Exhibit No.:

Issues: Rate Base

Construction Audit

Witness: David W. Elliott Sponsoring Party: MO PSC Staff

Type of Exhibit: True-Up Direct Testimony

Case No.: ER-2006-0314

Date Testimony Prepared: November 7, 2006

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION UTILITY OPERATIONS DIVISION

## TRUE-UP DIRECT TESTIMONY

**OF** 

**DAVID W. ELLIOTT** 

## KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

**CASE NO. ER-2006-0314** 

Jefferson City, Missouri November 2006

\*\*Denotes Highly Confidential Information \*\*



## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas City Power & Light Company for Approval to Make Certain Changes in its Charges for Electric Service to Begin the Implementation of Its Regulatory Plan					
AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID W. ELLIOTT					
STATE OF MISSOURI ) ) ss COUNTY OF COLE )					
David W. Elliott, of lawful age, on his oath states: that he has participated in the preparation of the following True-Up Direct Testimony in question and answer form, consisting of					
	Of be that				
	David W. Elliott				
Subscribed and sworn to before me this $b = b + b$ day of November, 2006.					
SUSAN L. SUNDERMEYER My Commission Expires September 21, 2010 Callaway County Commission #06942086	Ausan A Stundermeyer Notary Public				
My commission expires $9-2/-10$					

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12	Q.	Please state your name and business address.		
13	A.	David W. Elliott, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.		
14	Q.	Are you the same David W. Elliott who has previously filed direct testimony in		
15	this case?			
16	A.	Yes I am.		
17	Q.	What is the purpose of your true-up direct testimony?		
18	A.	The purpose of my true-up direct testimony is to address the Staff's		
19	construction audit of Kansas City Power & Light Company's (KCPL's) Spearville wind			
20	project completed since this current rate case was filed.			
21	Q.	Please describe the Spearville wind project.		
22	A.	This project consists of 67 wind turbine generators each rated at 1.5 MW,		
23	which are located near Spearville, Kansas.			
24	Q.	Which Staff personnel performed the construction audit of KCPL Spearville		
25	wind project for this case?			
26	A.	Staff witnesses Cary Featherstone and I conducted the construction audit.		
27	Q.	Did you visit the wind project site?		
28	A.	Yes. On September 27, and 28, 2006, I visited the site with Michael E. Taylor		
29	of the Energy Department Staff.			

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Q. What was your responsibility on the construction audit?

A. I reviewed the changes to the construction costs associated with the project to determine if the changes were prudent actions in regards to the engineering aspects of the project. I also reviewed the invoices as of the end of the true-up period, September 30, 2006, to determine the rate base amount for the project.

#### **RATE BASE**

- Q. What does Staff believe should be the amount included in rate base for the Spearville wind project?
- A. I reviewed the project invoiced costs as of September 30, 2006, and discussed these invoices with KCPL on November 2, 2006. Based on my review and discussions with KCPL the amount that should be in rate base is \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*.
- Q. Based on this amount, does there need to be an adjustment made to KCPL's booked value of the project in this case?
- A. Yes, this requires an adjustment of \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* made to KCPL rate base for this case. I provided this number to Staff auditors for inclusion into Staff's EMS run for this case.
  - Q. Why does Staff believe this adjustment should be made?
- A. KCPL included the \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* in its booked costs, but has not received an invoice from the wind farm construction contractor for this amount as of November 2, which is 33 days past the true-up period. Staff believes that only charges based on invoiced amounts received and approved by KCPL should be allowed into rate base.

#### **CONSTRUCTION COST CHANGES**

Q. Did you review the construction costs for the Spearville Wind project?

A. Yes. I reviewed the breakdown of the changes from the original construction cost for the project and discussed the reasons for these changes with the KCPL project engineer. In addition, KCPL provided further information to me to adequately explain and justify any additional costs incurred for this project.

- Q. For the Spearville wind project, what was the total amount of changes in construction costs incurred by the Company that the Staff reviewed for its construction audit?
- A. The changes made to the project resulted in an increase in costs of

  \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*. These costs are included in Staff's rate base amount for this case.
- Q. Can you summarize what type of major costs increases or decreases there were in Spearville wind project?
- A. Yes. The largest increase \*\* \_\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* was due to a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirement for low voltage operation of the wind turbine generators while connected to the transmission grid. This included software and hardware installed on each of the 67 wind turbine generators. Other increases in costs were due to additional spare equipment and/or changes in the scope of work. The largest decrease in project cost \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* was due to the operation and maintenance building purchase and erection work being moved from the scope of one contractor to the scope of another contractor. Schedule 1 summarizes change order costs for the project.
- Q. Has the Staff identified any engineering or construction concerns with these cost changes for this project?
- A. No. Staff recommends that the \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* be included in the total cost of the project.
  - Q. Does this conclude your true-up direct testimony?
  - A. Yes, it does.

NP

## Schedule 1

Is Deemed

**Highly Confidential** 

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