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                        STATE OF MISSOURI
 2
                    PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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                    TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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 6
                       Evidentiary Hearing
                         October 26, 2016
 8
                      Kansas City, Missouri
 9
                             Volume 2
10
11
12
     James Dickson and Angela Dickson, )
                    Complainants,
                                          )
13
                                          ) File No.
     vs.
                                          ) EC-2016-0230
14
     KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations
15
     Company,
16
                   Respondent.
                                          )
17
18
                       KIM S. BURTON, Presiding
19
                             SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
20
21
     Reported By:
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		Page 2
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3	THE COMPLAINANTS JAMES DICKSON and ANGELA DICKSON	
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8	FOR STAFF OF THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:	
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PROCEEDINGS 1 2 JUDGE BURTON: Let's go ahead and go 3 on the record. I'm showing the time is approximately 10:30 a.m. on October 26, 2016. The Missouri Public 4 Service Commission has set this time for an 5 6 evidentiary hearing in File No. EC-2016-0230 in the 7 matter of James Dickson and Angela Dickson, 8 Complainants, versus KCPL Greater Missouri Operations 9 Company, Respondents. We are located at the Fletcher 10 Daniels State Office building at 615 East 13th Street in Kansas City, Missouri, and I am Kim Burton, a 11 12 regulatory law judge with the Missouri Public Service Commission. 13 14 At this time I would ask the parties to enter their appearance for the record, and we'll 15 16 go ahead and begin with the complainants, Mr. and Mrs. Dickson. 17

- MR. DICKSON: James Dickson.
- 19 MRS. DICKSON: Angie Dickson.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. And on
- 21 behalf of the Kansas City Power & Light Greater
- 22 Missouri Operations Company?
- MR. STEINER: My name is Roger W.
- 24 Steiner. My contact information has been given to
- 25 the court reporter.

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1 JUDGE BURTON: On behalf of the Staff 2 of the Missouri Public Service Commission? 3 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, your Honor. 4 Appearing on behalf of Staff is Hampton Williams. My information has also been provided to the court 5 6 reporter. 7 JUDGE BURTON: Now, at this point I 8 don't believe that there are any other parties 9 present. I don't see anyone from the Office of the 10 Public Counsel and I'm not seeing any hands or anyone else indicating that they are here to be present as 11 counsel. I would remind all people who are either 12 participating or observing to please silence all of 13 their electronic devices at this time. 14 Now, this complaint was previously 15 16 filed and we did have a prehearing conference in the 17 past. Normally what we do is we allow for opening 18 statements from the parties and then an opportunity 19 for the complainants to present their witnesses with 20 an opportunity for cross examination by counsel for 21 KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations, Staff, and myself 22 and an opportunity for redirect, and it will then 23 proceed with the other parties having an opportunity to present their own witnesses. Does this seem 24

acceptable to all the other parties since this is a

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- 1 little bit different from some of the other
- 2 complaints we've had.
- 3 MR. DICKSON: Yes.
- 4 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Now, at this
- 5 point I don't know if the Dicksons, if you guys would
- 6 prefer to have one person speak or for you both to
- 7 speak for the opening statement?
- 8 MR. DICKSON: I'll do the opening
- 9 statement.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- 11 MR. DICKSON: Thank you for the
- 12 opportunity to discuss our concerns with the smart
- 13 meter which was placed on our home. The issues
- 14 involved with smart meters are both complex but
- 15 simple. Three main points I want to address today
- 16 are the fact that there is sufficient evidence to
- 17 bring into question the safety of smart meters and
- 18 also the legality of collecting the data.
- 19 According to Missouri Statute Title 15
- 20 for regulations of certain utilities and carriers,
- 21 Section 393130.1 states every gas corporation, every
- 22 electrical corporation, every water corporation, and
- 23 every sewer corporation shall furnish and provide
- 24 such service safe and adequate in all respects just
- 25 and reasonable. Safe, according to Webster's

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- 1 Dictionary, means free from harm or risk, unhurt.
- 2 Secure from the threat of danger, harm, or loss.
- We will be able to provide information
- 4 that will show that there's reasonable doubt that the
- 5 meters continue to be safe both as a fire hazard and
- 6 long-term of being hit by the waves from the meters,
- 7 that there are long term health concerns for our
- 8 family as well as citizens of Missouri.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 10 Mr. Steiner?
- 11 MR. STEINER: Thank you. I'll just
- 12 sit. The AMI meter installed at the Dicksons' home
- in January is not new technology. The RF, which
- 14 means radiofrequency, technology has been
- 15 successfully deployed in the KCP&L territory for over
- 16 20 years. Nationwide electric companies have
- 17 installed over 65 million smart meters covering more
- 18 than half of U.S. households. The AMI technology is
- 19 approved by the Federal Communications Commission and
- 20 meets the American National Standards Institute,
- 21 which is known as NTSI, standards.
- The FCC sets limits on RF exposure
- 23 limits for humans and AMI meters are well below these
- 24 limits. Our technology allows the company and the
- 25 meter to communicate with each other for usage

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- 1 measurement and diagnostic purposes. So if the meter
- 2 would go off, if the power would go off, it would
- 3 send a signal saying the power is off at this house,
- 4 we'd be able to dispatch someone to look at that.
- 5 This signal that's sent out is an
- 6 electromagnetic wave and it's commonly used in the
- 7 telecommunications industry. That signal is not a
- 8 constant signal, it goes in short bursts, very short
- 9 bursts every four hours or so and it's less than a
- 10 second's duration. This means that for the vast
- 11 majority of the time the meter does not emit any RF
- 12 signal.
- 13 This RF signal is of lower intensity
- 14 than a cell phone signal or a signal from a Wi-Fi
- 15 router. Digital meter has electricity into it. It's
- 16 just like any other electronic device. It produces
- 17 an electromagnetic field. This field does not pose
- 18 any health risks. I have Julie Dragoo with me who
- 19 manages the company's meter reader department and she
- 20 is here to testify concerning the safety and
- 21 operation of the AMI meter.
- Even though the AMI meters are safe,
- 23 they have a long track record. The Dicksons can have
- 24 their meter read manually, if they choose to do so,
- 25 and they can do this without any order from the

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- 1 Commission in this case. The Dicksons can soon take
- 2 advantage of a GMO opt-out tariff, which will
- 3 establish the GMO flat rate case, which will allow
- 4 them to have a digital meter installed at their house
- 5 that does not have communication capabilities. That
- 6 means it is not transmitting those RF signals.
- 7 Someone would go out to their house from the company
- 8 and read it.
- 9 That manual read would cost an
- 10 additional charge to pay for that person, but that
- 11 option will soon be available to the Dicksons. Those
- 12 GMO tariffs go into effect December 22nd. The
- 13 company requests that since the Dicksons have the
- 14 opt-out option available to them, the Commission
- 15 should dismiss this complaint. Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm just going to ask
- 17 some brief questions real quick. Can you identify
- 18 what the file number was for the GMO general rates
- 19 case.
- 20 MR. STEINER: ER-2016-0185, I believe.
- 21 0156, thank you. Anthony, my expert paralegal.
- 22 JUDGE BURTON: Before we hear from
- 23 Staff, would the Dicksons like to have an opportunity
- 24 off the record to discuss this option with the
- 25 representatives for GMO?

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- 1 MR. DICKSON: We don't believe having
- 2 to pay to have our meter read to keep us safe from
- 3 the electric pulses is reasonable. For years they
- 4 came out and read it for free. They should be able
- 5 to do that. In addition, there's proof around the
- 6 country that when they do the digital ones, they
- 7 still emit the same amount of dirty electricity and
- 8 emit signals, so we don't believe that what they're
- 9 going to put on our house would eliminate that.
- 10 We requested an analog, which we were
- 11 able to purchase one. We wanted an analog which has
- 12 been on for decades on houses where there were no
- 13 issues of fires, no issues for emittance, and they
- 14 have safety standards, which the current ones don't
- 15 have, such as a surge arrester and different things.
- They testified that these things are
- 17 safe, but yet you can go around the country and see
- 18 Commissions like this. You can see different court
- 19 cases where it's quite evident that these are
- 20 catching on fire, causing harm to property damage and
- 21 in some cases death.
- In addition, we have submitted
- 23 evidence showing that what they're saying is safe,
- they're not taking into effect the cumulative effect.
- 25 Our house has a meter. Both houses next to us, their

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- 1 meters hit our house, so this is what every company
- 2 is doing. The gas company, electric company,
- 3 everyone is saying, Well, ours is under standard.
- 4 What about the cumulative effect? I'm being hit by
- 5 three electric meters. I'm being hit by three gas
- 6 meters.
- JUDGE BURTON: We'll give you an
- 8 opportunity to testify later. What would the cost be
- 9 for a homeowner?
- 10 MR. STEINER: There's an initial
- 11 signup fee of \$150 for the purchase of this
- 12 non-communicating reader and then there's a \$45 a
- 13 month fee to pay for the meter reader. Again, we
- 14 have to develop an entire system to get this read.
- 15 Staff for the Commission has approved that amount.
- 16 That's been agreed to in a stipulation agreement in
- 17 that rate case and the Commission has approved that
- 18 agreement. So the Commission believes that we should
- 19 be able to recover for the extra cost for manual
- 20 meter reading and they believe that that rate is
- 21 reasonable.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. The
- 23 Commission at this point is going to take your motion
- 24 to dismiss under advisement and we'll go on and
- 25 proceed. At this time we'll hear the opening

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- 1 statement from the Staff for the Missouri Public
- 2 Service Commission.
- 3 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Judge. Very
- 4 briefly I'd just like to state that the Dicksons'
- 5 identification of Staff's authority regarding the
- 6 safe and adequate provision of service is accurate.
- 7 Further I'd like to state that Section 386.310
- 8 provides authority to the Commission to recommend the
- 9 use of devices so as to promote and safeguard the
- 10 health and safety of the company's employees, its
- 11 customers, and the general public. So we certainly
- 12 do have authority over circumstances like this.
- 13 Since the prehearing conference, Staff
- 14 as well as the company conducted a site inspection of
- 15 the meter at issue. I intend to provide both Staff's
- 16 memorandum, which was drafted and submitted into the
- 17 case file on May 13th, as well as the inspection
- 18 report, which was conducted and submitted into the
- 19 case file on August 31st as exhibits. And Charles
- 20 Poston, who drafted those reports, is available for
- 21 examination for both parties. And with that, that
- 22 will conclude our statement.
- 23 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. At this
- 24 point, Mr. Dickson, Mrs. Dickson, you may call your
- 25 first witness.

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- 1 MR. DICKSON: We have no witnesses to
- 2 call. We do have documents that we have submitted
- 3 and would like to reference, if that is permitted.
- 4 JUDGE BURTON: If there is any
- 5 document that you would like to have admitted into
- 6 the record, meaning that you want it to be part of
- 7 the file for the Commission to review and consider
- 8 when making its decision, then it would need to be
- 9 offered and admitted into the record. So at this
- 10 point have you provided copies? I know that there
- 11 were documents that submitted through EFIS. That is
- 12 simply the case file, it is not actually the record
- 13 as far as the legal transcript.
- MR. DICKSON: Our understanding was
- 15 that's how we were supposed to submit everything, so
- 16 we have submitted everything through EFIS using our
- 17 case number. That's the instructions we were given.
- JUDGE BURTON: Who gave you that
- 19 instruction?
- MR. DICKSON: When they were at our
- 21 house. I said, What do we need to do? They said to
- 22 submit everything through the electronic format. You
- 23 need to submit it with your case number. It was not
- 24 clearly explained to us. I got your E-mail yesterday
- 25 and I was like, Well, this is interesting, you

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- 1 referenced evidentiary -- in fact, when they were at
- 2 my house, I asked them to E-mail me if there's
- 3 anything I need to know about evidentiary and they
- 4 said they would, and I never received anything
- 5 different from what they told me there was submitted
- 6 electronically.
- 7 JUDGE BURTON: At this point I'm going
- 8 to ask if there are any objections to the documents
- 9 that were submitted through the EFIS system being
- 10 admitted into the record.
- 11 MR. STEINER: Yes, your Honor, I
- 12 object to all of them being inadmissible hearsay. I
- don't have the ability to cross examine any of the
- 14 authors of those reports. I don't believe the
- 15 Commission can use those reports because they're
- 16 hearsay in their order in this case.
- 17 JUDGE BURTON: To clarify, counsel for
- 18 GMO is stating an objection that the documents that
- 19 were submitted into EFIS, or that you're asking they
- 20 be considered by the Commission and entered into the
- 21 record, are out-of-court statements that are offered
- 22 for the truth of the matter asserted. In this case
- 23 standard rules of evidence apply where we need to
- 24 have some foundation, some standard of either the
- 25 person who wrote the documents or an expert who

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- 1 relied on those documents or any other exceptions to
- 2 the hearsay rule. Do you have any exceptions to the
- 3 hearsay rule to offer?
- 4 MR. DICKSON: No, your Honor.
- 5 JUDGE BURTON: At this time I'm going
- 6 to sustain that objection. However, I will allow
- 7 time for a post hearing motion or brief to be filed
- 8 on that issue, if you would like.
- 9 MR. DICKSON: Thank you, your Honor.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: Now, are there any
- 11 additional documents or statements that you would
- 12 like to offer? Because I would like to ask you some
- 13 questions for the record.
- 14 MR. DICKSON: Could I ask one of their
- 15 individuals who's in charge of the program questions
- 16 regarding the meters?
- JUDGE BURTON: You absolutely will
- 18 have an opportunity for cross examination when they
- 19 call that witness or if they don't, I will give you
- 20 an opportunity to perform a direct examination.
- 21 MR. DICKSON: Am I permitted to just
- 22 do a statement?
- JUDGE BURTON: Yes, but if you're
- 24 going to provide a statement, I'm going to ask that
- 25 you come up here to the witness stand. I know we're

Page 15 a little bit informal, but this way Mr. Steiner will 2 be able to see your face and counsel and witnesses 3 will be able to see you. 4 At this point I'm going to ask you to 5 raise your right hand. Do you swear or affirm that 6 the statements you are about to give will be the 7 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 8 MR. DICKSON: Yes. 9 JAMES DICKSON, 10 being first duly sworn, testified under oath as follows: 11 12 JUDGE BURTON: Could you please state 13 your name for the record? MR. DICKSON: James Dickson. 14 JUDGE BURTON: Where do you currently 15 16 reside? 17 MR. DICKSON: 11005 North Brooklyn 18 Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri. 19 JUDGE BURTON: How long have you resided there? 20 21 MR. DICKSON: Ten years come 22 Thanksgiving. 23 JUDGE BURTON: How long have you been a customer of KCP&L GMO? 24 25 MR. DICKSON: I believe the whole

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- 1 time. I can't remember if the power company was
- 2 bought. At some point I think the name changed, but
- 3 I don't know how that all works.
- 4 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Now I
- 5 believe you'd like to offer a statement?
- 6 MR. DICKSON: Our family has been
- 7 affected by the smart meter. Our two-year-old who is
- 8 now two immediately upon it being put on obtained
- 9 rashes. We had insomnia. We had other health
- 10 issues, headaches throughout our family. Because of
- 11 this we started investigating the effects of smart
- 12 meters and was astonished by what we found out
- 13 throughout the country, what's happening in both
- 14 America and Canada regarding smart meters, both the
- 15 fire hazard and the long-term effect of the constant
- 16 emittance of the signal.
- JUDGE BURTON: When did you begin your
- 18 investigation?
- MR. DICKSON: Shortly after it was put
- 20 on our house. I don't recall the exact month.
- JUDGE BURTON: And when did your
- 22 family -- you mentioned the two-year-old.
- 23 MR. DICKSON: It was immediate that it
- 24 was put on.
- JUDGE BURTON: Within five minutes?

Page 17 1 MR. DICKSON: I would say it was 2 within that day. 3 JUDGE BURTON: What were the symptoms? 4 MR. DICKSON: He immediately broke out in a rash. 5 6 JUDGE BURTON: And how old was the 7 child? 8 MR. DICKSON: At that time I guess he 9 would have been somewhere between a year, year and a half. We took him to the doctor. The doctor 10 provided us a note recommending that the smart meter 11 be removed from our house. We provided that and they 12 refused to remove it. 13 14 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object to the mention of that as being inadmissible hearsay. 15 16 JUDGE BURTON: Which part? 17 MR. STEINER: The doctor's note. 18 don't have a chance to ask the doctor about what kind 19 of test was performed. 20 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to go ahead 21 and overrule that objection. You can continue. 22 MR. DICKSON: Beginning at that time 23 we started doing our research. My research has revealed that when it comes to the analog meters, 24 25 which used to be on the house, there was really no

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- 1 issues regarding fires or anyone saying that they
- 2 were having health concerns. But from what I have
- 3 seen throughout the country there are numerous people
- 4 now that are very sensitive to the smart meters.
- 5 The analog meters have a surge
- 6 arrester. The smart meters do not have a surge
- 7 arrester which affects the ability of it to take the
- 8 surge to the ground. In addition, the smart meters
- 9 are made much cheaper. They have a plastic back
- 10 while the old ones, the back plate was metal alloy.
- 11 Which everyone knows the plastic has a lower melting
- 12 point and all that, so that made it unsafe.
- In addition, these smart meters do
- 14 have a remote disconnect which puts you in danger
- 15 because it can create arcing. The smart meters are
- 16 having arcing. This is also due to thinner blades
- 17 than what the analog meters had, installers damaging
- 18 the bases when they put them in.
- JUDGE BURTON: Have you had any of
- 20 those problems at your house?
- 21 MR. DICKSON: At our house we have not
- 22 had them yet, but the fact that they do have thinner
- 23 blades leaves that potential for arcing. The problem
- 24 is these meters are not made to take surges as well
- 25 as analog meters. So when a surge occurs, that's

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- 1 when you typically see them blowing and fires being
- 2 caused since they do not have a surge arrester, which
- 3 for electrical components is mind-boggling that they
- 4 would not put that in a smart meter.
- 5 The meter that we have on, I was able
- 6 to find it on the Internet. I believe it's a Sensus
- 7 meter. In Pennsylvania they had 26 cases of them
- 8 blowing up, an article from 9/7/2012. There's also
- 9 an apartment complex that caught on fire, an article
- 10 in 2014. There are numerous cases. The issue with
- 11 proving that the smart meter caused it, and I would
- 12 ask them to confirm, is the electric companies come
- 13 out and remove the smart meters prior to a thorough
- 14 investigation. Which if any of us removed evidence
- 15 from a fire scene, we would be arrested for
- 16 tampering, but they say it's their property and they
- 17 go out and remove it. Because of that there's not a
- 18 thorough cause and effect fire evaluation.
- 19 In addition, when we requested
- 20 evidence on how many fires were caused by these, they
- 21 said, Well, none have been caused. But I do want to
- 22 point out that the KCC Commission informed KCP&L just
- 23 in an article from September of this year that they
- 24 were not documenting these fire investigations well
- 25 and that the Staff recommended that Westar and KCP&L

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- 1 file annual reports with analyses of fires associated
- 2 with electrical fires. So they were even cautioned
- 3 by the Kansas department that they were not
- 4 investigating or documenting what's occurring with
- 5 these correctly. So I find it disingenuous when they
- 6 say fires are not being caused when they were
- 7 actually told they weren't doing proper
- 8 investigations.
- 9 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object to
- 10 that characterization of what the Kansas Corporation
- 11 Commission said. That's not what they said. We can
- 12 put the order in the record, if you want.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'll go ahead and
- 14 sustain that to any reference to what the
- 15 observations and the rules are for the Kansas
- 16 Commission at this time. You may continue.
- MR. DICKSON: Can I request that the
- 18 Kansas Commission be added into evidence?
- JUDGE BURTON: I'll provide some time
- 20 after the hearing if you would like to submit a copy
- 21 of those orders for the record.
- MR. DICKSON: In addition from
- 23 investigation regarding smart meters, they release
- 24 what is called dirty electricity which makes
- 25 individuals sick. There's radiation that surrounds

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- 1 all electric appliances, home wiring communications,
- 2 voltage transients such as dirty electricity are
- 3 released.
- 4 As earlier stated, they said that the
- 5 pulses are not constant; however, when they did come
- 6 to test my house and my neighbor's house and they put
- 7 the meter tester up there, it was constant every few
- 8 seconds. It went boom, boom, boom. So to say that
- 9 it happens once every four hours is just not
- 10 accurate.
- 11 This is the same testimony that I have
- 12 seen given by electrical companies throughout the
- 13 country, but when their own investigation is done,
- 14 smart meters can give off as many as 190,000 impulses
- 15 a day. That is more than once every four hours. I
- 16 would request they produce any evidence that shows it
- 17 only goes off every four hours. That would mean it
- 18 would only have 16 to 20 pulses a day. When they
- 19 were at my house, it pulsed that many times when they
- 20 had the meter up, so something does not add up.
- I do also want to point out that
- 22 wireless exposures are now classified by the world's
- 23 highest authority on cancer assessment, the World
- 24 Health Organization International Agency For Research
- 25 on Cancer to be a possible risk to health. So as

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- they say they are safe, the World Health Organization
- 2 is saying that they are considering them a possible
- 3 risk to health.
- 4 The other thing about smart meters is
- 5 the constant -- we are constantly being hit
- 6 involuntarily. I do not want to be hit by these
- 7 pulses 24/7 while in my house. I believe I have a
- 8 right to be in my house safe from these pulses and
- 9 radiation. And the fact that I am being hit by my
- 10 neighbors, the gas meters, electric meters from all
- 11 these houses, when they say that their standard is
- 12 fine with that, every company is attempting to say
- 13 we're under it, but no one is saying what is the
- 14 cumulative effect. When you add it all together,
- 15 it's over the safety standard.
- 16 In addition, the safety standards that
- 17 were set by the FCC are for adults, not for children.
- 18 From reviewing studies the effect on young children,
- 19 especially fetuses and very young children is much
- 20 more harmful to them and that's not being taken into
- 21 consideration either. The bioeffects can occur
- 22 within just seconds of being in front of a meter.
- 23 What I did find interesting too when
- 24 they came out and did the meter, I asked if they
- 25 could come in my house and do it and they said there

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- 1 would be no need. I found it interesting that they
- 2 did not want to take a reading of the actual effect
- 3 of what's happening in my house.
- 4 JUDGE BURTON: Can you clarify what
- 5 you mean by that? Who was this and when?
- 6 MR. DICKSON: It was the man that was
- 7 actually holding the meter. I said, Can we go into
- 8 my house and take a reading by the wall, and he said,
- 9 No, we're just taking a reading from outside.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: You're talking about
- 11 someone from the company after the complaint was
- 12 filed?
- MR. DICKSON: Yes, it was when
- 14 everybody was out there.
- 15 JUDGE BURTON: Do you recall when that
- 16 was?
- 17 MR. DICKSON: They would have the
- 18 date. I would defer to whatever date they had.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- 20 MR. DICKSON: I asked them to come in
- 21 and take a reading inside and he said, We're just
- 22 going to take it outside. Which I thought was
- 23 interesting because if there's no harm inside my
- 24 house, why wouldn't you want to come in and prove
- 25 that.

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- 1 As I said earlier, these pulses are
- 2 involuntary and continuous. The smart meters have
- 3 not been tested by the Underwriters Laboratories and
- 4 do not carry the UL label required for electronic
- 5 devices. The Underwriters Laboratories have a
- 6 116-year record and have over 1,000 standards for
- 7 safety.
- 8 JUDGE BURTON: Could you clarify? UL
- 9 label or labor?
- 10 MR. DICKSON: Label. They have not
- 11 been tested by Underwriters Laboratories and I would
- 12 question why, if these are so safe, you would not
- 13 have these smart meters tested by Underwriters
- 14 Laboratories because they are one of the standards
- 15 when it comes to safety of electronic things.
- 16 Also, in our original complaint I
- 17 pointed out that No. 6 metering 6.04 meter reading
- 18 states each meter in each such district will be read
- 19 monthly on or about the same day of the month. There
- 20 is no requirement to have a smart meter constantly
- 21 being read.
- In addition, 393.130.3 states no gas
- 23 corporation, electrical corporation, water
- 24 corporation, or sewer corporation shall make or grant
- 25 any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to

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- 1 any person, corporation, or locality or to any
- 2 particular description of service in any respect
- 3 whatsoever, or subject any particular person,
- 4 corporation or locality or any particular description
- 5 of service to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or
- 6 disadvantage in any respect whatsoever.
- 7 Wanting to charge me \$45 and \$150 to
- 8 remove an unsafe item from my house is prejudice. I
- 9 should not have to do that when they came out for
- 10 years. In addition, if they're having such cost
- 11 savings from these smart meters, it should balance
- 12 out to those individuals who are being medically
- 13 affected to be able to have their meter read for
- 14 free.
- 15 Also in our complaint, Section 393.140
- 16 states KC Water Services and KCP&L are not allowed to
- 17 make any changes in rates and charges, rules and
- 18 regulations and/or services unless ordered by the
- 19 Commission. I don't believe they've been ordered by
- 20 the Commission to change the rates. I would also say
- 21 that the purpose of the smart meters was to save
- 22 money, but yet KCP&L has again requested rate
- 23 increases. So the whole reason they were going to
- 24 have these is I guess not working because they asked
- 25 for another rate increase.

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1	In addition, I believe smart meters		
2	and digital utility meters meet the statutory		
3	definition of unlawful surveillance devices put forth		
4	as wire tapping in the United States Code Title 18,		
5	Part One, Chapter 119, Section 2511, and other state		
6	and federal laws and those meter are designed and		
7	ntended to record personal and private events and		
8	activities within private structures and properties		
9	which constitute violation of the United States		
10	Constitution Bill of Rights, Fourth Amendment,		
11	guaranteeing all people to be secure in their		
12	persons, houses, and to be free of search. No search		
13	of private property may be lawfully done without a		
14	valid ratified court order based on probable cause or		
15	by full informed consent of the occupants which I		
16	have not given the power company to monitor		
17	everything that occurs in my house.		
18	Also, because electromagnetic		
19	radiation is known to cause cancer and other diseases		
20	and injuries, installation of any meter with either		
21	an EMR transmitter, a switching mode power supply, a		
22	transformer or similar device on a private residence		
23	without consent of the occupants and property owner		
24	constitute assault under the United States Code Title		
25	18, Section 113. To attempt the installation of such		

Page 27 devices on virtually every private structure is quite 2 clearly criminal misconduct on the part of those 3 associated and complicit with that attempt. 4 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Dickson, how old are you? 5 6 MR. DICKSON: I will be 46 in 7 November. JUDGE BURTON: Happy early birthday. 8 9 MR. DICKSON: Thank you. 10 JUDGE BURTON: Are you currently employed outside of the home? 11 12 MR. DICKSON: Yes. I'm assistant vice 13 president for an insurance company. 14 JUDGE BURTON: And do you use cell phones, computers at work? 15 16 MR. DICKSON: I have a computer at 17 work, but it's not a laptop, it's a land line, so I 18 don't use Wi-Fi at work. I have a cell phone for work. It's on for work. When I come home, I shut it off. It's very rarely on except for the one day I 20 21 work from home. 22 JUDGE BURTON: How many children do 23 you have? 24 MR. DICKSON: I have three; 12, seven, 25 and two.

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- We had requested details from KCP&L
- 2 regarding the frequency buying power values and
- 3 exposure level to radiation the digital meters emit
- 4 and they have not disclosed whether those frequencies
- 5 can or cannot harm animals or humans. They just
- 6 refer us to the FCC standard, but they have not
- 7 provided us any more detailed information.
- 8 KCP&L has not disclosed or obtained
- 9 consent from customers with regard to what data will
- 10 be collected by official meters of personal and
- 11 private activities on private property, where that
- 12 data will be stored, who will have access to that
- 13 data, how that data will be shared and managed, how
- 14 the subject of the data can be assured of privacy,
- 15 how utility customers can review and correct any
- 16 errors, how the data will be secured, how victims of
- 17 privacy invasion or mishandling of private data will
- 18 be compensated and restored, and how KCP&L claims to
- 19 have gained the unconstitutional authority to record,
- 20 collect, store, and distribute private and personal
- 21 data taken from utility customers without informed
- 22 consent.
- I have a lot of information regarding
- 24 my concerns with the overall health effect of the
- 25 smart meters. I believe from reading information

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- 1 that the new studies from 2012 show that the smart
- 2 meters --
- 3 MR. STEINER: Object, hearsay. Again,
- 4 these studies are unnamed. I can't cross examine a
- 5 person.
- 6 MR. DICKSON: The bio-initiative 2012
- 7 study.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to sustain
- 9 that objection.
- 10 MR. DICKSON: It is my opinion that
- 11 the smart meters affect gene transcription, DNA
- 12 damage, reduce the free radical scavengers. They're
- 13 a carcinogen to humans. They have impact on sperm.
- 14 They affect the fetus. They have effects on the
- 15 brain development and they also affect and can cause
- 16 autism.
- I believe that exposure to
- 18 electromagnetic fields, both extremely low frequency
- 19 EOF and EMF from power frequency sources like power
- 20 lines and appliances and radiofrequency radiation of
- 21 RFR can cause adverse health outcomes that may have
- 22 significant public health consequences, the most
- 23 serious I believe to be associated with the extremely
- 24 low frequency ELF include leukemia, brain tumors, and
- 25 increased risk of neurodegenerative diseases.

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- 1 As pointed out earlier, wireless
- 2 exposure is now classified by the World Health
- 3 Organization to be a possible risk to health. The
- 4 smart meters produce a whole body exposure constantly
- 5 24/7. For our personal concern we home school, so my
- 6 three children and wife are home 24/7 nearly and they
- 7 are being impacted by the smart meter and our
- 8 neighbors' smart meters and the water meters and the
- 9 gas meters.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: Are you asking the
- 11 Commission to stop your neighbors from using all of
- 12 those devices or the water company?
- MR. DICKSON: No. I don't think you
- 14 can do that. What I'm saying is they're not taking
- 15 into effect the constant. I want it removed from my
- 16 house. That would at least remove one aspect of the
- 17 impulses coming to my house. But when they say
- 18 they're safe, they're not taking into effect the
- 19 setup. As I said earlier, my neighbors both point
- 20 toward my house, so when they pulsate, all that comes
- 21 toward my house. The house behind me actually is
- 22 directed somewhat toward my house. So there's a
- 23 chance I'm getting three to four times the pulses and
- 24 if it's accurate they can go up to 190,000 pulses, I
- could be getting 800,000 pulses at my house a day.

Page 31 That cannot be good. High exposure to these types of 2 things typically can create cluster cancer risks. 3 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Dickson, what is 4 your education level? MR. DICKSON: I have an undergraduate 5 6 degree from the University of Memphis in risk 7 management and insurance. I have a master's degree 8 from Boston University in risk management and 9 insurance. I hold five professional designations in 10 insurance and risk management. 11 JUDGE BURTON: Do you have any science 12 degrees. 13 MR. DICKSON: No, I do not. 14 JUDGE BURTON: Any medical degrees? MR. DICKSON: No, I do not. But I do 15 16 believe it also falls on the Commission and the power 17 company if they're going to say these are safe, to consider all aspects including cumulative effects.

I was provided none. So when they're saying they're

If they have not considered that, for them to say

that they are completely safe, they have not looked

at all information and considered what can happen in

I asked for any studies that they had,

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these circumstances.

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- 1 FCC, well, those ratings were made years ago and no
- 2 one at that time had an idea that we'd be putting
- 3 transmitters on every house for every type of
- 4 utility, that there would be cell phone towers
- 5 everywhere. And they were based for adults, they
- 6 were not based for children.
- JUDGE BURTON: I just want to be
- 8 clear. Are you stating that GMO failed to respond to
- 9 a discovery request?
- 10 MR. DICKSON: Their response said they
- 11 had no studies showing anything was harmful regarding
- 12 smart meters.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 14 MR. DICKSON: I also asked for any
- 15 internal E-mails that they had regarding concerns or
- 16 safety issues regarding smart meters and they invoked
- 17 I believe attorney-client privilege and said it would
- 18 be too cumbersome for them to obtain those. In my
- 19 opinion smart meters are -- there's no difference
- 20 between smart meters in my opinion and the power
- 21 companies from what we saw with tobacco companies,
- 22 asbestos, and other entities where the products were
- 23 known and in time proven to cause cancer and have
- 24 health concerns on individuals and that's what we
- 25 have in my opinion the situation here. In my opinion

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- 1 they know that there are concerns.
- 2 The fire concerns are documented
- 3 throughout this country and Canada. There are
- 4 instances or reports of them blowing up and causing
- 5 fires. There have been recalls in North America of
- 6 these devices and replacements put out because of
- 7 concerns by the smart meter companies and the
- 8 utilities. In California and other states they are
- 9 looking at the ability to have people opt-out at no
- 10 cost and also have concerns regarding the cumulative
- 11 effect.
- 12 Overall, if we go back to the very
- 13 first thing, this service must be safe and adequate
- 14 in all respects. There's enough questionable data
- 15 regarding fires and the pulses that I believe they
- 16 are unsafe and at least in this case as a consumer
- 17 who doesn't have the money for an attorney, who
- 18 doesn't have the money to do these things, it would
- 19 be the Commission's and I request your opinion that
- 20 you side on the side of caution and remove this from
- 21 my house.
- I do have a doctor's note that said it
- 23 was affecting one of my children. I believe that
- 24 someone would show medical concern that they should
- 25 not be prejudiced to have to pay extra for a health

Page 34 concern that has come to fruition. 2 JUDGE BURTON: So you are requesting 3 that the Commission order GMO to install an analog? 4 MR. DICKSON: An analog. JUDGE BURTON: Not a digital? 5 6 MR. DICKSON: That's correct, with no 7 monthly reading fee. We have even offered to send a 8 photo every month to them. If they want to read it 9 quarterly, whatever to reduce what they consider to 10 be their cost. I'm very open. I could pay a flat rate and then as they read it if there's an 11 adjustment that needs to be made, if they read it 12 13 quarterly or something like that to reduce their 14 cost, that would be an option. I think there's a lot of things. 15 16 But I do not believe a digital meter 17 is going to resolve the fire issue because the 18 digital ones also do not have a surge protector and 19 they also have the thinner blades and other concerns. 20 I also had asked for any evidence 21 regarding fires and they also replied that they had 22 no proof of any fire started with smart meters in the 23 KCP&L area, which I saw a news cast just a little while ago regarding one. Is that because an 24 25 investigation wasn't completed? Do they actually

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- 1 have independent fire experts that have reviewed
- 2 these or is it still are they hiding behind
- 3 attorney-client privilege because the investigation
- 4 is still going on? In any of those, the question
- 5 would be like, Well, if they're still safe, why would
- 6 you not release whatever data you have?
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 8 MR. DICKSON: Thank you.
- 9 JUDGE BURTON: Let me see if there are
- 10 any questions for cross examination. Mr. Steiner,
- 11 your witness.
- MR. STEINER: I didn't hear you or I
- 13 was unclear what you said. What kind of meter did
- 14 you say you have on your house today?
- 15 MR. DICKSON: I have a smart meter.
- MR. STEINER: But you gave a brand
- 17 name I thought.
- 18 MR. DICKSON: Is it a Sensus maybe?
- MR. STEINER: It's not a Sensus. You
- 20 said that word and that didn't make sense to me. We
- 21 have L&G meters, Landis and Gyr. Is that the kind of
- 22 meter that's on your house?
- 23 MR. DICKSON: I believe what I wrote
- 24 down there's something about Sensus. I'd have to go
- 25 out there. Did they take a photo?

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1	JUDGE BURTON: So you don't recall.	
2	MR. DICKSON: I don't recall.	
3	MR. STEINER: I believe you testified	
4	that the voltage transient, that's one of your	
5	concerns; is that right?	
6	MR. DICKSON: Uh-huh.	
7	MR. STEINER: I thought you said that	
8	the voltage transient first of all, what is that	
9	in your opinion?	
10	MR. DICKSON: Part of it is dirty	
11	electricity. The electricity will have rushes. I	
12	don't how the best way to describe it. They go	
13	throughout your house and release dirty electricity	
14	throughout your house.	
15	MR. STEINER: So you're saying	
16	electricity escapes the meter, it doesn't go through	
17	the wire, it escapes the meter?	
18	MR. DICKSON: The smart meter is not	
19	grounded. It does not have a surge arrester.	
20	Instead with smart meters any high voltage goes back	
21	into your house.	
22	MR. STEINER: Through the wire;	
23	correct?	
24	MR. DICKSON: Yes.	
25	MR. STEINER: So are these transients	

Page 37 the RF signal, is that what you're talking about? 2 MR. DICKSON: I don't recall the exact 3 RF. I will defer that question to my wife. 4 MR. STEINER: She's going to come up next? 5 6 MR. DICKSON: Yes. 7 MR. STEINER: So is the transient the 8 RF signal? I thought you tied it that whenever it's 9 pulsing, that's the concern; is that correct? 10 MR. DICKSON: I am concerned that when there is a surge, that the smart meter, since it does 11 not have a surge arrester to put that surge in the 12 ground, that these surge and extra voltage and 13 14 electricity goes back into the house. MR. STEINER: So you're saying that a 15 16 voltage transient is a surge from outside your house? That's where I'm confused. 17 18 MR. DICKSON: I quess I'm not 19 explaining it well. I apologize. 20 MR. STEINER: You talked a little bit 21 about UL certification. So if a meter had UL 22 certification, would this be an appropriate meter 23 that you would allow to be installed in your house? 24 MR. DICKSON: I would like to see the 25 test results regarding what the pluses or minuses

Page 38 1 are. 2 MR. STEINER: I know you brought up UL certification. You said that was the standard for 3 consumer electronics. If the meter has UL 4 certification, then are your fears allayed? 5 6 MR. DICKSON: Not if it's still doing 7 impulses. 8 MR. STEINER: When you say impulses, 9 you mean RF impulses? 10 MR. DICKSON: Yes. MR. STEINER: Because a meter that is 11 a smart meter does have RF impulses if it is a 12 13 communicating meter. MR. DICKSON: Yes. 14 MR. STEINER: Those are your concerns. 15 16 So UL certification would eliminate your concerns on the fires? 17 18 MR. DICKSON: I think it would help 19 with concerns with the fires, yes. 20 MR. STEINER: Would it eliminate your 21 concerns with what you call dirty electricity? 22 MR. DICKSON: I would have to see what 23 the UL certification -- what the results were. They could possibly certify it for fire, but they could 24 25 say there's still these other issues. Until we see

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- 1 the exact details of their analysis, I cannot say
- 2 what I would consider safe or not.
- 3 MR. STEINER: But I thought you said
- 4 it would make you feel somewhat better about fires.
- 5 MR. DICKSON: Once again, again if I
- 6 can see what they certified, what I'm saying is they
- 7 are an independent body that could provide insight
- 8 into the safety, but being certified and the results
- 9 we would have to see exactly what they found.
- 10 MR. STEINER: So I believe you said
- 11 that you have a cell phone; is that correct?
- MR. DICKSON: Yes, I do.
- MR. STEINER: And that you would use
- 14 that cell phone at home when you're working at home;
- 15 is that correct?
- MR. DICKSON: One day a week.
- MR. STEINER: Do you have an automatic
- 18 garage door opener in your home?
- MR. DICKSON: Yes. It's working now.
- 20 We hadn't used it for years.
- 21 MR. STEINER: Is it two openers for
- two doors or one opener?
- 23 MR. DICKSON: It's two openers, but my
- 24 wife typically is home all day, so she's not hitting
- 25 the button.

Page 40 1 MR. STEINER: Do you have Wi-Fi in 2 your home? MR. DICKSON: We do have Wi-Fi. We do 3 4 not use it very often. It's literally unplugged from the power source and off the majority of the day. 5 6 MR. STEINER: But you need it when you 7 use your computer; is that correct? 8 MR. DICKSON: No. I can also log on 9 hardwire. My work computer is hardwire and we can 10 also do the laptop versus the hardwire if needed for 11 upstairs so we don't have to use the Wi-Fi. 12 MR. STEINER: But you do use the Wi-Fi 13 in your home? MR. DICKSON: On occasion. 14 15 MR. STEINER: Do you have a cordless 16 phone in your house? 17 MR. DICKSON: Currently, yes, but I'm 18 looking at replacements after doing this research. 19 MR. STEINER: How many do you have? 20 MR. DICKSON: Just one. 21 MR. STEINER: So that's your primary 22 phone? 23 MR. DICKSON: Uh-huh. But we don't make very many phone calls. 24 25 MR. STEINER: Do you have a microwave

Page 41 in your house? 2 MR. DICKSON: We do not use 3 microwaves. We have never used a microwave. Well, I won't say never. Years ago, it's probably been six 4 or seven years since it's been used. 5 6 MR. STEINER: So I think you mentioned 7 that you home school your children. Do you ever take 8 them on field trips to like a library or a public 9 place? 10 MR. DICKSON: Yes. MR. STEINER: How often do you do 11 12 that? MR. DICKSON: Well, we stop by and 13 pick up books. We're maybe in there five minutes. 14 We typically order them online and pick them up. 15 16 MR. STEINER: So you don't stay in the 17 library longer than five minutes? 18 MR. DICKSON: Typically, no. 19 MR. STEINER: I think you mentioned that you had an analog meter. Where did you get that 20 21 meter? 22 MR. DICKSON: We found it online and 23 ordered it. MR. STEINER: What entity did you 24 order it from? 25

Page 42 MR. DICKSON: I did not order it, my 1 2 wife did. I would have to defer that question to 3 her. 4 MR. STEINER: Was it eBay? MR. DICKSON: I did not order it. I 5 6 would have to defer that question to her. I just 7 paid for it. MR. STEINER: Was it from an 8 9 individual, do you know that? 10 MR. DICKSON: I did not order it, I do not know. I would have to defer that to my wife. 11 MR. STEINER: I believe that you 12 answered a question I had when we did a little bit of 13 14 discovery, that your family has not undergone any diagnostic tests; is that correct? 15 16 MR. DICKSON: Not exactly correct. I 17 have had headaches. I went in for a scan of my head. 18 I had severe migraines approximately two or three 19 months ago, maybe longer. It was before our July vacation, so I did have to come in for a brain scan. 20 21 They did not find anything, but they were concerned 22 that if I continued to have any unusual headaches or 23 migraines, come back and see them. 24 MR. STEINER: So have you gone back 25 and seen them?

Page 43 1 MR. DICKSON: No. I have not had any 2 migraines. 3 MR. STEINER: So it sounds like you 4 were having migraines before the meter was installed; is that correct? 5 6 MR. DICKSON: No, this was after the 7 meter was installed. The only other migraine I ever 8 had was in high school, so this is my second migraine 9 in my entire life and it was after the meter was installed. 10 MR. STEINER: So did you tell your 11 doctor that you went to see about the smart meter? 12 MR. DICKSON: I don't recall the 13 14 conversation. I just remember the questions were more regarding my frequency, the pain, how severe, 15 16 blurred vision, things like that. They were all medical questions, not cause and effect. 17 18 MR. STEINER: May I approach, your 19 Honor? 20 JUDGE BURTON: You may. 21 MR. STEINER: Do you recognize this 22 document? 23 MR. DICKSON: Yes, sir. MR. STEINER: Is that your response to 24 25 KCP&L's questions, GMO's questions that were sent to

Page 44 1 you? 2 MR. DICKSON: I believe it is. My wife wrote this. 3 4 MR. STEINER: Would you read into the record your answer to question 2? 5 6 MR. DICKSON: No diagnostic tests have 7 been performed. What was the date of this? MR. STEINER: I don't know when the 8 9 date is, but you did say that this was what you 10 provided to us. MR. DICKSON: Uh-huh. My headaches 11 were right around July. She wrote it. She possibly 12 13 forgot that I had gone to the doctor. MR. STEINER: Well, we asked you the 14 questions in September and you have answered this 20 15 16 days after that. 17 MR. DICKSON: Then that is an error. 18 She forgot about my going to the doctor. 19 MR. STEINER: Okay. 20 MR. DICKSON: I would be happy to 21 obtain the medical records to prove that I had a scan 22 of my head. 23 MR. STEINER: I think that's all the questions I have. Thank you, your Honor. Thank you, 24 Mr. Dickson. 25

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1	MR. DICKSON: Thank you.	
2	JUDGE BURTON: Do you have any cross	
3	examination?	
4	MR. WILLIAMS: No questions, your	
5	Honor.	
6	JUDGE BURTON: Mrs. Dickson, were you	
7	wanting to testify?	
8	MS. DICKSON: I can, but I can maybe	
9	talk more about my children.	
10	JUDGE BURTON: If you're going to be	
11	offering any statements that you want the Commission	
12	to consider, I would swear you in because you would	
13	need to be under oath.	
14	Please raise your right hand. Do you	
15	swear or affirm that the statements you're about to	
16	give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing	
17	but the truth?	
18	MS. DICKSON: Yes.	
19	ANGELA DICKSON,	
20	being first duly sworn, testified under oath as	
21	follows:	
22	JUDGE BURTON: Would you please state	
23	your name for the record?	
24	MS. DICKSON: Angie Dickson.	
25	JUDGE BURTON: And where do you	

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currently reside? 2 MS. DICKSON: 11005 North Brooklyn 3 Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64155. 4 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. MS. DICKSON: I just can talk more 5 about the effects that I see these things having on 7 our children because I'm with them all day. We have 8 had -- we have a 12-year-old, a seven-year-old, and a 9 two-year-old, and both of our older children have had 10 problems with focusing, ADHD-type symptoms in the 11 past, so that's one of the reasons we -- and I've 12 always kind of been looking for ways to help them 13 because I'm trying to help them with school, so if 14 they can learn to focus on their material, then it helps me and it helps them learn. 15 16 JUDGE BURTON: So these are boys, all 17 three? 18 MS. DICKSON: I have three, three boys 19 I have, but the older two, they're in school with me 20 now. I have done research in the past on EMFs and 21 how this can affect the cognitive behavior on 22 children and so because of that about probably three 23 years ago, I'm not really for sure exactly, but I think it was around three years ago we purchased an 24 25 EarthCalm system for our home because we knew a lot

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- 1 of these devices that we may even have or maybe in
- 2 the environment could be affecting their ability to
- 3 think and process information and to do the things
- 4 that they need to do in order to learn.
- 5 So we purchased an EarthCalm home
- 6 system for that. And at the time before we purchased
- 7 it, like I said, it was very hard for them to
- 8 concentrate in school. Things were just not going
- 9 that well. And then when we purchased this, we
- 10 plugged it into our home -- and I don't have the
- 11 paper with me on technically what it actually does
- 12 because I can't really explain it. If I had that
- 13 paper, I would be able to. But I believe it changes
- 14 the frequency of the EMFs that are coming in to a
- 15 level that the human body can handle. So immediately
- 16 when we received this system and plugged it in, I
- 17 noticed a complete change in my children and they
- 18 were able to again focus and learn their material and
- 19 things around home were much better.
- 20 And things were going great and we had
- 21 this system in and then everything was fine until the
- 22 day they came to install our smart meter. And I
- 23 didn't even know that this was going to take place.
- 24 I remember I was nursing my at the time, I don't
- 25 know, 15-month-old or maybe younger, I can't really

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- 1 remember exactly how old he was, and we just heard
- 2 this awful, awful noise. It was like someone was
- 3 tearing apart our house.
- 4 Actually, first I heard the doorbell,
- 5 but I couldn't get to it because I was nursing my
- 6 son, I didn't think that would be appropriate, so I
- 7 didn't go get the door. Then seconds later it was
- 8 like someone was ripping apart our house. After I
- 9 fed him I got up and there was a note on the door
- 10 that they had changed our meter. I didn't think too
- 11 much of it because I didn't really know that much
- 12 about them at the time, so didn't think too much of
- 13 it.
- 14 So then I put him down for his nap and
- 15 he takes about a two-hour nap. Well, he woke up in
- 16 the middle of his nap, which is completely uncommon
- for him because he's a really good sleeper, and he
- 18 woke up screaming about after an hour. And before I
- 19 put him down he was completely fine, there were no
- 20 issues, but when he woke up, he had a rash covering
- 21 his whole face and he was just screaming and I
- 22 couldn't get him to stop. And it was really out of
- 23 character for him because this isn't how he acted.
- 24 And the only other time I remember him
- 25 acting this way was before we had our own system to

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- 1 help with the EMFs in our house, we tried to put a
- 2 baby monitor in his room. And I had read about the
- 3 monitors and I realized, Well, I'm not so sure about
- 4 it because I heard they maybe aren't that safe, but
- 5 we tried to put it in his room and every time he
- 6 would wake up screaming and he wouldn't sleep. And
- 7 after one day we got rid of the monitor because we
- 8 knew it was affecting him.
- 9 All of our children are
- 10 electrosensitive to all of these types of
- 11 frequencies. My oldest son had autism and we did
- 12 extensive medical treatment with him when he was
- 13 younger and he has always been sensitive to anything
- 14 in the environment. Just anything that normal
- 15 children, they may not even notice, but they have
- 16 always been this way.
- 17 So anyway, I thought that was
- 18 different, just interesting that he would wake up
- 19 with a rash, and then it kept getting worse and
- 20 worse. So we took him to the doctor, like he said.
- 21 The only thing that changed was the smart meter on
- 22 our home. And I had also developed like right around
- 23 my hairline like this severe eczema and it was really
- 24 bad. Which was weird because we had the system and I
- 25 called the people from our system and I'm like this

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- 1 is supposed to protect us from smart meters and
- 2 they're like, Well, that may be, but you have a
- 3 cumulative effect of all of these different devices,
- 4 maybe even the ones from your neighbors.
- 5 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object to
- 6 this testimony as hearsay. I can't cross examine the
- 7 person that's telling them this.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to sustain
- 9 that objection. You can't state what it is that you
- 10 learned from someone else who's not here, but if you
- 11 want to describe your actions.
- MS. DICKSON: So anyway, I don't know
- 13 where I was going with this. So what was I saying?
- 14 So anyway, this system wasn't apparently protecting
- 15 us like it should, but the person on the phone
- 16 recommended we have a device, that from this
- 17 EarthCalm, which is where we got our home system,
- 18 that we plug into our router and that would totally
- 19 take out any wireless signals that would go through
- 20 our home.
- We used to have our router on except
- 22 at night. We'd have it on during the day and there
- 23 was no problems, the kids were fine. But it wasn't
- 24 until the smart meter was put on that we started
- 25 noticing again that the kids were starting to get --

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- 1 because I had recognized it before, they were
- 2 starting to revert back to their old behaviors.
- 3 So I took the device we plug into our
- 4 router on the recommendation of the people that I
- 5 called from our home system, EarthCalm, and they told
- 6 me to tape it to the bottom of our smart meter. And
- 7 so I did and immediately it was better because it's
- 8 supposed to absorb the radiation from the smart meter
- 9 and it's supposed to help with all that, so it was
- 10 better again.
- 11 But still, the funny thing is is that
- 12 a couple times I've had a history of sometimes like
- insomnia sometimes. I remember like I would wake up
- 14 in the middle of the night, just sit up in bed all of
- 15 a sudden, it was really weird, and not be able to go
- 16 back to sleep. And this would go on for like three
- or four days. And it didn't occur to me to go look
- 18 at our smart meter because I didn't really put it
- 19 together until about four days down the road, but
- 20 then I would go look at the smart meter and that
- 21 thing that I had put on the smart meter hanging off
- 22 of it. So if I didn't have it on there, I couldn't
- 23 sleep. I would be up all night and it was really
- 24 strange. There was like there was a switch in my
- 25 brain. And one of these reports says here in the

Page 52 Boland report --MR. STEINER: I'm going to object as 2 3 hearsay. 4 JUDGE BURTON: Sustained. MS. DICKSON: Okay. I believe that 5 6 when your brain is hit with these EMFs and radiation 7 in the middle of the night, that there's a mechanism 8 that produces insomnia in rats and animals and also 9 individuals. So every time that was off, it was just 10 weird. It happened two or three times and every time I went to look at our meter and it wasn't there 11 anymore, it was hanging down. I don't know who did 12 it, if it was the power company, I don't know who did 13 14 it, but we put it back on. But we still are having effects from 15 16 our children. They're still not like they should be. 17 Home schooling is still kind of a nightmare. wasn't like it was before we had the smart meter put 18 19 on. It's affecting our family, it's affecting our 20 lifestyle, it's affecting all kinds of different 21 things. And I know cognitively I can see in my 22 children the problems and the effects that it has on 23 them. 24 And I know that it's worse for 25 children than it is for adults, which none of these

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- 1 studies take that into effect. The studies are
- 2 performed for like an average adult male, which isn't
- 3 the same thing as doing it for a child. So anyway,
- 4 that's more of my side of it, personal effects of our
- 5 family.
- 6 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Why don't
- 7 you remain seated.
- 8 MR. STEINER: So the device that you
- 9 talked about, is that still taped, I think you said,
- 10 to your smart meter.
- MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh.
- 12 MR. STEINER: And I believe in your
- 13 response to us, I'm going to read a sentence from it,
- 14 it says, We noticed about four years ago our two
- 15 older boys, now 12 and eight years old, were having
- 16 hyperactivity and concentration issues; is that
- 17 correct?
- MS. DICKSON: Yeah, about three to
- 19 four years ago.
- 20 MR. STEINER: I think that's all I
- 21 have. Thanks.
- 22 JUDGE BURTON: Let me go ahead and ask
- 23 some questions first. We'll see if Staff has some
- 24 and then we'll give an opportunity to redirect.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, your Honor.

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- 1 Mrs. Dickson, would it be accurate to
- 2 say that your concern regarding RF frequencies
- 3 existed before the installation of the AMI meter?
- 4 MS. DICKSON: I don't know if I would
- 5 have been able to -- I've always had -- I've always
- 6 been trying to help my children with any problems
- 7 they have from outside sources, so I don't know if I
- 8 could label it as RF frequency. But I know that
- 9 after it was placed on our home, that's when I
- 10 started doing research on it. I didn't think
- 11 anything of it when they actually came and put it on
- 12 my home at first and then I started putting it
- 13 together in my mind. So it's not like I had a
- 14 negative opinion of it before it got there
- 15 necessarily, I was just noticing the changes in the
- 16 children's behavior.
- MR. WILLIAMS: You mentioned that you
- 18 purchased and use a -- is it a physical attachment
- 19 that the EarthCalm system -- can you describe what
- 20 that is and how you apply it?
- 21 MS. DICKSON: It's really these little
- 22 things that go into our outlets. There's four
- 23 different plugs basically and we just plug them into
- 24 our outlets and it does something to change the
- 25 frequency of the EMFs, as far as I know.

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- 1 MR. WILLIAMS: You mentioned that
- 2 before I guess even the installation of the AMI
- 3 meters that you had acquired this EarthCalm system
- 4 and that you were using it with your Wi-Fi router; is
- 5 that correct.
- 6 MS. DICKSON: Right. But we also had
- 7 a thing specifically made for our router to plug into
- 8 the USB port, so that went specifically for our
- 9 router and totally took out any harmful effects of
- 10 that.
- 11 MR. WILLIAMS: Currently are you still
- 12 using the unit for the router as well.
- 13 MS. DICKSON: No. Because I had to
- 14 take that unit for the router and put it on the smart
- 15 meter because that was the only way we could get any
- 16 relief from the effect of it.
- So now we can't use our router. In
- 18 fact, my children get really -- I mean, the computer
- 19 really they don't use that much because I don't ever
- 20 want to have the Wi-Fi on, so they're like, Can we?
- 21 No. You know, maybe five minutes here or there, but
- 22 I mean literally it is always unplugged because when
- 23 it's on, it makes it worse. And it's hard for
- 24 school, sometimes we need to do things. We still do,
- 25 but very minimal.

Page 56 1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Just one 2 final question. Do you own a cell phone yourself? 3 MS. DICKSON: No, I do not. 4 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you so much. JUDGE BURTON: I have a couple 5 6 questions for you. You stated you purchased this 7 EarthCalm device. What was the name of it? MS. DICKSON: It's called the Infinity 8 9 Home System, but we actually have a little bit of an 10 older model. They have since changed the name. We purchased ours a while ago and now they've updated 11 it. It was called a different name about three years 12 ago, but now it's an Infinity Home System. But they 13 have given us update plugs that make it the same 14 quality as their new system. 15 16 JUDGE BURTON: How long ago did you 17 purchase that? MS. DICKSON: I think it was probably 18 19 around three years ago maybe, three or four. 20 JUDGE BURTON: Now, you mentioned that 21 when the smart meter was installed in January of 22 2016, that's when it was installed; correct? 23 MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh. 24 JUDGE BURTON: You were nursing your youngest child? 25

Page 57 1 MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh. 2 JUDGE BURTON: Where was his room 3 located compared to where the smart meter is located? 4 MS. DICKSON: The smart meter is like if you're looking at our house, it's on the very 5 left-hand side of our home on the lower level 6 7 obviously, and then our son's bedroom is upstairs on 8 the very furthest part of the right -- very furthest 9 place away from the smart meter, as far as you can 10 get. 11 JUDGE BURTON: And you're stating that 12 once that smart meter was installed, it was 13 instantaneous when you started observing the rash? MS. DICKSON: Oh, yeah, within an 14 hour. I went up there and he was broken out in a 15 16 complete rash. 17 JUDGE BURTON: Don't babies normally 18 have rashes, though, around that age, especially if 19 you're breast-feeding them? 20 MS. DICKSON: No. He's never had 21 anything like that before. 22 JUDGE BURTON: Was that one of the 23 options when you talked to the doctor about other possible causes? 24 25 MS. DICKSON: She was just asking me

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- 1 if I had changed anything. I ate the same thing.
- 2 Ask my husband. I ate the exact same thing in my
- 3 diet. There was nothing that I changed. There was
- 4 no explanation for this except for -- and another
- 5 curious thing is whenever I took him out of the house
- 6 for an extended period of time, it would get better.
- 7 In fact, which is weird, because when I took him to
- 8 the doctor, I almost didn't want to take him because
- 9 I was out running errands that day and by the time I
- 10 got to the doctor's, it was nearly gone. And I
- 11 thought this is really weird. I'm going to take him
- 12 in there and it's not really going to be there
- 13 anymore. And then every time I brought him back
- 14 home, it would just appear again, so I knew it was
- 15 something in our home. You know, so that was
- 16 concerning too. It made me feel like I didn't even
- 17 want to have him at home because it was affecting him
- 18 at home.
- JUDGE BURTON: Have you done any
- 20 testing for this EarthCalm device?
- MS. DICKSON: Oh, yes, they have.
- 22 JUDGE BURTON: I'm asking if you have.
- MS. DICKSON: No, I have not, but
- 24 there have been tests. On their website they have
- 25 had testing.

Page 59 1 JUDGE BURTON: So no testing has been 2 performed in your house? 3 MS. DICKSON: Other than by the children and how it affects them and their behavior. 4 JUDGE BURTON: Your observations? 5 6 MS. DICKSON: My observations, right. 7 And to me that is a good type of test too. I don't 8 have any of the -- you know, the other testing. 9 JUDGE BURTON: Is this EarthCalm 10 device currently taped or attached to your smart meter? 11 MS. DICKSON: The only thing that's 12 attached, I have this little -- it's about this big, 13 14 not even an inch, and they just told me to put a little piece of tape to the very bottom. You can't 15 16 even see it. 17 JUDGE BURTON: What exactly is it? Is 18 it the same thing you plug into the wall? 19 MS. DICKSON: No. It's something that I plugged into the USB port into our router, so it's 20 21 pretty tiny. And it's hard to imagine that that 22 little thing could help alleviate some of the 23 symptoms that we have, but it does help. Not to the extend that we probably need it to, but it does help 24 25 some. At this point we're just looking for any type

Page 60 of relief. 2 JUDGE BURTON: So that's what's taped to the bottom of the smart meter? 3 4 MS. DICKSON: Right. JUDGE BURTON: How long has it been 5 6 taped there? 7 MS. DICKSON: I would say maybe a 8 couple months after it was installed. Because I was 9 having heart palpitations and all kinds of issues with the smart meter as well because I'm kind of 10 sensitive to those types of things. And then when I 11 called the company questioning why this wasn't 12 13 helping, why our system wasn't able to handle all of 14 these outside -- our smart meter, that's when they told me that I should -- recommended me to try to 15 16 tape that to the smart meter and that might help 17 alleviate some of the radiation that was coming into 18 the house. 19 JUDGE BURTON: How are you today 20 physically? 21 MS. DICKSON: I don't know. I can't 22 say that I'm like I used to be before the smart meter 23 was placed on there. I think I can function, but I don't think I'm functioning in the manner that is 24 25 maybe the way I was before the smart meter.

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Fax: 314.644.1334

JUDGE BURTON: I'm looking at you and 1 2 I don't notice any physical eczema. 3 MS. DICKSON: Right. In fact, when I put that on the smart meter, it was only a day or 4 two, maybe a week and then it started going away. 5 6 And that's the same time I also noticed my son's rash 7 start to improve. But why should I have to use 8 something that we paid \$180 for to have in our router 9 and use that to put on some meter that we didn't even 10 want. So now we can't even use our computer at home for home schooling like doing the things that we 11 really need to do with our children because it 12 affects them so negatively. So I feel like we're 13 14 using something that we spent our money on to do something else that it wasn't meant to do just so 15 16 that we can not be completely affected by the things that they put on our home. 17 18 JUDGE BURTON: Do you go out to check 19 the device, the EarthCalm device on your smart meter 20 regularly? 21 MS. DICKSON: I look at it through one 22 of our rooms. There's a window and we can see right 23 to our smart meter, so I do check it. JUDGE BURTON: But you don't every day 24

go out and look and make sure?

25

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- 1 MS. DICKSON: No. I don't want to go
- 2 near the thing. And we also had purchased -- since
- 3 the smart meter they also make these bracelets for
- 4 children and adults too to help with grounding and
- 5 radiation exposure.
- JUDGE BURTON: Who is they?
- 7 MS. DICKSON: EarthCalm. So they have
- 8 these devices that help protect children from the
- 9 negative effects of the EMF and radiation. We had to
- 10 spend \$500 extra out of our own pocket just on them
- 11 because we felt like they weren't even safe in our
- own home anymore, especially when you sleep.
- 13 When you sleep, that is when it's the
- 14 most dangerous because it disrupts your melatonin
- 15 levels and so you can't sleep. And if you can't
- 16 sleep, then there are so many different problems you
- 17 get from not being able to sleep. That's when the
- 18 body repairs itself. That's when your body fixes the
- 19 problems that it has. Any problems that it has it
- 20 repairs when you're sleeping. If you can't sleep,
- 21 then these things can't be fixed. So we had to
- 22 purchase these additional bracelets for our children
- 23 because we felt like even then they weren't -- you
- 24 know.
- JUDGE BURTON: How long have you had

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1	those?	
2	MS. DICKSON: Probably about three	
3	months maybe.	
4	MR. DICKSON: Longer.	
5	MS. DICKSON: Longer? Maybe longer.	
6	I don't know.	
7	JUDGE BURTON: If you don't know, it's	
8	fine to say you don't know.	
9	MS. DICKSON: I can't really say for	
10	sure.	
11	JUDGE BURTON: Were you there when	
12	Staff and representatives from GMO came out to test	
13	the smart meter?	
14	MS. DICKSON: I was in the house.	
15	JUDGE BURTON: Do you recall how many	
16	times that occurred where they came out to test?	
17	MS. DICKSON: Just once.	
18	JUDGE BURTON: When was that?	
19	MS. DICKSON: I don't remember the	
20	date.	
21	JUDGE BURTON: If you don't	
22	MS. DICKSON: Yeah, I don't remember.	
23	JUDGE BURTON: What's your current	
24	age?	
25	MS. DICKSON: 42.	

Page 64 1 JUDGE BURTON: And your educational 2 background? MS. DICKSON: I have a bachelor's 3 4 degree from Illinois State University. JUDGE BURTON: What's your bachelor's 5 6 degree in? 7 MS. DICKSON: Family and consumer 8 sciences. 9 JUDGE BURTON: Those are all the 10 questions I have. MR. DICKSON: The day that they came 11 out to put the meter on, did you give them permission 12 13 to put the meter on? 14 MS. DICKSON: No, I did not. MR. DICKSON: Did you even know a 15 16 smart meter had been put on the house initially? 17 MS. DICKSON: No. Because when I 18 called -- I did call and I asked if a smart meter had 19 been placed on my home because I had heard 20 information about a smart meter, and they said that, 21 no, it wasn't a smart meter, it was a digital meter 22 and that there were no issues with it. So I was like 23 okay. 24 MR. DICKSON: The question he had was 25 that three or four years ago your children had

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- 1 issues. Had they improved and did you see negative
- 2 effect when the smart meter was put on?
- MS. DICKSON: Oh, yes, they improved.
- 4 They improved greatly after we had the EarthCalm
- 5 system put on our home. So much improvement and
- 6 things were running really smoothly. When we had the
- 7 smart meter put on, it was almost like we hadn't ever
- 8 purchased our system for our home again because it
- 9 was that much of a change in their behavior.
- 10 MR. DICKSON: In your opinion could
- 11 you describe what dirty electricity is and how the
- 12 smart meter creates it and other issues you believe
- 13 the smart meter causes?
- MS. DICKSON: As far as I know the
- 15 smart meter runs at such a high level they have to
- 16 have these switch mode power supplies and they are
- 17 switched on so that the high level frequencies can be
- 18 brought down to like a four to a ten so that it can
- 19 be measured and recorded for the power company to
- 20 measure what you're doing in your home with
- 21 electricity and usage. And when you have that high
- 22 frequency to low frequency and you have within such a
- 23 rapid, short amount of time, you have this excess of
- 24 electricity that is just hanging there because it
- 25 doesn't know what to do there's such a big change in

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- 1 such a short amount of time.
- 2 So you have all this electricity that
- 3 is kind of like smog you would have from cars and all
- 4 the pollution, so it's called electric smog and you
- 5 have that constantly. So then it goes back up and
- 6 you have all of this electric smood that is created
- 7 possibly 190,000 times in a 24-hour day which has
- 8 been proven beyond a doubt to be completely harmful
- 9 to human health, really harmful. In fact, maybe even
- 10 more so than radiation, EMFs. So you have this
- 11 constantly, so it goes into your wiring in your house
- 12 and it surrounds your house and you're constantly --
- 13 it's like you're enveloped in this big electric
- 14 smog-polluted environment like 24 hours a day and it
- 15 has complete health hazards.
- And then not only that, I was just
- 17 reading that you shouldn't have any paper -- like if
- 18 you even have paper towels or tissues near an
- 19 electrical outlet, that when these transients or
- 20 these switched power supply circuit things happen, if
- 21 there's a surge and there's a tissue box sitting by
- 22 your electrical outlet, that it can catch on fire
- 23 just from being near an electrical outlet because of
- 24 the surge. Sometimes the fires are started that way
- 25 because there's maybe tissues or something that can

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- 1 be burnable that is sitting by an electrical outlet
- 2 and that many consumers wouldn't even know that. So
- 3 the surges produce that type of fire hazard as well.
- 4 MR. DICKSON: And what -- how a smart
- 5 meter could catch on fire, what are some of the
- 6 reasons?
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm sorry, could you
- 8 repeat that question?
- 9 MR. DICKSON: Could you explain in
- 10 your opinion what are some of the reasons why a smart
- 11 meter could catch on fire?
- 12 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object.
- 13 This is cumulative to what the first witness said and
- 14 I don't believe anybody asked her questions about
- 15 fire hazards.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to sustain
- 17 that.
- 18 MR. DICKSON: Do you have any concerns
- 19 regarding the health of your eggs being a woman, what
- 20 concerns you have?
- 21 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object. I
- don't believe that anyone asked her questions about
- 23 that.
- 24 MR. DICKSON: I believe that goes to
- 25 her testimony regarding her concerns regarding her

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- 1 health hazard that she already had testified to and
- 2 she's just expounding on that concern.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to sustain
- 4 the objection. There wasn't anything specific that
- 5 she'd indicated whenever she was talking her health
- 6 problems and impairments that discussed reproduction
- 7 issues.
- MR. DICKSON: No other questions.
- 9 Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: Why don't we take a
- 11 quick feed-the-meter recess for about 15 minutes.
- 12 It's about 11:53. Why don't we go back on the record
- 13 around 12:10 or so.
- 14 (Recess.)
- 15 JUDGE BURTON: It is currently 12:12.
- 16 At this point we're ready to hear from GMO's
- 17 witness.
- 18 MR. STEINER: I'll call Julie Dragoo.
- 19 JUDGE BURTON: Please raise your right
- 20 hand. Do you swear or affirm that the statements
- 21 you're about to give will be the truth, the whole
- 22 true, and nothing but the truth?
- MS. DRAGOO: Yes.
- JULIE DRAGOO,
- 25 being first duly sworn, testified under oath as

Page 69 follows: 2 JUDGE BURTON: Please state and spell 3 your name for the record. 4 MS. DRAGOO: It's Julie Dragoo, 5 D-R-A-G-O-O. 6 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 7 MR. STEINER: Please state your name 8 and your position at KCP&L-GMO. 9 MS. DRAGOO: My name is Julie Dragoo 10 and I'm the director of revenue management. MR. STEINER: What is your background 11 12 and experience? MS. DRAGOO: I have a degree in 13 finance from Emporia State University. I've worked 14 in the energy industry since I graduated. I've been 15 16 with the utility since 2000 and I've served in 17 multiple capacities since 2003 in the customer 18 service arena. I took over the meter reading and 19 field service department in 2010 and have led that 20 group the past six years, most recently as the 21 director of revenue management. 22 MR. STEINER: Do you have experience 23 and specialized knowledge regarding AMI meters and their capabilities, performance, and safety? 24 25 MS. DRAGOO: Yes. Through my

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- 1 management of the meter reading and field service
- 2 department the past six years I have gained this
- 3 knowledge.
- 4 MR. STEINER: Please describe GMO's
- 5 AMI meter program.
- 6 MS. DRAGOO: So in October of 2015,
- 7 GMO began the process to replace approximately
- 8 330,000 manually read meters we have in our system.
- 9 During this initial phase of the GMO project we
- 10 exchanged about 188,000 meters and we completed that
- 11 in September of this year.
- 12 This followed a two-year effort of
- 13 getting our KCP&L territories upgraded from an AMR
- 14 system to an AMI system. The art of technology
- 15 deployed at GMO is very similar to that of the
- 16 technology that KCP&L had used for 20 years. The AMR
- 17 system that I mentioned was the legacy automated
- 18 meter-reading system, was only capable of one-way
- 19 communication with the meter. With the new
- 20 installation of the AMI meters, the company cannot
- 21 only receive information, but also send information
- 22 to the meters.
- In terms of RF, like I said, the
- 24 meters we're installing in GMO are virtually
- 25 identical to those used in KCP&L for 20 years. The

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- 1 FCC has approved these devices as with all other
- 2 consumer electronic devices that transmit and receive
- 3 RFs. In all of our experience there has not revealed
- 4 any ill health effects, any breach of privacy, or
- 5 increased threat of fires.
- 6 MR. STEINER: Can you tell us how many
- 7 formal complaints that either KCP&L or GMO has
- 8 incurred since the AMI upgrade?
- 9 MS. DRAGOO: Yes. In KCP&L Missouri
- 10 there were zero formal complaints and in GMO there
- 11 has been one formal complaint.
- MR. STEINER: And that's this
- 13 complaint; right?
- MS. DRAGOO: Yes.
- 15 MR. STEINER: And how many informal
- 16 complaints at KCP&L or GMO have occurred since the
- 17 AMI upgrade.
- 18 MS. DRAGOO: In terms of informal
- 19 complaints that has resulted in a call to our
- 20 customer relations department where we've been
- 21 tracking it, our records indicate that in KCP&L
- 22 Missouri there was one informal complaint in 2014 and
- 23 three in 2015, and in GMO there was one in 2015 and
- 24 two through July of 2016.
- MR. STEINER: Now, going to the

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- 1 Dicksons' complaint, what information did the company
- 2 specifically share with the Dicksons when you changed
- 3 the meter out?
- 4 MS. DRAGOO: As part of the process
- 5 for the AMI meter exchange the Dicksons received a
- 6 postcard in the mail regarding the meter exchange.
- 7 That would have happened several weeks before the
- 8 meter was exchanged. I believe Mrs. Dickson
- 9 contacted our contact center on January 20th, which
- 10 was the day the meter was exchanged, to inquire about
- 11 the type of the meter that we exchanged that day.
- 12 After receiving a letter from the
- 13 Dicksons, a representative from our contact center
- 14 contacted Mr. Dickson on February 4th and explained
- 15 the process of our project and exchanging meters and
- 16 offered to send any additional information that might
- 17 be helpful related to the meters.
- 18 On that same day our representative,
- 19 Catherine Winters, sent Mr. Dickson a letter
- 20 explaining that there is no opt-out process available
- 21 at that time for the meter. She also E-mailed
- 22 Mr. Dickson on February 9th several links and
- 23 information related to the AMI meters. This was a
- 24 process that was followed for any KCP&L customer who
- 25 had any questions about these meters.

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- 1 MR. STEINER: Would you describe the
- 2 certifications that the AMI meter has?
- 3 MS. DRAGOO: Sure. Meters have always
- 4 been designed to meet the NTSI standard, I believe
- 5 Roger mentioned NTSI earlier, and that's no different
- 6 than these AMI meters that we're using today. NTSI
- 7 is the nationally recognized standard for utilities
- 8 and sets the standard for more than just meters. In
- 9 addition, RF frequency of the meters meets all the
- 10 requirements set forth for FCC certification.
- 11 MR. STEINER: Are there any other
- 12 certifications?
- 13 MS. DRAGOO: So a newer industry trend
- 14 is also to get the meters UL certified. Our
- 15 manufacturer, Landis and Gyr, has actually taken the
- 16 steps for UL certification for the meters we are
- 17 purchasing. Normally UL certification has been for
- 18 consumer electronics and not utility equipment, so
- 19 this is a new certification for the meters after we
- 20 began installing them in 2014.
- 21 MR. STEINER: Please describe how the
- 22 AMI meter operates.
- MS. DRAGOO: So KCP&L implemented the
- 24 L&G grid stream network and the grid stream is a mesh
- 25 network which essentially means that through RF

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- 1 technology the meters can communicate with one
- 2 another to get the information back up to the network
- 3 router. KCP&L interrogates the meter for meter usage
- 4 once every four hours. Now, if the meter detects an
- 5 outage or another high priority diagnostic flag
- 6 throughout any time, it will immediately send that
- 7 information back to KCP&L. However, the only
- 8 information that is sent in these transmissions is
- 9 the meter number, the usage related to the meter, and
- 10 any metrology-related diagnostic flags, as I
- 11 mentioned like an outage or any kind of other thing
- 12 it's detecting. There is absolutely no customer
- 13 information associated with the meter.
- 14 In addition, the meters do not
- 15 transmit constantly and they meet the FCC
- 16 certification for RF interference. In fact, the RF
- 17 interference was tested as part of this complaint and
- 18 based on those results the meter did not show any
- 19 signs of being outside of these guidelines.
- 20 MR. STEINER: So how does the meter
- 21 information run usage get then to GMO to be billed?
- 22 MS. DRAGOO: So all KCP&L meters have
- 23 a unique ID. It's a unique network ID that's
- 24 associated with them from the manufacturer, so KCP&L
- 25 meters would only be able to be heard on our own

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- 1 network. The data is transmitted back through an
- 2 encrypted wireless network and essentially gets back
- 3 to KCP&L through a secure T1 line.
- 4 MR. STEINER: Now, you said KCP&L to
- 5 those questions. The information is for a GMO
- 6 customer, so it would go to GMO; correct?
- 7 MS. DRAGOO: Absolutely. Apologies,
- 8 GMO and KCP&L are intertwined sometimes in our
- 9 conversations, but absolutely the same.
- 10 MR. STEINER: Has GMO's or KCP&L's
- 11 experience with the AMI meters revealed any ill
- 12 health effects?
- MS. DRAGOO: No, no. As I mentioned,
- 14 KCP&L has been using this same RF technology since
- 15 1996. KCP&L's experience with this technology has
- 16 not resulted in any ill health effects, no breach of
- 17 privacy, or increased threat of fires.
- 18 MR. STEINER: Are the RF emissions
- 19 from an AMI meter, are they safe?
- 20 MS. DRAGOO: Yes. The meter uses a
- 21 900-megahertz spectrum which is the same spectrum
- 22 used in cordless phones, Wi-Fi. There's no known
- 23 hazard to human health with smart meters or other
- 24 devices when they're used according to safety
- 25 guidelines.

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- 1 The FCC sets limits on the maximum
- 2 permissible exposure for emissions of RF-emitting
- 3 devices and GMO's AMI meters operate at a level well
- 4 below the maximum exposure level permissible by the
- 5 FCC. Specifically the RF power density of a smart
- 6 meter compared to other common devices is as follows.
- 7 So if you're measuring the power density in the
- 8 microwatts per centimeter squared, a smart meter is
- 9 approximately .1 where a Wi-Fi or a laptop would be
- 10 anywhere from ten to 20. A cell phone ranges
- anywhere from 30 to 10,000 microwatts per centimeter
- 12 squared and a walkie-talkie is 500 to 42,000 and even
- 13 a microwave in your home is about 5,000 microwatts
- 14 per centimeter squared.
- 15 MR. STEINER: Do AMI meters create
- 16 electromagnetic fields different than other electric
- 17 devices?
- 18 MS. DRAGOO: No. Electromagnetic
- 19 field is magnetism that's produced by any electrical
- 20 current or an electrically charged object. There's
- 21 no difference in EMF in an analog meter versus a
- 22 digital meter. All meters create an EMF as does
- 23 anything in the home that uses electricity.
- 24 MR. STEINER: Does an AMI meter have
- 25 something called a voltage transient?

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- 1 MS. DRAGOO: A voltage transient is a
- 2 very small power surge and when any device is turned
- 3 on, there can be a voltage transient. AMI meter
- 4 voltage transients are no different than any other
- 5 electric devices such as a computer, plasma
- 6 television.
- 7 MR. STEINER: So would a voltage
- 8 transient occur when an AMI meter is transmitting an
- 9 RF signal with usage data?
- 10 MS. DRAGOO: My understanding the
- 11 voltage transient happens when you're turning on the
- 12 electricity and the meter is always electrically
- 13 charged unless, of course, there's a power outage.
- MR. STEINER: Does the AMA meter
- 15 increase the risk of fires over that of an analog
- 16 meter?
- MS. DRAGOO: No. The company has no
- 18 evidence that AMI meters have caused any fires. The
- 19 manufacturer of the meter has also indicated that
- 20 there have been no instances of a fire being
- 21 attributed to any of their 40 million meters that
- 22 have been installed.
- MR. STEINER: So we've heard reports
- 24 of fires being caused across the country. Do any of
- 25 those apply to L&G meters?

Page 78 1 MS. DRAGOO: No, they do not. 2 MR. STEINER: Did the company agree to 3 an opt-out process so a customer could have their 4 meter manually read in the last GMO rate case? MS. DRAGOO: Yes. The staff of the 5 6 commission proposed an opt-out in their testimony and 7 as part of the settlement of the case GMO agreed to the opt-out. This would be something the Dicksons 8 9 would qualify for as an option. 10 MR. STEINER: So tell us how the 11 opt-out would work. MS. DRAGOO: So customers will be 12 allowed to request a nonstandard meter be placed on 13 14 their home. They would be charged an initial setup fee for \$150 and then they would be charged \$45 a 15 16 month. 17 MR. STEINER: And what does that \$45 a 18 month go towards? 19 MS. DRAGOO: So the company will have to maintain and develop new processes to manually 20 21 track these meters, so not only is it covering the 22 charge for the meter read, but it's covering the 23 additional systems and processes that we'll have to 24 manage. 25 MR. STEINER: So I think you said the

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- 1 Dicksons are eligible for this opt-out; is that
- 2 correct?
- 3 MS. DRAGOO: Yes. The tariff applies
- 4 to all residential customers in GMO and will be
- 5 effective December 22nd.
- 6 MR. STEINER: And with this
- 7 nonstandard meter that you mentioned that gets used
- 8 in an opt-out situation, will it transmit RF signals?
- 9 MS. DRAGOO: No. The meter that we
- 10 would use in the opt-out situation is the same meter
- 11 that's been used in our GMO territories for new
- 12 installs since 2008. It would be a digital meter but
- 13 without the RF communication capability.
- MR. STEINER: We've heard mention of
- 15 an analog meter that the Dicksons have purchased.
- 16 Would an analog meter purchased from a third party be
- 17 compatible with GMO's billing system?
- 18 MS. DRAGOO: No, it would not. Analog
- 19 meters have not been manufactured since roughly 2007.
- 20 KCP&L hasn't used analog meters since around 2005,
- 21 2006 in anticipation of this trend. GMO moved to all
- 22 digital meters in 2008. Analog meters are being
- 23 phased out across our system due to industry
- 24 obsolescence. Any analog meter that is still on our
- 25 system when we exchange it, we retire that meter and

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- 1 it is no longer available for use at any other
- 2 location. It's also not really feasible for the
- 3 customer to provide their own meter.
- 4 There are many reasons this didn't
- 5 work for the utility. Number one, it's part of the
- 6 company's tariff that we will provide the meter to
- 7 the customer and then, secondly, anything that's
- 8 purchased off the Internet is likely not tested and
- 9 calibrated to meet our expectations and it absolutely
- 10 will not be compatible with our billing system
- 11 because our manufacturers make meters specifically
- 12 for us.
- 13 MR. STEINER: Thank you. I don't have
- 14 any further questions.
- 15 JUDGE BURTON: Did you want to allow
- 16 Staff to go first before cross examination or would
- 17 you prefer to ask cross examination at this time.
- 18 MR. DICKSON: I'd like to go first.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- MR. DICKSON: You say you have a
- 21 finance degree. Do you have any background in
- 22 mechanical engineering or electrical engineering?
- 23 MS. DRAGOO: I do not. I have worked
- 24 with the meter reading and field service department
- 25 for the last six years.

MR. DICKSON: Do you have any medical background, medical training, medical degrees? MS. DRAGOO: No. MR. DICKSON: You said you gained knowledge by working in the department. Did you gain that from reading material that the company provided you? How are you saying that you now understand this? MS. DRAGOO: So I work directly with the engineers in our company. I work directly on the project for the AMI meters, so I have close contact with our vendors who provide this information. MR. DICKSON: So they will provide you the information maybe in a written document, but you don't have any background to be able to say is this accurate or not; is that correct? MR. STEINER: I'm going to object that she testified that she did have background. JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to overrule the objection. She can answer the question. MS. DRAGOO: I am not an engineer, I think that was your question. MR. DICKSON: You have to take whatever they give you and assume it's accurate? MS. DRAGOO: I can take the			Page 81
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MS. DRAGOO: I can take the	24	whatever they give you and assume it's accurate?	
	25	MS. DRAGOO: I can take the	

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- 1 information that is given to me, ask the appropriate
- 2 questions to help in my understanding and knowledge
- 3 so that I feel comfortable speaking about it, yes.
- 4 MR. DICKSON: Without an engineering
- 5 or medical background, how do you feel you can ask
- 6 the accurate questions if the material you're being
- 7 given is accurate?
- 8 MS. DRAGOO: I don't think I'm
- 9 following your question.
- 10 MR. DICKSON: Without an engineering,
- 11 mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, or
- 12 medical background, how do you know what questions to
- 13 ask if they're saying that these are completely safe
- 14 and there are no fire hazards or they meet all the
- 15 safety standards? How do you know to ask the correct
- 16 question if you have no background in that?
- MS. DRAGOO: We rely on a lot of the
- 18 information given to us and feel like I have enough
- 19 background to ask the right questions. We also have
- 20 the information provided from the Staff as it relates
- 21 to this complaint.
- 22 MR. DICKSON: You work in the finance
- 23 department. Has KCP&L-GMO received any funds from
- 24 the federal government to change the grid over to
- 25 smart meters?

Page 83 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object. 1 2 don't believe she's ever testified that she works in 3 the finance department. 4 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to sustain. MR. DICKSON: You work in the 5 6 department of revenue management. Are you aware of 7 any money received by KCP&L-GMO and what is the 8 amount that they received from the federal government 9 to change all this over? 10 MS. DRAGOO: I am not aware of any 11 money that GMO has received from the federal 12 government. 13 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware that in 2009 a stimulus package, that millions of dollars 14 were set aside to do such a program? 15 16 MS. DRAGOO: I do know there were some 17 DOE grants, I believe. 18 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware of any 19 grants received by KCP&L or GMO? 20 MS. DRAGOO: I am not the person to 21 speak on any of those particulars actually. 22 MR. DICKSON: Have you ever heard that 23 they received any grants? You may not be the expert. Are you aware or have you been told or heard from 24 25 anyone that --

Page 84 1 MS. DRAGOO: Yes. There was a smart grid project in our KCP&L territory in that roughly 2 3 2009 to 2013 period. 4 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware of how many millions of dollars the company received? 5 6 MS. DRAGOO: I am not. 7 MR. DICKSON: Could you safely say it was millions of dollars, it wasn't 100 bucks? 8 MS. DRAGOO: It probably was not 100 9 10 bucks, but I am not at any length of expertise to say what the dollar figure was. 11 12 MR. DICKSON: You say that the current 13 smart meters only let out a signal once every four 14 hours, so that would be only six times a day? MS. DRAGOO: That we ask for meter 15 16 reading usage information is every four hours.

- MR. DICKSON: You ask for it, but it's
- 18 continually pinging, so you only receive it six
- 19 times, but the machine is continually pinging; right?
- MS. DRAGOO: I cannot speak to the
- 21 meter specifically how many times.
- MR. DICKSON: But earlier you
- 23 testified that you have gained knowledge through your
- 24 experience that you are aware how these machines
- 25 operate, so I'm asking you I think a very simple

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- 1 question. How many times did that machine ping from
- 2 my house, and you can't give that?
- 3 MS. DRAGOO: No.
- 4 MR. STEINER: I think the witness did
- 5 testify that it will send a signal if there's an
- 6 outage or other meter testing.
- 7 MS. DRAGOO: Right. Again, if the
- 8 meter has a diagnostic flag, if the meter has an
- 9 outage, it will report back, but other than that, I
- 10 have no physical evidence of how many times a day a
- 11 meter will send a signal.
- MR. DICKSON: We had earlier testimony
- 13 that smart meters can ping up to 190,000 times a day.
- 14 Do you have any reason to refute that?
- 15 MS. DRAGOO: I believe that was said
- 16 in your testimony and I don't know that that has been
- in any of the records. I don't have anything to
- 18 refute that.
- MR. DICKSON: When they came out to
- 20 test my meter, they put whatever machine was up there
- 21 and the needle went every, I don't know, five, ten
- 22 seconds. When the meter moves, does that mean
- there's a ping?
- MS. DRAGOO: I was not at the test, at
- 25 the field test that day, so I cannot speak to any of

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- 1 the specifics to that meter test. I do know that the
- 2 Staff filed a report and I believe they're offering
- 3 that as part of the evidence.
- 4 MR. DICKSON: Through your knowledge
- 5 and experience why would you send someone out with a
- 6 machine to do that? Why would you send somebody out
- 7 with that machine to show -- and the needle move?
- 8 What was is the purpose of that?
- 9 MS. DRAGOO: We were sent on behalf of
- 10 the Staff as it relates to this complaint to complete
- 11 those tests.
- 12 MR. DICKSON: Did you look at the
- 13 results?
- 14 MS. DRAGOO: I have not. I have not
- 15 read through the specific results.
- 16 MR. DICKSON: In your opinion when the
- 17 needle moves, what does that mean?
- 18 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object. I
- 19 think she's already testified that she didn't look at
- 20 the results since she wasn't there when the test was
- 21 done.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'll sustain.
- 23 MR. DICKSON: Does KCP&L or GMO sell
- 24 any information received from the smart meters to any
- 25 vendors or other parties?

Page 87 MS. DRAGOO: No. 1 2 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware of any --3 you testified that the meter meets the standards. 4 However, are you aware of KCP&L-GMO having any studies done regarding cumulative effect of multiple 5 6 meters striking a house? 7 MS. DRAGOO: No, I'm not aware of any studies. 8 MR. DICKSON: So KCP&L and GMO 9 10 cannot -- can you say for sure there couldn't be negative effects regarding cumulative effect? 11 12 MS. DRAGOO: Again, I'm not here to 13 speak to the cumulative effects of the meter. Based on the RF maximum permissible exposure our meters 14 meet the FCC limits. 15 16 MR. DICKSON: Who put in these meters, 17 the employees of KCP&L or did you hire a vendor to 18 put them in? MS. DRAGOO: We did a combination of 19 20 both, we used employees and a contractor. 21 MR. DICKSON: Was every person that 22 put one in a certified electrical individual, an electrician? 23 24 MS. DRAGOO: No. We would not use 25 electricians for this, but not to say they couldn't

Page 88 1 be. 2 MR. DICKSON: So we had 3 non-electricians hooking up a smart meter to a house, 4 that's what you're testifying? MS. DRAGOO: I'm suggesting that they 5 6 exchanged the meter. They were not doing brand new 7 meter installs. This was an exchange from one meter to another meter. 8 9 MR. DICKSON: In an exchange do you 10 have to hook up wires? 11 MS. DRAGOO: No, sir. 12 MR. DICKSON: Can you explain to me what is involved in an exchange and what is 13 connected? 14 MS. DRAGOO: I personally have never 15 16 done this job, so I'm not a good expert in pulling 17 and exchanging a meter, but the exchange, you have 18 one meter that is an NTSI standard meter exchanged with another one that's an NTSI standard. As I 20 mentioned, meters are built to this NTSI standard and 21 they have the exact same component that will fit 22 nicely into the meter socket. When the meter is 23 exchanged, they will remove the current meter on the home. They'll do a visual inspection and make sure 24 25 that everything looks as it should, and then they

Page 89 will insert the new meter into the socket. 2 MR. DICKSON: Does the smart meter 3 have a surge arrester? 4 MS. DRAGOO: I do not know. MR. DICKSON: Does a smart meter have 5 6 thinner blades than an analog meter? 7 MS. DRAGOO: I cannot answer that. 8 I'm not a specific expert in the thinness of the 9 blades, but to my knowledge meters, again, are built 10 to the NTSI standard and there would be no major difference in the components of the meter. 11 MR. DICKSON: Is it true the smart 12 13 meter has a plastic back? MS. DRAGOO: Yes. 14 MR. DICKSON: Is it true a plastic 15 16 back can melt faster than a metal alloy back? 17 MS. DRAGOO: I don't believe I said 18 that. 19 MR. DICKSON: I'm asking you. 20 MS. DRAGOO: I do not know the answer 21 to that. 22 MR. DICKSON: If a fire occurs at 23 someone's house, does KCMO GMO remove the meter before it's inspected by independent fire inspectors 24 25 or third parties?

Page 90 MS. DRAGOO: Could you repeat that 1 2 question? I'm not sure I'm following. MR. DICKSON: If a fire occurs at a 3 house around the area of a smart meter, is it removed 4 prior to a thorough inspection by the fire inspector 5 and/or third parties and/or insurance companies? 6 7 MS. DRAGOO: I'm not sure I can speak to the process of meter removal as it relates to a 8 9 fire at a residence. 10 MR. DICKSON: You earlier testified that no fires are caused by smart meters? 11 MS. DRAGOO: Correct. 12 13 MR. DICKSON: Have you looked at every single report from any potential fire caused by a 14 smart meter? 15 16 MS. DRAGOO: So the only time that 17 KCP&L does an investigation is when we receive a 18 claim from an insurance company that would associate 19 or imply that our meter may have caused the fire. 20 Again, we have no evidence on any of those 21 investigations that a fire was caused by the meter. 22 MR. DICKSON: Are those investigations 23 concluded or still in the process? 24 MS. DRAGOO: Again, if an 25 investigation shows there's no cause of fire

Page 91 attributed to the meter, I would assume it's a 2 completed investigation. 3 MR. DICKSON: In those cases has the 4 insurance company gone away or are they still seeking subrogation rights? 5 6 MS. DRAGOO: I'm not involved in any 7 of that information or process, so I can't answer 8 that question. 9 MR. DICKSON: When you say the investigation is concluded, are you just stating that 10 on the part of KCP&L-GMO or that the entire case is 11 closed and no one is seeking to recover? 12 13 MS. DRAGOO: Again, I'm not involved 14 in that process. I do not know. MR. DICKSON: So I'm a little 15 16 confused. You're saying no fires are related, but 17 yet you can't testify as to the specifics of any of 18 the cases; is that correct? 19 MS. DRAGOO: Correct. I am not in the 20 legal department and I'm not a fire investigator. 21 MR. DICKSON: How does KCP&L-GMO

document and record any fires or investigations?

Where is all that information kept?

Fax: 314.644.1334

MS. DRAGOO: I'm going to keep

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 $$\operatorname{Page}\ 92$$ in that process and I cannot answer that question

- 3 MR. DICKSON: Can you explain to me if
- 4 the opt-out meter also produces dirty electricity?
- 5 MS. DRAGOO: I can't. I am not
- 6 familiar with that term. I heard you guys use it
- 7 earlier today. I've not read up on what dirty
- 8 electricity is or electric smog, so I can't answer
- 9 that question.

with any specifics.

2

- 10 MS. DICKSON: Does the opt-out meter,
- 11 digital meter contain a switch mode power supply?
- MS. DRAGOO: I cannot answer that
- 13 question either.
- 14 MR. DICKSON: I would like to point
- 15 out, your Honor, that we've asked numerous technical
- 16 questions. She brought up that she had experience
- 17 and she kind of was brought in my opinion to be able
- 18 to attest to the safety and/or what these meters do
- 19 and I think we've shown she's unable to, so I would
- 20 say her testimony regarding the safety of these
- 21 issues is really void. She's not qualified to say
- 22 that these meters are safe.
- 23 JUDGE BURTON: The Commission will not
- 24 strike her testimony that has been offered, but if
- 25 you're looking, the Commission will evaluate the

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- 1 credibility and the level of knowledge that she has
- 2 on these issues when evaluating the case.
- 3 MR. DICKSON: That's all the questions
- 4 I have.
- 5 MR. WILLIAMS: Mrs. Dragoo, you
- 6 mentioned several times in your first questions with
- 7 Mr. Steiner that the AMI meters that are deployed do
- 8 not create an increased fire hazard. Could you
- 9 clarify that statement? Are either analog meters or
- 10 digital meters, are they also capable of creating a
- 11 fire hazard?
- MS. DRAGOO: So what I'm looking at
- 13 there is increased threat of fire, meaning when you
- 14 have an analog meter, a digital meter, or an AMI
- 15 meter, there is always something that could happen
- 16 inside a home with their electricity. It could be
- 17 the meter clips have a problem, the meter socket has
- 18 an issue, the entrance wire to the home, fires are
- 19 started in people's breaker panels. That all is
- 20 resulting around electricity; however, it has nothing
- 21 to do with the meter. So my statement is there's no
- 22 increased threat of fires as I don't believe that the
- 23 threat of fires is any greater with an AMI meter than
- 24 it is with a digital meter than it is with an analog
- 25 meter.

Page 94 1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Now, you 2 just --3 MR. DICKSON: Can I just object to one 4 thing? JUDGE BURTON: It's already answered. 5 6 At this point it's too late. 7 MR. WILLIAMS: In your questioning 8 with Mr. Dickson you said that you could not speak to 9 the process of removal of meters after destruction 10 such as a fire. Are you aware or can you speak to any protocols that KCP&L or GMO uses to identify 11 12 potentially defective meters that are either 13 performing out of conformance with either your expectations or the manufacturer's expectations? 14 MS. DRAGOO: I could talk a little bit 15 16 about this only in the sense of our annual sample 17 testing or any meter testing that we would be doing 18 in the field. There are indicators that we might get 19 through these diagnostic flags that might take us to the meter to do a check or a test, if that's kind of 20 21 what you're talking about. 22 MR. WILLIAMS: If you were to receive 23 a diagnostic flag, as you state, and a meter were either performing in a manner not in conformance with 24 25 your expectation or the manufacturer's warranty, what

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- 1 procedure would your company take to either evaluate
- 2 the meter and should it be determined to somehow be
- 3 defective or non-conformant, what steps would you
- 4 take at that point?
- 5 MS. DRAGOO: I'm not, again, involved
- 6 in this detail of the process, so I really can't
- 7 answer the details.
- 8 MR. WILLIAMS: That's fine. Thank
- 9 you.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: What level of RFs are
- 11 permitted by the FCC standards?
- MS. DRAGOO: So they measure that in
- 13 the microwatts per centimeter squared and they look I
- 14 think at two different levels, sort of what you
- 15 are -- a controlled environment and then sort of the
- 16 occupational or the public environment. So I would
- 17 have to look through my notes here to look at the
- 18 specific number, if you don't mind. I'm not sure if
- 19 this is in here.
- 20 So the maximum permissible exposure,
- 21 they give a table here for the power density, is that
- 22 is what you're looking for, residential and CNI end
- 23 points is .6.
- 24 JUDGE BURTON: And it's your testimony
- 25 that these smart meters that are used by GMO are .1

Page 96 microwatts per centimeter squared? 2 MS. DRAGOO: I believe that is 3 correct, yes. 4 JUDGE BURTON: And this is based on testing that's been performed by GMO or through the 5 6 manufacturer? 7 MS. DRAGOO: Through the manufacturer. 8 JUDGE BURTON: And the name of the 9 manufacturer again? 10 MS. DRAGOO: L&G, Landis and Gyr. 11 JUDGE BURTON: Now, you had previously 12 referenced diagnostic alerts or pings that might come 13 through. Can you describe what type of diagnostic 14 alerts GMO might receive? MS. DRAGOO: Well, we would get a 15 16 power outage and that could be an indicator of a bad connection, so we may receive a power out flag that 17 18 reflects that the power is not really out at the 19 customer's home, but that would reflect a bad 20 connection with the meter socket, the meter clips, 21 and so we would be able to go at that point and do 22 some investigation on more of the equipment. That 23 isn't really the meter, it's more the equipment attached to the meter as an example. 24 25 JUDGE BURTON: Now, there's been

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- 1 discussion about December 22nd of this year being the
- 2 date for the tariff going into effect for GMO for the
- 3 opt-out option for the digital. Has the company
- 4 already established a plan for how people can sign up
- 5 or are there already registrations for this program?
- 6 MS. DRAGOO: We are working on that
- 7 process right now. We're developing it and I believe
- 8 ready to have soon conversations with the Staff, so
- 9 it's not been 100 percent vetted out. I'm glad to
- 10 talk through what we expect, if that's helpful.
- JUDGE BURTON: What do you expect?
- MS. DRAGOO: We expect that the
- 13 customer would need to fill out a form, basically
- 14 acknowledge that they'll be getting a nonstandard
- 15 device. They'll have to pay the \$150 up front before
- 16 we would go out to exchange the meter, then we'll be,
- 17 again, manually tracking all this stuff on the back
- 18 end to ensure that the monthly charge is applied and
- 19 that the meter gets read.
- 20 JUDGE BURTON: There was also a
- 21 discussion about the potential or attempt by GMO to
- 22 seek UL certification for the meters?
- 23 MS. DRAGOO: Right. So it wouldn't be
- 24 GMO that would be certifying the meters, it would be
- 25 an actual UL certification through the vendor,

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- 1 through L&G, and they have gone through this process
- 2 to get this certification for their meters. They're
- 3 the exact same meters we're using today, no change in
- 4 components or anything like that, but because we
- 5 purchased the meters before they went through this UL
- 6 certification process, our meters don't have the UL
- 7 stamp on them.
- 8 JUDGE BURTON: Do you know what the
- 9 status is as far as their UL certification for L&G?
- 10 MS. DRAGOO: It has been completed.
- JUDGE BURTON: When was that?
- MS. DRAGOO: I don't have a date. I
- 13 want to say this year, but I don't know.
- MR. DICKSON: Completed or certified?
- 15 MS. DRAGOO: Completed the effort to
- 16 get certified with UL.
- 17 JUDGE BURTON: So they're waiting a
- 18 determination on certification?
- MS. DRAGOO: I believe from my
- 20 knowledge, and I don't have the documentation in
- 21 front of me, that they are officially UL certified.
- 22 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. That's all
- 23 the questions I have. Any redirect?
- MR. STEINER: Yes, your Honor.
- I think you were talking to

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- 1 Mr. Dickson about the documents that you would get
- 2 from manufacturers and whether you had the knowledge
- 3 to answer questions or ask questions about them.
- 4 Does KCP&L have engineers that would have reviewed
- 5 all of the documents that a meter manufacturer would
- 6 have given us to see if the meters were appropriate
- 7 for our system?
- MS. DRAGOO: Absolutely.
- 9 MR. STEINER: And was that review done
- 10 by the engineers?
- MS. DRAGOO: Yes.
- MR. STEINER: You were also talking to
- 13 him about the individuals that installed the smart
- 14 meter at the Dickson house. Were those individuals
- 15 that did this meter install, were they trained by the
- 16 company before they went out to the houses on how to
- 17 replace the meter, how to switch out the meters?
- MS. DRAGOO: Yes.
- MR. STEINER: What did that training
- 20 consist of, do you know?
- MS. DRAGOO: So I don't know the
- 22 specifics of the training. I do know that as company
- 23 employees they would be trained. We also made sure
- 24 that the contractors were also trained on the
- 25 expectations and the process to follow for the meter

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- 1 exchanges.
- 2 MR. STEINER: Did the company receive
- 3 any complaints that the exchanges were done
- 4 inappropriately?
- 5 MS. DRAGOO: Not to my knowledge.
- 6 MR. STEINER: You were talking with
- 7 Staff counsel about the fire hazard issue and I
- 8 believe you said that the fires could be caused by
- 9 any number of things, a couple things you mentioned
- 10 were meter clips and --
- 11 MR. DICKSON: I object. She's no
- 12 expert on this, she's just giving her opinion. She's
- 13 not an expert on what would cause these fires.
- 14 MR. STEINER: I'm just asking what the
- 15 Staff asked her and she is an expert on meters and
- 16 what the company's response is to fires.
- MR. DICKSON: She couldn't tell me
- 18 what was even in the meter, so I wouldn't call her an
- 19 expert on the meters.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'll overrule the
- 21 objection for now and see what the witness knows.
- MR. STEINER: You said a meter clip
- 23 could have started a fire. Is that inside a meter?
- MS. DRAGOO: No, it is not. Meter
- 25 clips are what is in the meter can in the base of the

Page 101 meter that the meter then ports into. 2 MR. STEINER: So the meter clip is 3 actually part of the home wiring; is that correct? 4 MS. DRAGOO: It's part of the meter 5 can, yes. 6 MR. STEINER: So what I believe you 7 said is fires have been caused by those meter clips? MS. DRAGOO: Yes. 8 MR. STEINER: And that means that the 9 10 fire was not caused by the meter, is that what you're 11 saying? 12 MS. DRAGOO: Correct. 13 MR. STEINER: You were talking to the 14 judge about the diagnostic alert or ping. meters that the company installs do not continuously 15 16 send RF signal out; is that correct? 17 MS. DRAGOO: Correct.

- MR. DICKSON: Object. Her testimony
- 19 was not that they did not send out signals, she said
- 20 they only receive it six times. She could not
- 21 testify as to how many times a signal went out.
- MS. DRAGOO: You asked me if they
- 23 could emit RF constantly, right?
- MR. STEINER: Correct.
- MS. DRAGOO: They do not.

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1	MR. STEINER: Right.	
2	That's all I have, your Honor.	
3	JUDGE BURTON: This witness is	
4	excused.	
5	MR. DICKSON: May I ask some more	
6	questions?	
7	JUDGE BURTON: Are there any	
8	objections?	
9	MR. STEINER: Yeah. I think we have	
10	gone through the process. He had his chance.	
11	JUDGE BURTON: Does the company have	
12	any other witness that they would like to call?	
13	MR. STEINER: Do not.	
14	JUDGE BURTON: Staff?	
15	MR. WILLIAMS: I do.	
16	JUDGE BURTON: Please raise your right	
17	hand. Do you swear or affirm that the statements you	
18	are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth,	
19	and nothing but the truth?	
20	MR. POSTON: I do.	
21	(Staff Exhibits 1 and 2 previously	
22	marked for identification.)	
23	CHARLES POSTON,	
24	being first duly sworn, testified under oath as	
25	follows:	

Page 103 1 JUDGE BURTON: Would you please state 2 your name and spell it for the record. 3 MR. POSTON: Charles Poston, 4 P-O-S-T-O-N. JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 5 6 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Poston, please 7 state your full name and with whom you are employed. 8 MR. POSTON: My name is Charles 9 Poston. I am a Staff engineer for the Missouri Public Service Commission. 10 11 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Poston, what's your educational background? 12 MR. POSTON: I have a bachelor's 13 14 degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in civil engineering and a master's degree from Columbia 15 16 in nuclear engineering. 17 MR. WILLIAMS: And prior to joining 18 the Public Service Commission, please briefly 19 summarize your professional work experience. 20 MR. POSTON: Following my graduation I 21 spent five years working at the Callaway Nuclear 22 Power Plant for Ameren Missouri. 23 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Mr. Poston, did you prepare a Staff report marked as highly 24 25 confidential dated May 13th, 2016, and I've marked as

Page 104 Staff Exhibit 1? 2 MR. POSTON: Yes. 3 MR. WILLIAMS: Can you please describe 4 what information you reviewed in preparation of that report? 5 6 MR. POSTON: In that report I examined 7 some claims made by the complainants and reviewed Staff rules, Staff orders, state law looking at their 8 9 claims that those were being violated. I also reviewed FCC rules regarding exposure to levels of 10 EMF radiation. 11 12 MR. WILLIAMS: And with respect to the conclusion from your report, did you identify any 13 14 rule, Commission rule, statute, or a tariff that GMO would have violated in the installation or use of 15 16 these AMI meters? 17 MR. POSTON: No, I did not. 18 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Poston, did you 19 prepare a memorandum entitled Staff's Inspection Report dated August 31st, 2016, and marked as Staff 20 21 Exhibit 2? 22 MR. POSTON: Yes. 23 MR. WILLIAMS: Could you please describe the process that Staff and the GMO had 24 25 developed to actually investigate the meter at issue?

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1 MR. POSTON: Yes. Following our 2 initial report we requested that a test be done at 3 the home of the complainants to examine the meter to 4 see if there were any evidence of gross defect. Once we arrived on site, we met with representatives of 5 6 the company. They brought with them an RF meter, a 7 handheld RF meter. The meter itself did not read out 8 in power density. We had discussed with the company 9 previously if they could do that. They said they did 10 not have the equipment to read that information, so instead it's hard for me to simply respond to the 11 presence or absence of RF radiation corresponding 12 with transmission from the meter. 13 14 A technician from the company removed the cover on the meter base. Visual examination was 15 16 done. The exposed equipment at no time was the meter ever removed, power was never interrupted. 17 18 visual inspection did not find any evidence of 19 burning or scorching or overheating of any of the 20 visible equipment. With the meter base cover 21 replaced we were able to approach the meter again and 22 use the RF meter to look for evidence of transmission 23 from the meter. The device was held approximately one foot away from the meter and when it would 24

transmit a signal, the needle on the RF meter would

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- 1 deflect showing a transmission had occurred.
- 2 During that time when we examined the
- 3 meter on the Dicksons' home we watched the needle
- 4 deflect several times.
- 5 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Poston, was the
- 6 Dicksons' meter the only meter that Staff reviewed
- 7 that day?
- 8 MR. POSTON: No. We also examined the
- 9 meter on their neighbors' home as well. We did not
- 10 remove the cover from the meter; instead we only
- 11 checked it with the RF meter itself looking for
- 12 expected patterns of transmission, looking for any
- 13 gross defect such as continuously on or not
- 14 transmitting at all.
- 15 MR. WILLIAMS: And from the conclusion
- 16 of your report and the investigation that Staff
- 17 conducted were you able to conclude that the meter
- 18 that is installed at the Dicksons' home is not in
- 19 either a gross defect or noncompliance to the best of
- 20 your ability?
- 21 MR. POSTON: That is correct.
- 22 MR. WILLIAMS: To the best of your
- 23 recollection do you recall the day that the
- 24 inspection took place?
- MR. POSTON: The date?

Page 107 1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. 2 MR. POSTON: I believe it was August the 25th. 3 4 MR. WILLIAMS: I have no further questions, your Honor. I'd move to submit the Staff 5 Exhibits 1 and 2 into the record. 6 7 JUDGE BURTON: At this time Staff has offered Staff Exhibit 1 and 2. Are there any 8 9 objections to the admission of those exhibits? 10 MR. DICKSON: No. JUDGE BURTON: Hearing none, Exhibits 11 1 and 2 are admitted. At this point I'll see if, 12 Mr. Steiner, you have any questions for this witness. 13 MR. STEINER: Hold on a second. I 14 don't believe I do. 15 16 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Mr. Dickson? 17 18 MR. DICKSON: Hello. You testified 19 you wanted to do a power density check. Why did you want to do that? 20 21 MR. POSTON: Based upon the FCC 22 regulations that were provided for -- the units of 23 measure they use were in units of microwatts, I believe milliwatts per square centimeter, and the 24 25 most direct way to find if a smart meter was

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- 1 exceeding those limits would be to directly measure
- 2 power density. That's why we initially discussed
- 3 doing those sorts of measurements. However, it was
- 4 made clear to us by the company that they did not
- 5 have the capability or the equipment to do that test.
- 6 MR. DICKSON: So without that test no
- 7 one can say for sure that those meters on my house or
- 8 neighbors' house are within the FCC standard because
- 9 the density was not tested?
- 10 MR. POSTON: The power density for the
- 11 type of meter I believe was tested by the
- 12 manufacturer as part of the qualification for that
- 13 type of meter. The specific meter that is on your
- 14 house, I don't know if it was ever tested to that
- 15 same degree. It would have the same components as
- 16 the meters that were tested for qualification, but if
- 17 that specific meter was tested, I have no knowledge
- 18 of it.
- 19 MR. DICKSON: Earlier testimony by
- 20 Julie Dragoo said that the meter was within
- 21 standards. Without that density can she accurately
- 22 say that it's within standard?
- MR. POSTON: How I would respond to
- 24 this is saying that the tests that were done for the
- 25 qualification of the meter type are done in a

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- 1 laboratory setting with a special setup and special
- 2 equipment. I would not expect 300,000 or a million
- 3 meters to be tested individually in that setup. At
- 4 some point, as with any product produced by a
- 5 manufacturer, you would take a representative sample
- 6 perhaps, but not every -- I would not expect every
- 7 piece of equipment to receive the same test.
- 8 MR. DICKSON: Earlier testimony by
- 9 Julie Dragoo stated that apparently we are the only
- 10 formal complaint. In your opinion would you think it
- 11 would be reasonable if you got a formal complaint,
- 12 then in this instance it would be reasonable to take
- 13 a density check?
- MR. POSTON: To perform a power
- 15 density test from the meter in question it would have
- 16 to be removed from your home and sent to a laboratory
- 17 to be tested. In the meantime a second meter would
- 18 have to be replaced onto your home to allow you to
- 19 continue to have electric service, a meter of the
- 20 identical type that would have not been tested. I
- 21 don't want to speak for the company in this, but it
- 22 would seem very labor and resource intensive to have
- 23 the meter currently in your house sent out,
- laboratory tested, and then sent back and then
- 25 reinstalled. I would not expect that to occur.

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- 1 MR. DICKSON: Is there no way -- is
- 2 there a way to test the density or amount that's
- 3 coming into my house between the three meters
- 4 surrounding me? You testified you would have to take
- 5 that meter off for density. Is there no way -- is
- 6 there no portable way to test how much current -- I'm
- 7 not using the correct terminology, I apologize, but
- 8 what's coming into my house when it comes with the
- 9 pings?
- 10 MR. POSTON: I believe there are
- 11 portable meters capable of that function. It was
- 12 made clear to me that the company does not have
- 13 meters such as that, neither does the Commission
- 14 Staff.
- MR. DICKSON: You did testify that
- 16 while you were there, the -- what you did use, the
- 17 needle moved several times?
- MR. POSTON: Correct.
- 19 MR. DICKSON: What does that mean when
- 20 it moves?
- MR. POSTON: The company
- 22 representative performing the test said that was
- 23 evidence of transmission from the meter itself.
- MR. DICKSON: How many time did you
- 25 see it move?

Page 111 MR. POSTON: Several. 1 2 MR. DICKSON: Would you say that's 3 more than once every four hours? 4 MR. POSTON: Yes. MR. DICKSON: From what you saw in 5 your opinion does it appear that it pings every few 7 seconds? 8 MR. POSTON: All I can testify to is 9 that we saw what appeared to be transmission activity 10 several times over the period we looked. MR. DICKSON: And what was the period 11 12 you looked? MR. POSTON: Less than a minute. 13 14 MR. DICKSON: Even if we say three times a minute, that's much more than the once every 15 16 four hours that they testified to; correct? 17 MR. POSTON: That is correct. 18 MR. DICKSON: Now, you testified that 19 they took the cover off and everybody got back. Why 20 did everybody get back? 21 MR. POSTON: Electrical safety. 22 are exposed conductors and because of that we were 23 asked to step away from the meter because only one person present had the appropriate safety equipment 24 25 to get close.

Page 112 1 MR. DICKSON: Is there any concern 2 regarding exposure from the pings, from the emittance 3 of the signal? 4 MR. POSTON: For who? MR. DICKSON: When the cover is off 5 6 that it's stronger. 7 MR. POSTON: I don't believe so. 8 MR. DICKSON: Have you ever removed or 9 installed a meter? 10 MR. POSTON: No. MR. DICKSON: Does a smart meter have 11 12 a surge arrester? 13 MR. POSTON: I can't speak to that for this particular model. I do not know. 14 15 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware of any 16 smart meters with a surge arrester? 17 MR. POSTON: Can't speak to that, I do 18 not know. 19 MR. DICKSON: Earlier testimony talked about the -- I apologize if I use the incorrect term, 20 21 the clips that it clips into, and they said if that 22 causes it, that's because of the house. But upon 23 installation don't they have to insert things in those clips and could those not be damaged by the 24 installer? 25

Page 113 1 MR. POSTON: It's possible. 2 MR. DICKSON: And if those were 3 damaged, could that cause arcing? 4 MR. POSTON: Depends on the type of 5 damage. 6 MR. DICKSON: Is arcing -- in your 7 opinion would arcing be a cause of a fire or 8 potentially contribute or increase the chance of fire? 9 10 MR. POSTON: Possibly. MR. DICKSON: An analog meter had a 11 metal alloy backing and a smart meter has a plastic. 12 Which one has a lower melting rate? 13 MR. POSTON: Typically plastic has a 14 lower melting point than metal. 15 16 MR. DICKSON: For something that's 17 dealing with electricity throughout a whole house, in 18 your opinion does plastic make sense for a meter 19 after decades that they always had metal? Why would someone put in your opinion -- why would a plastic be 20 21 on the back if it melts faster? 22 MR. POSTON: I can't speak to the 23 manufacturing decisions made by the vendor who made these. Anything I would say would be speculation. 24 25 MR. DICKSON: Have you investigated

Page 114 any fires that were potentially caused by smart 2 meters? MR. POSTON: No. 3 4 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware of the issues that are occurring around the country and 5 6 allegations that smart meters are causing fires? 7 MR. POSTON: I am aware of the 8 information you submitted into EFIS. I have reviewed 9 that. 10 MR. DICKSON: In your expertise as an 11 engineer, smart meters that have a thinner blade, is there a greater potential for arcing? 12 13 MR. POSTON: I don't know. 14 MR. DICKSON: In your study of engineering if you had a thinner blade going into a 15 16 clip, would there be a greater potential for arcing? 17 MR. POSTON: Assuming everything is 18 designed to work together, no. Just the presence of 19 a thinner piece of material does not necessarily 20 imply increased risk.

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MR. POSTON: Possibly. Poor

there's greater potential versus a tight-fitting

electrical contact can cause heating and cause

MR. DICKSON: But if there's space,

clip; is that correct?

21

22

23

24

25

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- 1 problems.
- 2 MR. DICKSON: Are you aware of the
- 3 term dirty electricity?
- 4 MR. POSTON: Only through the
- 5 information you have provided in EFIS and through
- 6 some small amount of independent research I've done
- 7 in response to this case.
- 8 MR. DICKSON: In your research that
- 9 you found and the material you looked at is dirty
- 10 electricity -- does that have negative impact on the
- 11 health of humans?
- MR. POSTON: My opinion is that, no,
- 13 it does not.
- 14 MR. DICKSON: But the material you
- 15 looked at, what did it say?
- MR. POSTON: It said there was.
- 17 MR. DICKSON: Now, the material you
- 18 looked at --
- 19 MR. STEINER: I'm going to object.
- 20 This is hearsay again. He is allowed to look at
- 21 hearsay evidence to form his opinion and he's already
- 22 said what his opinion is, so I don't think you can
- 23 get this material in through this witness because he
- 24 didn't rely on it to make his opinion.
- 25 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to allow him

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- 1 to answer to the point that he stated that he did
- 2 review material that might have said something that
- 3 was different from what his final opinion is.
- 4 MR. STEINER: Can I voir dire the
- 5 witness to see if he reviewed that material to give
- 6 his expert opinion? Because I think that would be
- 7 the only way that it would be an exception to the
- 8 hearsay rule.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'll allow that.
- 10 MR. STEINER: Did you review the
- 11 Dicksons' information to give a basis of your expert
- 12 opinion on the safety of the meter?
- MR. POSTON: In part, yes.
- MR. DICKSON: In your study of the
- 15 material did you -- in your experience have you ever
- 16 seen clustering of cancer cases around cell phone
- 17 towers?
- 18 MR. POSTON: Personally have I seen
- 19 it? I've seen it in documentation that you provided,
- 20 but beyond that, no.
- 21 MR. DICKSON: If the smart meter does
- 22 not have a surge arrester, is there a greater chance
- 23 that any surges or dirty electricity would go back
- 24 into the house?
- 25 MR. POSTON: I testified previously I

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don't know if the meter has a surge arrester or not.

- 2 MR. DICKSON: My question is if it did
- 3 not have one, due to your expertise in engineering if
- 4 there's no surge arrester, would there be a greater
- 5 chance for it to go into the house?
- 6 MR. POSTON: I don't know.
- 7 MR. DICKSON: What is the purpose of a
- 8 surge arrester?
- 9 MR. POSTON: Surge arrester, I'm not
- 10 trying to be flippant, it arrests power surges.
- 11 MR. DICKSON: And does what with that
- 12 surge?
- 13 MR. POSTON: It should prevent it from
- 14 going into the home.
- 15 MR. DICKSON: So if there isn't one,
- 16 from that testimony common sense would be there would
- 17 be a greater chance it would go back into the home?
- 18 MR. POSTON: I don't know enough about
- 19 the specific design of the safety features within
- 20 these meters to be able to say that definitively.
- 21 MR. DICKSON: But the purpose of the
- 22 surge arrester is to keep it from going into the
- 23 home; right?
- MR. POSTON: I believe so, yes.
- MR. DICKSON: I apologize, your Honor,

Page 118 may I have a moment? 2 JUDGE BURTON: Yes. 3 MR. DICKSON: Can you give any 4 testimony regarding the cumulative effect of all the meters going toward my house? 5 6 MR. POSTON: We didn't measure, we 7 don't have any specific measurements about the 8 density of the -- the power density experienced 9 inside your home, so I could not speak specifically 10 to that, no. MR. DICKSON: But you did testify that 11 neighbors were pointing at my house? 12 MR. POSTON: Your neighbors do have 13 14 smart meters and they are in close proximity to your 15 home, yes. 16 MR. DICKSON: And when they were 17 tested, the needle moved several times in the minute 18 you looked? MR. POSTON: The one meter we did 19 20 test, yes. We saw multiple pulses on the RF meter. 21 MR. DICKSON: And that one meter we're 22 talking about is my neighbors' meter; correct? 23 MR. POSTON: Correct. 24 MR. DICKSON: And my meter was doing 25 the same?

Page 119 1 MR. POSTON: Correct. 2 MR. DICKSON: No other questions. 3 Thank you so much. 4 JUDGE BURTON: I just have a few questions. What would a power density check be used 5 6 for? What would it be helpful in determining? 7 MR. POSTON: Specifically it would 8 address whether or not the meter is broadcasting an 9 RF signal in excess of the limits put forth in the 10 FCC regulations. 11 JUDGE BURTON: What type of testing do 12 you know occurs with these meters by the manufacturers. 13 MR. POSTON: I believe it's Attachment 14 15 С. 16 JUDGE BURTON: Attachment C to Exhibit 17 1. 18 MR. POSTON: To Exhibit 1 has a 19 summary of those test results. 20 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. 21 MR. POSTON: I will also mention as a 22 part of Exhibit 2, Attachment C to Exhibit 1 was for 23 a smart meter very similar to the Landis and Gyr meter used at the Dicksons' home, but it is not 24 25 identical. It is the same basic function, the same

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- 1 frequencies and similar power levels for the
- 2 transmitter, but they're not exactly the same.
- JUDGE BURTON: Same manufacturer
- 4 though?
- 5 MR. POSTON: Same manufacturer, yes.
- JUDGE BURTON: Do you know what the
- 7 distinctions are?
- 8 MR. POSTON: I believe the meter that
- 9 is installed at the Dicksons' home, it's a
- 10 residential-style meter, and the one in Attachment C
- 11 is commercial style.
- 12 JUDGE BURTON: So something perhaps
- 13 meant for larger numbers; is that correct?
- 14 MR. POSTON: I believe that to be
- 15 true, yes.
- JUDGE BURTON: Now, are you familiar
- 17 at all in your experience with an EarthCalm Infinity
- 18 Home System?
- 19 MR. POSTON: I'm only familiar with it
- 20 through research related to this case and the only
- 21 research I did was online at the EarthCalm website
- 22 and I did watch some additional informational videos
- 23 that were available on the Internet. I've never seen
- 24 one in person.
- 25 JUDGE BURTON: What site did you go to

Page 121 on the Internet? 2 MR. POSTON: The EarthCalm home page 3 where they sell these items. 4 JUDGE BURTON: And that's where you observed the videos? 5 6 MR. POSTON: No. This was a different 7 video I saw when I was searching for that site. 8 JUDGE BURTON: Are you familiar with 9 what the EarthCalm Infinity system is purported to 10 11 MR. POSTON: It's I believe to protect 12 from exposure to RF radiation. JUDGE BURTON: Do you know how? 13 MR. POSTON: No. I read the 14 information provided on the EarthCalm website and it 15 16 didn't make a lot of sense to me. 17 JUDGE BURTON: Can you elaborate? 18 MR. POSTON: They made a lot of claims 19 that appear to be unsubstantiated about the 20 effectiveness on how things worked. It appeared to 21 be in my opinion technobabble.

that you had when you went out on August 25th to

with the pings I guess is how you would say it?

perform the inspection about the meters deflecting

JUDGE BURTON: Were there any concerns

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1 MR. POSTON: Repeat that, please. 2 JUDGE BURTON: Did you have any concerns about the level, numbers, and consistency of 3 the deflections that were measured on August 25th? 4 MR. POSTON: No. When I spoke with 5 6 the representative of GMO at the time, he said that 7 was to be expected. That was expected behavior of the meters. And I believe that was due to the mesh 8 network that was described earlier in that data from 10 the meter on usage at the house it's installed at is transmitted once every four hours, but that in the 11 12 mesh network I believe the meters can relay information from other meters. So that would be 13 14 transmitting information not specifically about the usage at that home where it was installed at. 15 16 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Those are 17 all the questions I have. Redirect? 18 MR. WILLIAMS: Just one question. 19 With respect to the testing that was conducted at the 20 Dicksons' home, can you just again describe the 21 purpose that Staff believed could be achieved through 22 using RF meter reader? 23 MR. POSTON: With the RF meter present we were able to see if the smart meter in question 24

was transmitting constantly, transmitting

25

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- 1 intermittently, or not transmitting at all. The
- 2 observations we made showed that it was transmitting
- 3 intermittently.
- 4 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. No further
- 5 questions, your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you, you're
- 7 excused, Mr. Poston.
- 8 At this time I believe that concludes
- 9 the taking of testimony from all the witnesses.
- 10 Normally the parties are allowed either an
- 11 opportunity for closing statements or briefs to be
- 12 presented to the Commission and we normally allow for
- 13 the Public Service Commission, the presentation of
- 14 briefs. That allows the parties time to review the
- 15 exhibits and the testimony.
- Now, what will happen now is this
- 17 smart lady will transcribe everything that has been
- 18 stated today and it will be submitted into EFIS, a
- 19 copy of the transcript. At that point I'll give the
- 20 parties a time to be able to review that and submit
- 21 briefs that are going to be post hearing for the
- 22 Commission to consider.
- Now, I also know that we had your
- 24 request to admit the exhibits earlier for the
- 25 articles that were submitted into the filing system.

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- 1 That's just the case system EFIS, electric filing
- 2 information system. I will allow you as part of the
- 3 briefing schedule an opportunity to submit a post
- 4 hearing motion for inclusion of those exhibits. So
- 5 if we're looking at November 4th for the potential
- 6 availability of the transcript, why don't I give the
- 7 parties until November 18th to submit post hearing
- 8 briefs, be prepared to eat a lot of turkey for
- 9 Thanksgiving, and also to include any of your post
- 10 hearing motions on the exhibits. I will keep the
- 11 record open for right now for any of those issues.
- 12 And as part of that, just so you're
- 13 aware, any motions that you might submit for
- 14 inclusion will also be answered with a potential
- 15 response by the parties and I will make sure that
- 16 there's enough time for that to be included as well
- 17 into the timing.
- MR. DICKSON: Thank you.
- 19 JUDGE BURTON: Are there any other
- 20 questions before we go off the record? I see none.
- 21 I want to thank everyone for your participation and
- 22 presence here today and I hope you have a very good
- 23 day. We are off the record.
- 24 (Proceedings concluded at 1:26 p.m.)

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11	EXHIBIT NUMBER:	MARKED:	RECEIVED:	
12	Staff Exhibit 1	102	107	
13	Staff Exhibit 2	102	107	
14				
15	NOTE: Staff Exhib	its 1 and 2 were	retained by	
16	Judge Burton.			
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
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24				
25				

Page 126 CERTIFICATE 1 2 I, Angela R. Corkill, a Certified Court 3 Reporter, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were taken down by 4 me in shorthand at the time and place hereinbefore 5 stated and was thereafter reduced to writing under my 6 7 direction; That I am not a relative or employee or 8 9 attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a 10 relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or 11 financially interested in the action. 12 13 14 L. L. Corkel 15 16 17 Angela R. Corkill 18 CSR No. 1387, CCR No. 961 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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