## EVIDENTIARY HEARING - Vol. 5 5/10/2018

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                        STATE OF MISSOURI
                     PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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                     TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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                       EVIDENTIARY HEARING
                          May 10, 2017
 6
                     Jefferson City, Missouri
                            Volume 5
 7
     In the Matter of the Application )
 9
    of the Empire District Electric ) File No.
    Company for Approval of its ) EO-2018-0092
10
    Customer Savings Plan
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                  JUDGE MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding
14
                 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
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                  DANIEL Y. HALL, Chairman,
                  WILLIAM KENNEY,
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                  SCOTT T. RUPP,
                 MAIDA COLEMAN,
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1 PROCEEDINGS JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's go back on the 2 3 record. Before we go any further this morning, do 4 any parties have any matters that need to be 5 discussed? I don't hear any. Is Empire ready to call their next witness? 6 7 MS. BELL: Judge, I would just like to offer the exhibit on my opening yesterday. All the 9 parties have had time to review it. It's Joplin 501. And it's just public comments that I quoted 10 11 in my opening. 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I don't have a copy of 13 that. 14 MR. COOPER: We -- we would object to 15 that, your Honor. They're not sworn comments. 16 There are -- there are sworn comments. Those were 17 provided at the -- at the public hearing in this matter. So we would object on the basis that 18 19 they're -- they're hearsay. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: What's your response? 2.1 MS. BELL: I think they are official 2.2 records of the Public Service Commission in that 23 the Public Service Commission offers -- offers members of the public the opportunity to submit 24 25

- 1 public comments.
- 2 And although there are individuals who
- 3 might not have had the time or opportunity to
- 4 attend the public hearing, they did take the time
- 5 out of their day to submit official public comments
- 6 to the Public Service Commission, and the Public
- 7 Service Commission retains those comments as part
- 8 of the case file.
- 9 And so I think they come in and overcome
- 10 the hearsay objection on the basis that they are
- 11 official records of the Public Service Commission.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'm going to sustain the
- 13 objection. I think that they are hearsay. So I
- 14 will not accept 501. Anything further? Ready to
- 15 call your witness?
- MR. COOPER: Yes, your Honor. Empire
- 17 would cal Mr. Blake Mertens.
- 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please raise your right
- 19 hand.
- 20 BLAKE MERTENS,
- 21 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the
- 22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, testified
- 23 as follows:
- 24 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 25 BY MR. COOPER:

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2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please sit down.
3	Q (By Mr. Cooper) Please state your name.
4	A Blake Mertens. B-l-a-k-e M-e-r-t-e-n-s.
5	Q By whom are you employed and in what
6	capacity?
7	A Liberty Utilities Service Company as the
8	Vice President of Electric Operations for the
9	Central Region.
10	Q Have you caused to be prepared, for
11	purposes of this proceeding, certain direct and
12	surrebuttal testimony in question and answer form?
13	A I have.
14	Q And is it your understanding that that
15	testimony has been marked as Exhibit 9 and 10 for
16	identification?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Do you have any changes that you'd like to
19	make to that testimony at this time?
20	A Yeah. One small one, probably classified
21	as an update. In my direct testimony on page 17,
22	line 7, it has 1,199 megawatts as the historical
23	all-time peak.
24	I'd like to change that to 1,211 megawatts
25	to match up with our recent peak set in January of

1 this year. 2 If I were to ask you the questions which 3 are contained in Exhibits 9 and 10 today, would 4 your answers as now amended be the same? 5 A Yes. 6 Are those answers as -- as amended true 7 and correct to the best of your information, knowledge and belief? 9 A Yes. MR. COOPER: Your Honor, I would offer 10 Exhibits 9 and 10 into evidence and tender 11 12 Mr. Mertens for crosscross-examination. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? Hearing 14 none, those are received. (Empire Exhibits 9 and 10 were offered and 15 16 admitted into evidence.) 17 MR. BUSHMANN: First cross will be by Staff. 18 19 MS. FORCK: Thank you, your Honor. 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2.1 BY MS. FORCK: 2.2 Q Good morning, Mr. Mertens.

Q Are you familiar with the affidavit of

A Good morning.

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John Robinette filed May 9th, 2018, in this case? 1 I briefly reviewed that. 2. Α Yeah. 3 Do you have a copy of it up there with you 0 I do not. Α 5 MS. FORCK: May I approach? 6 (By Ms. Forck) Is it correct to say that 0 7 the graphs attached to this affidavit used the Meridian Way and Elk River generation numbers to 9 determine an estimate for the addition of 600 10 megawatts of wind contemplated by the stipulation? 11 It -- it's my understanding that the Elk 12 River and Meridian Way wind farms were used as a 13 proxy. So those two wind farms are 250 megawatts. 14 And then somehow that information was used to --15 used to prorata up to 855 megawatts. Yes. 16 Are Meridian Way and Elk River good proxies for the wind generation that will be built 17 18 under the terms of the stipulation? 19 Α I don't believe so. Several things have changed. Not only the technology of wind turbines 20 2.1 today to make that -- as Mr. McMahon explained 2.2 yesterday to make the profile wind turbine is much 23 different than when these were installed back in 2.4 2005 and 2008. 25

Plus, the location of the wind turbines in 1 southwest Missouri is quite different than two wind 2. 3 farms that are out relatively in central Kansas. 4 Would you please look at the first 5 attachment? It has the date January 18, 2016, and 6 then the words winter peak. 7 Yes. I see that. Α Can you explain to me just generally what 0 9 this graph depicts? 10 Α Well, it appears that it -- the blue lines 11 are representative of Empire's total load on our --12 our peak day -- or a peak on -- on January 18th of 13 2016. 14 And then the -- the orangest line 15 represents wind generation during that day or what 16 appears to be 855 megawatts of generation based on 17 what I talked about earlier coming from the Elk 18 River and Meridian Way wind farms. 19 So is it your understanding that that 0 20 orange line, that estimated wind production line, 2.1 represents actual production of Meridian Way and 2.2 Elk River scaled up to 855 megawatts? 23 That's my understanding. I haven't seen Α 24 the data behind that, but that's my understanding.

1 Q Okay. Would you take a look at the page that indicates December 19, 2016, winter peak? 2. December 19, 2016, winter peak? 3 Α 4 0 Yes. 5 Α Okay. Yep. I'm there. 6 How does the estimated wind production 0 7 line on this graph compare to the previous estimated wind production line for January 2016 9 winter peak? 10 Α Well, it shows a lot more production on 11 that day than the previous graph. 12 Okay. Are the wind shapes the same for Q 13 the two winter peak days, then? 14 Α No. They -- they -- they would be quite a 15 bit different. Yes. 16 Okay. And, similarly, let's compare the 17 spring minimums for 2016 and 2017. 18 Α So you're looking at the graph that says 19 5/21/2017 and 5/1/2016? 20 Α Yes. 2.1 Do these two days share a like wind shape? 0 22 They -- based on these graphs, no. 23 They're different on those dates. 2.4 Do any of the graphs depicted in 25

- 1 Mr. Robinette's attachments have the same wind 2 shapes as one another?
- 3 A You know, I haven't done a thorough
- 4 analysis, but it appears that there -- there would
- 5 be some variability between the graphs, and there
- 6 wouldn't be a -- the wind during the day wouldn't
- 7 match up. Correct.
- 8 MS. FORCK: Okay. Thank you. I have
- 9 nothing further.
- 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross by MECG?
- MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you, your Honor.
- 12 Very briefly.
- 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 14 BY MR. WOODSMALL:
- 15 Q (By Mr. Woodsmall) Good morning, sir.
- 16 A Good morning.
- 17 Q A couple things in your testimony I wanted
- 18 to talk about, first being, on your surrebuttal,
- 19 page 7 -- and I don't think you need to look it up.
- 20 But there, you talk about -- you respond to OPC's
- 21 criticism that the original GFSA would not lead to
- 22 a diverse resource mix. Do you recall that?
- 23 A I would just like to pull it up, so --
- Q Okay. Sure.

- 1 A You said page 7?
- 2 Q Yeah. Bottom of page 7.
- 3 A Could you repeat the question? Sorry,
- 4 David.
- 5 Q My question was, do you recall this
- 6 discussion in your testimony?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Would you agree that leaving Asbury open
- 9 would make the Empire resource mix more diverse?
- 10 A You know, I think we get caught up a lot
- 11 in what diverse is. You know, I think a -- amount
- of coal, amount of natural gas, amount of wind and
- 13 hydro that we have in our system as well as fuel
- 14 oil as back-up makes it very diverse.
- 15 And so I -- I think -- but there will be,
- 16 you know, similar amounts of coal, natural gas and
- 17 wind generation, which would -- would lead to a
- 18 diverse system, yes.
- 19 Q When you say similar amount, under the
- 20 stipulation which leads -- leaves Asbury open? Is
- 21 that what you're referring to?
- 22 A That would be correct. Yes.
- Q Okay. The second thing I wanted to talk
- 24 to you about, you have some discussion in your

- 1 direct testimony about environmental compliance at
- 2 Asbury. Are you familiar with that?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q And in there, you talk about that there's
- 5 a need going forward for approximately 20 to
- 6 \$30 million of environmental costs.
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q Can you tell me what that's associated
- 9 with?
- 10 A Yes. We have coal compression residual
- 11 rules that the EPA has put out that we have to
- 12 comply with, at least with the current rules, by
- 13 April of 2019.
- 14 So the 20 to \$30 million is really
- 15 representative of three things. One, there's about
- 16 \$10 million worth of closure of the existing around
- 17 pond. That's going -- those -- that \$10 million is
- 18 going to occur whether we retire Asbury or not.
- 19 At some point, those ash ponds are going to have to
- 20 be closed.
- 21 The other approximately 20 million is
- 22 related to two projects. We have to build a new
- 23 landfill, which is about eight to \$10 million of
- 24 that cost. And then we have to put a new bottom

1 ash conveyance -- conveyance system on the existing boiler, which is about ten to \$12 million dollars. 2. 3 And the -- the 20 million -- the two 4 projects that constitute the 20 million, those 5 costs could be avoided if Asbury was closed? That's correct. 6 Α 7 Okay. So either way, we're going to pick 0 up at least a third of the costs whether Asbury 9 stays open or closes? 10 Α Correct. 11 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. No further 12 questions. Thank you. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 14 MR. POSTON: Yes. Just a few. Thank you. 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION 16 BY MR. POSTON: 17 Good morning. 0 18 Α Good morning. 19 Q Now, in the company's application and 20 testimony filed in this case, it was contemplated 2.1 that Asbury would close, the company made 2.2 commitments to offer affected employees other 23 employment opportunities within the company; is 2.4 that correct? 25

1 Α That is correct. 2. Q And that was within your testimony; is 3 that right? 4 Α That's correct. I think it was in my 5 rebuttal -- surrebuttal. 6 And why did the company make those 0 7 commitments? Well, there -- there were a lot of 9 circumstances leading to the retirement of Asbury. And we felt we had a skilled work force out there, 10 11 spent a lot of time training them and wanted to 12 honor the training. 13 You know, it was good for the company and 14 good for the employees to continue to -- or to 15 provide them opportunities to continue within the 16 company. 17 0 And that included training as you were 18 just talking about, right? 19 Α Yes. It may take additional training to 20 move them to other areas of the company. Yes. 2.1 And under the terms of this stipulation, 2.2 the plant would not be closed at this time. 23 the company would exercise its management 24 discretion to close Asbury; is that correct?

1 Α That's -- that's what the stipulation 2 says, correct. 3 And will the company file these same 0 4 commitments regarding employees should it choose to 5 close Asbury? 6 Α As of today, that agreement is -- is still 7 in place if that's what you're asking. Well, the agreement doesn't speak to the 9 employees of Asbury. I'm referring to the 10 commitments the company had made in their 11 testimony. 12 Right. A 13 0 If you do decide to close, will you still 14 try to find employment for the employees there and 15 training opportunities for them? 16 Yeah. What I'm saying is the agreement 17 with the union that we have --18 Q I see. 19 -- is still in place today. So yes. 20 MR. POSTON: Okay. All right. Thank you. 2.1 That's all. 2.2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 23 MR. OPITZ: No thank you, Judge. 2.4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sierra Club? 25

1 MR. ROBERTSON: Yes. 2. CROSS-EXAMINATION 3 BY MR. ROBERTSON: 4 0 Good morning. 5 Α Good morning. I'd like to refer you to your direct testimony, Exhibit 9. 6 7 Who was responsible for ensuring the reliability of the SPP grid? 9 The Southwest Power Pool, along with its members, oversee the -- the Southwest Power Pool 10 11 and its dispatching -- the way it dispatches the 12 system on a daily basis is in charge of the 13 reliability of that system. 14 You say in your testimony that energy is 15 dispatched through SPP's integrated marketplace to 16 ensure reliability. How does that dispatch ensure 17 reliability? 18 Α Well, on a -- a daily basis, we go through 19 a process, as all the other members of SPP go 20 through a process, where we submit our units into 2.1 the Southwest Power Pool for them to dispatch them. 22 They do that on two bases. One, economic 23 basis. But if there is an economic issue out there 24 that may cause a reliability issue, SPP would say, 25

- 1 for instance, Shut this unit off because it's going
- 2 to cause a reliability issue and turn this one on.
- 3 So there's two parts of that daily dispatch
- 4 protocols.
- 5 Q Okay. And does SPP also do reliability
- 6 studies?
- 7 A Yes, they do. Yes, they do.
- 8 Q Are those for specific projects, wind
- 9 farms, other units or overall?
- 10 A They go -- they go through several
- 11 processes. Annually, they go through a 10-year
- 12 planning cycle where they look at different
- 13 upgrades that need to be made on the system to
- 14 ensure reliability as well as flow across the
- 15 system.
- And then we also have to go through any
- 17 time we put in a -- a new unit, whether it's a wind
- 18 farm or thermal assets, we have to get a large
- 19 generator interconnection agreed that we have to go
- 20 through a study process to make that happen.
- 21 And then once that occurs, we have to go
- 22 through a study process that allows us to get
- 23 network service from our units back to -- to -- to
- 24 ensure we have transmission from our units back to

1 our customers' load. So there's really three -- at least three 2. 3 different study processes going on specifically 4 related to new units and new transmission lines. 5 And do you know how their study processes 0 6 deal with the retirement of Asbury? 7 Well, once we get within a period where we Α believe we'll retire any unit, we have to give them 9 six months advanced notice. And then they would 10 run that through a study process and determine in 11 if any -- if that retire would cause any 12 reliability issues and, therefore, cause that person -- or the entity that's retiring that unit 13 14 to have any transmission upgrades. 15 And SPP, I believe you testified, is 16 subject to the reliability standards of NERC and 17 FERC? 18 Α That's correct. 19 North American Electric Reliability 0 Council and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission? 20 2.1 Α That is correct. 2.2 Now, in your rebuttal testimony, Exhibit Q 23 10, on pages 7 through 9, you discuss the 24 reliability of Empire's -- of SPP's system.

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q And did you respond to the testimony of
- 3 OPC witness Lena Mantle, her rebuttal testimony?
- 4 A Yes, I did.
- 5 Q And have you also read Ms. Mantle's
- 6 surrebuttal testimony, Exhibit 201?
- 7 A Yes, I have read it.
- 8 Q I don't suppose you have a copy of that?
- 9 A I -- I do not.
- 10 Q Let me -- now, what I gave you is not the
- 11 complete copy of the testimony, just certain pages.
- 12 I'd like to refer you to page 10. And there is a
- 13 quotation in that middle -- middle of that line --
- of that page from a data request response. Do you
- 15 see that?
- 16 A I do. Yes.
- 17 Q Were you the author of that data request
- 18 response?
- 19 A I couldn't recall for sure. I've answered
- 20 a lot of data requests in different jurisdictions.
- 21 But, I mean, I'm familiar with the answer.
- 22 Q All right. And below that, lines 17 and
- 23 18, Ms. Mantle says, This response merely states
- 24 that Empire has enough capacity to meet the SPP

- 1 capacity margins. Is that right?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 O Is capacity margin the only basis for your
- 4 assessment that the customers savings plan will not
- 5 compromise good reliability?
- 6 A Could you say that -- state that again?
- 7 Sorry.
- 8 Q Is capacity margin the only basis for your
- 9 assessment that the customer savings plan will not
- 10 compromise grid reliability?
- 11 A No, it's not. There are several other
- 12 factors.
- 13 Q Well, what other factors do you rely on?
- 14 A Well, I -- as I discussed earlier, we --
- 15 we go through the robust study processes. We go
- 16 through our daily submissions into the -- into the
- 17 system. So many of those factors I talked about
- 18 earlier.
- 19 Q Okay. What percent of Empire's capacity
- 20 **is gas?**
- 21 A I don't -- off the top of my head, I don't
- 22 know percentages. We have roughly 900 megawatts of
- our 1400 megawatts of generation that is related to
- 24 natural gas.
- 25

1 Q Okay. And Elk River and Meridian Way have 2 accredited -- they have -- they get capacity credit 3 from SPP, do they not? 4 That's correct. Α 5 At what -- what percentage? 6 Α We have to go through an annual process 7 that SPP has put together to -- that looks at the historical output of the wind farms and compares it 9 to our peak load as well as the peak load of SPP. 10 In rough numbers it's come out to about 15 11 percent over -- of the entire nominal capacity of 12 the unit. 13 Is that true of newer wind farms as well? 14 I mean, we could use that as a proxy, and Α 15 that's what I've done in my testimony. We will -we'll go through the same study process once those 16 units come online. We'll be able to use that same 17 18 type of calculation. 19 0 And how do you respond to OPC's concern 20 that SPP power prices are too uncertain to justify 2.1 the risk to ratepayers? 2.2 Well, there's a certain level of 23 uncertainty in -- in any market with a zero cost 2.4 fuel units. I would argue that that -- that they

- 1 have a competitive advantage from the zero cost
- 2 fuel perspective compared to other thermal units.
- 3 Q Going back to your direct testimony, page
- 4 9 -- page 6, I believe -- I'm sorry. Lines 15 to
- 5 17. You say, It's a buyer's market for wind in SPP
- 6 right now. Do you expect that level of saturation
- 7 to continue after the PTC expires, Production Tax
- 8 Credit, in 2020?
- 9 A No. I -- I expect there to be a
- 10 significant falloff after the December 31st, 2020
- 11 deadline. Will there still be wind added? I'm --
- 12 I'm sure. But it won't be the saturation that
- 13 we're seeing now.
- 14 Q All right. And I want to refer you back
- 15 to Ms. Mantle's surrebuttal, page 5. Do you have
- 16 that one?
- 17 A Yes. I have it here.
- 18 Q Lines 21 to three. She says, In Empire's
- 19 2016 rate case, Staff's fuel run showed Empire's
- wind purchased power agreements was more costly
- 21 than energy from Asbury.
- 22 A I see.
- 23 Q Now, those PPAs were with Elk River and
- 24 Meridian; is that right?

1 Α That's correct. And you know, when did -- what year did 2 3 Empire enter its PPA for Elk River? 4 Α 2005. 5 And for Meridian Way? 2008. 6 Α 7 Do you know if the capacity factors of 0 those wind farms are higher or lower than those of 9 new Kansas wind farms? When we put -- they would be lower. 10 Α 11 we put Elk River in, you know, it was purported to 12. be the best capacity factor in the state of Kansas, 13 about 43 percent. 14 New wind farms out in Kansas are in the 15 upper 40s, and I've seen reports of even 50 percent 16 or higher capacity factors for wind farms in 17 Kansas. 18 0 Okay. And that's improved technology to a 19 large degree, is it not? 20 Improved technology, higher -- higher Α

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turbines, higher head heights. Yes.

MR. ROBERTSON: That's all I have. Thank

JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross by City of Joplin?

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you.

1 MS. BELL: Thank you. 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BELL: 3 4 0 We'll just start where we left off. You 5 just stated that you've seen capacity factors higher than 50 percent. Did you bring that data 6 7 with you today? I did not. I've just seen that in 9 publications. Is that -- and that data is not in the 10 0 11 record? 12 Α Not that I'm aware. 13 0 And were you present for Mr. McMahon's 14 testimony yesterday? 15 Α I was. 16 0 And do you recall him deferring several 17 questions about the stipulation to you? 18 Α Yes. I was quite excited about that. 19 But you didn't file an affidavit in Q 20 support of the stipulation, correct? 2.1 Α I did not. 2.2 So your testimony was limited to direct 23 and surrebuttal? 24 A That's correct. 25

1 0 And so all of that testimony was on the 2 basis of the original plan, correct? 3 Yes. All my -- all of -- if you're asking Α 4 if all of my testimony was based on the original 5 filing, yes. That's correct. But I believe much of it is still 6 7 substantive for what we're talking about even with the stipulated agreement. 9 Okay. If you'd turn to your direct 10 testimony -- I'm on page 5. And there, you just 11 speak generally -- I think on page 5 and page 6, 12. you speak generally about the recent developments 13 in wind generation. 14 And then on page 6, you say the technology 15 and industry has been improving. And you've 16 repeated that today, correct? 17 Yes, I have. Α 18 Q That's your position? 19 Α Yes. 20 And then if you'd turn to page 7, you -- I 0 2.1 think you said you were -- major drivers lowering 2.2 the overall cost of wind generation. And you 23 identify four drivers; is that correct? 2.4 Yes. I have four bullets that refer to Δ 25

1 lower turbine pricing, improved technology, improved construction efficiency and local 2. 3 manufacturing, yes. 4 0 Are any of those bullets supported by 5 footnotes or factual information? 6 Α I don't have any footnotes, if that's what 7 you're asking. And so on lower turbine pricing -- you've 0 9 worked for Empire since 2001; is that correct? 10 Α That's correct. 11 Q And Empire's never had its own wind 12 assets, correct? 13 Α We have not owned -- directly owned. We 14 have purchase power agreements. If wind technology is ever improving and 15 16 improving at a quicker pace), is it reasonable to 17 lock yourself in now to the technology that exists

21 the biggest deadline is related to the protection

today rather than perhaps holding resources back

and capitalizing on the technology in five years?

Well, as we've discussed, you know, the --

- 22 tax credit. And that provides our customers
- 23 basically a 50 percent discount.
- 24 So we -- you know, if you would equate

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- 1 that to turbine technology, we would have to see a
- 2 50 percent improvement in the amount of wind that
- 3 -- the capacity factor.
- 4 So we'd have to go from a 45 percent
- 5 capacity factor to a 90 percent capacity factor. I
- 6 can tell you today that's just not possible unless
- 7 we make turbines, you know, thousands of feet tall.
- 8 So the other side of it would be we'd have
- 9 to cut the capital costs in half from, you know,
- 10 the roughly 15 to \$1600 KW down to 750. Is that in
- 11 the long-term impossible? No.
- Do I -- of my professional opinion believe
- 13 that's going to happen in the next four or five
- 14 years? Absolutely not.
- 15 Q On page 8 of your direct testimony, you
- 16 talk about, In addition to changes in the market,
- 17 Empire is now part of a corporate family that has
- 18 experience with tax equity financing as a reason of
- 19 why this case is before the Commission.
- 20 But for the merger, would you -- would
- 21 Empire have considered this type of application?
- 22 Yes or no?
- 23 A I think if you look at the April of 2016
- 24 Integrated Resource Plan that Empire filed before

- 1 it went forward with the merger without
- 2 Algonquin/Liberty Utilities, we started talking in
- 3 and of 2016 about the changes we were seeing in the
- 4 wind industry and the possibility even before we
- 5 file our next triennial that we would have to try
- 6 to take a deeper look and continue to study this
- 7 wind being added to SPP.
- 8 So can I sit here and say it would be
- 9 exactly as we filed it without the expertise? I
- 10 couldn't say that. But we were looking into this.
- 11 But, you know, that expertise has brought a lot of
- 12 value to our customers.
- On page 11, lines 1 and 2, you state, The
- 14 company decided to seek approvals to retire Asbury
- and in conjunction with the acquisition of the wind
- 16 projects. And on line 22, you state, The sooner
- 17 that we receive Commission approval. Is that what
- 18 Empire is seeking is approval?
- 19 A You know, I think you're getting at
- 20 Commissioner Hall's questions yesterday. And I
- 21 think what we're looking for is an indication that
- 22 our plan is reasonable. Yes.
- Q Okay. On page 8 of your -- or I'm sorry.
- 24 On page 12 of your direct testimony, you talk about

- 1 Asbury. Is it true that Asbury was the only plant
- 2 Empire could propose to retire because it's the
- 3 only plant not under joint ownership?
- 4 A Could you repeat that? Sorry.
- 5 Q Is it true that Asbury is the only
- 6 generation facility that Empire could propose to
- 7 retire because it's the only facility not under
- 8 joint ownership?
- 9 A No. I think the -- the modeling allowed
- 10 Energy Centers Units 1 and 2 -- and Mr. Holmes
- 11 could correct -- correct me probably later. But I
- 12 think Units 3 and 4 as well as the Ozark Beach
- 13 units were allowed to be retired.
- 14 And I think Mr. McMahon went through in
- 15 depth yesterday about the different reasons on why
- 16 were and some were not allowed to retire.
- 17 Q Okay. I think Mr. Woodsmall asked you a
- 18 few questions about what costs are essentially sunk
- 19 with the Asbury project.
- 20 And I think your answer was, Well,
- 21 regardless of whether it stays open or closed, a
- 22 third of that 20 to 30 million will have to be
- 23 expended anyway; is that correct?
- 24 A Roughly. That's correct.

1	Q And you included those costs in your in
2	your testimony and in your modeling, correct?
3	A Yes. Correct.
4	Q In your testimony, you also talked about
5	dismantling costs. And in that case, you said
6	because there are had costs, because they're going
7	to happen anyway, we chose to exclude those from
8	our modeling.
9	Why include some costs in one in one
10	situation and exclude some costs in another?
11	A We just knew the that the 20 or
12	\$30 million was something coming up relatively
13	quickly where the timing of the the retirement
14	was you know, if we took some dollars, I think,
15	just say it cost \$20 million today and we put some
16	inflation on it out into the \$20 million today to
17	dismantle it, and then we would just have to
18	inflate it out into the future.
19	So we just felt like from a what the
20	cost would be today, it it was a little bit
21	different. So I couldn't say that there was, you
22	know couldn't say that that was a a
23	significant dollar value in our overall analysis.
24	Q Okay. On page 17, you talked about
25	

- 1 Empire's all-time peak. And I believe that's the 2 provision that you updated today?
- 3 A That's correct.
- 4 Q And so there is -- you're stating there
- 5 was a new peak in January of this year?
- 6 A That's correct.
- 7 Q And was today the first time that you
- 8 shared that information with the other parties?
- 9 A I don't believe so. I think the -- I
- 10 think it was -- I know it was referred to
- 11 yesterday, maybe in someone's opening remarks.
- 12 And there may be a data a request out
- 13 there with that. But I don't believe that's the
- 14 first time that was shared with the parties.
- 15 Q Okay. On page 18 of your direct
- 16 testimony, you talk about dispatching the wind --
- 17 the wind facilities into SPP. So with respect to
- 18 wind -- and I am not a wind expert.
- But you cannot essentially store it up and
- 20 dispatch it when the -- when you need to. And so a
- 21 lot of the graphs we're seeing, we're seeing that
- 22 the wind is highest when we -- when we need it the
- least. And so you aren't able to capture that and
- 24 kind of equalize that variability in any manner,

1 are you? I think if you look at those graphs that 2. Α 3 were based off of the Elk River and Meridian Way, 4 you can see sometimes even in there where there was 5 higher generation during some on-peak hours. But, you know, as discussed with today's 6 7 technology and the wind turbines reaching higher, there is a little bit more levelized continual 9 generation out of these units than what the older 10 ones would have. 11 Undoubtedly, there's still probably more 12 generation in off-peak hours. Today, we don't 13 have, you know, large scale batteries to store that 14 energy. Can that technology and is that technology 15 likely to come in the coming years? Yes. 16 And those batteries would then allow you 17 to dispatch that excess wind when it was being 18 produced when you didn't need it? 19 That -- yeah. Effectively, yes. Α 20 Do you know the cost of those batteries? 0 2.1 Today, they're not economical on our Α 2.2 system. They -- they are higher cost. Yes. 23 And those costs are not included in any of 0 24 the modeling?

- 1 A They are not.
- 2 Q Okay. On page 21 of your direct
- 3 testimony, you talked about -- oh, the long-term
- 4 service agreements with the OE -- OEMs, right?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And those -- I think yesterday we -- we
- 7 talked a lot about how wind projects would be low
- 8 cost.
- 9 But it's your testimony that there will be
- 10 planned maintenance and unplanned repairs and that
- 11 provisions regarding those costs will be contained
- in those OEM agreements, correct?
- 13 A You went on for a while there. Could
- 14 you --
- 15 Q Sure. Sorry. I will -- okay. So the OEM
- 16 agreements will contain provisions regarding
- 17 planned maintenance and unplanned repairs, correct?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 Q And those are costs of the wind projects,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q Okay. Moving to your surrebuttal
- 23 testimony, on page 5, you talk about the jobs that
- will be required for ongoing maintenance of the

- 1 wind projects and you state how many jobs would
- 2 that be.
- 3 A I think somewhere in here, I -- we
- 4 estimated 40 jobs for 800 megawatts of wind
- 5 turbines.
- 6 Q And what were the jobs that would be --
- 7 essentially be a cost savings for you because they
- 8 would be eliminated because of Asbury? If you were
- 9 to close Asbury, what was the number?
- 10 A Our full staff prior to starting to
- 11 minimize our work force out there is roughly 60
- 12 employees.
- 13 Q And you said you're minimizing your work
- 14 force. What's your staff right now?
- 15 A I believe we're at roughly 45 Empire
- 16 employees. And then we have some contractors
- on-site doing fuel handling, another four or five
- 18 employees.
- 19 Q Okay. I'm going to hand you OPC's opening
- 20 that has been marked as MECG -- I think it's 235.
- MR. WOODSMALL: 352.
- Q (By Ms. Bell) 352. A little bit of
- 23 dyslexia there. You were present yesterday for --
- MR. WILLIAMS: May I interject? My

- 1 recollection is that what's been marked as MEC -- I
- 2 don't remember the Exhibit number, but was only two
- 3 pages out of that opening.
- 4 MR. WOODSMALL: That was my intention.
- 5 Yeah.
- 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I -- that's what I have
- 7 is there were two pages that were being referred
- 8 to. I don't know what those two pages are.
- 9 MS. BELL: Okay. Well, for my purposes,
- 10 I'll just mark this as Joplin 502. And that's the
- 11 full opening, just for identification purposes.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That's fine.
- 13 Q (By Ms. Bell) Okay. You were present
- 14 yesterday for the opening by OPC; is that correct?
- 15 A That's correct.
- 16 Q And if you could flip to page -- I don't
- 17 know what it was numbered -- 20, page 20. And that
- 18 is the page that has the capacity factors chart on
- 19 it, Table 1, Annual Capacity Factors of Kansas Wind
- 20 Farms.
- 21 A Okay.
- 22 Q Are you familiar with these projects?
- 23 A I mean, I'm familiar with the names,
- 24 roughly familiar with where some of them are

- 1 located, yes.
- 2 Q Okay. So on -- if you look at Waverly
- 3 Wind Farm and Cedar Bluff Wind Farm, in 2014, they
- 4 show NA. And in 2015, for Waverly, it also shows
- 5 NA. Is that because these are new wind farms?
- 6 A I'm not familiar with -- with Cedar Bluff.
- 7 Waverly, I believe it was installed sometime in
- 8 2015 or '16.
- 9 Okay. And it would be reasonable to
- 10 assume that they are using the latest wind
- 11 technology; is that correct?
- 12 A I -- I couldn't comment on what vintage of
- 13 turbines they -- they put in there. I couldn't
- 14 testify to that.
- 15 Q Okay. And at Waverly, which was installed
- in 2015, roughly, what's the capacity factor for
- 17 that wind farm?
- 18 A It's --
- MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, at this point,
- 20 he's being asked to provide as evidence something
- 21 that's not in evidence. He hasn't been shown to
- 22 have firsthand knowledge of this.
- 23 So he's simply reciting a number off of a
- 24 piece of paper that he can't verify. So until we

- 1 lay a foundation that he has knowledge, I'd object
- 2 to this being put into evidence.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Response?
- 4 MS. BELL: I'll withdraw the question.
- 5 I'll ask it in a different way.
- 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 7 Q (By Ms. Bell) Do you have any data to
- 8 support the proposition that Kansas -- new wind
- 9 farms in Kansas have better capacity than older
- 10 vintage wind farms?
- 11 A Are you -- are you asking me if I have
- 12 anything, sitting here today, in my possession to
- 13 show that?
- 14 O Or have put anything in the record.
- 15 A I -- I couldn't tell you if anyone's
- 16 answered a data request that would have any other
- 17 capacity factors in there.
- 18 **O** Okay.
- 19 A So --
- 20 MS. BELL: If I could have just a minute,
- 21 your Honor.
- Q (By Ms. Bell) It's -- this still hasn't
- 23 been an identification of a contractor for the wind
- 24 projects; is that correct?

We -- we have a short list of projects and

Fax: 314.644.1334

contractors that we are looking at. But no 2. 3 contract has been signed with -- with any of them. 4 Correct. 5 Okay. And do you have an estimate of Q 6 ratepayer impact for the wind projects? 7 I'd probably defer that to Mr. Holmes as some analysis he's done. 9 Okay. Would you be the one to answer 10 questions about market prices, or would you also 11 defer that question to someone else? 12 I guess it depends on -- I mean, market Α prices associated with modeling or just general 13 14 market prices? 15 Well, we'll see what questions you can

- Q Okay. And would you agree that the
- 21 revenues out of SPP are largely dependent on wind

answer. Would you agree that benefits to customers

depend on revenues received from the wind projects?

I would -- I would agree that that is part

22 energy and wind energy generated?

of our modeling. Yes.

- 23 A In total or just related to our plan? I'm
- 24 not following your question, I guess.

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Α

1 0 The way you calculate the revenues, which 2 ultimately Empire is saying ends up in customer 3 savings, that number is dependent on wind energy 4 generated, correct? 5 As it relates to -- as it relates to the Α 6 wind turbines and the wind farms, correct. 7 And if you don't have any wind to sell, you're not making any money? You can't sell it off 9 in SPP? 10 Α We would not get any revenue from zero 11 sales off of the wind farm. 12 And you're familiar with the 280-B price Q 13 forecasts that were used by Empire? 14 Aware of them, but I'd probably defer any Α 15 questions about that specifically to Mr. Holmes. 16 Okay. Okay. On Joplin 502, which I 17 believe is still in your possession, I would ask 18 you to look at page -- page 8. 19 Α I'm there. 20 And have you reviewed this chart before? 0 2.1 I -- I -- I can't say that I have. Α 2.2 Okay. My understanding is that this chart 23 was attached to Mr. Riley's affidavit in opposition

to the stipulation and agreement.

24

1 And it purports to show a 380 million shortfall in Years 1 to 10 in revenue requirement 2. 3 for the wind projects. Do you agree that there 4 will be a 380 million shortfall? 5 I don't agree. But I couldn't comment at Α 6 all about how this -- this chart was put together 7 or -- I do not agree with that. And so if -- so I guess my question is 9 what's the difference between the numbers here and 10 Empire's numbers? Is that a question for someone 11 else? 12 MR. COOPER: I object. Yeah. He's 13 already indicated he's got no familiarity with this 14 chart, so I don't know how he's going to compare it 15 to anything else. But --16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: He can answer the question if he knows it. 17 18 Α Could you repeat the question? 19 (By Ms. Bell) What's the difference --0 20 OPC's predicting a \$380 million shortfall. Empire 2.1 is projecting a customer savings. Do you know 22 generally why the difference would be so severe? 23 This is, you know, ten years with -- ten Α 24 columns with, you know, 15 lines. And I have spent 25

- 1 no time analyzing it, so I couldn't tell you how
- 2 those differences were calculated.
- O Okay. If you'd go to Slide No. 10.
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And you would agree that capacity factor
- 6 decreases over time with wind projects? There's a
- 7 performance degradation?
- 8 A I would agree if you made no upgrades over
- 9 time, as with any thermal units, similar wind would
- 10 -- would have some degradation. But throughout
- 11 periods you -- you do make some -- often make
- 12 capital investments to maintain your integrity.
- 13 But with no -- with no upgrades, you would likely
- 14 see some degradation.
- 15 Q So on the capacity factor when the project
- was modeled at 54 percent and RFP at 47 percent,
- 17 was that capacity factor in Year 1? Was it in Year
- 18 10? Was there -- was that an average over the time
- 19 period?
- 20 A I -- I couldn't answer that specifically.
- 21 Probably Mr. Holmes could answer that better.
- 22 Q Okay. Thank you. If you'd look to page
- 23 **27.**
- 24 A Yes.
- 25

- 1 Q I believe that purports to show negative
- 2 prices increasing from 2.6 to 7 percent in 2017.
- 3 Are -- would you expect that trend to continue?
- 4 A Well, again, these are -- these are
- 5 real-time. The Southwest -- so these negative
- 6 prices often come because there's imbalances
- 7 between what is projected versus what is actually
- 8 produced from these wind farms.
- 9 SPP is working right now to improve the --
- 10 the way that wind is modeled. Or the accuracy of
- 11 -- of forecasts for wind. So if that accuracy
- 12 improves, then we could see a change in -- in this
- 13 trend going up.
- 14 O Okay. And if you flip to the next slide,
- 15 I believe -- if we're on Slide 28, which is titled
- 16 Elk River Annual Minimum Market Price. And so in
- 17 2016, ABB said the minimum market price would be
- 18 \$12. In 2017, their revised forecast would be \$9.
- 19 And those are the forecasts used by Empire,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A I believe that's correct. Yes. The ABB
- 22 is 2016, 2017. Yes.
- 23 Q And then this purports to show that the
- 24 actual minimum price was negative \$50. Are you

- 1 aware of any explanation by ABB why they were so
- 2 wrong?
- 3 A Well, I don't -- I think we're
- 4 mischaracterizing. That negative 50 could -- you
- 5 know, could come from a five-minute interval, and
- 6 that could just be what shows -- and that's how
- 7 SPP's, L&Ps come out as negative 50 over five
- 8 minutes.
- 9 The next minute, that could have been on
- 10 the positive side because that imbalance had been
- 11 corrected. So that -- over an hour's period, that
- 12 could actually average out to twelve or nine, which
- is what the 12 and 9 represent are hourly averages.
- 14 So --
- 15 O So the twelve and nine are hourly averages
- 16 and not the max forecast? Or the min forecast --
- 17 sorry -- the minimum forecast?
- 18 A Well, the 12 would be the minimum forecast
- 19 for one hour in the modeling.
- 20 O Okay. And so if you'd flip to the next
- 21 page, I believe that actual number is about half
- 22 what the projections were. And is your explanation
- the same, that that's due to an averaging over the
- 24 hour?
- 25

1 Α I'm saying that could be a possibility. don't know -- you know, I'd have to look into the 2. 3 actual 2017 max to see how that 61 was came up 4 with. I'm not familiar with where that came from. 5 0 Okay. But I do know L&Ps are -- are available in 6 Α a five-minute interval basis. And I'm assuming 7 there was some query done to come up with that. 9 Are you familiar with the wind catcher 10 project in Oklahoma? 11 Α The -- yeah. The same type of 12 publications I read to get the -- you know, the capacity factors and updates on wind, where I read 13 about the PSO case. Yes. 14 15 So have you reviewed Dr. Marke's 16 affidavit? 17 I've read it briefly. I don't have it in Α front of me. 18 19 Okay. Have you reviewed the stipulation 0 20 that was attached to the affidavit, the Oklahoma 2.1 Wind Catcher Stipulation? 2.2 I -- I briefly read it. Yes. Α 23 0 Okay. And just for the record, I placed 2.4 the attachment to Dr. Marke's affidavit, which 25

- 1 contains the language for the net benefit
- 2 provision, on the Elmo. Mr. Mertens, have you
- 3 reviewed the net benefits provision before?
- 4 A I'm -- I've got a bad glare from here, so
- 5 I'm trying to be able to read what you put up here.
- 6 I don't know if you have a hard copy or not.
- 7 Q My hard copy is on the Elmo. I think OPC
- 8 might have a quick copy of the witness' affidavit.
- 9 That's it. Where is it at? Attachment 2,
- 10 Attachment 1. Okay. So do you have an
- 11 understanding of how that net benefit provision is
- 12 different from the provision contained in the
- 13 stipulation and agreement?
- 14 A I've spent no time comparing this -- this
- 15 net benefit calculation versus our customer
- 16 protections, if that's what you're asking.
- 17 O Do you know if anyone at Empire could
- answer questions about this document?
- 19 A If anyone could, it would likely be
- 20 Mr. Holmes. He's the one that put the -- the
- 21 customer protection provisions together for our --
- 22 our stipulated agreement.
- Q Okay. Do you know if the Commission were
- 24 to scrap the 12 pages of Excel spreadsheets, flow

- 1 charts, definitions from the stipulation and do
- 2 something like a net benefit provision in Oklahoma
- 3 what Empire's position would be?
- 4 A Without seeing it and seeing what other --
- 5 no, I don't -- I couldn't tell you what our
- 6 position would be.
- 7 MS. BELL: Okay. No further questions at
- 8 this time.
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross by OPC?
- 10 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
- 11 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 12 BY MR. WILLLIAMS:
- Q Good morning, Mr. Mertens.
- 14 A Good morning.
- 15 Q Let's start with your change to your
- 16 testimony.
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q I think it was on page 17 in your direct.
- 19 You revised the figure from 1199 megawatts to 1,211
- 20 megawatts?
- 21 A That's correct.
- 22 Q And you said that the new figure had been
- 23 obtained in January of 2018?
- 24 A That's correct.
- 25

1 Q What was the date of the 1199 megawatt 2 figure? 3 Α Off the top of my head, I couldn't recall. I believe it was set in the winter a few years 4 5 back. But I couldn't tell you specifically. 6 0 Within the past five years? 7 I couldn't recall specifically. I would Α be guessing if I -- if I said what year it 9 occurred. So I don't like quessing on the stand. 10 So --11 Q You can't even give an idea? I mean, within the past ten years? 12 13 It's been within the last ten years. Α 14 But you can't say it's within the last 0 15 five years? 16 Α We -- we've been hovering around 1195 to 17 1198, 1199 for several years, so I couldn't pick 18 the exact year when that occurred. 19 And I'm -- I'm trying to get an idea. And 0 20 I understand you can't pick an exact year. 21 that's the best you can do, that's fine. 2.2 If you don't hold me to it, I believe it 2.3 was 2011. But I'm not -- not positive about that. 24 And, again, that it's taken roughly eight 25

- 1 years -- seven or eight years for that maximum to
- 2 change. How long has the maximum been in that
- 3 range of 1200 megawatts?
- 4 A Probably since the 2007/2008 time frame,
- 5 we've been hanging -- our peak load has been
- 6 hanging right around that 1200 megawatts.
- 7 Q And Empire is double peaking, is it not?
- 8 A Yeah. Dual peaking. We basically see the
- 9 same peak in the summer as we did in the winter.
- 10 We probably -- this 1211 and the 1199 are winter
- 11 peaks, so our most recent two peaks were winter.
- 12 But the summer is not far behind.
- 13 Q By not far behind, you mean it's close to
- 14 the same level?
- 15 A I think our all-time summer peak was 1198.
- 16 So yeah. Pretty much.
- 17 Q Thank you. In response to questioning by
- 18 Mr. Woodsmall, you indicated that the cost of the
- 19 ash pond closures would be in the neighborhood of
- 20 \$10 million. Do you recall that?
- 21 A I do recall that.
- 22 Q Have you seen Public Counsel witness
- 23 Robinette's surrebuttal testimony?
- 24 A I probably reviewed it at some point.

- 1 Yes.
- Q Well, there's a table in there that
- 3 includes response to a Sierra Club data request.
- 4 Do you recall that?
- 5 A Like I said, I've read many data
- 6 questions, so I'd have to read it to be able to jog
- 7 my memory.
- 8 MR. WILLIAMS: May I approach?
- 9 Q (By Mr. Williams) I'm handing you a copy
- 10 of John Robinette's surrebuttal testimony that's
- 11 been marked for purposes of identification as
- 12 Exhibit No. 203. And in particular, I'm turning
- 13 your attention to page 4 of 10.
- 14 A Okay.
- 15 Q Do you see Table 1 on that page?
- 16 A Yes, I do.
- 17 Q And what does it indicate as the cost of
- 18 closing the ponds?
- 19 A There's a line here that talks about ash
- 20 impoundment closure that has 5.1 million in 2018
- 21 and then an additional 12.8 million out in 2021.
- The \$12.8 million would be the eventual
- 23 full -- full closure at 5.1 in 2018 is -- is part
- 24 of our moving around. My recollection is it's

- 1 moving around and adjusting the existing as ponds
- 2 to allow for the ash conveyance system and other
- 3 runoff associated with existing ponds that we'd
- 4 have to maintain even if we closed -- even if we
- 5 would close, even if we continue operating, we're
- 6 still going to have to form water pollution
- 7 prevention plans, and that's that \$5 million that
- 8 is in 2018.
- 9 Q So if I understand what you're saying,
- 10 you're saying that the 5 million in 2018 is going
- 11 to be incurred regardless of whether the ponds are
- 12 closed or not?
- 13 A Could you restate that?
- 14 O I'm just trying to understand if the
- 15 5.1 million in 2018 under the ash impoundment
- 16 closure line is a cost that Empire will incur
- 17 regardless of whether or not the ash ponds are
- 18 closed.
- 19 A I believe a portion of it. Not all of it.
- 20 Because, as I said, we have to change some of the
- 21 way our existing ponds are in order to allow us to
- 22 capture stormwater runoff from the coal pile.
- 23 So would we have to incur a portion of
- 24 that \$5 million no matter what? Yes. Do I know

- 1 that exactly sitting here today, what portion of
- 2 that? No. It's a little bit confusing. But we're
- 3 doing -- we'd have to do some things to comply with
- 4 the rule upfront. That's -- I didn't show those in
- 5 2018. The actual closure of everything is the 2021
- 6 number.
- 7 Q Well, let me ask you this. Which is more
- 8 accurate, the 12.8 plus some portion of the
- 9 5 million or the 10 million figure you gave earlier
- 10 for the cost that you would incur for closing the
- 11 ponds regardless?
- 12 A I would -- I would assume this is the
- 13 number that's in our capital budget. So I would
- 14 say the 12.8 what we know today is probably more
- 15 accurate than the roughly \$12 million estimate I
- 16 stated earlier.
- 17 Q Maybe I'm mistaken. I thought you said
- 18 ten.
- 19 A Did I say -- what did I say there? That's
- 20 what I meant to say. The 12.8 is more likely more
- 21 accurate than the ten that I stated earlier.
- 22 Sorry.
- 23 Q Thank you. Do you recall Mr. McMahon
- 24 saying the other day that it was Empire who

1 provided parameters, I quess is the word I'll use, for how the modeling was conducted? 2. 3 I -- I recall his testimony on that 4 matter. Yeah. 5 Well, someone at Empire decided which Q 6 constraints were to be imposed on which plants were 7 allowed to retire, for example? Uh-huh. Correct. 9 It sounded like someone at Empire also 10 controlled the other inputs that were used such as 11 the ABB pricing was used, forecast pricing was 12 used? 13 A I remember the -- the testimony on that, 14 yes. 15 Was that accurate? 0 16 Yes. If you are asking if -- well, I'll

21 I was involved in coming up with at least

state it this way. I was involved, as I've been

really -- I've been an employee at Empire over the

involved in all the IRPs. And I can say since

- 22 the majority of -- of those initial assumptions
- 23 that went into the model.

last 15 years.

24 Q So you're the one who decided which plans

25

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- 1 were allowed to retire in the modeling? We had -- we had joint conversations. 2. 3 I'm not going to say I was the one that did that. 4 But I was involved. And my knowledge of the 5 existing units was a big part of those discussions. 6 0 Well, do you recall providing a response 7 to a data request where the question was, Did Empire analyze retiring higher costs, older CT 9 units instead of Asbury? If not, explain in detail 10 why not. 11 And according to this data request 12 response, which shows you as the responsible 13 person, the response is, Modeling allowed for the 14 optimization of retiring of all existing Empire 15 units. 16 Α Yeah. That may be a -- an incorrect
- 17 response to that data request. I think, as Mr.
- 18 McMahon and I discussed earlier, we allowed for the
- 19 retirement of Asbury. We allowed for the
- 20 retirement of Energy Center Units 1 through 4 and
- 21 Ozark Beach Units 1 through 4.
- 22 So if -- if my name is on that, that would
- 23 be an incorrect statement that we had -- had
- 24 allowed all units to be retired as part of the

1 analysis. 2. 0 Well, did you prepare the data request 3 response? 4 I don't know if myself or someone Α 5 underneath my area of responsibility would have. But I would have reviewed it before it was 6 7 submitted, if that's what you're asking, yes. Oh, do you want to see it? 0 9 Α Yeah. Sure. MR. WILLIAMS: Can I go ahead and have 10 11 this marked as an exhibit? 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That would be 214. 13 (OPC Exhibit 214 was marked for 14 identification.) 15 (By Mr. Williams) I've handed you what's 16 been marked for identification as Exhibit No. 214. 17 Do you recognize this? 18 Α Yes. 19 Q And is that the data request we just 20 talked about, the response? 2.1 Α I'm assuming so. Yes. 22 Well, do you see anything on there that 23 makes you think it is not? 24 Δ No. 25

1 0 And when was that response provided? January 5th of 2018. 2 Α 3 0 And was any update provided to that 4 response or correction? 5 No. It wasn't -- as -- as I just stated, Α it was an error on -- on my part. 6 7 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I'd like to have 8 another exhibit marked. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That will be 215. (OPC Exhibit 215 was marked for 10 identification.) 11 12. (By Mr. Williams) Mr. Mertens, I'm going Q 13 to hand you what's been marked for identification 14 as Exhibit No. 215. 15 Α Okay. 16 0 What is Exhibit 215? 17 Α It looks like a -- an update to Data 18 Request 8535. 19 Why do you think it's an update? Q 20 That is 8535.1, and it's dated April 9th Α 2.1 of 2018. And then --2.2 Doesn't it pose a different question than 23 what was asked in Data Request 8535? 24 A That first sentence starts with, In a 25

- 1 response to OPC Data Request No. 8535, Mr. Mertens
- 2 states, and goes on to -- goes on from there.
- 3 Q Well, isn't it asking you to -- or someone
- 4 at -- actually, doesn't it ask for what definition
- 5 you were using for all existing Empire units in
- 6 your response to Data Request 8535?
- 7 A Yeah. I think it was -- it was a -- a
- 8 matter of clarifying my response from earlier in
- 9 the previous -- the previous DR that we just talked
- 10 about.
- 11 Q And is the answer that's provided to -- or
- 12 the responses provided to Data Request 8535.1 the
- 13 correct response to Data Request 8535?
- 14 A State that again.
- 15 Q Is the response that was provided to Data
- 16 Request -- by Empire, presumably you, to Data
- 17 Request 8535.1 the correct response to the question
- 18 that was asked in Data Request 8535?
- 19 A I think 8535.1 is clarifying the initial
- 20 response to -- to -- to find the right units that
- 21 were allowed to -- that were assumed to be allowed
- 22 to retire in the model.
- 23 Q You think it's just a clarification as
- 24 opposed to a correction?

1 Α Probably. Correction is a fine term, I 2 quess. 3 O Where I'm trying to get in the end is 4 whether or not the response to 8535.1 accurately 5 reflects how the modeling was done with regard to 6 how retirements were permitted -- units were 7 allowed to retire in the modeling. I don't -- I don't think the -- as I stated earlier, I don't think 8535 correctly 9 10 responded to the initial question. 11 But 8535.1, the response there does? 12 I believe so. Mr. -- Mr. Holmes could Α 13 double correct me. My name is on this. But, you 14 know, he's very familiar with that. So if he has 15 any further clarification, I'm sure you could ask 16 him tomorrow. But based on what I know, this is 17 correct. 18 0 Well, a lot of people have been deferring 19 to Mr. Holmes, at least you have pretty 20 consistently. How familiar is he with Empire? 2.1 Mr. Holmes? He's been involved in a lot 2.2 of modeling that been taking place and -- and has 2.3 been reviewing a lot of our -- our units and their 24 capabilities. So --25

1 0 Well, how long has Mr. Holmes been 2 involved in working with -- with Empire? 3 You know, he was part of the transition 4 team. You know, the merger went through in January 5 of 2017. So, you know, probably six months prior 6 to that, he started reviewing our -- our units and our data -- data from our different units. So a 7 couple of years. 9 And how long have you been familiar with 10 the operations of Empire? 11 Α About 16, 17 years. 12 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge,, at this time, I'd 13 like to offer Exhibits 214 and 215. 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Are there any objections? 15 Hearing none, they're received. 16 (OPC Exhibits 214 and 215 were offered and 17 admitted into evidence.) 18 0 (By Mr. Williams) And is it Mr. Holmes 19 who has been making the decision about what 20 modeling inputs are used that have been -- well, 2.1 I'll just stop there. Has Mr. Holmes been involved in the 2.2 2.3 discussions about -- around the model? 2.4 Q Is he the decision-maker about how the 25

- 1 inputs to the modeling?
- 2 A No.
- 4 A As I said, we have a team of folks
- 5 reviewing that day-to-day model. Couldn't tell you
- 6 the day-to-day model. I mean, as far as
- 7 decision-makers related to the IRP, I think myself,
- 8 Mr. Swain. I think it's been listed that Mr. --
- 9 Mr. Eichler from Liberty Utilities as well as David
- 10 Pacica from Liberty Utilities.
- 11 And then I think Rob Sager, who is the CFO
- of our -- the CFO of our company, no longer with
- 13 Empire, was another decision-maker.
- 14 Q What about for the stipulated plant
- 15 modeling? I assume there was modeling done for
- 16 that. Start there. Was there modeling done for
- 17 the stipulated plant?
- 18 A Yes. I think Mr. Holmes and Mr. McMahon
- 19 went through a lot of that modeling.
- 20 O Do you know who provided the inputs into
- 21 that modeling?
- 22 A I mean, I think from a, per se, input
- 23 perspective, a lot of what they did in that final
- 24 modeling was updated it on the most recent results

- 1 we had from our RFP, from a -- from the -- from
- 2 that perspective as well as, you know, a lot of the
- 3 initial inputs wouldn't have changed.
- 4 We would have just sort of left Asbury on
- 5 versus in a lot of the previous analyses, we had
- 6 taken Asbury off.
- 7 Q Who decided what inputs were included in
- 8 the stipulation plan modeling?
- 9 A Well, I think the inputs were already
- 10 there from previous. From a modeling perspective,
- 11 they would have just, you know, pulled some levers,
- one unit on versus one level off and potentially
- 13 updated some of the wind cost data.
- 14 Q Who did the modeling? Who actually
- 15 performed it?
- 16 A As I stated, Mr. McMahon and Mr. Holmes
- 17 were -- were very involved along with ABB are
- 18 consulted. But ABB would have actually run the
- 19 model itself.
- 20 Q That was what I was asking. Are you
- 21 familiar with what's been occurring in SPP with
- 22 regard to negative pricing?
- 23 A Yes. I mean -- yeah.
- Q Do you know if there's been -- if that's

- 1 -- if SPP is looking at changing how the market
- 2 operates to address negative pricing?
- 3 A Yeah. I think there's a couple things.
- 4 As I discussed earlier, they are looking for
- 5 improved overall forecasting of the individual wind
- 6 farms.
- 7 And then, secondly, they're -- they're
- 8 looking at a -- and I know Ms. Mantle had put some
- 9 of this in her rebuttal testimony talking about --
- 10 I'll use the short terms and come back with the
- 11 NDVER versus DVER. But NDVER stands for
- 12 Non-Dispatchable Variable Energy Resource, and DVER
- is a Dispatchable Variable Energy Resource.
- 14 And I think there's a -- a understanding
- 15 as to what SPP is trying to do there. So
- 16 non-dispatchable resources are, for example, Elk
- 17 River and Radio Way Wind Farm.
- 18 They were installed back in 2000 -- prior
- 19 to 2011 when the rules were being made for the SPP
- 20 integrated marketplace.
- 21 And as I discussed earlier, the SPP
- 22 integrated marketplace looks for the most economic
- 23 dispatch. But some of those original wind farms
- 24 were put with contract provisions that did not

- 1 allow the owner to -- to curtail them. And it
- 2 didn't allow SPP to control their -- their daily
- 3 input.
- 4 So as part of SPP integrated marketplace,
- 5 the participants agreed that those would be
- 6 considered non-dispatchable variable energy
- 7 resources and would not follow the same provisions
- 8 within the SPP integrative marketplace for any new
- 9 wind farms added after 2011.
- 10 So I think the misunderstanding that has
- 11 taken place is our new wind farms will be
- 12 considered dispatchable energy resources. And the
- ongoing conversations in SPP is to change the
- 14 designation of those other wind farms from
- 15 non-dispatchable to dispatchable variable
- 16 resources.
- 17 And if that were to occur, that would
- 18 actually be beneficial to our -- our new wind farms
- 19 because it would have an impact on our old wind
- 20 farms in those PPAs.
- 21 But the new wind farms would be,
- therefore, more dispatchable because these
- 23 non-dispatchable resources wouldn't be able to be
- 24 automatically left without dispatching requirements

- 1 from SPP.
- 2 Q So you're telling -- well, would the
- 3 stipulation modeling include closing the 600
- 4 megawatts that was to be added as being
- 5 dispatchable in SPP, then?
- 6 A I think, as Mr. McMahon stated yesterday,
- 7 we followed the curves, the production curves that
- 8 were -- were part of the modeling that we -- we
- 9 came up with.
- 10 Q Well, what I'm asking is whether the
- 11 modeling treated the wind farm as being
- dispatchable or not, what you're talking about,
- 13 this misunderstanding in SPP.
- 14 A I -- I couldn't -- couldn't specifically
- 15 respond to hour-to-hour decisions that the modeling
- 16 made.
- 17 Q So your answer you don't know?
- 18 A I don't know.
- 19 Q Will Empire require to know the
- 20 authorization of its Board of Directors to
- 21 implement those stipulated plans?
- 22 A As with past, large energy resources
- 23 before we enter into contracts -- or at the time we
- 24 entered into contracts, we would put resolutions in

1 front of our Board, yes. 2. Have you done that yet? 3 We have not. We are working on those Α resolutions now as well as those type of 4 5 authorizations. 6 And why have you not done that yet? 7 At this point, we don't have specific Α contracts for them to approve. 9 When do you anticipate having those 10 contracts? 11 We are -- we are working towards something 12 in -- in late May. But that's not -- not a 13 definitive concrete time frame. 14 From the perspective of Empire's customers 15 who are paying rates, why should Empire acquire --16 make it 600 megawatts of wind generation now? 17 Can you say that again? You took a little Α 18 pause there in the middle. 19 Why should Empire's customers -- from 0 20 their perspective, why should Empire acquire 600 2.1 megawatts of wind generation now? 2.2 I think we've shown through a -- a very

robust modeling and through interactions with the

-- the various Intervenors on running various

2.3

2.4

1 scenarios, we've consistently showed savings to our customers by the addition of this generation. 2 3 Well, if the Commission ends up saying no 4 in this case, is there any reason why Empire can't 5 go out and go ahead through an affiliate -- well, 6 let's just make it an affiliate. 7 An affiliate of Empire go out and build these wind farms and reap all of the benefits for 9 its shareholders? 10 Α I guess -- I guess I'm not completely 11 following your -- your question. 12 Well, you're asking the Commission to have 0 13 ratepayers for this project to be included in rate 14 base for Empire's ratepayers to pay for. 15 Is there any reason why, if this 16 Commission says, We're not going to rubber stamp 17 that plan at this point in time, Empire couldn't, 18 through one of its affiliates, go out and do this 19 as an IPP? 20 Well, I personally worked for the -- the 21 regulated utility/Empire District, and my job was

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to look for solutions that are least cost to our

So my analysis is based on serving those

customers as well as reliable and safe.

2.2

2.3

24

- 1 customers and what's good for them. So I -- I
- 2 couldn't speak to the IPP side of Algonquin.
- 3 Q Well, just so I don't forget to do this,
- 4 you recall Mr. Robinette's affidavit that has some
- 5 charts, some bar graphs and some line graphs? Do
- 6 you have that with you?
- 7 A Yes. I have Mr. Robinette's affidavit. I
- 8 have that here.
- 9 Q Are you familiar with typical load shapes
- 10 for Empire on a daily basis?
- 11 A I'm -- I'm not sure I would classify wind
- 12 generation, looking at a few charts, here as
- 13 typical. But I'm -- I'm familiar with --
- 14 Q I haven't asked you anything about the
- 15 charts yet. I'm just asking you if you have
- 16 familiarity with the typical shape of Empire's load
- 17 on a day.
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Under -- it varies considerably on
- 20 different days, does it not?
- 21 A It would, based on weather.
- 22 Q Are these -- the bar charts on these one,
- 23 two -- well, there's -- there are a series of I
- 24 guess I'll call them graphs that are attached to

1 the affidavit? 2. Α Yes. 3 O Have you had an opportunity to look at all 4 of those? 5 I -- I've looked at them briefly. Yes. Α 6 And looking at the bar graphs, just the 0 7 bar graphs themselves, do those appear unusual in shape for Empire's load on a daily basis? 8 9 They look consistent with what we would -- would see. 10 11 Q And then looking at the line graphs that are superimposed, are you familiar with the -- I 12 13 understand there's a lot of variability in this. 14 But are you familiar with the output of Meridian 15 Way and Elk River? 16 Α Yes. 17 And how those shapes can vary day-to-day 0 18 in terms of output on an hourly basis? 19 Α Yes. I'm familiar with that. 20 And would the variability that is shown on 0 2.1 these graphs be consistent with the kind of 2.2 variability that you've seen in terms of output 2.3 from those wind farms? 24 Α Yeah. I would -- yes. Generally, yes.

- 1 But, again, as I stated earlier, I'm not sure that
- 2 what's proposed here would --
- 3 O I'm not asking you anything other than
- 4 whether or not these are consistent with the kind
- of information you've seen in other cases. I'm not
- 6 asking to you quantify it or anything like that,
- 7 just if the shapes are consistent with what you're
- 8 familiar with on a daily basis in terms of load and
- 9 wind output from the existing PPAs.
- 10 A From the existing PPAs, there's no reason
- 11 I would think it would be different than what's
- 12 proposed -- shown here.
- 13 Q Okay. Now, we've heard testimony that the
- 14 new wind farms have better generation
- 15 characteristics. So are you saying -- what does
- 16 that mean in terms of these shapes that you see in
- these graphs for wind in comparison?
- 18 A Well, I think, in total, you know -- as we
- 19 discussed, you know, these -- let's talk about Elk
- 20 River represents roughly a 43 percent capacity
- 21 factor. New turbines on that site would -- would
- 22 likely -- I don't have any --
- 23 Q Well, those would go to the quantity of
- 24 output. I'm just looking -- really, what I'm

- 1 directing the question to is, is it going to change
- 2 the variability of the output?
- 3 A Probably wouldn't change the overall
- 4 variability. We may see a higher level of, per se,
- 5 minimum output.
- 6 You know, on those -- those real small
- 7 days, you might see a larger quantity because your
- 8 turbines are higher and there's more wind up there
- 9 at the higher level. But it wouldn't change --
- 10 drastically change the overall variable, if that's
- 11 what you're asking.
- 12 Q That's what I'm asking. So the shapes
- would be consistent probably. I mean, the -- you
- 14 wouldn't expect a big change from the shapes you're
- 15 **seeing here?**
- 16 A You know, I'd have to look at, you know,
- 17 wind characteristics of southwest Missouri. There
- 18 could be some variability. But, I mean, if -- if
- 19 you're asking me if -- is the wind output going to
- 20 be a straight line, no, it is not.
- 21 Q I wasn't going quite that far. I'm asking
- 22 if these would -- you would expect that the new
- 23 wind farms, the curve shapes would be similar to
- 24 what you're seeing in these graphs for wind output?

1 Α I would concede they would be similar characteristics. 2. 3 And that entails day-to-day variability Q 4 and hour-to-hour variability, correct? 5 Α Correct. 6 On page 6 of your direct testimony, it's 0 7 probably more in your comfort zone, on lines 7 and 9, you testify, The generation complete savings 9 analysis is simply a more in-depth continuation of 10 this analysis. 11 And you're referring to the 2016 analysis 12 and the 2017 update resource planning analysis to 13 determine whether there are any savings that can be 14 achieved for customers; is that true? 15 Α Yes. As my testimony states, yes. 16 Why didn't Empire do this more in-depth 17 analysis for its 2016 IRP analysis and its 2017 IRP 18 update analysis? 19 I -- I think you -- if you would go back to the 2016, trying the IRP, we were just starting 20 2.1 to see a -- a shift in the -- the pricing associated with -- with wind due to these 2.2 2.3 technology changes that we've been talking about. 2.4 The extension of the PTC, when we were 25

- doing our triennial filing, the PTC was getting
- 2 ready to expire. And we didn't see that as a --
- 3 without that -- those PTCs in the long run --
- 4 long-term. We didn't see wind as viable.
- 5 But those PTCs were extended about the
- 6 same time we were filing our 2016 IRP. And that's
- 7 what we talk about in that triennial filing.
- 8 Q Were the production credits set to expire
- 9 at the time of that filing?
- 10 A Well, I think at the time they were
- 11 actually filed, they had just been extended. But I
- 12 -- I think prior to that, they were either --
- 13 either the end of 2015 or the end of 2016. I can't
- 14 specifically recall.
- 15 Q But if a project qualified for the
- 16 production tax credits, it would get it for the
- 17 full ten years, would it not?
- 18 A Yeah. The PTC rules that allow for
- 19 production tax credits over ten years. That's
- 20 consistent between the -- the new ones and the old
- 21 -- old --
- 22 Q Well, haven't production tax credits for
- 23 wind been available since at least 1994?
- 24 A I heard Mr. McMahon testify and confirm

- 1 that yesterday. I know they've been available for
- 2 a while. I don't -- 1994, I couldn't state
- 3 specifically. But, yes, they've been available for
- 4 quite some time.
- 5 Q Over a decade?
- 6 A Yeah. Our -- our Elk River and Radio Way
- 7 wind farms in 2005 and 2008, while we don't get the
- 8 production tax credit specifically, those wind
- 9 farms do no production tax credits.
- 10 Q And did Empire do the more in-depth
- analysis for its upcoming 2017 update, resource
- 12 planning update? I asked you about 2016 and the
- 2017 update. Did Empire do it for the 2018 update?
- 14 A I'm not sure. I think we were referred to
- 15 the ongoing GFSA analysis and answered the
- 16 questions related to contemporary issues. I'm not
- 17 sure there was any further in-depth analysis
- 18 because we referred to the ongoing analysis
- 19 associated with this -- with this case and the
- 20 customer savings plan.
- 21 Q You say you referred to it. Did you --
- 22 well, did you include the generation complete
- 23 savings analysis as part of your update to the 2016
- 24 resource planning in the 2018 integrated resource

- 1 plan annual update report that Empire filed with
- 2 the Commission?
- 3 A I can't -- I couldn't recall whether we
- 4 specifically filed the generation complete savings
- 5 analysis as part of the 2018 annual tri -- annual
- 6 update.
- 7 I know we refer to it, but I couldn't tell
- 8 you whether we actually filed that actual
- 9 report.
- 10 Q Why wouldn't have you included it in that
- 11 report?
- 12 A Like I said, I can't recall whether we did
- 13 or did not.
- 14 Q At this point in time, has Empire changed
- its preferred resource plan?
- 16 A The preferred plan, the 2016 IRP, is still
- 17 what we consider our preferred, which is why we're
- 18 here as part of these ongoings to determine
- 19 long-term what our preferred plan is.
- 20 O Why isn't Empire willing to just go ahead
- 21 and change its preferred plan at this point in time
- 22 if it wants to build this 600 megawatts of wind?
- 23 A Well, I think, as we discussed yesterday,
- 24 from a financing -- financing of these type of

- 1 projects and -- and overall assessment of the
- 2 reasonability of this -- these projects then, our
- 3 plan, that's why we brought this forth to the
- 4 Commission and to the intervening parties.
- 5 Q You have a triennial resource planning
- 6 analysis that's due in April of 2019 to be filed
- 7 with this Commission, do you not?
- 8 A That's correct.
- 9 Q Is Empire performing the more in-depth
- 10 analysis that it did for the GFSA as part of that
- 11 triennial filing?
- 12 A We are, at this point, starting to put
- 13 together the plan associated with the -- our 2018
- 14 triennial filing. And, obviously, whatever comes
- 15 out of these proceedings will be -- will -- will
- 16 have an impact on how we analyze the 2019
- 17 triennial.
- 18 Q Well, my understanding in the resource
- 19 planning is that you look at a number of different
- 20 options and then you select one. And you look a
- 21 lot -- consider a number of different futures.
- But, ultimately, you select whichever A
- 23 plan, that's what you call your preferred plan.
- 24 Why wouldn't you -- why would you not, if you think

- 1 the GFSA is a rigorous planning, include that as
- 2 part of your resource planning analysis? I mean.
- 3 What's the difference that you're going to report
- 4 to the Commission about?
- 5 A Well, I quess what I'm saying is I --
- 6 whatever comes out of this will be part of our base
- 7 assumptions. And then going forward, we would
- 8 still figure out what our long-term plan is through
- 9 additional modeling and analysis and robust review
- 10 from the intervening parties. So I -- I guess --
- 11 I'm a little confused by -- by what you're trying
- 12 to get to.
- 13 Q Well, why would what comes out of this
- 14 affect how you do your resource planning is
- 15 basically what I'm getting at? What effect is it
- 16 going to have on your base assumption?
- 17 A Well, if we would have -- you know, our
- 18 base assumptions would have an additional 600
- 19 megawatts. Even if it may -- even if we -- even if
- the Commission denies what we're going through
- 21 here, our analysis would still go through the same
- 22 robust review that we went through in this process.
- 23 So many of the same analysis that we went through
- in this process, I'm sure, would be part of that

- 1 2019 triennial filing.
- 2 Q I mean, Isn't resource planning something
- 3 you do all the time? It's just in certain points
- 4 of time you have to make certain recommendations to
- 5 the Commission?
- 6 MR. COOPER: I'm going to object. I think
- 7 this line of questioning is redundant. I think
- 8 we've been over this maybe three times here. But
- 9 that's my objection.
- 10 MR. WILLTAMS: T don't think it's
- 11 redundant. And I think that's my last question on
- 12 this area anyway.
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: All right. Well, then
- 14 we'll move along. Go ahead and ask your question,
- 15 and we'll go to another subject.
- 16 MR. WILLIAMS: I did ask it. I'll have
- 17 the court reporter read it back. It hasn't been
- 18 answered yet.
- 19 A I guess I'll answer that. I remember it.
- 20 I guess the -- the basic is you are correct. We do
- 21 do continual resource analysis, which is part of
- 22 this -- which is why we made this filing because we
- 23 saw there was significant change in the market.
- As part of our ongoing analysis, continual

- 1 analysis, we thought this was a big enough change
- 2 from our 2016 IRP, so we came forward with that
- 3 before our 2019 triennial filing.
- 4 Q (By Mr. Williams) Does Empire need to
- 5 expand its resource capacity?
- 6 A Today, we meet our reserve margin
- 7 requirements that are part of the SP -- Southwest
- 8 Power Pool with our existing generation.
- 9 Q And is that the only criteria, then, you
- 10 rely on for whether or not you need to expand your
- 11 resource capacity?
- 12 A I think as we discussed we try to look for
- 13 least cost resources. You know, that -- that
- 14 reserve margin/capacity requirement is -- is a
- 15 reliability metric, but there are other economic
- 16 factors that we look at our generation as well.
- 17 O So I'll ask you again, and please give me
- 18 a yes or no answer. And if you need to provide
- 19 more explanation than you have, I'm okay with that.
- 20 Does Empire need to expand its resource capacity?
- 21 A I guess I'd respond from what -- what
- 22 metric are you looking at? From a reserve margin
- 23 requirement or from a least cost analysis
- 24 perspective or -- there's -- there's several items

- 1 that you could -- there's several ways you could
- 2 answer that question.
- 3 Q Why don't you answer it from residential
- 4 -- or not residential -- retail customer load
- 5 requirement perspective?
- A And, again, as I stated earlier, we do not
- 7 need to add additional capacity to meet the peak
- 8 load of our retail customers. I think you -- well,
- 9 when are Elk River and Meridian Way -- the purchase
- 10 power agreements, when do those end respectively?
- 11 A The existing Elk River contract expires in
- 12 2025. We do have an option to extend that for five
- 13 years, but we'd have to negotiate the rate. So
- 14 there's not a set rate for that five-year
- 15 extension. And then the Meridian Way expires in
- 16 2028.
- 17 Q And what is that based on, those -- those
- 18 dates you provided?
- 19 A Twenty-year terms from their initial
- 20 execution.
- 21 Q The source of your information, is that a
- 22 contract?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q I was a little confused. Are you familiar

- 1 with any of Empire's FCC filings?
- 2 A Yes. As a -- as an officer of the
- 3 company, I was familiar with those filings.
- 4 Q Are you familiar with the 10-Q that Empire
- 5 filed for the quarterly period ending September of
- 6 2016?
- 7 A Yeah. I would have -- I would have
- 8 reviewed that at some point.
- 9 O May I have -- let's see.
- 10 MR. WILLIAMS: May I approach the witness?
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Yes, you may.
- 12 Q (By Mr. Williams) I'm handing you a copy
- of the Empire District Electric's Form 10-Q for the
- 14 quarterly period ending September of 2016. I want
- 15 to turn your attention in particular to page 19.
- 16 Well, I guess it's 20.
- And the first thing I'm going to do is ask
- 18 you, do you recognize what I've handed you?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 O And what is it?
- 21 A It is the Form 10-0 SEC filing. I'm
- 22 looking for the date here. For the period ended
- 23 September 30th, 2016.
- 24 Q Turn your attention to the page that has

- 1 19 at the top, Table of Contents, cutter. Do you 2 see that?
- 3 A Yes. I see that.
- 4 Q And there's a paragraph that talks about
- 5 Plum Point, and then there's a second paragraph
- 6 that talks about Meridian Way wind farm. Do you
- 7 see that?
- 8 A Yeah. Howell County, yes, wind farm, yes.
- 9 Q And it indicates that agreement expires in
- 10 **2028, does it not?**
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And then there's a third paragraph that
- 13 refers to the Elk Refer wind farm?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q And it shows an expiration date of 2020,
- 16 does it not?
- 17 A That's what the 10 -- 10-0 states. It
- 18 must have been a typographical error because I can
- 19 assure you it's 2025.
- 20 O Well, that was the source of my confusion.
- 21 I wanted to get some clarification on that. Of
- 22 course, 10-Qs are documents that investors rely on,
- 23 correct?
- 24 A That's correct.
- 25

Do you know if there was ever any 1 0 2 correction made to that 10-Q? 3 I -- I can't state with any certainty 4 whether it was or not. 5 On page 6 of your direct testimony, lines 0 6 20 to 21, you indicate -- or you testified the wind 7 -- in part, the wind generation industry has been maturing over the last 10 to 15 years. 9 Α Yes. 10 Is the wind generation -- wind generation 0 11 industry still maturing? 12. At -- as with all types of generation, Α 13 there's continual technology advancements. 14 So you're saying the wind generation 15 industry is always mature, then? 16 Α Yeah. I would say there's a continual improvements. Are there periods in every type of 17 18 technology where improvements are steeper than 19 others? Yes. 20 And with -- with these large wind turbines, I would say kind of at the onset we're 2.1 2.2 seeing -- we have seen some -- some rapid 2.3 increases. As with any technology, those increases 24 taper off with time. 25

1 Q And then I'm going to direct your 2 attention to page 9 of your direct testimony, line 3 7 to 8. And there you talk about by owning and 4 operating the wind generation assets, Empire is in 5 a position of control over the generation of 6 electricity from them, correct? 7 Α Correct. Do wind farms generate electricity when 0 9 the wind is not blowing? 10 Α No. 11 Q What is it that you mean by that sentence? 12 Well, my opinion -- when I'm referring to Α is -- is, from an ownership perspective, as with 13 14 the majority of our other thermal assets, we 15 control the decisions about day-to-day maintenance, 16 day-to-day capital improvements that ensure 17 long-term viability of those projects and the long-term benefits for our customers. 18 19 Well, my understanding one of the great 0 20 benefits of these wind projects is there's supposed 2.1 to be very little day-to-day maintenance or capital 2.2 improvements needed for them once they're 2.3 installed. Am I wrong? 24 A I'm not sure I would agree with -- with 25

- 1 very little. Are they as large and complex as a
- 2 combined cycle unit or a natural gas-fired combined
- 3 cycle unit or a coal unit, no, they're not.
- 4 They're not that complex.
- 5 But when you have a hundred or 150 of
- 6 them, there is continual routine maintenance.
- 7 These -- these units have lots of -- lots of moving
- 8 parts. So I don't know about little, but there are
- 9 things that you're doing continually to these
- 10 units.
- 11 Q Well, isn't the cost of that considerably
- less than big coal-fired units such as IATAN 1?
- 13 A On a -- a per unit basis, yes.
- 14 O I'm going to turn your attention to --
- 15 let's see -- the same page, page 9 down on line 22.
- 16 There's a -- you start a paragraph off there that
- 17 continues onto the next page.
- And in part, you testify that ownership of
- 19 assets versus being in a lease, rent or pay for use
- 20 situation with an asset or energy seller inherently
- 21 creates healthier utilities and provides better
- 22 local economic development opportunities for our
- 23 cities, communities and customers. Why does owning
- 24 wind farms inherently make Empire healthier?

- 1 Α Well, from the ownership perspective, again, it talks about the -- having those assets in 2 3 our control versus, you know, being at the whim of a purchase power agreement that has defined terms 4 5 and makes it hard for us to respond to ongoing 6 issues from -- from a finance perspective. 7 Having those assets on our balance sheet does make us a healthier utility in the -- in the 9 long run. And I think if you look at our existing 10 Elk River and Cloud County wind farms, you know, 11 that those terms being back from 2005, 2008, we're 12 not in a position to make long-term decisions on 13 those assets that -- that could make them more 14 beneficial to Empire and its customers. 15 Okay. Well, you have the option of not 16 renewing the five -- or extending one of the 17 contracts by five years, correct? 18 Α That's correct. 19 And you're done with them after their 0
  - 21 Is that not correct?
  - 22 A That would be correct.
  - 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Williams, we need to

contracts terminate unless you negotiate new ones.

24 take a break soon. I'm curious as to how much --

25

- 1 if you have a lot more to go or if you're close to being finished. 2. 3 MR. WILLIAMS: How long are you -- when 4 did you want to take -- I mean, we can take a break 5 now if you like. 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Why don't we go ahead and 7 -- we've been going for a couple of hours. Let's be in recess for about 10 minutes. 9 (Break in proceedings.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Back on the record. 10 11 where we left off was cross-examination by Public 12 Counsel. 13 0 (By Mr. Williams) One more question, or 14 at least hopefully, regarding that same paragraph 15 we were just looking at that starts on line 22 of 16 page 9 of your direct testimony. 17 Α Yes. 18 And I directed you to a particular 19 sentence earlier where you talk about ownership of 20 assets versus, I guess, not owning them creates --
  - 23 **on.**
  - 24 A Uh-huh.

25

21

2.2

inherently creates healthier utilities and provides

better economic development opportunities and so

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1
             I asked you about why owning wind farms
         0
 2
     inherently makes Empire healthier, and you answered
 3
     that question. My next question is why does Empire
 4
     owning wind farms, quote, provide better local
 5
     economic development opportunities for our cities,
6
     communities and customers, closed quote?
7
             Well, I -- I think owning these wind farms
         Α
     and bringing them into our, per se, family of -- of
9
     generating units and overall system and -- and
     invoking -- or getting those folks involved in the
10
11
     Empire family and, therefore, living in our
12
     communities, participating long-term in your
13
     communities is -- makes not only for a healthier
14
     Empire, but for a healthier community and long-term
15
     growth by -- by having those employees live
16
     locally.
17
             I'm trying to understand how that relates
18
     to the difference between owning or not owning the
19
     assets that you're relying on. Can you explain how
20
     owning or not owning the wind farms provides better
2.1
     local economic development opportunities for the
2.2
     cities, communities and customers?
23
             I just think -- as I stated, by -- by
         A
     owning, I think most of our -- well, I know most --
24
25
```

- 1 our local communities and local officials are very
- 2 prudent of -- of Empire, and they use the health of
- 3 our company along with the pride that we show in
- 4 our community to -- to help them with their
- 5 economic development activities.
- 6 So making that family a little larger,
- 7 saying that we have those wind assets and those
- 8 employees within our family is what I'm referring
- 9 to there.
- 10 Q Direct your attention to page 15 of your
- 11 direct testimony and the first three lines where
- 12 you testify that the environmental upgrades to
- 13 Asbury will cost 20 to \$30,000,000.
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Do you agree that currently Empire is
- 16 planning to retire Asbury in 2035?
- 17 A I agree that's the date that was in our
- 18 last IRP model. Or our IRP triennial filing in
- 19 2016.
- 20 Q Is that also what depreciation rates are
- 21 based on?
- 22 A That's correct.
- 23 Q Is there anything indicating that
- 24 currently Empire is planning to retire Asbury at

1 some other date? Nothing specifically rather than the 2. 3 ongoing conversations that we have here as well as, 4 you know, just the continued difficulties from an 5 economic dispatch perspective of the unit is seen. 6 0 Well, currently, then, for costing 7 purposes, it's treated as having 16 years of remaining life, correct? 9 That's correct. Α 10 Do you agree that 20 million divided by 16 0 11 years is 1.25 million per year? 12 I'll -- yes. I would agree that's Α 13 correct. 14 And what is the investment that Empire is Q 15 anticipating to make for its customer savings plan 16 approximately? 17 Α Are you referring to the stipulated 18 agreement value or the --19 That's what I intended. For the 0 20 stipulated -- for the 600 megawatts, how much is 2.1 Empire currently anticipating it will be investing? 2.2 Approximately a billion dollars. Α 23 And how much of that is Empire 0 24 anticipating will -- the original project for 800 25

- 1 megawatts was based on \$700 million that Empire
- 2 would put up, and a tax equity partner would put up
- 3 the balance, correct?
- 4 A Yes. Thank you for the correction. The
- 5 billion dollars would be the total project cost.
- 6 The tax equity would finance a portion of that.
- 7 Q And I know it's not a locked down number,
- 8 but approximately what is Empire anticipating its
- 9 portion of that investment would be currently?
- 10 A Mr. Mooney could answer that better. But,
- 11 you know, I think we -- we show a range between --
- in some of his testimony between 40 and 60 percent.
- 13 So just for the sake of this, roughly 50 percent,
- 14 which is the middle of that range.
- 15 Q So approximately \$500 million?
- 16 A Yes. Approximately. I just want to make
- 17 sure to clarify, that billion dollars does include
- 18 some transmission upgrade costs, too, which would
- 19 not be financed to the tax equity partner.
- 20 Q And if you take that -- the anticipated
- 21 life of the wind farms as -- as 30 years, is it
- 22 **not?**
- 23 A That's correct.
- 24 Q And if you take that 500 million -- and

- 1 I'm just trying to get a ball -- well, let's make
- 2 it 600 to make the math easier just for purposes of
- 3 this question.
- 4 A Just for purposes of the question, that's
- 5 fine.
- 6 Q Taking the 600 million and divide it by 30
- 7 years, you get \$20 million per year, do you not?
- 8 A That's correct.
- 9 Q Is Empire filing a rate case in 2019 to --
- 10 so it can be authorized to continue to have a fuel
- 11 adjustment clause?
- 12 A I believe we are required to file a -- a
- 13 case no later than September of 2019 due to the
- 14 rules associated with the fuel adjustment clause.
- 15 O And if -- if Empire goes forward with the
- stipulated plan, will not Empire seek a rate
- increase based on its investment in the new wind
- 18 generating assets?
- 19 A You threw a will not in there that
- 20 confused me as to what your question is.
- 21 Q If -- if Empire executes its plan, won't
- 22 it seek a rate increase based on its investment in
- 23 the new wind generating assets?
- 24 A Once those assets went into service, yes,

- 1 we would -- we would have to go through a general
- 2 rate case for prudency and getting those costs
- 3 reflected in our rates.
- 4 Q And it might take more than one rate case,
- 5 correct, depending on timing?
- 6 A It -- it potentially could.
- 7 Q Do you know what the impact will be on
- 8 Empire's Missouri retail customers bills related to
- 9 Empire recovering through its customer rates its
- 10 investment in the wind farms?
- 11 A Well, I think over the life of the -- of
- 12 the project, we would see our models reflect
- 13 savings.
- 14 O I'm looking at the -- at the beginning
- 15 when you first put those in service. What kind of
- a rate increase will it have on Missouri customers,
- if you know?
- 18 A I do not know the -- the initial --
- 19 Mr. Holmes, I know, has run some analysis on that.
- 20 Q Do you agree that wind farms only produce
- 21 electricity when the wind blows where they are
- 22 located?
- 23 A I think I've testified several times that
- 24 wind turbines only generate when the wind blows.

1 Yes. 2 Well, when the wind blows where the 3 turbines are, correct? 4 A Correct. 5 And do you agree that coal-fired Q 6 generating plants produce electricity when the coal 7 is burned? As long as everything else is functioning 9 correctly, yes. 10 I'll give you that. Q 11 Α Yeah. 12 Is it not the unreliability of - I'm 0 13 sorry. 14 Α No. I --15 Is not the -- is it not the unreliability 0 16 of wind farms to produce energy why their SPP 17 accredited capacity relative to their nominal 18 capacity is so low in comparison to those of 19 coal-fired generating units such as Asbury? I wouldn't characterize it as 20 Α 2.1 unreliability. I would characterize it as 2.2 intermittence. And -- and that's why it would be 23 -- it's -- accredited capacity is calculated 2.4 different than a thermal unit. 25

1 0 It's also a lot lower than a thermal unit, is it not? 2. 3 Α Yes. It is -- like I said earlier, we get 4 roughly 15 percent from our wind agreements versus, 5 you know --It's actually a little less than 50 6 7 percent, is it not? The -- the calculation changes every year, 9 so 15 percent is a plus or minus, yes. 10 So what are the SPP accredited and the 11 nominal capacities for Empire's Elk River wind farm 12. purchase power agreement? 13 A I -- I don't have that off the top of my 14 head. 15 Do you know what the SPP accredited and 16 nominal capacities are for Empire's Meridian Way 17 wind farm PPA? 18 Α Not -- not off the top of my head. Again, 19 it's, you know, somewhere in that 15 percent plus 20 or minus. 2.1 And do you know the SPP accredited and 2.2 nominal capacities of Asbury? 23 I do know that one. That one is 198 Α 24 megawatts.

1	Q That's the SPP. What about the nominal?
2	A Are are you are you talking about
3	the the nominal capacity of the generator? I
4	mean, it's nominally, it it has an overall
5	capacity of about 218 megawatts. But there's
6	auxiliaries that get it back to accrediting
7	capacity of 198 megawatts.
8	Q Okay. Would you explain what do you
9	mean by the auxiliaries to get it back to 198? I
10	don't follow what you're saying.
11	A Well, so, roughly, the unit is capable and
12	actually does produce 218 megawatts. But you have
13	to use about 20 megawatts of that to run the
14	auxiliary equipment to get you back to the 198
15	megawatts of accredited continual capacity.
16	Q So you're saying the difference between
17	the accredited and I guess maximum capability is
18	because of usage at the station itself?
19	A Yeah. I mean, that you mentioned
20	you said nominal. The name plate capacity 218
21	megawatts versus the accredited capacity of a 198
22	because of those auxiliaries I talked about.
23	Q Thank you. Are you familiar at all with
24	Ameren Missouri plant at 700 megawatts of wind
25	

generation? 1 Just to the extent that I've -- I've seen 2. 3 it in different publications. 4 Do you know why Ameren Missouri's planning 0 5 to add 700 megawatts of wind generation? 6 Α I couldn't specifically speak to the 7 strategy behind their addition of the 700 megawatts. 9 Q On page 8 of your surrebuttal testimony, 10 on lines 1 to 14, you testify about how Empire has 11 relied on SPP for reliability, do you not? 12 Α Yes. That's -- that's the gist of that 13 question and answer. 14 Is Empire unconcerned with making sure itself that it is maintaining reliability for its 15 16 customers independent of the SPP? 17 I mean, we -- we have a -- a System Α 18 Planning and Reliability Department that is 19 continually looking into -- into these type of 20 additions and transmissions, whether it be 2.1 transmission or generation addition. 22 So our own Planning Department is very 23 involved in the SPP analysis to -- to make sure we continue providing reliability services. 24

I'm not sure if you've answered my 1 0 2 question or not. My question related to -- to 3 Empire maintaining reliability for its customers 4 independent of the SPP. Does Empire -- is Empire concerned with that or not? 5 6 Α That's -- reliability to our customers is 7 a very high priority for -- for Empire. Was the modeling for the stipulation plan done to see how with adding 600 megawatts of wind 9 10 it would meet Empire's load, or was it just modeled 11 against SPP market prices? 12 The -- the economic modeling was done A using SPP prices. It wasn't a -- I would say no. 13 14 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions at 15 this time. 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Commission questions? 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION 18 BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 19 Q Good morning. 20 Α Good morning. 2.1 Just a few. Were -- were you involved in 2.2 the decision to -- to attempt to -- to finance the 23 -- the customer savings plan through -- through tax 24 equity -- tax equity financing as opposed to 25

- 1 accessing the debt market? Were you involved in
- 2 that decision-making process?
- A I mean, I was part of the conversation.
- 4 Our -- our witness, Todd Mooney, would be much
- 5 better at answering any specific questions you have
- 6 about financing and tax equity.
- 7 Q So if -- if I want to understand why --
- 8 why this particular structure is most advantageous
- 9 for ratepayers, he would be one to ask?
- 10 A Yeah. He would be the one that would have
- 11 the most experience in that.
- 12 Q Okay. On page 9 of your direct -- and
- 13 this also came up in response to some questions
- 14 from Public Counsel, the -- the discussion of -- of
- 15 why it is better, in your view, for the company to
- 16 construct and -- and operate the -- the wind farms
- 17 as opposed to getting wind through -- through PPAs.
- 18 I don't really understand financially why
- 19 -- why it is better from your perspective to take
- 20 this approach.
- 21 A Well, we talked about the ongoing
- 22 decisions related to capital improvements for --
- 23 for a wind farm and continually making improvements
- 24 to its reliability or its amount of output.

So let's think about our existing wind --1 PPA that we had with Elk River and Meridian Way. 2. 3 won't talk about the prices because they're 4 confidential. 5 But we have set prices in those -- in 6 there that today are higher than the existing 7 market. And we could go back if we -- and the purchase power agreement holder could go back and 9 retrofit those to make them more efficient for our 10 customer, get more energy out of them, have lower 11 percent O&M costs in the long run. 12 But in order to do that, they would have 13 to renegotiate our contract. And they can't 14 renegotiate -- if they would renegotiate our 15 contract, they would want the existing PPA price, 16 which is above the market, and then to negotiate a 17 price for the extension. 18 It's very complicated because they're 19 financing is set up on that initial PPA price 20 that's higher than current market, whereas if we 2.1 owned those markets, we could go back if they were 2.2 economical for our customers, and -- and our 23 customers would benefit from those changes right away. I mean, that's just one example I'm trying 24 25

1 to give you. 2 I guess what I'm also -- going forward, 3 though, with -- with that knowledge, couldn't you 4 enter into better contracts for PPAs that would --5 to take that into account, all of those factors? 6 Α I mean, PPA -- if you're asking PPA's 7 today, would they have better terms than those that we signed back in 2005 and 2008? They would. 9 as we talked about --10 Okay. So then let's compare going forward 0 11 from where we are right now with either entering 12 into new PPAs or building these wind farms. Why is 13 it better for ratepayers to -- to build these wind 14 farms as opposed to entering into the PPAs? 15 I listed out several things in here. You 16 know, typically, those PPA terms are 15 to 20 17 vears. We believe wind farms and I think the --18 it's not proven, per se, but they would -- many 19 white papers out there show these are 30-year 20 assets. So our customers get the benefits of those 2.1 for the full 30 year life versus just 20. 2.2 I don't understand that. I mean, isn't -isn't that a function of the contract you enter 23 24 into? 25

It is -- it is a function. But if you get 1 Α past that 20 years, those -- those developers are 2 3 going to start pricing risk into the long-term 4 viability and reliability and availability of those 5 turbines. 6 So those prices would be for a longer term 7 contract. In my opinion, it would be higher than if you were going to sign the typical 15 to 20-year 9 term if we put a -- put additional -- you know, that risk would be an additional cost to our 10 11 customers. 12 Is there a scholarship or analysis out 0 13 there that you're aware of that would support that 14 assertion? I think it makes some sense to me 15 intuitively. But I'm curious if there is -- if 16 there is analysis out there publicly available? 17 Analysis showing a 30-year life or this 18 PPA versus ownership? 19 Showing that -- that there is some 0 20 benefit, financial benefit, for ratepayers for 2.1 utilities to own these -- these wind farms as 2.2 opposed to PPAs. 2.3 Now tell me again. And we'll do some Α 24 research, and if we can, we can provide that to 25

1 you. 2 Q So your -- so your testimony here today is 3 -- is -- and it's also in your written testimony, is -- is that there is a -- also a concrete 4 5 financial benefit for ratepayers to put the -- for 6 the utility to own the -- the wind farm as opposed 7 to entering into PPAs? That's my testimony. Yes. Α 9 You -- you explained, and I think some of 0 10 the witnesses did as well, that as part of -- of 11 this additional 600 megawatts of wind, there's 12 going to be some additional transmission needed; is 13 that correct? 14 Α That's correct. 15 And will -- and that transmission will be 0 16 built by Empire? 17 Either Empire, a contractor for Empire or Α 18 maybe some of the Jenti (ph.) lines that connect 19 the wind farm to the existing system might be built 20 by the contractor that built the wind farm itself. 2.1 Does that --Q 2.2 So some combination. Α 23 0 I'm sorry. 24 A So some combination of that, yes. 25

1 Q Does that transmission have to be -- have 2 to go through some type of SPP process in order to 3 be built? 4 Α Yes. So we -- we go through two 5 processes. There's a large generator 6 interconnection agreement that would connect the 7 wind farm to the existing grid. And then we have to go through another process that's called a 9 network service study that if our wind farm caused 10 negative impacts to the system, we may have to make 11 upgrades to the system to get that energy back to 12 our customers. 13 And that would have to occur before --0 14 before the transmission could be reached; is that 15 correct? 16 Α The -- the network service study for sure 17 would be. You know, and, preferably, we'd like to 18 have a large generator interconnection agreement --19 or study done by SPP prior to us building it. 20 But there are -- there is ability for 2.1 utilities to go out there and build that without 2.2 that study being complete. But they take the risk 23 of -- of, you know, not complying with the end result of the SPP study. 24 25

1 Q And would Empire have to put this 600 2 megawatts into the queue of the SPP at some point? 3 Yes. We already have -- for or two sites 4 as well as the other two sites that we are -- are 5 -- or the other sites, I should say, that we're 6 looking at from third parties, they're all already 7 in the generation. Generator interconnection queue. Sorry. 9 Do you know right now the extent of -- of 10 Empire's off-system sales? 11 Α Well, I -- I hesitate because, 12 technically, we sell all of our energy into the 13 SPP. 14 Q Well, okay. Rephrase it as the difference 15 between the generation to serve native load and 16 anything beyond that. 17 Yeah. In very round numbers, you know, Α 18 averaging over a couple years, we -- we currently 19 have about five and a half million megawatt hours four our native load, customers load. 20 2.1 And we sell onto the SPP market -- we're a 2.2 net seller because of our natural gas combined 23 cycles that we recently implemented. We sell 24 between six and six and a half million megawatt 25

- 1 hours. So about a half million megawatt hours or a little bit more net seller into the SPP market. 2. 3 So you're selling twice as much as you're 4 consuming? 5 No, no, no. We're consuming five and a Α 6 half megawatt hours and selling six -- the six and 7 a half million megawatt hours. 0 Okay. 9 So we're -- somewhere between half a Α 10 million and a million megawatt hours above. So --11 Q And how would that change if -- if this 12 additional 600 megawatts is -- is built? 13 We -- we would be a -- sell more on the Α 14 system than what we currently do. Mr. Holmes could 15 give you specific numbers, but I think versus the 16 half million to a million, we go somewhere between 17 two and two and two a half million. But Mr. Holmes 18 could answer that specifically when he gets up 19 here.
- 20 Q So the -- the extent to which this -- this
- 21 plan produces savings for ratepayers would be
- 22 almost completely a function of the -- the price
- 23 that Empire receives for that additional -- those
- 24 additional off-system sales; is that correct? And

- 1 I personally don't view that as a bad thing. I
- 2 just want to understand.
- 3 A Yeah. Not -- not totally because, you
- 4 know, with this wind, it could keep us from -- from
- 5 operating one of our more expensive units, like at
- 6 Asbury or something like that, that could offset
- 7 costs in that way.
- 8 Q Yeah.
- 9 A But the majority of it, you are correct.
- 10 Q Okay. And -- and these off-system sales,
- 11 they -- they flow back to ratepayers 95/5 through
- 12 the FAC; is that correct?
- 13 A Yeah. Again, I hesitate on the off-system
- 14 sales. I'm not trying to -- these sales that we
- 15 put in the SPP flow through the FAC today, yes.
- 16 Q Will you be involved -- will you be at the
- 17 table when -- when -- when the decision is made as
- 18 to whether or not to retire Asbury?
- 19 A Yes. I will be part of that conversation.
- 20 O Can you tell me what factors will be
- 21 involved in -- in your decision-making role in that
- 22 process?
- 23 A We have to look at the -- one, the
- long-term viability. And, obviously, we made some

- 1 -- some upgrades to the facility that, as talked
- 2 about with Mr. Williams earlier, to get us through
- 3 2025.
- 4 But those were at a time when natural gas
- 5 prices were much higher. Now, market prices have
- 6 dropped considerably.
- 7 O So the price of natural gas would be one?
- 8 A Right. Natural gas. Amount of other
- 9 competing energy, which wind is -- is one of those
- 10 in the SPP market.
- 11 So just from a high level, I can tell you,
- 12 12 months ending March of 2017, Asbury was made
- 13 \$3.3 million worth of margin. So we -- our sales,
- 14 the revenue we received from the market was
- 15 \$3.3 million higher than our fuel costs. So that's
- 16 that --
- 17 O And -- and all other costs related?
- 18 A Right. So that's just the -- that's just
- 19 offsetting the fuel. We have \$10 million of other
- 20 fixed costs, whether it be labor or ongoing -- half
- 21 of that's labor. Half of it's just ongoing
- 22 maintenance activities.
- 23 So we were -- that \$3.3 million is the
- 24 margin to offset that 10 million in capital -- or

1 ongoing costs, fixed labor cost and fixed costs. If I fast forward to 12 months in March of 2018, 2. that \$3.3 million has shrunk to 1.6 million. 3 4 So my point is it continues to face 5 economic hurdles to make it viable in the SPP 6 market. Will -- will the decision as to whether or 7 not it is necessary to spend \$20 million on the -on the CCR investment, will that play a factor in 9 10 determining whether or not management decides to 11 close the plant? 12 I mean, I think as we put forward in our Α customer savings plan, that was a -- a big factor 13 14 that we have been considering and will continue to. 15 We -- you know, the utility solid waste 16 activity group, which is a group that's associated 17 with EEI, has put in a request to delay the 18 compliance deadline. 19 We'll be an active part of that to 20 hopefully delay this potential \$20 million as long 2.1 as we can. But, again, spending that \$20 million 2.2 is a -- just an example of a hardship that Asbury 2.3 faces going forward. 24 Q So it will be a factor in -- in 25

1 management's decision as to whether to -- to retire the plant or not? 2. 3 Α I think it has been and will continue to 4 be, yes. 5 What -- and what is the latest on -- on --0 6 I quess it's EPA's decision as to whether to delay 7 implementation of that deadline? Yeah. The Utility Solid Waste Activities 9 Group just supplied -- or supplemented -- sorry -submitted comments last week, and I haven't seen 10 11 any specific replies out of EPA. I mean, the 12 general industry feels like we've pushed a lot of 13 decisions around this for quite a while and for all 14 these utilities to meet these deadlines just isn't 15 reasonable. But the EPA still has to make that 16 ruling and go through some final rule-making 17 processes. 18 So if there is no delay issued by -- by 19 EPA, you would be subject to litigation in April of 2019 if you -- if you don't comply with -- with 20 2.1 those requirements; is that correct? 2.2 That is our -- our strong belief. Yes. Α 23 And is -- the April of '19 deadline, is Q 24 that the deadline that you have to start any 25

environmental projects, or is that the deadline you 1 have to complete environmental projects? 2. 3 You have to be in compliance by that 4 deadline. And that deadline is -- is driven by 5 some tests that we have to do this fall in October. 6 By October of this year, we have to do 7 some tests to see if our ground water is at least 5 feet blow the bottom of our existing ash pond. 9 Just in -- in general terms, we're a little concerned with our ability to pass that. We've got 10 11 some data devices that show we might have hardships 12. passing that -- that October -- from that October 13 deadline to submit those results of that test, we 14 have six months to comply. So that's where the 15 April of 2019 comes from. 16 And is six months a time period within 17 which you -- you could complete these projects? 18 Α It's prob -- at this point, we're trying 19 to push back as far as we can. We would probably 20 actually start the outage in April, not putting new 2.1 waste into the existing ash pond. 2.2 Already probably start building a landfall 23 maybe late this fall sometime, you know, third

quarter of this year. So have the landfill ready.

24

- 1 But the actual outage to put that bottom ash
- 2 conveyance system into place that I talked about
- 3 probably wouldn't start until April based on our
- 4 current time frame and then wouldn't get completed
- 5 until late May or early June.
- 6 So we wouldn't operate any time out of
- 7 compliance. But we would -- we probably wouldn't
- 8 start the outage until a little bit later than what
- 9 we've been planning up to date just because of the
- 10 delay and the decisions around this.
- 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: No further questions.
- 12 Thank you. Thank you.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
- 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No questions.
- 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross based on
- 16 Commissioner questions? Staff?
- 17 MS. FORCK: Just a few.
- 18 RECROSS EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MS. FORCK:
- 20 Q Mr. Mertens, can you tell me what the
- 21 expected cost of the disabandonment of Asbury would
- 22 **be?**
- 23 A We -- we haven't performed an engineering
- 24 study. But I think the estimate that we have used

- 1 is roughly \$24 million.
- 2 Q Okay. In the 2016 IRP capacity expansion
- 3 modeling, did you allow Asbury to be retired early?
- 4 **A**
- 5 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm -- I'm objecting at
- 6 this point. I don't see how this ties in with
- 7 questions from the Bench.
- 8 MS. FORCK: Your Honor, I believe Chairman
- 9 Hall's questions related to Asbury are all also
- 10 related to potential retirement of Asbury, and
- 11 that's kind of where this line of questioning is
- 12 going.
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Overruled.
- 14 A In the 2016, I couldn't recall
- 15 specifically. I know back in the 2010 IRP, when we
- 16 were making the decisions related to AQCS, we
- 17 looked at several scenarios with replacing that
- 18 capacity with other combined cycle capacity. But I
- 19 couldn't tell you for sure in 2016 whether we
- 20 allowed the unit to retire.
- 21 O (By Ms. Forck) Okay. Just one more
- 22 question. This is related to the questions that
- 23 Chairman Hall asked you related to the generation
- 24 to serve native load and the additional generation.

1 You mentioned that Empire's a net seller. Are you familiar with the rebuttal testimony of 2 3 John Rogers? 4 I've read it once, yes. Α 5 Did you have a copy of it in front of Q 6 you? 7 I do not. I'm sorry. I don't have it Α individually. 9 0 All right. So this is the beginning. 10 Α Okay. All right. So would you look at the chart 11 Q 12 on page 14? 13 I'm there. Α 14 Can you explain to me how that chart 0 15 relates to -- thank you -- how that chart relates 16 to the difference between the generation to serve 17 native load and the generation beyond -- under 18 these various plans? 19 Let me do some studying and reading here. Α 20 Could you repeat the question? 2.1 I'll try. So this chart, it shows a 2.2 change in the off-system sales revenues for various

Yes. It appears Plants 2, 3 and 10 has

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24

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plans; is that right?

Α

1 off-system sales revenue. 2 And can you explain to me what this chart 3 shows relative to the current generation? 4 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I'm going to object 5 to this being beyond the scope of Commissioner 6 questions. I think Chairman Hall's questions were 7 directed to the current plan, not to these alternative plans. 9 MS. FORCK: Your Honor, I think that Chairman Hall also asked how -- well, so did Mr. --10 11 Mr. Williams, do you mean -- by current plan, are 12 you referring to the stipulated plan? 13 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. 14 (By Ms. Forck) Okay. So while this chart 15 doesn't have the stipulated plan because this was 16 filed prior to, this chart does have alternative 17 plans that have similar -- similar projections as 18 the stipulated plan? 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: What's the purpose of 20 your question? 2.1 MS. FORCK: Simply to just show -- I know 2.2 the Chairman was asking about the impacts of if --23 if Empire's already a net seller how -- how much more of a net seller they might potentially become 24

- 1 as a result of this plan. And this chart tries to
- 2 show that scope. That's -- that's the only purpose
- 3 of this question.
- 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. I'll allow the
- 5 question if the witness is able to answer it.
- 6 A Are you going to -- I think you were going
- 7 to try to repeat the question with the objection?
- 8 Q (By Ms. Forck) Sure. Can you tell me how
- 9 the off-system sales revenues related to these
- 10 plans compares to the current off-system sales
- 11 revenue?
- 12 A I -- I -- in general, I think it shows
- 13 off-system sales revenue higher than what current
- 14 generation capacity has.
- 15 O Okay. And --
- 16 MS. FORCK: I have nothing further. Thank
- 17 you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Recross by MECG?
- MR. WOODSMALL: Yes, briefly, your Honor.
- 20 RECROSS EXAMINATION
- 21 BY MR. WOODSMALL:
- 22 Q Do you have that chart --
- MR. WOODSMALL: Marcy, can he keep that
- 24 for a second? Thank you.
- 25

(By Mr. Woodsmall) Do you still have that 1 Q 2 chart in front of you? 3 Α Chart 3 on page 14, yes. 4 0 Correct. That chart shows a -- well, 5 first to tie it back, Chairman Hall was asking some 6 questions and you were responding about the margins 7 provided by Asbury in the last couple years. you said it's declined a little bit over the last 9 couple years; is that correct? 10 Α That's correct. And this chart shows some plans, one of 11 Q which is to include -- to keep Asbury online and 12 13 shows the off-system sales revenues of those 14 plants. Is that what this pretends to show? 15 I think Plan 10 included Asbury remaining Α 16 online, subject to check. 17 0 Okay. And -- and that's what the dialogue 18 up above says. And up above, it says, During years 19 2020 through 2031, most years are expected to have 20 from 20 to 35 -- 20 million to 40 million as a 2.1 result of Plan 10, which is the corrected keep 2.2 Asbury plan. Is that what that says? 23 That's what this modeling reflects in this Α 2.4 chart. Yes. 25

1 0 Okay. So what that means is even though 2 the margins for keeping Asbury have been going 3 down, as we look forward, Asbury is staying online 4 and is projected to continue to have margins above 5 costs; is that correct? 6 Α Well, this is off-system sales revenue. 7 This isn't -- this isn't necessarily margins. there -- it would still show revenue from the 9 market. 10 I couldn't -- based on this graph, I 11 couldn't comment on the margins that it's showing. 12 So it doesn't consider the cost side is 0 13 what you're saying? 14 I think the revenue requirement would. 15 I'm not sure the off-system sales revenue would. 16 0 Okay. I see what you're saying. Do 17 you --18 MR. WOODSMALL: No further questions. 19 Thank you. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 2.1 MR. POSTON: No questions. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 23 MR. OPITZ: No thank you, Judge. 2.4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sierra Club. 25

MR. ROBERTSON: No questions.  JUDGE BUSHMAN: City of Joplin?  MS. BELL: No questions.  JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel?  MR. WILLIAMS: No, thank you.  JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect by Empire?  MR. COOPER: Yes. Thank you, your Honor.  REDIRECT EXAMINATION  BY MR. COOPER:  Q Early on, Ms. Bell had asked you some  questions about, oh, maintenance repair expense,  that sort of thing associated with the wind farms.  Are those costs included in the modeling that's  been done in this case?  A That's correct.  Q You were asked some questions about  about negative prices, and I think there was some  sort of comparison of real-time prices to day ahead  prices or or what purported to be ABB forecasts.  Do you remember that?  A Yes.  Q Tell me the difference between what a  real-time price is and what a day ahead price is.  A As I discussed earlier, day ahead pricing,		
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24 A As I discussed earlier, day ahead pricing,	22	Q Tell me the difference between what a
	23	real-time price is and what a day ahead price is.
25	24	A As I discussed earlier, day ahead pricing,
	25	

- 1 we submit our units into SPP by the morning of the
- 2 previous day. And those are dispatched on a day
- 3 ahead basis.
- 4 So we'd offered them in at 11 a.m. today.
- 5 And then starting at midnight tonight, those would
- 6 be the day ahead prices that they're dispatched at.
- 7 From a real-time perspective, as we know, we're
- 8 never perfect forecasters. So -- or there's an
- 9 outage on the system unexpectedly.
- 10 So there are real-time imbalances, and
- 11 that real-time market is basically instantaneous
- 12 prices that generation and load are -- are -- have
- 13 to respond to.
- 14 O And so is the predominant impact on
- 15 Empire, does it come from the day ahead prices or
- 16 as opposed to real-time prices?
- 17 A The majority of our sales and revenues are
- 18 associated with day ahead prices.
- 19 Q In terms of ABB forecast, do they forecast
- 20 day ahead times, or do they forecast real --
- 21 real-time pricing?
- 22 A Their -- their modeling and our modeling
- 23 in those forecasts are based on day ahead pricing.
- 24 Q So would a comparison of a real-time price

- 1 versus an ABB forecasting price be sort of apples
- 2 to oranges comparison to some extent?
- 3 A To some extent. Yes.
- 4 O You talked about need to expand resource
- 5 capacity. And I think you -- you started into this
- 6 a little bit. But could you tell us what reasons
- 7 there might be to expand resource capacity other
- 8 than to meet load?
- 9 A Well, as I -- as I started to say, there
- 10 are other economic factors that drive that -- drive
- 11 that in order to maintain our overall low cost to
- 12 customers, obviously, that being the biggest of the
- 13 other ones besides just capacity reliability
- 14 options.
- 15 Q You were asked questions about modeling to
- 16 the stipulation related to 600 megawatts, and I
- 17 think you responded that that modeling was economic
- 18 primarily in basis, correct?
- 19 A Correct.
- 20 Q But do you have any concerns in regard to
- 21 reliability associated with adding 600 megawatts of
- 22 wind to the Empire system?
- 23 A No, I do not. You know, there's a lot of
- 24 talk about intermittency of wind. And we at the

- 1 SPP try to -- to minimize that.
- 2 But we have more generation through
- 3 thermal units, you know, 1200-some-odd megawatts.
- 4 Actually, if we continue with Asbury 1,400
- 5 megawatts of thermal capacity to meet our 1,200
- 6 megawatts of load.
- 7 So that, along with just other all
- 8 reliability of SPP, partnering with our neighbors
- 9 to provide generation during peak periods, I don't
- 10 have any reliability concerns with that adding 600
- 11 megawatts to our generation.
- 12 Q You had a conversation earlier, a brief
- 13 question and answer, I think, from the Chairman
- 14 about the impact of the revenues as they flowed
- 15 through the -- the FAC. And I think there was a
- 16 reference to the 95/5 sharing or impact.
- 17 A Right.
- 18 Q But that would only be the case if those
- 19 revenues were not taken into account in setting a
- 20 base fuel number, correct?
- 21 A Yes. That's a very good point. The 95/5
- is only if it varies in the base fuel rate that's
- 23 set in our base rates.
- MR. COOPER: Okay. That's all the
- 25

1 questions I have, your Honor. 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Mertens. 3 You may be excused. 4 MR. MERTENS: Just leave this? 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Call your next witness 6 whenever you're ready. 7 MS. KNOWLTON: The company calls Todd 8 Mooney. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please raise your right 10 hand. 11 TODD MOONEY, 12 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows: 13 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION 15 BY MS. KNOWLTON: 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated. 17 (By Ms. Knowlton) Good morning. 0 18 A Good morning. 19 Mr. Mooney, would you please state your 20 name for the record? 21 Α Good morning. My name is Todd Thomas 22 Mooney. By whom are you employed and in what 23 Q 24 capacity?

1 Α I'm employed by Liberty Utilities Canada Corp. in the capacity of Vice President, Finance 2 3 and Administration. 4 0 Have you caused to be prepared for the 5 purposes of this proceeding certain direct and 6 surrebuttal testimony in question and answer form? 7 Α Yes. It is your -- is it your understanding 0 9 that that testimony has been marked as Exhibits 11, 12-C and 12-P for identification? 10 11 Α Yes. 12 Do you have any changes that you would Q 13 like to make to that testimony at this time? 14 Α No, I do not. 15 Are you familiar with the testimony that 16 was filed by Robert Sager in this docket, which was 17 marked for identification as Exhibit 14? 18 Α Yes. 19 Q And the revised direct attachment, RWS-1, 20 it was marked for identification as Exhibit 15? 2.1 Α Yes. 2.2 Do you adopt that testimony as your own Q 2.3 testimony today? 2.4 A Yes, I do. 25

1 0 Do you have any changes that you would 2. like to make to that testimony at this time? 3 No, I do not. Α 4 If I were to ask you the questions that 5 are contained in Exhibits 14 and 15 today, would 6 your answers be the same? 7 Α Yes. Are those answers and all of those 0 9 exhibits true and correct to the best of your 10 information, knowledge and belief? 11 Α Yes. 12 MS. KNOWLTON: Your Honor, I offer 13 Exhibits 11, 12-C, 12-P, 14 and 15 into evidence 14 and tender Mr. Mooney for cross-examination. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections to the 16 receipt of those exhibits? Hearing none, they're 17 admitted. (Empire Exhibits 11, 12-C, 12-P, 14 and 15 18 19 were offered and admitted into evidence.) 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And first cross would be 2.1 by Staff. 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 23 24 Q Good morning, Mr. Mooney. 25

1	A Good morning.
2	Q You discuss on page 4 of your surrebuttal
3	the misconception that the tax equity partner is
4	guaranteed a return. Would you say it's accurate
5	to compare the return a tax equity partner may
6	receive on its investment to the ROA the facility
7	may receive in which they are targets and not
8	guarantee?
9	A Yes. I would say that's accurate.
10	Q And would you say for some return on
11	investment, that's not an unusual outrageous
12	expectation, right?
13	A I would agree with that statement.
14	Q In fact, would you agree that nearly
15	investments, shareholder investments, even personal
16	investments are made with the expectation of a
17	return on that investment?
18	A Yes.
19	Q You also have attached to your surrebuttal
20	some confidential letters from potential tax equity
21	partners. Without going into any confidential
22	information, would you say that those conversations
23	are still ongoing, and there still is interest?
24	A Yes. Those conversations are, in fact,
25	

1 advancing. 2 Q Okay. That's great to hear. 3 MS. MERS: That's all I have for you. 4 Thank you. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross by MECG? 6 MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you, your Honor. 7 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. WOODSMALL: 9 Good morning. A couple questions for you 0 10 First off, you had at a couple places, I think, in 11 your direct and your surrebuttal some discussion, 12 and you used the words "tax appetite," that Empire 13 doesn't have the tax appetite for collecting, using 14 any excess PTCs. Do you recall that discussion? 15 Α Yes. 16 And can you tell me why Empire does 17 haven't that tax appetite? 18 Α In the past, Empire has made capital 19 investments that were subject to bonus 20 depreciation, accelerated depreciation rates for income tax purposes that allowed it to record 2.1 2.2 taxable losses not relating to actual financial 2.3 losses, but losses for purposes of calculating its 24 income tax provision. 25

1	These taxable losses have meant that
2	Empire has not paid cash income taxes as an entity
3	and has the the tax does not have the tax
4	appetite to take on more tax losses.
5	It would not save the cash today for
6	Empire to have additional generation or PTCs. It
7	would save Empire cash in the future.
8	Q And PTCs provide a deduction so that they
9	shield taxable income; is that correct?
10	A No, that's not correct. PTCs are a tax
11	credit. We reduce your tax liability on a dollar
12	for dollar basis. So after you calculate how much
13	tax the corporation owes, part of that amount is
14	reduced by the PTC.
15	Q Okay. And since the PTCs work in that
16	fashion, if Empire doesn't have taxable income, any
17	more PTCs are kind of lost on it, aren't they?
18	A Those PTCs are lost for immediate use, but
19	they are carried forward and continued use in the
20	future.
21	With the time value of money, there's lost
22	economic value if they are used in the future as
23	opposed to today.
24	Q And so those PTCs are worth more in the
25	

- 1 third party's hands than they would be in Empire's
- 2 hands; is that correct?
- A Assuming the third pay could use them
- 4 immediately, which is the case with tax equity
- 5 partners, yes.
- 6 Q Okay. Moving on, looking at your
- 7 testimony, you appear to be the guy that
- 8 understands what the hedging agreement is about.
- 9 Is that -- are you comfortable with that subject?
- 10 A Yes, indeed.
- 11 Q Okay. First off, turning to -- do you
- 12 have, by any chance, the affidavit in opposition to
- 13 the non-unanimous stipulation of Ms. Mantle on
- 14 behalf of OPC?
- 15 A I do have that. Give me a moment to page
- 16 to the right spot.
- 17 Q Okay. And I'm going to turn your
- 18 attention to paragraph 10, which is on page 2.
- 19 A Okay. I've found the paragraph.
- 20 Q And just to take a clause out of there, it
- 21 talks about -- well, first off, it uses TE, which
- 22 refers to tax equity partner; is that correct?
- 23 A That's correct.
- Q Okay. And it talks about a -- an

- 1 agreement for Empire to provide to the tax equity
- 2 partner to the extent necessary a fixed amount for
- 3 each megawatt hour the wind farm generates.
- First off, can you tell me, is the hedge
- 5 and agreement between Empire and the tax equity
- 6 partner?
- 7 A No, that is not correct.
- 8 Q Okay. Who is the -- the counterpart to
- 9 the -- to Empire in the hedge agreement?
- 10 A As indicated my direct testimony, the
- 11 counter parties between the hedge agreement are
- 12 Empire and the wind project, which will be owned by
- 13 Empire.
- 14 O Okay. The wind project is owned by Empire
- and the tax equity partner; is that correct?
- 16 A That is correct.
- 17 O Okay. And so here to the extent it
- 18 indicates that there is an agreement for Empire to
- 19 provide a fixed amount for each megawatt hour to
- 20 the tax equity partner, that's not correct, is it?
- 21 A That statement is not correct.
- Q Okay. And -- well, let's back up a little
- 23 bit. What is the purpose of the hedge?
- 24 A So in order to finance renewable energy

- 1 projects, there needs to be some degree of price
- 2 certainty with respect to the revenues those
- 3 renewable energy projects will earn.
- 4 And this is true for regular financing as
- 5 well as for tax equity financing. The purpose of
- 6 the hedge is to provide some price certainty to the
- 7 wind project, to the renewable energy project over
- 8 a number of years.
- 9 The price certainty can be in the form of
- 10 a hedge such as is described in the testimony, or
- it could be in the form of the power purchase
- 12 agreement.
- In fact, it's quite similar to the power
- 14 purchase agreement that Empire has with Elk River
- 15 or Meridian Way where, for Elk River, SPP pays
- 16 revenues based on the actual market prices to
- 17 Empire. And Empire pays a fixed fee to Elk River
- 18 for each megawatt hour generated.
- 19 The key difference, however, is that the
- 20 Elk River is owned by a third party, and it is the
- 21 third party two suffers benefit or detriment to the
- 22 extent that the hedge -- the hedge -- that that PPA
- 23 arrangement is greater than or less than the market
- 24 prices.

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1	With respect to the hedge proposed in the
2	testimony, it is Empire who is the owner with the
3	tax equity partner of the wind projects. And it is
4	Empire that benefits from the hedge rather than a
5	third party owner.
6	Q Let's try and unwind that a little bit.
7	A For sure.
8	Q When you said first off, when you say
9	you need to provide some price certainty, why does
10	there need to be provided some price certainty?
11	Who dictates that?
12	A The financiers of a a renewable energy
13	project will loan money to a renewable project or
14	will invest money as equity in a renewable energy
15	project with the anticipation of getting their
16	capital back and getting a return on that capital.
17	If you consider a regular financing, the
18	amount of financing, a straight loan with an
19	amortization schedule that is paid back over time,
20	the financing institution will ensure that there
21	are sufficient expectations of revenues generated
22	by the facility in order to pay back the loan, not
23	just the principle, but also the interest on that
24	loan.
25	

1	There are many elements that go into
2	determining whether a real lender project will be
3	able to pay back that loan with its revenues. That
4	includes evaluating the production. They include
5	ensuring that there is not too much price risk,
6	that, in the event that prices are different than
7	expected the loan can still be paid back.
8	Q Now, let's try and follow the cash to some
9	degree. It's my understanding that in Years 1
10	through 5 of the okay. First off, the hedge
11	will pay money to the wind project; is that
12	correct?
13	A That is potentially correct. The the
14	hedge could have the wind project paying money to
15	Empire. It depends if the market price's
16	experience that any given hour of any given day
17	when there is production, whether that price is
18	greater or less than the fixed price and the hedge.
19	Q Any work projects, any cash that's
20	generated in the first five years is returned 100
21	percent to Empire; is that correct?
22	A That is correct.
23	Q Okay. So to the extent that Empire pays
24	money in the form of a hedge, at least for Years 1
25	

- 1 through 5, all of that money is going back to
- 2 Empire; is that correct?
- 3 A That is correct.
- 4 Q Okay. So to some degree in Years 1
- 5 through 5, if you collapse this, it's a net -- and
- 6 I won't use the word benefit, but there's no loss,
- 7 no benefit to Empire associated with this hedge; is
- 8 that correct?
- 9 A That is entirely accurate.
- 10 Q Okay. Can you tell me then what's in
- 11 years -- well then, in your -- the tax equity
- 12 partner will presumably be bought out and will
- 13 disappear from this arrangement?
- 14 A That's correct. But as well in Year 10,
- 15 the -- the hedge is anticipated to not last past
- 16 that year.
- 17 Q Okay. And so tell me then what happens
- with any cash associated with the hedge in Years 6
- 19 through 10.
- 20 A As indicated in my testimony, in Years 6
- 21 through 10, the tax equity partner main -- takes a
- 22 share of the cash from the wind projects.
- This share of cash is dependent upon the
- 24 project specifics estimated in the stipulation in

1 my testimony at between 25 and 50 percent. The cash is a requirement to meet the IRS 2 3 quidelines that a portion of the tax equity 4 partners return on and of it's capital be in the 5 form of cash items. And so in that period, if there is a hedge 6 7 -- when there is a hedge as proposed between Empire and the wind projects, that hedge will pay or be 9 paid by the wind projects. Cash -- let's just assume that Empire is 10 11 paying the wind projects because the market prices 12 are lower than the fixed hedge amount. In that instance, the wind project will receive cash from 13 14 Empire. It will receive market revenues from SPP. 15 When totaled, those two elements will 16 equal fixed price in the hedge. Empire -- the wind 17 projects may or may not receive other revenues, whether for wrecks or for other items that it could 18 19 receive. 20 It will pay its operating expenses. 2.1 will have a net cash amount left over. And at the 2.2 end of the month, it will pay a cash distribution 23 to its owners. 24 And in Year 6 to 10, tax equity would get 25

- 1 a quarter -- between 25 percent or 50 percent of
- 2 that cash and Empire would get the balance.
- 3 Q Well, that's just as clear as I can ever
- 4 attempt to make it. So anything beyond that is
- 5 lost on me. So let's turn, then -- do you have
- 6 Mr. Riley's affidavit in front of you?
- 7 A I do.
- 8 Q Specifically, his attachment MJS -- JSR-1.
- 9 Let me know when you've found that.
- 10 A I have that in front of me.
- 11 Q Okay. And let me see if I understand what
- 12 exactly what JSR-1 is intending to demonstrate. In
- 13 the market price provision, there is a comparison
- of the revenue requirement of the wind project with
- 15 the revenues generated by the wind projects. Is
- 16 that your understanding?
- 17 A That is my understanding.
- 18 Q And this attempts to make that comparison
- 19 for a 10-year period. Is that true?
- 20 A That's what I believe to be true. But the
- 21 assumptions --
- 22 **Q** Okay.
- 23 A I'm not too certain how the assumptions
- 24 were arrived at.
- 25

1 And that will be my next part. So the top 0 2 part attempts to get at the wind revenue 3 requirement. Do you see there above the bold line, 4 it says revenue requirement? So that's the revenue 5 requirement of the wind projects; is that true? 6 Α That's what this spreadsheet calculates as 7 revenue requirement. And it was my understanding that 9 Mr. Holmes is probably the best person to discuss 10 the wind revenue requirement. Is that your 11 understanding as well? 12 Yes, it is. Α 13 0 Okay. On the bottom part, there is the 14 other part of the equation, which is the revenues 15 for the wind project. And there are some lines 16 there talking about hedges and tax equity. Do you 17 see those? 18 Α Yes, I do. 19 And are you comfortable asking --0 20 answering questions about those lines? 2.1 Α Yes, I am.

believe this accurately models the situation for

the hedges between Empire and the wind project?

Okay. Can you tell me then whether you

2.2

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Q

1 Α I can tell you that. And I do not believe it accurately models the situation for those items. 2. 3 And why -- and why is that? 4 With respect to the hedge, I can't speak Α 5 to what the calculation is. 6 0 And can you tell me which line you're 7 referring to when you say the hedge? There is a -- a line that's titled Add 9 Back The Price Guarantee [hedge]. 10 And you can't explain that or --I -- I do not know how this amount was 11 12 calculated nor where these numbers come from or how 13 they are derived. 14 As modeled, the stipulation and the 15 financial modeling behind it, I understand, used 16 its estimates of market prices. And the hedge was 17 set based on those market prices. 18 And so by definition in the modeling, the 19 hedge would have a -- a net payment to or from 20 Empire of zero. 2.1 So for that line, you don't believe it's 2.2 appropriate to consider those numbers no matter 23 what they're quantified to be? 24 Α Correct. And perhaps to also address the 25

- 1 distribution element in your Year 6 to 10, the
- 2 impact of the hedge had already been captured in
- 3 the financial modeling so that the cash
- 4 distributions to the tax equity partner modeled --
- 5 were modeled appropriately with respect to the
- 6 hedge.
- 7 O Okay. So that was that line. Do you have
- 8 any other concerns with the lines that discuss tax
- 9 equity partner?
- 10 A Well, yes, I do. Those concerns are
- 11 highlighted by the fact that even in Mr. Riley's
- own testimony, he admits he doesn't understand and
- 13 the fact that his figures do not tie to anything I
- 14 can identify.
- So it -- it appears that there has been a
- 16 double counting of distributions made to the tax
- 17 equity partner.
- 18 Q And is that the line that says, Add back
- 19 distribution to the tax equity?
- 20 A Yes. That independently might be
- 21 appropriate. I haven't tied his figures to the
- 22 exact modeling. But he seems to have as well added
- 23 those figures.
- He's indicated in his testimony that he
- 25

- 1 netted distributions tax equity against the
- 2 contributions from tax equity in the line
- 3 indicating less contributions from tax equity.
- 4 Q And so if that number is already included
- 5 in the line that says Less Contributions From Tax
- 6 Equity, it's inappropriate, then, to have a
- 7 separate line add back distribution to the tax
- 8 equity?
- 9 A That would be correct. And that would be
- 10 a material and significant overstatement of the
- 11 costs on this calculation.
- 12 O So for the three lines we've been
- discussing, you don't believe that it accurately
- 14 reflects the situation for the hedge and the
- 15 distribution/contributions from the tax equity
- 16 partner?
- 17 A That is correct.
- 18 Q Okay. Moving on, in Mr. Riley's
- 19 affidavit, there is -- on page 1 and spills over to
- 20 2, it discusses a situation -- talks about a case
- 21 in the Eighth Circuit of the United States Court of
- 22 Appeals, a case involving the City of Independence.
- 23 Are you familiar with that?
- 24 A Yes. I'm familiar with that. I read that

- 1 case, that ruling.
- 2 Q Okay. And what this intends to indicate
- 3 is that, at least in this situation, the City of
- 4 Independence had to pay the tax equity partner for
- 5 economic curtailments; is that correct?
- 6 A Well, that is what's in Riley's testimony,
- 7 Mr. Riley's testimony. But, no, that is not
- 8 correct. The City of Independence had to pay the
- 9 wind project for economic curtailments where the
- 10 wind project could have produced power but did not.
- 11 And the City of Independence had to make a payment
- 12 to the wind project.
- 13 Q Okay. Can you tell me whether this
- 14 situation of an economic curtailment is relevant to
- 15 the wind project envisioned under the stipulation?
- 16 A No. This is not relevant. The -- in the
- 17 first instance, Empire is the owner of the wind
- 18 project. And so it would be paying itself for
- 19 economic curtailments in a situation similar to
- 20 this court case.
- 21 By the same token, this is not something
- 22 that is required, and I've never seen tax equity
- 23 partnership agreements include any provision of
- 24 this nature.

1	Tax equity partnership agreements do
2	include a provision in case a wind project receives
3	payment from a third party for curtailment of that
4	revenue be counted among all the other revenues of
5	the wind project. But for the tax equity partner
6	to be paid based on hypothetical projection is not
7	a term that is part of tax equity agreements that I
8	have seen, nor it is a term that Empire would agree
9	to.
10	Q And the tax equity partner has not yet
11	been identified for this project; is that correct?
12	A That's correct. We have not finalized the
13	selection of the tax equity partner.
14	Q And so the contract, then, obviously
15	hasn't been nailed down; is that correct?
16	A That's correct. Although we are advancing
17	in discussions.
18	Q Okay. And since we don't have a contract
19	yet, you said Empire would not agree to doing this.
20	Would Empire commit to not having a provision that
21	would require a payment for anybody for economic
22	curtailments?
23	A Empire would agree to a provision
24	Empire would not agree to a provision that would
25	

1 pay a tax equity partner for economic curtailments. MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. No further 2 3 questions. Thank you, sir. 4 MR. MOONEY: Thank you. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 6 MR. POSTON: No questions. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sierra Club? 10 MR. ROBERTSON: No questions. 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 12 CROSS-EXAMINATION 13 BY MS. BELL: 14 Good morning. We've still got ten more 0 15 minutes. 16 Α Good morning. 17 All right. Let's start with Mr. Sager's 0 18 direct testimony, which I believe you are 19 responsible for; is that correct? 20 That is correct. Α 2.1 Okay. On page 3, it mentions and I think 0 2.2 this is mentioned several times throughout his 23 testimony and yours, the 325 million in customer 24 savings. Are you familiar with that number? 25

1 Α I am familiar in general with that number, 2 yes. 3 Okay. And that number is based on the 0 4 company's original plan? 5 Α That was one of the modeled scenarios in 6 the original generation complete savings analysis, 7 I believe. Okay. And in that plan, what was the --0 9 in the model, what was the percentage of 10 contribution by the tax equity partner? 11 Α Speaking from memory, the percentage 12 contribution with the tax equity partner depended 13 on the scenarios used in the GFSA for the wind 14 projects. 15 As you may recall, there was a low LCOE 16 wind project model as well as an MCOE wind project 17 model. And speaking from memory, I believe those were between 50 and 60 percent initial capital 18 19 contribution by the tax equity partner. 20 Okay. On page 5, lines 15 through 17 of 0 2.1 Sager's direct, he --2.2 I apologize. If you'd let me try to find 23 that so I can follow along. 24 0 Sure. 25

1 Α Could you please repeat the page? 2. 0 Sure. It's page 5, lines 15 through 17. 3 Α Okay. 4 In there, it says, Failure to obtain 0 5 approval of a regulatory asset for the retired 6 Asbury plant would prevent the company moving 7 forward with any aspect of this ESP. Is that still the position of the company, or has that changed? 9 I think this position is in respect of looking forward with a plan with closure of Asbury. 10 11 Since that is not part of the stipulation, I can't 12 speak to how that testimony would change. 13 Q Moving on to your direct testimony, just 14 generally, you were present for Mr. McMahon's 15 testimony yesterday? 16 Α Yes. 17 And you recall him deferring a number of 0 18 questions regarding the stipulation to you? 19 Α Yes. 20 And did you file an affidavit in support 0 2.1 of the stipulation? I did not file an affidavit. 2.2 23 Mr. Krygier, in his affidavit, referred to my direct testimony and surrebuttal testimony. 24

1 Q And your direct and surrebuttal were 2 prepared before the development of the stipulation, 3 correct? 4 Α That's correct. 5 If you flip to page 9 of your direct 0 6 testimony, that flow chart as well as the lines 7 preceding, you state that, The following depicts a commonly used tax equity structure, is that 9 correct? 10 Α That's correct. 11 Q And what is the contribution percentage 12 shown by Empire in that flow chart? That flow chart shows 40 percent. 13 Α 14 Okay. And on page 10, lines 8 through 10 0 15 were also talking about a 40 percent contribution; 16 is that correct? 17 Α That's correct. 18 0 Of \$40 out of every \$100? 19 That is an example that was used, yes. Α 20 Okay. As that \$40 number increases and 2.1 more -- well, as I understand it, the \$40 number 2.2 you recovered in Empire's rates, correct? 23 That is what's being proposed. Right. Α 24 And that is added to the rate base? 0 25

A Yes.
Q And by recovering Empire's rates, that
those rates are the rates the customers take,
correct?
A I believe so. Yes.
Q Okay. So as that number increases, as the
correction is more, ten the the number going
into rate base also increases?
A Not necessarily. This number has changed
because this testimony was prepared before the tax
cuts and jobs act, tax reform known as.
And that is a change that will decrease
the upfront contribution by a tax equity partner to
some extent but will also decrease the tax rates
that are applied to the wind project's learnings
throughout its life and, as a result, it actually
would not change the overall impact on customer
rates for the project. That is the analysis that
we did conduct after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
Q Has that analysis been provided to the
parties?
A Yes. And there were several data requests
in which we provided analysis of the impacts of the
Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on the proposals.

1 0 Okay. So if -- so exclusive of the tax 2 number, if the number increases, if you're going 3 from 40 percent to 50 percent, for example, and 4 more is recovered in rate base, does that increase 5 the risk on customers? I wouldn't say that increases the risk on 6 Α 7 It depends. So, for instance, if the customers. percentage goes from 40 to 50, but because of 9 various factors technological strong response to 10 the RFP, perhaps the capital costs of wind projects 11 come down, increased percentage, but on a decrease 12 base would have not necessarily the impact on rates you're describing. 13 14 Okay. We'll move on. If you go to page 15 12, you have an example, again, of the capital 16 contributions. And that, again, is showing a 46 17 split with 40 being contributed by Empire, correct? 18 Α That's what that shows. 19 On page 13 of your testimony, this chart 0 20 is substantially reproduced in paragraph 18 on page 2.1 10 of the stipulation; is that correct? 2.2 That's correct. Α 23 MS. BELL: I think I need to go in camera. 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. 25

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1 CONTINUED CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MR. TODD MOONEY 2. BY MS. BELL: 3 (By Ms. Bell) Okay. Turning to -- I 0 4 think we're back on your direct. On page 14, the 5 very first two lines, it said, Would Empire agree 6 to enter into a tax equity partnership only under 7 the terms as specified on the chart on the previous page? The answer was yes. Has your position 9 changed? 10 Α Our position is what's included in the 11 stipulation and agreement. 12 0 If you flip to page 19 of your testimony, 13 I think yesterday there were -- there was some 14 conversation about, you know, what goes into the 15 rate impact on customers on a very basic level. 16 And the costs to Empire's customers are summarized 17 there in the fourth column of your chart; is that 18 right? 19 Α That's correct. 20 Okay. So not only the capital 0 2.1 contributions, but, also, third party O&M agreement 2.2 costs? 23 Correct. Α 24 0 And labor and materials for BOP 25

1 maintenance? Correct. BOP is balance of plant. 2. Α 3 0 And third party A&G expenses? 4 Correct. Administrative and general Α 5 expenses. 6 0 Labor for asset management? Correct. 7 Α And distributions? 0 9 Α Correct. 10 Okay. In your surrebuttal testimony --0 11 okay. I think I'm going to skip that one. Let's 12 go to -- are you generally aware -- have you reviewed Mr. Marke's affidavit? 13 I have read the affidavit. 14 Α 15 Okay. And are you familiar with the wind 0 16 catcher program or -- proposal in Oklahoma? 17 I have seen certain news reports about it Α 18 and read one or two paragraphs describing certain 19 elements of it. 20 And do you have -- can you flip to 0 2.1 Attachment 2 of Mr. Marke's affidavit, which is 2.2 that net benefits provision? And it's actually 23 Attachment 2, or I think it's labeled GM -- and 24 it's GM-1 is the schedule, and it's page 10.

- 1 A GM-1. Page 10. Okay.
- Q Do you have a general understanding of how
- 3 this net benefits provision works?
- 4 A No. This is not one of the elements about
- 5 the wind catcher project that I have reviewed.
- 6 Q Okay. But you have reviewed the
- 7 stipulations provision of market protection
- 8 provision?
- 9 A I have looked at the -- Empire's
- 10 stipulation and agreement and have a general
- 11 understanding of the market price protection
- 12 mechanism.
- 13 Q And -- and would you agree that that
- 14 general understanding is there's a \$2 million bed
- ban and a 50/50 sharing of losses between the
- 16 company and ratepayers up to a \$35 million cap? Is
- 17 that a fair summary?
- 18 A I would defer that response to Mr. Holmes.
- 19 But at a very general level, that does not sound
- 20 inaccurate.
- 21 Q Okay. And in Oklahoma, the net benefit
- 22 provision provides that -- essentially, the first
- 23 sentence says they have this -- they have a
- 24 calculation. So cost versus revenue, essentially,

- 1 fuel capacity value, PTCs, minimum net capacity
- 2 factor, guaranteed payments, Rex, carbon savings
- 3 minus the revenue requirement. You're familiar
- 4 with all of those inputs, correct?
- 5 MS. KNOWLTON: I'm going to object. The
- 6 witness has indicated that he's not familiar with
- 7 this calculation.
- 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I think he can answer to
- 9 the question to the extent that he's able. So I'll
- 10 allow -- allow the witness to answer the question
- 11 if he can.
- 12 A Can you please repeat the question?
- 0 (By Ms. Bell) You're familiar with the
- inputs contained in the -- the net benefit formula?
- 15 A I'm familiar with the terms that are used
- 16 in that calculation, but I'm not familiar with how
- 17 they're defined in this specific agreement and
- 18 would point out that each agreement has very
- 19 specific definitions for terms that are used. And
- 20 I have not read or understood what those
- 21 definitions may be.
- Q Okay. Fair enough. Well, I will
- 23 summarize the net benefit provision in that if
- there's a positive -- if the formula ends up

1 positive and the wind project is a benefit to customers, then in Oklahoma, what is stipulated is 2. 3 that the company -- nothing happens. The company 4 doesn't owe customers anything. There's no 5 sharing. So if it's a benefit, nothing happens. In the event that there is a detriment to 6 7 customers, then this provides a regulatory liability will be established. If customers are 9 owed under this calculation, the regulatory liability will be amortized in retail rates over 10 11 the remaining period of the commercial operation. 12 And so, essentially, if there is a 13 negative to customers, you establish the regulatory 14 liability, it's essentially a hold harmless, a do 15 no harm provision for customers. Do you know, 16 would Empire be opposed to -- or unable -- would 17 Empire be opposed to such a provision? I think that the stipulation and agreement 18 Α 19 represents Empire's position. And it represents 20 very substantial protection for customers that will 21 protect it, as Mr. McMahon indicated yesterday, 2.2 even in one of the lowest likelihood scenarios that 23 we modeled that contemplated pretty much a worst case scenario, but it offered sufficient protection 24 25

1 to its customers to cover that scenario as Mr. McMahon -- Mr. McMahon indicated yesterday. 2. 3 So if the probability of the worst case 4 scenario is so small, then what would be the harm 5 in holding customers harmless? 6 Α If the probability was so small, if it 7 were not zero, there still would be a probability. I think Empire's position is reflected in the 9 stipulation and agreement. And we feel that it achieves the right level of customer protection. 10 11 MS. BELL: No further questions at this 12 time. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: This time seems like a 14 good time to break for lunch. We'll be in recess until 1:15. 15 16 (Lunch recess.) 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Let's get started 18 again. All right. We're back on the record. 19 We're ready for cross-examination by Public 20 Counsel. 2.1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION 23 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 24 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Mooney. 25

- 1 A Good afternoon.
- 2 Q Will Empire need the authorization of its
- 3 Board of Directors to enter into the tax equity
- 4 financing agreement that's contemplated as part of
- 5 the stipulation agreement?
- 6 A I believe that Empire does need
- 7 authorization of its Board of Directors. Yes.
- 8 Q Does it have that authorization at this
- 9 point in time?
- 10 A Since we don't have definitive agreements,
- 11 there is -- it would be premature to authorize
- 12 things that are not yet finalized.
- 13 Q Has the production tax credits for wind
- 14 been available since at least 1994?
- 15 A I know they have been available since the
- 16 mid 1990s. I don't recall at present whether it
- 17 was '94 or '95.
- 18 Q Were not the original production tax
- 19 credits for wind sent at 1.5 cents per kilowatt
- 20 hour and \$93 which are annually adjusted for
- 21 inflation?
- 22 A That sounds to be correct. Yes.
- 23 O And is the inflation factor for 2018
- 24 1.5792, which results in a credit of 2.4 cents per

- 1 kilowatt hour? I can't speak to the exact inflation 2. 3 factor. I have not looked at that figure for many 4 months. However, the 2.4 cents per kilowatt hour 5 is, indeed, correct. 6 And that would be the same as \$24 per 7 megawatt hour, correct? Α Correct. 9 Are there still production tax credits 0 10 available for wind projects that commence 11 construction in 2017, 2018 or 2019? Yes. PTCs are available for projects that 12 Α 13 begin construction in those years. However, the 14 value of the PTC, the previously mentioned \$24 per 15 megawatt hour decreases each of those years. 16 -- for projects that commence construction in 2017, 17 there is an 80 percent factor applied to the \$24. 18 Projects that commence construction in 19 2018, there is a 60 percent factor. And 2019 begun 20 projects a 40 percent factor, after which the PTCs
  - Q PTCs have no value, or are there no PTCs
  - 23 available?

have no value.

24 A PTCs -- sorry. I should correct myself.

25

2.1

- 1 PTCs for projects -- PTCs are not available for
- 2 projects that begin construction after 2019.
- 3 Projects that are placed in service and
- 4 already in service will continue to receive the --
- 5 the PTCs to which they are eligible.
- 6 Q If there is no energy generated from wind,
- 7 there is no production tax credit for wind,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q Would you explain what risk the tax equity
- 11 partner is undertaking with the scenario that
- 12 Empire has put forward?
- 13 A The tax equity partner takes risks
- 14 commensurate with an equity partner. That is one
- 15 of the requirements of the IRS rules surrounding
- 16 partnerships of this nature.
- 17 They take all the risks, whether it be the
- 18 risk that -- equipment malfunctions and it costs
- 19 money to repair the equipment, whether it is that
- 20 the wind resources are more or less than originally
- 21 anticipated. Those are risks borne by both Empire
- 22 and tax equity partner.
- I would point out, however, that those
- 24 risks are mitigated through a number of different

- 1 ways. For instance, a fixed price operating
- 2 maintenance agreement, I believe that Mr. Mertens
- 3 mentioned earlier this morning, there are many ways
- 4 to mitigate those risks for the combined equity
- 5 partners of the project.
- 6 Q What I'm really trying to get to is with
- 7 all of the protections that are proposed to be put
- 8 in place, what risk is the tax equity partner
- 9 actually exposed to?
- 10 A The tax equity partner is exposed to the
- 11 same risks as Empire. And that is a requirement of
- 12 structuring to meet IRS purposes for the
- 13 partnership to be recognized for tax filing
- 14 purposes.
- 15 Q So is the tax equity partner at risk if
- 16 the Commission decides in some future -- well,
- 17 let's assume the Commission approves the plan, the
- 18 600 megawatts is built and that, at some point, the
- 19 Commission decides not to allow Empire to fully
- 20 recover its investment in that plan. Is the tax
- 21 equity partner exposed to that risk?
- 22 A It's important to realize the tax equity
- 23 partner is a member of the Wind Project Holdco,
- 24 that is a separate legal entity than Empire.

1 So decisions about Empire do not -- and how its rates are calculated do not directly impact 2. 3 Wind Project Holdco or the wind project company itself. 4 5 So the tax equity partner's risk is 0 6 determined by either Wind Holdco or the wind energy 7 partner owner? Can you please clarify what you mean by 9 the wind energy partner owner? 10 Well, my understanding is there's a 0 11 holding company and then there will be specific 12 entities for project --13 A Right. 14 -- that will be wholly owned by the Wind 0 15 HoldCo. Is the tax equity partner's interest -- is 16 it a partner in Wind HoldCo? 17 Α The tax equity partner will be a partner in Wind Hold Co. 18 19 So Empire has -- the risk of the tax Q 20 equity partner is exposed to is the risk that Wind 2.1 Hold Co has, correct? 2.2 Correct. Α 23 0 And what's the purpose of what you've 24 described as the hedge? 25

1 Α The purpose of the hedge is to provide price certainty to enable the wind project to be 2. financable. 3 4 0 Price certainty to who? 5 To the wind project. Α 6 The hedge is between Empire and the wind 0 7 project Hold Co.? The hedge will be between Empire and the 9 wind project company. 10 So the hedge provides price certainty for 0 11 the wind project company? 12 Α Correct. 13 Q Which in turn then provides some, I guess 14 I'll use the word price certainty for the Wind Hold 15 Co since it's -- it wholly -- wholly owns the wind 16 partnership company? 17 Α You can view Wind Hold Co and wind project as one consolidated set of entities, yes. 18 19 How does the price certainty benefit Q 20 Empire if it's on both sides of the hedge? The benefit to Empire is enabling the tax 2.1 2.2 equity financing without price certainty of some 23 The wind project would not be able to obtain kind. 24 conventional financing, nor would it be able to 25

- 1 obtain tax equity financing.
- 2 Q Earlier, you testified that there is a
- 3 financial model. Do you recall that?
- 4 A That is correct.
- 5 Q Was that financial model ever provided to
- 6 the parties?
- 7 A Yes, indeed.
- 8 Q And how was it provided to the parties?
- 9 A There were numerous data requests.
- 10 Q Do you know if it was provided to Public
- 11 Counsel?
- 12 A I do believe so. I can't state that for a
- 13 known fact.
- 14 Q But it wasn't provided as work papers to
- 15 testimony?
- 16 A I don't recall. I do know the models were
- 17 provided. I don't recall exactly in what manner
- 18 they were provided.
- 19 Q All other things being equal, would a
- 20 change in the capacity factor change tax -- the
- 21 amount that a tax equity partner would be willing
- 22 to -- let me back up.
- Leaving everything else the same, do
- 24 different levels of capacity factors for wind

- 1 production from the wind farms change how much the
- 2 tax equity partner would be willing to invest in
- 3 the kind of tax equity financing that you're --
- 4 that Empire is proposing in this case?
- 5 A Yes. The annual energy production is a
- 6 factor. It -- multiplied by the value per megawatt
- 7 hour or per kilowatt hour of the PTCs determines
- 8 the value of the PTCs.
- 9 And since tax equity partner is investing
- 10 to earn its return on and of its investment
- 11 primarily based upon PTCs, there is a direct link
- 12 between the energy production of the wind project
- 13 and the value of the contribution that the tax
- 14 equity partner is willing to make. There are other
- 15 factors including the capital cost of the facility,
- 16 which drives the --
- 17 Q I think you've answered my question with
- 18 direct. It's strictly to the changes in the --
- 19 A Sure.
- 20 Q -- capacity of the wind generation. If I
- 21 understand you correctly, basically, you're saying
- 22 that if you have the same size wind farm that
- that's going to cost the same amount if two of them
- and one of them has a higher capacity factor than

the other, tax equity partner would be willing to

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invest more in the one that has the higher capacity 2. 3 factor than other, the kind of tax equity financing 4 arrangement that you have put forward in this case? All else being equal, yes. But I would 5 Α 6 point out at that, in that scenario, the cost of 7 Empire to purchase the wind farm with the lower capacity factor would be lower. 9 I know this is based on the generation 10 fleet savings analysis. But would you turn your 11 attention to page 8 of your direct testimony? 12 Would you look in particular at lines 9 through 11? 13 Α Yes. 14 And there you talk about the time value of 0 15 money, tax equity financing and compare that to 16 direct ownership of the wind project by Empire not 17 having tax equity financing, correct? 18 Α Correct.

22 A Correct.

customers, correct?

Q

Q Is that important 4 to \$7 per megawatt

per megawatt hour, more savings for Empire

24 hour of additional savings dependent on the SPP

25

19

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And you attribute that to between 4 and \$7

1 market price -- prices and other assumptions in Empire's generation fleet savings analysis? 2. 3 That savings is dependent upon the 4 financing method only. We did hold constant. 5 absolute value of the savings may change if other variables were changed. But in short, that is the 6 7 change caused by a change in financing assumptions. So you're saying that if you do tax equity 9 financing, it's going to be cheaper per megawatt 10 hour for Empire customers than if you don't? 11 Α Correct. 12 But the magnitude of that depends upon 0 13 variables. That was just -- at the time this was 14 done, you came up with four to seven, and it was 15 based on the modeling at that point in time, 16 correct? 17 Α Correct. 18 0 I think you've already testified that 19 Empire has not entered into any tax equity 20 agreements at this point or any affiliate of Empire 2.1 as well, correct? 2.2 Empire has not entered into definitive tax 23 equity agreements, although Empire is in advanced discussions with tax equity partners and 24 25

- 1 anticipates doing -- making progress in the near
- 2 term.
- 3 Q And if I wasn't clear enough, I intended
- 4 that question to be limited to the plan we're
- 5 talking about here now, not -- I understand that
- 6 some Empire affiliates do have some tax equity
- 7 partners at this point in time.
- 8 A Right.
- 9 Q Have any of Empire's affiliates used tax
- 10 equity financing to build a rate-based wind farm?
- 11 A Not a wind farm, no. But a solar
- 12 facility, yes.
- 13 Q And that solar facility is in California,
- 14 is it not?
- 15 A The facility is physically located in
- 16 Nevada. But the Liberty Utility Affiliate, Liberty
- 17 Utilities Calpeco is located in California.
- 18 Q Was there any state authorization for the
- 19 construction of that facility? And I'm looking
- 20 towards -- let me back up. Was the affiliate who
- 21 used that tax equity financing a regulated utility?
- 22 A The Liberty Utility Calpeco affiliate
- 23 employed a similar structure with a holding company
- 24 and a project company. The holding company and

- 1 project company are not rate regulated. But
- 2 Liberty Utilities Calpeco is by the California
- 3 Public Utilities Commission.
- 4 Q And did the California Public Utilities
- 5 Commission approve that plan to build that plant?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 O Are circumstances in California different
- 8 than they are in Missouri?
- 9 A Can you please clarify what you mean by
- 10 circumstances?
- 11 Q Well, let's limit it to regulatory
- 12 environment.
- 13 A I was going to say it's sunnier there.
- 14 But regulatory environment, I -- I am not a subject
- 15 matter expert in terms of the regulatory
- 16 environment. I would defer that question to
- 17 Mr. Krygier.
- 18 Q And what is it that Empire is offering now
- 19 to ensure it's customers that they will realize
- 20 savings from Empire's stipulated plan?
- 21 A I think the stipulation and agreement with
- 22 the market price protection mechanism is the -- the
- 23 mechanism by which we are offering protections to
- 24 customers.

1	Q If the anticipated credit production
2	tax credits and revenue stream from the wind
3	projects are not what is projected, if they're less
4	than what's projected for the first ten years, what
5	happens?
6	A If production is lower than anticipated
7	for the first ten years of the project, then the
8	contributions by the tax equity partner for Years 1
9	to 10 would decrease.
10	But given that the corrections are based
11	on the actual realization of production and are
12	only made after the fact, that would not change the
13	time frame of the estimated ten-year time frame.
14	Q Let's go to the first five years. If the
15	production tax credits and the revenue streams are
16	lower than anticipated during the first ten years,
17	what happens with respect to payments to the or
18	I'm not sure if payments is the right word
19	compensation on the tax equity partner to recover
20	recoup its investment plus its return on an
21	investment?
22	A If production, for example, is less than
23	anticipated during the first five years, the tax
24	equity partner will still not receive any cash
25	

- 1 distributions from the wind project before those
- one -- Years 1 through 5.
- 3 The cash contribution is anticipated as
- 4 part of the structure described as PayGo,
- 5 pay-as-you-go contributions. Those contributions
- 6 would decrease because production was less than
- 7 anticipated. That would be the impact over that
- 8 first five-year period.
- 9 Q And what ramifications, if any, would that
- 10 then have on the second five-year period with
- 11 regard to the tax equity partner?
- 12 A There wouldn't be any ramifications to the
- 13 second five-year period. The decrease in
- 14 contributions would ensure that the tax equity
- 15 partner still would achieve its expected return in
- 16 the ten-year anticipated time frame.
- 17 O What circumstance could occur where the
- 18 tax equity partner would not achieve its expected
- 19 return within the ten-year period?
- 20 A If wind production were low for the entire
- 21 ten-year period, and, hypothetically speaking,
- 22 sufficiently low that the -- the contributions were
- 23 decreased to the point of -- of not existing, then
- 24 the tax equity -- then the -- the return on and of

1	their investment would not have been achieved
2	during that ten-year period.
3	Q You've used the term contributions. What
4	are you referring to when you use that term?
5	A So contributions are the cash that the tax
6	equity partner will pay to the wind project company
7	after it has produced power in excess of a
8	threshold.
9	That is what is termed in the testimony as
10	PayGo contributions. Those PayGo contributions are
11	then immediately paid from the wind project company
12	through the wind project hold company. And forgive
13	me. I used the wind project as as the entity.
14	Let me back up a step.
15	Tax equity makes a contribution to wind
16	project hold company. And its the hold co. that
17	then pays a dividend to Empire of that amount.
18	Q Is there any circumstance when the tax
19	equity partner remains a partner for longer than
20	ten years?
21	A That is a possibility. Yes.
22	Q And what would under what circumstances
23	would that occur?
24	A There are tax equity partnerships and
25	

- 1 structures that don't contemplate PayGo
- 2 contributions, in which case tax equity contributes
- 3 a sum of money upfront and only upfront.
- 4 And in those circumstances, if there's
- 5 variability in the wind production and wind
- 6 production is less than normal, the mechanism for
- 7 tax equity to earn its targeted return is for it to
- 8 stay as a partner longer than the ten-year time
- 9 frame.
- 10 With a pay good structure, however, since
- 11 a portion of the contributions are made in arrears
- 12 after the production has generated PTCs and value
- 13 tax equity partner, that risk is significantly
- 14 mitigated.
- 15 Q With the tax equity partnership --
- 16 structure that you're proposing and -- or put
- forward in this case, is the only time a tax equity
- 18 partner might be -- continue to be a partner beyond
- 19 ten years because Empire or whoever has the right
- doesn't exercise the right to buy out the tax
- 21 equity partner?
- 22 A No. There -- there could be
- 23 possibilities. One can think of a hypothetical
- 24 example. If there is, for instance, a large

- 1 tornado, for example, that impacts the wind
- 2 facility. Although insurance proceeds conceivably
- 3 would make up for some of that loss, the economic
- 4 value.
- 5 That's why I say there are hypothetical
- 6 possibilities and contractual arrangements. With
- 7 tax equity will contemplate those contractual --
- 8 those hypothetical possibilities.
- 9 The PayGo structure is a good risk
- 10 mitigating factor. But it -- one could conceive of
- 11 various notions where the tax equity partner could
- 12 hypothetically stay longer than a ten-year period.
- 13 Q Do all of those entail some extraordinary
- 14 event, like a tornado?
- 15 A Well, when I -- I would say no. But it --
- 16 low probability events like, for example, not
- 17 achieving the expected production or even a
- 18 fraction of the expected production for ten years
- 19 in a row.
- The due diligence that's done for the wind
- 21 projects takes a very close look at the expected
- 22 wind production, and those values are used to
- 23 ensure that even in a very low probability
- 24 scenario, the tax equity partner does achieve its

1 expected return in the desired time frame. MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions for 2 3 this witness at this time. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Chairman, any 5 questions? 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Just a few. 7 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 9 0 Good afternoon. Good and. 10 Α 11 Q You adopted the testimony of Mr. Sager; is 12 that correct? 13 Α That's correct. 14 Okay. Could you turn to page 5 of -- of 0 15 his direct testimony? And on line 16, 17 -- well, 16 15 through 18, I believe you -- what Mr. Swain said 17 and what you have adopted is -- is that unless the 18 -- the company obtains a regulatory asset for the 19 retired Asbury plant, the company will not --20 actually, let me -- let me -- let me rephrase that. 2.1 Would -- would the company ever be willing 2.2 to close the plant without obtaining a regulatory 23 asset for the undepreciated amount? Or do you 2.4 know? 25

- 1 A I don't know if such a factor would exist.
- 2 I -- I can't definitively answer whether --
- 3 Q I'm sorry. You don't know if such a
- 4 factor exists?
- 5 A If such a scenario exists, I don't know.
- 6 I know that the company's desire is to ensure its
- 7 -- its -- it would receive a return on and of its
- 8 invested capital that was made prudently and
- 9 approved by the Commission.
- 10 I think I would defer to Mr. Swain in
- 11 terms of what the company's intentions would be in
- 12 that scenario.
- 13 Q Unfortunately, Mr. Swain's been excused.
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: No.
- 15 O (By Chairman Hall) Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.
- 16 I will do that. Were you in the -- in the hearing
- 17 room, and I'm sure you were, during my questioning
- 18 of Mr. Mertens concerning the value of owning the
- 19 wind farm versus obtaining the energy through --
- 20 through PPAs?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Is that a subject that you have any
- 23 familiarity with?
- 24 A I have read the testimony. And I wouldn't

1 say I'm a subject matter expert, but I have familiarity. 2 3 0 Do you have anything -- any additional 4 light to shed on that issue as to -- as to why it 5 would be in the best interest of -- of ratepayers 6 for the company to own that -- that wind generation 7 as opposed to obtaining it through PPAs? I think my view would be similar to Mr. Mertens. I think there is value in owning a 9 10 wind facility past a 20-year power purchase 11 agreement. 12 I think that given that current wind 13 technology has not yet achieved the life span that 14 is expected, the owners who enter into PPAs and the 15 financiers who finance wind projects want to get their money back in that 20-year period. 16 17 And, hence, the -- the price of the PPA is 18 a 20-year period that reflects a turn on and of 20 19 years. With Empire ownership having that -- that cost spread over 30 years, I think -- or even 20 21 longer, depending on what depreciation studies 2.2 eventually reveal is of benefit to Empire 23 customers. 24 The -- the owner of the facility benefits 25

- to the extent that the -- a life is at a 30 year 1 anticipated. To the extent that it is perhaps 2. 3 less, that's something that would be mitigated with 4 a proper operating maintenance agreement and prudent operating maintenance practices that --5 6 that Empire conducts through all of its existing 7 facilities. Okay. To follow up on some questioning 9 from -- from Mr. Woodsmall, is it true that the 10 main reason why the tax equity financing is -- is 11 appropriate or necessary or beneficial in this case 12 is solely a result of the fact that the company 13 doesn't have sufficient taxable income to make the 14 -- so that the PTC would be of benefit? 15 That's not the sole rationale --16 rationale. The utilities, when they claim 17 accelerated tax depreciation, there are tax rules
- 20 With the tax equity structure with the
- 21 wind project company being a non-regulated entity,

surrounding how much can be passed through to

- 22 not subject to those tax rules, it does allow for a
- 23 pass-through of that accelerated depreciation in a
- 24 more accelerated fashion.

customers in rates.

25

18

1 Well, so what are -- what are some of the 0 2 other reasons why the tax equity financing approach 3 is appropriate in this case? 4 Α Well, when you say other reasons, in 5 addition to --6 0 Well --7 Sorry. I just want to be responsive to Α your question. 9 I mean, one of the reasons why I thought 10 the company was interested in it and I think this 11 was referenced in opening, but I haven't heard any 12 discussion of it in testimony, is simply just the 13 size of the investment and relative to the size of 14 the company that that was one reason why it was 15 necessary or appropriate. 16 That is, indeed, a -- a benefit. 17 Obtaining sources of financing, you're always looking to achieve the best weighted average cost 18 19 of capital. 20 And as well in relation to the size of 2.1 your company, a project of a billion dollars for 2.2 Empire, a billion dollars of asset value compared 23 to the overall company's assets is a larger proportion. Obtaining tax equity financing does 24 25

1 make it easier to -- to finance that in a cost 2. effective way. 3 Okay. So other than the size of the 0 4 investment relative to the size of the company and 5 then, second, the -- the fact that the company 6 lacks the taxable income to cover the PTC, what are 7 the other significant factors that make tax equity financing appropriate in this case? 9 I think the third factor is what I 10 mentioned about the ability to more quickly monitor 11 the accelerated tax depreciation. Even if Empire 12 were taxable, it would not be able to utilize the accelerated tax depreciation to reduce rates to the 13 14 customers in its revenue requirement calculation. 15 The tax equity structure allows that 16 accelerated tax depreciation benefit to be passed 17 through. 18 0 Okay. Switching gears for a second, other 19 -- let's assume that -- that the -- that Empire 20 goes -- goes forward with -- with this wind 2.1 generation project and the -- and the actual costs 2.2 -- construction costs are one billion dollars as --23 as projected. 2.4 What are the -- the factors or scenarios 25

1 that would -- that would -- that would result in the worst effect for ratepayers in terms of high 2. 3 prices or -- or increased penetration of wind in 4 general or -- or just any factor that you can think 5 of? What would be the worst possible scenario? 6 Α Well, I think the worst possible scenario 7 would be to incorrectly estimate the amount of energy produced by the wind projects since that 9 does drive, naturally, not only the PTC value and the upfront contribution by tax equity, but, also, 10 11 the -- the revenues derived from the facility. 12 Pricing less so because with the value of 13 \$24 on an after tax basis, PTC is worth \$30 of 14 revenue, and \$30 of revenue equivalent from PTC is 15 more valuable than current market pricing. 16 So even if pricing went down to zero, the 17 facility would still be generating economic value 18 of \$30 per megawatt hour. So I don't see pricing 19 as a -- a factor that is as relatively important as 20 the -- the production. 21 Okay. So let's say the production was 50 0 22 percent or 75 percent of what is projected. Do you 23 know what that negative impact would be on the 24 ratepayers? 25

- 1 A I -- I don't know what that impact would
- 2 be. I would suggest that, you know, given
- 3 utilities experience with wind facility over the
- 4 past 12 or so years that a -- a very bad year for
- 5 wins in a given year is maybe five or 6 percent
- 6 below the expected value over an extended period,
- 7 that -- that value decreases.
- 8 So if it's several percent below expected
- 9 value over a ten-year period, at that would be the
- 10 type of deviation that we have seen in general with
- 11 the operating fleet of Algonquin Utilities Corp.
- 12 and its affiliates. Over the long-term, they have
- 13 experienced the expected levels of production.
- 14 O So I'm trying to -- trying to understand
- 15 what the worst case scenario is for ratepayers.
- 16 And so far, what you've said is there could be a 3,
- 4 percent reduction in the -- in -- in the expected
- 18 generation.
- 19 Is there any -- is there -- and -- and
- 20 you've -- you can't quantify how that would affect
- 21 ratepayers or -- I'm just -- I'm trying to figure
- 22 out what the worst case scenario is.
- 23 A Right. I -- I can't, on the stand, do
- 24 that type of quantification. I do know that

whether it's -- I'm not sure which scenarios 1 exactly were considered as part of the stipulation 2. 3 and agreement. 4 But I know Mr. Holmes has contemplated the 5 elements that went into the market price production 6 provision. 7 All right. I'll ask him. 0 Α Sure. 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you. MR. MOONEY: You're welcome. 10 11 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions. 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Recross based on 13 Commission questions? Staff? 14 MS. MERS: No questions. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG? 16 MR. WOODSMALL: No questions. Thank you. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 18 MR. POSTON: No questions. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 20 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. 2.1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sierra Club? 22 MR. ROBERTSON: No, thank you. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 2.4 MS. BELL: Yeah. Just one question, I 25

1 think. 2. RECROSS EXAMINATION 3 BY MS. BELL: 4 So you've seen the charts from OPC's 0 5 opening that talk about capacity factors, correct? 6 Α I saw those charts presented on screen. Ι 7 have to admit, I was not able to read them from where I was sitting in the back. Thank you. 9 I think you're already flipped to page 20 10 of that chart, which is the capacity factor chart 11 that has been referenced today. Are you on that 12 chart? 13 Α Yes. 14 And so when Chairman Hall was asking you Q 15 about the worst case scenario and you said that 16 typically you would only expect a 3 to 4 percent 17 difference in capacity, so if -- so here, I believe 18 the original model is modeled at 54 percent 19 capacity; is that correct? 20 I do recall that figure to be correct. 2.1 But I'm subject to check. 2.2 And so under your analysis, then, you 23 would expect that if it's modeled at 54 percent, 24 you would see 51 to 57 percent? 25

My reference to Chairman Hall was with 1 Α 2 respect to annual energy production. 3 0 Okay. Not capacity factor. Α 5 Not capacity. 0 And it was in reference to an extended 6 Α 7 period of time, about a ten-year time frame I was estimating. 9 0 Okay. Would you agree that the RFP 10 capacity factor is 7 percent lower than what was 11 originally modeled? 12 When you mean the RFP, you mean the Α 13 amounts modeled in the stipulation and agreement? 14 Yes. 0 15 I do believe that the capacity factor is Α 16 in the range of being that much lower, but, as 17 well, the prices are that much lower as well and, hence, the levelized cost of energy has actually 18 19 improved versus what was originally in the GFSA. 20 Okay. No further questions. MS. BELL: 2.1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel? 22 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. 23 RECROSS EXAMINATION 2.4 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 25

1 Do you recall putting out a figure of O 2 production might be reduced in the neighborhood of 3 5 to 6 percent from wind farms based on the, I 4 quess I'll use the word, Algonquin's experience? 5 Do you recall saying that in response to 6 Commissioner Hall's question? 7 Yes. Α Over what time period were you referring? 0 9 That higher percentage reduction was my estimate based on an annual time frame. 10 11 Q Okay. Annual time frame based on a period 12 of ten years? Five years? One year? 13 Α A one-year time frame. 14 So you've just seen one year of 0 15 information, and you saw a 5 to 6 percent -- I 16 don't understand how the answer can be that. I 17 understand you're -- if I understand you correctly, 18 you're saying the annual reduction that you've seen 19 deviation from an average has been -- or maybe 20 projected has been about 5 to 6 percent. Compared 2.1 to what? 2.2 Well, so in any given year, a single year, 23 Algonquin has seen, with its existing facilities, that a single facility could achieve production 24 25

- 1 that was 5 or 6 percent lower than the long-term
- 2 average resource.
- But in the following year, it would -- it
- 4 would achieve 5 or 6 percent higher. And on
- 5 average, over a five, six, seven, eight-year
- 6 period, it will hinge towards the mean, long-term
- 7 average resource.
- 8 Q So you're looking at a reduction in one
- 9 year compared to a period of seven to eight years?
- 10 Is that what I'm hearing?
- 11 A No. The comparison is to the expected
- 12 production, the average projection of that wind
- 13 facility.
- 14 O And where are those wind facilities
- 15 located that you're referring to where Algonquin
- 16 has experienced that 5 to 6 percent reduction in a
- 17 particular year, deviation from the expected
- 18 production?
- 19 A Algonquin has wind facilities in various
- 20 locations. There is Pennsylvania, Illinois,
- 21 Minnesota, Texas as well in Canada and Quebec,
- 22 Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- Q Which part of Illinois?
- 24 A We have two facilities in Illinois. One

1 called Shady Oaks and another called Benonk. are southwest of Chicago. I'm not sure just how 2. 3 far, but maybe a 2-hour drive. I've been to the 4 facility. I think it's about a 2-hour drive from 5 Chicago. 6 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect by Empire? REDIRECT EXAMINATION 9 BY MS. KNOWLTON: 10 Mr. Mooney, before Empire buys any wind 0 11 farm pursuant to the plan that its proposing here, 12. would Empire require that there be any testing of the wind farms production? 13 14 Α Yes. There's an evaluation by an 15 independent engineer. It's a rigorous evaluation 16 that assesses based on the wind data gathered at the site over a multi-year period of what the 17 estimated production will be in conjunction with 18 19 the equipment. 20 And I stress it is an independent engineer 2.1 that assesses and evaluates the expected wind 22 production. 23 The City of Joplin asked you a series of 0 24 questions about the percentage of Empire's capital

- 1 contribution and the possibility that Empire might
- 2 be incentivized to some extent to increase the
- 3 capital contribution because it would -- would
- 4 result in a larger rate base for Empire. Do you
- 5 remember those lines of questioning that you were
- 6 asked?
- 7 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm going to object. I'm
- 8 going to object to the characterization of
- 9 incentivizing Empire.
- 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I don't think she's asked
- 11 a question yet, so hold it for a little bit.
- 12 A I -- I do recall.
- 13 Q (By Ms. Knowlton) Are you familiar with
- 14 the market price protection mechanism that's
- included in the stipulation?
- 16 A Yes, I am familiar.
- 17 Q Are you aware of any aspect in that
- 18 mechanism that would incentivize the company with
- 19 regard to the amount of money it spends to purchase
- 20 wind farms?
- 21 A Yes. As I understand it, the market price
- 22 protection mechanism provides that the revenues --
- 23 the actual revenues from the wind facility must
- 24 exceed the revenue requirement from the wind

- 1 facility.
- 2 And because the revenue requirement based
- 3 on a number of factors, including the capital costs
- 4 that Empire invests in the facility, Empire is
- 5 motivated to minimize that capital cost.
- 6 MS. KNOWLTON: No further questions.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you your testimony,
- 8 Mr. Moody. You're excused.
- 9 MR. MOODY: Thank you.
- 10 MS. KNOWLTON: The company calls Timothy
- 11 Wilson.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please raise your right
- 13 hand.
- 14 TIMOTHY WILSON,
- 15 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
- 16 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:
- 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MS. KNOWLTON:
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated.
- 20 Q (By Ms. Knowlton) Good afternoon,
- 21 Mr. Wilson.
- 22 A Good afternoon.
- 23 Q Please state your name for the record.
- 24 A Timothy N. Wilson.
- 25

1 0 By whom are you employed and in what 2 capacity? 3 Α Liberty Utilities Service Corp. I am the 4 Central Region Director of Electric Operations and 5 Services. 6 0 Have you caused to be prepared for the 7 purposes of this proceeding certain direct and surrebuttal testimony in question and answer form? 9 Α Yes. 10 Is it your understanding that that 0 11 testimony has been marked as Exhibits 19-C, 19-P 12 and 20 for identification? 13 Α Yes. 14 Do you have any changes that you would 0 15 like to make to that testimony at this time? 16 Α I do not. 17 If I asked you the questions which are 0 18 contained in this Exhibits 19-C, P and 20 today, 19 would your answers be the same? 20 Α Yes. 2.1 Are those answers true and correct to the 2.2 best of your information, knowledge and belief? 23 Α Yes. 2.4 MS. KNOWLTON: Your Honor, I'd offer 25

Exhibits 19-C, P and 20 into evidence and tender 1 Mr. Wilson for cross-examination. 2. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? Hearing 4 none, they're admitted. 5 (Empire Exhibits 19-C, 19-P and 20 were 6 offered and accepted into evidence.) 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: First cross is by Staff. CROSS-EXAMINATION 9 BY MS. FORCK: Q 10 Good afternoon. 11 A Good afternoon. 12 Is the Elk River and Meridian Way wind 0 13 generation currently needed to allow Empire to meet 14 the Missouri renewable portfolio standard 15 requirements? 16 Α Yes, they are. 17 And what is the approximate amount of 18 megawatts currently associated with those two 19 purchase power contracts? Megawatt is capacity. So they're claimed 20 Α capacity is 150 megawatts at Elk River and 105 2.1 2.2 megawatts at Meridian Way. 23 Once the Elk River and Meridian Way 24 contracts expire, will the additional wind 25

1 generation at issue in this proceeding be needed in part to allow Empire to continue to meet the 2. 3 Missouri RPS requirements? 4 When those contracts expire, Empire will Α need some sort of renewable generation to meet that 5 6 requirement of 15 percent subsequent to 20, 21 as it relates to our Missouri retail sales. 7 MS. FORCK: Thank you. I have nothing 9 further. JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG? 10 11 MR. WOODSMALL: No questions. Thank you. 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 13 MR. POSTON: No questions. 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 15 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sierra Club? 16 17 MR. ROBERTSON: No questions. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 19 MS. BELL: Yes. Thank you. 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BELL: 2.1 22 Good afternoon, Mr. Wilson. Q 23 A Good afternoon. 24 Q On your direct testimony -- well, first, 25

- 1 just to be clear, you didn't file an affidavit in
- 2 support of the stipulation, did you?
- 3 A I did not.
- 4 Q And in your direct testimony on page 3 on
- 5 lines 22 and 23, you talk about the second option
- 6 for a developer to construct a wind project on site
- is currently being developed by Empire; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 A That's correct.
- 10 Q Can you talk more about that?
- 11 A Yes. So with respect to the options that
- 12 were given, they could offer up -- or bid in the
- 13 RFP sites that they had developed or sites that we
- 14 had developed, which is what you're referring to.
- 15 For several months now, Empire has been
- 16 developing two seats in southwest Missouri for
- 17 which we have applied to the Southwest Power Pool
- 18 250 megawatt generator interconnect request at both
- 19 of those sites. And we have procured options on
- 20 land leases in that area as well.
- 21 Q Do you have figures for how much money has
- 22 already been spent by Empire for those project
- 23 sites?
- 24 A I do not have that in front of me. No

1	Q Is that in the record?
2	A It is not.
3	Q Is Empire going to be seeking to recover
4	that amount from ratepayers?
5	A As as a total of the capital
6	investment, the money spent to develop those sites
7	would be sought in terms of the total capital cost
8	with respect to those sites in southwest Missouri,
9	yes.
10	Q And if Empire chooses not to go forward
11	with the plan as stipulated or originally proposed,
12	what happens to those costs?
13	A That would be a decision we would have to
14	make in the future.
15	Q Okay. If you'd turn to page 5 of your
16	direct testimony, you're answering a question about
17	purchase and sale agreements there, correct?
18	A Yes.
19	Q And that's a negotiation between what
20	parties?
21	A That would be a negotiation that's
22	currently ongoing between Empire and negotiating
23	team and the short-listed bidders as a result of
24	the RFP analysis.
25	

1	Q Okay. On line 5 of page 5, you talk about
2	there's going to be a written report. And I
3	believe Mr. Mooney referenced this independent
4	engineer. There's going to be a written report.
5	And that written report will contain something
6	about reasonable likelihood the wind project tested
7	capacity will exceed a certain guaranteed level?
8	A Uh-huh.
9	Q So that's in the agreement?
10	A That is currently being contemplated in
11	the agreements that are unsigned, yes. I think I
12	would make a clarification that there are two
13	different tests there. The one that Mr. Mooney was
14	referring to was more on the overall expected
15	energy over a 20-year period.
16	And this is with respect to a specific
17	generator output curve as it relates to name plate
18	capacity of the turbines that were selected for
19	each project.
20	Q Are you aware of a certain guaranteed
21	capacity required by the stipulation?
22	A I think the the stipulation
23	contemplates up to 600 megawatts of of wind
24	energy.
25	

1 I guess is there a test -- you know, we've 0 2 seen these capacity factor numbers. They range 3 from 47 to 54 percent. Will there be any agreement 4 between the -- the two parties here -- will there 5 be an agreement between the two of you of a minimum 6 capacity of those projects? 7 Α Yes. But there is --0 9 Again, I want to make a clarification. 10 There's a difference between capacity and capacity 11 factor. Capacity is the name plate rated capacity 12 of the generators, which would be a one-time test based upon the output curve supplied by the 13 14 manufacturer. Capacity factor is the expected 15 annual energy output over the rated name plate 16 capacity. 17 0 Thank you for the clarification. 18 Α Okay. 19 So there is not a capacity factor 0 20 guarantee in the stipulation as currently drafted, 2.1 correct? 2.2 Those are being currently negotiated. А 23 Those are highly confidential. But there has been a lot of due diligence with each one of the 24 25

- 1 projects that have been submitted to us in terms of
- 2 a third party independent engineer's evaluation
- 3 that Mr. Mooney referenced and will be a part of
- 4 the test as we move forward with the PSAs.
- 5 Q And I think your answer was speaking to
- 6 the agreement. I'm talking about the stipulation
- 7 that was filed in this case.
- 8 A So could you repeat the question with
- 9 respect to stipulation filed in this case?
- 10 Q There's not a capacity factor guarantee in
- 11 the stipulation filed in this case, correct?
- 12 A There is not.
- 13 Q Thank you. Turning to your surrebuttal
- 14 testimony, on page 6, you talk about -- I think
- 15 there were ten bidders that responded to the RFP;
- 16 is that correct?
- 17 A That is correct.
- 18 Q Okay. And you talked about one bidder
- 19 provided an actual price that was net of tax
- 20 equity. Is there a reason why only one bidder
- 21 would factor that in?
- 22 A I think as -- as discussed with witness Mr
- 23 Mooney earlier, there were a lot of questions
- 24 surrounding tax reform at the time.

1	And folks just decided at the end of the
2	day, the tax equity agreement was going to be done
3	at a subsequent time. And so they could give us
4	indications of what tax equity financing could be
5	with respect to their bid. But at the end of the
6	day, it would be ultimately be decided later.
7	Q Okay. Were you in the room earlier for
8	the discussion of the Oklahoma windcatcher project?
9	A I was.
10	Q And do you generally understand the no net
11	harm provision or net benefit provision for
12	customers that's being proposed in Oklahoma?
13	A I have not read anything with regard to
14	any of the stipulations or agreements made in
15	Oklahoma with the windcatcher project.
16	Q Okay. Do you know Empire's position on
17	including some type of no net harm to customers
18	provision?
19	A I think our position has been outlined in
20	the the non-unanimous stip and agreement that
21	we've are talking about here today.
22	MS. BELL: No further questions.
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel?
24	MR. WILLIAMS: Well, now a few.
25	

1	CROSS-EXAMINATION
2	BY MR. WILLIAMS:
3	Q Good afternoon, Mr. Wilson.
4	A Good afternoon.
5	Q Do you remember Staff asked you about Elk
6	River and Meridian Way and the if this 600
7	megawatt wind project is developed that's part of
8	the stipulation plan it can be used for satisfying
9	the renewable energy standard of Missouri?
10	A I remember that question. Yes.
11	Q Cannot that requirement also be met with
12	purchases of renewable energy credits?
13	A Yes, it can.
14	Q And do you recall well, maybe you do or
15	not. Mr. Mertens earlier testified that the
16	contracts for the responses to the request for
17	proposals, you're hoping to have those negotiated
18	and completed by the end of this month. Is that
19	consistent with your understanding of what's
20	occurring in those negotiations?
21	A As a member of the negotiating team
22	myself, yes, I'm aware of that.
23	Q And what he said is accurate?
24	A What he said is accurate. That is the
25	

1 goal. MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. 2 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Questions by 4 Commissioners? 5 CHAIRMAN HALL: No questions. Thank you. 6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect by Empire? 7 8 Redirect by Empire? 9 MS. KNOWLTON: The company has none. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Wilson, you may step 11 down. Thank you for your testimony. 12 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Judge. 13 MS. KNOWLTON: The company calls 14 Christopher Krygier. 15 CHRISTOPHER KRYGIER, 16 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole 17 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION 18 19 BY MS. KNOWLTON: 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated. 21 (By Ms. Knowlton) Good afternoon, Q 22 Mr. Krygier. 23 A Good afternoon. 24 Q Please state your name for the record. 25

- 1 A Chris Krygier.
- Q By whom are you employed and in what
- 3 capacity?
- 4 A Liberty Utility Services Corp. as the
- 5 Director of Rates and Regulatory Affairs.
- 6 Q Have you caused to be prepared for the
- 7 purposes of this proceeding certain direct and
- 8 surrebuttal testimony as well as an affidavit in
- 9 question and answer form?
- 10 A Yes, I have.
- 11 Q Is it your understanding that that
- 12 testimony and -- and the affidavit have been marked
- 13 respectively as Exhibits 2, 3, 4-C and 4-P for
- 14 identification?
- 15 A Yes, it is.
- 16 Q Do you have any changes that you would
- 17 like to make to that testimony or affidavit at this
- 18 time?
- 19 A I do have two typographical errors. I
- 20 actually forgot my binder for that, if I could go
- 21 grab that real guick.
- JUDGE BUSHMAN: You may.
- 23 A Thank you. They relate to my surrebuttal
- 24 testimony. The first is on page 5, line -- page 5,

- 1 line 3. There I have a reference to an incorrect
- 2 statute. It says four CSR 240-3. And I believe
- 3 that should be 240-20.
- 4 The second is on page 9 of my surrebuttal.
- 5 line 20. I have an extra decimal in the middle of
- 6 that sentence that should be deleted.
- 7 O If I asked you the questions which are
- 8 contained in Exhibits 2, 3, 4-c and 4-P today,
- 9 would your answers as amended be the same?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Are those answers as amended true and
- 12 correct to the best of your information, knowledge
- 13 and belief?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 MS. KNOWLTON: Your Honor, I'd offer
- 16 Exhibits 2, 3, 4-C and 4-P into evidence and tender
- 17 Mr. Krygier for cross-examination.
- 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections to those
- 19 exhibits? Hearing none, they're admitted.
- 20 (Empire Exhibit Nos. 2, 3, 4-C and 4-P)
- 21 were offered and entered into evidence.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next cross is by Staff.
- 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 24 BY MS. FORCK:
- 25

1 0 Good afternoon, Mr. Krygier. Good afternoon. 2. Α 3 O Empire filed an application related to 4 this customer savings plan in four states, correct? 5 Α That's correct. 6 And in Oklahoma, there was a stipulation 7 that was filed; is that correct? Α Yes. 9 Can you provide an update as to that 0 10 Oklahoma application and -- and stipulation? 11 Α Yes. The hearing for the Oklahoma 12 settlement is currently scheduled for May 22nd. 13 However, the parties are in discussions about 14 potentially looking at revising the settlement 15 based on the settlement here in Missouri. 16 And that settlement agreement with 17 Oklahoma was involving the original application to 18 -- to close Asbury; is that correct? 19 A That's correct. 20 So is that one of those revisions that 0 2.1 would be discussed? 2.2 Yes. Α 23 0 Okay. Have you read OPC witness John 2.4 Robinette's affidavit statement in opposition of 25

1 the stipulation? Yes, I have. 2. Α 3 O Do you have a copy of that with you? Α Yes. 5 Please refer to paragraph 5. 0 I am there. 6 Α 7 Would you agree that both a decision to 0 begin construction on up to 800 megawatts of wind 9 project and a decision to close Asbury 15 years before its scheduled retirement date needs 10 11 regulatory certainty before Empire would be willing 12 to move forward on either decision? 13 Generally speaking, yes. This was Α 14 obviously the subject of much discussion yesterday 15 as to the different legal considerations and 16 aspects. But, generally speaking, yes. 17 And what would you -- how would you define 18 regulatory certainty? 19 I would -- well, what we're looking for Α 20 here is that the decision to acquire the wind is reasonable. And then, ultimately, the prudence 2.1 2.2 will be determined in a subsequent regulatory 23 filing as it relates to the wind projects. 2.4 Q Does the fact that Empire has agreed to 25

- 1 keep Asbury open for the time being changed
- 2 certainty for the construction of the wind
- 3 projects?
- 4 A No, it does not.
- 5 Q Does the fact that the magnitude of the
- 6 wind projects has decreased by 200 megawatts
- 7 changed the need for regulatory certainty for
- 8 construction of the wind projects?
- 9 A No, it does not.
- 10 Q All right. Look at Paragraph 11.
- 11 A I'm there.
- 12 Q Does the stipulation address prudence
- related to Asbury upgrades in the event Missouri
- 14 law transfers compliance to Missouri Department of
- 15 Natural Resources?
- 16 A The stip, the way I read it, is that it
- doesn't contemplate the jurisdiction from a legal
- 18 perspective.
- 19 O So is it reasonable to assume that
- 20 signatories did not intend to trump state law when
- 21 contemplating the compliance with EPA coal
- 22 combustion residual rules and effluent limitation
- 23 guidelines for Asbury?
- 24 A I do not think that was the intent to

- 1 trump State law.
- 2 Q Please refer to paragraph 14 of
- 3 Mr. Robinette's affidavit.
- 4 A I am there.
- 5 O This is marked confidential. I'm not
- 6 intending to ask anything confidential. So if it's
- 7 possible to answer without providing confidential
- 8 information, what is Empire's plan for Missouri
- 9 jobs associated with construction and operation of
- 10 the wind projects?
- 11 A Trying to keep it high level without going
- into a confidentiality, that's something that we'll
- 13 be looking at the jobs and how they'll be staffed
- 14 once we get a decision on the wind farms
- 15 themselves.
- 16 O And that would include construction and
- 17 operation?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Okay. Are you familiar with OPC witness
- 20 Lena Mantle's affidavit and statement in opposition
- 21 of the stipulation?
- 22 A Yes, I am.
- 23 Q Do you have a copy of that?
- 24 A Yes, I do.
- 25

- 1 Q Please refer to paragraphs 22 through 27.
- 2 A I'm there.
- 3 O I'll give you a chance to review that
- 4 before I ask you this next set of questions.
- 5 A Okay.
- 6 Q What is your understanding of
- 7 Ms. Mantle's argument here?
- 8 A My understanding of Ms. Mantle's argument
- 9 is that there is some uncertainty about the
- 10 accounting as it relates to the wind revenues.
- 11 Q Is it your understanding that revenues
- 12 from the wind projects would flow through the fuel
- 13 adjustment clause?
- 14 A Yes. That's my understanding.
- 15 Q Are you familiar with Chapter 4
- 16 CSR 240-3.161?
- 17 A Not by the number.
- 18 Q Well, I'll -- I'll read it, and then I'll
- 19 ask you a few questions. Paragraph 1-A-2, If
- off-system sales revenues are reflected in the RAM,
- 21 fuel and purchase power costs reflect both, A, the
- 22 prudently incurred fuel and purchase power costs
- 23 necessary to serve the electric utilities of
- 24 Missouri retail customers, and, B, the prudently

- 1 incurred fuel and purchased power costs associated
- 2 with the electric utility's off-system sales. So
- 3 for clarification, the RAM means Rate Adjustment
- 4 Mechanism; is that right?
- 5 A That's my understanding.
- 6 Q And a fuel adjustment clause or FAC is a
- 7 type of RAM; is that right?
- 8 A That's my understanding. Yes.
- 9 O Does -- does Empire currently have an FAC?
- 10 A Yes, it does.
- 11 Q And that FAC was established in a general
- 12 rate proceeding, right?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And the FAC can be continued or modified
- 15 through a general rate proceeding as well; is that
- 16 right?
- 17 A That's right.
- 18 Q Would you agree that the Commission
- determines whether or not to reflect off-system
- 20 sales revenues and associated costs in an FAC?
- 21 A Could you please repeat?
- Q Would you agree that it's the Commission's
- 23 determination whether or not to reflect off-system
- 24 sales revenues and associated costs in an FAC?

1 Α Through the accounting for them, yes. 2 0 Does Empire's current FAC include 3 off-system sales revenues? 4 Yes, it does. Α 5 Would inclusion of the revenues from the Q 6 wind projects and the FAC be a mechanism for 7 flowing benefits back to customers in a more timely manner than would otherwise be possible? 9 Yes. I think that was our assumption as 10 it relates to the customer savings plan is that the 11 wind revenues would flow through the FAC. 12 Have you read OPC witness Jeff Marke's Q 13 affidavit in opposition of the stipulation? 14 Yes, I have. A 15 Do you have a copy of that? 0 16 Α I do. 17 Are you familiar with the case he 18 discussed regarding the two gigawatt windcatcher 19 facility and 756 kilovolt dedicated generation tie 20 line in Oklahoma? 2.1 Α Generally, yes. 2.2 So Dr. Marke discusses a number of 23 customer guarantees from that Oklahoma case. One 24 such guarantee is that the project provides net 25

- 1 benefits during the initial ten years of the
- 2 project's operation. The agreement in the Oklahoma
- 3 case Dr. Marke cites does not perform its
- 4 calculation of net benefits until Year 11 of the
- 5 project; isn't that right?
- 6 A Yes. I think that's what the page -- page
- 7 8 contemplates in the net benefits bullet.
- 8 Q So when customers are owed money in that
- 9 situation, they could potentially go ten years
- 10 before they would see any of that money again; is
- 11 that right?
- 12 A Potentially, yes.
- 13 Q And when that money is, I'll say, returned
- 14 to the customers, the company creates a regulatory
- liability to be amortized over the next 15 years;
- 16 is that right?
- 17 A That's what I read here. Yes.
- 18 Q The non-unanimous stipulation filed in
- 19 this case doesn't provide for a guarantee of net
- 20 benefits, but it does provide for a sharing in the
- 21 detriment; is that right?
- 22 A It does provide for a sharing in -- in
- 23 conjunction with rate case filings.
- 24 Q And under the terms of the stipulation,

- 1 Empire's rates will be adjusted to pool money in
- 2 the appropriate direction in each rate case?
- A If there's money owed, yes. It would be
- 4 -- the stipulation contemplates at that time.
- 5 Q Would you anticipate that a rate case
- 6 would be filed before the eleventh year of the
- 7 operation of the wind projects?
- 8 A Yes. We, under that FAC statute, are
- 9 required to no less than every four years is my
- 10 understanding.
- 11 Q The stipulation also provides for revenues
- 12 from the wind projects to flow through the FAC; is
- 13 that right?
- 14 A Ask that question one more time.
- 15 O The stipulation also provides for revenues
- 16 from the wind projects to flow through the FAC?
- 17 A That's what it contemplates. Yes.
- 18 Q So does that mean that customers would see
- 19 these revenues as soon as the FAC is updated?
- 20 A Yes, generally.
- 21 O And how soon could that occur?
- 22 A Empire typically updates its FAC twice a
- 23 year.
- Q Okay. Would you please look at page 6 of

1 Dr. Marke's affidavit beginning with the last paragraph? It starts, If empire's modeling. 2 3 Α I'm there. 4 Q Would you please read that entire 5 paragraph aloud? 6 Α If Empire's modeling suggests retiring 7 significant amounts of base load generation prematurely is prudent, then other SPP members 9 modeling must show similar results. Under these circumstances in near term 10 11 future where excess SPP reserve margins are erased 12 entirely appears plausible, which would mean that 13 during high demand hours (in the summer when it is 14 not windy), there will likely be significant 15 residual effects, namely, higher costs generating 16 units coming online than what would be predicted in 17 a modeling exercise that does not account for other market actors reactions. 18 19 And then would you also please read the 0 20 first sentence on page 7? 2.1 Α Starting with Given? 2.2 Q Yes. 23 Given the market signals apparent to OPC, Α 24 Empire's customer savings plan does not appear to 25

be a sound investment for Empire's ratepayers.

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- 2 So the way I read that, it sounds as 3 though OPC is suggesting that if Empire makes 4 prudent decisions based on its modeling and other 5 SPP members make prudent decisions based on their 6 modeling, the outcome would be an imprudent 7 investment by Empire. Does that sound like what you just read? 9 The way I read this is -- feels like a Catch 22 of modeling follow -- following other 10 11 modeling.
- 14 it's looking at for its fleet. And if those
- 15 decisions are good for it, then regardless of what

model stands alone as it relates to what decision

The way I think about it is each utility's

- other utilities are doing, they'll be prudent
- 17 decisions for that utility.
- 18 Q Do you think Empire would be accused of
- 19 imprudency if it ignored its modeling research that
- 20 suggested a course of action would result in lower
- 21 rates?
- 22 A What do you mean by that question?
- 23 Q So you were just discussing how each
- 24 utility's modeling should stand alone and should

25

1

12

- 1 help determine what course of action we need to
- 2 take.
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q So if Empire ignored its modeling and
- 5 research, and the modeling and research suggested
- 6 that a certain course of action would result in
- 7 lower rates, but Empire decided not to take that
- 8 course of action, do you think that Empire could be
- 9 accused of imprudency?
- 10 A Potentially. It obviously all depends on
- 11 -- on the fact pattern, as we were talking about
- 12 yesterday, there's other considerations besides
- 13 cost that have to go into these decisions and have
- 14 to be looked at as a whole. But, ultimately, the
- 15 modeling for each utility stands alone.
- 16 Q Okay. On page 3 of Dr. Marke's affidavit,
- 17 he accuses Empire's modeling of being opaque and
- 18 flawed. Can you reconcile Dr. Marke's statements
- 19 here, first being that Empire's modeling is opaque
- and flawed, and the second being that if Empire's
- 21 modeling suggests retiring significant amounts of
- 22 base load generation prematurely as prudent and
- other SPP's modeling show similar results, and
- that's what you had just read into the record?

- 1 Α Yeah. So big picture, which is from being part of the modeling process, I don't think our 2 3 modeling is opaque and flawed. We spent a 4 significant amount of time going through a pretty robust process, as Mr. Mertens alluded to and 5 Mr. McMahon earlier. 6 7 So I think to that part of the question, it was a pretty thorough process. What was your 9 second question? 10 So can you reconcile that with Dr. Marke's 0 11 statement that other SPP members modeling would 12 show similar results to Empire's modeling? 13 I cannot. A 14 MS. FORCK: Okay. I have nothing further. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG? 16 MR. WOODSMALL: Briefly, your Honor. 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. WOODSMALL: 18 19 MR. WOODSMALL: First off, there's some question about what the FAC does. And I would ask 20
  - 22 FAC tariff. And I have those specific citations.

the Commission to take official notice of Empire's

- 23 It's PSC MO No. 5, Section 4, Original Sheet No.
- 24 17U through 17AC.

25

2.1

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Say that again. MR. WOODSMALL: PSC MO, No. 5, Section 4, 2 3 Original Sheet Nos. 17U through 17AC. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any party have objection 5 to taking official notice of those tariffs? Hearing none, the Commission will take official 6 7 notice of those tariffs on file. MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you. 9 (By Mr. Woodsmall) Mr. Krygier, were you 0 10 here yesterday during the opening statements? 11 Α Yes, I was. 12 And -- and did you hear a question from 0 13 the Chairman to Counsel regarding PSA, plant and 14 service accounting? Yes. Yes. 15 Α 16 And can you tell me what your 17 understanding of PSA is? 18 Α My understanding is that it generally 19 allows a utility to defer to its balance sheet 20 certain items that would typically be included on 2.1 its income statement, all in a direction to 22 alleviate regulatory lag. 23 0 And so a layperson's understanding, I 24 mean, it would allow Empire to defer depreciation 25

1 expense and return on investment to those in service between rate cases; is that correct? 2. 3 Α That's my understanding. 4 Okay. Do you believe that the stipulation 0 5 in any way contemplates PSA for these investments? 6 Α No, I do not. 7 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. Thank you. further questions. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 10 MR. POSTON: No questions. Thank you. 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 12 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sierra Club? 14 MR. ROBERTSON: No questions. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 16 MS. BELL: Sure. 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BELL: 18 19 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Krygier. Good afternoon. 20 Α 2.1 Today there Has been a lot of discussion. 0 2.2 I think the chairman had some question about PPA 23 agreements. Are you familiar with Empire's current 24 PPA agreements? 25

1 Α Very generally. Okay. Earlier, it was said that the 2 0 3 current PPA agreements, I think, have 20-year 4 terms; is that correct? 5 Α I heard that statement. Yes. 6 Okay. Do you know if Empire has the 0 7 authority to negotiate for longer PPA agreements? I'd have to defer that to Mr. Mertens 9 probably is the best person -- I don't -- I haven't 10 reviewed the contracts in terms of negotiating 11 rights or things like that. 12 You're not aware of like a statute that Q 13 limits PPA agreements to 20 years? 14 Α You mean like a Missouri statute? 15 Right. O 16 Α Not that I'm aware of. 17 Okay. And Mr. Mertens said something 0 18 about how -- and maybe this is more in your area 19 since it has to do with rates -- that the current 20 PPA agreements are locked in on a price, and that 2.1 price is actually higher than what's currently in 2.2 the market; is that correct? 23 Again, I heard him say that. Yes. Α 24 0 But that affects Empire's rates, right? 25

- 1 That --
- 2 A The price of the PPAs does impact rates.
- 3 Yes.
- 4 Q Okay. Do you know if Empire has the
- 5 authority to negotiate a provision that would
- 6 change that price based on fluctuating market
- 7 prices much like is within the stipulation, you
- 8 know, some type of production that would protect
- 9 Empire and its customers?
- 10 A As it relates generally to those
- 11 contracts, I would again defer you if it's related
- 12 to those specific contracts -- again, I know
- 13 they're -- I don't know of a statute that would
- 14 prevent it.
- 15 Q Okay. Would it -- would it better protect
- 16 Empire's customers if that market price provision
- 17 and PPA was variable based on the market price?
- 18 A I don't know. I think you'd have to do
- 19 some spreadsheet calculations and modeling to look
- 20 at that.
- 21 Q Okay. What is Empire's calculation of
- their rate impact of the stipulation and agreement?
- 23 A So if you reference Mr. Meyers' affidavit,
- 24 and Mr. Cooper -- I'm looking specifically at pages

- 1 7 and 8, and Mr. Cooper alluded to this during the
- 2 opening statement, the stipulation plan is
- 3 approximately -- you know, it assumes an 11.75
- 4 percent rate increase rounded to 12 compared to the
- 5 status quo.
- 6 The current preferred plan that Empire
- 7 operates under is approximately 8.42 percent, which
- 8 rounding to 8 for simplicity.
- 9 Q So does Empire adopt Mr. Meyers' rate --
- 10 rate calculations?
- 11 A What I was suggesting was those
- 12 calculations came from the stipulation plan, and I
- 13 was pointing to where they were referenced.
- 14 Q Does Empire agree with those calculations
- 15 made by Mr. Meyer?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Okay. Have you reviewed -- I think it's
- 18 called Appendix A, Exhibit B to the stipulation?
- 19 And it -- it's titled Wind Data Spreadsheet.
- 20 A Yes. I'm there.
- 21 Q You've reviewed that document?
- 22 A Generally, yes.
- 23 Q Okay. And so this -- on the second page,
- it has a row called Total Wind Revenue Requirement.

1	Correct?
2	A I see that. Yeah.
3	Q Okay. And so in order to get to
4	Mr. Meyers' calculations under 600 megawatt wind
5	Asbury, he just added this total wind revenue
6	requirement plus the current wind revenue
7	requirement. Is that your understanding?
8	A I would need to go back and look at the
9	spreadsheets. I think this was an illustrated
10	example of what the potential could look like for
11	those calculations.
12	The revenue requirement modeling that the
13	8.42 percent and the 11.75 we talked about, those
14	were runs from the ABB modeling that essentially
15	compared the preferred plan that Empire operates
16	under today to the stipulation plan.
17	So I'd have to go back and look at the
18	spreadsheets to see where if these link and
19	reconcile, it's probably a little more nuanced than
20	simply adding those two things up that you
21	referenced.
22	Q Okay. So let's go to your direct
23	testimony. And I am on CDK-1, the first schedule
24	attached to your testimony.

1 Α I'm there. 2 Okay. Line No. 2 also says the words Wind 3 Revenue Requirement. Is that your estimation of 4 the wind revenue requirement from the GFSA plans, I 5 believe? 6 Α Yes. That was an estimate of the GFSA as 7 originally filed in direct. Okay. I believe it was Mr. Wilson who 9 testified sites are already being developed. So 10 why is the wind revenue requirement zero in 2018? 11 Α I don't know offhand. 12 Okay. 0 13 I suspect -- or I don't know offhand. Α 14 Okay. So I'm looking at this wind revenue 0 15 requirement number compared with the appendix that 16 was attached to the stipulation. And I -- I 17 understand they are new on two different plans. 18 But I just have some questions about how 19 those numbers relate. So in the -- in your 20 attachment, CDK-1, in 2020, it's showing a wind 21 revenue requirement basically in the first year 2.2 that it hits at one thirty-two sixty-two. Do you 2.3 see that? 24 A Yes.

1 0 Okay. And that's just for the wind, 2. correct? Α 3 I would need to pull the underlying work 4 papers to tell you what -- each component that 5 reconciles to the one thirty-two sixty-two. But 6 big picture, that relates to the wind. 7 On the appendix for the stipulation, the first year that it hits, you see -- it's basically 9 2021, and you see \$75 million -- or 75 for the 10 total wind revenue requirement; is that correct? 11 Α If you're referencing total revenue 12 requirement in 2021, I see 75. Yes. 13 0 Okay. 14 I think one thing to keep in mind is these Α 15 aren't necessarily like-for-like comparisons. 16 think this was a -- an example calculation shown that does have, obviously, some of the underlying 17 18 data. 19 But I'd have to go back to look to see if 20 you can directly compare these two. I'm not sure 2.1 directly offhand if you can. 22 Do you know what the differences might be? 23 I don't offhand, no. Α 24 So I guess my question is more -- I'm just 0 25

- 1 trying to understand why these figures are
- 2 different. I understand that we've moved from 800
- 3 megawatts to 600 megawatts, you know, which is a 75
- 4 percent difference. And maybe the costs aren't,
- 5 you know, exactly 75 percent.
- 6 But I think that 75 number when it hits is
- 7 something less than 75 percent. Do you know why
- 8 that would be?
- 9 A I can tell you big picture. So these
- 10 calculations done direct --
- 11 Q Okay.
- 12 A -- did not have the updated RFP data that
- 13 Mr. McMahon and others have referred to, which
- 14 obviously now has in the stipulation, there is the
- 15 difference in megawatts that we've talked about,
- 16 800, 600.
- 17 And then, finally, obviously, there's a
- 18 difference status for Asbury for what was in the
- 19 direct filing versus the stipulation filing. And
- 20 subject to check, the difference in the price
- 21 forecasts from the ABB reference cases might also
- 22 be a difference between the two.
- 23 Q Okay. One final question about these
- 24 charts. If you're looking at CDK-1, you start with

- 1 that wind revenue requirement being 132 in 2020.
- 2 And it decreases substantially essentially through
- 3 2030, you're at ninety-one twenty-four.
- 4 So if you were to chart this on a graph,
- 5 it's going significantly down over time. And if
- 6 you look at Appendix A attached to the stipulation,
- 7 it's pretty much steady.
- 8 So in 2021, you're looking at 75. And
- 9 2030, you're at 72-ish. So you're looking at
- 10 bottom line. Do you know why those would trend
- 11 differently? Is that all related to Asbury?
- 12 A Could be. Part -- generally speaking, the
- 13 wind revenue requirement can -- some components of
- 14 it will decrease over time.
- 15 As an example, rate base will decline over
- 16 time due to additional depreciation each year. But
- 17 you'd have to go component by component and compare
- 18 the two.
- 19 Q Okay. Back to your direct, on page 6,
- line 19, you state, Empire seeks the following
- 21 approvals in order to implement the CSP. Is that
- 22 what you're seeking is approval for the wind
- 23 projects?
- 24 A What page? I'm sorry.

- 1 Q Page 6, line 19.
- 2 A And the question was?
- 3 Q Is Empire seeking approvals from the
- 4 Commission?
- 5 A Well, I think we've had that discussion
- 6 the last two days.
- 7 Q Okay. On page 12, you talk about minimum
- 8 filing requirements in Kansas.
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And I am not licensed in Kansas, but I'm
- 11 hoping you can fill me in about these requirements.
- 12 What's the -- do you have an update on status of
- 13 the situation in Kansas?
- 14 A So are you asking me about what we -- the
- 15 relief we requested here.
- 16 Q Well, yeah. What -- what were you
- 17 requesting in Kansas?
- 18 A So there were essentially two pieces
- 19 related to Kansas. But those were two specific
- 20 pieces that we had to call out for our filing
- 21 there.
- 22 And the first piece that's talked about on
- 23 page 12 relates to us providing all of the
- 24 requirements that are listed there on lines 15

- 1 through 19. And then page 13 was a separate
- 2 statute that was contemplated as it related to wind
- 3 farms.
- 4 Q Okay. What's the status of that filing in
- 5 Kansas?
- 6 A In Kansas, we have filed a motion to
- 7 withdraw that case.
- 8 Q And on page 13, line 20, I think you're
- 9 talking about incentives that were available in
- 10 Kansas; is that correct?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And were those available in Kansas and
- incorporated into your modeling?
- 14 A They were not. And -- they were not.
- 15 Q Why were they not included in your
- 16 modeling?
- 17 A The -- the statute had not been utilized
- 18 in Kansas yet for any wind projects. And so there
- 19 was some uncertainty about how they were to be
- 20 applied and to be modeled.
- 21 And so in subsequent discussions with the
- 22 parties there and filings, we ultimately withdrew
- 23 the part of this request.
- Q If you'd flip to your surrebuttal.

1 Α I'm there. 2 Okay. On page 5, you talk about the --3 lines 15 -- 14, 15, you talk about the company's 4 general rate case process; is that correct? 5 On page 5, line --Α 14. No. Okay. FAC -- it says, the 6 0 7 following elements will be reflected in the company's general rate case process. And that's 9 the just the general rate case process, right? 10 Am I on the wrong document? Okay. regard -- I'll strike that question. But capital 11 12 contributions are one thing that go into that 13 general rate case process; is that correct? 14 Capital investment? Α 15 0 Yes. 16 Α Yes. 17 And so to the extent Empire's capital 0 18 investment changes, based -- the share -- based on 19 the tax equity partner and that -- that 20 relationship -- that has the potential to change 2.1 customer rates; is that correct? 2.2 If you look at just that element, it does. 23 However, you'd obviously look at all the other elements, take a look at it holistically. 24 25

1 0 Okay. I think you still have the witness 2 copy up there of OPC's opening which has been 3 marked Joplin 502? 4 Α I don't see 502 on here. But I'll 5 assume --6 0 Okay. Yes. Thank you. If you flip to 7 page 20 about capacity factors --I'm there. Α 9 Okay. Is it your opinion -- I think 0 10 yesterday Mr. McMahon said it's pretty much 11 understood that Kansas has better wind than 12 Missouri. Is that your understanding? Maybe at a 50,000 foot level. But I'm not 13 Α 14 an expert at capacity factors. 15 Okay. But it -- is it your opinion --16 would it be your opinion that it's a reasonable 17 model to estimate a capacity factor in excess of 18 any capacity that's been seen in Kansas for 19 Missouri? Again, I'm sorry. I'm not an expert in 20 Α 21 capacity factors. 2.2 Okay. Just as a business person, as a 23 layperson, if you see no actual data has ever been 24 this high and you're going to get an estimate 25

- 1 that's higher than anything that's ever been
- 2 reported before, would you consider that a
- 3 reasonable assumption?
- 4 A It's hard without kind of knowing the
- 5 underlying fact pattern and current information.
- 6 Q You spoke earlier about the Oklahoma
- 7 stipulation on the windcatcher project.
- 8 A No. I spoke with this project in
- 9 Oklahoma.
- 10 Q Okay. And you've reviewed Mr. Marke's
- 11 affidavit?
- 12 A Yes, I have.
- 13 **Q** So --
- 14 A What page?
- 15 O I think -- it's an attachment to I think
- 16 the synthetic benefits provision in Attachment 22
- 17 to **GM-1**.
- 18 A I think I'm there.
- 19 Q Okay. So is it your opinion that the
- 20 market protection provision in the stipulation in
- 21 this case provides more protection to consumers
- 22 than the one in Oklahoma?
- 23 A I haven't looked at any of the modeling on
- 24 the Oklahoma windcatcher settlement or any of the

- underlying spreadsheet or work papers to do that kind of comparison. 2. 3 I think our market protection provision is 4 a good protection provision and has a lot of 5 benefits to it. But I have not done a direct 6 comparison to the pluses and minuses of the 7 windcatcher provision. Okay. If the Commission was to decide to 9 adopt a provision similar to that in Oklahoma being 10 and its guarantee, do you know Empire's position on 11 that? 12 Α Is that a settlement offer? 13 0 No. I just -- if that's what -- I mean, 14 the Commission has -- putting aside the 15 pre-approval question, if we assume the Commission
- 18 broad discretion to accept the stipulation,
- 19 additional provisions looked at all of the evidence

has the authority to actually do what Empire is

wanting, then the Commission has, I would think,

- 20 in the case, which includes this other stipulation.
- 2.1 I think the Commission -- would you agree
- 2.2 that Commissions often turn to other jurisdictions
- 23 to decide public policy, correct?
- 24 Α They look at usually national landscape.

25

16

17

1	Q Okay. And would you you would agree
2	that the Commission has the authority to adopt a
3	stipulation in whole or in come up with an
4	order, including any or all of that stipulation or
5	other provisions, correct?
6	MS. KNOWLTON: Objection. Mr. Krygier is
7	not a legal witness.
8	Q (By Ms. Bell) Okay. Does Empire have a
9	have a position on a net benefits guarantee?
10	A I think net benefits guarantee can be a
11	really loaded concept. It really depends on what's
12	in the details, what does the modeling scenario
13	look like?
14	So as an example, Mr. McMahon and
15	Mr. Holmes and others look at a multitude of
16	scenarios for production prices, and you'd probably
17	want to look at a number of different factors as it
18	relates to this model and compare it directly.
19	I think our position if the Commission
20	adopted, let's just say, verbatim the windcatcher
21	frame work, we'd have to go back and look and think
22	about it. So I don't know what our position would
23	be until we saw what shook out ultimately.
24	And it would be just be a discussion
25	

- 1 amongst ourselves. Obviously, there are other
- 2 signatories to the agreement that would do some
- 3 sort of similar review, I suspect.
- 4 O Okay. Let's talk a little bit about
- 5 market prices. The schedule that we looked at
- 6 earlier attached to your direct testimony has that
- 7 wind revenue requirement, right?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q And the stipulation and agreement, as far
- 10 as customer savings, anticipated that that is
- offset by wind sales; is that correct?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And so would you agree that benefits to
- 14 customers depend on revenues received by SPP for
- 15 **wind?**
- 16 A Generally speaking, yes.
- 17 Q And would you agree that those revenues
- 18 are dependent on wind energy generated?
- 19 A That is one of the factors, yes.
- 20 Q And you would agree that the forecast used
- 21 by Empire decreased between 2016 and 2017 for
- 22 market prices; is that correct?
- 23 A Of my general knowledge, yes. You
- 24 probably need to speak to Mr. McMahon or others on

- 1 what the ABB forecasts show in detail.
- 2 Q Holding all other things equal, if we're
- 3 talking about -- if we go back to capital
- 4 contributions by Empire for the wind projects --
- 5 A Our portion. Capital investment.
- 6 Q Correct. Holding all other things equal,
- 7 if you increase that capital contribution, that
- 8 affects Empire's savings calculation?
- 9 A Holding all other things equal, yes.
- 10 However, as I mentioned earlier, probably can't
- 11 look at it just as holding one element equally, One
- 12 element by itself. You'd have to look at the
- 13 entire package.
- 14 O And you would agree, holding all else
- 15 equal, that those savings would be lower if
- 16 Empire's portion of the contribution is higher?
- 17 A Again, it depends on the other elements of
- 18 the package.
- 19 Q Okay. And adding additional sums to rate
- 20 base would affect Empire's ratepayer impact
- 21 calculations, correct?
- 22 A If you looked at just rate base by itself
- and nothing else, higher rate base would have
- 24 higher rates for customers.

1 MS. BELL: Okay. No further questions. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's take a break. 2 3 We'll be in recess until 3:15. 4 (Break in proceedings.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's go back on the 6 record. How many exhibits do you have, 7 Mr. Williams? MR. WILLIAMS: Two. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Two. At this point. next number will be 216. Which one do you want to 10 11 make 216 and which 217? 12. MR. WILLIAMS: The thicker one is 216. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: The one that says OPC 14 DR-5? 15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. 16 CROSS-EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 18 O Mr. Krygier, I'm handing you what has been 19 marked as Exhibit 216 and 217, review those. 20 MS. FORCK: This is 216? 2.1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. 2.2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Did you need a recess to 23 sort something out? 2.4 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. 25

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's go off the record. 2. (Break in proceedings.) 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. We're back on the 4 record and ready for cross-examination by Public 5 Counsel. Thank you. 6 MR. WILLIAMS: 7 (By Mr. Williams) Mr. Krygier, good 0 afternoon. 9 Good afternoon, Mr. Williams. Α 10 You have in front of you what has been 0 11 marked as Exhibits 216 and 217. Do you recognize 12 what Exhibit 216 is? 13 Yes. Exhibit 216 looks like the Α 14 spreadsheet that was attached to OPC DR-5. 15 When you say the spreadsheet that was 16 attached to OPC DR-5, are you referring to Empire's 17 response to OPC Data Request No. 5? 18 Α Yes. 19 MS. KNOWLTON: I want to -- the company is 20 not going to object to this exhibit, but I do want 2.1 to note for the record that the printed version 2.2 that Attorney Williams has handed out does not 23 match the electronic version that was produced in 24 response to OPC-5. It's missing a few numbers that 25

- 1 relate to depreciation.
- 2 But I think, for purposes of this line of
- 3 questioning, we're not going to object. But I do
- 4 want to note for the record that it's not complete.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 6 Q (By Mr. Williams) I want to -- do you
- 7 recognize Exhibit 216?
- 8 A Generally, yes.
- 9 Q And turning to -- let's see. If you look
- 10 at the first three pages of that exhibit --
- 11 A I have them.
- 12 Q And are those showing an estimate that
- 13 Empire created of the revenue requirement impacts
- 14 associated with particular aspects of the
- 15 stipulated agreement?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And is that based upon using as the basis
- 18 the current revenue requirement -- as the current
- 19 revenue requirement, \$750 million? I mean,
- 20 \$570 million. I'm sorry. I misspoke.
- 21 A Yes. That's the current estimated revenue
- 22 requirement on a total company basis.
- 23 Q Thank you for that clarification. And so,
- 24 for example, 2019, you're reflecting that the new

ash landfill would cause an increase in rates based 1 on that 570 current revenue -- million -- current 2. 3 revenue requirement of approximately -- well, 4 revenue requirement increase of .1 percent 5 attributable to the new ash landfill, correct? That's the estimate. Yes. 6 Α 7 0 And for the conveyance system, that's a .3 percent increase? 9 Α Yes. 10 Okay. And no increase due to the wind 0 11 farms in 2019, correct? 12 Α Correct. 13 Q And then the impacts of tax reform, which 14 is moving from -- I believe it is 35 percent to 21 15 percent, corporate federal income tax rate is --16 has an impact of reducing the revenue requirement 17 based on that 570 million by 3.3 percent? 18 Α Correct. 19 Q And then if we move over to year 2020, 20 there's a showing at that point of an impact 2.1 associated as a wind farms of approximately --2.2 estimated to be 1.1 percent, correct? 23 Α Yes. 24 0 Now, that wind farm impact includes not 25

- 1 only the capital costs of the wind farms but, also,
- 2 revenues that they're to generate, correct?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 O And where in Exhibit 216 are the revenues
- 5 associated -- well, if you look at the last -- go
- 6 to the end of the document and go back to page --
- 7 right here. Five of then. Do you see that in the
- 8 lower right-hand corner?
- 9 A Top left-hand corner says Items 4 and 5 up
- 10 to 600 megawatts?
- 11 Q Yes.
- 12 A I'm with you.
- 13 Q And then the next to last line shows model
- 14 SPP revenue.
- 15 A I'm with you.
- 16 Q Those are the model SPP revenue associated
- with the 700 megawatts of wind, are they not?
- 18 A Did you say 700 megawatts of wind?
- 19 Q If I did, I misspoke. It would be 600.
- 20 A Yes, with the 600 megawatts.
- 21 Q So you're anticipating -- or estimated
- revenues of about \$12 million in 2020, 65 million
- in 2021, what's shown on that line?
- 24 A Yes. That is what's shown on that line.

1 Q And those went out from -- started in 2020 2 and run out through 2047 in the estimation? 3 Α Yes. 4 0 Then I want to turn your attention to 5 Exhibit 217. I'm there. 6 Α 7 And it says up at the top left Impact With 0 No SPP Revenues. But, also, Items 4 and 5 up to 9 600 megawatt of wind and associated transmission? 10 Yes, it does. Α 11 Q And on these sheets, the model SPP revenue 12 has been changed from what Empire did to show no 13 SPP -- model SPP revenue? 14 Α That's what it shows. 15 So that the percent changed to Empire's O 16 revenue requirement that the results would be 17 associated with the wind farms themselves would be 18 attributable to the cost of the wind farms without 19 any revenues, correct? 20 Let me restate to make sure I understand Α 2.1 what you're attempting to capture here is if you --2.2 if you assume zero SPP revenue, you would just look 23 at the wind farm revenue requirement and then 24 trying to calculate the rate impact of just that 25

1 piece. 2. Q Correct. 3 Α Then yes. So that's shown in the last line on those 4 0 5 three sheets for each different year? I mean, 6 that's the only change that was done to the 7 modeling that Empire provided? That is what's shown there. Yes. 9 0 That looks correct to you? 10 Without, you know, going in each cell and Α 11 check subject to check, yes. It's correct 12 mathematically, obviously. From a philosophical perspective, I think assuming a zero percent SPP 13 14 revenue, there's -- you know, you'd have to consult 15 Mr. McMahon. But I suspect that, you know, that 16 just feels a little off. 17 Well, we're looking for math, not 0 18 philosophy here at this point. I mean, basically, 19 it breaks apart the impact due to model SPP 20 revenues and the impact due to the capital 2.1 additions, correct? I think it would be total revenue 2.2 2.3 requirement additions. 24 Q But attributable -- only attributable to 25

the wind? 1 2. Α Right. Yes. 3 MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I'd like -- I'll 4 offer Exhibits 216, 217. Counsel for Empire has 5 already explained the differences between what's on 6 216 and what was actually provided in the 7 spreadsheet, and we acknowledge those differences. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections to those 9 exhibits being admitted? Hearing none, they're admitted. 10 (OPC Exhibits 216 and 217 are offered and 11 12 admitted into evidence.) 13 Q (By Mr. Williams) What is Empire's 14 current preferred plan? It is Plan 5 from the 2016 triennial IRP. 15 16 Why hasn't Empire gone ahead and changed 17 its preferred plan in light -- since it has entered 18 into the stipulation -- stipulated plan in this 19 case? 20 I believe I referred in my direct Α 21 testimony, page 15, starting on line 11 through 2.2 page 16, essentially, we're waiting -- we would 23 make a change in the preferred plan if the 24 Commission grants the relief that we're requesting. 25

1 So we're ultimately -- we're waiting for if the 2 Commission approves it. 3 Q Why are you waiting for Commission 4 approval? 5 I think what would happen if the Α 6 Commission ultimately did not approve the plan that 7 we've requested, we would have to go back and -and think through what our options are and what the 9 next steps are. 10 Well, is Commission approval required? Q 11 Α Required for what? 12 For Empire's plan to build 600 megawatts 0 13 of wind. 14 Α I think that's part of the relief that 15 we're contemplating here. And that's why we filed 16 the application and ultimately reached the 17 non-unanimous stipulation. So we're looking for, as we talked about before the last two days, that 18 19 the plan reasonable is to proceed with. 20 0 Well, I understand you're asking the 2.1 Commission for that.

25

2.2

23

24

Α

Q

Yeah.

obtain that authorization or finding from this

Does Empire believe it's required to

1	Commission at this point in time?
2	A While I'm not an attorney and there might
3	be some legal aspects to that, and I think our
4	perspective is it's a significant undertaking and
5	that's why we've brought the plan to the Commission
6	for consideration.
7	Q When is it that Empire projects its
8	customers will start to see savings on their bills
9	from Empire's plan and let's make it the 600
10	megawatts stipulated plan?
11	A We project that if you compare the
12	stipulation plan to the status quo cuff, and status
13	quo being compared to the 2016 preferred plan that
14	we're operating under, customers would start seeing
15	savings in 2024.
16	Q That's savings on their little bills?
17	A A lower revenue requirement. You'd have
18	to you ultimately obviously, there's an FAC
19	timing consideration and a rate case timing
20	consideration that you'd have to look at, but,
21	conceptually, a lower revenue requirement for
22	customers.
23	Q When you say a lower revenue requirement,
2.4	are you including revenue requirement that you're

- 1 saying is attributable to the fuel adjustment
- 2 clause?
- 3 A That's a good question. The -- and I'm
- 4 looking at Table 8 of Mr. Meyers' testimony, which
- 5 is the ABB modeling outputs. And that is base
- 6 margin plus fuel together.
- 7 Q On page 6 of -- well, let me just ask it
- 8 this way. Is Empire seeing any rate relief in this
- 9 case?
- 10 A No, we're not.
- 11 Q But you will seek rate relief in future
- 12 cases, will you not?
- 13 A Yes, we would.
- 14 O And will not Empire file a rate case in
- 15 Missouri in 2019 seeking to continue -- or be
- authorized to continue to have a fuel adjustment
- 17 clause?
- 18 A Was the question will we file a case in
- 19 2019?
- 20 **Q Yes.**
- 21 A Yes, we will.
- 22 Q And the reason you'll file that is because
- you want to continue your fuel adjustment clause?
- 24 A Plus, seek relief related to investments

1	and operating expenses and other aspects of the
2	business. But no doubt the FAC is part of that
3	consideration.
4	Q Will you file one if you weren't seeking
5	to continue your fuel adjustment clause? Or have
6	you decided at this point?
7	A I don't think we've looked at it in that
8	in that context at this juncture.
9	Q Did Empire include in its 2018 integrated
10	resource plan annual update its generation fleet
11	savings analysis?
12	A And when you say that, do you mean what
13	was attached to Mr. McMahon's direct testimony?
14	Q I'm just asking whether or not when you
15	did your update to your 2018 integrated resource
16	plan update for 2018, did you include your
17	generation fleet savings analysis?
18	A We included discussion of the GFSA and
19	references to this docket. It was being looked at
20	and undertaken. But I think if the question is did
21	we attach Mr. McMahon's report that was in his

25

22 direct testimony to the 2018 annual update, the

23 answer to that is no. We simply included

24 references to this docket.

1 Q Well, let me come back at it in a little 2 different way. Did you update your resource 3 planning that you reported in your 2018 annual 4 update what you did in your generation fleet 5 savings analysis? 6 Α I'm still not understanding the question. 7 Well -- you do resource planning, do you 0 not? 9 Α Yes. 10 And --Q 11 A The company does. 12 And you're saying that everybody should Q 13 rely on the output of that resource planning in 14 order to approve, at this point, the stipulation 15 plan, correct? That is one of the underlying drivers for 16 Α 17 support. 18 Did you include that kind of -- or that 19 analysis as part of your resource planning that you 20 reported in your 2018 annual update? 2.1 So maybe I'll add this color from an 2.2 answer earlier. We didn't include that exact 23 report. We included references. And my understanding, subject to check, is all the same 24 25

- 1 stakeholders that -- to this docket were also
- 2 stakeholders in that docket and would have read
- 3 those references in the 2018 update.
- 4 Q So what I'm understanding you to say is
- 5 that you did references to it, but you didn't
- 6 include that analysis as part of your annual
- 7 update?
- 8 Or maybe the way I should phrase it is you
- 9 didn't include the full-blown analysis in your
- 10 annual update other than you made a reference to it
- in this case; is that accurate?
- 12 A That's accurate.
- 13 Q And to have a 2019 triennial planning
- 14 report to file with the Commission by April of next
- 15 year, will the analysis that you conducted for the
- 16 generation fleet savings analysis be a part of that
- 17 annual -- or triennial report or something similar
- 18 to it?
- 19 A Potentially. And the reason I say
- 20 potentially is part of it depends on the outcome
- 21 here. And so I think that's to be determined. As
- 22 Mr. Mertens was referring to earlier, we're going
- 23 to start undertaking those efforts soon to start
- 24 getting that work done. But part of it will be

1	contingent upon what happens here.
2	Q Why would it be contingent upon what
3	happens here?
4	A I think from a big picture perspective,
5	ultimately, if the Commission were not to approve
6	the stipulation, I think or even if it did
7	approve it, you'd want to take that into
8	consideration as to what may be modeling
9	assumptions that you would make or other items you
10	might look at further than you did before.
11	Q Well, shouldn't you be looking at all the
12	alternatives out there that you think are
13	appropriate and that other parties provide input as
14	to what they think are appropriate in conducting
15	your resource planning analysis?
16	A We will definitely incorporate feedback
17	from stakeholders, absolutely. But I think,
18	ultimately, there there's no doubt that the
	dicimately, there there's no doubt that the
19	conclusion in this docket will at least have some
19 20	
	conclusion in this docket will at least have some
20	conclusion in this docket will at least have some impact on how we consider looking at 2019, the
20 21	conclusion in this docket will at least have some impact on how we consider looking at 2019, the triennial and the training for it.

1	A Yes.
2	Q Which stakeholders did you obtain that
3	input from?
4	A We had meetings. At a minimum, with the
5	Staff and the office of the Public Counsel
6	participated in a few of them as we were starting
7	to work through talking about what we were doing
8	and the analysis that we were looking at.
9	Q Did you solicit input from those
10	stakeholders or make presentations?
11	A I think feedback was requested as part of
12	the process and discussion. And we sought opinions
13	and comments on the thought process we've been
14	looking at.
15	Q Did you provide and seek input to the
16	modeling?
17	A I'd have to go back and look at my notes
18	to see each aspect of it. But I know we talked
19	about deny changes we were looking at and why we
20	were looking at some of those changes.
21	Q And did you solicit from the stakeholders
22	what they thought about those assumptions and
23	changes?
24	A We definitely asked what their thoughts
25	

- 1 were and what their opinions were.
- 2 Q I want to turn to your affidavit. If you
- 3 look at page 8 on -- in paragraph 19. Do you state
- 4 that the second stipulation provides many
- 5 protections for Empire's customers?
- 6 A Where in the paragraph? I'm sorry.
- 7 Q Now you're gonna make me find it.
- 8 MS. FORCK: Halfway down.
- 9 A The second -- the stipulation provides
- 10 many protections for Empire's customers?
- 11 Q Yes.
- 12 A I'm there.
- 13 Q Does the Stipulation provide a rate cap
- 14 for Empire's wind investment?
- 15 A It doesn't explicitly include a rate cap.
- 16 However, the market protection provision has -- has
- 17 a -- the way it's structures and it's incentive for
- 18 us to find the lowest cost project.
- 19 Q You have an incentive to find the lowest
- 20 cost project anyway, don't you?
- 21 A Yes. Further incentives to do that.
- 22 Q Does the stipulation provide tax equity
- 23 partner protections?
- A For customers? Is that what you mean?

1	Q No. Protections for tax equity partners.
2	A I guess I'm not sure what you would define
3	as a tax equity partner protection. Do you have
4	something in specific you're contemplating?
5	Q I'm thinking of the hedging for one item.
6	Is that something that's done for the benefit of
7	the tax equity partners?
8	A I'd have to refer to Mr. Mooney for those
9	details. But my understanding from him in the
10	hearing earlier is that the fixed the hedge
11	piece is important to secure the financing
12	ultimately to get the significant discount on the
13	project. So, to me, there's customer benefits to
14	that being a lower cost to acquire it.
15	Q And it does that by providing better
16	assurances for the tax equity partner of obtaining
17	it a return on and a return of its investment,
18	correct?
19	A That that is part of it.
20	Q And doesn't the stipulation provide
21	benefits to Empire shareholders that they would not
22	have if this was being done as an independent power
23	producer project?
24	A I'm not sure what you're contemplating
25	

- 1 under -- if it was an independent power producer, I
- 2 think the stipulation provides benefits to
- 3 shareholders, but I also think it provides to
- 4 customers as well. And I think that's reflective
- 5 of the diverse group of signatories.
- 6 Q Let's turn to paragraph 19 on page 9 of
- your affidavit, lower down. And there's a sentence
- 8 there, if I copied it correctly that says, Finally,
- 9 the stipulation ensures for the near term, the
- 10 Asbury plant will remain in place.
- 11 A Yes. I'm there.
- 12 O How short is the near term for which the
- 13 stipulation ensures that the Asbury plant will
- 14 remain open?
- 15 A Obviously, there's not a specified time
- 16 here that's listed in the stipulation. But I
- 17 think, as Mr. Mertens alluded to earlier, that's --
- 18 the Asbury plant is going to be just like the rest
- 19 of the -- all assets that Empire owned, that it's
- 20 going to continue to be looked at and analyzed.
- 21 But there's no time frame that's included here on
- 22 page 9.
- 23 Q Well, according to your generation fleet
- 24 savings analysis, you should shut down Asbury,

1 correct? If you look at it solely from that 2 Α 3 economic perspective, yes. 4 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Commissioner questions? 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: No questions. Thank you. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect by Empire? MS. KNOWLTON: Just a few. Thank you. 9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. KNOWLTON: 10 11 Q Mr. Krygier, prior to making its filing in 12 this case, did the company conduct any type of 13 technical session or outreach with Staff or OPC or 14 other stakeholders? 15 Yes, we did. If you look at Mr. Swain's surrebuttal testimony, on lines 13 and 14, we 16 listed three dates there that we had met with Staff 17 18 and OPC specifically. 19 And then later down in that paragraph, it talks about the technical sessions that we also 20 2.1 held as part of this -- as part of this process. 22 And then the other piece of that is, 23 obviously, we had significant discovery in the case 24 and ran a number of different modeling runs so --25

1 directly at OPC's request. So --2. Do you know whether the company conducted 3 any public outreach after the filing was made, not 4 necessarily to -- to Staff of the Commission, but 5 to parties outside of the regulatory process? 6 Α Yes, we did. We made a -- an effort to 7 reach out to a number of stakeholders that were impacted by the project in the community and 9 reached out to a number of them. 10 Okay. I'm going to ask you a question 0 11 about the windcatcher project. Are you aware of 12 whether there are any differences in that 13 windcatcher project from what Empire proposes here? 14 Α Yes. There are at least two that I know 15 of that are definitely significant. And the first one is the windcatcher project has two components 16 17 to it. The first one is, obviously, the wind farm 18 19 that generates the electricity. But the second 20 piece of it is that it has a -- a one billion 2.1 dollar transmission line that's associated with the 2.2 project because it's so far away from the load that 23 it's serving. Obviously contrasts with our project, which Mr. Wilson and Mertens discussed 24 25

- 1 earlier, the -- these projects are putting wind
- 2 farms in or near our service territory. So that's
- 3 a big one, significant transmission investment
- 4 versus hours.
- 5 So the second piece of that, it's my
- 6 understanding on windcatcher, is that they did not
- 7 do a public RFP process or request for proposal in
- 8 terms of finding potentially the lowest cost
- 9 project per customer whereas Mr. -- as Mr. Wilson
- 10 discussed earlier, we undertook a very robust
- 11 request for proposal process. So those are two
- 12 that stick out.
- MS. KNOWLTON: The company has no further
- 14 questions for Mr. Krygier.
- 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That completes your
- 16 testimony, sir. You're excused.
- 17 MR. KRYGIER: Thank you.
- 18 MS. KNOWLTON: The company calls David
- 19 Holmes.
- 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Raise your right hand,
- 21 please.
- 22 DAVID HOLMES,
- 23 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
- 24 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:
- 25 DIRECT EXAMINATION

1 BY MS. KNOWLTON: 2. 0 Good afternoon, Mr Holmes. 3 Α Good afternoon. Please state your name for the record. 0 5 A David Holmes. 6 By whom are you employed and in what O 7 capacity? Liberty Utilities Canada Corp. I'm the 9 Director of Enterprise Accident Management 10 Strategy. 11 Have you caused to be prepared for 12 purposes of --13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Excuse me. Could you 14 please speak into the microphone? 15 Do I go back to the company? Α 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. Ask your 17 questions. 18 A Okay. Sorry. 19 (By Ms. Knowlton) Have you caused to be 0 20 prepared for the purposes of this proceeding an 2.1 affidavit, I believe it goes through in paragraphs 2.2 in numeric form? 23 T did. Α 24 Q It is your -- is it your understanding 25

that that affidavit has been marked for 1 identification as Exhibit 1? 2. A I did. 3 4 Do you have any changes that you would 0 5 like to make to that affidavit at this time? I do not. 6 A 7 If I asked you the information that's 0 contained in your affidavit today, would your 9 answers be the same? 10 A They would. 11 Q Are those answers true and correct to the 12 best of your information, knowledge and belief? 13 Α They are. 14 MS. KNOWLTON: Your Honor, I'd offer Exhibit 1 into evidence and tender Mr. Holmes for 15 16 cross-examination. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? Hearing 18 none, it's admitted. (Empire Exhibit 1 was offered and admitted 19 into evidence.) 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross-examination would 2.1 2.2 be Staff? 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2.4 BY MS. FORCK:

1 0 Good afternoon. Good afternoon. 2 Α 3 0 Are you familiar with OPC witness Lena 4 Mantle's surrebuttal testimony? 5 Α I've reviewed it. I do not have a copy of 6 it. 7 Q Okay. Thank you. Α 9 I'll refer to you pages 8 and 9. O 10 Α Okay. 11 Q So on these pages, Ms. Mantle discusses 12 the Southwest Power Pool changing its structure nor 13 to give the SPP the ability to sell a wind 14 generator, that it would not take the energy from the wind -- oh, my goodness. I'm not reading this 15 16 right. Sorry. Strike that. 17 So on these pages, Ms. Mantle discusses a 18 change in structure to the Southwest Power Pool. 19 And she talks about this change in order to give 20 the SPP the ability to sell a wind generator, that 2.1 it would not take the energy from the wind 2.2 generator's wind turbines. Do you -- does this 2.3 sound familiar? 24 It does. A 25

1 Q Would such a change be covered by the 2 customer protection mechanism described in the 3 stipulation? Α It would. 5 And how would that be covered? 6 Α In the customer savings mechanism, if 7 there is a change to the amount of PayGo received from tax equity to -- to Empire of the wind project 9 Co., or if there's a reduction from SPP, it would flow into the mechanism. 10 11 Q Okay. Were you in the room during my 12 cross-examination of Mr. McMahon? 13 T was. Α 14 So he deferred to you on a few lines of 0 15 questioning. So I'd like to ask you, are you 16 familiar with OPC witness John Robinette's 17 affidavit in opposition of the stipulation? 18 I have reviewed it. Α 19 Do you have a copy of that? If not, I can Q 20 provide one. I believe I do. The first one or the 2.1 Α 2.2 second one? O The first one. 2.3 2.4 A I have it. Yes. 25

1	Q Okay. Please refer to paragraph 8.
2	A Okay.
3	Q Mr. Robinette discusses a 30-year plan
4	related to the stipulation. Did the modeling
5	associated with the stipulation project out as far
6	as 30 years?
7	A It did.
8	Q Okay. And is Mr. Robinette correct that
9	the modeling did not include the retirements of
10	Energy Center, Units 3 and 4 and State Line 1
11	Combustion Turbine or IATAN 1?
12	A Correct. The capacity expansion model
13	that optimizes the portfolio is done over 20 years.
14	After 20 years, they use Endofex for projecting
15	forward.
16	And so there were not the specific
17	retirements as there are in the future, and we
18	would suspect the same type of costs and decisions
19	made in any plan. And, therefore, we do not feel
20	that it was changing the results of one decision or
21	another at that time in the future.
22	Q Are you familiar with OPC witness John
23	Riley's affidavit in opposition to the stipulation?
24	A I am.
25	

1 0 Do you have a copy of that? T do. 2. Α 3 O Please refer to paragraph 12. 4 Α Okay. 5 About halfway down, Mr. Riley states, Yet 0 6 my analysis is that this wind project will lose 7 money every year. In fact, my projections show the Wind Project Cos. will lose nearly \$61 million in 9 the first 1.25 years. Have you reviewed 10 Mr. Riley's analysis? 11 Α I have. Would you agree that, based on his 12 0 13 projections, the Wind Project Cos. will lose money 14 every year? 15 I agree that his attachment to his 16 affidavit shows a shortfall in revenue every year. 17 Do you agree with the analysis that he 0 18 performed? 19 Α I do not. 20 Can you explain -- I'll break this up into 0 2.1 two. One, why don't you agree with his analysis? There are different lines and -- and rows 2.2 23 and numbers within with the attachment JSR-1 that -- that I think are -- should be represented 24

- 1 differently.
- 2 Q Can you explain how Mr. Riley reached his
- 3 conclusion about this -- his projections as
- 4 compared to how Empire modeled the source costs and
- 5 revenues?
- 6 A I -- I can explain where I think there are
- 7 differences more than trying to explain Mr. Riley's
- 8 creation of the document.
- 9 Q Okay. Please.
- 10 A The -- the first item, it's relatively
- 11 minor. But in -- in the rate base tab on JSR-1 --
- or line item, in the 2030 row, the rate base number
- doesn't add up between the accumulated depreciation
- of the product investment, which is what I would
- 15 have expected to have seen as per the other years.
- 16 And it's a very minor difference. I would have
- 17 expected it to be 352.75 rather than 355. So very
- 18 minor.
- 19 **Q** Okay.
- 20 A The Empire PTCs, the way they are modeled
- 21 here -- so within the way the agreements work is
- 22 Empire will get 1 percent of the PTCs generated
- 23 based on value of the PTCs.
- 24 And I don't -- I don't believe that those
- 25

1 numbers are exactly the same. I actually think that those are showing more benefit than what they 2. 3 are. It's just that they are different. We did have a difference on the income tax 4 5 I'm not entirely sure what the 0.335 number is. But if I back calculate the numbers, it looks 6 7 like he's using roughly about 24.95 percent combined tax rate. And I think we have about 23 9 point -- 23.90 in -- in our other examples of the calculation. So, again, relatively minor. 10 11 On the interest line item, you -- it looks 12 like he's calculating the interest costs at 5.33 percent. I'm not entirely sure what -- where that 13 14 number comes from. It's possible that it's a 15 weighted average cost of debt potentially. 16 Empire had been using the last -- the last 17 known total cost of debt from our equity issue -or debt issuance, which is 4 percent. And the --18 19 the difference there is -- is a significant difference between the cost of debt shown in this 20 2.1 stip. agreement at the 4 percent number. So there 2.2 is -- there is a multi-million dollars per year 23 impact difference there. 24 On the depreciation line item, there --

- 1 again, relatively minor. We're modeling the wind
- 2 farms at 30-year depreciation and the transmission
- 3 assets at 40 years. So there is a minor difference
- 4 there in the way those were calculated.
- 5 On the property tax line item, while I
- 6 wasn't able to back calculate all of them because
- 7 the property taxes shown here are higher than what
- 8 we have calculated in Exhibit B of Appendix A of
- 9 the stip. agreement, I think this looks like it's
- 10 approximately 1.73 percent that is being used in
- 11 JSR-1, and we had been using 0.86.
- In the first year, prorating might be a
- 13 little different in -- in mechanisms. So there is
- 14 a difference in the manner in which we got up to
- 15 the revenue requirement line item. There -- do you
- 16 want me to keep going?
- 17 Q Can I stop you and then let you keep
- 18 going?
- 19 A Yes. Yes.
- 20 Q Do you see next to property tax, it says
- 21 **.86** percent?
- 22 A I do.
- 23 Q But you're saying that the numbers that --
- that are in line with that don't mesh a .86 percent

- 1 property tax rate? Is that -- am I to understand
- 2 that right?
- 3 A So when we'd been looking at property
- 4 taxes, we have been taking the 0.86 and multiplying
- 5 it by the rate base amount.
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A And I did not get -- if I do that in 2021,
- 8 0.86 times 505.75, I get 4.34, not .75.
- 9 Q Okay. And then you said you had some
- 10 speculation as to where the interest 5.33 percent
- 11 came from, but you're not exactly sure?
- 12 A Yeah.
- 13 Q He would be the better person to ask for
- 14 that?
- 15 A Correct. I'd be guessing. I'd rather not
- 16 quess on his behalf.
- 17 O Okay. Please continue.
- 18 A Under projected revenues, in the notes,
- 19 you can see the revenues he's using from the stip.
- 20 agreement using the P-76 wind production number,
- 21 which is the amount of wind that has a 75 percent
- 22 probability that you will exceed it, which is what
- 23 the P-75 stands for and the low market prices.
- 24 So rather than the expected revenues,

- 1 which -- which is what we have been using to -- to
- 2 look at it. Other than when we're running
- 3 sensitivities, he's using what would be a 2.5
- 4 percent probability outcome.
- 5 And that's, again, 25 percent probability
- 6 on the wind and the low market price from APP
- 7 relating to a tenth percent percentile occurrence.
- 8 And so I believe the projected revenues are
- 9 understated.
- 10 The operating costs -- and, again, if you
- 11 see the notes, it's coming back from one of the
- 12 technical sessions, and I believe the -- through
- 13 the work papers were provided that showed the
- 14 numbers from -- from this technical session quite
- 15 -- quite a little ways back and then were prorated
- 16 to the 600 megawatts from the time of Mr. McMahon's
- 17 surrebuttal when we had started doing the modeling
- 18 with the RFP results.
- We updated the operating costs to show
- 20 them starting lower as you expect less maintenance
- 21 in the first couple of years when you're under the
- 22 turbine wind agreements.
- 23 And so we believe that the operating costs
- 24 shown in Exhibit B, Appendix A of the stip.

- 1 agreement to be more accurate.
- 2 The -- the next item, the add back, the
- 3 price guarantee hedge, so I kind of as per Todd's
- 4 -- Mr. Mooney's testimony a little while ago, we
- 5 believe that that should be zeroed out as it's an
- 6 internal term payment, and, therefore, doesn't
- 7 affect the net position.
- 8 The next line item of the add back
- 9 distribution to the tax equity, that's that --
- 10 those costs are actually included in our less tax
- 11 equity.
- 12 So the less contributions in tax equity is
- 13 the sum of any PayGo contributions from tax equity
- 14 and any payments to tax equity. And that's why you
- 15 see the step-down in that line item between 2025
- 16 and 2026 while PayGo is still continuing your
- 17 seeing it come down from the new payments that will
- 18 be made to tax equity.
- 19 So when -- when you go through and make
- 20 those changes, you end up with numbers, I believe,
- 21 that would be as shown in OPC's Data Request 5 that
- 22 at least we -- we talked a little bit about. It
- 23 was with Mr. Krygier, so I don't know the Exhibit
- 24 No. But as per that spreadsheet.

All right. So there was Exhibit 217, 1 0 2. which was the smaller one. And this has all -- a 3 lot of line items here. I believe it was the bigger one. 4 Α 5 Okay. Oh, you said OPC DR-5. Okay. 0 Ι 6 see that. Items 4 and 5 of OPC DR-5 was to calculate 7 Α and show all of the costs and revenues associated 9 with the wind projects. And so it -- as a similar 10 structure and is set up to JSR-1. 11 Q Okay. You mentioned the note about 12 revenues, assuming P-75 wind production and low 13 market prices and that being lower than what would 14 be expected. When you did your modeling for the 15 stipulation and agreement, did you model lower 16 production and lower market price as well as higher 17 production and higher market prices? 18 Α Correct. For the stipulation agreement, 19 we -- we set up a way so you could look at 20 combinations of different wind outputs with 2.1 different market prices. 22 And we provided four such of those 23 scenarios related to the stip. agreement in -- in 24 that Appendix A so you can look at how a couple 25

- 1 that had gone through.
- 2 The other place to look is in -- in OPC
- 3 response 8045 provided by Greg Meyer. There are in
- 4 that document all the combinations of expected
- 5 revenues from the different wind outputs and the
- 6 different market cases.
- 7 MS. FORCK: Okay. Okay. I think that's
- 8 all I have for you. Thank you.
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cross by MECG?
- 10 MR. WOODSMALL: Yes, briefly. Staff made
- 11 my life easier.
- 12 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MR. WOODSMALL:
- 14 Q So first off, there were some questions
- 15 of Mr. Wilson that had to do with finding fault
- with the stipulation because it didn't include a
- 17 capacity factor guarantee. Do you recall that?
- 18 A I do.
- 19 Q Would you agree that the -- because it
- 20 considered SPP revenues in the market price
- 21 protection provision that there is some capacity
- 22 factor guarantee?
- 23 A T would.
- Q And can you tell me how that exists?

1 Α Sure. So the way the market protection mechanism works is you're looking at the value 2 3 created by the wind farm on an annual basis. 4 And the -- the primary positive impact is 5 the SPP market revenue that I think has been 6 discussed at length today. The amount of revenue 7 is a combination of the amount of production created and the price paid for that production. 9 So if wind production is low, then 10 that revenue number is going to drop, and there's a 11 greater probability of reg. liability created to 12 try to help protect customers in -- in a down 13 event. 14 Q Okay. Moving on to rate impacts -- and I 15 believe Mr. McMahon punted this to you. 16 recall Mr. Meyers' affidavit where he discusses a 17 rate impact of 12 percent? 18 Α I do. If you have the page reference, I 19 would -- I wouldn't mind that. Oh. No. 19. Got it. Or paragraph 19. 20 2.1 Yes. Can you tell me what that 12 percent 2.2 -- what's that -- what is that comparing? What two 23 numbers? 24 The 12 percent, which Mr. Krygier did Α 25

- 1 speak of briefly, it shows the -- the \$637 million
- 2 of revenue requirement in his table on page 8 of
- 3 Mr. Meyers' affidavit divided by 570 million being
- 4 the current company's total revenue requirement to
- 5 come up with the -- that 12 percent.
- 6 Q And do you believe that that is an
- 7 appropriate way to judge the stipulation and
- 8 agreement? Let me phrase it a different way.
- 9 Will the company's current rates -- are
- 10 they likely to be in effect in -- in 2021 when the
- 11 wind goes into effect?
- 12 A Are -- are you asking if there's going to
- be a rate case that would change the rates from 570
- 14 to some other number between and 2021?
- 15 O Correct.
- 16 A I believe Mr. Krygier says that due to the
- 17 FAC, there will have to be a rate case filed in
- 18 2019. And I believe also as a result of
- 19 stipulation, there is the tax reform piece that
- 20 would change the revenue requirement from 570 down
- 21 and have that read more toward --
- 22 Q But absent the stipulation, the 2016
- 23 preferred plan would be in effect, and there would
- 24 be rate increases resulting from that; is that

1 correct? Correct. And, again, in Mr. Meyers' 2 Α 3 affidavit on -- on page 8 in the table, he shows 4 the modeling shows a revenue requirement of 5 618 million on the current preferred plan, which is 6 an 8.4 percent increase in this status quo option. 7 So just to -- so it's clear, 12 percent compares to rates under the stipulation to the 9 status quo, but does not consider rate increases 10 that may be occurring because -- under the 11 preferred plan that would otherwise meet up for 12 that? 13 Correct. 12 percent is not the Α 14 incremental getting back of the wind. It is -- it 15 is the entirely of the plan through modeling the 16 modeling. 17 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. No further 18 questions. Thank you. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 20 MR. POSTON: No questions. Thank you. 2.1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew mow Missouri? 22 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 2.4 MS. BELL: Yes. Thank you. 25

1	CROSS-EXAMINATION
2	BY MS. BELL:
3	Q If you'd turn to OPC Exhibit 216, which I
4	think is the bigger packet that was just introduced
5	by Mr. Williams
6	A Can I have a copy?
7	Q Thank you. I believe we have one.
8	A All right. Thank you.
9	Q And if you'd turn to page toward the
10	back, I think it's page 5 out of 10.
11	A Okay.
12	Q There you see the wind projects capital
13	costs figure of 429; is that correct?
14	A That's correct.
15	Q And does that represent a 44 percent
16	capital cost sharing paid by Empire?
17	A It if that was the percentage with Jim
18	McMahon yesterday, then then yes.
19	Q Okay. The Chairman was asking about
20	earlier today about worst case scenarios. So if
21	you're looking basically at this this chart,
22	which is what Empire has applied versus the Riley
23	chart, which you just went over with Ms. Forck, I
24	believe, if you were to assume assume that
25	

- 1 Mr. Riley's information is correct and operate the
- 2 market protection provision on top of that, then.
- 3 According to Mr. Riley, the \$35 million cap would
- 4 be exceeded in, I believe -- is it Year 2022?
- 5 And I may be thinking about this wrong.
- 6 But it's not really -- it's really a \$70 million
- 7 loss if there was sharing, so you would have to get
- 8 to \$70 million first?
- 9 A So this is without the Missouri
- 10 jurisdictional. So the 35 million is the Missouri
- 11 jurisdictional. So -- but -- but, otherwise,
- 12 you're -- you're mostly correct.
- 13 If -- if you would assume that this is the
- 14 delta in the -- between the SPP revenues and the
- 15 wind revenue requirement of PPA replacement value
- in the stip. and if you were negative as per the
- 17 way this would show to the end of 2022, then you
- 18 would apply the deadpan of the sharing and work
- 19 your way towards the cap -- the maximum cap on
- 20 the --
- 21 Q Okay. So I think I just did the math in
- 22 2022, adding 1545 and 29, we're at 89. So that
- would exceed that \$70 million cap; is that right?
- 24 A One second. Yes. So if you were to add

- 1 those together, you would more than likely hit the
- 2 maximum company guarantee, if those numbers were to
- 3 be the way reality worked out.
- 4 Q Okay. And so worst case scenario, then
- 5 you're in your -- so imagine this happens and
- 6 you're in Year 4 of the stipulation. And something
- 7 goes wrong and -- or even assume his -- his
- 8 calculation is true and the loss that year is 2585.
- 9 At that point, customers or ratepayers bear all of
- 10 those losses; is that correct?
- 11 A If you were in a scenario where this is
- 12 how the numbers worked out, that is true. I'm not
- 13 certain what scenario it would require to come up
- 14 with these numbers. But, otherwise, yes.
- 15 O Okay. If you turn to -- you were -- you
- were in the room for my questioning of Mr. Krygier;
- 17 is that correct?
- 18 A That is correct.
- 19 Q And you -- and we were comparing his wind
- 20 revenue requirement sheet that was attached to his
- 21 direct testimony with Exhibit B of Appendix A to
- the stipulation, which I believe you have in front
- of you as well. Do you recall that questioning?
- 24 A I recall the questioning. I don't

- 1 remember Mr. Krygier's document, but I -- I recall
- 2 the questioning.
- 3 Q Okay. And one of my questions had to do
- 4 with the trending of the wind requirement in that
- 5 the initial analysis of Mr. Krygier showed the
- 6 trending of the wind revenue requirement declining
- 7 significantly.
- 8 And I noticed a sim -- a similar trend in
- 9 Mr. Riley's projections in just that the revenues
- 10 requirement tends to -- if you were to draw a line,
- 11 it would declined over time.
- It's only -- I guess they're mostly the
- same, this OPC 216 and Appendix A, Exhibit B, where
- 14 the depreciation seems to -- or not the
- depreciation, but the revenue requirement seems to
- 16 be fairly steady over time. Do you -- do you know
- 17 why that is?
- 18 A The revenue requirement in JSR-1 has
- 19 different values than the revenue requirement in
- 20 Exhibit B, Appendix A. The -- the more appropriate
- 21 comparison would be the carrying charge line item
- 22 in Exhibit B.
- 23 **Q** Okay.
- 24 A That I believe has all of the same items

- 1 as JSR-1's revenue requirement with the exception
- of the Empire PTCs, which -- which has been
- 3 mentioned as not a big number.
- 4 And there, you do see that natural decline
- 5 in costs as all those items up there are really
- 6 cost items that decline over time.
- 7 Q If you'd turn to the flow cart associated
- 8 with the stipulation, did you prepare this flow
- 9 chart?
- 10 A T did.
- 11 Q And the flow chart has associated
- definitions, I believe?
- 13 A It does.
- 14 O Okay. I think within the -- within the
- 15 flow chart itself and the associated definitions,
- 16 Empire is allowed to -- there's a PPA value that is
- 17 factored in. Can you explain how that PPA value is
- 18 included?
- 19 A Sure. The PPA value goes in -- so a lot
- 20 of the -- the market price mechanism starts with
- 21 what is the benefit added by the wind? And the
- 22 stipulation agreement agreed to the benefits being
- 23 the SPP revenues and the avoided replacement of the
- 24 PPA wind farms currently less the revenue

1 requirement. And in the stip. agreement -- I forget 2 what section it is -- there is the calculation that 3 4 shows the PPA amount being created, which 5 essentially is what the amount of megawatt hours 6 that don't need to be replaced from Elk River and 7 Meridian Way and then assigning that kind of prorated costs through. So that's in Exhibit C of 9 Appendix A of the stip. agreement. 10 And so how does that PPA value or PPA 0 11 input affect the market provision? 12 It impacts the market provision up at the Α 13 top series of steps where you calculate the annual 14 wind value. And that PPA replacement value comes 15 in in Years 6 through 10. So it is a -- is a 16 benefit to the annual wind value in the stip. 17 agreement. 18 What do you mean by benefit? 19 When we calculate what the annual wind Α 20 value is, its' SPP market revenue minus wind 2.1 revenue requirement plus PPA replacement value. 2.2 In that manner, if it's a positive number, it helps 2.3 increase the value of the wind project. 24 0 Okay. Does -- so -- I think it was

- 1 mentioned earlier today that there are ways to
- 2 possibly capture wind through a battery or
- 3 something like that, correct?
- 4 A Sure.
- 5 Q Okay. So if customers were to invest in
- 6 something through, you know, a rate case or
- 7 whatever and also achieve some type of benefit, is
- 8 that captured in any way in the provision, in the
- 9 market provision?
- 10 Empire gets the benefit of these PPA --
- 11 these added PPA benefits. But if customers somehow
- 12 also add benefit to the calculation, do they get
- 13 that benefit through this calculation?
- 14 A This calculation is looking at these --
- 15 these items as defined in the stip. agreement. So
- 16 I -- I'm not aware of other factors that would
- 17 impact this calculation.
- 18 Q Okay. If you'd go back to Appendix A,
- 19 Exhibit B, the wind data spreadsheet.
- 20 A Okay.
- 21 O And -- let's see. All right. That
- doesn't include the SPP revenue on it, does it?
- 23 A It does not.
- Q Okay. Then let's go to OPC 216. You

- 1 would agree that the modeled SPP revenue, the
- 2 factors that go into determining those numbers are
- 3 capacity and market price?
- 4 A Production.
- 5 O Production.
- 6 A Production. Yeah. Quantity times market
- 7 price.
- 8 Q Okay. And quantity -- so capacity is a
- 9 factor of the quantity, is it not?
- 10 A You -- yeah. You could -- yeah. You
- 11 could -- if you wanted to relate to capacity, you
- 12 take capacity times capacity factor to equal
- 13 quantity.
- 14 Q So the capacity factor is a factor of --
- it goes into the SPP revenue, ultimately?
- 16 A Sure. It's an incorrect factor, but yep.
- 17 Q Okay. And so the benefits that Empire
- 18 projects to customers are essentially entirely
- dependent on the revenues received from SPP,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A Related to the stip. agreement, yes.
- 22 Related to the rest of the integrated modeling,
- 23 there are obviously other capacity benefits that
- 24 flow through.
- 25

- But to related to this stip. agreement,
- 2 it's ultimately related to SPP revenue and avoided
- 3 PPA replacement.
- 4 Q And these revenues -- and are you familiar
- 5 with the market prices used in Empire's analysis
- 6 then?
- 7 A I am.
- 8 Q And are -- you're familiar with the
- 9 capacity factors used?
- 10 A I am.
- 11 Q So here on Model SPP Revenue, what were
- 12 the market prices that were used to calculate
- 13 those?
- 14 A This is the mid case, so the expected case
- 15 of the fall 2017 forward curve.
- 16 Q Is that the fall 2017 ABB forecast?
- 17 A That is correct.
- 18 Q Okay. Do we -- we have the actual numbers
- 19 now, correct?
- 20 A For 2020?
- 21 Q 2017. You're saying -- so these are the
- 22 fall 2017 forecast for 2020?
- 23 A Right. They do a 20-year -- and I think
- 24 they actually do a 40. But, really, the 20 years,

- 1 they're commonly refreshed one. And so that --
- 2 that's what this is based on.
- 3 O Was the ABB 2017 forecast lower than the
- 4 2016 forecast?
- 5 A Yes, it was.
- 6 Q And do you expect that trend to continue?
- 7 A I don't think so. But I'd be speculating.
- 8 Q Why don't you think so?
- 9 A I believe in the fundamental build-up of
- 10 the way these future models work. Obviously,
- 11 Mr. McMahon is a much better person to talk about
- 12 how they've built up this, you know, zero based
- 13 fundamentals of supply and demand to create these
- 14 curves. It's not in my area of expertise.
- But, you know, the forecasts are pretty
- 16 flat now when you take out inflation, and
- 17 everything kind of looks reasonable. But, you
- 18 know --
- 19 Q But it is -- you would agree that it is
- 20 known that there will be additional wind added to
- 21 the SPP market in the near term?
- 22 A Correct. And as per Mr. McMahon's
- 23 statement, you know, when we ran it, the impact on
- 24 market prices would stay less. Natural gas drives

- 1 so much of our pricing.
- 2 Q Okay. But as a general economic
- 3 principle, when you have a higher supply, it will
- 4 drive the price down. You would agree with that?
- 5 A True.
- 6 Q Okay. I believe -- do you have a copy of
- 7 -- it's labeled Jop -- I don't think it's labeled
- 8 Joplin 502, but OPC's opening? Or no? Yes.
- 9 And my recollection is when I inquired of
- 10 Mr. McMahon on a number of these graphs, he had
- 11 deferred to you. If you are not the correct person
- 12 to direct the questions, please let me know.
- 13 A Okay. Which graph?
- 14 O Well, we'll start at the beginning. I
- 15 think we have walked through what is labeled the
- 16 Riley chart, which is on page 8, correct?
- 17 A Yes. Correct.
- 18 Q Let's turn to page 10. Do you agree that
- 19 there is the wind performance degradation with
- 20 **time?**
- 21 A Yes, I do.
- 22 Q And so the capacity factor that was used
- in the modeling that I think originally as modeled
- 24 it was a 54 percent capacity factor, was that 54

- 1 percent in Year 1 or in Year 10 or some type of 2. averaging over the years? 3 Α It's an averaging. So it comes out of the 4 wind software where you calculate your total 5 performance, all your weak losses and your 6 concluded degradation assumptions. So it's built 7 in there to come out with an averaged annual output for modeling services. 9 Okay. So if that's an average and -- and 10 it goes down over time, then the actual capacity 11 factor in Year 1 would have been higher than 54 12 percent, correct? 13 I would think so. Α 14 Okay. Is it a reasonable assumption that Q 15 the capacity factor would be something higher than 16 54 percent given the actual data from Kansas has 17 never -- none of the wind farms have ever been 18 above 54 percent in your opinion? 19 In my opinion, it's okay. And it's all Α
- 20 subject to performance guarantees from the
- 21 equipment manufacturers and whether or not they're
- 22 going to stand behind their performance curves.
- Obviously, we didn't have any projects
- 24 that ended up bidding at 54 percent. But,

technology comes all the time, no different than 1 heat rate guarantees from thermal units. And as 2. 3 long as we have the appropriate quarantees, I have 4 no issue with somebody with a big number. 5 And so that performance guarantee would be 0 6 between the actual wind farm equipment person and 7 whatever entity ends up owning the wind farm? I would assume so, but I'm not involved in 9 the contracting, so I wouldn't have those details. 10 Okay. So if there was any type of 0 11 guarantee and the contractor didn't need that 12 guarantee, what happens is whatever entity was in 13 that contract might have some sort of recourse 14 against the manufacturer, correct? That would be 15 my assumption. Is that your assumption? 16 That with typically be the way those types of agreements would work. 17 18 0 Is there any recourse for ratepayers? 19 I'm not -- if -- again, not knowing how Α 20 the money would flow, I would imagine any benefit 21 that comes back should go back to customers. 2.2 Thank you. Turn to Slide 13. Is this 23 typical for wind farms, in your opinion? 24 It is typical for Midwest wind to be A

- 1 higher output through the fall and the winter
- 2 period.
- 3 Q And in that case, and in the modeling and
- 4 proposal Empire has submitted, there's nothing that
- 5 could capture the -- the wind when it was producing
- 6 at a higher level; is that correct?
- 7 A I'm not exactly sure what you mean by
- 8 that. The way -- well, the way it was modeled was
- 9 with the SPP, so if there's a lot of wind or a
- 10 little wind, it's something I'm going to have to
- 11 ask SPP. Does that answer your question?
- 12 Q Well, I guess -- so if you have -- if
- you're in the summer and you're needing a lot of
- 14 wind and you're not producing a lot of wind, you
- 15 can't save the wind up from the winter and use it
- 16 in the summer?
- 17 A That is correct. You cannot do that.
- 18 Q Okay. And in that same vein, if you turn
- 19 to the chart starting on page 16, you can't save
- 20 the wind up overnight and use it in the middle of
- 21 the day when people need it, correct?
- 22 A Correct. As -- as Blake had mentioned or
- 23 Mr. Mertens had mentioned, it -- it is an
- 24 intermittent resource. And with it being in a

- 1 portfolio of other dispatchable assets, gas assets
- 2 and coal assets, there will be different mixes at
- 3 different times as -- as the wind blows and doesn't
- 4 blow.
- 5 Q Okay. If you go on to Slide 20, which,
- 6 again, is the capacity factor slide, we talked a
- 7 little bit just about the modeling percentage.
- 8 But, also, we talked a little bit about new
- 9 technology. Are you familiar with these Kansas
- 10 wind projects?
- 11 A I am not.
- 12 Q Okay. If you look to the next slide, page
- 13 21, were these the ABB forecasts that you had
- 14 mentioned earlier that were used in the modeling?
- 15 A I -- I would have to verify. But with the
- 16 stip. agreement, we are using now the fall 2017.
- 17 During the GFSA we were using the fall of 2016.
- 18 And --
- 19 Q So is the fall 2017 forecast on page 22?
- 20 A Again, subject to check.
- 21 Q Okay. And page 23 shows the difference in
- 22 those two forecasts. Do you -- do you know why
- 23 ABB's forecast decreased so much in just a single
- 24 year?
- 25

1 Α The -- I believe we responded with -because I think it was on a data request. 2. 3 produces a report with each one of their forecasts 4 that talk about macro factors that adjust. 5 And while I'm not an expert on that 6 document, my understanding was just there -- there 7 is less tightening in gas from Mexico exports and L&B. But, again, Mr. McMahon is a much better 9 person if you want a detailed explanation on -- on 10 what's been happening in the market world. 11 Q Okay. On Slide 27, it talks about 12 negative market price intervals. Were you aware 13 that negative price intervals doubled in two years? 14 I was aware that the negative price in the Α 15 real-time has been going up. 16 With more wind adding to SPP, would you 17 expect that trend to continue? 18 Α I'm not sure certain of that. 19 negative pricing is an imbalance of generators 20 following market signals in the real-time. 2.1 And there's many ways in which that can be 2.2 accomplished. And I do believe that RTOs work to 23 -- to -- to eliminate deltas and with the day ahead. But what that means, I don't know enough to 24 25

1 know. 2 Okay. On the next slide, page 28, do you 3 know of any explanation from ABB why their 4 projections were so wrong? 5 I'm sorry. What are you -- what are you Α 6 meaning? Are you specifically referring to the one 7 data point in the real-time market of the actual versus the -- the minimum in the 2016 forward 9 curve? 10 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, I'm going to 11 object to the question asking why ABB's forecasts were so wrong. Assumes facts not in evidence. 12 13 This is not evidence. No one has laid a 14 foundation for this. If she want to ask 15 hypotheticals, I don't have a problem. But there's 16 no foundation yet. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: What's your response? MS. BELL: Well, I think the foundation 18 19 will be laid through OPC's witnesses, and I am 20 happy to call Ms. Mantle to -- I believe she's the 2.1 one who prepared this chart. And I'll offer it 2.2 now. Otherwise, for now, I'd like to just ask my 23 question, and I believe she'll establish the 2.4 foundation later.

1 MR. WOODSMALL: Then it's a hypothetical. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Yeah. You could ask it 2 3 as a hypothetical. 4 (By Ms. Bell) Okay. 0 5 Can you repeat the question? Α 6 Okay. Hypothetically, if you are relying 0 7 on a forecast and the forecast is wildly different, the actual -- turns out to be wildly different, the 9 new forecast, would you not seek an explanation for 10 why the forecast is incorrect and would that 11 forecast versus actual not cast doubt on any model 12 that used the data? 13 MS. KNOWLTON: I'm going to object. 14 That's -- first of all, that's a compound question. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Overruled. He can answer 16 it if he understood it. 17 I -- I don't think the data sets here are Α 18 enough to make any conclusions. You've got a 19 minimum and a maximum. And that means that there are at least 20 2.1 eighty-seven thousand five -- and 58 other hours 2.2 that are not reflected. And the only other thing I 23 would say is a forecast is a forecast. And all 24 forecasts are wrong. 25

1	Q	Okay.
2	A	But that's why you run forecasts and
3	probabi	lities to try to end up with the best
4	decisio	n-making capability you can.
5	Q	Can you turn to Slide 35?
6	А	I'm there.
7	Q	It is your understanding that this
8	calcula	tion is from Mr based on Mr. Meyers 12
9	percent	rate impact calculation?
10	А	I don't know this calculation.
11	Q	Okay. Have you calculated the actual bill
12	impacts	for customers?
13	А	I have not.
14		MS. BELL: No further questions.
15		JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel?
16		MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. No questions.
17		JUDGE BUSHMANN: Commission questions?
18		CHAIRMAN HALL: No questions. Thank you.
19		JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect?
20		MS. KNOWLTON: Thank you.
21		REDIRECT EXAMINATION
22	BY MS.	KNOWLTON:
23	Q	Mr. Holmes, are you aware of whether or
24	not the	current preferred plan Empire's current
25		

- 1 preferred plan is based on forecasts?
- 2 A That's my understanding.
- 3 O Do you know which forecasts is based on?
- 4 A My understanding of the 2016 hour PSA is
- 5 from the 2015 spring ABB forward curve.
- 6 Q Is it realistic to assume that there would
- 7 be no revenue derived from sale of wind into SPP
- 8 from Empire's proposed wind projects?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q How realistic is it to describe a worst
- 11 case scenario based on numbers in JSR-1 that you
- 12 know to be incorrect?
- 13 A I don't believe it to be a realistic
- 14 scenario.
- 15 Q Was any risk weighting or stochastic
- 16 analysis done to test to the results that the
- 17 company has put forth in its case to show a savings
- 18 to customers as a result of the proposed plan,
- 19 stipulation -- or I'm sorry -- in the customer
- 20 savings plan?
- 21 A The customer savings plan went through the
- 22 stochastic decision tree analysis that went through
- 23 both high, mid and low market prices. It looked at
- 24 different types of bases assumptions. It looked at

carbon. And then there was another -- it doesn't 1 come to me right now. And then the stipulation 2. 3 agreement we looked at lower probabilities of wind 4 output and the high and the low market cases, and I 5 provided that to -- to everyone through -- through 6 the OPC Data Request from Greg Meyer. 7 Were any of those run at the request of 0 Staff? 9 During the customer savings plan and the Α 10 GFSA? 11 Q Uh-huh. 12 Yes. We added DSM into -- and lowered as Α 13 a critical resource -- we had a DSM plan, and we 14 had to load as a critical and uncertain factor 15 during the GSFA work. 16 Any plans run at the request OPC? 17 My understanding is that the local Α forecast and the high wind penetration scenario was 18 19 -- was a request from OPC. 20 You were asked a number of questions about 0 2.1 negative pricing that related to the real-time 2.2 market. When Empire bids its units into the 23 market, is it bidding to the day ahead market? 24 The -- the majority of Empire's wind A 25

- 1 assets are bid into the day ahead market as per the
- 2 marketing procedure.
- 3 Q Would that be the case as to the wind
- 4 proposed in this filing?
- 5 A It would.
- 6 Q With regard to the market protection
- 7 mechanism, do customers receive a hundred percent
- 8 of the upside?
- 9 A They do.
- 10 MS. KNOWLTON: I have no further questions
- 11 for Mr. Holmes.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That completes your
- 13 testimony, Mr. Holmes. You are excused. Why don't
- 14 we take a break at this point? We'll be in recess
- 15 until 6:00.
- 16 (Break in proceedings.)
- 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Let's go back on
- 18 the record and see what we can get accomplished in
- 19 the next little while. Ready for our last Empire
- 20 witness, I believe.
- 21 MR. COOPER: That's correct, your Honor.
- 22 We would call Mr. David Swain.
- DAVID SWAIN,
- 24 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
- 25 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

1	DIRECT EXAMINATION
2	
3	BY MR. COOPER:
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated.
5	Q (By Mr. Cooper) Please state your name.
6	A David Swain.
7	Q By whom are you employed and in what
8	capacity?
9	A I'm employed by Liberty Utility Services
10	Corporation, and I'm President of the Central
11	Division.
12	Q Have you caused to be prepared for
13	purposes of this proceeding certain direct and
14	surrebuttal testimony in question and answer form?
15	A I have.
16	Q Is it your understanding that that
17	testimony has been marked as Exhibits 16 and 17 for
18	identification?
19	A Yes, it is.
20	Q Do you have any changes that you would
21	like to make to that testimony at this time?
22	A Only one change.
23	Q What page is that on? Or I guess which
24	piece of testimony is that in?
25	A Yeah. On page 4 of my testimony, the

1 question, Have I testified before any other state regulatory Commissions. There was an omission 2. there. It should also include Oklahoma. 3 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Is this -- excuse me. 5 Was that in your direct, sir? 6 (By Mr. Cooper) Page 4 of your direct O 7 testimony? Α That's correct. 9 If I were to ask you the questions which 10 are contained in Exhibits 16 and 17 today, would 11 your answers as now amended be the same? 12 Yes, they would. Α 13 0 Are those answers as amended true and 14 correct to the best of your information, knowledge 15 and belief? 16 Α Yes, they are. 17 MR. COOPER: Your Honor, I would offer Exhibits 16 and 17 and tender the witness for 18 19 cross-examination 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? Hearing 2.1 none, those are admitted. 22 (Empire Exhibits 16 and 17 were offered 2.3 and admitted into evidence.)

JUDGE BUSHMANN: First cross is Staff.

2.4

1	CROSS-EXAMINATION
2	BY MS. MERS:
3	Q Good evening, Mr. Swain. In your direct
4	testimony on page 7, you discuss the leverage and
5	knowledge Liberty Utilities provided for further
6	opportunities for customer savings.
7	In particular, you mentioned their
8	experience with renewable projects and tax equity
9	partners. In your review of those projects, would
10	you say that Empire's customer savings plan as
11	amended by the stip. is unique in the fact that
12	much of the value comes from off-system sales? Or
13	is that common throughout the project?
14	A I don't know that I can specifically
15	that I can specifically talk about that. The
16	purpose of my statements there was to say that,
17	within our company, we have people that have that
18	expertise.
19	And so to say what the makeup of those
20	other projects are and how they work, I don't
21	specifically know that.
22	Q Okay. That's fair enough. And if we turn
23	to your surrebuttal testimony, you discuss the
24	community outreach that Empire has undertaken in
25	

regards to this project. Would you describe the 1 reception as positive? 2 3 Α I would describe it as positive. We had 4 several different meetings and several different 5 forums with people with residents, with business 6 people. And, generally, across the board, the 7 reception was positive. That's correct. Okay. And since you -- you wrote your 9 surrebuttal testimony, has there been any further 10 updates or information that you have about 11 community interactions or business reactions to the 12 project? 13 No. I don't think so. Α 14 MS. MERS: Okay. That's all I have. 15 Thank you. 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG? 17 MR. WOODSMALL: No, thank you. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 18 19 MR. POSTON: No questions. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 2.1 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2.4 BY MS. BELL: 25

- Q Good evening, Mr. Swain.

  A Good evening.
- 3 O Turning to -- let's go back to Mr. Holmes'
- 4 testimony. Are you familiar with the stipulation
- 5 and agreement that's been filed in this case?
- 6 A I am.
- 7 O And I believe Mr. Holmes testified that
- 8 customers get a hundred percent of the benefits; is
- 9 that correct? Did you hear hem testify to that?
- 10 A I'm not sure what you mean by a hundred
- 11 percent of the benefits.
- 12 Q Okay. I think it was in the context of
- there was a 50/50 sharing on the downside risk, and
- 14 Mr. Holmes' point was that on the upside the
- 15 customers get a hundred percent. Is that -- do you
- 16 know if that's accurate?
- 17 A I'm not positive about that.
- 18 Q Okay. Are you familiar that there is a
- 19 dead band within the customer --
- 20 A I am.
- 21 Q -- plan? Is that a yes?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Okay. And so if there is basically a --
- when you net, if there's \$1 million positive,

1 nothing happens; is that correct, essentially? 2. Nothing happens in regard to --3 The -- I'll ask it another way. Are you 0 -- the revenues that come in from any wind project, 4 5 could they flow through the FAC? Α 6 Yes. 7 And is it your understanding that then 0 through the FAC that there's a 95/5 sharing between 9 the company and the ratepayers? 10 Α Yes. 11 Q Okay. If you'd turn to your direct 12 testimony, page 6. 13 Α Okay. 14 Lines 10 and lines 18, your testimony is O 15 that the company is requesting the Commission 16 improve the customer savings plan; is that correct? 17 I think the line says we're seeking Α 18 approval of the fundamental concepts. 19 Okay. And on page 11 of your testimony, 0 20 lines 13, that's contemplating -- that answer is 2.1 contemplating a 40 percent capital cost share by 2.2 Empire; is that correct? 23 That's correct. Α 24 Q And I believe this came up earlier. Ιf 25

1 you go to page 15, lines 18 through 20, and there it says, Without the assurance of a regulatory 2. 3 asset to recover Empire's investment to date, the 4 company will not be able to move forward with its 5 customer savings plan. Is that still your opinion 6 today? 7 It's hard for me to see how there's a path A forward without some assurance from the Commission 9 that this project is appropriate and taking us in 10 the right direction. 11 Q And so if the company decides to close 12 Asbury in the future, will they be seeking a regulatory asset before the Commission? 13 14 Α Ask me that again. If, in the future, the company decides to 15 0 16 close Asbury, will the company be coming to the 17 Commission looking to establish a regulatory asset? 18 Α Yes. Whenever we deal with the Asbury, we will be looking that. That's correct. 19 20 0 Okay. In your --2.1 MS. BELL: No further questions. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel? 23 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. 2.4 CROSS-EXAMINATION 25

- 1 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 2. 0 Good evening, Mr. Swain. 3 Good evening. Α 4 With its original application, was it not O 5 Empire's position that in order to build the 800 6 megawatts of wind, it would require that Asbury be 7 retired and that Empire continue to recover its investment in Asbury that was as yet unrecovered as 9 well as a return on that investment? 10 Α Yes. 11 Q And has that position changed in the 12 stipulation and agreement, that -- or the 13 stipulated plan? 14 Has specifically what changed? Α
- 15 Well, I think that my question to you. O
- 16 With regard to Asbury, has your position --
- 17 Empire's position changed?
- 18 Α On?
- 19 That in order to build wind, Asbury must O
- 20 be retired.
- 2.1 Α As part of the stipulation, yes. Our
- 22 position has changed.
- 23 And do you recall in your direct testimony O
- 24 stating that -- this is on a page 17, I believe,

- 1 and around Line 13. You reference Ameren Missouri
- 2 recently announcing a plan to ask -- to add at
- 3 least 700 megawatt of wind generation to its fleet
- 4 and AEP recently announcing a plan to add 2000
- 5 megawatts of wind generation.
- 6 A You're asking me if that's what it says?
- 7 **Q** Yes.
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Do you know why Ameren Missouri is adding
- 10 at least 700 megawatts of wind generation, planning
- 11 to?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q Do you know if Empire included these
- 14 planned wind generation additions in its modeling?
- 15 A The -- our wind?
- 16 Q No. Well, actually I'm asking about the
- 17 700 megawatts that Ameren has indicated it's
- 18 planning to add and the 2,000 megawatts that AEP is
- 19 planning to add.
- 20 A No. I don't know that.
- 21 Q Do you know if Empire included the
- 22 additions it was proposing to make, originally the
- 23 **800** megawatts in its modeling of future wind?
- 24 A I'm sorry. Ask me that again.

1 Well, my understanding is in it's O conducting its modeling, Empire looked at what the 2 3 future wind would be in the SPP footprint. Did 4 Empire include the 800 megawatts that it's asking 5 this Commission to approve -- or was originally 6 asking this Commission to approve when it did that 7 modeling? Α Yes. 9 And did it include, then, the 600 10 megawatts of wind according to the stipulated plan 11 when it modeled the impacts on pricing? 12 Has it -- have they adjusted the model for Α 13 the 600 versus the 800? 14 Well, we can start with that. Has it? Q 15 I don't know that. Actually, as I think about that question, would you like me to clarify 16 17 it? 18 O If you want to change your answer, I'm fine with that. Or clarify it. 19 20 Yeah. So I'm thinking about the results Α 2.1 of the most recent study. And there are changes to 2.2 the results that do reflect the 600 versus the 800. And did -- when it was modeling to find 23 24 out the impacts, the savings under the stipulated 25

1 plan, did Empire include the 700 megawatts that it's planning to build as to what would be 2. 3 potential generation in the future at SPP, if you 4 know? 5 Α I'm not sure what the model shows 6 concerning the impact to SPP. 7 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect by Empire. 9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 10 11 Q Mr. Swain, in terms of the modeling 12 questions that Mr. Williams was asking you, whose 13 primarily responsible for -- for the models? The 14 GFSA, the -- the other runs associated with the 15 GFSA and then, ultimately, the runs associated with 16 the stipulation plan? 17 Yes. Our -- some of our other witnesses Α 18 which have already testified about that, David 19 Holmes and Jay McMahon. 20 And to the extent details are wanted or Q 2.1 known about those, those are the -- the witnesses 2.2 that would have that information? 23 That's correct. Α 24 MR. COOPER: Okay. That's all the 25

- 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Swain, that completes 3 your testimony, sir. Thank you very much. Ready 4 for Staff's witnesses. 5 MS. MERS: Staff calls Natelle Dietrich. 6 NATELLE DIETRICH, 7 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole 8 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows: 9 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 10 11 MR. BUSHMANN: Please be seated. 12 (By Ms. Mers) Can you please state and Q
- 14 A Natelle, N-a-t-e-l-l-e, Dietrich,

spell your name for the record?

- 15 D-i-e-t-r-i-c-h.
- 16 Q By whom are you employed and in what
- 17 capacity?

1

questions I have.

- 18 A The Missouri Public Service Commission as
- 19 Commission Staff Director.
- 20 Q Did you prepare rebuttal testimony and
- 21 contribute to the Staff's statement in support of
- 22 the non-unanimous stipulation?
- 23 A I can.
- Q Do you have any changes to that testimony?

25

- 1 A Not to the testimony.
- 2 Q Did you have any changes to the statement
- 3 in support?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Okay. And what are those changes?
- 6 A On -- on the version that was handed out
- 7 the beginning of the hearing that has page numbers,
- 8 on page 6, right above where it says Tax Equity, it
- 9 makes a reference to paragraph 18-C of the
- 10 agreement. That should be 17-C of the agreement.
- 11 And that section is sponsored by Staff Witness John
- 12 Rogers.
- MR. WILLIAMS: You're referring -- I'm
- 14 sorry. I don't have a paginated copy with me.
- 15 A It's -- it's the section on Customer
- 16 Protections, and it's the paragraph right above the
- 17 tax equity portion.
- 18 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I'm with you.
- 19 A Okay. And it says 18-C, paragraph 18-C of
- 20 the agreement. It should say 17-C.
- MS. MERS: Here's a paginated copy.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
- MS. MERS: You're welcome.
- 24 A And the next change is on page 8. The

- 1 section most favored nations clause near the end of
- 2 that paragraph. It says, Staff provides -- or
- 3 excuse me. Supports the most favored nations
- 4 clause as providing additional customer protection
- 5 should Missouri Kansas or, to an extent, Oklahoma
- 6 order additional conditions or concessions.
- 7 Missouri should be Arkansas. So it -- it should
- 8 read Arkansas, Kansas or, to an extent, Oklahoma.
- 9 And -- and that section is sponsored by me.
- 10 Q (By Ms. Mers) Okay. So with those
- 11 changes, and, also, the addition of the page
- 12 numbers for ease of reference to Staff's statement
- in support, is your testimony true and accurate?
- 14 Or if I asked you the same questions today, would
- your answers be the same?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 O And is -- are those answers true and
- 18 accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Ms. MERS: I will go ahead and enter
- 21 Exhibit 100, which is the rebuttal testimony. But
- 22 I think since we have other witnesses that
- 23 contributed to the Staff Statement in Support, I'll
- 24 hold off on offering 103 and 104.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I would prefer that. Thank you. 2 3 MS. MERS: Okay. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Exhibit 100 has been 5 offered. Are there any objections? Hearing none, it's admitted. 6 (Staff Exhibit 100 was offered and 7 admitted into evidence.) 9 MS. MERS: Okay. I tender the witness for 10 cross. 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And one other thing to 12. make sure -- I want to make sure that the Staff affidavit, the one that gets to the court reporter, 13 14 is the official copy that is the paginated copy. 15 MS. MERS: Yes. 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. First cross would 17 be by Empire. 18 CROSS-EXAMINATION 19 BY MR. COOPER: 20 Ms. Dietrich, on page 4 your rebuttal 0 2.1 testimony, lines 1 through 11 -- and I'll give you 22 a chance to get there. 23 A Okay. 24 Q You have a question and answer concerning, 25

- 1 essentially, what sort of plan would be acceptable
- 2 to the Staff. Would you agree with that
- 3 characterization?
- 4 A The type of approval that's being
- 5 requested, not -- not necessarily the actual plan.
- 6 Q The type of approval being requested?
- 7 A Right. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q And you talk about the type of approval
- 9 for -- for the decision. And then I think you
- 10 close by talking about making sure that the
- 11 Commission issues a finding that it hasn't
- 12 relinquished its responsibility as an arbitor and a
- variety of other things there in the last sentence,
- 14 correct?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q The stipulation, the non-unanimous
- 17 stipulation that Staff entered into, does that
- 18 package of requests and reservations for the
- 19 Commission meet these requirements?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions I
- 22 have.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG?
- MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you. Briefly.

CROSS-EXAMINATION 1 BY MR. WOODSMALL: 2. 3 Following up on that question, you were O 4 asked if it meets the conditions or whatever in 5 this answer. Is it your understanding that the 6 stipulation is asking for a decisional 7 pre-approval? The stipulation is asking for a 9 determination of reasonableness. And --10 0 11 And not getting into the legality of 12 reasonableness versus prudency. And in some of the discussions that have been had, I -- I would 13 14 consider it from a layman's perspective to be 15 decisional pre-approval. 16 Without getting into the -- the settlement 17 communications, could you just characterize -- use 18 an adjective to describe how complicated the 19 settlement communications -- or settlement talks 20 were? 2.1 Α Extremely. 2.2 Q Okay. 23 I think that's an adverb, but --Α 24 Q Yeah. So when I expressed to Commissioner 25

1 Rupp that this was a complicated settlement and encouraged him not to change things because it 2. 3 opens up Pandora's box, would you share that 4 concern? 5 Α Yes. 6 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. No further 7 questions. Thank you. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 9 MR. POSTON: No questions. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 11 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge. 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 13 MS. BELL: Yes. 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION 15 BY MS. BELL: 16 When you -- looking at your rebuttal 17 testimony, right where Mr. Woodsmall was just 18 referencing, I think I'm on page 3, and you use the 19 words just now decisional pre-approval, do you have 20 any authority, citation to authority for the 2.1 Commission being allowed to grant decisional 22 pre-approval? 23 Well, I'm not an attorney, so I don't. Α 24 But in our position statement and, also, in 25

1 response to at least one of or DRs, there's citations or a discussion of it. 2. 3 Okay. And if -- if you'd turn to the 4 affidavit, in the affidavit, you are -- there's a 5 graph on page -- is it not numbered? A Figure 5. 6 Α Okay. That's on page 2. 7 Okay. And you -- how was that 10-year 0 savings calculation arrived at? 9 That is in a section sponsored by 10 Mr. Rogers, so he probably would be more adapt to 11 explain.. 12 Okay. Is it your understanding -- did 0 13 Staff conduct any independent analysis with respect 14 to the calculations of the wind revenue 15 requirement? 16 Α Staff received many data and information 17 from Empire, but then used that information to perform its own analysis modifying various inputs, 18 19 calculations and changing some things around to 20 determine the appropriate number, the appropriate 21 structure of, for instance, the customer savings 22 plan. 23 Q So did Staff -- so what inputs were 24 changed?

- 1 A Well, again, you'd have to ask Mr. Rogers.
- 2 He was more closely involved in that.
- Q Okay. Is that typical in a PSC case? In
- 4 a general rate case, does Staff usually perform its
- 5 own independent analysis?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 O Okay. And what about in a certificate
- 8 case?
- 9 A In any case, to the extent that we have
- 10 information or have access to information, Staff
- 11 performs an independent analysis or review or
- 12 audit, depending on what it is.
- 13 O So did Staff gather data relative to
- 14 market prices, or did Staff use the market price
- 15 data provided by the company?
- 16 A Again, you probably need to ask
- 17 Mr. Rogers. He was more closely involved in the
- 18 actual analysis.
- 19 Q Okay. So which page of the affidavit were
- 20 you responsible for?
- 21 A The executive summary. The future
- 22 regulatory reviews on page 4.
- 23 **Q** Okay.
- 24 A The most favored nation clause on page 8,

- 1 those are the ones that were under my expert
- 2 witness -- witness name.
- 3 Q Sure. Have you compared the most favored
- 4 nation clause in this statement to the most favored
- 5 nation clause in the Oklahoma windcatcher
- 6 stipulation?
- 7 A At a high level, yes.
- 8 Q And what are the -- and is it fair to say
- 9 that the -- most favored nations clause in the
- 10 stipulation and agreement contains a number of
- 11 exceptions?
- 12 A In the Missouri?
- 13 O Correct.
- 14 A Yes. I don't -- I don't know that I'd
- 15 characterize it as a number, but there are
- 16 exceptions.
- 17 O Exceptions. Okay. And have you reviewed
- 18 the Riley affidavit and the numbers by Mr. Riley?
- 19 A I've seen them, but not in-depth.
- 20 Q Do you have a general understanding for
- 21 why the numbers for provided by Mr. Riley differ
- 22 substantially from the company's?
- 23 A I -- I did not do that type of review.
- 24 That would be Mr. Rogers to the extent that he's

1 able to answer the question. MS. BELL: Okay. No further questions. 2. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel? MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. 4 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS: 6 7 When you talk about decisional 0 pre-approval and, in particular, how you used that 8 9 term, or that phrase, in the context of your direct 10 testimony, are you referring to Empire's decisions 11 to retire Asbury and build wind generation assets and interconnect them to -- them to its existing 12 13 system? 14 Α Yes. The various provisions that were in 15 the application. 16 Do you know if the Commission's ever 17 issued a Certificate of Convenience & Necessity for 18 a utility project or facility not located in 19 Missouri? 20 Α Not to my knowledge. 2.1 You indicated there's a difference between O 2.2 Staff audit and a Staff analysis. Would you 2.3 explain what the difference is? 2.4 A I don't think I indicated there was a 25

- 1 difference. I was just saying depending on the
- 2 type of case, we would -- we would be analyzing
- 3 information. We would be auditing the information.
- 4 For instance, in a rate case, the account
- 5 -- Accounting Department would be auditing the
- 6 books and records. In this type of case, we're
- 7 doing an analysis of information.
- 8 Q Well, where I'm really wanting to go with
- 9 this, did Staff review what Empire did and, I
- 10 guess, reach a comfort level? Or did Staff do a
- 11 completely independent analysis of -- let's limit
- 12 it to the stipulated plan?
- 13 A To the extent that we had information
- 14 available, we did an independent analysis by nature
- 15 of the type of project and the -- the information
- 16 -- some of the information had to come from Empire,
- 17 but it was in a form that we were able to
- 18 manipulate it to look at different calculations,
- 19 different structures as far as the customer savings
- 20 plan.
- 21 It had -- as you know, it has the high,
- 22 medium and low probabilities, and so we were able
- 23 to go in and - and change numbers related to that,
- 24 to -- to view and get an idea of where the proper

1 structure should be. 2 Did you rely on different source information than Empire did? For example, the ABB 3 4 data with future forecast, did you rely on that? 5 Or did you rely on something else? 6 Α I would have to ask Mr. Rogers. I -- I was in there and saw some of the manipulation, if 7 you will, but I wasn't involved in where the 9 numbers came from and that type of thing. 10 By manipulation, you're talking about Q 11 changing parameters in Empire's modeling? 12. Α Right. 13 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions of 14 this witness at this time. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Questions by the 16 Commission? 17 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Ms. Dietrich, I don't 19 have any questions, but the Chairman, who wasn't 20 able to be here, he did send me a question to ask 2.1 on his behalf. 2.2 Α Okay. 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2.4 BY JUDGE BUSHMANN: 25

1 His question was, in the event that a 0 2 majority of the Commission looks favorably toward 3 the amended plan that's contained in the 4 stipulation and agreement, would you have any --5 any concerns about a Commission order that said, 6 one, that the plan was reasonable with regard to 7 the 600 megawatts of wind, and, two, reasonable with regard to the financing mechanism contained in 9 the stipulation, three, book expenses as plant of 10 service; four, set depreciation at 3.33; and, five, 11 grant the variance that was requested? He wanted 12 to know your thoughts and concerns about that 13 order. 14 It's -- what you read sounds consistent Α 15 with the agreement, so I would not have any 16 concerns with an order that stated those various 17 parameters or those various things. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Thank you. 19 MS. DIETRICH: Uh-huh 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Now, do any parties have 2.1 any recross based on that one question? 2.2 Mr. Williams? 23 RECROSS EXAMINATION 2.4 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 25

1 Q Ms. Dietrich, you're not an attorney, are 2 you? 3 No, I'm not. Α 4 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Anybody else? Redirect 6 by Staff? 7 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 9 Counsel for Joplin referred you to a 0 10 provision in the wind project stipulation for 11 Oklahoma. Are you generally familiar with the 12 testimony of the affidavit in opposition of Geoff 13 Marke that goes over that stipulation? 14 Α Generally. 15 Okay. If you would turn to page 7 of that 0 16 statement in opposition, you were asked to do a 17 comparison. So I'm going to ask you to compare 18 some other items. 19 There's a statement made that refers that 20 the Oklahoma stipulation that has assurances that 2.1 customer benefit from the Federal PTCs. Is that 2.2 applicable in this case? 23 Just one second. I -- I wasn't following Α you because I realized I have the surrebuttal. 24 25

1 Page 7 of the --2. 0 It's page 8. 3 Α Okay. 4 I said 7. It's page 8. 0 5 Α Assurances that the customers benefit from Federal PTCs? So that's -- that's the bullet? 6 7 Right. Is -- is there a -- how do you 0 believe the tax equity partner in this case would 9 make that provision not applicable to this case? 10 Well, my understanding is that in the 11 Oklahoma windcatcher project, the utility, I'm not 12 sure which utility at this point without going back 13 and reading through it, would actually, owned the 14 project. 15 In -- in this case, it's a joint ownership 16 with different structure, and the tax equity 17 partner would be doing the role, if you will, applicable believe to the PTC. 18 19 Okay. So to summarize, the differences --0 20 and I believe it's AEP, is not using a tax equity 21 partner and ratepayers are paying the entire 2.2 \$4.5 billion bill that's not the case in this 23 situation? 24 First question, that's my understanding. Α 25

- 1 And the second part, that's correct.
- Q Okay. There's also a bulletpoint that
- 3 says that there's caps on investments to point out.
- 4 Costs below the caps have no presumption of
- 5 prudence, and costs above the caps are not
- 6 recoverable in rates.
- 7 From your understanding of the
- 8 stipulation, is there a presumption of prudency for
- 9 costs that the parties have agreed to?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Are you familiar with the benefit
- 12 quarantee provision? I think it's described on
- page 8 as well.
- 14 A The quarantee project net benefits?
- 15 **Q Yes.**
- 16 A Okay. Yes.
- 17 Q Are there items in that guarantee that
- 18 reduce the revenue requirement of the wind project
- 19 that the non-unanimous stipulation does not
- 20 contain?
- 21 A I think a better reference would be page
- 22 10 of GM-1, which is Attachment 2, which is the
- 23 actual outline of the net benefits. And in --
- 24 within -- that -- it's easier to see the
- 25

- 1 calculation. 2. 0 Sure. 3 Α And there are things within there that are 4 not included in the Missouri stipulation. 5 Okay. Could you list those items? 0 6 Α Well, it would probably be easier to go 7 the other way --Q Okay. 9 Α -- and talk about what -- what Missouri 10 is. What are --11 Q 12 We -- without getting into details of Α 13 settlement, we, as Staff, had considered different 14 methods of calculating customers protections. 15 And we had looked at something similar to 16 this with all of the different components. And it 17 was our opinion that a simpler approach would --18 would be better. 19 And so what the Missouri stipulation has 20 is a comparison of revenues and costs associated with the projects and then goes from there as far 2.1 2.2 as the protections for the customers.
  - 25

23

24

Q

00 the formula is simply wind revenue requirement

So the stipulation in this case is simply

- 1 plus -- or minus revenues received from SPP, plus
- 2 the value of the PPA agreement, which is those
- 3 three items?
- 4 A I believe so.
- 5 Q Okay. I guess in a simpler way, the --
- 6 the money that Empire receives, we are only looking
- 7 at if it covers cost of the wind project?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q So there's no benefit or offsetting the
- 10 costs for things like carbon savings, project
- 11 capacity values, PTCs, wrecks, items like that.
- 12 It's just simply costs versus costs in and -- and
- 13 revenues in?
- 14 A Well, I -- I wouldn't characterize it as
- 15 there's no benefits offsetting. There are not
- 16 those items offsetting. I -- I think inherent in
- 17 the plan -- in the protections itself there is
- 18 benefit.
- 19 Q Okay. And you were asked a question from
- 20 Counsel from OPC about if we had reached a comfort
- 21 level or if we had done an independent analysis.
- 22 Typically, in rate cases, where -- where
- 23 do we get the information? Or any of our cases,
- where do we get the information from?

1 Α From the utility. And that's what the distinction I was trying to making. To the extent 2 3 that we have information, it typically does come 4 from the utility. We don't have our own 5 information. 6 0 Okay. So that's not unusual for this 7 case? Α Correct. 9 Can you -- can you point to any examples Q 10 of any of the other parties even -- even opposing 11 parties relying upon information Empire has 12 provided to come up with their own analysis? Well, I would say all the parties used 13 Α 14 information provided by Empire. 15 MS. MERS: Okay. I have nothing further. 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, Ms. Dietrich. 17 You're next, Mr. Rogers. 18 JOHN ROGERS, 19 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole 20 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows: 21 DIRECT EXAMINATION 22 BY MS. FORCK: 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated. 24 Q (By Ms. Forck) Good evening, Mr. Rogers. 25

1 Α Evening. 2 Q Please state your name and spell it for 3 the record. 4 Α John A. Rogers, R-o-g-e-r-s. 5 0 How are you employed? 6 Α I'm the Utility -- or the Regulatory 7 Utility Manager for the Energy Resources Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission. 9 Did you prepare or cause to be prepared 10 rebuttal testimony marked as Exhibit 102 and 11 portions of Staff's affidavit in support of the 12 non-unanimous stipulation marked as 103 13 confidential and 104 public? 14 Α Yes. 15 Do you have any corrections to make to any 0 16 of that testimony that have not already been outlined by Ms. Dietrich? 17 18 Α Yes, I did. To my rebuttal testimony, on 19 page 11, there's a Table 3 that I have ahead 20 corrections to. And those corrections were made as 2.1 a result of Mr. McMahon pointing out that I had an 2.2 error in one of my formulas and my work papers. 23 0 Continue. So would you point out what the 24 -- what the changes were? Did you have any --

1 Α Well, there's -- there's quite a few 2 changes to the table. I prepared a corrected --3 0 Okay. 4 -- copy of the table. Α 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may want to 6 considering introducing that as a separate exhibit. 7 MS. FORCK: Okay. I handed that out 8 before we began. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And has that been 10 provided to other Counsel? 11 MS. FORCK: It has. I provided it to the 12. Commission, the Judge, the court reporter and the 13 other Counsel. It's the corrected Table 3 for page 14 11 of your rebuttal testimony of John A. Rogers. 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you like to mark 16 that as Exhibit 105? 17 MS. FORCK: Sure. If that makes things 18 easier, we can mark it as 105. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I think that would be 20 clearer than trying to orally from the stand trying 2.1 to make a bunch of number corrections. 22 MS. FORCK: All right. We'll do that. 23 Q (By Ms. Forck) So corrected Table 3 has 2.4 been marked as Exhibit 105. Mr. Rogers, did you 25

- 1 have any other changes?
- 2 A Yes. As a result of the corrections to
- 3 Table 3, on page 11, there's two amounts on at that
- 4 page that need to be corrected. On line 8,
- 5 48 million should be changed to 130 million.
- And on line 9, 160 million should be
- 7 changed to 281 million. And there's one other
- 8 minor change to my rebuttal testimony on page 14,
- 9 line 1. PVRR should just be RR, revenue
- 10 requirement.
- 11 Q Okay. Okay. With those changes, if I
- were to ask you the same questions contained in
- 13 your testimony and if you were to write the
- 14 portions of your affidavit today, would those
- documents be substantially the same?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And is this testimony and affidavit true
- 18 and accurate to the best of your knowledge and
- 19 belief?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 MS. FORCK: Your Honor, I move to admit
- 22 Staff Exhibits 102 and 105. And we'll hold off on
- 23 that affidavit until after Mr. Oligschlaeger
- 24 testifies.
- 25

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections? Hearing none, those are admitted. 2 (Exhibits 102 and 105 were offered and 3 4 admitted into evidence.) MS. FORCK: I tender the witness for 5 6 cross. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: First cross is by Empire. MR. COOPER: No questions. 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG? 10 MR. WOODSMALL: Briefly, your Honor. 11 CROSS-EXAMINATION 12 BY MR. WOODSMALL: 13 Q Good evening, sir. 14 A Good evening. 15 Q Would you turn to the Staff -- Staff's 16 affidavit, specifically Chart 3, which I believe is 17 -- I don't know what page it is, but Chart 3. It's 18 under customer protections. And let me know when 19 you get there. 20 Α Okay. 2.1 Earlier today, Mr. Mertens was talking 2.2 about the margin from Asbury. Do you recall that? 2.3 Α Yes. 24 Q And he indicated that the -- the margin 25

- 1 has declined over the last couple years. Did you
- 2 hear that?
- 3 A Yes, I did.
- 4 Q Can you tell me whether Chart 3 provides
- 5 any evidence regarding the projected profitability,
- 6 economics of Asbury?
- 7 A Yes, it does. Throughout this entire
- 8 process, between the analysis and the application,
- 9 the surrebuttal, the company, as well as the
- 10 modeling for the stipulation and agreement, there's
- 11 really only two -- two plans that allow a
- 12 comparison of value of Asbury.
- 13 And those are in the application filing.
- 14 And that's what's reflected on Chart 3, page 5 of
- 15 the affidavit. The two plans that you can compare
- 16 are Plan 2, which is the original customer savings
- 17 plan with 800 megawatts of wind and Asbury being
- 18 retired, and then Plan 10, which is a plan that
- 19 keeps Asbury and has 800 megawatts of wind, and
- 20 also, Plan 10 corrected for some -- some problems,
- 21 some errors in what was Plan 4.
- 22 So looking at Plan 2 and Plan 10, you can
- 23 look at the difference between the annual revenue
- 24 requirements of those plan -- those two plans, and

1 you can see by looking at the red line, which is Plan 2 --2. 3 0 And by the red line, you mean the solid 4 red line? 5 Α The solid red line. 6 Okay. Please continue. 0 7 And then the solid black line allows you Α to see year by year the difference in the expected 9 revenue requirement for Plan 4 -- or Plan 2 10 compared to Plan 10. 11 And what this tells us is that keeping 12 Asbury does have value in the marketplace in terms 13 of overall revenue requirement savings beginning in 14 2020 and extending throughout the planning horizon 15 after that. 16 And that is based upon current conditions; 17 is that correct? Current conditions forecast; is 18 that correct? 19 It's based upon all the assumptions in the Α 20 applic -- well, generation fleet savings analysis. 2.1 So if -- if SPP implemented a capacity 2.2 market, Asbury's economics may even approve 23 further; is that correct? 2.4 A They could. Yes. 25

- Q Okay. So it's Staff's position, then,
- 2 that Asbury should stay open; is that correct?
- 3 A We support the -- the stipulation and
- 4 agreement. And that's part of the stipulation and
- 5 agreement. Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. There was some discussion earlier
- 7 about what costs could be avoided by Asbury
- 8 closing. Do you recall Mr. Mertens having that
- 9 conversation?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Okay. And he mentioned that there were
- 12 going to be costs that are incurred either way.
- 13 But there are certain environmental costs that
- 14 could be avoided. And I think he put it at roughly
- 15 \$20 million.
- 16 A Right.
- 17 O Do you recall that?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q But then he mentioned that there are costs
- that haven't been modeled, approximately \$20
- 21 million of dismantlement. Do you recall him saying
- 22 that?
- 23 A I recall him saying that. And the figure
- 24 was 24 million, as I recall.
- 25

1 Q Okay. So if Asbury were closed, we could avoid the 20 million of environmental costs. 2 3 we would then incur the 24 million of dismantlement 4 costs? 5 Α Yes. Which is not included in the 6 analysis presently. 7 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. I have no further 8 questions. Thank you, sir. 9 Division of Energy? JUDGE BUSHMANN: 10 MR. POSTON: No questions. 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 12 MR. OPITZ: No thank you, Judge. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 14 MS. BELL: Yes. Thank you. 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION 16 BY MS. BELL: 17 Good evening, Mr. Rogers. 0 18 Α Good evening. 19 Can you describe the analysis performed by Q 20 Staff? 2.1 Α Okay. Staff did not perform any analysis 2.2 of its own. What we did was request that the 23 company perform an analysis. We do not have the --24 the software models that are necessary to do the 25

- 1 integrated resource analysis. It was performed by
- 2 ABB.
- 3 So to the extent that we wanted additional
- 4 analysis performed, we requested that through data
- 5 request.
- 6 Q Okay. In a typical rate case or
- 7 certificate case, when you request the information
- 8 from the company, you request actual figures from
- 9 the company looking backwards; is that correct?
- 10 A In a rate case, yes.
- 11 Q What about a certificate case?
- 12 A I'm not -- I'm -- I've never been a party
- 13 to a certificate case.
- 0 Okay. Fair enough. In this case, the
- 15 data that was provided wasn't backwards looking
- 16 actual data. It was forecast; is that correct?
- 17 A It was all estimated, yes.
- 18 Q You testified in your rebuttal testimony
- 19 that the -- how important it is, the modeling. And
- 20 you stated on page 12, the modeling is very
- 21 important. Is that still your opinion?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q And on page 14, you essentially conclude
- your discussion of the sensitivity of the model by

- 1 stating, This demonstrates how sensitive customer
- 2 savings are to less favorable electricity
- 3 marketplace conditions that cause market prices to
- 4 be lowered. Is that still your opinion today?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And is it that sensitivity -- is that why
- 7 we see such different estimates among the parties,
- 8 among OPC and the company?
- 9 A I can't speak for OPC.
- 10 Q Okay. But when you talk about
- 11 sensitivity, you're really talking about how -- so
- if a model is extremely sensitive, if you change
- one variable, you're going to get wildly different
- 14 outcomes; is that correct? That's what you mean by
- 15 **sensitivity?**
- 16 A I wouldn't say wildly different.
- 17 **O** Okay.
- 18 A There's a lot of inputs to the analysis.
- 19 And if you change one input, normally, it will
- 20 change the outcome.
- 21 Q Okay. And so for a less sensitive model,
- 22 if you changed the input, then would you expect a
- 23 smaller difference in the -- in the end result; is
- 24 that correct?

1 Α I believe that's correct. 2 Okay. On page 17, you testified that --3 or wrote that Mr. McMahon acknowledges that relying 4 on off-system sales to manage costs induces --5 introduces risk. Can you explain what you mean by 6 introduces risk? 7 The customer savings plan is based Yes. Α upon future performance in the marketplace. And 9 the sale of energy into the marketplace would 10 result from the plan. 11 And so there's a lot of uncertainty in the 12 future concerning how much energy will be sold and at what price. There's other variables, but those 13 14 are the two that -- that are primarily driving the 15 results. 16 And so when you say introduce risk, is 17 that -- would you say that risk is on customers? 18 Α It is. 19 That sounded more like a question. 0 Is it -- would you say it was on anybody else? 20 2.1 Well, the company as well in terms of the Α 2.2 -- the performance of those assets and the 23 resulting retained earnings. 2.4 0 After the -- if we end up in a worst case

- 1 scenario and that \$35 million cap is exceeded, at
- 2 that point, is the risk entirely on customers?
- 3 A My understanding, it would be.
- 4 Q With an unlimited cap?
- 5 A That's my understanding. Not -- not
- 6 likely with many of the modeling that I've seen.
- 7 But --
- 8 Q Okay. If we go back in your rebuttal
- 9 testimony to page 7, line 12, and there is the
- 10 question is about summarizing your analysis.
- And you wrote, Expected customer savings
- 12 are minimal or possibly non-existent in the first
- 13 ten years. Is that correct?
- 14 A Page 7? Can you give me the reference
- 15 again?
- 16 Q Yeah. I'm actually -- I think I might be
- just on -- page 5. I apologize.
- 18 A Page 5.
- 19 **Q Line 11.**
- 20 A Okay.
- 21 Q Okay. Do you see that answer on --
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q So expected customer savings are minimal
- 24 or possibly non-existent. And then you say, Due to

1 the amount of equity cost. I don't know that I've heard that term 2 3 equity cost yet or much in the hearing so far. So 4 can you tell me what you mean by equity cost? 5 Α And I have a chart on page 6 that Yes. 6 shows the discounted value of the annual equity 7 cost. And this comes from the company's analysis. And at the bottom of each income 9 statement, the last line is earnings cost. My 10 understanding is that represents the total -- or 11 equity cost. Excuse me. The total equity cost in 12 the plan, which would be -- in total, not just for 13 the wind projects, but for the entire income 14 statement for Empire District Electric. 15 So my chart on Plan -- Chart 1 on page 6 16 is just showing the increase in equity cost for 17 Plans 2, 3 and then 10 relative to the annual equity cost in the modeling for Plan 1, which is 18 19 the current adopted preferred resource plan, the 20 business plan of the company. 2.1 Okay. When you reference in line 12 0 22 expected customer savings, was that a reference to 23 the saving -- savings -- the GFSA savings estimated 24 by Mr. Krygier in his chart? I think it was 25

- 1 labeled CDK-1.
- 2 A I'm having trouble following what --
- 3 Mr. Krygier's chart. I'd have to see it.
- 4 Q Okay. I'll approach.
- 5 A Can you ask the question again?
- 6 Q Sure. So when you said expected customer
- 7 savings, was that a reference to the savings
- 8 estimated by Mr. Krygier?
- 9 A Well, in -- in my statement, it's a
- 10 reference to the performance of -- of the customer
- 11 savings plan relative to the current business plan,
- 12 Plan 1.
- Q Okay. And Mr. Krygier's estimates were --
- were estimates of the GFSA analysis, correct?
- 15 A That is correct. I'm not sure, as I look
- 16 at Mr. Krygier's, I'm referring to the same results
- 17 as I was when I did my analysis. But I can't say
- 18 for sure.
- 19 Q Okay. Assuming that is Mr. Krygier's
- 20 estimate of customer savings, if you look at the
- 21 first ten years in his chart --
- 22 A Uh-huh.
- 23 Q -- he is estimating -- or that chart
- 24 purports to estimate, if you sum all those numbers,

- 1 something like a hundred million dollars in
- 2 customer savings over the first ten years. Is that
- 3 your understanding?
- 4 A It looks like that's right. I'm looking
- 5 at the -- okay. What was confusing me was I -- I
- 6 see the timeline goes out.
- 7 Q Yeah. They have 20 years --
- 8 A Retired 20 years. And you're just asking
- 9 about the first ten years, which would be the top
- 10 line.
- 11 Q Correct.
- 12 A Okay. All right. I think we are at the
- 13 same thing.
- 14 O Okay. So he estimates customer savings at
- 15 about a hundred million for the first ten years.
- 16 A Okay.
- 17 O Correct?
- 18 A Subject -- subject to check, this is Plan
- 19 2, which I think it is the preferred -- or the
- 20 customer savings plan. What I got was 71 million
- 21 and not 100 million.
- Q Okay. 71 million. Your testimony on page
- 23 5, line 12 said that the customer savings are
- 24 minimal or possibly non-existent. He would

1 estimate \$71 million in savings, and you're at 2. zero, possibly zero? 3 Α Because we don't know what the -- the 4 ultimate plan will be. Plan 2 was -- was one plan 5 that was modeled. Plan 3 was a second plan that was modeled, which had different wind attributes. 6 7 And Plan 3, in fact, had no savings in the first -- as modeled in the first ten years. 9 would actually cost customers \$16 million. 10 Is there anything different about the 0 11 stipulation -- the calculations under the 12 stipulation and agreement and the calculations 13 performed by Mr. Krygier in that chart? 14 Α Yes. 15 What are those differences? 0 16 Α Well, the stipulation and agreement is for 17 only 600 megawatts of wind, not 800. 18 0 Okay. 19 Another big change was updating the market 20 prices for the ABB fall 1027 prices. The other one 2.1 was that Asbury would be retained and remain in 2.2 operation as proposed to being retired in the 23 customer savings plan. Those -- I think those are 24 the -- the three most significant changes.

1 Q Okay. The retirement of Asbury doesn't 2. affect wind revenue requirements or wind benefits, 3 does it, whether or not Asbury is retired? 4 I don't believe so. Α 5 0 Okay. 6 Α I'm not absolutely certain. But the way I 7 understand it, the wind would be dispatched before Asbury would, so it wouldn't -- keeping or retiring 9 Asbury wouldn't impact the wind. 10 And that changing the wind projects from O 11 800 megawatts to 600 megawatts changes the 12 magnitude of the wind for revenue requirement, but 13 it doesn't change the way you would calculate the 14 wind revenue requirement; is that correct? 15 Α Correct. 16 And you said that market prices were 17 updated to reflect the 2017 forecast; is that 18 correct? 19 Α Yes. 20 0 And that -- that would change the wind 2.1 revenue requirement, correct? 2.2 Yes, it would. Α 23 Q Okay. And those market prices came in 2.4 lower in 2017; is that correct? 25

- 1 A Correct.
- 2 Q Okay. So based on simply lower market
- 3 prices, the wind revenue requirement would be even
- 4 less than what was originally projected by
- 5 Mr. Krygier?
- 6 A The -- the revenue from the sales of the
- 7 wind would be less.
- 8 Q Okay.
- 9 A I'm not sure that's the same as the
- 10 revenue requirement, but --
- 11 Q And if the revenue is just netted with the
- 12 benefits to get the total savings, then if you have
- 13 less benefits, you have less savings, assuming that
- 14 the benefits stayed the same?
- 15 A I'm not sure what you're talking about
- 16 with benefits, when you say benefits.
- Q Okay. If you look the Mr. Krygier's
- 18 chart, he nets the wind revenue requirement with
- 19 what he calls wind benefits.
- 20 A Okay.
- 21 Q And so if the revenue requirement is
- 22 coming down, then the savings would also decrease;
- 23 is that correct?
- 24 A The wind is -- at any point in time, the
- 25

1 wind revenue requirement is not a function of the amount of wind that's sold. Wind revenue 2. 3 requirement is pretty much a fixed cost each year. 4 0 Okay. 5 Α The -- the benefits from the wind are not fixed. The benefits from the wind derived from the 6 7 amount of wind generation and the price in the marketplace, that changes a lot. But I don't think 9 the revenue requirement is at all a function of the benefits. 10 11 MS. BELL: Okay. No further questions at this time. 12 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel? 14 MR. WILLIAMS: Helpfully just a few. 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION 16 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 17 You testified earlier -- well, you 0 18 probably heard me asking Ms. Dietrich about 19 auditing and analysis by Staff, and I heard one of 20 your answers earlier to a question. 2.1 You emphasized that Empire did the

25

2.2

2.3

2.4

analysis in response to data requests that Staff

issued to Empire; is that correct?

A Correct.

1	Q What was the purpose of Staff having
2	Empire do additional analyses? Or purposes?
3	A Well, to to test some of the the
4	assumptions that were made. And they the plans
5	that were presented in the customer savings plan
6	well, as part of the generation fleet savings
7	analysis.
8	I think originally there were nine plants
9	and and three of primary interest along with
10	Plan 1, which was the current plan. But Plan 2, 3
11	and 4. And then through our our data requests,
12	we were very much interested in refining and
13	understanding the plan that would keep Asbury to be
14	sure that we understood that.
15	There were some other plans that we
16	requested that moved some of the retirement dates
17	around to be more consistent with what we thought
18	was more reasonable.
19	Q When you say test assumptions, what do you
20	mean by what assumptions were you testing?
21	A We were well, one was treating load as
22	an uncertain factor. In the application, load was
23	treated with certainty. And so we had analysis
24	requested and analysis was performed to treat load
25	

1 is uncertain, a high case and a low case. The other ones primarily centered around 2 3 the timing of the retirement of some of the -- the 4 other assets like the Energy Center 1 and 2. Some 5 of the timing of the -- I think the seller. I 6 can't recall exactly. 7 Well, would it be accurate to characterize what you're calling testing the assumptions to ask 9 the runs be done to test the sensitivity of the 10 assumptions? 11 Α Well, basically, create different 12 alternative resource plans. 13 Q And what was the purpose of having Empire 14 create different -- or alternative resource plans? 15 To understand if there were modifications to some of the primary plans that would improve the 16 17 results or -- or not improve the results. 18 0 And I gather, at some point, Staff reached 19 a comfort level? 20 We did. As well as we ran out of time. 2.1 -- I think we -- I think we achieved some -- a 2.2 better understanding on Asbury in particular and 23 whether to retire or to keep Asbury. 2.4 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Redirect by Staff? 2 you have any redirect? 3 MS. FORCK: Oh, sorry. Yes. 4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 5 BY MS. FORCK: 6 I guess I'll start where we left off. 0 7 Mr. Rogers, Mr. Williams was asking you about whether Staff reached a comfort level after 9 requesting all this modeling be done. 10 Is it fair to say that Staff reached a 11 comfort level with the stipulation that Staff 12. signed onto? 13 Α Yes. 14 Okay. There was a lot of discussion about 0 15 the fact that Staff does independent analysis. But 16 that the company provides the data. 17 When you reviewed company data, were you 18 able to create, for example, charts to help you 19 analyze and reach your own conclusions? 20 Yes. And some of those important charts Α 2.1 are in my testimony. 2.2 Okay. Do you recall the questions from 23 Ms. Bell regarding forecasted data and the use of 2.4 forecast? 25

1 Α Yes. 2 Q Isn't it common in every IRP for the 3 company to perform and run modeling? 4 Α Yes. 5 And Staff then reviews the company's 0 6 models, right? 7 Α Correct. Q And isn't the purpose of an IRP to be 9 forward-looking? 10 Α Yes. 11 And so do the company models for IRPs use 12 forecasted data? 13 Α It's all you have to -- have to use. Yes, 14 it is. 15 0 Okay. In the original application in this 16 case, did Empire's original projections rely on 17 2016 forecasts or 2017 forecasts? It was the ABB fall 2016 forecast. 18 Α 19 And did Staff ask that the models be run Q 20 using 2017 forecasts? 2.1 Α No. 2.2 So at what point did you recognize a need Q 23 to update the forecast? 24 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm going to object. 25

- 1 just said that Staff didn't require -- request that
- 2 there be an update. And I think this goes beyond
- 3 the scope of the cross.
- 4 MS. FORCK: I'll withdraw. Nothing
- 5 further.
- 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Rogers.
- 7 You may step down. I think we're ready for our
- 8 last Staff witness and last witness of the day.
- 9 MARK OLIGSCHLAEGER,
- 10 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
- 11 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:
- 12 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MS. MERS:
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please be seated.
- 15 Q (By Ms. Mers) Can you please state and
- spell your name for the record?
- 17 A My name is Mark L. Oligschlaeger,
- 19 Q And who are you employed by and in what
- 20 capacity?
- 21 A I am employed by the Missouri Public
- 22 Service Commission as the Manager of the Auditing
- 23 Department.
- Q And did you prepare rebuttal testimony
- 25

- 1 that has been marked as Exhibit 101 and contribute
- 2 to the Staff affidavit in support of the
- 3 non-unanimous stipulation and agreement, which has
- 4 been marked as 103-C and 104-P?
- 5 A I did.
- 6 Q Okay. Do you have any changes to your
- 7 testimony?
- 8 A I do not.
- 9 Q If I asked you the questions today, would
- 10 your answers be same?
- 11 A They would.
- 12 Q And are those answers true and accurate to
- 13 the best of your knowledge and belief?
- 14 A They are.
- MS. MERS: I would tender the witness for
- 16 cross.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Do you want to offer the
- 18 exhibits?
- 19 MS. MERS: Oh, yes. Yes, I will. I would
- 20 offer Exhibit 101, and then I'll go ahead and offer
- 21 103 and 104.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any objections to their
- 23 receipt? Hearing none, they're admitted.
- 24 (Staff Exhibits 101, 103 and 104 were

offered and admitted into evidence.) 1 MS. MERS: Now I will tender the witness 2. for cross. 3 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: First cross would be 5 Empire. 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION 7 BY MS. KNOWLTON: Good evening, Mr. Oligschlaeger. Q 9 Good evening. Α 10 Can you think of another case where Empire 0 11 filed the stipulation with other parties governing 12 a situation involving the future participation in 13 the generation unit to be built? 14 I think that generally describes Empire's Α 15 application for what was known as a regulatory plan 16 in relation to its involvement with the IATAN 2 17 generating unit. 18 O Would you describe at a high level what 19 that experimental regulatory plan approval related 20 to? 2.1 Well, what Empire and, actually, KCP&L had 2.2 a companion case, what these companies were 23 seeking, I guess, was some sort of road map to proceed with construction of a -- what was going to 24

1 be a very expensive generating station. And, ultimately, the parties were able to 2 3 agree, or to stipulate, in my recollection, that 4 the decisional prudence of entering into the IATAN 5 2 generating unit would not be challenged by the 6 parties in future rate cases. 7 In relation, now I'm not -- the Commission -- that's the signatories. The Commission itself, 9 I don't think was asked to make any specific 10 prudence pre-approvals. And I don't believe they 11 did. 12 And there were also a number of other provisions in the regulatory plan involving a 13 14 number of different rate-making areas and making 15 commitments in terms of future rate treatment of 16 various items. 17 MS. KNOWLTON: I have no further 18 questions. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: MECG? 20 MR. WOODSMALL: No questions. 2.1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Division of Energy? 22 MR. POSTON: No questions. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Renew Missouri? 24 MR. OPITZ: No, thank you, Judge.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: City of Joplin? 2. MS. BELL: Yes. Thank you. 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION 4 BY MS. BELL: 5 In your rebuttal testimony, you talked Q 6 about Asbury and the regulatory asset treatment 7 that Empire requested; is that correct? That's correct. 9 And you heard Mr. Swain's testimony is 10 that, in the future if Empire seeks to take Asbury 11 offline early, it would still make a request that that regulatory asset -- it would be booked as a 12 13 regulatory asset; is that correct? 14 Well, nothing in the -- the stipulation Α 15 would prevent Empire from seeking treatment. 16 There's also nothing in the stipulation that would 17 require other signatories to support it or not 18 support it. 19 Okay. Do you agree with Mr. Meyers' Q 20 calculation that the rate impact will be 12 percent 2.1 on Empire's customers as a result of the wind? 2.2 I have not done any kind of in-depth 23 analysis of that. 2.4 0 Okay. Okay. So if next year Empire 25

- 1 decides to take Asbury offline and request
- 2 treatment as a regulatory asset, then, essentially,
- 3 if customers are required to pay the return on and
- 4 return of that investment, then they're paying the
- 5 same as when it's open; is that correct?
- 6 A Well, I mean, I guess Empire theoretically
- 7 could ask for a number of different rate-making
- 8 treatments.
- 9 I suspect, as they did in this case, they
- 10 would ask for full recovery of a return on and of
- 11 that station. If they do ask that and if that's
- 12 granted, then your -- your assumption would be
- 13 correct.
- 14 There would be no real difference between
- 15 that and inclusion in rate of the unit while it is
- 16 operating.
- 17 O Okay. But customers would lose the
- 18 benefit of the generation from Asbury that sold
- into the SPP market, correct?
- 20 A If Asbury is retired, that's correct.
- 21 O And if Asbury is retired and the
- 22 regulatory asset treatment is granted by the
- 23 Commission, then that would be an additional rate
- increase on customers?

1 Well, in terms of the return on and of the unit, I think we earlier discussed there probably 2. wouldn't be a material difference. 3 4 If there were other impacts of taking Asbury offline, that would increase Empire's 5 6 revenue requirement. Yes. That would be 7 additional beyond what is being considered today. Can you summarize your comments on tax 9 equity in your -- in the Staff affidavit? 10 Let me turn to it. Essentially, I am 11 stating that Staff, in this particular application 12 and these circumstances, support the use of tax 13 equity financing for these specific projects within 14 the parameters already agreed to by Empire and, as 15 well, there is -- in conjunction with the customer protections that are also in the agreement. 16 17 The stipulation contains a range of 0 18 sharing between Empire and the tax equity partner 19 as far as capital cost. Is that your 20 understanding? 2.1 In terms of their -- the tax equity 22 partner's capital contribution? 23 0 Yes. 24 Yes. I -- my understanding, that is the A 25

not, at this point, a fixed percentage.

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2. Okay. And changing that percentage 3 changes the estimated customer savings; is that 4 correct? 5 Α Yes. If you were to -- I mean, the 6 capital contribution goes towards rate base 7 evaluation. And if you change the valuation of rate base, certainly, in isolation, that will 9 impact customers -- customer rates, customer 10 savings, all those things. 11 Q So it impacts rate and savings, correct? 12 Well, let me think about that. Yes. Α Т 13 think it would impact both.

- 17 A I'm not aware that we did.
- 18 Q So you have not seen what the customer

Did Staff ask Empire to perform an

analysis at the higher threshold proposed in the

- 19 savings would be under that scenario?
- 20 A Under a different scenario than the 40
- 21 percent that I think was initially?
- 22 Q Correct.

stipulation?

- 23 A No. I have not seen anything.
- Q Okay. And do you know the rate impacts

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16

with a -- if Empire was forced to contribute the 1 higher threshold of capital contributions? 2. What the impact of that would be on 3 4 customer rates? 5 0 Correct. I do not know. 6 Α 7 And Staff is comfortable with -- is it reasonable for Staff to be comfortable with the 9 situation that authorizes -- with -- with the 10 stipulation without seeing that data? 11 I -- I think Staff is satisfied, as a 12 general concept, tax equity financing can lead to 13 savings for customers. 14 And I think within the broad parameters of 15 what's been discussed here, that is certainly our 16 expectation that that would take place. 17 MS. BELL: No further questions. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Public Counsel? 19 MR. WILLIAMS: I didn't until Empire asked you about the Empire regular plan. 20 2.1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 22 BY MR. WILLIAMS: 23 Do you recall when Empire and Staff and 0 24 other parties entered into the Empire regulatory 25

1 plan regarding IATAN 2? My recollection is it was in 2005. 2. 3 0 And at that point in time, was Empire 4 participating in the SPP energy market? 5 I'm not sure that the SPP energy market Α existed at that time. So I -- I would have to say 6 7 I don't know. So you don't know when the SPP energy 0 9 market started? 10 Α No. Not off the top of my head. 11 Q Would you be surprised if it was after 12 2010? 13 I recall I think the day ahead market Α 14 started around that time. And maybe we're talking 15 about the same thing. I'm not sure. But --16 Well, day ahead in the real-time market. 17 Okay. Yes. I generally recall that that Α 18 would have been, you know, seven, eight years ago. 19 And at the time of the Empire regulatory 0 plan for IATAN 2, did Empire have sufficient owned 20 2.1 generation and long-term purchase power agreements 2.2 to meet its capacity and energy needs? 23 At the time it entered into the IATAN 2 --Α 24 0 Regulatory plan. 25

1 A -- regulatory plan? I can't answer that definitively. I do know that Empire -- about the 2 3 same time it started receiving power from IATAN 2 4 also started receiving power from another project 5 for another project, the Plum Point plant. So my 6 -- I guess my general belief would be that they 7 were in the position of needing power at that time, additional power sources. 9 And that would be to serve native -- their 10 residential customers in any wholesale contracts it 11 may have had? 12 Well, their -- their retail customers. Α 13 Yes. 14 IATAN 2 is jointly owned, is it not? O 15 It is. Α 16 And did Empire, I guess I'll use the word 17 lead the building and construction of IATAN 2? I -- Empire has a minority ownership in 18 Α 19 the plant. I think the majority ownership is held 20 by Kansas City Power & Light. 2.1 And did Kansas City Power & Light Company O 22 also have a similar regulatory plan? 23 It wasn't identical, but similar, yes. Α 24 0 And which plan was created first? 25

1 Α I think it was KCP&L, but I'm not totally sure of that. 2. 3 MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Questions, Commissioner? 5 I have a couple of questions that the Chairman wanted me to ask on his behalf. 6 7 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY JUDGE BUSHMANN: 9 The first one was regarding the IATAN 2 10 agreement that you talked about earlier. How does 11 what the Commission is being asked to do in this 12 case compare to what the Commission was asked to do 13 in the IATAN situation? 14 Α Well, first of all, I don't -- it's been a 15 while since I've even looked at the regulatory plan 16 and the Commission's orders approving that stipulation and so on. So I'm going off memory 17 18 there. 19 But I think I indicated earlier under 20 cross, I don't believe the Commission was asked to 2.1 make a decisional -- to make decisional 2.2 pre-approval or prudence findings relating the 23 TATAN 2 unit at that time. 2.4 That was something that bound the 25

- 1 signatories. And I would say, in general, my
- 2 understanding is what's being sought from the
- 3 Commission here would be similar.
- 4 Q Okay. Okay. Second question was, if a
- 5 majority of the Commission ended up being in favor
- of the amended plan that the company has put
- 7 forward, in your opinion, what do you think the
- 8 worst case scenario would be for rate --
- 9 ratepayers?
- 10 A I think it depends on how you define worst
- 11 case scenario. I think, from my knowledge of the
- 12 discussions that went into the customer protection
- 13 plan that's part of the stip., the \$35 million cap
- 14 in terms of the shareholder risk, I think, was
- 15 pretty close to what we considered to be a worst
- 16 case scenario.
- In other words, customers would be covered
- 18 under that case. And that's not impossible,
- 19 obviously. But things could, I guess, be worse.
- 20 But we -- we just don't see much of a chance of
- 21 that.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Thank you. Is
- 23 there any recross based on either of those
- 24 questions? Mr. Williams?
- 25

1	MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, yes.
2	RECROSS EXAMINATION
3	BY MR. WILLIAMS:
4	Q Mr. Oligschlaeger, was a certificate
5	involved in the IATAN regulatory plan?
6	A A certificate like a CCN case or
7	application?
8	Q CCN case.
9	A It may have been. I don't recall.
10	Q Was an IATAN 2 constructed on an existing
11	generation site?
12	A It was.
13	Q And didn't that plan involve a series of
14	rate cases that were designed to maintain
15	investment grade debt ratings for the utility?
16	A There were provisions in both regulatory
17	plans of special regulatory mechanisms designed to
18	ensure that the companies at least had a reasonable
19	opportunity to maintain their debt credit ratings
20	at reasonable levels.
21	Q And wasn't that accomplished by amounts
22	included in What do they call those? Regulatory
23	amortizations?
24	A Regulatory plan amortizations.
25	

1	Q Okay. Regulatory plan amortizations that
2	effectively required increased amounts from
3	Empire's customers than it would have gotten
4	strictly on a standard cost of service based
5	rate-making?
6	A Yes, it did. With the additional amounts
7	collected ultimately being booked to the company's
8	depreciation reserve, so the customers would get
9	credit for those amounts forwarded, if you will, to
10	the company in order to maintain their credit
11	ratings.
12	Q That's substantially different than what's
13	present in this stipulation plan, is it not?
14	A Yeah. I don't believe there's been the
15	company made any claim that entering into these
16	plans would necessarily have an expected major
17	detrimental impact on their credit ratings.
18	Q And when you're saying these plans, you're
19	referring to the plan in this case, are you not?
20	A The additional wind. Yes.
21	MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.
22	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any other recross?
23	Redirect?
24	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
25	

1 BY MS. MERS: 2 We can start with the regulatory plan. 3 Can you list the signatories to the regulatory plan 4 for KCPL or Empire? 5 Certainly not a comprehensive list. Α 6 Obviously, the companies were signatories. The 7 Staff was. My -- I'm about 99 percent sure the Office of Public Counsel was and I believe some of 9 the major customer groups. MIEC, MECG to the 10 extent they existed at that time and so on. 11 Q Okay. And you had a lot of questions from 12 Counsel from OPC about the -- the need of the 13 utilities at that time for capacity. 14 Are you -- when you discussed the 15 regulatory plan, would you describe your comparison 16 as more a comparison of the requests involved as 17 opposed to the specifics of the project or the needs behind them? 18 19 Yeah. In general, the type of -- what's Α 20 the word I want to use? Yes. It goes to the type 21 of the request, certainly more to the specifics 2.2 which -- which are quite different in the two 2.3 cases. 24 Q Okay. You also had a question from

25

- 1 Counsel from OPC about the regulatory plan being
- 2 designed to maintain debt and credit ratings. Can
- 3 you point to anything in the -- even in the
- 4 stipulation that is similar to that?
- 5 A Certainly, the intent of the section which
- 6 deals, among other things, with maintaining costs
- 7 equivalent to a BBB credit rating for Empire, which
- 8 I understand is the their credit rating would --
- 9 would fill much the same purpose.
- 10 Q And I think there was also mention of it
- 11 being a -- a plan of rate cases going forward.
- 12 Would you consider what the signatories
- 13 contemplated as part of the customer protection
- 14 plan also being a plan of rate cases going forward
- 15 to provide the flow back of the customer benefit
- 16 mechanism as -- as activated, that \$35 million?
- 17 A Yes. The -- it is the least, to some
- 18 degree, an agreement on how to handle certain
- 19 situations as they arrive in the future if there's
- 20 a major discrepancy between the assumptions made in
- 21 entering into the agreement as -- from actual
- 22 conditions.
- 23 Q You had a question from Counsel for Joplin
- 24 about if we modeled -- or asked Empire to model a

25

- 1 40 -- or anything higher than the 40 percent tax
- 2 equity contribution. Can Staff model or request
- 3 the company to model every scenario outcome
- 4 alternative that could happen in a case?
- 5 A I think there are restrictions that has to
- 6 be, you know, reasonable requests in terms of both
- 7 the -- the time and the efforts the company would
- 8 have to put in in such activities.
- 9 Q And would you describe the stipulation, in
- 10 Staff's view, coming to that stipulation as having
- 11 customer protections and enough modeling support
- 12 that provided us comfort that -- for most
- 13 situations?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Okay. And is it -- is there anything in
- 16 the stipulation that you can point to that talks
- about, you know, notice of the agreement with the
- 18 tax equity partner or signatories' ability to make
- 19 sure things are consistent with the parameters that
- 20 were discussed?
- 21 A Well, yes. I believe the stipulation
- 22 requires the company to, on a timely basis, inform
- 23 at least the signatories of decisions made in
- 24 regard to the tax equity partners.

25

1 And there's also a provision to -- if any of the final agreements differ from the parameters 2. 3 outlined in the agreement, then the company must 4 come forward and discuss why they believe that --5 those -- those changes in the parameters are 6 reasonable. 7 One last question. From -- from your recollection, is the total dollar cap on 9 shareholder sharing over what Staff believed the 10 worst case scenario to be? 11 Α I think you kind of threw me there. Can 12 you repeat that? 13 The 35 million, from your recollection, 0 14 was -- is that amount over what the worst case 15 scenario Staff believed could happen? 16 It was either, I think, over or equivalent 17 to is my understanding. 18 MS. MERS: Okay. I have nothing further. 19 Thank you. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, 2.1 Mr. Oligschlaeger. You may step down, sir. 2.2 completes our testimony for today. 23 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor? 2.4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Yes, sir. 25

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MR. WOODSMALL: Mr. Meyer, if at all
 1
    possible -- I don't know how much time people have
 2
     for him. Anyway, he'd like to get back to
 3
 4
    St. Louis.
             JUDGE BUSHMANN: How much cross do we have
 5
     for Mr. Meyer?
 6
 7
             MS. BELL: Quite a bit. Not as much as
     Empire, but more than Staff.
 9
             JUDGE BUSHMANN: It will be a while. I
    think we need to take him first in the morning
10
11
            MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. Thank you.
12
             JUDGE BUSHMANN: All right. Sorry that
13
    can't work out.
14
             MR. WOODSMALL: I understand. What time
15 are we starting tomorrow?
16
            JUDGE BUSHMANN: 8:30.
17
            (The proceedings ended at 7:40 p.m.)
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14					
15	OPC EXHIBIT		DESCRIPTION	OFFERED	ADMITTED
16	Exhibit	212	Not Described	***	***
17	Exhibit	213	Not Described	* * *	* * *
18	Exhibit	214	Data Request	354	354
19			_		
20	Exhibit	215	Update to Data Request	354	354
21	Exhibit	216	Spreadsheet	545	545
22	Exhibit	217	Document Showing Estimate	545	545
23					
24					
25					

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	3
1	E X H I B I T S (CONTINUED)
2	CITY OF
3	JOPLIN EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION OFFERED ADMITTED
4	Exhibit 501 Public Comments 299 Not Admitted
5	Exhibit 502 Not Identified *** ***
6	LILITATE 302 1400 IGCITETITEG
7	(Original exhibits were retained by the
8	Missouri Public Service Commission.)
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF MISSOURI )
4	COUNTY OF OSAGE )
5	
6	I, Monnie S. Mealy, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
7	Certified Court Reporter #0538, and Registered Professional
8	Reporter, within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby
9	certify that I was personally present at the proceedings as
10	set forth in the caption sheet hereof; that I then and there
11	took down in stenotype the proceedings had at said time and
12	was thereafter transcribed by me, is fully and accurately
13	set forth in the preceding pages.
14	
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
16	seal on May 14th, 2018.
17	1 1/200
18	Monnie S. Mealy
19	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
20	Monnie S. Mealy, CSR, CCR #0538
21	Registered Professional Reporter
22	
23	
24	
25	

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