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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Exhibit No.:</b>             | _____  |
| <b>Issue(s):</b>                | Cost Recovery Mechanism/<br>ISRS   |
| <b>Witness/Type of Exhibit:</b> | Robinett/Direct  |
| <b>Sponsoring Party:</b>        | Public Counsel   |
| <b>Case No.:</b>                | GO-2016-0332<br>GO-2016-0333<br>GO-2017-0201<br>GO-2017-0202<br>GO-2018-0309<br>GO-2018-0310 |

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**

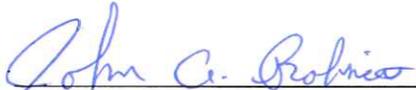
Submitted on Behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel

**LACLEDE GAS COMPANY**  
**SPIRE MISSOURI INCORPORATED**

CASE NOS. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333, GO-2017-0201  
GO-2017-0202, GO-2018-0309 and GO-2018-0310

August 22, 2018



  
John A. Robinett  
Utility Engineering Specialist

Subscribed and sworn to me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2018.



**JERENE A. BUCKMAN**  
My Commission Expires  
August 23, 2021  
Cole County  
Commission #13754037

  
Jerene A. Buckman  
Notary Public

My Commission expires August 23, 2021.

**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF  
JOHN A. ROBINETT  
SPIRE MISSOURI EASTSPIRE MISSOURI WEST**

**CASE Nos. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333, GO-2017-0201, GO-2017-0202, GO-2018-0309,  
and GO-2018-0310**

1 **Q. What is your name and what is your business address?**

2 A. John A. Robinett, PO Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

3 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

4 A. I am employed by the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) as a Utility Engineering  
5 Specialist.

6 **Q. Have you previously provided testimony before the Missouri Public Service  
7 Commission?**

8 A. Yes.

9 **Q. What is your work and educational background?**

10 A. A copy of my work and educational experience is attached to this testimony as Schedule JAR-  
11 D-1.

12 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

13 A. The purpose of this direct testimony is two-fold. First, it will provide OPC’s position  
14 regarding the proper calculation refund that the Commission might order based on the remand  
15 from the Western District Court of Appeals of Case Nos. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333,  
16 GO-2017-0201, and GO-2017-0202.<sup>1</sup> Second, it will provide OPC’s position on Staff’s  
17 recommendation regarding any application of a refund to Spire’s current Infrastructure  
18 System Replacement Surcharge (“ISRS”) requests Case Nos. GO-2018-0309 and GO-2018-  
19 0310.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to Stipulation and Agreement that the 2017 ISRS cases would be subject to the decision from the appeal for the 2016 ISRS cases.

Direct Testimony of  
John A. Robinett  
Case No. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333  
GO-2017-0201, GO-2017-0202  
GO-2018-0309, GO-2018-0310

1 **Case Nos. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333, GO-2017-0201, and GO-2017-0202**

2 **Q. How much revenue did Spire collect from its ratepayers for Case Nos. GO-2016-0332,**  
3 **GO-2016-0333, GO-2017-0201, and GO-2017-0202?**

4 A. Rates from Case Nos. GO-2016-0332 and GO-2016-0333 were in effect for 15 months prior  
5 to the resetting of the ISRS in Spire's most recent rate cases GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-  
6 0216. Rates from Case Nos. GO-2017-0201 and GO-2017-0202 were in effect for 11 months  
7 prior to the resetting of the ISRS in Spire's most recent rate cases: GR-2017-0215 and GR-  
8 2017-0216. For these four cases, Spire has collected a sum total of \$15,154,515 in revenues  
9 from its customers for the ISRSs. Of this amount, MGE collected \$6,733,568.25 and Laclede  
10 collected \$8,420,946.75.

11 **Q. Are Spire Missouri East's and Spire Missouri West's currently recovering the cost of**  
12 **replacement of plastic mains and service lines from their customers?**

13 A. Yes, these costs are now included in the Companies' plant-in-service. As part of Case Nos.  
14 GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216, Spire's ISRSs were reset to zero for its Missouri East and  
15 Missouri West operations. This plant was included in rate base in determining revenue  
16 requirement for those cases and will be included in rates going forward.

17 **Q. What information led you to determine it was necessary to calculate a refund for**  
18 **Spire customers?**

19 A. I reviewed, and discussed with counsel, the Western District November 21, 2017 Opinion  
20 issued in Docket No. WD80544 on.<sup>2</sup> In that Opinion, the Western District cited in footnote  
21 4 that 16% of main lines and 64% of services lines replaced were plastic. The Western  
22 District stated that:

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<sup>2</sup> *PSC v. Office of Public Counsel (In re Laclede Gas Co.)*, 539 S.W.3d 835, 841 (Mo. App. W.D. 2017).

1           Our conclusion that recovery of the costs for replacement of plastic  
2           components that are not worn out or in deteriorated condition is not  
3           available under ISRS is based solely on our determination that the costs do  
4           not satisfy the requirements found in the plain language of the section  
5           393.1009(5)(a).<sup>3</sup>

6           As set forth in the testimony of Mr. Schallenberg, the OPC believes that the Western  
7           District's decision indicates that Spire's ISRS petition did not comply with the applicable  
8           statutory requirements and hence should be denied and the full amount collected by Spire  
9           refunded to its customers. However, out of an abundance of caution, the OPC has decided  
10          to calculate what it believes would be a proper compensation should the Commission  
11          determine that only the overcollection related to plastic components is refundable.

12 **Q.    What information did OPC use to calculate the refund for Spire customers from the**  
13 **Western District remand?**

14 A.    I used the percentages cited by the Western District in footnote 4 of the Opinion, which the  
15          Court would have found in the Rebuttal Testimony of Staff Witness Ms. Kimberly Bolin  
16          in Case No. GO-2016-0332.

17 **Q.    How did you calculate the refund for Spire customers from the Western District**  
18 **remand?**

19 A.    To calculate adjusted annual revenue requirements, I reviewed Staff's supporting work  
20          papers for the amount of plant additions in each of the four cases. Then I applied the  
21          Western District's cited percentages to the plant additions. I then calculated the difference  
22          between the annual authorized revenue requirement and the adjusted annual revenue  
23          requirement for each case to determine the amount of disallowed cost for recovery of  
24          plastic pipe replacement

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

Direct Testimony of

John A. Robinett

Case No. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333

GO-2017-0201, GO-2017-0202

GO-2018-0309, GO-2018-0310

1 To account for the fact that the ISRS rates in the 2016 cases were in effect for a longer  
2 period of time than the 2017 rates. I calculated the monthly revenue requirements and then  
3 multiplied that monthly value by the number of months that each of the rates was in effect.  
4 Both surcharges were reset to zero on April 19, 2018 when rates became effective in Spire's  
5 most recent rate cases, Case Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216. The chart below  
6 shows the results of my calculations for both monthly and annual revenue requirement  
7 differences.  
8

| Case Number          | Annual Revenue Requirement Difference | Monthly Revenue Requirement Difference |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Laclede GO-2016-0332 | \$1,237,621                           | \$103,135                              |
| Laclede GO-2017-0201 | \$418,113                             | \$34,843                               |
|                      |                                       |  |
| MGE GO-2016-0333     | \$1,609,423                           | \$134,119                              |
| MGE GO-2017-0202     | \$1,181,391                           | \$98,449                               |

9  
10 For Case Nos. GO-2016-0332 and GO-2016-0333, ISRS rates were effective for 15 months  
11 and, in Case Nos. GO-2017-0201 and GO-2017-0202, for 11 months.

12 For my final calculation in each case, I multiplied the monthly revenue requirement  
13 difference by the number of months rates were in effect. The total refund amount for each  
14 case is shown in the table below:

Direct Testimony of  
 John A. Robinett  
 Case No. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333  
 GO-2017-0201, GO-2017-0202  
 GO-2018-0309, GO-2018-0310

| Case Number          | Monthly Revenue Requirement Difference | Months Rate Effective | Refund Amount |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Laclede GO-2016-0332 | \$103,135                              | 15                    | \$1,547,025   |
| Laclede GO-2017-0201 | \$34,843                               | 11                    | \$383,273     |
|                      |  |                       |               |
| MGE GO-2016-0333     | \$134,119                              | 15                    | \$2,011,785   |
| MGE GO-2017-0202     | \$98,449                               | 11                    | \$1,082,939   |

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Based on these calculations, OPC recommends the following refunds to customers:

- a. \$1,930,298 for Laclede customers for Case Nos. GO-2016-0332 and GO-2017-0201; and
- b. \$3,094,724 for MGE customers for Case Nos. GO-2016-0333 and GO-2017-0202.

The total refund to Spire Missouri’s customers is \$5,025,022.

Staff provided its workpapers to the Parties in Case Nos. GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333, GO-2017-0201, and GO-2017-0202. These documents are attached to this testimony and were used by Staff to support its recommendations in each of these remanded ISRS cases. I used the same workpapers and applied the Western District’s cited percentages to the plant-in-service values in Staff’s workpapers to determine the difference in revenue requirement that I recommend above.

**Case Nos. GO-2018-0309 and GO-2018-0310**

**Q. Does OPC agree with the Staff’s August 6, 2018 recommendation in the GO-2018-0309 and GO-2018-0310 cases that the refund should be used to reduce the current ISRS request for Spire Missouri East and Spire Missouri West?**

1 A. No. The ISRS values that reflected the four remanded ISRS cases were reset to zero in the  
2 last general rate proceedings, Case Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216 are now  
3 included in base rates going forward. Instead, OPC recommends a one-time, line-item  
4 refund for the amounts Spire collected from ratepayers for costs related to the replacement  
5 of plastic mains and plastic service lines.

6 **Q. Does OPC have any concerns about the inclusion of the refund in the current 2018**  
7 **ISRS cases?**

8 A. Yes. Given the Staff recommendation in the 2018 ISRS cases and Staff's Notice filed July  
9 9, 2018<sup>4</sup> in all four remanded cases, if the Commission accepts Staff recommendations in  
10 all six cases there is a potential that the current ISRS request may be negative after the  
11 refunds are applied. Based on advice by legal counsel, I believe that this would be  
12 impermissible under Section 393.1012.1, RSMo. This Section prohibits the Commission  
13 from approving an ISRS that would produce total annualized revenues "below the lesser  
14 of one million dollars or one-half of one percent of the gas corporation's base revenue level  
15 approved by the commission in the gas corporation's most recent general rate proceeding."  
16 Therefore, if Spire's ISRS request drops below one million dollars, by statute, the  
17 Commission could not approve the Application.

18 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

19 A. Yes, it does.

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<sup>4</sup> Case No. GO-2016-0332, Staff Notice, EFIS item No. 104.

## John A. Robinett

I am employed as a Utility Engineering Specialist for The Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (OPC). I began employment with OPC in August of 2016. In May of 2008, I graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

During my time as an undergraduate, I was employed as an engineering intern for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) in their Central Laboratory located in Jefferson City, Missouri for three consecutive summers. During my time with MoDOT, I performed various qualification tests on materials for the Soil, Aggregate, and General Materials sections. A list of duties and tests performed are below:

- Compressive strength testing of 4” and 6” concrete cylinders and fracture analysis
- Graduations of soil, aggregate, and reflective glass beads
- Sample preparations of soil, aggregate, concrete, and steel
- Flat and elongated testing of aggregate
- Micro-deval and LA testing of aggregate
- Bend testing of welded wire and rebar
- Tensile testing of welded, braided cable, and rebar
- Hardness testing of fasteners (plain black and galvanized washers, nuts, and bolts)
- Proof loading and tensile testing of bolts
- Sample collection from active road constructions sites
- Set up and performed the initial testing on a new piece of equipment called a Linear Traverse / Image Analysis
- Wrote operators manual for the Linear Traverse / Image Analysis Machine
- Trained a fulltime employee on how to operate the machine prior to my return to school
- Assisted in batching concrete mixes for testing, mixing the concrete, slump cone testing, percent air testing, and specimen molding of cylinders and beams

Upon graduation, I accepted a position as an Engineer I in the Product Evaluation Group for Hughes Christensen Company, a division of Baker Hughes, Inc. (Baker), an oil field service company. During my employment with Baker, I performed failure analysis on oil field drill bits as well as composed findings reports which were forwarded to the field engineers in order for them to report to the company the conclusions of the failure causes.

I previously was employed as a Utility Engineering Specialist I, II, III for the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission). My employment with the Commission spanned from April of 2010 to August of 2016. My duties involved analyzing depreciation rates and studies for utility companies and presenting expert testimony in rate cases before the Commission.

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**  
**SUMMARY OF CASE PARTICIPATION**

Listed below are the cases in which I have supplied testimony, comments, and/or depreciation rates accompanied by a signed affidavit.

| <b>Company</b>   | <b>Case Number</b>   | <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Party</b>                   |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Kansas City Power & Light Company  | ER-2018-0145   | Direct and Rebuttal Testimony, Depreciation and O&M expense related to retired generation units, ONE CIS Allocation                                     | Office of Public Counsel (OPC) |
| Kansas City Power & Light Company Greater Missouri Operations                            | ER-2018-0146   | Direct and Rebuttal Testimony, Depreciation and O&M expense related to retired generation units, ONE CIS Allocation, Removal of Additional Amortization | OPC                            |
| Empire District Electric Company   | EO-2018-0092   | Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, Affidavit in Opposition, additional Affidavit and Live Testimony   | OPC                            |
| Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities                  | GR-2018-0013   | Rebuttal and Surrebuttal Testimony depreciation, general plant amortization   | OPC                            |
| Laclede Gas Company<br>Missouri Gas Energy<br>Spire Missouri East<br>Spire Missouri West | GO-2016-0332<br>GO-2016-0333<br>GO-2017-0201<br>GO-2017-0202<br>GR-2017-0215<br>GR-2017-0216 | ISRS Over collection of depreciation expense and ROE based on Western District Opinion Docket No. WD80544   | OPC                            |
| Gascony Water Company, Inc.  | WR-2017-0343   | Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, and Live Testimony rate base, depreciation NARUC USoA Class designation  | OPC                            |

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**  
**SUMMARY OF CASE PARTICIPATION**

| <b>Company</b>  | <b>Case Number</b>           | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Party</b> |
|---|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Missouri American Water Company                               | WR-2017-0285                 | Direct, Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, and Live Testimony depreciation, ami, negative reserve, Lead Line   | OPC          |
| Indian Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc.                  | WR-2017-0259                 | Direct, Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, and Live Testimony Rate Base (extension of electric service, leak repairs)                                    | OPC          |
| Laclede Gas Company<br>Missouri Gas Energy                    | GR-2017-0215<br>GR-2017-0216 | Direct, Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, True-up Rebuttal, and Live Testimony depreciation, retirement work in progress, combined heat and power, ISRS | OPC          |
| Empire District Electric Company                              | EO-2018-0048                 | IRP Special issues   | OPC          |
| Kansas City Power & Light Company                             | EO-2018-0046                 | IRP Special issues   | OPC          |
| Kansas City Power & Light Company Greater Missouri Operations | EO-2018-0045                 | IRP Special issues   | OPC          |
| Kansas City Power & Light Company Greater Missouri Operations | EO-2017-0230                 | 2017 IRP annual update comments  | OPC          |
| Empire District Electric Company                              | EO-2017-0065                 | Direct, Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, and Live Testimony FAC Prudence Review Heat Rate  | OPC          |
| Ameren Missouri   | ER-2016-0179                 | Direct, Rebuttal, Testimony Heat Rate Testing & Depreciation   | OPC          |
| Kansas City Power & Light Company                             | ER-2016-0285                 | Direct, Rebuttal, Surrebuttal, and Live Testimony Heat Rate Testing & Depreciation   | OPC          |

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**  
**SUMMARY OF CASE PARTICIPATION**

| <b>Company</b>  | <b>Case Number</b>   | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Party</b>   |
|---|--|--|--|
| Empire District Electric Company<br>Merger with Liberty   | EM-2016-0213   | Rebuttal Testimony   | Missouri<br>Public<br>Service<br>Commission<br>(MOPSC) |
| Empire District Electric Company  | ER-2016-0023   | Depreciation Study,<br>Direct, Rebuttal, and<br>Surrebuttal<br>Testimony                       | MOPSC  |
| Hillcrest Utility Operating<br>Company, Inc.  | SR-2016-0065   | Depreciation Review  | MOPSC  |
| Hillcrest Utility Operating<br>Company, Inc.  | WR-2016-0064   | Depreciation Review  | MOPSC  |
| Missouri American Water<br>Company  | WR-2015-0301   | Depreciation Study,<br>Direct, Rebuttal, and<br>Surrebuttal<br>Testimony                       | MOPSC  |
| Bilyeu Ridge Water Company, LLC<br>Midland Water Company, Inc.<br>Moore Bend Water Utility, LLC<br>Riverfork Water Company<br>Taney County Water, LLC<br>Valley Woods Utility, LLC(Water)<br>Valley Woods Utility, LLC(Sewer)<br>Consolidated into Ozark<br>International, Inc. | WR-2015-0192<br>WR-2015-0193<br>WR-2015-0194<br>WR-2015-0195<br>WR-2015-0196<br>WR-2015-0197<br>SR-2015-0198<br>Consolidated<br>into<br>WR-2015-0192 | Depreciation Review<br><br>*filed depreciation<br>rates not accompanied<br>by signed affidavit | MOPSC  |
| I. H. Utilities, Inc. sale to Indian<br>Hills Utility Operating Company,<br>Inc.  | WO-2016-0045   | Depreciation Rate<br>Adoption CCN  | MOPSC  |
| Missouri American Water<br>Company CCN City of Arnold   | SA-2015-0150   | Depreciation Rate<br>Adoption CCN  | MOPSC  |
| Empire District Electric Company  | ER-2014-0351   | Direct, Rebuttal, and<br>Surrebuttal Testimony   | MOPSC  |
| West 16th Street Sewer Company,<br>W.P.C. Sewer Company, Village<br>Water and Sewer Company, Inc.<br>and Raccoon Creek Utility<br>Operating Company, Inc.   | SM-2015-0014   | Depreciation Rate<br>Adoption  | MOPSC  |
| Brandco Investments LLC and<br>Hillcrest Utility Operating<br>Company, Inc.   | WO-2014-0340   | Depreciation Rate<br>Adoption, Rebuttal<br>Testimony   | MOPSC  |

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**  
**SUMMARY OF CASE PARTICIPATION**

| <b>Company</b>  | <b>Case Number</b> | <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Party</b> |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities                             | GR-2014-0152       | Direct, Rebuttal, Surrebuttal and Live Testimony                      | MOPSC        |
| Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc   | GR-2014-0086       | Depreciation Study, Direct and Rebuttal Testimony                     | MOPSC        |
| P.C.B., Inc.  | SR-2014-0068       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| M.P.B., Inc.  | SR-2014-0067       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Roy-L Utilities   | WR-2013-0543       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Roy-L Utilities   | SR-2013-0544       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Missouri Gas Energy Division of Laclede Gas Company   | GR-2014-0007       | Depreciation Study, Direct and Rebuttal Testimony                     | MOPSC        |
| Central Rivers Wastewater Utility, Inc.   | SA-2014-00005      | Depreciation Rate Adoption  | MOPSC        |
| Empire District Electric Company  | ER-2012-0345       | Depreciation Study, Direct, Rebuttal, and Surrebuttal Testimony       | MOPSC        |
| Empire District Electric Company  | WR-2012-0300       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Laclede Gas Company   | GO-2012-0363       | Depreciation Authority Order Rebuttal, Surrebuttal and Live Testimony | MOPSC        |
| Moore Bend Water Company, Inc. sale to Moore Bend Water Utility, LLC (Water)                        | WM-2012-0335       | Depreciation Rate Adoption  | MOPSC        |
| Oakbrier Water Company, Inc.  | WR-2012-0267       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Lakeland Heights Water Co., Inc.  | WR-2012-0266       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| R.D. Sewer Co., L.L.C.  | SR-2012-0263       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Canyon Treatment Facility, LLC  | SA-2010-0219       | Depreciation Rate Adoption- CCN                                       | MOPSC        |
| Taney County Water, LLC   | WR-2012-0163       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Sale of Saddlebrooke Water and Sewer Infrastructure, LLC to Missouri American Water Company (Sewer) | SA-2012-0067       | Rebuttal Testimony  | MOPSC        |
| Sale of Saddlebrooke Water and Sewer Infrastructure, LLC to Missouri American Water Company (Water) | WA-2012-0066       | Rebuttal Testimony  | MOPSC        |

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**  
**SUMMARY OF CASE PARTICIPATION**

| <b>Company</b>  | <b>Case Number</b> | <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Party</b> |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Midland Water Company, Inc.   | WR-2012-0031       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Sale of KMB Utility Corporation to Algonquin Water Resources of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a Liberty Water (Sewer)  | SO-2011-0351       | Depreciation Rate Adoption                                      | MOPSC        |
| Sale of KMB Utility Corporation to Algonquin Water Resources of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a Liberty Water (Water)  | WO-2011-0350       | Depreciation Rate Adoption                                      | MOPSC        |
| Sale of Noel Water Company, Inc. to Algonquin Water Resources of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a Liberty Water (Water) | WO-2011-0328       | Depreciation Rate Adoption                                      | MOPSC        |
| Sale of Taney County Utilities Corporation to Taney County Water, LLC (Water)                               | WM-2011-0143       | Depreciation Rate Adoption                                      | MOPSC        |
| Empire District Electric Company  | ER-2011-0004       | Depreciation Study, Direct, Rebuttal, and Surrebuttal Testimony | MOPSC        |
| Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc.  | WR-2011-0056       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Tri-States Utility, Inc   | WR-2011-0037       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P.   | GE-2011-0096       | Depreciation Study Waiver                                       | MOPSC        |
| Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P.   | GR-2010-0347       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| KMB Utility Corporation (Sewer)   | SR-2010-0346       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| KMB Utility Corporation (Water)   | WR-2010-0345       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |
| Middlefork Water Company  | WR-2010-0309       | Depreciation Review   | MOPSC        |