps Mr. Conrad and I
9	can even work these out among ourselves.
10	JUDGE STEARLEY: Well, let me just
11	MR. CONRAD: Judge, we're happy to do that.
12	JUDGE STEARLEY: Let me clarify while we've
13	got everybody here. My understanding, these were hedges
14	were placed perhaps three years prior to 2009?
15	MR. ZOBRIST: That's correct. The 2006
16	hedges were placed in 2006. The 2000 hedges were placed,
17	I think, over 2006 and 2007, and then the '08 and '09 were
18	placed over a period of about 24 to 28 months. And so
19	some of them were placed back in '06, but some of them,
20	you know, also proceeded over, you know, a series of
21	months, but they were they were placed historically
22	before 2009.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: You know, and as I read
24	the discovery rule, it's kind of a two-part test, and I
25	e-mailed the court citation, but you just look to see if

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- 1 there's any information which could be relevant, which is
- 2 a really broad standard, or if it's not relevant, if it
- 3 could reasonably be calculated to lead to the discovery of
- 4 admissible evidence. It's kind of like two steps, but
- 5 it's a pretty wide open standard in terms of discovery.
- 6 You may discover a lot of things, and some of that may or
- 7 may not be admissible, which would be another issue for
- 8 another time.
- 9 The way I'm reading the discovery request
- 10 or the time period for the information requested on these
- 11 four, I believe those fall under what would be relevant.
- 12 And I don't see any objections based on privilege. So
- 13 just looking at this in general terms, it looks to me like
- 14 the information being requested is, in fact, discoverable
- 15 information and should be provided.
- 16 Now, as far as what may have already been
- 17 provided in the prior case, which we said at the outset of
- 18 this case would be able to be pulled into this case, and
- 19 not seeing what your -- what your responses have been, I'm
- 20 not sure if, Mr. Conrad, if you have gotten the
- 21 information that you need or have actually wanted to get
- 22 or not. So I mean, if you two think you can go through
- 23 what's been provided and work it out and get back to me,
- 24 that's fine, too.
- 25 But in terms of the relevance, I think what

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- 1 I read on your data request is discoverable.
- 2 MR. CONRAD: Judge, for our part, we're
- 3 less interested in having a dispute. We've got obviously
- 4 a basic dispute which will be exposed in the hearing room
- 5 or elsewhere, but we're not interested in having a dispute
- 6 about discovery. So if we can work something out within a
- 7 reasonable time parameter, we're eager to do that.
- JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay.
- 9 MR. ZOBRIST: And I would say, Judge, our
- 10 objections on the time frame that Mr. Conrad has raised
- 11 were only on No. 17 and 48. We had objections really as
- 12 to form on 46 and 44. As I said, I think we've responded
- 13 fully to those, but I need to confirm that and, you know,
- 14 Lisa and I will be glad to talk to Mr. Conrad offline to
- 15 see if we have anything more. I do understand your
- 16 position, your ruling as far as the period of time and the
- 17 relevance.
- JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Well, why
- 19 don't at this point I'll leave it to you guys to get your
- 20 heads together and figure out just what you have provided.
- 21 If there's anything else you need, Mr. Conrad, you can
- 22 e-mail, contact me by phone. If we need to meet again, we
- 23 can.
- MR. CONRAD: Okay. That would be fine.
- 25 The one thing I think that might be -- might remain open

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1	was the objection that was voiced to No. 48, which I
2	understand your ruling on that. And I think the intent
3	was there, Mr. Zobrist, to include the other years from
4	2005 on, and I think that was simply an error on my part
5	or on the consultant's part.
6	So what I would like to be able to do if
7	you need it is to, after we review what you have already
8	provided, is either supplement that or clarify that so
9	that we do have the years covered, but I would I would
10	hope that we wouldn't have to go through this again
11	trouble, Judge, about, you know, years that you're
12	acknowledging are involved here.
13	MR. ZOBRIST: So what you're saying is that
14	No. 48 is to read 2005 through 2009?
15	MR. CONRAD: Right.
16	MR. ZOBRIST: Right. That's what I
17	MR. CONRAD: That's my that is my
18	understanding at this point. I'm not the I wish I
19	could say that I was the consultant on this, too, but then
20	I wouldn't be able to get on the witness stand, and that
21	would be somewhat more complicated to fuss with. But I
22	will check that out, and also we will check from our
23	direction, Judge, as to what we have received.
24	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay.
25	MR. CONRAD: And we will we will, I'm

	Page 18
1	sure, from our part be eager to confer, and Mr. Zobrist,
2	I'm not in my office right now, but I will be later on
3	this morning, and depending on what time you get closure
4	on your side, perhaps this afternoon or something will be
5	fine.
6	MR. ZOBRIST: We'll try for this afternoon
7	or certainly tomorrow morning.
8	MR. CONRAD: Or tomorrow morning's fine.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. I do want
10	bring up one other thing. Mr. Zobrist currently has a
11	live motion to stay this matter pending the ruling from
12	the Western District on the prior case, and the Commission
13	may very well hold the case in abeyance and suspend the
14	procedural schedule.
15	If that happens, until that ruling comes
16	out, I do not want it to stay any of the other processes
17	going on behind the scenes. In other words, I would still
18	want discovery completed, because at which time the
19	Commission, if it does stay that, if it resets it for a
20	hearing after that Western District decision comes down, I
21	don't want us to be four, five, six months behind in
22	having these other matters taken care of. Parties have
23	any thoughts or input on that?
24	MS. KLIETHERMES: I have a question, Judge.
25	And I don't have a copy of the procedural schedule with

	Page 19
1	me. I apologize. Would you still expect parties to file
2	things like the issues list and a position statement?
3	JUDGE STEARLEY: No. I would be looking at
4	suspending all of those items, but discovery things,
5	things of that nature, I would want that to continue. I
6	think we're past maybe I should pull it up and see. In
7	terms of I don't believe there's any outstanding
8	testimony to be filed, is there, at this point?
9	MR. ZOBRIST: I think everything's been
10	filed as of last week, Judge.
11	MR. CONRAD: I believe that's the case.
12	JUDGE STEARLEY: Yeah. We were looking at
13	a November 17 start date, I think.
14	MR. ZOBRIST: 19th.
15	JUDGE STEARLEY: 19th. Yeah.
16	MR. CONRAD: We might just so I'm sure
17	it won't catch Mr. Zobrist by surprise, but we might do
18	some depositions. Some might be just simply here's what
19	you said before, but I think that's probably already in
20	pursuant to earlier orders, but there are a couple of
21	folks out there that have some new information that may
22	need to be poked at a little bit. And so we would I
23	would intend to do that.
24	There's a possibility after that, Judge, if
25	there were to be a stay pending, as you mentioned, then we

	Page 20
1	might in that period of time ask you for leave to file
2	some supplemental I think the last round was
3	surrebuttal. I'm not sure. But we might ask you for
4	leave to do that. That would be based on those
5	depositions.
6	JUDGE STEARLEY: That's perfectly
7	reasonable. And the discovery process is going on, what I
8	would probably do is allow everyone leave to supplement
9	prior testimony if the matters come up prior to picking up
10	with any other parts of the procedural schedule.
11	I did want to make clear that that is out
12	there, and it may very well be that we have a suspension,
13	but I don't want that to stop any of the other those
14	would just be for the dates that were on the procedural
15	schedule, and I don't want to bring the matter to a
16	complete halt where we lose time on getting other things
17	accomplished.
18	MS. KLIETHERMES: Do you know what sort
19	of I guess alternative's not the right word, but what
20	sort of hearing dates might be contemplated if it does get
21	delayed at all?
22	JUDGE STEARLEY: Well, my guess is we'd
23	have to wait for the Western District decision and then we
24	could set a time frame after that.
2.5	MR. CONRAD: The case was just submitted. I

	Page 21
1	believe
2	JUDGE STEARLEY: I believe that's right.
3	MR. CONRAD: Wednesday.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: So we may be looking at
5	six months or longer for that to turn around.
6	MR. CONRAD: There is no operation of law
7	date on that court, as far as I know.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Right.
9	MR. CONRAD: They would usually take, I
10	would at least it's been my experience that it's less
11	than or not excuse me not less than three months,
12	but any time after that it's in the, you know, the bosom
13	of the court.
14	MS. KLIETHERMES: I was just contemplating
15	whether this would run into interfering with the Empire
16	hearings and developments in that case. So if we could
17	just keep that and, of course, any other Commission cases
18	mindful.
19	JUDGE STEARLEY: Right. Of course, Ameren
20	and GMO will be behind us if we end up waiting because
21	those are coming up quickly. Do you off the top of your
22	head, Ms. Kliethermes, remember the start date for Empire?
23	MS. KLIETHERMES: It seems like it's the
24	end of January, beginning of February, but I don't recall.
25	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. We can adapt.

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1	MR. CONRAD: I'm sure that were this to
2	occur, that your Honor would take whatever the existing
3	schedule is at that time into consideration.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: Certainly.
5	MR. ZOBRIST: Judge, I thought I might
6	mention, something happened to the Commission's website.
7	We used to be able to get about a six-month horizon into
8	the hearing schedule, and it has been truncated recently.
9	I wasn't on it last week, but
10	MS. GILBREATH: I was, and it's only
11	through October.
12	MR. ZOBRIST: Yeah, it's only through
13	October. Unless you happen to know when your specific
14	case is, you can't see other hearing dates like into next
15	year.
16	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. I will bring that
17	up and see what's going on with that.
18	MR. CONRAD: I guess I'd second that,
19	although I haven't tried that. That can be very useful
20	when trying to look ahead.
21	JUDGE STEARLEY: They've made some changes,
22	and, of course, sometimes people think the changes are
23	helping us. Sometimes they're not.
24	MR. CONRAD: Judge, I don't know if this is
25	the time or the place, but at one point in time, maybe

Page 23 this has been as long as a couple years ago or maybe 2 longer, we had a working group on the -- on EFIS, and I 3 don't -- that seems to have been abandoned, and there would be some things that might be useful to get that 4 5 restarted. Now, I don't know. Sometimes the IT folk 6 don't like to be -- don't like to have their decisions 7 questioned. They just make an assumption that, well, everybody wanted to do what I wanted to do, which is a 8 little like Microsoft Word. The document comes out 9 looking just exactly the way Bill thought you wanted it to 10 look. 11 12 JUDGE STEARLEY: I can check into that as well. I personally made a request for an additional -- or 13 an addition to the EFIS notification so they'd reflect who 14 15 the judges were on the cases. That would have some advantage for those of us who get every single EFIS 16 17 notification to figure out which ones actually involve our cases and things of this nature, and I made that request a 18 couple months ago. So things are very slow in happening. 19 MR. CONRAD: There used to be a box down at 20 21 the bottom of the filing thingy that you checked if it was due today or not, and the theory that I was told about 22 that was that that sent a notice to whomever the assigned 23 judge was, but that that had absolutely no significance at 24 It didn't work. I don't know if it didn't work 25

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- 1 because just never enabled it or it didn't work because it
- 2 didn't work. That's the old software game, you know.
- 3 It's not a bug, it's a feature.
- 4 JUDGE STEARLEY: I've got too many features
- 5 and not enough of them that I can really use. Well, is
- 6 there anything else we need to take up?
- 7 MR. CONRAD: No. Insofar as we're
- 8 concerned, I think we're done. Looking forward to hearing
- 9 from Mr. Zobrist, and we'll work on our end with what we
- 10 need do.
- 11 MR. ZOBRIST: We have nothing else either,
- 12 Judge.
- 13 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. If you need to
- 14 contact me, if we do need to have another meeting, feel
- 15 free to e-mail. You can also reach me at home this week.
- 16 It would be 573-474-5040. I mean, we live in the
- 17 electronic age. I've got the computer and I've got the
- 18 phone. I can't run. I can't hide.
- 19 MR. CONRAD: I last four were 4740, but I
- 20 missed the middle.
- 21 JUDGE STEARLEY: Yeah. 574-474-5040. And
- 22 I'll be checking the work e-mail from home as well.
- MR. CONRAD: Well, I hope your wife gets to
- 24 feeling better.
- 25 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. I appreciate

	Page 25
1	that very much.
2	MR. CONRAD: Thank you, Judge.
3	JUDGE STEARLEY: If there's nothing else,
4	we'll
5	MR. CONRAD: And Karl, thanks for setting
6	up the conference.
7	MR. ZOBRIST: Sure. You're welcome.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Yeah. Thank you again for
9	that, Mr. Zobrist.
10	MR. ZOBRIST: Thank you, Judge.
11	JUDGE STEARLEY: If there's nothing else,
12	we'll go ahead and go off the record.
13	(WHEREUPON, the discovery conference was
14	concluded at 9:25 a.m.)
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	Page 26
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2	CERTIFICATE
3	STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
4	COUNTY OF COLE)
5	I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified
6	Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest Litigation
7	Services, do hereby certify that I was personally present
8	at the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause at the
9	time and place set forth in the caption sheet thereof;
10	that I then and there took down in Stenotype the
11	proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true
12	and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at
13	such time and place.
14	Given at my office in the City of
15	Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.
16	
17	Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR
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