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1	CTATE OF MICCOURT	Page 14
1	STATE OF MISSOURI	
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
3	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
4	Evidentiary Hearing	
5	January 28, 2014	
6	Jefferson City, Missouri	
7	Volume II	
8	To the Metter of the Application)	
0	In the Matter of the Application)	
9	of Kansas City Power & Light) File No.	
1.0	Company and KCP&L Greater) EU-2014-0077	
10	Missouri Operations Company for)	
1.1	the Issuance of an Accounting)	
11	Authority Order Relating To Their)	
1.0	Waiver of the Notice of)	
12	Requirement of 4 CSR 240-4.020(2))	
13		
14		
15	KIM S. BURTON, Presiding	
1.0	REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	
16		
1.7	ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman	
17	WILLIAM P. KENNEY	
1.0	DANIEL Y. HALL	
18	COMMISSIONERS	
19		
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 (Whereupon, the hearing began at 9:06 a.m.)
- JUDGE BURTON: Good morning. Today
- 4 is January 28th, 2014 and it's currently 9:06 a.m.
- 5 Let me actually change this too.
- The Commission has set this time for
- 7 hearing in the matter of Application of Kansas City
- 8 Power & Light Company KCP&L Greater Missouri
- 9 Operations Company For The Issuance Of An
- 10 Accounting Authority Order Relating To Their
- 11 Electrical Operations And For A Contingent Waiver
- 12 Of The Notice Requirements of 4 CSR 240 dash 4.020,
- 13 section 2.
- 14 This is file number EU dash 2014 dash
- 15 0077. My name is Kim Burton, I'm the Regulatory
- 16 Law Judge that's been assigned to this matter. Our
- 17 court reporter for this matter is Suzanne Benoist
- 18 so let's go ahead and begin with entries of
- 19 appearance and we'll start with Kansas City Power &
- 20 Light.
- 21 MR. STEINER: Thank you Judge. Let
- 22 the record reflect the appearance of Roger W.
- 23 Steiner and James F. Fisher on behalf of both
- 24 Kansas City Power & Light Company and KCPL Greater
- 25 Missouri Operations Company. Our contact

		Page 19
1	information is on the written entry.	
2	Thank you.	
3	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.	
4	And for the Empire District Electric	
5	Company?	
6	MR. COOPER: Dean Cooper appearing on	
7	behalf of the Empire District Electric Company,	
8	address is with the court reporter.	
9	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.	
10	And for Ameren Missouri?	
11	MR. LOWERY: Good morning Your Honor.	
12	Jim Lowery with Smith Lewis, LLP appearing on	
13	behalf of Ameren Missouri, my contact information	
14	is also on the written entry.	
15	JUDGE BURTON: And for the Staff of	
16	the Missouri Public Service Commission.	
17	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you Judge.	
18	Kevin Thompson, Steve Dotthein and Whitney Hampton	
19	for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service	
20	Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City,	
21	Missouri 65102.	
22	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. And for	
23	the Office of Public Counsel?	
24	MR. MILLS: On behalf of the Office	
25	of Public Counsel and the public my name is Lewis	

Page 20 Mills, my address is Post Office Box 2230, 2 Jefferson City, MO 65102. 3 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. And for the Missouri Industrial 4 5 Energy Consumers. 6 For the MIEC Edward F. Downey, Bryan 7 Cave, LLP and my contact information is on the 8 written entry. 9 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 10 And for Missouri Energy Consumers 11 Group? 12 MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you Your Honor. 13 David Woodsmall appearing on behalf of MECG. 14 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 15 At this time I would request that everyone turn off their cell phone or any other 16 17 type of electronic device they might have to avoid any interference and I would also remind all of the 18 attorneys that if you have any highly confidential 19 information that you are going to be discussing 20 21 that you please remind the bench so that we can go ahead and go in camera and that you review those 22 that are attending this hearing in person that they 23 24 have signed a nondisclosure agreement. 25 Now at this time I want to verify are

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- 1 there any preliminary matters that the parties
- 2 would like to bring?
- 3 All right. Hearing none we should
- 4 have had all of the exhibits pre-marked. Now at
- 5 this time the Commission is going to go ahead and
- 6 grant the request for a waiver of the notice
- 7 requirements of 4 CSR 240 dash 4.020 section 2. So
- 8 I don't see any pending motions before us, let's go
- 9 ahead and verify the witness list for today and the
- 10 order for the opening statements. I have that
- order of opening statements as KCP&L and GMO, then
- 12 Empire, then Ameren Missouri, then the Staff of the
- 13 Public Service Commission, then the Office of
- 14 Public Counsel and then MIEC and MECG. Are there
- 15 any changes to that order?
- 16 Okay. Hearing none we have seven
- 17 witnesses that have been identified and this is
- 18 supposed to be a two day hearing and we can see how
- 19 things progress and whether or not we can finish
- 20 this in one day but I have the order as KCP&L and
- 21 GMO's witnesses Ryan Bresette, John Carlson and
- 22 Darrin Ives to be followed by the Staff's witnesses
- 23 of Michael Stahlman and Mark Oligschlaeger followed
- 24 by the Office of Public Counsel's witness of
- 25 William Adoo and the MECG and MIEC's witness of

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- 1 Greg Myer, is that correct?
- 2 All right. Hearing no changes let's
- 3 go ahead and verify that the order of cross
- 4 examination is going to be for KCP&L and GMO's
- 5 witnesses, Ameren Missouri, then Empire, then
- 6 Staff, then the Office of the Public Counsel, MIEC
- 7 and then MECG. Is that correct?
- 8 Okay. Are there any other changes to
- 9 the witness list and the order for cross
- 10 examinations?
- Okay then. Well at this time why
- 12 don't we go ahead and begin and either Roger
- 13 Steiner or Mr. Fischer if you'd like to go ahead.
- 14 And please let me know if you're going to be
- 15 presenting a PowerPoint for your opening statement
- 16 so we can go ahead and ensure that that's streamed
- 17 as well.
- 18 MR. FISCHER: Judge I have one and
- 19 it's already up there, so I think we'll be --
- JUDGE BURTON: It's actually not up
- 21 here for the lucky viewers at home so let's go
- 22 ahead and change that.
- MR. FISCHER: May it please the
- 24 Commission, good morning. My name is Jim Fischer
- 25 and Roger Steiner and I will be representing Kansas

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- 1 City Power & Light Company and KCPL Greater
- 2 Missouri Operations Company which we'll refer to as
- 3 GMO today.
- 4 The primary issue that we're going to
- 5 hear today is should the Commission authorize KCPL
- 6 and GMO to defer and record in account 182 certain
- 7 incremental transmission costs charged by them or
- 8 to them by Southwest Power Pool and other providers
- 9 of transmission service above the amounts that are
- 10 currently included in rates and then those would be
- 11 reviewed in the next rate cases that are filed by
- 12 Kansas City Power & Light and GMO. The companies
- 13 believe that these transmission costs are
- 14 appropriate candidates for the, for an Accounting
- 15 Authority Order or deferral or tracker mechanism
- 16 because they are material, they're expected to
- 17 change significantly in the near future and they're
- 18 primarily outside the control of the companies.
- 19 In addition given the unprecedented build-out
- 20 that's occurring at Southwest Power Pool today of
- 21 the regional transmission system these transmission
- 22 costs can appropriately be characterized as
- 23 extraordinary, nonrecurring and outside the control
- 24 of the companies.
- The Commission has broad regulatory

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- 1 discretion to grant AAO requests under various sets
- 2 of circumstances for various types of costs.
- 3 Recently the Commission granted Kansas City Power &
- 4 Light and GMO AAOs to defer to their Renewable
- 5 Energy Standards compliance costs and in the order
- 6 approving and incorporating the stipulation and
- 7 agreement in that case the Commission stated
- 8 although the courts have recognized the
- 9 Commission's authority to authorize an AAO in
- 10 extraordinary and unusual circumstances there's
- 11 nothing in the Public Service Commission law or the
- 12 Commission's regulations that would limit the
- 13 granting of an AAO to any particular set of
- 14 circumstances. In Missouri there is no statute or
- 15 Commission rule that specifically mentions utility
- 16 application for AAOs or that prescribe the specific
- 17 legal or regulatory principles that govern those
- 18 applications.
- 19 If you go to section 339.140 I think
- 20 that's where you got your authority. There are two
- 21 subsections, 4 and 8, that authorize the Commission
- 22 on a case by case basis and at its discretion to
- 23 prescribe by order forms of accounts, records and
- 24 memoranda kept by the utilities or after hearing to
- 25 prescribe by order the accounts to which particular

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- 1 outlays and receipts shall be intercharged and
- 2 credited. If you look at subsection 42 it also
- 3 bests the Commission with the authority to
- 4 prescribe uniform methods of keeping accounts,
- 5 records and books of utilities subject to your
- 6 jurisdiction. But nowhere in the statutes or in
- 7 the Commission's rules are there specific standards
- 8 that are set out that govern AAOs explicitly. Many
- 9 orders have addressed costs that are material,
- 10 expected to change significantly in the near future
- 11 and were primarily outside the control of the
- 12 utility.
- Now, if you go to some of the history
- 14 and you look at some of the subjects that have been
- 15 approved for AAOs or deferrals or other types of
- 16 trackers the list is long. The subjects have
- 17 included the Renewable Energy Standards costs that
- 18 I just mentioned, tornado costs, construction
- 19 accounting costs, Kansas property taxes on gas
- 20 storage, new equipment costs, ice storms, pensions
- 21 and OPEBs, cold weather rule costs, security costs,
- 22 uncollectible expenses, safety costs, plant
- 23 explosion costs, main replacement costs,
- 24 manufactured gas plant cleanup costs and FAS 106
- 25 costs and if you go to the rebuttal or surrebuttal

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- 1 testimony of Darrin Ives he's got a schedule that
- 2 lists a lot of other cases, some of the other cases
- 3 have included flood costs, purchase power expenses,
- 4 plan rehabilitation costs, coal contract buyout
- 5 costs and what's called AMM FN mapping costs. But
- 6 I'd refer you to that schedule for a more expansive
- 7 list.
- 8 So it's clear that the Commission has
- 9 in the past exercised its broad discretion to allow
- 10 for the deferral of many types of costs including
- 11 some that are considered extraordinary and
- 12 nonrecurring but many other that are material,
- 13 expected to significantly change in the near future
- 14 and primarily outside the control of the utilities.
- 15 The Commission specifically allowed just recently
- 16 Ameren Missouri to recover transmission costs
- 17 through its fuel adjustment clause.
- Now transmission costs can change
- 19 significantly from year to year and such costs are
- 20 a material cost of service to the companies.
- 21 Historically transmission costs have fluctuated due
- 22 primarily to load variations, both native load and
- off system load, however, the companies currently
- 24 are experiencing increasing costs as Southwest
- 25 Power Pool has embarked upon an extraordinary and

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- 1 unprecedented build-out of the regional
- 2 transmission system which I think the Commission is
- 3 quite familiar with the current effort at SPP to
- 4 build out the transmission system can be analogized
- 5 to the extraordinary build out of the interstate
- 6 highway system that was done back in the 1950s when
- 7 the federal government decided that it was
- 8 appropriate to build out the interstate highway
- 9 system to benefit the nation.
- 10 The direct testimony of John Carlson
- 11 includes tables that show rather dramatically how
- 12 the SPP transmission costs allocated to KCPL and
- 13 GMO have been rising and are projected to continue
- 14 to rise through the year 2019. Base plan
- 15 transmission costs allocated for KCPL were
- 16 approximately \$11 million for the calendar year
- 17 2012 and they're projected to increase to 35
- 18 million in 2016. SPP further projects KCPL's share
- 19 of the SPP transmission cost to peak at around 45
- 20 million in 2022. If you look at it that equates to
- 21 about a 16 percent increase per year through that
- 22 period.
- Now, in recent years the actual SPP
- 24 transmission costs have come in somewhat lower than
- 25 have been forecast, generally the forecasts have

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- 1 been lower or the forecasts have been lower than
- 2 the actual because the timing of some of the
- 3 transmission projects have been slightly delayed
- 4 but the projects are still going forward and they
- 5 haven't been abandoned.
- Now, under the Company's AAO proposal
- 7 it's the actual cost of the transmission system,
- 8 not the forecasted cost, that would be compared to
- 9 the, what's included in the existing rates.
- 10 Therefore it's the actual cost rather than fees for
- 11 costs that are really going to affect the AAO
- 12 mechanism itself. Both the actual cost for 2013
- 13 and the forecast for later years clearly show that
- 14 the transmission costs are going to be going up
- 15 substantially in the near future. But to reiterate
- 16 we're looking at actual costs compared to what's in
- 17 base rates, not the forecast.
- Now, for GMO, the sister company,
- 19 base plan transmission costs were about 5 million
- 20 for the year 2012 and they're projected to increase
- 21 to around 15 million in 2016 and peak at around 25
- 22 million in 2022. This again equates to about a 16
- 23 percent increase over that period. Significant
- 24 transmission cost increases that are outside the
- 25 Company's control due to SPP's transmission line

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- 1 expansion projects are negatively impacting KCPL
- 2 and GMO. These cost increases are above the
- 3 amounts that are included in rates in the last rate
- 4 cases. As such each incremental dollar spent above
- 5 the amount included in rates contributes to
- 6 regulatory lag and the companies have no ability
- 7 really to recover these incremental costs except by
- 8 filing time consuming and resource consuming rate
- 9 cases. At the end of 2013 KCPL had \$19.1 million
- 10 of transmission costs included in their rates but
- 11 the 2013 actual transmission costs are projected to
- 12 be 25.9 million for that year. Similarly GMO had
- 13 approximately 12.3 million included in its rates
- 14 but the actual expense is approximately 16.4
- 15 million for 2013.
- 16 In the last KCPL and GMO rate cases
- 17 the Company recommended a transmission tracker
- 18 mechanism. The Commission did deny that request as
- 19 a part of the rate proceeding finding that the
- 20 companies already had the authority to track
- 21 transmission costs without a specific order from
- 22 the Commission authorizing them to do so. Now,
- 23 unfortunately we believe the Commission may have
- 24 erred in that conclusion. In this proceeding Staff
- 25 witness Mark Oligschlaeger and the Company

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- 1 witnesses have agreed that the companies may not
- 2 book deferrals of these transmission costs without
- 3 an order from the Commission explicitly authorizing
- 4 the deferral. For this reason the companies are
- 5 again here requesting specific authority from the
- 6 Commission to defer these transmission expenses for
- 7 proper recovery in the next rate case.
- 8 Now second issue that we have relates
- 9 to carrying costs. If the AAO is granted there
- 10 will be a deferral of the Company's rising
- 11 transmission costs but the recovery won't occur
- 12 until some time down the road in the next rate
- 13 cases. There will clearly be a delay in recovering
- 14 the costs of the rates and we believe it's
- 15 projected to recognize that delay and recovery by
- 16 providing carrying costs. While the Staff
- 17 recommends that the companies not receive carrying
- 18 costs this Staff recommendation appears to be
- 19 designed to subject the companies to some amount of
- 20 regulatory lag associated with these transmission
- 21 costs. In reality of course there is a time value
- 22 to money for the delay in recovering these costs
- 23 that can and should be recognized through the
- 24 provision of carrying costs through the AAO. We
- 25 would request that appropriate carrying costs be

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- 1 included in your AAO authorization order.
- 2 The Staff has suggested seven
- 3 conditions for the Commission to consider if it
- 4 approves the transmission AAO. I'd like to discuss
- 5 them a little bit out of order.
- 6 Condition 5 is a standard condition
- 7 in all AAOs that I'm familiar with, that condition
- 8 is that all rate making considerations regarding
- 9 transmission expenses would be reserved for
- 10 consideration in the next KCPL and GMO rate cases.
- 11 This would also include a prudence review of those
- 12 particular expenses. This I think is a reasonable
- 13 condition, it's been adopted in most of the AAO
- 14 orders and the companies believe it's appropriate
- 15 for inclusion in this particular AAO authorization.
- 16 But other conditions being suggested by the Staff
- 17 seem to go well beyond the conditions that have
- 18 been previously approved in AAOs. These conditions
- 19 we believe are unnecessary and are more restrictive
- 20 than the conditions that have historically been
- 21 approved by the Commission and we request that you
- 22 decline to include those in your AAO authorization.
- One of the conditions suggests that
- 24 the Commission turn on and turn off the deferral
- 25 based on whether surveillance reports are indicated

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- 1 the companies were earning in excess of their
- 2 authorized ROEs. Now this condition has never been
- 3 adopted to my knowledge by the Commission in any
- 4 AAO order and it would be quite problematic for the
- 5 industry if that was implemented. It largely
- 6 defeats the purpose of the AAO mechanism and is
- 7 essentially a rate making determination without the
- 8 benefit of a review of the prudence of the costs in
- 9 the general rate case. Surveillance reports that
- 10 are typically filed by the companies do not make
- 11 adjustments that are necessary to get a very
- 12 accurate assessment of the earnings levels and one
- of the best examples is weather. These
- 14 surveillance reports do not adjust for weather.
- 15 If the surveillance reports are adjusted for
- 16 weather it can substantially reflect the level of
- 17 earnings and then for electric companies like
- 18 Kansas City Power & Light and Ameren that have
- 19 nuclear facilities the surveillance reports do not
- 20 adjust for refueling outages at the nuclear plant,
- 21 the cycles will be approved for refueling. Such
- 22 refueling events will substantially affect the
- 23 level of earnings as well and then of course in
- 24 rate cases we have many other appropriate
- 25 adjustments that are not taken into account on the

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- 1 raw data that is filed on these surveillance
- 2 reports but the unadjusted surveillance reports
- 3 typically filed by the companies or submitted to
- 4 the Staff just don't include sufficient detail with
- 5 those adjustments to be used to turn on or turn off
- 6 a deferral in an AAO.
- 7 Now another condition the Staff has
- 8 suggested relates to a cost benefit analysis of
- 9 participating in the RTO. Staff has suggested that
- 10 the companies maintain an ongoing analysis and
- 11 quantification of all benefits and savings
- 12 associated with participation in the, in SPP not
- 13 otherwise passed on to ratepayers between general
- 14 rate cases. In past proceedings where the issue
- 15 was whether the Company should actually continue to
- 16 participate in SPP such complex studies have been
- 17 filed but these studies required several months of
- 18 data compilation and documentation and if we have
- 19 outside experts, outside consultants that put those
- 20 together these types of studies can cost several
- 21 hundred thousands of dollars.
- Now, Mark Oligschlaeger of the Staff
- 23 seems to recognize how difficult this condition
- 24 could be to implement when he testifies that the
- 25 Company should maintain this documentation to the

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- 1 best of their ability. Figuring out the benefits
- 2 embedded in rates versus the benefits that are not
- 3 included in rates would be particularly difficult
- 4 to do. The companies for KCPL and GMO are already
- 5 scheduled to provide these cost benefit analyses in
- 6 2017 in the next proceeding that will be looking at
- 7 whether they should continue to participate in SPP,
- 8 and finally I just note that federal policy is
- 9 certainly encouraging the development of regional
- 10 transmission organizations like SPP and MISO and
- 11 the horse is gone on that, we need to be
- 12 participating in these. It's not necessary to add
- 13 this condition for the AAO in our opinion.
- 14 Another Staff condition is, seems to
- 15 be particularly inappropriate is the Staff's
- 16 condition that the companies maintain the
- 17 documentation of their efforts to minimize the
- 18 transmission costs. That's not the appropriate
- 19 goal, to minimize the costs. Minimizing
- 20 transmission costs could result in the under
- 21 development of the transmission system and it could
- 22 result in overall increased costs to consumers.
- 23 Instead the goal rather than minimizing it should
- 24 be to optimize the expenditures to provide the best
- 25 value to the customer. This is the goal that the

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- 1 companies are pursuing and working to ensure
- 2 through their active participation at SPP and that
- 3 active participation is discussed in quite a bit of
- 4 detail in the Company's testimony in the case.
- 5 The Staff and the other parties have
- 6 the ability to review the extensive information,
- 7 public documentation that's produced by SPP that
- 8 provide the explanation for their efforts to build
- 9 out the transmission system. In addition the
- 10 Commission's own advisory staff, the Public Counsel
- 11 and other stakeholders currently monitor the
- 12 committee's activities at SPP and like the
- 13 companies they have input into decisions regarding
- 14 transmission projects and the cost allocation
- 15 process. We think that further conditions along
- 16 this line are not helpful.
- 17 Similarly the Staff has the ability
- 18 and the time to review any and all transmission
- 19 costs that are deferred as a part of the AAO in the
- 20 Company's next rate cases. Without these kinds of
- 21 reporting requirements that are requested in this
- 22 certain condition. It's not necessary to condition
- 23 the AAO income on the Company's providing now on a
- 24 monthly basis all billings from SPP and the copies
- of all SPP rate schedules, that kind of thing will

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- 1 be available in the rate cases when we all have
- 2 time to review them.
- Now Staff's sixth condition is
- 4 requesting that any deferral on KCPL or GMO's books
- 5 on transmission costs should begin to be amortized
- 6 over a 60 month period in the first few months
- 7 following the improvement of any AAOs or trackers.
- 8 Now these amortizations are what I think of as
- 9 write-offs under this condition would begin
- 10 immediately and full recovery of the costs could
- 11 not occur. This condition is contrary we think to
- 12 the overall purpose of the AAO which is to provide
- 13 a deferral of incremental transmission costs above
- 14 those that are included in rates to be considered
- 15 for a full recovery in the rate case. This
- 16 particular condition would limit the ability of the
- 17 companies to fully recover its incremental
- 18 transmission costs and that's because ASC 980 dash
- 19 10 or what used to be called statement 71 requires
- 20 a rate regulating utility to capitalize as a
- 21 regulatory asset any current costs that would
- 22 otherwise be charged to expense if future recovery
- 23 rates is probable.
- Now as Company witness Ryan Bresette
- 25 explains in his direct testimony whether a

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- 1 regulatory asset is probable of recovery is a
- 2 matter of professional judgment and there are
- 3 several things that they look at. Whether rate
- 4 orders, whether the regulators specifically
- 5 authorize recovery of such costs and rates,
- 6 previous rate orders from the regulator allowing
- 7 recovery of similar or substantially similar costs,
- 8 written approval from the regulator approving
- 9 future recovery rates, those are some things they
- 10 would look at. If the Staff's amortization
- 11 condition was accepted it would be problematic for
- 12 the companies to establish the regulatory asset in
- 13 this case under the guidelines that are discussed
- 14 by Mr. Bresette.
- The Staff's sixth condition begins
- 16 amortization before the conclusion of the next
- 17 general rate case and that's really the problem.
- 18 It would ensure that the companies would not be
- 19 able to fully recover the prudently incurred
- 20 transmission costs until after the next rate case
- 21 was, or they wouldn't be able to do it at that
- 22 point because they would have already amortized
- 23 whatever the number of months were before the rate
- 24 case actually was completed. This would impair the
- 25 Company's ability to fully defer transmission costs

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- 1 into the regulatory asset thereby defeating the
- 2 purpose of the AAO. We believe for that reason it
- 3 shouldn't be accepted.
- 4 The next condition is another one
- 5 that we believe should not be adapted, the Staff
- 6 condition that the tracker reflect both
- 7 transmission revenues and expenses and thereby be
- 8 based on the level of net transmission costs
- 9 experienced by Kansas City Power & Light and GMO is
- 10 just not appropriate in this case. The
- 11 transmission revenues are closely linked with the
- 12 costs to own and maintain transmission facilities.
- 13 The transmission revenues result from their
- 14 ownership and they are used as an offset to own and
- 15 maintain those transmission facilities. So in
- 16 calculating the revenue requirement both of these
- 17 components need to either be included, the costs
- 18 and the revenues, or excluded so that they're
- 19 properly matched but the companies have proposed to
- 20 exclude both the revenues and ownership components
- 21 of the local, the local transmission projects in
- 22 their AAO and track only the transmission service
- 23 charges, the most significant of which come from,
- 24 directly from SPP on those regional projects so
- 25 we're talking about leaving out the costs and the

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- 1 revenues related to the local ownership but
- 2 including the cost of the SPP regional transmission
- 3 projects. These are the costs that are incurred by
- 4 the companies to, as a transmission customer and
- 5 not a transmission owner so that's the distinction
- 6 we're trying to make. The transmission customer,
- 7 KCPL, versus the transmission owner. As the
- 8 transmission customer we include those costs in the
- 9 AAO.
- 10 Transmission owner costs and revenues
- 11 are more appropriately dealt with in the true-up of
- 12 the general rate case as we've done in the past and
- 13 more importantly the transmission ownership costs
- 14 and revenues of local transmission projects need to
- 15 be recovered consistently or matched to ensure
- 16 appropriate adequate recovery.
- Now, one of the witnesses for the
- 18 industrials has attempted to interject a couple of
- 19 isolated facts such as decreasing capital costs,
- 20 depreciation on existing plant and the unadjusted
- 21 data in GMO's surveillance reports in this case. I
- 22 think he refers to those as mitigating
- 23 circumstances. From our perspective there are no
- 24 mitigating circumstances affecting the current
- 25 operations and earnings levels of Kansas City Power

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- 1 & Light or GMO that are relevant for the Company's
- 2 request for an AAO in this case. The Commission in
- 3 the past has not considered any mitigating
- 4 circumstances when it considered the AAO request
- 5 nor has it used unadjusted surveillance reports for
- 6 a handful of months that conclude that, to conclude
- 7 that AAOs are not appropriate. Instead that, those
- 8 kinds of things have been left for the rate cases
- 9 where you consider all relevant factors in deciding
- 10 what rate levels should be and we believe the
- 11 Commission should continue this longstanding
- 12 practice in this case.
- 13 I've prepared just a brief summary of
- 14 the reasons why we think the AAO should be approved
- 15 and I'd like to have that marked as just an
- 16 illustrative or demonstrative exhibit.
- 17 Just to summerize one of the reasons
- 18 that we need to have the AAO is the increasing
- 19 transmission costs are a very real concern of the
- 20 utilities and we believe they, as I've mentioned,
- 21 are appropriate candidates for an AAO because they
- 22 are material to the Company's earnings and they're
- 23 expected to change significantly in the near future
- 24 and they're primarily outside the control of the
- 25 utilities. But in order to accomplish that, in

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1	order to defer we need the Commission to
2	specifically give the companies authorization to
3	defer the incremental transmission costs.
4	General instruction number 7 that was
5	referenced in the Company's last report and order
6	in the rate cases does not provide for automatic
7	deferral of transmission costs. We believe the
8	transmission intended the company to be able to
9	defer those costs because they are in excess of
10	five percent, in that order they said if we were
11	over five percent we don't need to get specific
12	approval but we believe the Commission may have
13	relied on an inaccurate application of general
14	instruction number 7 in that ruling. As I've said
15	there aren't standards that would limit the
16	Commission's discretion to grant an AAO in this
17	case, Commission has broad regulatory discretion to
18	determine each AAO request based upon the specific
19	circumstances of that request. While there have
20	been orders that have addressed extraordinary and
21	nonrecurring costs many orders, other orders have
22	addressed costs that are material, expected to
23	change significantly in the near future and were
24	primarily outside the control of the utility.

Historically transmission costs have

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1	fluctuated as load variations have changed but what
2	makes the current environment so different and
3	extraordinary is that the current unprecedented and
4	extraordinary escalation of these transmission
5	costs related to the effort to substantially expand
6	the transmission system, particularly the SPP
7	region. As I've said these expenses are expected
8	to be going up significantly through the year 2022.
9	KCPL and GMO don't have a mechanism
10	in place currently to recover these substantial
11	increases unlike Ameren that includes them in a
12	fuel adjustment clause or in contrast to the other
13	SPP states that have riders in place to recover
14	these transmission costs, thus the companies should
15	be allowed to defer these types of costs as
16	compared to the level and rates for potential, for
1,7	a potential look at the next rate case and whether
18	they should be included for rate recovery.
19	Every incremental dollar above what's
20	included in rates contributes to regulatory lag and
21	the companies have no ability to recover these
22	costs except to file these time consuming and
23	resource consuming rate cases. An AAO mechanism
24	would allow, would be a mechanism to limit the
25	amount of the year to year increases that could be,

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- 1 could be needed to fully recover transmission costs
- 2 impact to the Company.
- Now, some parties in the case have
- 4 raised the question well, should it be an AAO or a
- 5 tracker? Simply put the companies requested
- 6 symmetrical deferral from the amounts included in
- 7 rates. If we have more included in, if the actuals
- 8 come in higher than what's included in rates we
- 9 would reflect that a regulatory asset, if it would
- 10 turn out that there would be less than is included
- 11 rates we would reflect that difference as well in a
- 12 regulatory liability.
- 13 As I mentioned we expect it to be
- 14 more than what has been included in rates by far
- 15 but, some folks have suggested well, shouldn't you
- 16 call that a tracker. From the Company's
- 17 perspective doesn't matter whether it's an AAO or a
- 18 tracker, the point is we need a deferral of these
- 19 costs and the companies would certainly accept
- 20 either an AAO or a tracker.
- 21 And the other major issue or major
- 22 point I would make is that the disposition of any
- 23 approved deferral would be determined in the next
- 24 Company rate case so you would decide the merits of
- 25 whether these costs should be included the next

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- 1 time the companies come in for rate case treatment.
- 2 The Company's request simply preserves the
- 3 opportunity for the Commission to review these
- 4 costs in the future rate case and allows the
- 5 companies to defer those costs until the Commission
- 6 has the time to review those.
- 7 And as I've mentioned the conditions
- 8 proposed by Staff are not necessary and they're
- 9 more onerous and restrictive than the historical
- 10 practice and we think they should be rejected.
- 11 These conditions are really an attempt I think to
- 12 reduce transmission costs. An AAO should be
- 13 granted without conditions except for that standard
- 14 condition that I mentioned that would preserve rate
- 15 making considerations on the next rate case.
- And I would also point you to the
- 17 Ameren decision which was recently handed down. In
- 18 that case the Commission stated those costs meet
- 19 the Commission's past practice for inclusion in the
- 20 fuel adjustment clause in that they are significant
- 21 in amount, volatile in that they are not only
- 22 rapidly rising but also uncertain in amount and
- 23 they're largely beyond the control of Ameren
- 24 Missouri. The Commission finds that MISO
- 25 transmission costs should be included or should

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- 1 continue to be flowed through Ameren Missouri's
- 2 fuel adjustment cause. Similarly we believe that
- 3 KCPL and GMO should not be subjected to significant
- 4 regulatory lag and under recovery of these costs to
- 5 transmit electricity to the load they serve.
- 6 So in conclusion I would just ask the
- 7 Commission to implement the transmission accounting
- 8 the authority order as proposed by the Company, the
- 9 transmission costs requested by the companies for
- 10 deferral are the same type of transmission costs
- 11 that are found to be appropriate for the fuel
- 12 adjustment clause mechanism and we would request
- 13 that KCPL and GMO be given the opportunity to fully
- 14 recover prudently incurred SPP transmission costs
- 15 after the next general rate case.
- 16 I've got three witnesses today, Ryan
- 17 Bresette, John Carlson and Darrin Ives and they're
- 18 going to be available to answer hopefully your
- 19 questions as I am today.
- Thank you very much for your
- 21 attention.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 23 Excuse me Mr. Fischer, can you come
- 24 back?
- MR. FISCHER: Yes.

Page 46 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Kenney 1 2 has a question. 3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: First one, I have two short questions. The first is more 4 5 curiosity, why is GMO projected to have such an extreme increase between 2011 and 2022? 6 7 MR. FISCHER: I would ask you to ask 8 John Carlson that question. COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Next is how do 9 you describe these costs that they're nonrecurring? 10 MR. FISCHER: They're nonrecurring in 11 12 the sense that we're experiencing an unprecedented 13 build-out of the transmission system at this time and in history. Now we certainly have had 14 15 transmission costs in the past and to that extent you can say yeah, there's been recurring costs but 16 17 they've never been at this level, never been projected to be a build-out like this. 18 19 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: But they're going to continue in the future, right? These 20 21 costs are just going to continue. MR. FISCHER: They will continue in 22 23 the future and they'll continue to be an issue of how do we deal with those increases. I mean at 24

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some point you could include them in a fuel

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Page 47 adjustment clause like Ameren has but that will 1 2 continue to be an issue down the road. 3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank 4 you. 5 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Hall do 6 you have any questions? 7 Thank you. 8 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. JUDGE BURTON: Next we'll have Mr. 9 Cooper for the Empire District Electric Company. 10 MR. COOPER: Thank you. 11 12 Empire agrees with KCPL and GMO that the increasing transmission costs related to 13 infrastructure upgraded projects are a very real 14 15 concern for electric utilities. An increasing cost such as this is difficult if not impossible to 16 17 capture in a traditional historic rate case situation. If the Commission doesn't address this 18 issue in some fashion outside the traditional rate 19 20 case the companies will have no reasonable 21 opportunity to recover much of their necessary and 22 substantial transmission costs. One step towards changing that situation is the grant of the AAO 23 24 that's been requested by KCPL and GMO and which Empire supports, however, regardless of whether the 25

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- 1 Commission grants an AAO, establishes a tracker or
- 2 takes some other approach Empire believes that this
- 3 is a situation that must be addressed by the
- 4 Commission outside the traditional rate case
- 5 process.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- Next we hear from Ameren Missouri.
- 8 MR. LOWERY: Good morning, may it
- 9 please the Commission. Again I'm Jim Lowery and
- 10 represent Ameren Missouri in this case.
- 11 I think Commissioner Kenney getting
- 12 sort of your second question, something that I was
- 13 actually going to talk about this morning. We now
- 14 live and operate in an electric industry that is
- 15 much different than the industry that we've
- 16 operated in over the past several decades. That's
- 17 true in several areas of the electric utility
- 18 business but it's particularly true in the
- 19 transmission part of the business. Our
- 20 transmission systems were built out over the past
- 21 several decades in the post World War II expansion,
- 22 when we had suburbanization of the country, air
- 23 conditioning loads came on, houses got bigger and
- 24 we built a transmission system for a singular
- 25 purpose at that time and that was to get the power

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- 1 from the power plants, our central station power
- 2 plants that we built, to our load centers, that's
- 3 why we had the transmission system and that's why
- 4 it was built out. In the past 10 to 15 years the
- 5 FERC has issued a series of orders that are just
- 6 now leading what are a new or second phase of the
- 7 evolution of the transmission system in this
- 8 country. That second phase is producing tens of
- 9 billions of dollars of 345 KV or above transmission
- 10 projects that must be built and that must be paid
- 11 for by RTO participants and non-RTO participants
- 12 alike under FERC recent order 1000. These aren't
- 13 the ordinary transmission charges associated with
- 14 that phase one of the evolution of the system that
- 15 I spoke of. I read other party's position
- 16 statements, I see the debate in the testimony and
- 17 there is a lot of debate about whether the charges
- 18 that are issued in this case are quote,
- 19 extraordinary. Aside from the fact that there's no
- 20 hard and fast rule that says for an AAO you have to
- 21 have a quote, extraordinary cost, or you must meet
- 22 a particular definition.
- I would submit that these
- 24 transmission charges that we're talking about here
- 25 today are extraordinary. If you look at Webster's

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- 1 dictionary Webster tells us that something is
- 2 extraordinary if quote, it is noticeably different
- 3 from what is generally found or experienced. I
- 4 would submit that these are not charges that we've
- 5 generally found or that we generally experience.
- 6 It is true that large build-out will not last
- 7 forever but while this second build-out is
- 8 occurring and it's probably going to occur over the
- 9 next decade or so, this bow wave of tens of
- 10 billions of dollars of projects when we build this
- 11 sort of second phase of the transmission system
- 12 we're going to see and we're already starting to
- 13 see a rapid step change in these transmission
- 14 charges. We have to pay them and despite arguments
- 15 and protestations to the contrary the evidence will
- 16 show that we, we being the utilities, don't have
- 17 very much control over them and we certainly don't
- 18 have the measure of control over these charges that
- 19 we do over some of our other costs. These
- 20 realities, these developments in our industry is
- 21 why Ameren Missouri is a party to this case and why
- 22 we believe that it's appropriate the Commission
- 23 continue to utilize the tools that it has to
- 24 address the charges the second phase of
- 25 transmission system build-out are generating for

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- 1 utilities. Ameren Missouri's extremely
- 2 appreciative of the fact that the Commission did in
- 3 fact utilize one of those tools in its last rate
- 4 case with respect to these charges, we can
- 5 certainly understand why the KCP&L companies have
- 6 made the requests that they've made in this case.
- 7 A request as Mr. Fischer indicated that I might add
- 8 probably wouldn't be necessary had there not have
- 9 been what I agree is a misapplication of general
- 10 instruction 7 in the last KCPL rate cases.
- 11 Now while I won't go into detail
- 12 about them I'd also like to echo a few things Mr.
- 13 Fischer said about these conditions that the Staff
- 14 has proposed and we've stated our position on all
- of them in our position statements. We've
- 16 explained why in combination they are
- inappropriate, illogical, unworkable in certain
- 18 cases, arbitrary and in at least one case based
- 19 upon the wrong premise. The issue in an AAO case
- 20 and the issue here is whether KCPL Company should
- 21 be able to allow the deferral that they seek, it's
- 22 not to pre-judge various other factors that over
- 23 the last 25 years many parties have tried to inject
- 24 in AAO cases which the Commission in its decisions
- 25 has recognized I think wisely are not particularly

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- 1 helpful or not particularly relevant in an AAO
- 2 case. The Commission in this case as it has done I
- 3 think in just about every other contested AAO case
- 4 that I've read should retain its focus on whether
- 5 under the circumstances of this case given the
- 6 unprecedented build-out of the transmission system
- 7 that we are all facing the AAO ought to be granted.
- I want to thank you very much for
- 9 allowing the Company to participate in this case.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you very much
- 11 Mr. Lowery.
- 12 Next we'll here from the Staff of the
- 13 Missouri Public Service Commission.
- MR. THOMPSON: Thank you Judge.
- 15 May it please the Commission. This
- 16 is a case about accounting. This is a case about
- 17 accounting and what the applicants seek is
- 18 permission to do something other than what the
- 19 normal accounting rules require. It's an
- 20 accounting case, they want permission to deviate
- 21 from the normal rules. The companies are concerned
- 22 they tell you with rising transmission costs. The
- 23 companies want to defer that part of the rising
- 24 costs that exceed the amount of transmission costs
- 25 that are included in base rates, base rates that

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- 1 were set in these company's last general rate case.
- 2 Since the rate case ended and the rates took effect
- 3 costs have gone up, the rates set in that case
- 4 don't provide for full recovery of these now
- 5 increasing costs, they want permission to deviate
- from the normal accounting rules and defer that
- 7 unrecovered increase for later consideration, and
- 8 they want carrying costs added to the deferred
- 9 amount so that like a plant it will grow so that
- 10 when the day comes to consider them for recovery in
- 11 a general rate case it will actually be a larger
- 12 amount than was originally deferred, right?
- 13 Because it will have accrued interest from the
- 14 carrying costs that they request. So that's what's
- 15 in front of you.
- 16 The Accounting Authority Order is a
- 17 well known and often used tool of utility
- 18 regulation, it authorizes a departure from normal
- 19 accounting rules as I explained, it's authorized by
- 20 section 393, 140.8, sub 8, which says that after
- 21 hearing the Commission can direct how any
- 22 particular transaction is to be accounted. A
- 23 sister provision mentioned by Mr. Fischer, section
- 24 393.140 sub 4 authorizes you to specify how the
- 25 accounting system of the utility will work. So you

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- 1 see, one lets you prescribe the system, the other
- 2 lets you decide how any particular transaction will
- 3 be accounted for and the latter requires a hearing.
- 4 Now, the reason for a hearing is of
- 5 course to make a record, to take evidence, and if
- 6 there's a challenge to the decision you make the
- 7 Court will judge it as to whether first it's lawful
- 8 and second is it reasonable. Well, the
- 9 Commission's decision would be lawful because as
- 10 I've just pointed out there's a specific statute
- 11 that authorizes you to take this action. But what
- 12 about reasonable? What does reasonable mean when a
- 13 court reviews a decision of the Public Service
- 14 Commission? Reasonable means supported by
- 15 substantial evidence on the record, not arbitrary
- 16 and capricious, not whimsical, not oppressive.
- 17 That's what reasonable means according to the
- 18 decisions of the appellate courts that have
- 19 reviewed the actions of this Commission. So when
- 20 you are told by Mr. Fischer and Mr. Cooper and Mr.
- 21 Lowery that there is no standard, no particular
- 22 standard governing what you do on this decision I
- 23 suggest that's not quite true. Your decision has
- 24 to be reasonable. It has to be based on
- 25 substantial evidence, it has to make sense so as to

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- 1 not be arbitrary and capricious, it has to be
- 2 rational, it has to be intended to serve an
- 3 acceptable regulatory purpose, an acceptable or
- 4 rational regulatory purpose. So the first question
- 5 is why are the companies asking to do this? I mean
- 6 the costs are going up, we recognize that, well, as
- 7 those costs go up beyond the level that's included
- 8 in base rates what is happening is that the profits
- 9 are being squeezed, right? If your cost of doing
- 10 business is rising and you can't raise your prices
- 11 then the amount of the profit is going to be
- 12 reduced. Normally when a utility company faces
- 13 rising operating costs they file a rate case,
- 14 that's how you deal with rising operating costs,
- 15 you file a rate case because that way the
- 16 Commission can consider all the relevant factors,
- 17 that is every type of cost, every type of revenue.
- 18 I mean we don't know what efficiencies these
- 19 companies might be putting in place, we don't know
- 20 which of their costs have gone down, where they're
- 21 saving money by being more efficient, you just
- 22 don't know that now.
- In the past this Commission has often
- 24 considered AAOs by applying a standard that the
- 25 Commission has itself developed requiring that the

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2 extraordinary they don't mean amazing, it simply 3 means unusual, unique, nonrecurring. In other words not a normal type of cost. The reason being 4 5 if you're going to depart from the normal prescribed accounting rules there has to be a good 6 7 reason to do that. Why would you depart from those 8 rules? Well, because something unusual, something unique, something nonrecurring has happened. The perfect example is the ice storm. Every electric 10 11 utility in Missouri has to be prepared for winter 12 storms, has to be prepared for ice storms that just 13 put service out for many, many customers, they have to have the supplies, they have to have the crews, 14 15 they have to have the trucks to go out and restore 16 service as quickly as possible. Sometimes those

ice storms are of unexpected dimension, St. Louis

has suffered a couple of those. Then the Company

may spend more money restoring service than they

company to spend that money to restore service as

planned for, maybe quite a bit more money, and

because the Commission wants to encourage the

quickly as possible the Commission readily has

costs to be deferred be extraordinary.

- 24 granted AAOs in the past to cover those unexpected
- 25 ice storm costs, even though an ice storm is

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- 1 expected in general and restoring service after a
- 2 storm is an ordinary cost of doing business if
- 3 you're an electric company. Well, transmission
- 4 costs are an ordinary part of doing business if
- 5 you're an electric company. They're not
- 6 extraordinary in the sense of being nonrecurring,
- 7 they're not extraordinary in the sense of being
- 8 unusual and they're not extraordinary in the sense
- 9 of being unique, in fact they are common and this
- 10 regime of increased transmission costs, Mr.
- 11 Oligschlaeger has testified, is likely to be the
- 12 case for some years to come. It's going to be the
- 13 way it is. So I ask you why aren't these companies
- 14 filing a rate case? They would tell you that well,
- 15 the amount's material, meaning it's significant,
- 16 it's enough for them to care about, to be worried
- 17 about, after all they brought the case, they made
- 18 Mr. Fischer to be here but if it's that material,
- 19 if it's that much money why aren't they filing a
- 20 general rate case? That's what you do when normal
- 21 everyday operating expenses increase and squeeze
- 22 your profits, you file a rate case. AAOs, the
- 23 Commission has said, should be granted sparingly,
- 24 sparingly, because they're a departure from the
- 25 rules the Commission has prescribed for accounting.

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- 1 They're a deviation so it shouldn't happen all that
- 2 often, it shouldn't happen easily, there should be
- 3 a good reason to do it. Staff doesn't think
- 4 there's a good reason here. Staff doesn't think
- 5 the amount of these charges is significant enough
- 6 to qualify for this treatment, Staff as I've said
- 7 doesn't think these charges are extraordinary in
- 8 the accounting sense. They are recurring, they are
- 9 usual, they're in no way unique.
- 10 So the first issue before you is what
- 11 standard to apply, what standard to apply to the
- 12 decision. We suggest you apply the standards
- 13 described in the Sibley case, that it be
- 14 extraordinary, unique, nonrecurring. And the
- 15 Sibley case is at 1 MoPSC 3rd, page 200, dated
- 16 2/19/91.
- 17 The second issue before you is
- 18 whether this particular AAO request should be
- 19 granted. Staff says no for the reasons that I've
- 20 already discussed. These are common, ordinary
- 21 operating expenses, sure, they are increasing but
- 22 that should trigger a rate case, that should not
- 23 trigger an AAO.
- 24 There's a subordinate issue to issue
- 25 number 2 which is whether there are mitigating

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- 1 factors. This has been injected by the industrial
- 2 intervenors and Staff has no opinion on that point
- 3 and I won't mention it further.
- 4 The third issue is the carrying
- 5 costs, whether the deferred amount should you grant
- 6 the deferral, whether the deferred amount should
- 7 grow until such time as its actually visited.
- 8 Staff's position is the carrying costs should not
- 9 be granted. Sure, there is a time value of money
- 10 but just by granting a deferral you would be
- 11 providing quite a benefit to this company. You
- 12 would be taking normal operating expense increases
- 13 that otherwise would just be lost and setting them
- 14 aside for possible recovery in a rate case, that's
- 15 a benefit right there. It allows the Company for
- 16 example to have a rosier picture in its financial
- 17 reports than it otherwise would because that
- 18 expense isn't going to go to expense, instead it's
- 19 going to be capitalized as a regulatory asset and
- 20 with the order of this Commission allowing it, well
- 21 those outside independent third party auditors
- 22 would accept that treatment. So no carrying costs.
- The fourth issue is simply whether if
- 24 deferral is granted the disposition of the deferred
- 25 amount should be taken up in a future rate case.

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- 1 Well, that is the typical fate of deferred amounts
- 2 under an AAO. Certainly recovery, meaning putting
- 3 the amount deferred into rates to charge to
- 4 customers, can only happen in a rate case.
- 5 The fifth issue is whether gosh,
- 6 should they get a tracker instead of an AAO? Let's
- 7 think about that. First of all you have already
- 8 denied these companies exactly that tracker in
- 9 their last rate case. They asked for it, you said
- 10 no. Now they're getting another bite at that
- 11 apple. Secondly, trackers to our knowledge have
- 12 never been granted outside of a rate case. Can you
- 13 grant a tracker in this case? I think that's a
- 14 valid question and it's one that we don't know the
- 15 answer to. Thirdly, in Staff's view these costs
- 16 don't qualify for a tracker either. They don't
- 17 qualify for an AAO, they don't qualify for a
- 18 tracker. Why is that? They're not unduly
- 19 volatile, they're not impossible to estimate,
- 20 they're not the result of a government mandate,
- 21 they don't qualify for tracker treatment.
- 22 Finally, we come to the conditions.
- 23 The Company agrees with one condition which is the
- 24 standard language that nothing in this order shall
- 25 be construed as to be governing the rate making

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- 1 treatment of the amount deferred. We agree on that
- 2 point. First let's talk about offsetting revenues.
- 3 Mr. Fischer has told you it would be unfair, it
- 4 would be unfair to net these increased transmission
- 5 costs against the related transmission revenues.
- 6 He says it would be unfair because those revenues
- 7 in fact relate not to those costs but instead to
- 8 what he calls ownership costs, just the cost of
- 9 having transmission assets and operating them and
- 10 maintaining them. Well, I suggest to you that
- 11 that's not true. Those ownership costs in fact are
- 12 recovered through base rates. They're part of the
- 13 revenue requirement that is baked into rates in the
- 14 rate case. So they're already getting all the
- 15 proper recompense for those ownership costs so the
- 16 transmission revenues absolutely should be netted
- 17 against the transmission cost increases just as
- 18 they are for Ameren Missouri in their Fuel
- 19 Adjustment Clause.
- 20 Secondly, information that the
- 21 applicants should provide copies of billings,
- 22 copies of revenues and other information allowing
- 23 Staff and the other stakeholders to monitor the
- 24 amounts that are being deferred. I think that's
- 25 reasonable. If you're going to give them a

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- 1 special, extraordinary treatment for what are after
- 2 all ordinary operating costs then the other people,
- 3 the ones that are paying them, ought to have a
- 4 chance to keep an eye on those amounts.
- 5 The third condition has to do with
- 6 benefits and savings from participation in the SPP.
- 7 You know, when they asked for permission to join
- 8 SPP and when they have asked subsequently for
- 9 permission to continue to participate in the SPP
- 10 they have provided cost benefits analyses that show
- 11 that the benefits of this participation to Missouri
- 12 and Missouri ratepayers will exceed the costs.
- 13 Well, these transmission expenses that we're here
- 14 talking about, those are the costs, those are the
- 15 costs of SPP participation so where are the
- 16 benefits? Is it unreasonable to ask that the
- 17 benefits that they have so confidentially told us
- 18 exist, that they should actually be tracked, that
- 19 they should be reported, that they should be noted
- 20 so that the Commission perhaps might offset them in
- 21 a future rate case against these charges that are
- 22 carried forward for possible recovery? I think
- 23 that is a very reasonable condition as well.
- 24 The next condition is cost
- 25 minimization. Cost minimization, you know, the

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- 1 danger in a deferral of ordinary operating costs
- 2 increases is that it reduces the incentive the
- 3 Company otherwise has to operate efficiently. If I
- 4 have a business and my cost of business is going up
- 5 and I can't raise my prices for some reason I'm
- 6 going to think about what I can do to reduce other
- 7 costs. I might lay somebody off, I might defer
- 8 some type of expansion or maintenance, I might
- 9 reduce my salary, I might take any number of steps
- 10 that are available to me to get more done at less
- 11 cost. Well, if we're going to give them this
- 12 extraordinary treatment of ordinary operating cost
- increase, this deferral, it's only reasonable that
- 14 they should show what are they doing to keep those
- 15 costs down? What are they doing to be efficient,
- what are they doing to minimize those costs?
- 17 Skipping over condition number five
- 18 that we actually agree on, condition number six is
- 19 the immediate start to the amortization. This is
- 20 not at all unusual with a, an amount deferred
- 21 through an AAO. It is not an unusual condition.
- 22 The Commission in the past when granting these
- 23 deferrals has often directed that amortization
- 24 start immediately over some period of time.
- 25 Sometimes it's 60 months, sometimes it's 120,

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- 1 whatever seems best to the Commission at the time
- 2 based on the type of charge that it is. Why?
- 3 Because it puts the Company in the position of
- 4 having to act, having to come in for that rate case
- 5 before too much of the deferred amount has
- 6 amortized away. They shouldn't be allowed to hoard
- 7 this amortized amount until they reach whatever
- 8 point in their internal estimation is the best time
- 9 to file that rate case. It's a wasting asset. We
- 10 think that's a reasonable condition too.
- 11 The final condition has to do with
- 12 halting any deferral if they're over earning. They
- don't like that one a bit but it might be hard to
- 14 implement, and I agree, I agree, the surveillance
- 15 reports do not give you exactly the same figures
- 16 that you get in a rate case when you're trying to
- 17 determine what the actual return on equity has been
- 18 over a period of time. There are adjustments that
- 19 have to be made but those adjustments can be made.
- 20 That information on the surveillance report can be
- 21 converted into regulatory return. If they are over
- 22 earning, if they are earning above the authorized
- 23 return on equity, why then do they need an
- 24 extraordinary deferral? Why then do they need help
- 25 recovering all of this money? I suggest that it's

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- 1 perfectly reasonable to say they do not. If they
- 2 are over earning then the extraordinary deferral
- 3 should stop, that's just a matter of simple
- 4 fairness.
- 5 Thank you very much for your
- 6 attention today, in summary I will simply repeat
- 7 Staff believes that the amount of transmission
- 8 costs in question do not qualify either for the
- 9 requested AAO or for the alternative suggestion, a
- 10 tracker.
- 11 Thank you very much.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 13 Next we'll hear from the Office of
- 14 Public Counsel.
- MR. MILLS: Good morning, may it
- 16 please the Commission. Let me begin by saying that
- 17 I agree with almost everything that Mr. Thompson
- 18 said, I think he did a very good job. I also am
- 19 going to talk about this particular AAO in the
- 20 context of rate making theory and the way rates are
- 21 typically set for a public utility company.
- 22 Because I think that's really the way you have to
- 23 approach it, you can't look at this simply well
- 24 here's a cost that looks like it's going up, we
- 25 have to somehow take care of that because

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throughout the 100 years of regulation utilities 2 have been faced with a lot of costs that are going 3 up and there are a lot of mechanisms to take care of that and to make sure that the utilities are 4 5 treated fairly and that the ratepayers are treated fairly so what we really need to look at is whether 6 7 in this case an AAO is the appropriate mechanism to 8 try to address these kind of costs. Typically the way a utility's costs are set is through a traditional rate case and in Missouri we use a 10 11 historical test year not because we expect the 12 future to look exactly like the historical past but 13 because we expect it to be relatively close and we do adjustments to the historical test here to try 14 to capture what we know is going to change going 15 forward and what we know is different from the test 16 17 year from the immediate past and what we expect the future to look like. So we are not hidebound to 18 simply setting rates in the future based on exactly 19 20 the historical precedent but we do use a test here 21 because it is the best way to set rates going 22 forward to try to get a match between revenues, 23 expense and rate base for future rates and I think that's the best way, I think the utility would 24 25 agree with this, that that's the best to ensure in

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the big picture that both the shareholders and the 2 ratepayers are treated fairly. And the reason that 3 a test year works so well is because many kinds of costs go up and go down and when you have a test 4 5 year, when you have a full rate case that allows the Commission to look at the costs that go down as 6 7 well as the costs that go up. When you do some 8 sort of an extraordinary rate making mechanism at the request of a utility you will find that 100 percent of the time it's requested because it's for 10 11 a category of costs that are going up, you don't 12 find utilities coming in here and saying we need 13 extraordinary rate making treatment because we are so productive that we're driving the cost of 14 software down below the level of our last rate 15 case, we have to have some mechanism to compensate 16 17 the ratepayers for that, that just doesn't happen. So you are always talking about costs that are 18 19 either a one time jump or costs that are increasing 20 and expected to increase. And typically, and I 21 would submit that this is the proper way to use an 22 AAO, an AAO is designed to capture the cost of an 23 event, a particular extraordinary event that occurs after a test year has closed, after rates have been 24 set and before the next round of rates are set 25

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- 1 because by definition if an event falls within a
- 2 test year it gets considered, it may be ruled out
- 3 as nonrecurring, it may be normalized or amortized
- 4 as something that is expected to occur over a,
- 5 occasionally over particular time periods but not
- 6 all the time but it gets addressed so the reason
- 7 AAOs were created is to capture a particular event
- 8 that occurred after a test year. That's not what
- 9 we're talking about here. What we're talking here
- 10 is a category of costs that is, and the Company
- 11 will agree with this, that is now being incurred,
- 12 that will be incurred in the future but that the
- 13 Company projects will significantly increase over a
- 14 period of time to a higher level.
- I think the record will reflect that
- 16 there is no, you know, you saw the graphs that are
- 17 in Mr. Carlson's testimony and that Mr. Fischer put
- 18 in his opening statement today, it goes up in
- 19 plateaus. It's not something that goes up one year
- 20 and it's done and it's gone, this is an expense
- 21 that's going to increase and then it's going to
- 22 stay at a high level for the indefinite future. I
- 23 think the record reflects that. So I think
- 24 Commissioner your question about how you can
- 25 consider these recurring is absolutely the right

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- 1 question to ask. They are not nonrecurring, they
- 2 are a ramp-up of costs that will stay at a
- 3 particular level and that's not the kind of costs
- 4 that an AAO is designed for, it's not the kind of
- 5 cost that an AAO is particularly well suited for
- 6 and it's certainly not the kind of cost for which
- 7 the Commission has granted AAOs in the past.
- 8 So the notion, with respect to an AAO
- 9 it's designed one, to allow for future recovery but
- 10 it also is designed to sort of dovetail with the
- 11 generally accepted accounting principles and keep
- 12 the utility from having to write off a particular
- 13 expense in the year in which it's incurred because
- 14 if you have the sort of ice storm expense, the sort
- 15 of one time expense that's typical under AAOs if it
- is not recognized by the Commission, if it is not
- 17 allowed extraordinary accounting treatment it
- 18 simply gets written off and under generally
- 19 accepted accounting principles that's the way it's
- 20 down and there's really no getting around that
- 21 without an order from the Commission. And in many
- 22 circumstances the reason that the Commission would
- 23 grant an AAO, and in fact for many, many AAOs
- 24 neither Public Counsel nor the Staff nor the
- 25 industrial customers protest. If we were talking

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- 1 about ice storm expenses more often than not those
- 2 kinds of issues are settled by agreement because we
- 3 all understand that that's the kind of thing that
- 4 is designed to be addressed through an AAO and it
- 5 is fair to the utility to address it that way. But
- 6 this, again this is something different. And the
- 7 notion that this is the proper way to preserve both
- 8 for regulatory accounting and for GAP accounting
- 9 these kind of future anticipated costs is simply
- 10 not right and Mr. Thompson did a good job of
- 11 explaining where that's the case.
- 12 And with respect to, again with
- 13 respect to the interplay between regulatory
- 14 accounting and GAP accounting I think that's
- 15 something that you're going to hear more about
- 16 today and I think that's a critical point because
- in order for the companies, for GAP accounting to
- 18 be able to recognize these costs in a regulatory
- 19 asset they need at least two things, one is an
- 20 order from the Commission allowing deferral but the
- 21 second which is sort of related in this case is
- they need to be able to tell their external
- 23 accountants that they have a good faith and a
- 24 reasonable expectation that they're going to
- 25 recover those so if for example the Commission were

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thinking in this case it's not rate making, we 2 don't have to worry about it, it's only deferral, 3 we don't really intend to allow recovery in a later rate case but if we allow deferral in this case no 4 5 harm no foul we're not doing rates, that's the wrong approach. The Commission cannot really take 6 7 that approach because given the past history of AAO recovery in this state really all the companies 8 need to do to say to their outside auditor is say the Commission deferred these, the Commission 10 11 always allows recovery after they've deferred 12 something, there's nothing in this case to indicate that the Commission has different thoughts, that 13 they're simply allowing a deferral without a real 14 15 expectation of recovery later. So if you grant the AAO in the case you have essentially prejudged the 16 17 question of recovery, obviously you don't have the authority to prejudge that but what you're telling 18 to the Company, what you're telling to the public, 19 20 what you're telling to the outside auditors is if 21 you, these particular commissioners were faced with 22 these particular circumstances tomorrow you would allow recovery because you're allowing deferral and 23 24 I think that's a credible point. You can't simply 25 as much as the companies would like you to you

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- 1 can't simply say we're only allowing deferral,
- 2 we're not thinking at all about recovery. By
- 3 allowing deferral you are explicitly saying that
- 4 you would allow recovery later and that's the
- 5 message that an order granting deferral would give
- 6 and I think that's a critical point here because as
- 7 I said under the GAP accounting those are the two
- 8 requirements for recovery of these assets and as
- 9 apposed to writing them down.
- Now what happens if the Commission
- 11 doesn't allow an AAO in this case? Does that mean
- 12 that the Company is prevented from recovering the
- increasing transmission costs assigned to them from
- 14 their RTO, no, it does not. Yes, there may be some
- 15 regulatory lag issues, there may be a period of
- 16 time in which the timing of a rate case is not
- 17 perfectly timed with cost increases and there may
- 18 be some costs for this one particular item that are
- 19 not adequately cashable rates but the whole point
- 20 of a rate case is sometimes there are costs that go
- 21 up, sometimes there are costs that go down, when
- 22 you set rates you are trying to anticipate the
- 23 level of revenues and expenses and you won't always
- 24 get it right, there are going to be times when the
- 25 utility is over earning, there's times when that

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- 1 utility is under earning but as a big picture
- 2 you've said it particularly well and as long as
- 3 things don't get too out of whack you won't see
- 4 another rate case and you won't see an earnings
- 5 complaint case and if they do get out of whack
- 6 you'll see one or the other of those. You'll see
- 7 to the extent that they get so far out of whack
- 8 that the Commission staff gets involved and files
- 9 an earning compliant case, you'll see an effort to
- 10 lower weights. If they get particularly out of
- 11 whack in the other direction the companies will
- 12 come in and file a rate case. But that is the
- 13 mechanism for which historically, and I submit
- 14 today, that is the mechanism that should be used to
- 15 try to recover the kinds of costs that we're
- 16 talking about here, costs that are anticipated to
- 17 go up at a fairly well known level, I mean you saw
- 18 the charts, the Company anticipates that they know
- 19 when and by how much these costs will increase.
- 20 These are not unexpected, I, they're, I don't
- 21 disagree entirely with the companies when they say
- 22 they don't have a whole lot of control over these
- 23 costs, they do have some control but they do have a
- 24 great deal of knowledge about them. They're not
- 25 going to be blind sided by getting a bill two years

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- 1 in the future that is 10 times what they thought it
- 2 was going to be from the SPP. They know exactly
- 3 what they're going to be billed very, very closely,
- 4 they know when they're going to be billed for it
- 5 and they can time rates cases to try to capture
- 6 that amount and that's a particularly well suited
- 7 and a certainly adequate mechanism to address this
- 8 kind of cost.
- 9 And I thought it was interesting that
- 10 Mr. Thompson as part of his opening statement sort
- of posed the question well, if they look like this
- 12 why are the companies not filing a rate case right
- 13 now. Well, I think you're going to see some
- 14 evidence in this case as to why the companies are
- 15 not filing rate cases right now and I think not
- 16 only is it a, are these kinds of things mitigating
- 17 factors as they've been described in the list of
- 18 issues but I think they explain why the companies
- 19 are seeking treatment outside of a rate case to try
- 20 to capture this one category of increasing costs
- 21 when a rate case might discover that there are
- 22 other categories in which costs are decreasing and
- 23 that the companies are acting productively and
- 24 doing what they can to try to keep their costs down
- 25 in between rate cases all of which I admire, I

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- 1 appreciate, but it sort of highlights the point
- 2 that when you grant an AAO it's way outside the
- 3 context of a rate case and it can have the impact
- 4 of capturing increases in just a particular
- 5 category when there are counterbalancing decreases
- 6 in other categories and so again as Mr. Thompson
- 7 said an AAO should be granted sparingly.
- 8 And finally I just want to talk
- 9 briefly about the Staff's conditions. I think the
- 10 record in this case will reveal, and I don't want
- 11 to put words in the Staff's mouth, but I think
- 12 those were proposed primarily as damage control.
- 13 The Staff's position like the Public Counsel
- 14 position, like the position of the industrials is
- 15 that the companies should not be granted the AAOs
- 16 but Staff in their sort of unique role of not only
- 17 advocating for a position but advising the
- 18 Commission about things to do I think has taken it
- 19 a step further and decided to play a little bit of
- 20 what if game, so they said well, we've told the
- 21 Commission that they couldn't grant an AAO and we
- 22 fully expect them to do the right thing and not
- 23 grant an AAO but what if the Commission gets it
- 24 wrong, what if the Commission doesn't agree with us
- and inexplicitly for whatever reason is swayed by

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- 1 the Company's evidence in this case and does grant
- 2 an AAO. That's what the conditions are there for.
- 3 The Staff is not advocating that the Commission
- 4 grant an AAO and impose those conditions, rather
- 5 the Staff is advocating that the Commission not
- 6 grant the AAO but if the Commission does do the
- 7 wrong thing and grant an AAO, these conditions
- 8 would mitigate some of the damage that is done to
- 9 ratepayers and to the regulatory process and I
- 10 don't disagree with that, I think if the Commission
- 11 does get it wrong and grant an AAO those conditions
- 12 all are appropriate but I think they are a moot
- 13 point if the Commission recognizes that an AAO is
- 14 the right mechanism for these kinds of costs.
- Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 17 Next we'll here from the Missouri
- 18 Industrial Energy Consumers.
- MR. DOWNEY: Good morning, may it
- 20 please the Commission. I'm Ed Downey and I
- 21 represent the MIEC. Uniformly there's going to be
- 22 a little duplication in my opening statement. I
- 23 concur in almost all of what Mr. Thompson said and
- 24 I do concur with all of what the OPC Lewis Mills
- 25 said. I'm not an accountant and I'd like to

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- 1 simplify some of these accounting issues and the
- 2 way I look at them here the utilities have incurred
- 3 certain transmission expenses above the amount used
- 4 to set the rates. I think we all agree on that.
- 5 They're asking the Commission a special accounting
- 6 entry called the deferral which I must admit when I
- 7 first heard that term I had no idea what it meant
- 8 but what it really means is the utilities are
- 9 asking this Commission for the permission to remove
- 10 expenses from the current periods, from their books
- 11 and records, and transfer them as an asset to be
- 12 carried forward and charged future ratepayers.
- 13 So what that does is that directly increases the
- 14 utility's profits, their bottom line for the
- 15 current periods, the periods between rate cases,
- 16 and then because of the accounting standards you've
- 17 heard about and you'll read about when you review
- 18 the testimony there has to be a likelihood that the
- 19 utilities will recover these assets from future
- 20 ratepayers in the next rate case. It will look on
- 21 the books like future ratepayers are not over
- 22 paying, even though these deferred costs that will
- 23 be charged to future ratepayers are not being
- 24 incurred by the utility during the periods that
- 25 they're serving these future ratepayers. Okay, the

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- 1 deferred costs were incurred now between rate
- 2 cases, they're going to be paid by future
- 3 ratepayers, in addition future ratepayers are going
- 4 to be paying whatever the base level of the
- 5 transmission cost is. So it will look on the books
- 6 and records like future ratepayers are not over
- 7 paying because what they do is they book the
- 8 expense as well as the asset during the periods for
- 9 the future rate making. So the utilities in
- 10 essence are asking for tomorrow's ratepayers to pay
- 11 for today's expenses, whether today's rates are
- 12 already just and reasonable, whether today's rates
- 13 are already recovering all the expenses the
- 14 utilities are incurring, whether today's rates are
- 15 already allowing the utilities to earn their
- 16 authorized return on equity that this Commission
- 17 set. So all the parties other than the utilities
- 18 cite case law imposing standards for granting
- 19 extraordinary expense treatment and I say
- 20 extraordinary because what the utilities seek is
- 21 beyond the normal, it's beyond the consideration of
- 22 all relevant factors. And then I would cite to you
- 23 the UCCM case, that's 585 Southwest 2nd 41, there
- 24 the Missouri Supreme Court acknowledged the
- 25 Commission's duty is to set just and reasonable

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- 1 rates quote, to be charged. Now that duty is
- 2 statutory, you'll find it in sections 393.130, 140,
- 3 150 and 270. That means the Commission must set
- 4 rates prospectively. In UCCM the court recognized
- 5 the question always is whether the overall rate in
- 6 light of all relevant factors is just and
- 7 reasonable, that's page 57. Here neither GMO nor
- 8 Kansas City Power & Light has shown that with
- 9 inclusion of these expenses in the current periods
- 10 the existing rates are already not adequate or just
- 11 and reasonable, indeed surveillance monitoring
- 12 reports for GMO show that even with deferral,
- 13 excuse me, even without deferral of these expenses,
- 14 in other words leave the expenses on the books, it
- is regularly earning more than its authorized ROE,
- 16 return on equity. Therefore at least for GMO the
- 17 rates set in its last rate case continue to be just
- 18 and reasonable even with the inclusion of these
- 19 increased transmission costs, thus nothing needs to
- 20 be adjusted as requested by GMO. We believe for
- 21 Kansas City Power & Light we have the same
- 22 circumstances. What this shows is why it is
- 23 important to set rates using actual costs and
- 24 revenues in test years to preserve the carefully,
- 25 and this is a quote, carefully balanced fixed rate

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- 1 system, again that's from the UCCM case. There the
- 2 Supreme Court rejected the fuel adjustment clause
- 3 at that time not authorized by statute, it is now,
- 4 noting that guote, the rationale behind a fuel
- 5 adjustment clause could be used to justify other
- 6 automatic adjustment clauses and upset the delicate
- 7 rate making balance. The AAO requested for in this
- 8 matter is exactly the type of evil the Supreme
- 9 Court sought to prevent.
- 10 As you review the evidence in the
- 11 case I would ask you to pay particular attention to
- 12 the testimony of two witnesses, MIEC witness Greg
- 13 Myer and Staff witness Mark Oligschlaeger. Mr.
- 14 Myer was a respected member of your staff for
- 15 almost 30 years, Mr. Oligschlaeger has been a
- 16 respected member of your Staff I believe for 32
- 17 years. Each are experts in accounting and in
- 18 particular experts in utility accounting.
- 19 Here's what the evidence in the case
- 20 is going to show: GMO's and Kansas City Power &
- 21 Light's transmission costs are increasing but
- they're not increasing by as much as they
- 23 represented to this Commission in the last rate
- 24 case. The majority of the witnesses note that AAOs
- 25 have been held to be appropriate for natural

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- 1 disaster costs such as those related to storms,
- 2 floods and fires. Obviously utilities can not plan
- 3 to address those types of situations. All parties
- 4 except the utilities agree that the standard for
- 5 granting the AAO is that the expense be
- 6 extraordinary meaning unusual, unique and not
- 7 recurring. We don't need to look to the dictionary
- 8 for a definition of extraordinary, this Commission
- 9 has set that definition and I believe that
- 10 definition has been confirmed by the appellate
- 11 courts. In addition the expenses need to be
- 12 material. All parties again except for the
- 13 utilities agree that the subject transmission costs
- 14 fail to meet the applicable standard because they
- 15 are usual and recurring. That is because the
- 16 utilities always incur them, know they would be
- 17 incurring them and can plan rate cases if increases
- 18 in that cost are not offset by increases in
- 19 revenues or decreases in other costs. In addition
- 20 at least one witness believes that the costs are
- 21 also not material. The only standard that the
- 22 utilities would apply is the materiality standard
- 23 which the utilities confuse with the extraordinary
- 24 expense standard. According to the utility's
- 25 testimony any material increase in an expense is,

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- 1 even a planned expense, is considered
- 2 extraordinary. While the utilities do not
- 3 acknowledge the correct standard in this case they
- 4 did acknowledge the correct standard in their last
- 5 rate case. In that last rate case this Commission
- 6 denied the relief requested herein in the form of a
- 7 tracker finding, and this is a quote, and I'm
- 8 sorry, I should have probably come up with a slide
- 9 for this but I think Mr. Woodsmall will have a
- 10 slide probably with this same quote. Quote, rare
- 11 does not describe cost increases in the utility
- 12 business generally. Specifically applicant's
- 13 evidence shows the following as to transmission:
- 14 Transmission is an ordinary and typical, not an
- 15 abnormal and significantly different, part of
- 16 applicant's activities. Also, applicants show that
- 17 paying more for transmission than in the previous
- 18 years is a forseeably recurring event, not an
- 19 unusual and infrequent event, thus, this is a quote
- 20 within a quote, items related to effects of, and
- 21 that's the close of the quote within the quotes,
- 22 transmission cost increases are not rare and
- 23 therefore are not extraordinary. This Commission's
- 24 already addressed this issue and found against the
- 25 utilities and that quote actually exposes the error

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- 1 of the utility's assertion that this Commission
- 2 really badly wanted to grant the tracker in the
- 3 last rate case.
- 4 Now Kansas City Power & Light states
- 5 that its transmission costs for 2013 were about \$5
- 6 million higher than the amount used in setting its
- 7 rate for GMO, that amount is 4.2 million. Rather
- 8 than attempt to address this cost increase in a
- 9 rate case where all relevant factors would be
- 10 considered the utilities seek an AAO. Without the
- 11 AAO neither today's ratepayers pay more nor do
- 12 tomorrow's ratepayers pay higher rates than they
- 13 otherwise would have paid unless there is a rate
- 14 case where all relevant factors are considered.
- 15 The AAO will lower the utility's reported expenses
- 16 by the amount of the transmission cost increases
- 17 and accordingly increase the utility's profits in
- 18 the periods of deferral. The evidence shows that
- 19 GMO even without the deferral of the 5 million
- 20 increase in these costs in 2013 earned above its
- 21 authorized return on equity for that part of 2013
- 22 that it has so far reported. At least one witness
- 23 also believes the same is true for Kansas City
- 24 Power & Light. The evidence shows other relevant
- 25 factors changed since the last rate case. Those

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- 1 factors would have the impact of increasing the
- 2 return on equity. The percent of common equity
- 3 decreased from 52.5 percent to 49.7 percent, that
- 4 means the cost of money was less than anticipated,
- 5 the cost of long term debt decreased, net plant has
- 6 decreased. If I were a shareholder of the utility
- 7 I would ask the utility, make sure and try and get
- 8 trackers and AAOs for all our costs that are
- 9 increasing and let's not draw any attention to any
- 10 of our costs that are decreasing. Well, some of
- 11 the witnesses in this case have focused on a few of
- 12 the costs that are decreasing. The non-utility
- 13 witnesses note that allowing AAO for this type of
- 14 expense is bad regulatory policy. Why? Well,
- 15 doing so removes the utility's incentive to control
- 16 its costs. There also is not the required
- 17 consideration of all relevant factors as Mr. Mills
- 18 and Mr. Thompson have already alluded to. Instead
- 19 the Commission is forced to focus on those expenses
- 20 that the utility cherry picks because they are
- 21 increasing. This AAO will increase rates for
- 22 tomorrow's ratepayers without reducing rates for
- 23 today's ratepayers, there's no symmetry to this
- 24 request.
- 25 In conclusion AAOs are reserved for

Page 85 extraordinary circumstances, a known and planned 2 increase in a regular and recurring cost such as 3 the cost of transmission is hardly an extraordinary circumstance justifying a very likely increase in 4 5 tomorrow's ratepayer's rates. 6 Thank you. 7 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 8 Any questions? Next we'll here from the Missouri 9 Energy Consumers Group. 10 MR. WOODSMALL: I'm ready to go now. 11 12 My presentation will probably be as long as Mr. Fischer's, if you want to go now, whichever. 13 14 JUDGE BURTON: Why don't we go ahead 15 and begin and I believe you need to set up a 16 PowerPoint. 17 MR. WOODSMALL: I do and I also have 18 something to hand out too. 19 JUDGE BURTON: Then why don't we go ahead and take a quick five minute break while 20 21 you're getting this set up. 22 Thank you. 23 (RECESS TAKEN BY PARTIES) 24 JUDGE BURTON: We're back on the record and I believe that you have a presentation 25

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- 1 so I'll go ahead and transfer the camera to that
- 2 view.
- 3 MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you.
- 4 My name is David Woodsmall, I
- 5 represent the Missouri Energy Consumers Group, I've
- 6 handed out two handouts to each of you, the first
- 7 one is a copy of my slides and I'd like to mark
- 8 that as Illustrative Exhibit No. 1.
- 9 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. So marked.
- 10 MR. WOODSMALL: And the second one is
- 11 a copy of cases and the Uniform System of Accounts
- 12 applicable to this case, I'm just providing those
- 13 for your convenience, they've been cited by many
- 14 parties in this case so just for your convenience
- 15 Illustrative Exhibit 2 if you would.
- 16 Thank you. Moving to my opening
- 17 statement.
- 18 As I go through this opening
- 19 statement I want you to compare my presentation to
- 20 KCP&L's. While I apply as you will see a plethora
- 21 of citations to Commission cases and court orders,
- 22 in contrast KCP&L offered very little. This is
- 23 because KCP&L's position in this case is novel and
- 24 represents a radical break with Commission
- 25 precedent.

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1	So let's look at what I would
2	discuss. First off, I'm going to give you some
3	background on this case and recent KCP&L cases so
4	you understand what's going on. Second, I think we
5	do a real disservice to commissioners here. They
6	bring you out of other jobs that have nothing to do
7	with utilities, throw you in here and expect you to
8	make these million dollar decisions so I'm going to
9	try to provide some background on the rate making
10	process and from this I hope you can see why the
11	extraordinary standard fits, why it makes sense.
12	Third, I'll discuss how extraordinary costs are
13	recovered, fourth I'll explain how the Commission
14	standard for extraordinary has developed. Then
15	I'll explain why KCP&L is here today and more
16	importantly why Ameren and Empire are here today.
17	Next, I'll show you the problem with extending AAOs
18	to include recurring costs and then I will apply
19	this problem to KCP&L and GMO's situation.
20	Now, by way of background there are
21	three utilities affected here today, there's KCP&L
22	which is metro Kansas City, there's KCP&L Greater
23	Missouri Operations, Missouri Public Service which
24	is Lee Summit, Blue Springs, the airport and
25	suburban Kansas City and some of rural western

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- 1 Missouri, then there's GMO L&P which is northeast,
- 2 northwest Missouri and St. Joseph. So basically
- 3 this case will affect every electric customer in
- 4 western Missouri. In addition to those two
- 5 customer, those three utilities we have Empire and
- 6 Ameren that are also here today, as you know there
- 7 are other utilities and what they're doing here
- 8 today is hoping to piggyback on any favorable
- 9 decision in this case. As I will show later this
- 10 case is a game changer. Given that Ameren is
- 11 already collecting transmission costs through its
- 12 FAC why do they even care about this case, they're
- 13 already recovering this cost. I'll tell you,
- 14 because this represents a significant change in the
- 15 way utilities recovers costs. Instead of filing a
- 16 rate case if a utility has increasing costs they'll
- 17 just file an AAO, therefore if they're over earning
- 18 as we have seen in the past a utility can still
- 19 keep their over earnings, shield those from any
- 20 review but still get any increasing costs through
- 21 an AAO.
- In addition we have three groups of
- 23 customer, we have Public Counsel who is statutorily
- 24 created and generally represents the residential
- 25 customers, we have MIEC which is a group of

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- 1 industrial customers and MECG which is also
- 2 industrial customers. There's one other party here
- 3 and I want you to pay particular attention to them,
- 4 that's the Staff. Staff is a utility, Staff is
- 5 customers, Staff is here for one reason, to assist
- 6 you. They have been created to provide you an
- 7 objective non-involved viewpoint on these cases.
- 8 They are here for your assistance and so it's
- 9 interesting when Staff takes a position and tells
- 10 you this is bad regulatory policy why are they
- 11 telling you that? It's not for any financial
- 12 reason, it's because they believe it, that is their
- 13 view to assist you.
- Now let's look at KCP&L rate case
- 15 history. In general I'm going to talk about KCP&L
- 16 as all three utilities but here I'm going to show
- 17 you their rate case history, and it's been lengthy.
- 18 Over the last seven years you have seen five rate
- 19 cases, they amount to a total of 283 million.
- 20 KCP&L's rates over the last six years have gone up
- 21 almost 58 percent. 58 percent over the last six
- 22 years. GMO NPSs, Lee Summit. Four rate cases over
- 23 the same period of time, their rights have gone up
- 24 39 percent. St. Joe's rates, this is staggering,
- 25 St. Joe's rates over that same period have gone up

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- 1 65 percent. Fourth straight rate case of double
- 2 digit increases. Despite those rate increases the
- 3 utilities want more here. So let's put this in
- 4 context for you.
- 5 Gasoline costs, over that same period
- 6 of time gas costs have only gone up eight percent,
- 7 consumer price index has only gone up 12 percent.
- 8 St. Joe's electric rates have gone up 65 percent
- 9 but they want more.
- 10 In addition to the rate increases we
- 11 have seen in the context of those cases other
- 12 requests from KCP&L and GMO. For instance, in June
- of 2007 GMO was granted a Fuel Adjustment Clause,
- 14 this allows them to collect other revenues from
- 15 customers for fuel costs, so when I gave you those
- 16 numbers before, St. Joe's rates going up five
- 17 percent, that doesn't include fuel adjustment cost
- 18 revenues. So the rate increase, the increase to
- 19 customer's pocket has been much greater than 65
- 20 percent and then it was talked about before in the
- 21 last case, KCP&L and GMO both sought a transmission
- 22 tracker. So what happened with that transmission
- 23 tracker? In its report and order the Commission in
- 24 the last case analyzed the Uniform System of
- 25 Accounts, specifically account 128.3 and general

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- 1 instruction 7. Based upon this analysis Commission
- 2 held quote, applicants have not carried their
- 3 burden of proving that the Commission should order
- 4 deferred recording for transmission costs. They go
- 5 into more detail, the Commission did, they just
- 6 didn't say you didn't meet your burden. The
- 7 Commission said applicants have not proved that
- 8 transmission cost increases meet that standard, the
- 9 extraordinary standard. Projected transmission
- 10 cost increases are not quote extraordinary, end
- 11 quote, within the legal definition because they are
- 12 not rare or current. Rare does not describe cost
- increases in the utility business generally,
- 14 specifically applicant's evidence shows the
- 15 following as to transmission: Transmission is an
- 16 ordinary and typical, not an abnormal and
- 17 significantly different part of applicant's
- 18 activities. Also, applicants showed that paying
- 19 more for transmission than in the previous year is
- 20 a foreseeably recurring event, not an unusual and
- 21 infrequent event, thus items related to the effects
- 22 of transmission cost increases are not rare and
- 23 therefore are not extraordinary. You guys have
- 24 decided this, you've decided this exact issue just
- 25 last year. Two of you were on the report and

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- 1 order, not you two but Commissioner Stoll and
- 2 Chairman Kenney were on this. KCP&L then filed for
- 3 application for rehearing on January 18th, 2013
- 4 telling the Commission you got this wrong, you guys
- 5 need to go back and rethink this and come back
- 6 again. This time you guys said no, again, second
- 7 time you've told them no, this time Commissioner
- 8 Kenney you were on this one so this has been heard
- 9 before and decided twice by this Commission.
- 10 Let's move on. Topics to be
- 11 discussed. We're up to the second one, I want to
- 12 discuss the rate making process, I want you to
- 13 understand how rates are set and why extraordinary
- 14 costs aren't included. So what is the rate making
- 15 process? The rate case is used to separate for
- 16 recurring expenses, revenues, investment. It is
- 17 focused on recurring expenses and here's a quote
- 18 from a Court of Appeals case, GTE north. In it the
- 19 court says that the Commission sets rates by
- 20 looking at a test year and it looks at important
- 21 things. Within that test year the costs must be
- 22 known and measurable, also that you must maintain a
- 23 proper relationship of investment revenues and
- 24 expense, you will hear that talked about, the
- 25 matching concept. When you look to separate you

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- 1 compare everything for a particular period of time,
- 2 you don't take revenues from one period, costs from
- 3 another, rate base from another. You want to match
- 4 everything together. That's important because what
- 5 is happening in this case, the AAO, is a violation
- 6 of the matching concept.
- 7 Here's a quote from the Commission's
- 8 decision, you've heard it called the Sibley case
- 9 referenced by Staff. Quote, rates are usually
- 10 established based upon a historical test year with
- 11 focuses, with focus on allowable operating
- 12 expenses. Allowable operating expenses are those
- 13 which recur in the normal operations of a company.
- 14 And a company's rates are set for the future based
- 15 upon its past experience for a test year. So what
- 16 do we get from this? Rates are based upon
- 17 allowable operating expenses which are recurring in
- 18 the normal operations of the company. Rate cases
- 19 are recurring costs, rate cases are recurring
- 20 costs. That's reflected in the Uniform System of
- 21 Accounts. So here's the rule of rate cases, focus
- 22 on recurring costs, Uniform System of Accounts
- 23 general instruction number 7. It is the intent
- 24 that net income shall reflect all items of profit
- 25 and loss during the period. All items, that's the

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- 1 rule. Court of Appeals has given us some guidance
- 2 on this, on looking to items outside of the test
- 3 year. This is called retroactive rate making. The
- 4 courts have said the utilities take the risk that
- 5 rates filed by them will be inadequate or excessive
- 6 each time they seek rate approval. To permit them
- 7 to collect additional amounts simply because they
- 8 had additional past expenses not covered is
- 9 retroactive rate making. Again, Missouri rate
- 10 making is based upon the use of a test year
- 11 relationship of revenues, expenses and rate base.
- 12 You're not supposed to look at previous past costs
- 13 because that is retroactive rate making.
- So utilities are said to take the
- 15 risk that rates will be excessive or inadequate
- 16 each time they file a rate case and both can
- 17 happen, we've seen both happen. Here's an example
- 18 of how rates can be excessive. Utilities can have
- 19 windfall profits simply by decreasing costs and
- 20 they can do that in many ways, for instance a well
- 21 timed debt refinancing, instead of paying seven
- 22 percent on some debt you refinance it, get it down
- 23 to five percent, boom, windfall. It's not
- 24 collected in a rate case until the next rate case.
- 25 For that period of time you keep every dollar of

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- 1 profit so it can lead to immediate over earnings.
- 2 In the last KCP&L case KCP&L had an employee
- 3 separation program, well before the last case they
- 4 had an employee separation program. What did that
- 5 do, drove payroll expense down, boom, immediate
- 6 savings of \$35.4 million. 2013, right after the
- 7 last case was ended, we put in debt costs, they
- 8 refinanced their debt after the case was over,
- 9 don't want to do it too early, you wait until the
- 10 case is over so you get to keep it all, they
- 11 refinanced debt, boom, \$22.8 million of profit.
- 12 They kept it.
- 13 Here we see the scales, chances that
- 14 rates are inadequate, chances that rates are
- 15 excessive and you see factors on both sides. There
- 16 are things that tend to make rates inadequate,
- 17 you've heard the utility talk about transmission
- 18 costs. Granted they're going up, they're putting
- 19 pressure on rates, they tend to want to make rates
- 20 inadequate. Fuel expense may go up, property taxes
- 21 are going up, those all put pressure on rates but
- 22 on the other side you have other factors that are
- 23 tending to make rates excessive. Depreciating rate
- 24 base, you earn a return on your rate base but every
- 25 year you're taking depreciation on it so your rate

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- 1 base is going down so every year that wants to
- 2 drive rates down. Increasing customer accounting,
- 3 if you have more customers or more customer usage,
- 4 more revenues, it wants to make rates excessive.
- 5 Wholesale revenues, when they go out and
- 6 participate in a wholesale market they're
- 7 generating wholesale revenues and those are going
- 8 up. All these factors tend to make rates
- 9 excessive. So if those factors on the right are
- 10 more prevalent, like increasing usage, you see the
- 11 rates being excessive.
- 12 There's another possibility that
- 13 rates can be inadequate and we've talked about a
- 14 number of factors that can cause rates to be
- 15 inadequate. So the items on the left, if they were
- 16 more prevalent, for instance transmission costs,
- 17 they would push rates to be inadequate. At any one
- 18 time, this is the point of all relevant factors
- 19 analysis, at any one time there are factors pushing
- 20 both ways and we need to look at them all. We
- 21 can't just simply look at transmission costs and
- 22 determine they need to get recovery of that because
- 23 rates are inadequate because as I'll show you later
- 24 rates are not inadequate, right now rates are
- 25 excessive.

As I said Missouri rates are required

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2 to be based on a consideration of all relevant 3 factors. As the USOA dictates leave all recurring factors in the rate making process. Bottom line 4 5 utilities love the opportunity for excessive rates but they hate the risk that rates are inadequate. 6 7 So that is the rate making process, remember that, 8 recurring costs go into rates. 9 We're on to the third point then. How are extraordinary costs recovered? Recurring 10 11 costs are in rates, what do we do for extraordinary 12 costs? Again the rule is recurring costs go in 13 rates and we talked about the Uniform System of Accounts so that's the rule, here's the exception 14

18 extraordinary costs if there's a storm, if there's

always been an issue as to how do you recover

the USOA creates for extraordinary items: Given

that rates are focused on recurring costs there's

- 19 a tornado, if there's a flood, if there's new
- 20 legislation that immediately causes costs what do
- 21 we do for that? It wasn't picked up in the
- 22 previous rates how do we handle that? USOA general
- 23 instruction 7 provides a definition for
- 24 extraordinary and it tells you how to handle it.
- 25 It tells you that you can create a regulatory asset

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- 1 to be recovered later. Since rates were based on
- 2 recurring costs we're now allowing a method to
- 3 recover extraordinary costs, you book it as a
- 4 regulatory asset, you recover it later. But the
- 5 important thing to remember is that exception is
- 6 only designed for extraordinary costs.
- 7 JUDGE BURTON: Hold on for one
- 8 moment. I think the Chairman is calling in.
- 9 You can continue.
- 10 MR. WOODSMALL: Good afternoon Mr.
- 11 Chairman, or morning.
- So we're still talking extraordinary
- 13 costs, again rates are only designed --
- 14 JUDGE BURTON: We have a little bit
- of delay Chairman and there's a problem with the
- 16 reception.
- 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Sorry for the
- 18 interruption.
- 19 MR. WOODSMALL: Not a problem. If
- 20 you have any questions, any of you, if you have any
- 21 questions along the way stop me, I'll certainly try
- 22 to answer them. You don't get this opportunity
- 23 very often.
- 24 So again extraordinary costs are only
- 25 designed, or the USOA general instruction 7 and the

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- 1 creation of regulatory assets are only designed for
- 2 extraordinary costs.
- 3 Under normal accounting the utility
- 4 would normally be required to book those
- 5 extraordinary costs when they're incurred but again
- 6 general instruction 7 in the creation of regulatory
- 7 assets allow this to be deferred until later and
- 8 here's the definition of 182.3 and general
- 9 instructor, I'm sorry, definition 31 and that's
- 10 contained in the information I gave you.
- Bottom line to the rate making
- 12 process. If you take nothing else from what I tell
- 13 you today it's this chart, recurring costs go into
- 14 regular rate making. Extraordinary costs go into a
- 15 regulatory asset, what we call an AAO. Remember
- 16 that distinction because that drives everything in
- 17 this case.
- 18 The next topic I want to talk about
- 19 then. We talked about, we talked that recurring
- 20 costs are captured in rates, we talked about
- 21 extraordinary costs go into an AAO, the question is
- 22 how do we distinguish between the two? What is an
- 23 extraordinary cost? The Commission has provided
- lots of guidance on this. I told you before that
- 25 retroactive rate making is not allowed. You're not

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- 1 allowed generally to bring costs from a previous
- 2 period and collect it in rates in the future. But
- 3 isn't that what we're doing with the creation of a
- 4 regulatory asset? We're capturing past costs
- 5 taking them in the future, isn't that retroactive
- 6 rate making? Generally it is, it would violate the
- 7 term of the UCCM case. But a subsequent case
- 8 carved out an exception to that. This is known as
- 9 the Sibley case and I've provided it to you, it's a
- 10 1993 case, it carves out an exception to
- 11 retroactive rate making and it says that the
- 12 Commission can do retroactive rate making so long
- 13 as the costs are extraordinary. When the utilities
- 14 tell you that the Uniform System of Accounts allows
- 15 them to book these accounts, Uniform System of
- 16 Accounts allows a lot of things. Uniform System of
- 17 Accounts in Missouri must be read and be tempered
- 18 by what the courts have told you so even though the
- 19 Uniform System of Accounts may allow certain things
- 20 the courts have told you other things. The courts
- 21 have told you that retroactive rate making only
- 22 allows for one exception and that is the deferral
- 23 of extraordinary costs. Quote here, because rates
- 24 are set to recover continuing operating expenses
- 25 plus a reasonable return on investment, only an

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- 1 extraordinary event should be permitted to adjust
- 2 the balance to permit costs to be deferred for the
- 3 consideration in later period.
- 4 The courts have told you one
- 5 exception to the retroactive rate making rule,
- 6 that's for extraordinary costs. USOA has to be
- 7 read with that in mind, with what the courts have
- 8 told you.
- 9 So we have a litany of cases in which
- 10 the Commission has, has taken upon that and tried
- 11 to determine what is an extraordinary cost. Here's
- 12 a case, interesting because Mr. Fischer was on this
- 13 Commission, from 1986 addressing a 1984 ice storm
- 14 and the Commission talks about that it has to be
- 15 extraordinary. Quote, the Commission determines
- 16 that the rule against retroactive rate making does
- 17 not apply to expenses incurred which are associated
- 18 with extraordinary events. Such expenses are not
- 19 associated with imperfectly matching of rates with
- 20 expenses or a redetermination of rates already
- 21 established and paid. In contrast to under
- 22 recovery of fuel expenses established in previous
- 23 rates which was the subject of the UCCM case ice
- 24 storm expenses do not involve the question of under
- 25 recovery since the previously established rates do

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- 1 not include expenses with these extraordinary
- 2 events.
- 3 So here, going back 30 years, the
- 4 Commission said we get it, we can only do deferrals
- 5 for extraordinary costs, an ice storm, not already
- 6 in rates. 1991, probably the preeminent case on
- 7 extraordinary costs, again the Commission talks
- 8 about the extraordinary standard under historical
- 9 test year rate making, costs are rarely considered
- 10 from earlier than the test year to determine what
- is a reasonable revenue requirement for the future.
- 12 Deferral costs from one period to a subsequent rate
- 13 case causes this consideration and should be
- 14 allowed only on a limited basis. This limited
- 15 basis is when events occur during a period which
- 16 are extraordinary, unusual and unique and not
- 17 recurring. The decision to defer costs associated
- 18 with an event turns on whether the event is in fact
- 19 extraordinary and not recurring.
- 20 More recently, case decided just two
- 21 months ago. Most of you were on this decision,
- just two months ago the Commission adopted the
- 23 extraordinary standard again in an Ameren case. An
- 24 AAO is a mechanism to defer an item which means to
- 25 record an item to a period outside of a test year

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- 1 for consideration in a later rate action. Items
- 2 eligible for deferral include an extraordinary
- 3 item, an item that pertains to an event that is
- 4 extraordinary, unusual and infrequent and not
- 5 recurring. So I want you to see that over the
- 6 course of 30 years the Commission has consistently
- 7 adopted the extraordinary standard and there are
- 8 many cases in which the Commission has been asked
- 9 to extend it to recurring costs and they've turned
- 10 that down.
- 11 Let's move on, topics to be
- 12 discussed. So we know what extraordinary means, we
- 13 know how to treat it so what is KCP&L asking for
- 14 here? It's not an extraordinary cost. As I said
- 15 KCP&L has allowed recovery of an extraordinary cost
- 16 in a deferral under an AAO. Extraordinary means
- 17 unusual and unique and not recurring but what KCP&L
- 18 is seeking here is extraordinary, not unusual, not
- 19 unique and it's certainly recurring. What they are
- 20 seeking is to defer a recurring cost, transmission
- 21 cost, the basis for KCP&L's request, the cost is
- 22 going up, that's all they had. Cost is going up.
- 23 They'll tell you things about oh, we're in a new
- 24 paradigm, we joined an RTO, they've been in this
- 25 RTO since 1995. This is unique, every utility in

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- 1 the nation is going through the same thing. So
- 2 what is the implication of KCP&L's request if you
- 3 adopted it? Every time that a utility has a cost
- 4 increase they'll be here, they'll be asking you for
- 5 an AAO. They don't want you looking at their rates
- 6 but they don't want you forgetting about those cost
- 7 increases and that is why Ameren and Empire are
- 8 here. Ameren's already recovering these costs
- 9 through a Fuel Adjustment Clause. Why do they
- 10 care? They care because this is a game changer,
- 11 this means that even though they have their current
- 12 rates and may be over earning, we don't know, and
- 13 they're getting a fuel adjustment clause and
- 14 collecting revenues there, then that they may have
- 15 this in their quiver, that if payroll goes up we
- 16 don't have to let them look at our rates but we can
- 17 still go out there and get that payroll increase.
- 18 Anything goes up they know they can come in here
- 19 and use this mechanism. That's why this is a game
- 20 changer. Ameren and Empire have never been in
- 21 another AAO case, they don't care when KCP&L has a
- 22 storm damage and what kind of costs and how they
- 23 get to recover them, they don't get into those
- 24 cases so why are they here today? This is a game
- 25 changer, this is bigger than rate cases, this is

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- 1 going to have implications for years and years and
- 2 years and that's why they're here. Their present
- 3 here, presence here, is not by mistake.
- 4 Again the deferral of recurring costs
- 5 violates the instructions of USOA, the Commission's
- 6 extraordinary standard, the Supreme Court's
- 7 prohibition against retroactive rate making and it
- 8 distorts the earnings of the utility.
- 9 I told you before that the Commission
- 10 is always held that extraordinary can't be a
- 11 recurring cost. Here's an example. 2002 case,
- 12 quote, the test year that the Commission has used
- 13 and continues to use here for determining whether
- 14 or not to grant an AAO is whether the expense to be
- 15 deferred is extraordinary and not recurring.
- 16 Uncollectible expenses which they wanted to defer,
- 17 this company had an increase in uncollectible
- 18 expenses. Uncollectible expenses are a normal
- 19 ongoing cost of doing business. Both NPS and St.
- 20 Joe Light & Power have a level of uncollectible
- 21 expenses built into their respective rate
- 22 structure. Uncollectible expenses are routinely
- 23 considered in evaluation of Aquila's ordinary
- 24 business operations during a general rate case.
- 25 Given that it was all recurring the Commission

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- 1 found that Aquila's uncollectible expenses
- 2 resulting from the winter of 2000/2001 were not
- 3 quote extraordinary, unusual, unique and
- 4 nonrecurring. Commission's faced this before.
- 5 Utilities have come in and asked for AAOs for
- 6 recurring costs and you've always turned them down.
- 7 Let's move on. I want to talk about
- 8 what is the problem with extending AAOs to
- 9 recurring costs, why does it matter? If as they
- 10 say you get to look at this in the next rate case
- 11 why don't we just kick the can down the road and
- 12 ignore it and let them do it in the next case. It
- 13 has implications. The problem with extending AAO
- 14 treatment to recurring costs is that it distorts
- 15 the Company's financial situation. As the
- 16 Commission has found in the Sibley case the booking
- 17 of the costs in account 186 creates an asset rather
- 18 than a liability and so improves the financial
- 19 picture of the company for the period when the
- 20 costs were booked. So what have we done? The
- 21 company has earnings here of a certain level now.
- 22 You take away a cost from that what's it going to
- 23 mean? It's going to mean those earnings are
- 24 greater. You have artificially inflated those
- 25 earnings for the period in question. I'm a

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- 1 potential investor out there. I go and I want to
- 2 look at this company and decide whether to invest,
- 3 what am I seeing? I'm seeing a distorted financial
- 4 pick because you have allowed them to take a cost
- 5 and inflate their earnings. I think the Company's
- 6 worth more than it is, it distorts the financial
- 7 picture. That's what the Commission says here,
- 8 that it distorts the earnings for the particular
- 9 period. It has another affect, second one here, or
- 10 the first one. Future rates will be higher than
- 11 they otherwise would be. They're taking that cost
- 12 out of the equation now, current earnings go up but
- 13 they're pushing it to later so what does that do to
- 14 future rates when they recover it? It makes future
- 15 rates higher so St. Joe customers that have already
- 16 then a 65 percent rate increase in the last seven
- 17 years, their rates are going to be even higher
- 18 because they're going to be asked to pick up these
- 19 costs even though the Company is already over
- 20 earning. The company wants you to ignore that. So
- 21 the AAO distorts current earnings and it means
- 22 higher rates in the future.
- 23 So let's apply this problem to KCP&L
- 24 and GMO. Treating GMO's increased transmission
- 25 costs under an AAO takes away one of the biggest

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- 1 items putting pressure on their current earnings,
- 2 therefore, earnings that are already excessive will
- 3 become even more excessive. And here we have it.
- 4 Here we have GMO's financial picture. We have
- 5 factors on the left that are putting pressure on
- 6 rates to be inadequate including increasing
- 7 transmission costs, but we have factors on the
- 8 right that are causing rates to be excessive and
- 9 right now as the evidence shows the factors on the
- 10 right are winning, rates are excessive. GMO's
- 11 financial picture, we know what it is so we know
- 12 that rates are right now tilted to the right to
- 13 being excessive. GMO wants to tilt this even more.
- 14 They want to take the increasing transmission costs
- 15 out of the equation, make it even more lopsided.
- 16 Transmission costs are treated in an AAO, you take
- 17 one of the factors off the left side the right side
- 18 becomes even more prevalent.
- 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I apologize for the
- 20 interruption, I think the next slide may be highly
- 21 confidential.
- MR. WOODSMALL: It would be, yeah.
- 23 So this is the situation we face
- 24 right now with GMO'S rates are already excessive,
- 25 they want to take out one factor, make current

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- 1 earnings even higher, rates will be even more
- 2 excessive. Future costs, future rates will be
- 3 higher.
- 4 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: If we could take
- 5 that off the streaming.
- JUDGE BURTON: Do we need --
- 7 MR. WOODSMALL: No, I'm not going to
- 8 say anything.
- 9 Is there anybody in here that's not
- 10 Staff or Company?
- 11 This is from Mr. Myer's testimony.
- 12 What you see here, it's a line here which is the
- 13 Company's authorized return on equity of 9.70
- 14 percent. Here is a graph of GMO's earnings and
- 15 this is taken from GMO documents, this isn't
- 16 something we created, this is a surveillance report
- 17 that they are required to get us as part of getting
- 18 their fuel adjustment clause. Here we see their
- 19 earnings and this is over a 12 month period. So
- 20 for instance at the peak there which I believe is
- 21 May of 2013, that's an average for the previous 12
- 22 months. So at that point you have an ROE which it
- 23 was the ROE that they earned for the previous 12
- 24 months so as you can see over this period of time
- 25 they are earning more than their authorized return.

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- 1 Despite that they want you to take the increasing
- 2 transmission cost off the scale and tilt it even
- 3 more. What that does is raise earnings so you can
- 4 see this entire graph, that will all move upwards.
- 5 Increased earnings, they don't want you to look at
- 6 current rates, they don't want you as Mr. Mills
- 7 said to look at the efficiencies that they've
- 8 already garnered, they want to keep all that but
- 9 they don't want to loose the increasing
- 10 transmission costs.
- Okay. We can.
- 12 The final point, KCP&L argues that
- 13 Commission is not bound by the extraordinary
- 14 standard, KCP&L argues that the Uniform System of
- 15 Accounts allows you to create a 182.3 regulatory
- 16 asset whenever you want to. You notice KCP&L never
- 17 talked about any case law. They didn't tell you
- 18 that the Supreme Court's decision on retroactive
- 19 rate making limits everything the Uniform System of
- 20 Accounts says. Uniform System of Accounts is
- 21 created by an entity in Washington, they don't rule
- 22 in Missouri, you do. You decide what's best for
- 23 Missouri, you decide when regulatory assets should
- 24 be created, not some group in Washington that says
- 25 what, that puts out what the Uniform System of

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- 1 Accounts is and you've decided repeatedly,
- 2 repeatedly over the last 30 years only for
- 3 extraordinary events. They want you to come in and
- 4 say flush all that down the toilet, forget the
- 5 logic of all that, they latch on to one little
- 6 piece from a previous order that says we can do
- 7 what we want, we have discretion to do whatever we
- 8 want. That's not true. Stick to the logic that
- 9 you've shown for 30 years, only allow it for
- 10 extraordinary costs.
- Now it's interesting, Ameren jumped
- 12 into this case, and as I told you Ameren's here
- 13 because they're looking to piggyback on this,
- 14 they're looking to use this for other situations.
- 15 Ameren just recently had an AAO case of their own
- 16 and in their brief that they filed in that case
- 17 Ameren said several things that I think are right
- 18 on target and let me read you a couple of these.
- 19 Ameren says looking at the Uniform System of
- 20 Accounts including general instruction 7 Ameren
- 21 says interpreted together as they must be, these
- 22 provisions reveal several important principles
- 23 regarding the mechanism the USOA has created for
- 24 the deferral of extraordinary events. Those
- 25 principles must be clearly understood in order to

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- 1 properly evaluate and rule on Ameren's request.
- 2 The first one. Quote, although the general rule is
- 3 that items of profit and loss that occur in the
- 4 same period must for accounting and regulatory
- 5 purposes be reflected in that period for purposes
- 6 of determining earnings. The USOA has created an
- 7 exception to that rule for extraordinary items and
- 8 has created a special accounting mechanism for
- 9 dealing with such items. Ameren's told you
- 10 extraordinary. Second point. The USOA created a
- 11 mechanism to defer extraordinary items so that they
- 12 can be considered for possible inclusion in rates
- in a future period with one purpose in mind, to
- 14 enable a utility to protect its earnings. Third
- 15 point, expenses, revenues, gains and losses are all
- 16 legitimate candidates for deferral under 182.3.
- 17 Indeed these very words are included in the USOA's
- 18 definition of regulatory assets. General
- 19 instruction number 7 defines extraordinary items to
- 20 include all items of profit and loss and the
- 21 description of account 182.3 similarly speaks in
- 22 terms of all items which would have been included
- 23 in net income. They repeatedly talk about
- 24 extraordinary items. Finally, fourth point. In
- 25 order to qualify as extraordinary under the USOA an

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- 1 event or transaction must satisfy each of the four
- 2 criteria identified in general instruction number
- 3 7. The event or transaction must be one, of
- 4 unusual nature and frequent occurrence, two,
- 5 significant event, three, abnormal and
- 6 significantly different from the ordinary and
- 7 typical activities of the utility and fourth, not
- 8 reasonably be expected to recur in the foreseeable
- 9 future. So while they're saying here that you have
- 10 discretion just months ago they told you
- 11 extraordinary, and they told you what extraordinary
- 12 is and it's certainly not recurring and it's
- 13 certainly not things that are in the ordinary and
- 14 typical activities of the utility. So Ameren's
- 15 told you this and you ruled upon their last
- 16 decision with that in mind.
- 17 Let's get to a conclusion. I'm
- 18 sorry, this is, I told you the Commission's
- 19 discretionary standard must be limited by the
- 20 retroactive rate making and other decisions of the
- 21 Court of Appeals. So the conclusion here, KCP&L's
- 22 AAO request one, it violates the Uniform System of
- 23 Accounts of including all recurrent costs in
- 24 current financials. Second thing, it violates the
- 25 Commission in USOA's extraordinary standard for

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- 1 regulatory assets. Third, it violates the
- 2 prohibition against retroactive rate making. Four,
- 3 it misleads investors by inflating current
- 4 earnings. Fifth, it increases future ratepayer's
- 5 rates that have already suffered from 60 percent
- 6 rate increases over the last six years. Mr. Mills
- 7 hit on this, we're not seeking to deny them
- 8 recovery of these costs, we're just telling you
- 9 there's already an established way to get recovery
- 10 of these costs, that's a rate case. Tell them to
- 11 file a rate case. If they want recovery of these
- 12 costs and they believe their rates are inadequate
- 13 file a rate case. They know when to do it, they
- 14 showed you a chart that showed we know when the
- 15 rate, when the cost increases are coming, file a
- 16 rate case in advance of hitting that cost increase.
- 17 That's all we're saying. We'll give them recovery
- 18 of these costs, file a rate case and show that you
- 19 need it in the context of all relevant factors
- 20 where we can look at their decreasing cost of debt,
- 21 their decreasing rate base, their increasing off
- 22 system sales and all the other factors that are
- 23 working against them.
- 24 Bottom line, as we've shown KCP&L or
- 25 GMO is over earning so they don't want to file a

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- 1 rate case. That said they still want to get
- 2 recovery of this increasing item so they want to
- 3 treat this single item in a vacuum and ignore their
- 4 over earnings. Bottom line for you, tell them to
- 5 file a rate case.
- If you have any questions I'll be
- 7 happy to answer them.
- 8 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Any
- 9 questions from the bench?
- 10 Okay.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE BURTON: I'm currently showing
- 13 that it's 11:30. How long do the parties expect to
- 14 have for cross examination as an estimate for KCP&L
- 15 and GMO's witness Ryan Bresette?
- MR. THOMPSON: Half hour.
- 17 JUDGE BURTON: So the Staff would
- 18 require a half hour or for all --
- 19 MR. THOMPSON: I would imagine we can
- 20 all finish with Mr. Bresette in a half hour. Just
- 21 guessing.
- 22 JUDGE BURTON: Would the other
- 23 parties concur?
- MR. WOODSMALL: Bresette very little.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay. In that case

Page 116 why don't we go ahead and proceed and allow the 2 applicants to call their first witness. 3 MR. STEINER: Call Ryan Bresette. 4 (Whereupon, the witness was sworn) 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION OUESTIONS BY MR. STEINER: 7 Please state your name for the Q. 8 record. Α. Ryan Bresette. 10 Who are you employed by and what's 11 your position? 12 I'm employed by Kansas City Power & 13 Light and I am an assistant controller. 14 Q. And did you cause to be filed in this 15 case direct testimony which has been marked as KCPL 16 Exhibit 1? 17 Α. Yes. 18 Do you have any changes to make to Q. 19 that testimony? 20 No, I do not. Α. 21 If I were to ask you the questions 22 that are contained in that testimony today would 23 your answers be the same as are contained in KCPL 24 Exhibit 1? 25 Α. Yes.

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- 1 Q. Are the answers contained in KCPL
- 2 Exhibit 1 true and correct to the best of your
- 3 information, knowledge and belief?
- A. Yes, they are.
- 5 MR. STEINER: Your Honor I'd like to
- 6 offer KCPL Exhibit 1 into evidence and would tender
- 7 this witness for cross examination.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- 9 Are there any objections?
- 10 Okay. KCPL Exhibit 1 has been
- 11 offered and admitted.
- 12 We now can begin with cross. I
- 13 believe that's Ameren's witness.
- MR. LOWERY: No questions Your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 16 Empire.
- MR. COOPER: No questions.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Staff?
- 19 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you Judge, just
- 20 a little bit.
- JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Thompson.
- MR. THOMPSON: Judge I request leave
- 23 to examine here from counsel table?
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm sorry?
- MR. THOMPSON: I request leave to

Page 118 examine from counsel table rather than the podium. 2 JUDGE BURTON: You may. 3 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. CROSS EXAMINATION 4 5 QUESTIONS BY MR. THOMPSON: 6 Am I correct in understanding you to Q. 7 be an accountant? 8 Α. Yes, sir. Q. Are you a certified public 10 accountant? A. I do not have an active license, I 11 12 did pass the CPA exam in the state of Missouri. 13 Q. Very well. 14 Now Mr. Bresette, would you agree 15 with me that normally the rules that apply to the accounting at KCP&L and GMO would require expenses 16 17 to be recorded in the period in which they are incurred? 18 19 Yes, I would agree with that. Α. 20 So would you agree with me that the Q. 21 deferral that the companies are seeking here today 22 is a deviation from the normal accounting rules? No, I do not agree with that 23 24 statement because FAS 71 and the Uniform System of Accounts allow for the utilities to seek recovery 25

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- 1 of expenses. And the Commission has broad
- 2 discretion to grant recovery or potential recovery
- 3 of costs.
- 4 Q. Okay. In the absence of an order
- 5 from the Commission can the Company defer those
- 6 expenses?
- 7 A. Absent an order, no, we are not able
- 8 to because we have to be able to get to a
- 9 probability threshold that we would be able to
- 10 recover those costs in future rates.
- 11 Q. Now, do you agree with the
- 12 application filed in this case -- first of all let
- 13 me ask you if you've seen it or read it?
- 14 A. I have.
- 15 Q. Okay. And would you agree with me
- 16 the application states the position that the
- 17 Commission misunderstood and misapplied general
- 18 instruction number 7 in the Company's last rate
- 19 case?
- 20 A. Yes. I would agree that in the last
- 21 rate case the Commission made an inappropriate
- 22 linkage between general instruction 7 and FERC
- 23 account 182.3 whereby the Commission stated on page
- 24 29 through 31 I believe of its order that the
- 25 Commission already had the ability to track those

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- 1 costs but the language in that order was not
- 2 sufficient enough for the Company to record as a
- 3 regulatory asset.
- 4 Q. Very good. Thank you.
- 5 MR. THOMPSON: No further questions.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 7 Next Office of Public Counsel.
- 8 MR. MILLS: Just a few. Thank you.
- 9 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 10 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLS:
- 11 Q. Mr. Bresette you cite to ASC 980 in
- 12 your testimony, is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. And in particular on page 3 of your
- 15 testimony you talk about two requirements in ASC
- 980 being probable future recovery and that, that's
- in lines 1 through 3, and then second at lines 4 to
- 18 5 the regulator's intent, do you see that
- 19 reference?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. How for the purposes of ASC 980 do
- you determine the regulator's intent?
- 23 A. The regulator's intent is specified
- 24 as the language that's in the order and so in our
- 25 application we ask for the Commission to allow us

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- 1 to defer the incremental costs above and beyond the
- 2 base rates in a regulatory asset or likewise if the
- 3 costs are decreasing as a regulatory liability.
- 4 Q. But that's simply about deferral.
- 5 How do you from that infer the regulator's intent
- 6 for recovery as you talk about on lines 4 and 5 of
- 7 page 3?
- 8 A. Yeah. So when the regulator, or when
- 9 the Commission grants permission to further those
- 10 costs in a regulatory asset or a regulatory
- 11 liability the Company would look at past history
- 12 with the Commission and similar trackers that have
- 13 been received and the recovery of those and that
- 14 would provide sufficient evidence for management to
- 15 assert and the external auditors to agree that we
- 16 would get future recovery in our future rates.
- Q. Okay. So let me ask you if this is a
- 18 fair way to paraphrase: Because the Commission has
- in the past always allowed recovery of deferred
- 20 expenses if the Commission were to allow deferral
- in this case that would allow you to assert to your
- 22 external auditors that the Commission is likely or
- 23 probable to allow recovery in this case.
- 24 A. That is certainly a precedent we
- 25 would look at of what the Commission is allowed to

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- 1 recover in rates, absolutely.
- 2 **Q.** Okay.
- Now, you have not cited all of the
- 4 various subparts of ASC 980 in your testimony, is
- 5 that correct?
- 6 A. That's correct, I only cited the
- 7 pertinent facts as associated with this case.
- 8 Q. Are you aware that ASC 980 only
- 9 allows carrying costs for capital expenditures?
- 10 A. I have not recently reviewed ASC 980
- in that detail in preparing for this case.
- 12 Q. Well, let me ask you this: Are the
- 13 amounts that the Company seeks to defer in this
- 14 case, are those capital expenditures or expense
- 15 items?
- 16 A. They are expense items.
- Q. Okay. So if the ASC 980 specifically
- 18 restricted carrying costs to capital expenditures
- 19 then carrying costs would not be appropriate for
- 20 the amounts you seek to defer in this case, is that
- 21 correct?
- 22 A. I don't necessarily agree with that
- 23 because with other trackers that we have in place
- 24 we record carrying costs on those as well. That
- 25 would normally be expense items. So this would be

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- 1 consistent with the Company's previous positions
- 2 and treatment by the Commission as well.
- 3 Q. Regardless of what ASC 980 says you
- 4 think the previous practice of the Company
- 5 controls?
- 6 A. I think the actions of the Commission
- 7 by authorizing us to earn a return on that
- 8 regulatory asset is what governs our regulatory
- 9 record keeping.
- 10 Q. So if the Commission were in its
- 11 order allowing deferral to specify something that
- 12 is otherwise not allowed by ASC 980 you believe
- 13 your outside auditors would allow you to treat it
- 14 the way the Commission has?
- 15 A. I believe if the Commission so orders
- 16 the Company to record carrying costs on our
- 17 transmission AAO then our external auditor at our
- 18 weighted average cost of capital which we would
- 19 have requested then our external auditors would be,
- 20 they would agree with the recording of carrying
- 21 costs on that regulatory asset.
- Q. Despite what ASC 980 says?
- 23 A. Again I think it's what the
- 24 Commission orders us to do because we are under the
- 25 control of the Missouri Public Service Commission

		Page 124
1	and Kansas Commissio	on.
2	Q. Okay.	
3	MR. MI	LLS: That's all the questions
4	I have.	
5	JUDGE	BURTON: Thank you.
6	Next M	MIEC.
7	MR. DC	OWNEY: No cross.
8	JUDGE	BURTON: And Mr. Woodsmall?
9	MR. WC	OODSMALL: Very little.
10	CRC	OSS EXAMINATION
11	QUESTIONS BY MR. WOO	DDSMALL:
12	Q. Mr. Br	resette in your testimony you
13	indicate you were re	esponsible for leading the
14	Company's monthly fo	precasting and annual budgeting
15	process, is that cor	rect?
16	A. Yes, s	sir, it is.
17	Q. Does t	this responsibility include both
18	annual Cap Ex and op	perating budgets?
19	A. Yes, i	t does.
20	Q. Okay.	And would you, would your
21	annual operating bud	get include transmission costs?
22	A. Yes, i	t does.
23	Q. And do	you rely on SPP forecasts in
24	creating these opera	ting budgets?
25	A. That i	s a data input into our

Page 125 1 process. And from what group or individual Q. 3 does that information come from? 4 Α. It goes from our generation group. Q. Is that Mr. Carlson? Α. Yes, sir. 7 Okay. And how far out into the Q. 8 future do you budget? 9 Α. We currently work on a five year 10 plan. 11 And for purposes of including Q. 12 transmission costs in that five year plan you're 13 relying on SPP forecasts, is that correct, as part 14 of it? 15 A. Yes, sir. 16 Q. Okay. In this case KCP&L is seeking 17 to implement a mechanism to capture changes in transmission costs, is that correct? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 Is it your opinion that the Uniform 21 System of Accounts would allow for the creation of 22 an AAO or tracker to capture changes in KCP&L's transmission costs, is that correct? 23

254 of the regulatory liability, what we would

Yes. And the definition of 182.3 and

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Α.

2.4

25

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- 1 record in that act is based on what the Commission
- 2 orders us to set up as probable or future recovery.
- 3 Q. Would the Uniform System of Accounts
- 4 allow for the creation of a similar AAO or tracker
- 5 to capture changes in other costs?
- 6 A. Yes. If so ordered by the
- 7 Commission.
- 8 Q. Okay. Would the Uniform System of
- 9 Account allow for the creation of a similar AAO or
- 10 tracker mechanism to capture change in revenues?
- 11 A. Again 182.3 and 254 are designed for
- 12 the Commission, the commissioners to have the
- 13 digression to instruct the Company on what costs
- 14 should be recovered in future proceedings or
- 15 returned to customers.
- 16 Q. Again would the Uniform System of
- 17 Accounts allow for the creation of an AAO or
- 18 tracker to capture changes in revenues?
- 19 A. I don't think that 182.3 or 254
- 20 limits the commissioner's ability of whether it's
- 21 expense or revenues.
- 22 Q. So the answer to my question is yes?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. So for instance if KCP&L's off
- 25 system sales have gone up since the last case the

Page 127 Commission could under USOA create an AAO to 2 capture those changes, isn't that correct? 3 Α. Yes. And the Commission could under USOA 4 Q. 5 implement an AAO to capture decreases in KCP&L's 6 debt costs, is that correct? 7 A. Yes. And the Company would have to substantiate as well. 8 9 MR. WOODSMALL: No further questions. 10 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 11 Chairman do you have any questions? 12 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No thank you. 13 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Kenney? 14 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No. 15 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Hall? 16 COMMISSIONER HALL: None. Thank you. 17 JUDGE BURTON: Seeing that there's no 18 questions from the bench let's see if there's any redirect? 19 20 MR. STEINER: Just a moment Your 21 Honor. 22 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. 23 MR. STEINER: I have no questions. 2.4 JUDGE BURTON: All right. Thank you. 25 You may be excused.

Page 128 1 MR. BRESETTE: Thank you. 2 JUDGE BURTON: I have it as currently 3 11:44. Did the parties wish to go ahead and continue with direct for the next witness or take a 5 break for an hour for lunch? 6 MR. WOODSMALL: I have no questions 7 for him, so that may help. MR. FISCHER: We're at your 8 discretion Judge. 10 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Staff or OPC? 11 MR. THOMPSON: We have some. MR. FISCHER: We can go ahead and try 12 to get him done if you'd like. 13 14 MR. THOMPSON: Staff has very little for Mr. Carlson. 15

- 16 JUDGE BURTON: Why don't we go ahead
- 17 with John Carlson.
- 18 (Whereupon, the witness was sworn)
- 19 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 20 QUESTIONS BY MR. FISCHER:
- 21 Q. Please state your name and position
- with the company.
- 23 A. My name is John Carlson and I work as
- 24 an originator for KCP&L.
- Q. Are you the same John Carlson that

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- 1 caused to be filed in this case two pieces of
- 2 testimony, direct testimony that's been marked as
- 3 KCPL Exhibit 2 and surrebuttal testimony which has
- 4 been marked as KCPL Exhibit 3?
- 5 A. That is correct, yes.
- 6 Q. Do you have any changes you need to
- 7 make to the testimony?
- 8 A. I do not.
- 9 Q. If I were to ask you the questions
- 10 that are contained in those pieces of testimony
- 11 today would your answers be the same?
- 12 A. Yes, they would.
- 13 Q. And are they true and correct?
- 14 A. Yes, they are.
- 15 MR. FISCHER: Judge I would move for
- 16 the admission of KCPL Exhibits 2 and 3 and tender
- 17 the witness for cross examination.
- 18 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Are there any
- 19 objections?
- 20 All right. Then KCP&L's Exhibit 2
- 21 and Exhibit 3 have been offered and admitted.
- 22 Ameren Missouri your witness.
- MR. LOWERY: No questions Your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: Empire?
- MR. COOPER: No questions.

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1	JUDGE BURTON: And Staff?	
2	MS. HAMPTON: Just a few.	
3	CROSS EXAMINATION	
4	QUESTIONS BY MS. HAMPTON:	
5	Q. Mr. Carlson I'm just going to ask you	
6	a few questions for clarity sake, the first has to	
7	do with the transmission zones. In your direct	
8	testimony you stated that two of the 17	
9	transmission pricing zones currently under the SPP	
10	open access tariff belong to KCP&L and GMO, is that	
11	correct?	
12	A. I believe that's correct, yes.	
13	Q. Are these local pricing zones?	
14	A. Yes, they are.	
15	Q. And I'd also like to ask you about	
16	schedules JRC dash 1 and JRC dash 2 of your direct	
17	testimony. Your testimony describes the evolution	
18	of SPP's funding methodologies including not only	
19	the base funding methodology but also the balanced	
20	portfolio and the highway byway cost allocation	
21	methods, is that correct?	
22	A. That's correct.	
23	Q. But the titles of your two schedules	
24	are both titled Base Planning Funding Costs, is	
25	that right?	

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- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. So are those two schedules limited to
- 3 only the base plan funding methodology or do they
- 4 include data for the balance portfolio and highway
- 5 byway methodologies?
- 6 A. So base plan funding is sort of a
- 7 generic term for all of the expansion projects so
- 8 in this case yes, they include all of the expansion
- 9 projects, base plan funding, balance portfolio.
- MS. HAMPTON: No further questions.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 12 Office of Public Counsel?
- 13 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 14 OUESTIONS BY MR. MILLS:
- 15 Q. Mr. Carlson if you're still there on
- 16 JRC schedules 1 and 2, let me ask you this: When,
- sort of in the future and to the right of where
- 18 these schedules show, when do you anticipate that
- 19 these costs will return to the test year levels in
- 20 the last rate case, or do you?
- 21 A. SPP is, this is just a slice of the
- 22 projection from SPP. The projection actually goes
- 23 out years longer due to the amortization of these
- 24 projects, these large scale projects so I don't
- 25 know the exact year but it's farther out, it might

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- 1 be 2030, it might be 2040, I don't recall the exact
- 2 projection of the schedule but it's farther out
- 3 than what's shown in here.
- 4 Q. But you anticipate that in 2030 or
- 5 2040 that these expenses will go back to the 2011,
- 6 2012 test year levels?
- 7 A. Given that this is an extraordinary
- 8 build-out of a system that we haven't seen
- 9 historically all indications are that once these
- 10 projects are amortized you'd see a decline in that
- 11 expense. Will it get to the 2011, 2012 test year,
- 12 I can't say for sure.
- 13 Q. So there's some decline but you don't
- 14 know if it would ever go back to the test year
- 15 levels.
- 16 A. I can't say that it will for sure but
- 17 it should given that these projects will be paid
- 18 for over time and then you wouldn't see an
- 19 investment at this level, we wouldn't expect to see
- 20 the same investment at this level from a region
- 21 wide perspective that we have.
- 22 Q. You don't foresee additional regional
- 23 transmission expenses in the future that are not
- 24 currently contemplated?
- A. No, there will be regional projects

Page 133 that will come in as additional transmission 2 service is approved by SPP, you will have projects 3 that are at various voltage levels I think as described in my testimony, depending on the voltage 4 5 level you'll see those regional, those projects 6 allocated, those costs allocated regionally. So 7 you'll still see some of those but the very large increase in a short period of time in this 8 expansion effort you probably won't see for the near future. This is an unprecedented type 10 build-out of a system. 11 12 Q. Thank you. 13 MR. MILLS: No further questions. 14 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Downey? 15 MR. DOWNEY: No cross. 16 MR. WOODSMALL: No questions. 17 JUDGE BURTON: Chairman do you have 18 any questions? 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just a couple. 20 EXAMINATION 21 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY: 22 Q. Can you hear me Mr. Carlson? 23 Yes, I can. 24 Q. I like your tie. 25 Α. I was told to watch out in case you

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- 1 were here, so.
- Q. Well, you did a fine job.
- 3 So here's my question: How does KCPL
- 4 currently recover its transition related costs?
- 5 A. Those are recovered through rates.
- 6 Q. Okay. And so is the distinction that
- 7 KCP&L's application is drawing between what it's
- 8 trying to recover through the AAO, what it's trying
- 9 to defer to the AAO and what it typically recovers,
- 10 is that the nature of the current crop of projects
- 11 that SPP is offering are extraordinary or is there
- 12 some other distinguishing factor?
- 13 A. They are extraordinary and in the
- 14 magnitude of the investment is much larger than
- 15 we've seen historically or that we've had to
- 16 operate in our normal what I'll call ordinary
- 17 business practices prior to these projects coming
- 18 into fruition.
- 19 Q. So there's nothing peculiar about
- transmission costs generally, it's just the nature
- 21 and extent of the most recent projects that SPP has
- 22 approved.
- 23 A. That's correct.
- 24 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No other questions.

Page 135 1 JUDGE BURTON: I just have a quick 2 question. 3 EXAMINATION QUESTIONS BY JUDGE BURTON: 4 5 Q. Looking at your JRC 1 and JRC 2, do those include any sort of FERC incentives from 6 7 Transource Missouri or were those already excluded? Those do not include any incentives 8 for Transource. 10 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I do have a question now. I remembered my question earlier. 11 12 EXAMINATION QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY: 13 14 Q. It's just that, and it's just curiosity, why is GMO projected just an expansive 15 increase from 2001 to 2002? 16 A. And I think you're referring to JRC 17 2. 18 19 Q. Yes. 20 Those out years, the 2022 to 24, 21 those represent a set of projects that were initially projected to come into effect I believe 22 in the 2016 to 2020 time frame and because of 23 24 various factors the timing of those projects being 25 completed and then billed to SPP members has been

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- 1 pushed off so you see this dramatic spike.
- 2 Q. But it's on GMO not KCP&L.
- 3 A. That's true. Some of those projects
- 4 might be zonally allocated depending on the voltage
- 5 level of those projects so they might be allocated
- 6 more directly to GMO than to KCP&L.
- 7
 Q. So just the timing.
- 8 A. It's more of a timing.
- 9 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: I did have one more
- 11 question.
- 12 EXAMINATION
- 13 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE BURTON:
- 14 Q. These are just projections, correct?
- 15 A. Yes, the bar chart shows projections
- 16 from SPP, the first three years are actuals that we
- 17 have seen and then the line item, the lines on the
- 18 chart show previous projections to give an
- 19 indication of how they've changed over time.
- Q. What would you say are the likelihood
- 21 for these projections? Are they just simply
- 22 estimates?
- 23 A. So I think as has been discussed
- 24 previously we haven't seen the exact level of SPP
- 25 projections come to fruition yet. In conversations

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- 1 with SPP that's more of a timing issue than
- 2 anything else so the projects are going to come,
- 3 the expenses are going to hit but they're just not
- 4 hitting yet. Various factors are coming into play
- 5 such as projects being deferred, those types of
- 6 issues that are causing projects to be pushed off
- 7 but the expenses will come.
- 8 Q. But is it possible the numbers are
- 9 going to be lower?
- 10 A. It is possible, yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE BURTON: Any recross based on
- 13 the questions from the bench?
- MR. WOODSMALL: Briefly.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- 16 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 17 OUESTIONS BY MR. WOODSMALL:
- 18 Q. You were asked a question from the
- 19 Chairman about whether your charts in JRC 1 and 2
- include costs associated with Transource, is that
- 21 correct?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. And you said it wouldn't include
- 24 those costs associated with Transource, is that
- 25 correct?

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- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. How, if Transource builds a
- 3 transmission line how do they recover the cost of
- 4 that?
- 5 A. So in that case assuming Transource
- 6 builds an SPP project that met requirements for
- 7 regional allocation in that case there could be an
- 8 allocation for KCPL and KCPL GMO. So if I
- 9 misstated that, you're correct, in that case there
- 10 could be an allocation from a Transource project.
- 11 Best of my knowledge that hasn't been included in
- 12 these projections but there are 100 different, 100
- 13 plus different projects shown in this projection
- 14 but you are correct, that could happen.
- 15 Q. Okay. So JRC 1 and 2 may include
- 16 Transource costs, you just don't know at this
- point, is that correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Okay. And if FERC allows Transource
- a higher ROE than what the Missouri Commission
- 21 would have allowed those costs as included would be
- 22 higher, is that correct?
- 23 A. As I understand it that would be
- 24 correct, yes.
- 25 **Q.** Okay.

1	MR. WOODSMALL: No further questions.	Page 139	
2	JUDGE BURTON: Any other cross?		
3	Redirect?		
4	MR. FISCHER: Yes.		
5	REDIRECT EXAMINATION		
6	QUESTIONS BY MR. FISCHER:		
7	Q. Mr. Carlson Judge Burton asked you I		
8	think whether these were forecasts or actuals, do		
9	you recall that?		
10	A. Correct.		
11	Q. Does the AAO that you're requesting		
12	in this case deal with forecasts in any way?		
13	A. No, it does not.		
14	Q. Would you explain how that works?		
15	A. So the AAO is only asking for our		
16	actual costs so the projections can be what they		
17	are, if we come in a little lower, if we come in a		
18	little higher we're still only asking for the		
19	actual costs incurred.		
20	Q. Okay. And I believe the chairman		
21	asked you whether there was something peculiar		
22	about the SPP build-out, do you recall that		
23	question?		
24	A. I do recall that.		
25	Q. And would you elaborate on your		

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1 answer to that?

- 2 A. Just historically speaking prior to
- 3 the 2010, 2011 time frame when some of these larger
- 4 projects started coming into, built on the system
- 5 KCPL would manage their system, build their system
- 6 on a zonal base for our customers as needed, we
- 7 would provide upkeep of the system in various ways,
- 8 whether it was reconductoring, whether it was
- 9 switch gear maintenance, general maintenance on our
- 10 particular zonal system. Once SPP started
- 11 implementing a region wide cost allocation model
- 12 and 2005, 2006 time frame they then implemented a
- 13 process to look at the whole region of SPP and
- 14 developed the balanced portfolio projects, in 2009
- 15 I believe is when they were approved and what we're
- 16 just now seeing is those projects from the balanced
- 17 portfolio being built, constructed, finalized and
- 18 now allocated regionally to customers and that's
- 19 why you're seeing this extreme increase in expense
- 20 for KCPL and GMO.
- 21 Q. Is that unusual or ordinary?
- 22 A. No, it's not ordinary, it is unusual,
- 23 it's not consistent with our ordinary historical
- 24 way of doing business. This build-out is on levels
- 25 not seen ever to my knowledge. I think we've

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- 1 likened it to the build-out of the interstate
- 2 highway system in the '50s, it's very much an
- 3 extraordinary event.
- 4 Q. Mr. Mills asked you about when you
- 5 expected I think costs to return to the test year
- 6 levels in the last rate case. Do you recall those
- 7 questions?
- 8 A. I do.
- 9 Q. Would you expect this AAO to remain
- 10 in effect if it's approved by the Commission into
- 11 **2030** or **2040**?
- 12 A. Assuming our costs were such that
- 13 they continue to increase well above levels seen in
- 14 rates I could see a scenario where that would be
- 15 the case but, you know, if we get this recovery and
- 16 we start getting more of these projects and rates I
- 17 don't, I mean I'm not necessarily an expert to talk
- 18 about whether we would keep the AAO for that long
- 19 or not.
- 20 Q. What's your understanding of when the
- 21 prudence of these expenses would be reviewed?
- 22 A. In our next rate case.
- Q. And that would be whenever you file
- 24 the next rate case.
- 25 A. That's correct.

Page 142 1 **Q**. Okay. Thank you. 2 MR. FISCHER: That's all I have 3 Judge. 4 JUDGE BURTON: All right. Thank you. 5 You're excused. 6 It's currently 12 o'clock so why 7 don't we go ahead and take an hour for a lunch break and then we'll resume with the final witness 8 for the applicant. 10 We'll now go off the record. (WHEREUPON, LUNCH RECESS WAS TAKEN) 11 12 JUDGE BURTON: Let's go ahead and go back on the record in file number EU dash 2014 dash 13 0077. At this time I'd like to remind everyone to 14 please turn off your cell phone or any electronic 15 devices and recall that if you have any witnesses 16 17 who may be discussing highly confidential information to review the room for anyone who might 18 not be subject to the nondisclosure agreement as 19 well as notify the bench so we can make sure to go 20 21 in camera. 22 Now at this time I believe Mr. 23 Steiner you had a --24 MR. STEINER: Yeah, I was inquiring about Mr. Bresette and Mr. Carlson, they finished 25

Page 143 their testimony, ask that they could be excused so 2 they could begin the car ride home? 3 JUDGE BURTON: Are there any objections to witnesses Bresette and Carlson being 4 5 permanently excused from this hearing today? 6 Okay. In that case they're excused. 7 MR. STEINER: Thank you. 8 JUDGE BURTON: And now applicants can call their third witness, I believe it's Mr. Ives? 10 MR. FISCHER: That's correct, Judge. (Whereupon, the witness was sworn) 11 12 JUDGE BURTON: Your witness. 13 DIRECT EXAMINATION 14 OUESTIONS BY MR. FISCHER: 15 Please state your name and position Q. with the company. 16 17 My name is Darrin Ives and I'm the vice-president for regulatory affairs for KCP&L. 18 19 Q. Are you the same Darrin Ives that 20 caused to be filed in this case direct testimony 21 which has been marked KCPL Exhibit 4 and surrebuttal testimony which has been marked as KCPL 22 23 Exhibit number 5? 24 A. I am. 25 Do you have any changes or Q.

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- 1 corrections you need to make to that testimony?
- 2 A. I do. We provided a response to a
- 3 data request 4 from Staff and that's resulted in
- 4 some changes to my direct testimony.
- 5 Q. Okay. Would you go through those so
- 6 that we could follow?
- 7 A. Sure. The first one is on page 4,
- 8 line 14 towards the end of that line where it says
- 9 accounts 560, 561, the account 560 should be
- 10 stricken, we've removed that from our request.
- 11 Then on the next page, on page 5 --
- 12 these are all related to the same change, there's a
- 13 table at the top of that page 5, that line that has
- 14 account 560 and two amounts for end rates, one for
- 15 KCPL, one for GMO and two amounts for a 2013
- 16 forecast, one for each company, that line should be
- 17 stricken from that table.
- 18 Q. That's all the way across from 560 to
- 19 each of the next five columns?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 **Q.** Okay.
- 22 A. That results in new totals for the
- 23 table. The total that's in the first end rates
- 24 column for KCPL-MO should now read 19,098,983, the
- 25 next column over, the 2013 forecast column for

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- 1 KCPL-MO should read 24,033,07. Two more columns
- 2 over the In Rates column for GMO should now read
- 3 12,315,646 and the last column, GMO 2013 forecast
- 4 total should be 16,857,013.
- 5 The last changes that I have and it's
- 6 all related to this same issue, it's on line 6 on
- 7 that same page we list what the regulatory asset
- 8 would be recorded for the incremental difference
- 9 and it's all based on the difference in the total,
- 10 total columns in the table above so the first
- 11 number, 4,873,572 should be changed to 4,934,034
- 12 and the second number which is for GMO, the
- 13 4,284,528 should now read 4,541,367. And again we
- 14 provided this in a DNR response to parties but this
- 15 account 560 after further review is primarily
- 16 internally incurred charges, labor and things like
- 17 that and our determination was that should not be
- 18 part of the tracker, that should be part of the
- 19 general rate case true-ups and updates.
- 20 Q. Are there any other changes you need
- 21 to make?
- 22 A. No there are not.
- Q. With those change in mind if I were
- 24 to ask you the questions that are contained in
- 25 Exhibits 4 and 5 today would your answers be the

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1	same?		
2	A. They would.		
3	Q. And are they accurate to the best of		
4	your knowledge and belief?		
5	A. They are.		
6	MR. FISCHER: Judge I'd move for the		
7	admission of KCPL Exhibit 4 and KCPL Exhibit 5 and		
8	tender the witness for cross.		
9	JUDGE BURTON: Are there any		
10	objections to KCPL Exhibit 4 being admitted into		
11	the record?		
12	Hearing none it is offered and		
13	admitted.		
14	And are there any objections to KCPL		
15	Exhibit 5 being admitted?		
16	Hearing none it's been offered and		
17	admitted into the record.		
18	And then any cross for Ameren?		
19	MR. LOWERY: No, Your Honor.		
20	JUDGE BURTON: Empire?		
21	MR. COOPER: Nothing.		
22	JUDGE BURTON: Staff?		
23	MR. DOTTHEIN: Yes, thank you.		
24			
25			

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- 1 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 2 QUESTIONS BY MR. DOTTHEIN:
- 3 Q. Good afternoon Mr. Ives.
- 4 A. Good afternoon.
- 5 Q. Mr. Ives typically as part of KCPL
- 6 and GMO entering into stipulations and agreements
- 7 to continue to participate in the Southwest Power
- 8 Pool have both companies agreed to perform cost
- 9 benefit studies regarding continued participation
- 10 in an RTO or independent coordinator of
- 11 transmission?
- 12 A. Yes, I think that's typical. We've
- 13 provided them an advance of dockets that have been
- 14 addressing continued participation and in the last
- ones that we had for both companies I think we
- 16 agreed to provide an updated one in 2017 which
- 17 would be the next time we would put that in front
- 18 of the parties.
- 19 Q. Okay. And if I could refer you to
- your surrebuttal testimony which I think is Exhibit
- 21 5, if I could refer you to page 25 of your
- 22 surrebuttal testimony. Line 19 where you make
- 23 reference to a 2011 submittal of an interim report
- 24 on RTO participation.
- 25 A. I see it.

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- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 May I approach the witness?
- JUDGE BURTON: You may.
- 4 Q. (BY MR. DOTTHEIN) Mr. Ives I'm going
- 5 to hand you what I represent is a cover pleading
- 6 with about 40 pages of that 2011 interim report
- 7 that was submitted on September 11, I believe --
- 8 excuse me, September 30, 2011 and I'd like to ask
- 9 you a question or two. And if you'd please just
- 10 take a look at the document. The first six pages
- 11 are a cover pleading which accompanied, which I'll
- 12 represent accompanied the interim report and I've
- 13 attached approximately 40 pages, the first 40 pages
- 14 of the interim report. The first page of the
- 15 interim report is labeled Kansas City Power & Light
- 16 Company and KCPL Greater Missouri Operations
- 17 Company, interim report in accordance with
- 18 stipulations and agreements, case numbers EO dash
- 19 2006-0142 and EO dash 2009 dash 0179.
- 20 A. I see it.
- Q. Okay. Do you recognize those
- 22 documents?
- 23 A. I have seen these documents.
- Q. Okay. And I'd like to direct you in
- 25 particular to page 2 of the cover pleading,

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- paragraph 4. And I'm going to read paragraph 4.
- 2 For both companies together the
- 3 projected annual net benefits of participating in
- 4 SPP vary from approximately negative 4 million in a
- 5 low case to positive 50 million in the high case
- 6 yielding a mid point net benefit of about 23
- 7 million per year. These numeric results do not
- 8 capture the full range of benefits that are and can
- 9 be achieved through SPP membership because many of
- 10 the benefits are not readily quantifiable.
- 11 Did I read that accurately?
- 12 A. Yes, you did.
- 13 Q. And again, I'd like to refer you to
- 14 page 25 of your surrebuttal testimony, lines 18 to
- 15 20 where you state, in the 2011 submittal of their
- 16 interim report on RTO participation KCPL and GMO,
- 17 that is G-M-O, relied heavily on studies that had
- 18 been previously produced by other entities.
- 19 I'd like to refer you to the actual
- 20 interim report itself, to page 1, section 1 of the
- 21 executive summary. And the very last sentence on
- 22 the bottom of the page that continues on to the
- 23 next page, and it states, does it not, the overall
- 24 benefit cost results were developed using a
- 25 combination of existing benefit cost studies and

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- 1 new analyses performed by the companies to estimate
- 2 and project the net benefits associated with the
- 3 various Regional Transmission Organization, paren
- 4 RTO, close paren, service and cost categories.
- 5 Did I read that accurately?
- 6 A. That's what it says.
- 7 Q. Okay. Thank you. And again you've I
- 8 think indicated that the, there were two cases last
- 9 year involving KCPL and GMO's applications for
- 10 continued participation in the Southwest Power
- 11 Pool, were there not?
- 12 A. There were, that's what this report
- 13 and this study's about and that's what the studies
- 14 and the aggregation were geared towards was, were
- 15 those cases.
- 16 Q. And the Commission authorized the two
- 17 companies to continue to participate for an interim
- 18 period to September 30, 2018, if you recall?
- 19 A. They did. I think the parties,
- 20 actually I think the parties came to agreement and
- 21 proposed a settlement, the Commission then
- 22 authorized the approval of that settlement.
- 23 Q. And I think you've indicated as part
- 24 of that settlement the companies are going to do,
- or perform another cost benefit study.

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- 1 A. We are. We did agree to that and I
- 2 believe the study will be conducted in 2017, you
- 3 know, at the time that that settlement was entered
- 4 the thought was it should be a few years before
- 5 that study's done because it is a time consuming,
- 6 cost intensive study that doesn't make sense to
- 7 review annually or that frequently. So 2017 I
- 8 think was the timetable.
- 9 Q. Mr. Ives are you familiar with the
- 10 Ameren Missouri fuel adjustment clause?
- 11 A. I'm aware that they have one and I
- 12 understand it at a fairly high level. I have not
- 13 reviewed their tariff or components of it in
- 14 detail.
- 15 Q. I'd like to refer you to your direct
- 16 testimony which I believe is Exhibit 4, page 12,
- 17 lines 14 to 15.
- 18 A. I'm there.
- 19 Q. You state there, do you not, as a
- 20 matter of fact Ameren UE has a fuel clause that
- 21 includes the costs identified in this application.
- 22 Did I read that accurately?
- A. You did.
- 24 Q. And I'd like to next direct you to
- page 13 of your direct testimony, lines 12 to 13.

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- 1 A. I'm there.
- 2 Q. And you state there initially Ameren
- 3 Missouri recovers its transmission costs through
- 4 its Missouri FAC.
- 5 Did I read that accurately?
- 6 A. That's what I stated.
- 7 Q. Okay. And I'd like to refer you back
- 8 to your surrebuttal testimony, page 12, line 17 to
- 9 23, if you'd just refer to that and also page 21,
- 10 line 11, page, to page 22, line 24 of your
- 11 surrebuttal testimony. I mean you also refer at
- 12 those portions of your surrebuttal testimony to the
- 13 fact that Ameren Missouri has an FAC and is
- 14 collecting transmission costs through its FAC, do
- 15 you not?
- 16 A. That's a good summary of what those
- 17 areas that you pointed out discuss.
- 18 Q. As part of the stipulation and
- 19 agreement respecting the KCPL alternative
- 20 regulation plan which addressed the environmental
- 21 retrofit of the Iatan 1 generating unit and the
- 22 construction of the Iatan 2 generating unit, KCPL
- 23 agreed among other things not to seek a fuel
- 24 adjustment clause prior to June 1, 2015, did it
- 25 **not?**

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- 1 A. I might have misheard your words but
- 2 I think the words were, it said we would not seek
- 3 to utilize a fuel adjustment clause by June 1st of
- 4 2015. I don't have it in front of me but that's my
- 5 recollection.
- 6 Q. All right. If you bear with me a
- 7 moment.
- 8 May I approach the witness?
- JUDGE BURTON: You may.
- 10 Q. (BY MR. DOTTHEIN) Mr. Ives I'm going
- 11 to hand you what I will represent is a copy of the
- 12 stipulation and agreement in case number
- 13 EO-2005-0329. The stipulation and agreement itself
- 14 being generally referred to as the KCPL regulatory
- 15 plan.
- 16 I'd like to refer you to page 7. The
- 17 section that's labeled C, Single Issue Rate
- 18 Mechanism.
- 19 A. I'm there.
- Q. Do you recognize that section?
- 21 A. I do.
- 22 Q. Okay. Would you read the first
- 23 sentence into the record?
- 24 A. Sure. First sentence in that section
- 25 C, Single Issue Rate Mechanisms says, KCPL agrees

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- 1 that prior to June 1, 2015 it will not seek to
- 2 utilize any mechanism authorized in current
- 3 legislation known as SB 179 or other change in
- 4 state law that would allow riders or surcharges or
- 5 changes in rates outside of a general rate case
- 6 based upon a consideration of less than all
- 7 relevant factors.
- Now, what is your understanding of
- 9 that sentence?
- 10 A. My understanding of that sentence is
- 11 that as it says we won't seek to utilize any rider
- 12 mechanisms, anything that will change customer
- 13 rates outside of a general rate case without what's
- 14 called relevant factors. Just to be clear my
- 15 understanding of that is that we're not allowed to
- 16 get deferrals that will be considered at a future
- 17 time in a general rate case.
- 18 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 19 And Mr. Ives to be clear I did not
- 20 mean to infer that that section applied to KCPL's
- and GMO's application for an Accounting Authority
- Order that is now pending before the Commission.
- 23 My question was in regards to what is commonly
- 24 referred to as a fuel adjustment clause such as
- 25 Ameren Missouri has and such as GMO has which was

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- 1 provided for by SB 179.
- 2 Mr. Ives, have you read the Ameren
- 3 Missouri Statement of Positions?
- 4 A. I believe I did read them when they
- 5 first came out, I think I read all the statements
- 6 of positions at least in summary.
- 7 May I approach the witness?
- JUDGE BURTON: You may.
- 9 Q. (BY MR. DOTTHEIN) Mr. Ives I'm going
- 10 to hand to you a copy of Statement of Positions of
- 11 Ameren Missouri.
- 12 A. Thank you.
- 13 Q. I'd like in particular, and take your
- 14 time looking at the document, but I'd like to refer
- 15 you in particular to page 3 under issue 6 which
- 16 addresses the Staff's, which sets out the Staff's
- seven conditions and I'd like to direct you to the
- 18 Ameren Missouri Statement of Position under Staff
- 19 Condition 1. And Staff Condition 1 is that the
- 20 deferral reflects both transmission revenues and
- 21 expenses and thereby be based upon the level of net
- 22 transmission costs experienced by KCPL and GMO and
- 23 the Ameren Missouri position is while Ameren
- 24 Missouri's fuel adjustment clause includes both
- 25 transmission revenues and expenses KCPL and GMO

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- 1 have articulated a sound and fair justification for
- 2 deferring only transmission expenses which the
- 3 Commission should carefully consider.
- 4 Did I read that accurately?
- 5 A. That is their stated position.
- 6 Q. Okay. And is it your understanding
- 7 that the Ameren Missouri's fuel adjustment, fuel
- 8 adjustment clause includes both transmission
- 9 revenues and expenses?
- 10 A. It's my understanding that it does
- 11 include transmission customer expenses like the 565
- 12 expenses and transmission revenues, yes.
- 13 Q. Mr. Ives are you aware that
- 14 Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and Union
- 15 Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri had earnings
- sharing plans in effect for several years in the
- 17 1990s at the Missouri Commission based on the
- 18 calculation of both of those utility's return on
- 19 common equity for a 12 month period?
- 20 A. I think it's fair to say I'm aware
- 21 that in the '90s there were a couple of earnings
- 22 sharing mechanisms in place. I'm not sure that I
- 23 was aware of the companies and I believe that as
- 24 I've heard it they were difficult to implement and
- 25 difficult to utilize and there aren't any any

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- 1 longer in the state.
- 2 Q. Mr. Ives, the Commission has not
- 3 adopted a standard for granting AAOs, has it, other
- 4 than one based on extraordinary, unusual, unique,
- 5 nonrecurring material events?
- 6 A. No, I'm not aware of a standard in
- 7 the Commission's regulations or in statutes that
- 8 address AAOs. They have utilized that criteria in
- 9 some prior orders. They've also issued an order as
- 10 I put in my testimony that says there is no
- 11 standard and that they have brought discretion to
- 12 allow that. And I've also got testimony in about a
- 13 number of deferrals that are on utility's books
- 14 that I would assert do not meet that criteria for
- 15 nonrecurring or unusual.
- 16 Q. And the examples you just referred
- 17 to, are those in your list of, that is attached to
- 18 your surrebuttal testimony as a schedule?
- 19 A. That's the set of examples I was
- 20 referring to.
- Q. Mr. Ives KCPL and GMO are requesting,
- 22 are they not, deferral of all costs other than
- you've just I think at the beginning of your
- 24 testimony classified account 560 but KCPL and GMO
- 25 are requesting deferral of all costs allocated to

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- 1 them by SPP that do not relate to specific regional
- 2 transmission projects besides costs that do relate
- 3 to specific regional transmission projects, is that
- 4 true?
- 5 A. I'm not sure that I understand that
- 6 question but what we're asking for is the
- 7 transmission customer costs that we incur that are
- 8 in the accounts that are listed in the table of my
- 9 testimony. Those accounts include charges from SPP
- 10 for base plan funding and also some fees for
- 11 services, those accounts also include charges
- 12 related to transmission that we obtained from other
- 13 RTOs, MISO would be an example of that, and from
- 14 other utilities. Both KCPL and GMO have a small
- 15 handful of grandfathered agreements that they incur
- 16 transmission expense from.
- 17 Q. KCPL and GMO are requesting deferral
- 18 of SPP administrative costs and SPP FERC assessment
- 19 fees, are they not?
- 20 A. Yes, they are. Those are on
- 21 schedules from SPP that would be included in those
- 22 accounts on my list.
- 23 O. Are those two items related to
- 24 regional transmission projects?
- 25 A. Those two items are related to

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- 1 operation of the RTO so broader than in those
- 2 circumstances just regionally funded transmission
- 3 projects. So it's inclusive of administrative
- 4 costs for regional transmission projects but also
- 5 other costs that are incurred.
- 6 Q. SPP is involved in things or service
- 7 functions other than regional transmission
- 8 projects, is it not?
- 9 A. It does. SPP has functional control
- 10 of the transmission systems for its members, you
- 11 know, amongst some other responsibilities. The SPP
- 12 is a for profit the way it's established so the
- 13 fees are intended to make sure that dollars that
- 14 they incur in their provision of service are
- 15 recovered from their members.
- 16 Q. Are the non-regional transmission
- 17 projects or activities that SPP is involved in
- 18 extraordinary, unusual, unique, nonrecurring and
- 19 material?
- 20 A. I would say the ongoing operations
- 21 and the fees associated that from SPP are
- 22 recurring, they are intended to recover their
- 23 costs. They certainly are increasing so we could
- 24 talk about material or not and some of that is a
- 25 result of maturing as an RTO, I mean they are

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- 1 putting in systems, they're moving to a new market.
- 2 They are creating infrastructure to serve all their
- 3 stakeholders well so they're ongoing but maybe in a
- 4 growth cycle right now.
- 5 Q. Mr. Ives, assuming KCPL and GMO meet
- 6 with success in this proceeding in KCPL's and GMO's
- 7 next rate cases will they seek AAOs or trackers for
- 8 the period between that rate case and their next
- 9 rate cases or -- pardon me for interrupting you.
- 10 I'm trying to get some idea as to the grand plan.
- 11 If the Commission agrees with KCPL on a going
- 12 forward basis as to how KCPL plans to address these
- 13 matters because it appears from your testimony that
- 14 KCPL and GMO are indifferent to AAOs or trackers so
- long as they get the money and so I was hoping that
- 16 you might be able to give the intervenors and the
- 17 commissioners an idea as to KCPL and GMO's
- 18 preferred manner of proceeding.
- JUDGE BURTON: Excuse me Mr.
- 20 Dotthein, could you please speak into the
- 21 microphone? I'm having difficulty hearing you.
- 22 Q. (BY MR. DOTTHEIN) I hope you might
- 23 be able to provide some idea of what is KCPL and
- 24 GMO's preferred manner of proceeding, whether that
- 25 is trackers or AAOs between cases or how would KCPL

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- and GMO on an ongoing basis or when June 15, 2015
- 2 arrives does KCPL and GMO intend at that time to
- 3 seek fuel adjustment clauses?
- 4 MR. MILLS: That may be the longest
- 5 question ever asked.
- 6 MR. DOTTHEIN: I'm sorry, I wish I
- 7 were more skilled.
- 8 A. I think there's a lot there but let
- 9 me see If I can answer your question.
- 10 You mentioned that we're indifferent
- 11 to -- I'll try to break it in part in pieces.
- 12 Indifferent to an AAO or tracker. I think that's
- 13 right from our perspective because we don't see it,
- 14 a distinguishable difference between the two. I
- 15 believe that under the US of A deferrals to
- 16 regulatory assets whether established by an AAO, a
- 17 tracker, inside a rate case, outside a rate case
- 18 are all governed by the definitions in account 182.
- 19 So I don't see a large difference. I think you're
- 20 doing the same thing, you're applying US of A
- 21 guidance on 182 to set deferrals.
- The broader part of your question I
- 23 think was what are we going to do perspectively. I
- 24 don't have the rock solid answer to that today, I
- 25 don't have a definitive case timetable set, I don't

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- 1 have a definitive case design set yet. There are a
- 2 lot of things to go into building a rate case and a
- 3 lot of analysis that has to occur to go through
- 4 that. Based on our projections and the projections
- 5 from SPP and the fact that we see, you know,
- 6 according to Mr. Carlson's testimony a 16 percent
- 7 annual rise on average between now and 2022 on
- 8 transmission expenses we'll be asking for a
- 9 solution. We can't sustain that as some parties
- 10 have suggested by just filing traditional rate
- 11 cases. Best case scenario even filing a
- 12 traditional rate case there's going to be 11
- 13 months, on the day you got new effective rates
- 14 there'd be 11 months until the next one, that's 11
- months of lag with 16 percent analyzed growth rate,
- 16 that's a problem for us and it's material to us so
- 17 whether it's a continuation of a deferral,
- 18 inclusion in a fuel adjustment clause like Ameren
- 19 has we'll have to consider that as we're putting
- 20 the case together but we'll need a solution.
- 21 Q. Mr. Ives, how confident are you in
- your list of AAO cases?
- 23 A. I'm confident that I included a list.
- 24 I have not reviewed each and every of the borders
- 25 and details in each of those and certainly probably

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- 1 don't have near the knowledge as Mr. Oligschlaeger
- 2 or people who have participated in many of those.
- 3 I did not participate in most of those.
- 4 MR. DOTTHEIN: I'd like to have
- 5 marked as an exhibit a, an AAO case that's not on
- 6 Mr. Ives' list and --
- 7 JUDGE BURTON: What would be the
- 8 exhibit number?
- 9 MR. DOTTHEIN: Pardon?
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: What would be the
- 11 exhibit number?
- MR. DOTTHEIN: 4.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- MR. DOTTHEIN: And judge, I don't,
- 15 you know, for briefing purposes or what have you I
- 16 don't know, I imagine at one point we will talk
- 17 about this as to how you might want, whether you
- 18 consider this need, whether it needs to be marked
- 19 or what have you but --
- JUDGE BURTON: Is it an order that
- 21 you're asking the Commission to take official
- 22 notice of?
- MR. DOTTHEIN: Yes, but it is, I'm
- 24 sorry to get into this dialogue but it's also
- 25 unusual because I've just discovered that EFIS is

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- 1 complete. There's a transcript that is in EFIS.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Do you have
- 3 copies for all the parties here today?
- 4 MR. DOTTHEIN: Yes.
- JUDGE BURTON: Why don't we go ahead
- 6 then and mark it as an exhibit and if you'd like to
- 7 offer it after presenting it to the other parties
- 8 to review.
- 9 MR. DOTTHEIN: I have various, it's
- 10 not just the orders, it's various documents. I
- 11 will explain why.
- 12 The reason why in particular it's got
- 13 the attachments is when you get into for example --
- 14 MR. LOWERY: I can't hear you back
- 15 here.
- 16 JUDGE BURTON: Can you please speak
- 17 into the microphone?
- 18 MR. DOTTHEIN: The reason I've got
- 19 attachments marked with the order itself is when
- 20 you get into Staff conditions such as when should
- 21 the amortization start --
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to go ahead
- 23 and stop you real quick. Let me have an
- 24 opportunity for the attorneys, for the parties to
- 25 review this and then if Staff would look to offer

Page 165 it let's see if there are any objections. 2 MR. DOTTHEIN: Fine. 3 So if the parties will just let me know when they've had a chance to review. 4 5 MR. WOODSMALL: I have no objection to this case. 7 MR. DOWNEY: No objection here 8 either. 9 MR. MILLS: No objection. 10 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Fischer or Steiner? 11 12 MR. FISCHER: No objection. JUDGE BURTON: In that case Staff 13 Exhibit 4 has been offered and admitted. 15 You may proceed. 16 Q. (BY MR. DOTTHEIN) In trying to 17 address the Staff's conditions, a number of them, when does the amortization start carrying charges, 18 19 many of the AAOs don't go for hearing, they are --20 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to stop you 21 real quick. 22 Mr. Dotthein we still have a witness on the stand. Is this a question that you're 23 24 directing to that witness? 25 MR. DOTTHEIN: No.

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- 1 JUDGE BURTON: Then why don't we go
- 2 ahead and just continue with the questions.
- 3 MR. DOTTHEIN: All right. At some
- 4 point I would like to address this matter though.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- 6 MR. DOTTHEIN: All right? Because it
- 7 will deal, I think it should be approached for
- 8 purposes if nothing else for briefing when we get
- 9 to it.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay.
- MR. DOTTHEIN: Okay? All right.
- 12 Q. (BY MR. DOTTHEIN) Mr. Ives if we go
- 13 back to your surrebuttal testimony I do not have
- 14 very many questions left. If we could go to page
- 15 11, lines 8 to 9 where you state it is the
- 16 Company's opinion that if it put a case together
- 17 today the Company would likely demonstrate it
- 18 currently has a revenue deficiency.
- 19 Did I read that accurately?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Mr. Ives, if GMO can
- 22 demonstrate that it has a revenue deficiency why
- 23 hasn't it filed a rate case?
- A. I wouldn't assert that just because
- 25 there is a period in time revenue deficiency or on

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- 1 the flip side a period in time revenue in excess of
- 2 earned returns based on actual results that there's
- 3 anything that you do about that. You need to look
- 4 at the totality of your operating conditions and
- 5 environment. A lot of thought, a lot of work goes
- 6 into development of a rate case and a decision to
- 7 ask customers for additional revenue requirement.
- 8 We look at that and there are, there are pluses and
- 9 minuses but I would tell you that over, in the last
- 10 rate case when I put testimony in on this topic I
- 11 provided an exhibit that had 20 years worth of
- 12 surveillance reports for KCP&L all of which showed
- 13 we were not earning our authorized return. We
- 14 didn't file a rate case in each of those 20 years.
- 15 I mean we have to balance what the right thing is
- 16 to do for customers, shareholders, all
- 17 constituencies.
- 18 Q. Mr. Ives, would KCPL or GMO file a
- 19 rate increase case solely on the basis of
- 20 increasing transmission costs?
- 21 A. I think it depends on the magnitude.
- 22 We've got a table here that shows that they may
- 23 increase 16 percent a year if it's not this year
- 24 then maybe next year when it's, you know, that much
- 25 larger than what's in rates or two years, at some

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- 1 point we would have no option or we would be so far
- 2 under earning our shareholders and investors
- 3 wouldn't stand for it.
- 4 Q. Mr. Ives one of the Staff conditions,
- 5 or the only Staff condition that the Company has
- 6 indicated that it has no problem with is the
- 7 condition where the Commission would state in its
- 8 order that no rate making determination is being
- 9 made by the Commission but at the same time the
- 10 Company wants the condition to make the
- 11 determination that carrying charges would be
- 12 awarded and set what those carrying charges would
- 13 be and also determine that the amortization would
- 14 start only when rates go into effect. If the
- 15 Commission puts in language that there are no rate
- 16 making determinations being made is it your
- 17 understanding that the Commission would be making
- 18 those decisions on when amortization would start
- 19 and that there would be carrying charges, what the
- 20 carrying charges would be from only an accounting
- 21 perspective?
- 22 A. That's kind of a long question but I
- 23 think your question is can the Commission provide a
- 24 carrying cost on a deferral and not start
- 25 amortization until a next general rate case and

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- 1 rates are effective from that and still not be
- 2 making a rate making determination.
- 3 Q. Yes.
- 4 A. Absolutely, I think that's right. I
- 5 mean a rate making determination in my mind is
- 6 something that impacts rates that are going in
- 7 under a tariff for customers. The carrying costs
- 8 that would be set in this order would be set and
- 9 deferred, the prudence of that and the evaluation
- 10 of that and the impact on rates for customers will
- 11 occur in the next general rate case when that's all
- 12 considered for amortization. Same with the
- 13 amortization, there's no change in rates today for
- 14 that, it would happen in the context of a general
- 15 rate case when all of those factors, prudence and
- 16 otherwise are considered for that so I think it's
- 17 absolutely aligned.
- 18 Q. Is, under your thinking is the
- 19 Commission free, in the rate case free to change
- 20 to -- and I understand Mr. Ives that you're not an
- 21 attorney, I'm not asking you a legal opinion, I'm
- 22 asking you your opinion from the accounting
- 23 perspective, from your professional perspective
- 24 which is not a legal one. If the Commission makes
- 25 the decision in the AAO order that there will be

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- 1 carrying charges and sets the rate for the carrying
- 2 costs is the Commission free, and it makes the
- 3 determination that the amortization will start when
- 4 new rates go into effect, is the Commission free in
- 5 the next rate case to change any of those
- 6 parameters?
- 7 A. Yes, I think the Commission has broad
- 8 discretion to consider evidence in that case and
- 9 make the determination. Our position I'm sure
- 10 would be that we were able to demonstrate that
- 11 these are prudent, prudently incurred costs and
- 12 they represent transmission, transportation of
- 13 electricity and the costs associated for the time
- 14 lag. Other parties might differ and I think the
- 15 Commission would have the discretion to make their
- 16 determination based on what's in the record.
- 17 Q. Mr. Ives is it possible for KCPL to
- 18 prepare surveillance reports using the same
- 19 approach and format that GMO uses to prepare its
- 20 reports for fuel adjustment clause purposes?
- 21 A. We have not put one together, I
- 22 believe it's possible. It's probably complicated
- 23 by the fact that we have a Kansas jurisdiction in
- 24 KCPL and we have a number of allocation factors and
- 25 things that we may all have to discuss and work

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- 1 through to come to agreement on the right format
- 2 and approach for that but I'm sure it's possible.
- 3 Q. Thank you Mr. Ives. I'm sorry if my
- 4 questions have been confusing.
- 5 A. It was fine. Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Mr. Mills?
- 7 MR. MILLS: Yes, thank you.
- 8 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 9 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLS:
- 10 Q. Let me start by following up with
- 11 something I think you and Mr. Dotthein just
- 12 discussed. It's your opinion that if the
- 13 Commission were to grant your request in this case
- 14 that would not be a rate making action, is that
- 15 correct?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And also with respect to the
- 18 surveillance data that GMO provides currently under
- 19 the FAC rule and that KCPL does not, if KCPL were
- 20 to seek and be granted authority to use a Fuel
- 21 Adjustment Clause you're aware that KCPL would have
- 22 to supply that kind of surveillance data, correct?
- 23 A. I know there's a standard under the
- 24 rule, I don't know the exact format.
- 25 O. And is it KCPL's intention to seek to

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- operate with a Fuel Adjustment Clause once it's
- 2 free from the restrictions in the regulatory plan?
- 3 A. Based on the impact that fuel has on
- 4 us and has over the last few years yes, I'm sure we
- 5 will.
- 6 Q. And at that time you're, it would be
- 7 your intention to comply with the FAC rules,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Absolutely. We're with the parties I
- 10 think on the reporting.
- 11 Q. Now, with respect to the list of AAO
- 12 cases you've got attached to your surrebuttal
- 13 testimony can you tell me which of those cases
- dealt with costs that are expected to ramp up in
- 15 the future and then remain at an elevated point for
- decades into the future?
- 17 A. There are standards of energy costs
- 18 might be one that has the potential to be an
- 19 ongoing cost for a period of time for utilities in
- 20 the state. There are deferrals here for pensions
- 21 and OPEBs, those are state elevated levels and
- 22 could go higher over a number of years.
- Q. At the time that those were granted
- 24 it's your testimony that both of those expenses
- 25 were expected to remain at elevated levels for

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- 2 A. It would have been my expectation
- 3 that pensions and OPEBs would be elevated for a
- 4 long time. I'm not sure what the parties thought
- 5 that entered the agreement.
- 6 O. Other than those two?
- 7 A. 106 is listed there, transmission
- 8 lease is down towards the bottom of the page, I
- 9 expect the transmission leases may be for an
- 10 extended period of time but I'm not familiar with
- 11 the details of that specific one.
- 12 Q. So you don't know how long those
- 13 transmission leases were.
- 14 A. I don't.
- 15 Q. Anything else?
- 16 A. I'm scrolling through. There are
- 17 items here for main replacements, I'm not as
- 18 familiar with the water and the gas business but I
- 19 am aware that main replacements and infrastructure
- 20 replacements have been a long term issue and
- 21 continue to be a long term issue for those
- 22 utilities so those may very well be consistently
- 23 elevated costs.
- Q. Now, were you in the room when Mr.
- 25 Bresette was on the stand?

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- 1 A. I was.
- 2 Q. And do you agree with his assessment
- 3 that under ACS 980 that there has to be a reason
- 4 for a utility to represent to its outside auditors
- 5 that there is a probable chance of recovery of
- 6 items that are deferred pursuant to an Accounting
- 7 Authority Order in order for those to be deferred?
- 8 A. Yes, I think that's in my testimony
- 9 as well.
- 10 Q. Okay. And I know you and I may have
- 11 some disagreement over whether or not this is the
- 12 case but to the extent that the costs that you seek
- 13 to defer in this case are different from most other
- 14 AAOs granted in this state would an outside auditor
- 15 be confident in relying on the Commission's past
- 16 treatment of deferred expenses given that these
- 17 costs are different?
- 18 A. You're right, we might disagree on
- 19 the first part of that question but I'm confident
- 20 and I'm confident after discussion with Mr.
- 21 Bresette and others that for this item if we were
- 22 to receive Commission's approval to defer that we
- 23 would, that would be allowed by our external
- 24 auditors.
- 25 Q. So you believe that you could in good

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- 1 faith represent to your outside auditors that
- 2 simply because the Commission approved this AAO
- 3 means that its probable that a future commission
- 4 will allow recovery.
- 5 A. I don't think it's simply because of
- 6 the approval, I think it's because of the approval
- 7 and because of our understanding and demonstration
- 8 of the types of costs that are being deferred, the
- 9 fact that they're prudent and they are costs that
- 10 are incurred in the provision of service to our
- 11 customer. I think they would consider that and
- 12 other factors as well.
- 13 **Q.** Okay.
- 14 MR. MILLS: Those are all the
- 15 questions I have.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 17 Mr. Downey?
- 18 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 19 QUESTIONS BY MR. DOWNEY:
- Q. Good afternoon.
- 21 A. Good afternoon.
- 22 Q. I'm Ed Downey, I represent the MIEC.
- 23 I'm going to turn to you for a little
- 24 bit here.
- 25 A. Okay.

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- 1 Q. When you were visiting with Mr.
- 2 Dotthein and he asked you why the Company didn't
- 3 file a rate case instead of this AAO action.
- 4 A. I remember that discussion.
- 5 Q. And you said because the Company
- 6 runs, and I'm going to paraphrase, an all relevant
- 7 factors analysis, is that right?
- 8 A. That's generally right. I mean we
- 9 look at the totality of what's going on in the
- 10 company and not just what's happening to us and
- 11 what the impacts are and have been to customers and
- 12 what our returns are, a number of factors. It's an
- 13 involved process.
- 14 Q. Right. And the Company did that and
- 15 it made a determination not to file a rate case at
- 16 that time, correct?
- 17 A. At this point, yeah, we've made a
- 18 determination not to file a rate case.
- 19 Q. And instead you filed this AAO
- 20 action, correct?
- 21 A. We did. In large part because of
- 22 what we felt like the language in the order set out
- 23 of our last rate case.
- Q. Okay. You're a CPA as I recall,
- 25 correct?

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- 1 A. I am.
- 2 Q. I'm going to ask you some very
- 3 fundamental accounting questions which I'm sure are
- 4 going to be no problem for you.
- 5 I think in your testimony you said as
- 6 revised now that there was an increase in 4.8
- 7 million transmission expenses in 2013 for Kansas
- 8 City Power & Light, or is it 4.9 million? I forget
- 9 the exact number.
- 10 A. Those are the ones we just changed, I
- 11 believe.
- 12 **Q.** Okay.
- 13 A. It's in that range, I can find the
- 14 exact number for you.
- 15 Q. I think I've got it, hold on, I'll
- 16 help you.
- 17 A. It's on page 5 of my direct.
- 18 Q. Okay. And what was it for Kansas
- 19 City Power & Light?
- 20 A. Well, as revised it's 4.9 million and
- 21 for GMO it's 4.5 and what that represents just so,
- just so we're on the same page is it's the
- 23 difference from what's in rates out of our last
- 24 case for the accounts that we're requesting to be
- 25 considered for deferral compared to what the 2013

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- 1 forecast was at the time I put this testimony
- 2 together which was eight months of actuals in 2013
- 3 and four months of forecasts. So that's the
- 4 comparison that generates the 4.9 and the 4.5.
- 5 Q. Okay. 4.9 and \$4.5 million was for
- 6 2013 for the two companies and that is the amount
- 7 that the transmission costs for the Southwest Power
- 8 Pool exceeded the expense that was used to set the
- 9 rate, correct?
- 10 A. Yeah, that's the comparison, yes.
- 11 Q. Now let's go to the accounting
- 12 question. That expense is already factored into
- 13 the books on the income statement for those
- 14 companies, right?
- 15 A. For 2013 it is --
- 16 Q. For 2013, yes.
- 17 A. It is in the income statement as
- 18 transmission expense. In the accounts that are
- 19 identified in my testimony.
- Q. Okay. And if you are successful in
- 21 this case and the Commission allows a deferral,
- 22 those expenses will come off the income statement,
- 23 correct, for 2013?
- 24 A. Correct. Not for 2013 likely, it
- 25 will likely happen in 2014 so it will be an

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- 1 adjustment that hits 2014. Books are closed, we'll
- 2 probably have filed our 2013 financials by the time
- 3 the Commission makes an order in this case so at
- 4 the time you receive the order you would make the
- 5 adjustment to do as the Commission stated if they
- 6 accept our position and at that time in 2014 we'd
- 7 credit expense to get technical accounting on that
- 8 and we would debit the deferred account that we
- 9 suggested, the 182.3.
- 10 Q. Let me rephrase the question.
- 11 Hypothetically speaking if you had
- 12 obtained this AAO effective January 1 of 2013,
- okay, if you had already done it, let's say you
- 14 filed this case a while ago and you had received
- 15 this Accounting Authority Order, wouldn't the
- income for the companies increase by the 4.9
- 17 million and the other number, 4.5, whatever it was,
- 18 million?
- 19 A. Sure. Because we'd be deferring
- 20 based on the rules under the 182 account.
- 21 Q. Right. So that expense would not be
- 22 reported on the income statement for 2013, instead
- 23 it would be recorded to some asset account 182.3?
- 24 A. Correct. And then the expense under
- 25 our request would hit the income statement as it

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- 1 amortizes off however the Commission were to
- 2 determine that amortization in the next general
- 3 rate case.
- Q. Okay. So I think we're in agreement,
- 5 took a few questions but I think we're in agreement
- 6 that the income for 2013 would have gone up if you
- 7 already had this AAO.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. Which means --
- 10 A. On a temporary, I mean it's a timing
- 11 basis, just for that year.
- 12 Q. Right. For 2013. And the, we talked
- 13 about, or have talked with some of the other
- 14 lawyers about surveillance monitoring reports,
- 15 right?
- 16 A. We have.
- 17 O. And while there's been a lot of
- 18 discussion no one's really defined what that is but
- in that report isn't there a number that you have
- 20 to report called actual return on equity?
- 21 A. We do report a return number, I don't
- 22 know exactly what it's termed in the report but
- 23 yeah, that's what it would be.
- Q. I'm not going to get into AHC here.
- MR. DOWNEY: May I approach?

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- JUDGE BURTON: You may.
- Q. (BY MR. DOWNEY) I'm going to show
- you a report I believe that was produced in
- 4 response to a discovery request. Can you read
- 5 right there on the report?
- 6 A. Sure, it's on the bottom half of this
- 7 page that I was presented, the heading of the table
- 8 is called Actual Earned Return On Equity.
- 9 Q. Thank you. And I think that is the
- 10 language I used in the previous question, is it
- 11 not?
- 12 A. Yeah, I believe that's right.
- 13 Q. Okay. So if the income goes up the
- 14 actual return on equity would go up as well.
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. I know these seem like very basic
- 17 questions for a CPA but I want it on the record.
- 18 All right. Now, you had some
- 19 discussions with Mr. Dotthein about you using
- 20 surveillance monitoring reports, ROEs in the past.
- 21 Do you recall that discussion? I believe you said
- 22 20 years worth.
- 23 A. I do recall that.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. It was, there were some exhibits to

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- 1 my testimony in the last rate cases.
- Q. Okay. And in fact in the last rate
- 3 case in your testimony you compare the Commission
- 4 authorized return on equity to the actual reported
- 5 return on equity on the surveillance monitoring
- 6 reports, correct?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Thank you.
- 9 MR. DOWNEY: Nothing further.
- JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Woodsmall your
- 11 witness.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Yeah.
- 13 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 14 QUESTIONS BY MR. WOODSMALL:
- 15 Q. Kind of hitting some working
- 16 backwards. You just talked about, you compared 20
- years of surveillance reports and you said that the
- 18 company could have but didn't file rate increases
- 19 during that time, is that correct?
- 20 A. I might have said that. I know I
- 21 said that those 20 year reports showed that our
- 22 earned returns were under our authorized returns.
- 23 Q. And during that 20 year period you
- 24 didn't file any rate cases, is that correct?
- 25 A. I think the last four or five rate

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- 1 cases that we've had as a result of the regulatory
- 2 plan would have been in that period.
- Q. Okay. So the 20 years you're talking
- 4 isn't the period of time between the Wolf Creek
- 5 rate case and the first case under the regulatory
- 6 plan.
- 7 A. No, I believe it was roughly, and it
- 8 might have been 20 plus or minus but it was roughly
- 9 post Wolf Creek until kind of current.
- 10 Q. Okay. And would you agree that
- 11 between the Wolf Creek case and the first case
- 12 under the regulatory plan KCP&L actually had three
- 13 rate reductions that were a result of Staff
- 14 investigations?
- 15 A. I believe the number was three.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. There were some rate reductions.
- 18 Q. In an analyst's presentation KCP&L
- 19 indicated that it would be filing a rate case to
- 20 pick up the capital costs associated with the
- 21 Lacene environmental improvements. Are you aware
- 22 of that?
- 23 A. I am aware.
- 24 Q. And by some agreement I quess that,
- 25 those improvements have to be done by June of 2015,

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- 1 is that correct?
- 2 A. That's correct. There's an agreement
- 3 for that and there's also, I mean we're in the
- 4 midst of that construction. We have a schedule
- 5 that puts us on track to be done by June of '15.
- 6 Q. So is it likely then that KCP&L will
- 7 be filing their next rate case some time the end of
- 8 this year to pick up those capital costs in 2015?
- 9 A. I don't think it's likely it would be
- 10 the end of this year. I think there's a chance
- 11 that it will be filed some time in '15.
- 12 **Q.** Okay.
- MR. WOODSMALL: I have some data
- 14 requests I'd like to put in. Mark this as I guess
- 15 it's MECG Exhibit 3.
- JUDGE BURTON: Excuse me --
- MR. WOODSMALL: I'm sorry Kevin.
- MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.
- 19 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Do you have what
- 20 has been marked MECG Exhibit No. 3?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And can you identify that document
- 23 **for me?**
- 24 A. It looks like a set of DNR responses
- 25 provided by the Company in response to questions

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- 1 that you asked.
- 2 MR. WOODSMALL: Move for the
- 3 admission of MECG 3 Your Honor.
- 4 JUDGE BURTON: Any objections?
- 5 All right. MECG Exhibit 3 is
- 6 admitted.
- 7 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Can you tell me
- 8 how long KCP&L has been in SPP?
- 9 A. I think there's a difference between
- 10 SPP, kind of the RTO it operates today and SPP that
- 11 we've been in for probably a couple decades or
- 12 longer. I think we entered SPP in the late '90s,
- 13 early 2000s. I'm not sure of the exact time from
- 14 an RTO standpoint after they received that
- 15 designation.
- 16 Q. And about the same length of time for
- 17 GMO, is that correct?
- 18 A. I think GMO actually came into SPP
- 19 right before or right after we acquired them so
- 20 it's more like 2008. They were looking at a couple
- 21 different options prior to that.
- 22 Q. There's been some discussion, and
- 23 hopefully you can clarify for me, that KCP&L
- 24 doesn't really care if, I may be using that
- loosely, whether they are granted an AAO or a

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- 1 tracker. Can you explain to me what you believe is
- the difference between an AAO and a tracker?
- 3 A. Sure. I tend to look at it from a
- 4 little bit of an accounting standpoint I guess.
- 5 Q. That's fine.
- 6 A. But to me both of them present
- 7 deferrals of items that would otherwise be
- 8 experienced or handled differently on your
- 9 financial statements. Commission authorizes those
- 10 deferrals and then they are in the future amortized
- 11 into rates. I really don't see a distinction. The
- 12 only reason, and I put this in my testimony, the
- only reason we asked for what I would, what people
- 14 might term as a tracker is that we put symmetry
- 15 around the request that if the costs are increasing
- 16 as we perceive them to be we would get to defer to
- 17 a regular asset. If the environment changed, if
- 18 circumstances changed in SPP and they did not
- 19 increase above rates but yet decreased for some
- 20 reason we thought it may tend to allow those to be
- 21 deferred to a regulatory liability to give back to
- 22 customers. Nothing more than that from my
- 23 perspective.
- 24 Q. And have you seen trackers
- 25 implemented before for KCP&L?

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- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Have you, and in general would
- 3 you agree that trackers that have been implemented
- 4 are all forward looking, they start with the rate
- 5 case and work forward, is that correct?
- 6 A. You're moving from a base level of
- 7 costs that you're tracking from plus or minus, yes,
- 8 so I guess from that perspective we would be moving
- 9 forward in this request in the base rates that were
- 10 established in the last cases.
- 11 Q. So you're not wanting to implement a
- 12 tracker today, you're wanting to implement it a
- 13 year ago.
- 14 Q. I think our request is to track from
- 15 base rates.
- 16 Q. From a year ago?
- 17 A. Yeah. I think rates were effective
- 18 January of 2013. January 26th to be specific I
- 19 think.
- 20 Q. And again have you ever seen the
- 21 Commission implement a tracker retroactive to a
- 22 time period past?
- 23 A. I'm not aware of anything, again I
- 24 don't distinguish between trackers, AAO, deferrals.
- 25 They've deferred amounts that have gone forward and

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- 1 related to the past.
- Q. It's a simple yes or no. Have you
- 3 ever seen, you said you've seen KCP&L implement
- 4 some tracker, have you ever seen the Commission
- 5 implement a tracker and implement it retroactively
- 6 the answer's no.
- 7 MR. FISCHER: Objection Your Honor, I
- 8 think we're having testimony now.
- 9 JUDGE BURTON: Sustained.
- 10 A. I'm not aware of the circumstance.
- 11 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Thank you.
- 12 Are you aware of the Commission
- 13 implementing a tracker for off system sales in
- 14 2006?
- 15 A. There was an off system sales
- 16 mechanism, I'm not sure if it was called a tracker,
- 17 I'm not sure what the term was. We did have a
- 18 mechanism to deal with off system sales.
- 19 Q. Whether it was called a tracker would
- you agree that it tracked off system sales against
- 21 the baseline?
- 22 A. I agree there were adjustments from a
- 23 baseline.
- Q. Okay. Would you agree that that
- 25 tracker only worked one direction?

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- 1 A. I agree in some of the cases it only
- 2 worked in one direction. I don't know if that
- 3 holds true for all the cases.
- 4 Q. Okay. And do you understand, yes or
- 5 no, how the one way tracker, the Genesis IV, why it
- 6 was only one direction?
- 7 A. I don't have that history.
- 8 Q. Okay. Turning to your Schedule DRI-1
- 9 of your surrebuttal testimony, let me know when
- 10 you're there.
- 11 A. I'm there.
- 12 Q. First off it's a pretty impressive
- 13 list. How did you go about compiling that?
- 14 A. I had support from folks in my
- 15 department and counsel.
- 16 Q. So you didn't compile it yourself?
- 17 A. I did not compile it myself, it was
- 18 compiled under my direction.
- 19 Q. And how was it compiled, how did they
- 20 access this information?
- 21 A. Utilization of EFIS and electronic
- 22 case history.
- Q. Well, most of these cases are pre
- 24 EFIS. How did you find those?
- 25 A. I think they're available, I did not

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- 1 set over their shoulder and ask them if they looked
- 2 at physical records or others. I asked them to
- 3 look back over the history.
- 4 Q. And did you read the cases that you
- 5 list there?
- 6 A. I have not read the details of the
- 7 case, that was not the intent of the schedule.
- 8 Q. What was the intent of the schedule?
- 9 A. To demonstrate that there were things
- 10 that deferrals were allowed for other than acts of
- 11 God extraordinary in nature and I think the subject
- 12 line does that.
- 13 Q. Okay. Let me ask you, how do you
- 14 know, you say I provide a list of AAOs approved by
- 15 the Commission over the last 20 years. How do you
- 16 know that the Commission granted AAOs in those
- 17 cases if you didn't read the order?
- 18 A. Well, I know several of them for
- 19 sure. I was informed by my team and counsel that
- 20 these were cases that there were orders in or
- 21 effective. I have not read them all.
- 22 Q. How many did you read?
- 23 A. I've read ours, I did not read the
- 24 cases from other companies.
- Q. Okay. But it's still your testimony

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- 1 even though you haven't read them that the
- 2 Commission granted AAOs in each and every one of
- 3 those cases?
- 4 A. It's my testimony that there are
- 5 billions of dollars worth of deferrals out there,
- 6 many of which are supported by these that the
- 7 Commission has granted, none of which has to do
- 8 with acts of God --
- 9 Q. That's not my question. It's your
- 10 testimony even without reading this order that the
- 11 Commission granted AAOs in each and every one of
- 12 these cases.
- 13 A. It's my testimony these cases
- 14 resulted in deferrals.
- 15 Q. Commission granted AAOs.
- 16 A. Deferrals.
- 17 Q. Would it surprise you to know that
- 18 the Commission denied AAOs in some of those cases?
- 19 A. It might.
- 20 Q. Would it surprise you to know if the
- 21 Commission denied AAOs in some of those cases? Is
- 22 that a surprise?
- 23 A. I said it might.
- Q. It might be a surprise?
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

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- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 Let's go through it then. Let's look
- 3 at case number IU-2010-0164.
- 4 Well first off let me set up some
- 5 history here.
- 6 What is your definition of an
- 7 Accounting Authority Order?
- 8 A. Well, again I mentioned this earlier,
- 9 I don't see a distinction between trackers or AAOs
- 10 or deferrals, I think they're all governed by the
- 11 same rules for deferral under 182.
- 12 Q. Do you believe that all AAOs involve
- 13 **deferrals?**
- 14 A. I've never thought of it under that
- 15 context. I've thought of AAOs and trackers and
- 16 deferrals under concept of 182.
- 17 Q. But you never read the order to make
- 18 any type of determination, did you?
- 19 A. I stated I have not read all these
- 20 orders.
- Q. Okay. Let's see how you did.
- 22 Case number IU-2010-0164, do you see
- 23 that on your list?
- 24 A. 0164?
- 25 **Q.** Yes.

Page 193 1 Α. I see it. 2 And what do you say that that Q. 3 involved? 4 Α. New equipment costs. 5 Q. And it's your belief, according to 6 your testimony, that the Commission allowed for a 7 deferral of costs in that case, is that correct? Yeah, that's correct. 8 Α. 9 MR. WOODSMALL: May I approach the witness Your Honor? 10 11 JUDGE BURTON: You may. 12 MR. WOODSMALL: And I'm going to be approaching a lot. Do you need me to ask every 13 14 time, or? 15 JUDGE BURTON: No. Running. 16 (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Q. Handing you a 17 copy of an order. Will you tell me what that is? I haven't read it all but it says 18 it's an order granting application for Accounting 19 20 Authority Order. 21 Q. Okay. In what case? 22 IU-2010-0164. Α. 23 Q. Can you read me the highlighted 24 portion on page 1? 25 You start in the middle of the Α.

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- 1 sentence but it says filed an application pursuant
- 2 to 392 dot 208 dot 2 RSMo and Commission rule 4,
- 3 CSR 240 dash 2 dot 060 for an Accounting Authority
- 4 Order to book depreciation rates on new equipment
- 5 in excess of depreciation rates currently allowed
- 6 for rate making purposes.
- 7 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 8 Would you agree that in that case the
- 9 Commission did not allow an AAO that deferred costs
- 10 for later recovery?
- 11 A. I'm not sure that I have enough there
- 12 to get there. I know they allowed them to book
- 13 under new rates, I'm not sure it's distinguishable
- 14 whether they deferred the new depreciation or
- 15 whether they started expensing immediately but
- 16 again I wasn't involved with it.
- 17 Q. Okay. You believe that the
- 18 establishment of depreciation rates may involve a
- 19 **deferral?**
- 20 A. There have been depreciation
- 21 deferrals allowed in the past.
- 22 Q. Do you want to read the entire order
- 23 to see if there's any deferral or will you take it
- 24 subject to check?
- 25 A. I'll take it subject to check.

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- Q. Okay. In your position statement you
- 2 state, well KCP&L states on page 4 that the
- 3 Commission has allowed AAOs for new equipment
- 4 costs. Do you see that?
- 5 A. I see it listed there.
- 6 Sorry. I see it listed there, I'm
- 7 looking at what it says here, subjects deemed
- 8 appropriate for, by the Commission for AAO approval
- 9 and it says no equipment costs.
- 10 Q. Okay. Would you agree given what we
- just saw in that case that the Commission did not
- 12 allow a deferral or amortization for new equipment
- 13 costs in that case?
- 14 MR. FISCHER: I think subject to
- 15 check counsel's statement but that's not the same
- 16 as affirming what --
- 17 MR. WOODSMALL: We can have him read
- 18 the entire case if went to do that.
- 19 MR. FISCHER: I think we can brief it
- 20 Your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: I would just ask Mr.
- 22 Woodsmall, I know we have a lot of cases that are
- 23 identified on the scheduled DR line. DRI line.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Right.
- JUDGE BURTON: If this is something

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- 1 where you want those cases specifically, that you
- 2 want to recognize, we can go ahead and recognize
- 3 those particular cases.
- 4 MR. WOODSMALL: No. I'm trying to
- 5 impeach this witness and it may take a while
- 6 depending on how much he fights me. He has said he
- 7 hasn't read them so what we have is a list not only
- 8 in his testimony, KCP&L's statement of positions,
- 9 their opening statement that is inaccurate and I'm
- 10 going to take him through these cases to show that
- 11 it's inaccurate. You know, I'm hoping that he will
- 12 accept some of this subject to check but otherwise
- 13 it could be rather painful.
- 14 JUDGE BURTON: All right. In that
- 15 case why don't you go ahead, we'll see if the
- 16 witness, if you can just ask him if he identifies
- 17 that he's unaware of that and I think that goes
- 18 towards establishing your impeachment.
- 19 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Are you aware
- 20 other than IU-2010-1064 of any cases where the
- 21 Commission has allowed a deferral AAO for new
- 22 equipment costs?
- 23 A. I've not read the cases. There are
- 24 many out there for main replacement which I would
- 25 characterize as new equipment for the replacement

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- 1 of mains.
- 2 Q. Okay. Later on in the same statement
- 3 of positions you have main replacement costs. So
- 4 are you trying to distinguish between the two?
- 5 Because now you're lumping them together.
- 6 A. You asked me if there were any more
- 7 and I just said that main replacements would be new
- 8 equipment. I realize it's on the list someplace
- 9 else.
- 10 Q. So it's on there twice then as you're
- 11 using that term?
- 12 A. No, I'm just saying that a main
- 13 replacement is new equipment, I'm not tying them
- 14 together or separating them.
- 15 Q. Okay. Let's move on to case number
- 16 GO-02-175. Do you see that?
- 17 A. GO-02-175. I see it.
- 18 Q. And this involved a request to defer
- 19 and amortize certain uncollectible expense, is that
- 20 correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. Is it your opinion that the
- 23 Commission actually granted an AAO in that case?
- A. It's my opinion that it's an AAO that
- 25 was considered in that docket.

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- Q. You state in your testimony approved.
- 2 Are you now saying it was just considered?
- 3 A. I'm looking back for that spot in my
- 4 testimony.
- 5 Q. It's page 11.
- 6 A. Thank you.
- 7 Q. Line 17, you used word the word
- 8 approved.
- 9 A. I see that I said approved.
- 10 Q. Is it your opinion that the
- 11 Commission actually approved an AAO in that case?
- 12 A. In hindsight I guess my testimony
- 13 should have been, and I should change it, to
- 14 considered because I have not read all those cases.
- 15 Q. Okay. So then do you want to change
- 16 your testimony entirely for that entire exhibit to
- 17 just say AAOs considered?
- 18 A. I will make that change. Those are
- 19 cases that have been in front of the Commission for
- 20 consideration.
- 21 Q. Okay. And so then your proposed or
- your statement of positions where it says deemed
- 23 appropriate for AAO approval, that is incorrect as
- 24 well, is that true?
- 25 A. I guess based on my change in

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- 1 testimony it would be considered.
- 2 Q. Let's just keep going, I'm having fun
- 3 here.
- 4 Page 7 of that order in GO-2002-175
- 5 will you read the entire highlighted portion?
- 6 A. It's in the middle of the page is
- 7 where it starts, says, the highlighted section says
- 8 Aguila makes much of the fact that the Commission
- 9 in another context found the combination of very
- 10 cold weather and very high gas prices in the early
- 11 winter of 2000, 2001 to be extraordinary. The
- 12 combination was extraordinary from the perspective
- 13 of customers who had large arrearages and faced
- 14 potentially life threatening disconnection. It is
- 15 not extraordinary from the perspective of a natural
- 16 gas distribution company whose main business is
- 17 buying gas on the market, reselling it to customers
- 18 and collecting money from these customers.
- 19 Q. Would you turn the page and read the
- 20 highlighted portion on page 8?
- 21 A. Do you want me to finish the
- 22 highlights at the bottom?
- Q. Yes, please. I'm sorry.
- 24 A. There's a section skipped and then
- 25 there's another set of highlights and it says

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- 1 Aquila's uncollectible expenses resulting from the
- 2 winter of 2000 to 2001 were not extraordinary,
- 3 unusual, unique and nonrecurring and the Commission
- 4 will deny Aquila's application for an Accounting
- 5 Authority Order.
- 6 Q. Would you read the highlighted
- 7 portion on page 8?
- 8 A. It says that the application for an
- 9 Accounting Authority Order filed by Utility Corp
- 10 United, Inc. now known as Aquila, Inc. on October
- 11 9, 2001 is denied.
- 12 O. So to be clear the Commission
- 13 actually denied this AAO, is that correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. So your testimony where you said the
- 16 Commission approved it was incorrect, is that true?
- 17 A. I think I just said I was willing to
- 18 change my testimony to be considered.
- 19 Q. And would you agree given the portion
- 20 that you read that the Commission expressly applied
- 21 the extraordinary standard in that case?
- 22 A. They referenced extraordinary in
- 23 there, yeah.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. I didn't see a reference to a

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- 1 specific standard.
- Q. Okay. In your position statement,
- 3 and I could show it to you if you want, page 6 you
- 4 state that the Commission has approved AAOs for
- 5 uncollectible expenses. Are you aware given that
- 6 that case denied it any other case where the
- 7 Commission granted an AAO for uncollectible
- 8 expense?
- 9 A. No, I'm not.
- 10 Q. So your position statement and Mr.,
- 11 or I'm sorry, KCP&L's opening statement was
- 12 incorrect, is that true?
- 13 A. I said I'm not aware, I don't know if
- 14 it's happened or not.
- 15 Q. To the best of your knowledge --
- 16 A. To the best of my knowledge I'm not
- 17 aware.
- 18 Q. Okay. Case number EO-008-45, do you
- 19 see that?
- 20 A. 008-45. I see that.
- 21 Q. And you state that that case involved
- 22 a plant explosion, is that correct?
- 23 A. I do.
- Q. And you state that the Commission
- approved an AAO for that plant explosion, is that

Page 202 1 correct? 2 Α. I think I said twice now that I'd be 3 willing to change my testimony to not be approved. Okay. Handing you the report and 4 Q. 5 order from that case will you turn to page 4? 6 Α. (Reviewing document). 7 Will you read the highlighted portion Q. 8 please? (Reviewing document). 10 Out loud. Q. Can I have a second to read the 11 Α. 12 surrounding materials? 13 Q. Sure. Absolutely. Let me know when 14 you're ready. 15 Α. (Reviewing document). 16 Okay. So in the middle of this 17 discussion paragraph on page 4 the highlighted section says SJLP, St. Joe Light and Power, argues 18 that its expenses arising from the Lake Road 19 incident meet the test used by the Commission in 20 21 deciding whether or not an AAO is appropriate and that the costs are extraordinary and recurring. 22 SJLP argues that so long as the costs meet that two 23 24 prong test then the Commission need not look at any other circumstances before granting the AAO. 25

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- Q. Will you read the highlighted portion
- 2 at the bottom of page 9?
- 3 A. It is under the section at the bottom
- 4 of page 9, it is therefore ordered that the
- 5 application for Accounting Authority Order filed by
- 6 St. Joe Power & Light Company on June 23rd, 2000 is
- 7 denied.
- 8 Q. So the Commission denied the AAO in
- 9 that case, is that correct?
- 10 A. That's what that highlighted section
- 11 says.
- 12 Q. And would you agree that the
- 13 Commission applied the extraordinary standard in
- 14 that case?
- 15 A. I think the language that I read was
- 16 language that talked about St. Joe's request, that
- 17 one part I read from the Commission's as so ordered
- 18 said it was denied. I don't think it distinguished
- 19 what they used.
- Q. Let me try to cut through this. I'm
- 21 going to give you a list of cases that are on your
- 22 sheet and I'm going to ask you if you will accept
- 23 subject to check that in each one of those cases
- 24 the Commission denied the Accounting Authority
- 25 Order.

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- 1 MR. FISCHER: Judge I would suggest
- 2 that that's a topic that we can brief. If these
- 3 are orders of the Commission, we can argue about
- 4 what it says based on the language of the order,
- 5 it's not necessary for him to take subject to check
- 6 things that he can't personally attest to.
- 7 MR. WOODSMALL: Well, we'll get there
- 8 then.
- 9 JUDGE BURTON: I believe we've
- 10 already acknowledged, already heard the witness
- 11 acknowledge that he hasn't read these reports and
- 12 orders and he doesn't make that determination and
- 13 I'm going to go ahead and grant that and we'll go
- 14 ahead and take official notice of whatever cases
- 15 you want, if you want us to recognize all of those
- 16 cases which then can be briefed by the parties.
- 17 MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you Your Honor.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Would you agree
- 19 then subject to check that in each of those cases
- 20 the Commission applied the extraordinary standard?
- MR. FISCHER: Same objection.
- JUDGE BURTON: Sustained.
- 23 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) You mentioned in
- 24 the statement of positions for KCP&L you mentioned
- 25 the Commission has approved an AAO for purchase

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- 1 power expenses. Can you tell me what case that
- would be?
- 3 A. I can not. To be clear I did not
- 4 write that statement of position.
- 5 Q. Did you review it before it was
- 6 filed?
- 7 A. I have read it and reviewed it but I
- 8 did not write it.
- 9 Q. But you don't know which case that's
- 10 referring to?
- 11 A. I don't.
- 12 **Q.** Okay.
- 13 A. And I don't have that statement in
- 14 front of me either. I assume it does not reference
- in there either or you would have told me.
- 16 Q. Right. Let me see, I may be done.
- 17 MR. WOODSMALL: I have no further
- 18 questions Your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Thank you.
- 20 At this time Chairman Kenney do you
- 21 have any questions?
- 22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I do but I'm scared
- 23 to ask.
- 24 Anybody need a break? Keep plugging
- 25 ahead?

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1	JUDGE BURTON: Why don't we go ahead					
2	and take a quick					
3	CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I'll be quick.					
4	EXAMINATION					
5	QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY:					
6	Q. Mr. Ives can you hear me?					
7	A. I can. Good afternoon.					
8	Q. Good afternoon, thank you.					
9	So I'm going to ask a couple of					
10	questions about a couple of statements you made					
11	when you were being questioned by Mr. Dotthein. It					
12	was in reference to the 16 percent increase that					
13	you, that KCP&L anticipates in transmission costs					
14	and I think you said we'll need a solution to that.					
15	Do you remember that?					
16	A. I do.					
17	Q. Am I accurately reflecting the					
18	exchange between you and Mr. Dotthein?					
19	A. It was. To be clear it was kind of a					
20	16 percent average growth over net, from now to					
21	2022, I believe.					
22	Q. Okay. So are you familiar with					
23	Senate bill 702 that was introduced this session in					
24	the general assembly?					
25	A. I am familiar with it.					

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- 1 Q. Would that be a solution to the
- problem that you're describing?
- 3 A. It's a short term solution, I think
- 4 the way that Senate bill is drafted right now it
- 5 covers like a four year period or something like
- 6 that, there's a term on it and as we've mentioned
- 7 and I have in testimony that a growth in
- 8 transmission expense for us through SPP is a longer
- 9 term than that. But it certainly would be a piece
- 10 of the pie.
- 11 Q. Go ahead, I'm sorry.
- 12 A. I was just going to say it certainly
- 13 would be a piece of the solution, you know, that's
- 14 really a tracker format just very similar to what,
- or a deferral format very similar to what we've
- 16 asked for here.
- 17 JUDGE BURTON: Why don't we go ahead
- 18 then and just take a five minute recess while we
- 19 try to get the Chairman back on the line.
- Going off the record.
- 21 (RECESS TAKEN BY PARTIES)
- JUDGE BURTON: Let's go ahead and go
- 23 back on the record.
- Chairman are you there?
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I am. Sorry about

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- 1 that.
- Q. (BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY) Can you hear me
- 3 Mr. Ives?
- 4 A. I can.
- 5 Q. Sorry about that. We were talking
- 6 about Senate bill 702 and you were saying that it
- 7 would not be a long term solution because of the
- 8 sunset provision.
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Was there something else you were
- 11 going to say?
- 12 A. No. I was just going to say, you
- 13 know, I think it's very similar to what we're
- 14 looking at here is the deferral of those
- 15 transmissions, you know, above what's in base
- 16 rates. There is a sunset over there and, you know,
- 17 candidly if we were to get this, you know, through
- 18 the Commission here I suspect it would be a whole
- 19 new discussion next time we're in for a general
- 20 rate case as to whether a tracker continues or an
- 21 AAO continues or some other mechanism is
- 22 appropriate. My point that you originally asked
- 23 the question about is, you know, a 16 percent
- 24 growth clip over the next several years, if that
- 25 holds true with SPP forecasts that's going to be a

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- 1 problem for us without some sort of solution.
- 2 Q. That kind of segways into my next
- 3 question then. But for the sunset provision Senate
- 4 bill 702 is basically identical to what you're
- 5 attempting with the AAO here then.
- 6 A. Yeah, it's very similar. I don't
- 7 have it in front of me but it's the same concept as
- 8 far as deferral of these SPP transmission customer
- 9 type costs.
- 10 Q. So as a participant in the Southwest
- 11 Power Pool do KCP&L and GMO also make sales of
- 12 excess power into SPP?
- 13 A. We do make some sales into SPP, that,
- 14 you know, in some respects we have wholesale power
- 15 and we also, we've had some discussion today about
- 16 transmission revenues and that's revenue that we
- 17 receive from SPP for other party's utilization of
- 18 our system. You know, the difference that I've
- 19 made in my testimony on that is that, those
- 20 revenues are paying back for the cost of ownership
- 21 for this legal transmission. Those costs aren't
- 22 part of this AAO, they're handled in the general
- 23 rate case and so were the revenues in our last case
- 24 as well, they were matched.
- Q. Okay. So the revenues that KCP&L or

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- 1 GMO receive from either offsets in sales or the use
- of the, of its transmission assets, that, those
- 3 revenues aren't netted against the expenses that
- 4 you would be seeking to defer in the AAO?
- 5 A. No. They wouldn't. The revenues
- 6 that we receive for the transmission that we've
- 7 been talking about, those are, increases in those
- 8 revenues are a result of increases in our costs for
- 9 our local transmission system to own and operate.
- 10 Both those costs to own and operate and the
- 11 revenues were handled in our last rate case at
- 12 true-up in those rate cases so they were matched.
- 13 We've proposed to exclude both of the ownership
- 14 costs and the revenues from this AAO and just focus
- on the customer charges that our customer charges
- 16 as a transmission customer. The other options
- 17 would be take both those ownership costs and the
- 18 revenues and put both those sides into the AAO,
- 19 point being the costs drive the revenues so they
- 20 ought to be handled consistently in the regulatory
- 21 cost chart.
- Q. Got you. The Transource entity that
- 23 is the AEP and Great Plains entity.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. It hasn't generated any revenue yet,

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1	r	i	a	h	t	?

- 2 A. Not yet. We did, we did just receive
- 3 approval at the FERC level for the transfer from,
- 4 of the SPP projects that KCPL and GMO had to go to
- 5 Transource so they now have ownership and are
- 6 operating but they're still under construction.
- 7 The first line of those two doesn't come into
- 8 service until 2015, the other one is more in the
- 9 2017 time frame.
- 10 Q. Hypothetically assuming that you were
- 11 to, that KCP&L and GMO was to receive this AAO
- 12 authority, how would those Transource AEP revenues
- 13 be treated going forward for KCP&L and GMO?
- 14 A. I don't have our agreement from the
- 15 Transource case in front of me but I believe we
- 16 agreed for costs that we incur related to
- 17 Transource, you know, our load ratio share of eight
- 18 percent for, for Missouri. We agreed to make an
- 19 adjustment to those costs as a result of that case
- 20 to kind of put it on a state jurisdictional rate
- 21 making, i.e., if they had a higher ROE and
- 22 incentives at Transource because those projects
- 23 were in our service territory we agreed to adjust
- 24 that down to kind of the state rate making levels.
- 25 So that's how those projects would be handled going

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- 1 forward.
- 2 Q. So would, so those would be separate
- 3 and apart from -- so KCP&L gets a bill from SPP for
- 4 it's prorata, for its customer charge, right?
- 5 A. Yes. For its share, load ratio share
- 6 if you're talking about the regional projects.
- 7 Q. So if Transource is building a
- 8 regional project KCP&L's going to get a bill for
- 9 that portion.
- 10 A. Yeah. For our eight percent share in
- 11 case bills shape.
- 12 O. And for it to receive an AAO before
- you would defer those costs and account for 560 or
- 14 561, whichever one it is, it would be recalculated
- under whatever the agreement was in the CCN case.
- 16 A. Correct. I think they would flow
- 17 through account 565 but as a result of that
- 18 agreement we'd have to recalculate to put those
- 19 Transource charges on a state rate making basis.
- I just think that should be easy
- 21 enough to do because we'll have specific line item
- 22 identification in the SPP bills that kind of tell
- 23 us source and sync and we can get to that
- 24 determination.
- 25 Q. But for any other regional projects

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- 1 built by any other entity there's no ability to
- 2 adjust those to take out a FERC ROE and adjust it
- 3 to a state based ROE?
- 4 A. Well, yeah, I mean those entities, I
- 5 guess the way I'd state it is those entities have
- 6 been approved at the FERC level to earn those
- 7 returns and by the time it gets to us I mean we're
- 8 paying an invoice just like our customers pay an
- 9 invoice for us based on a rate that's allowed by
- 10 this Commission. So I don't know that we'd have
- 11 any bandwidth to make adjustments to what we're
- 12 paying.
- 13 Q. And let me ask you, I think it was a
- 14 question I asked Mr. Carlson earlier. Other than
- 15 the fact that there's this increase in transmission
- 16 expenses because of the, because of the projects
- 17 that are recently approved and the heavy
- 18 transmission investment that we anticipate from
- 19 SPP, other than that is there anything else that
- 20 makes these transmission expenses extraordinary?
- 21 A. Well, you know, other than that I
- 22 guess what I'd say is it's the regional nature of
- 23 it. It's not only the size but it's the fact that
- 24 it's a regional expansion so we're being billed
- 25 costs for projects that SPP approves in OG&E's

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- 1 territory or somebody else's that we end up being
- 2 responsible for our load ratio share and that's
- 3 part of, you know, the purpose of having the RTOs
- 4 and creating those efficiencies but that's
- 5 extraordinary compared to how transmission was
- 6 dealt with over the first 100 years of being a
- 7 utility. I think as Mr. Carlson stated, you know,
- 8 all those years transmission was really built to
- 9 take our generation resources and get the,
- 10 transport the electricity to our load and the RTO
- 11 environment and FERC's directives in this area are
- 12 just changing that. So extraordinary I don't know,
- 13 but certainly very different operating environment.
- 14 Q. Extraordinary you don't know but it's
- 15 different. I would agree with that. So, but let
- 16 me make sure I understand what you're saying
- 17 though. It's not simply the increased investment
- 18 itself but it's also the way that costs are now
- 19 allocated under the highway byway cost allocation
- 20 mechanism? Because you've got regional cost
- 21 sharing for projects above a certain voltage, that
- 22 is potentially extraordinary?
- 23 A. It's certainly different. I mean
- 24 it's this federal national regional, you know,
- 25 highway that's being put together with the concept

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- of, you know, we're going to bring renewables in
- 2 from a longer distance than we ever dealt with
- 3 moving energy to load before. It's a different
- 4 environment.
- 5 Q. I would grant you that it is
- 6 different.
- 7 I don't have any other questions.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 A. Thank you.
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you Chairman.
- 11 Commissioner Kenney?
- 12 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yeah, I just
- 13 have a little bit of a clarification.
- 14 EXAMINATION
- 15 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY:
- 16 Q. You had pointed out in your
- 17 surrebuttal testimony, you talked about it earlier
- on page 21 dealing with Ameren Missouri's 2012-0166
- 19 and you mentioned section B, item 19 where it
- 20 concluded that the Commission finds that MISO
- 21 transmission costs should continue to be flowed
- through Ameren Missouri's Fuel Adjustment Clause.
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Now, in this, under an agreement
- 25 with, in that stipulation and agreement KCP&L

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- 1 agreed not to pursue any, what is it, a single item
- 2 mechanism or something, like a fuel adjustment
- 3 clause to cover costs --
- 4 A. Yeah, it talks about I think it was
- 5 Senate bill 179.
- 6 Q. June of 2015.
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. So at that point, I guess my question
- 9 is this: If June of 2015 KCP&L filed a rate case
- 10 and requested a Fuel Adjustment Clause could they
- 11 take these transmission costs and run it through
- 12 **that?**
- 13 A. Yeah, I think we could have --
- 14 Q. If they got approved.
- 15 A. I don't want to split hairs. I think
- 16 we could have, under that agreement we could have
- 17 rates effective in a fuel clause of 2015 but
- 18 regardless we could ask for that fuel clause, we
- 19 could include transmission costs, we could have an
- 20 effective post that date that we said we'd utilize
- 21 it and subject to the Commission's authorization
- 22 we'd be able to start recovering transmission
- 23 similarly to Ameren.
- Q. So would that take care of the issue
- 25 if that were the case?

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- 1 A. For a longer term, to go back to
- 2 Chairman Kenney's question that would be one of the
- 3 longer term solutions that might take us beyond
- 4 what the bill over there currently, Senate bill
- 5 702.
- 6 Q. Now, does your Greater Missouri
- 7 Operations Company have, can they utilize a Fuel
- 8 Adjustment Clause now?
- 9 A. We have one currently, yes. It does
- 10 not include the same transmission costs that Ameren
- 11 receives in their's.
- 12 Q. So would that have to go through a
- 13 rate case or is that something that you believe
- 14 could be requested of the Commission?
- 15 A. To put it through the fuel clause I
- 16 believe it would have to go through a rate case
- 17 because it would impact rates for customers going
- 18 forward.
- 19 Q. Okay. So it's just classified
- differently than Ameren's.
- 21 A. Well, Ameren got their's in the rate
- 22 case and then they got clarification I think in
- 23 their case that they could continue to include it
- 24 is what the last order was. You know I would just
- 25 add that two cases ago for GMO which had a fuel

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- 1 clause at the time we asked for the transmission
- 2 costs to be included that wasn't allowed in that
- 3 case. Last case, and we've talked about this
- 4 today, we asked for a tracker in large part because
- 5 we had just previously asked for it to be in the
- 6 fuel clause. Subsequent to our filing the case
- 7 with the tracker is when Ameren got resolution on
- 8 their continued treatment on that so, you know,
- 9 timing just worked such that I think we will be
- 10 back.
- 11 Q. Are you saying was the tracker denied
- 12 prior to Ameren getting approval of their
- 13 transmission costs in that FAC?
- 14 A. Tracker was denied after but we filed
- 15 before Ameren got that clarification on their FAC.
- 16 And that's why we didn't go back and ask for
- 17 another FAC.
- 18 Q. Was the clarification, was that in a
- 19 rate case?
- A. Ameren's clarification?
- 21 **Q.** Yeah.
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Thank you.
- A. Uh-huh. You're welcome.
- JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Hall?

Page 219 COMMISSIONER HALL: No questions. 1 2 JUDGE BURTON: I just have a couple 3 of questions. 4 EXAMINATION 5 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE BURTON: 6 Based off of the prior rate cases Q. 7 that were just decided by the Commission in January 8 of 2013 that we've been discussing, ER-2012-0164 and 0175, since that time and since those tariffs 10 went into play have the costs to own, operate, maintain transmission facilities increased for the 11 12 Company? 13 Not significantly, no. We're not building a lot of new transmission. It's the cost 14 15 on the customer side, the bills from SPP for base plan funding and the things that are happening 16 17 regionally that are increasing pretty significantly. 18 19 Q. Okay. How does that connect then 20 with the position statement on page 14 where it 21 says transmission revenues are closely linked with 22 costs to own and operate transmission facilities, 23 if those costs according to you are staying 24 constant and they are tied to the revenue that 25 you're receiving from transmission from SPP?

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- 1 A. I believe the revenues and the costs
- 2 for that ownership are staying fairly constant
- 3 right now. It's the cost as a customer, the loans
- 4 we're talking about and asking the deferral on that
- 5 are seeing the increase.
- 6 Q. So in other words you're saying that
- 7 the transmission revenue that the companies are
- 8 receiving from SPP since January of 2013 have not
- 9 increased.
- 10 A. I think they've stayed fairly
- 11 constant as have the ownership costs. My whole
- 12 point in the testimony is I just don't want to have
- 13 an increase in costs that aren't dealt with through
- 14 the AAO, that they're dealt with in the next case.
- 15 Where I take the increase in revenues which are
- 16 derived from us incurring more costs and I put that
- 17 through the AAO, it's a mismatch. We should
- 18 either, the ownership components we should either
- 19 deal with in the context of the general rate case
- 20 like we've proposed or we should take both those
- 21 sides and move them into the AAO and deal with them
- 22 in the AAO.
- 23 Q. So do you expect or does the Company
- 24 expect then that the costs to own, operate,
- 25 maintain those transmission facilities will

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- 1 increase as a result of these changes at SPP for
- 2 the transmission build-out?
- 3 A. No. Not in the near term. When we
- 4 look at the projects that are out there from SPP
- 5 for this build-out and the ones that, the costs
- 6 that are being regionally allocated we don't have a
- 7 lot of those projects. We had a couple and they
- 8 were part of our cases that I discussed with the
- 9 Chairman a little bit about Transource, they were
- 10 projects that we ultimately sold over the ability
- 11 to construct those to a Transource that the joint
- 12 entity between our holding company and AEP. So
- 13 beyond that we don't have a lot in the pipeline
- 14 right now that SPP has identified in our territory.
- 15 So I don't see revenues or those ownership costs
- 16 growing. Certainly not near at the clip that the
- 17 customer costs are.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now I want to kind of go back
- 19 to a little bit of what the Chairman was asking
- 20 concerning Transource, denying he had a stipulation
- agreement that was approved by the Commission in
- 22 EA-2013-0098. I think you've acknowledged in that
- 23 case FERC approved Transource construction for
- 24 certain projects and they also included
- 25 construction work in progress otherwise known as a

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- 1 CWIP, right?
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Has that already started? Has that
- 4 construction work already started for Transource
- 5 for those projects?
- 6 A. The short answer is yes. We started
- 7 construction on those projects because we
- 8 originally had the notice to construct from SPP so
- 9 both those lines have started construction, we did.
- 10 We got approval from the FERC to make the novation
- 11 over to Transource and we transferred those
- 12 projects effective I think it was January 2nd of
- 13 this year, so it just recently occurred. I don't
- 14 know the direct answer as to whether they've
- 15 started charging that CWIP and the FERC approved --
- 16 Q. Is there any reason to believe they
- 17 wouldn't have?
- 18 A. Just timing. If it hasn't started
- 19 already it will soon. I mean they have an approved
- 20 formula rate, their formula rate has CWIP in it, I
- 21 just don't know how quickly they can finalize the
- 22 costs from us, put them in the formula rate and get
- 23 them through SPP.
- Q. Okay. So it's possible that those
- 25 charges and expenses would have already gone

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- 1 through SPP and then come back to the companies
- 2 based on the load share?
- 3 A. It's possible either they would hit
- 4 in January or in the near term, yes.
- 5 Q. January of this year.
- 6 A. January of this year or in the near
- 7 term.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 Now, I just want to clarify is it the
- 10 Commission, I mean the Company's position that
- 11 these increased transmission expenses are material?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. How are they material?
- 14 A. How are they material?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Well, from my standpoint we were
- about \$9 million, we had \$9 million more expense
- 18 between the two companies in 2013 than what we have
- 19 in rates. That's a pretty significant number that
- I would deem material and then we have projections
- 21 in testimony that show that that grows to maybe 14
- 22 million next year and, you know, 19 or 20 million
- 23 the following year. Those are large numbers,
- 24 numbers that generate lag for our investors and
- 25 shareholders that is beyond what I would call kind

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- 1 of normal historical lag in this area.
- 2 Q. Okay. Should the Commission be
- 3 looking at the increase in those transmission
- 4 expenses year per year to determine material or
- 5 should they or does general instruction number 7 of
- 6 the USOA provide guidelines that requires it to be
- 7 five percent of the net income for the entire
- 8 company?
- 9 A. Well, I think our testimony, and I
- 10 can't speak for other parties, but our testimony is
- 11 general instruction 7 does apply to deferral
- 12 accounting. There's no link identified in the USOA
- 13 for general instruction 7 and 182 deferral
- 14 treatment. I don't believe there's anything that
- 15 you can read in the USOA that says that items have
- 16 to be extraordinary or have to be greater than five
- 17 percent to be deferred.
- 18 Q. Okay. Is it your opinion though that
- 19 these expenses are at least five percent of net
- 20 income for the companies including these
- 21 extraordinary events?
- 22 A. They are at least five percent, yes.
- Q. Of net income.
- 24 A. Of net income.
- Q. For the entire company.

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- 1 A. Right. And I think that's why the
- 2 Commission concluded in the order last time that
- 3 two or three places in the order they said the
- 4 issue was moot because they believed we could
- 5 already track and defer these costs because they
- 6 interpreted that there was a link between general
- 7 instruction 7 and deferral and they agreed that we
- 8 were in excess of five percent in that income, we
- 9 just can't, without a specific Commission authority
- 10 to defer we can't defer, our accountants won't
- 11 agree with that and our external accountants won't
- 12 agree with that.
- 13 Q. Okay. Thank you. I don't have any
- 14 further questions.
- 15 A. Thank you.
- 16 JUDGE BURTON: Any cross based on the
- 17 panel questions?
- Mr. Lowery?
- MR. LOWERY: No questions.
- JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Cooper?
- MR. COOPER: No Your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Dotthein?
- MR. DOTTHEIN: No.
- JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Mills?
- MR. MILLS: No questions.

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1	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Downey?				
2	MR. DOWNEY: No questions.				
3	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Woodsmall?				
4	MR. WOODSMALL: No questions.				
5	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Then this				
6	witness is excused.				
7	MR. FISCHER: I have just a little				
8	redirect Your Honor, I'm sorry. If that's all				
9	right.				
10	JUDGE BURTON: It's more than okay.				
11	REDIRECT EXAMINATION				
12	QUESTIONS BY MR. FISCHER:				
13	Q. Mr. Ives just kind of start from the				
14	back while it was fresh in our mind. Judge Burton				
15	was asking you about this, whether the expenses are				
16	five percent of the net and whether that makes them				
17	extraordinary and do you recall those questions?				
18	A. I recall that discussion.				
19	Q. And you were trying to explain I				
20	think that the Commission's order in the last case				
21	and how that affects this case. Would you				
22	elaborate on how that discussion in the rate case				
23	order about the five percent net income and whether				
24	we could defer on our own without any specific				
25	authority, how that affects the whole reason we're				

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1 here today?

- 2 A. Sure. And I think I've alluded to it
- 3 over a couple of hour discussion but when we got
- 4 that order and we had asked for a tracker we
- 5 believed the Commission wrote in that order that
- 6 the item was moot. There was discussion that other
- 7 parties brought up that we had not met the criteria
- 8 of extraordinary or however the words were but
- 9 there are three spots in the order that clearly
- 10 state the Commission thought we could already track
- 11 and it was our decision to track and there wasn't a
- 12 decision for the Commission to make. We asked for
- 13 reconsideration on that, we weren't able to get
- 14 heard on the reconsideration, there was also a
- 15 sentence in the order that talked about the five
- 16 percent greater than or less than and it said if
- 17 the amounts were less then the Company certainly
- 18 could come in and ask for an AAO. We know they're
- 19 greater than but the Commission acknowledged an
- 20 ability to come ask for an AAO, they seemed to
- 21 acknowledge that they thought we could track and
- 22 defer these costs already, we needed to come in and
- 23 ask for some clarification to get
- 24 Commission-specific language that said it was okay
- 25 to defer and that's how we started down this path.

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- 1 There, certainly in the last case and here again
- 2 we've provided a lot of testimony that says there
- 3 are a lot of forecasts out there and a lot of
- 4 projected billed from SPP that have large dollars
- 5 but I guess the, our view of the Commission order
- 6 that's kind of the rest was story.
- 7 Q. Well, do you believe that you need
- 8 specific authority from the Commission in order to
- 9 defer these transmission costs?
- 10 A. Yes. Absolutely. I think that's
- 11 clear in the language of the deferral accounts, the
- 12 182 accounts and 254 accounts in the USOA. And I
- 13 think, not to put words in his mouth but Staff's
- 14 witness Oligschlaeger has acknowledged that as
- 15 well.
- 16 Q. Well if you had received that
- 17 transmission tracker approval rather than an order
- 18 that said you can do it on your own so it's moot,
- 19 would you be filing an AAO in this case?
- 20 A. No. We would have been tracking
- 21 since January 26th utilizing that tracker that we
- 22 had requested. Be no need to have an AAO here.
- 23 Q. You had kind of a long discussion
- with Mr. Woodsmall about your list of subjects that
- 25 have been subject to AAOs. Do you recall that?

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- 1 A. I do recall that.
- 2 Q. There are a lot of topics on that.
- 3 Do all of those topics involve acts of God?
- 4 A. No, they do not.
- 5 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor I believe
- 6 the way we left it was these cases were going to
- 7 speak for themselves and we could brief it. If
- 8 we're going to now go into those cases, you know, I
- 9 think I should be allowed to start up some cross
- 10 examination again.
- 11 MR. FISCHER: Your Honor I'm not
- 12 going into the cases specifically, although we can
- 13 brief those, I'm asking about the subjects of AAOs
- 14 over the years.
- JUDGE BURTON: I believe that we've
- 16 already acknowledged the fact that we're going to
- 17 take consideration for those orders that are
- 18 identified in that exhibit so if any of the parties
- 19 wish to go ahead and brief that issue about what
- 20 were the circumstances involving AAO for that case
- 21 then I think we should go ahead and pursue that
- 22 option rather than opening up the door for asking
- 23 questions about every order.
- 24 MR. FISCHER: That's fine Judge, I'll
- 25 do that. I don't want to do that, don't want to

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- 1 get into every order.
- 2 Q. (BY MR. FISCHER) I believe Mr.
- 3 Woodsmall asked you some questions about your
- 4 analysis of 20 years of ROEs on some of your
- 5 surveillance reports, do you recall those
- 6 questions?
- 7 A. I do.
- 8 Q. And did that period of time include
- 9 the five rate cases that the Commission has heard
- 10 during the, after the approval of the Company's
- 11 comprehensive energy plan?
- 12 A. That's what I stated. It's been a
- 13 while since I looked at that list that was in the
- 14 last case but I believe it ran to current at the
- 15 time of the last case. So those cases were in.
- 16 Q. And he asked you questions about
- 17 whether those I think surveillance reports
- 18 referenced that actual or earned ROE, do you recall
- 19 **that?**
- 20 A. I do recall that.
- 21 Q. Are those actual earned ROEs on those
- 22 surveillance sheets adjusted for things like
- 23 weather?
- A. No. No, they're not adjusted,
- 25 they're just actuals based on what's recorded on

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- 1 the accounting books and records. They're not what
- 2 I would call rate case development.
- 3 Q. Okay. In a rate case development
- 4 what kinds of adjustments would you typically
- 5 include that wouldn't be based, wouldn't be on a
- 6 surveillance report?
- 7 A. There are a number of annualizations
- 8 for cost categories, maybe payroll, things like
- 9 that. Normal indications where you look at
- 10 periods. There are items, nonrecurring items that
- 11 are adjusted out or asked to be deferred or
- 12 amortized or handled differently.
- 13 O. Would the actual earned ROE have an
- 14 adjustment for a nuclear refueling for example?
- 15 A. Nuclear refueling, I mean there are a
- 16 number. It takes months for companies to prepare
- 17 cases and put them in and it's because they are
- 18 analyzing and scrubbing that actual data that's the
- 19 starting point for surveillance and putting
- 20 together the right adjustments to reflect an
- 21 ongoing need for revenue requirement.
- 22 Q. I believe you were asked some
- 23 questions about Mr. Mills regarding the probability
- 24 of recovery of transmission costs if they were
- deferred, do you recall that line of questioning?

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- 1 A. I do.
- 2 Q. In your experience would you expect
- 3 this Commission to deny prudently incurred
- 4 transmission costs in a rate case?
- 5 A. I would not. Those are costs that
- 6 are primary to transport electricity and serve
- 7 customers.
- 8 Q. I believe Mr. Mills asked you some
- 9 questions regarding AAO cases and I don't want to
- 10 get into the case but he asked you specific topics
- 11 like pensions and OPEBs, FAS 106. Have those types
- of subjects been approved by the Commission for
- 13 **AAOs?**
- 14 A. I know they've been approved for
- 15 deferrals, I don't know what context they
- 16 originally were set up in. We have received them I
- 17 know in, as treatment in cases going, you know,
- 18 back some time. I'm not sure how they were
- 19 initiated for companies.
- Q. Do you consider those extraordinary
- 21 or normal business expenses?
- 22 A. I think they're normal business
- 23 expenses that the Commission has made a decision to
- 24 handle accounting differently for.
- 25 Q. I believe Mr. Dotthein may have asked

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- 1 you some questions about carrying costs, do you
- 2 recall those?
- 3 A. I do.
- Q. What is your view of carrying costs
- 5 in this case?
- A. Well, we've requested carrying costs
- 7 at the weighted average cost of capital. You know,
- 8 my view is if you have a cost that you incur and
- 9 were deferring in the case of Commission approval
- 10 of this AAO there's a time value of money for the
- 11 periods from when you incur that cost until you
- 12 recover it in rates and it's legitimate to provide
- 13 a recovery of that time value of money impact. The
- 14 Commission has approved historically on cases
- 15 carrying value over a number of topics or carrying
- 16 costs over a number of topics in a number of areas.
- 17 Not all AAOs, and I think Staff witness
- 18 Oligschlaeger said it, not all AAOs have carrying
- 19 costs but also there are a fair amount that do. We
- 20 think it's appropriate and that's why we asked for
- 21 it.
- 22 Q. I think you were also asked some
- 23 questions about the amortization period and I guess
- 24 the amortization condition Staff has proposed, do
- 25 you recall that?

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- Yes, I remember talking about that. 1 Α. 2 Would you explain your concerns Q. 3 regarding that 60 month amortization condition? Α. Yeah. In summary it's my belief when 4 5 you read the accounting language and the rules around deferral accounting, the 182 accounts that 6 7 allow for that the information says that in order to defer to a regulatory asset there has to be a 8 probability of future recovery of those costs. 10 Pretty directly says I think in some of the late 11 language as well as maybe in the rule that it can't 12 be a like cost that you're getting recovery for in 13 rates in the future, it has to be recovery of that deferred cost in future rates. I think beginning 14 15 amortization breaks that rule because you're not getting recovery of those amounts that have 16 17 amortized before you adjust rates and I think it would be my opinion as a CPA that we would not be 18 able to defer those costs up front because we don't 19 20 have assurance of that future recovery.
 - Q. You were also asked some questions I
 think by Mr. Dotthein or one of the Staff counsel
 about earning sharing plans that were pegged to
 ROEs that were approved by the Commission for
 Ameren and Southwestern Bell, do you recall those

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1	que	est	io	ns	?
	1				

- 2 A. I remember that question. I think he
- 3 said they were from the early '90s.
- 4 Q. Are you aware of controversies that
- 5 existed in any of those cases regarding how to
- 6 quantify those ROEs?
- 7 A. I'm aware of just peripherally from
- 8 what I have heard from others that those mechanisms
- 9 resulted in a fair amount of debate among parties
- 10 and I can appreciate why that would be. Every
- 11 party in the room would probably have opinions on
- 12 how that was done.
- 13 Q. If the Commission accepted that
- 14 earnings test that the Staff has proposed in this
- 15 case would you expect similar controversies to come
- 16 about?
- 17 A. Absolutely. I think we'd spend a lot
- 18 of time on that.
- 19 Q. Would you suspect there might be
- 20 hearings on things like that?
- 21 A. I would expect there would be
- 22 hearings and a number of differences and opinions
- 23 on whether or not we had truly earned in excess of
- 24 our authorized returns.
- 25 Q. I think you were asked some questions

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- 1 about the fact that Ameren has received recovery
- 2 transmission costs through an FAC. Do you recall
- 3 that?
- 4 A. I do.
- 5 Q. Why is that an important fact to you
- 6 in this case?
- 7 A. Well, in general I think we are
- 8 always looking to be treated consistently,
- 9 similarly, in a like position with our peer
- 10 utilities. We have peer utilities that we are
- 11 going to capital markets and we're looking for
- 12 investors. Any major divergence in our regulatory
- 13 treatment are recognized by the credit and
- 14 investment community and it's not just Ameren, we
- 15 have treatment for transmission costs in Kansas and
- 16 many of the other SPP participants have mechanisms
- 17 to address these increasing SPP costs or other RTO
- 18 costs. They just happen to be the other largest
- 19 utility in Missouri that has treatment for these
- 20 costs today.
- 21 Q. Are you suggesting that other states
- 22 have riders or mechanisms to address transmission
- 23 in the SPP region?
- A. There are some. I believe there are
- 25 utilities in maybe New Mexico that don't have

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- 1 treatment, Empire and ourselves don't have
- 2 treatment but most of the other participants in SPP
- 3 have some sort of mechanism to address transmission
- 4 costs. We, as I mentioned we have a rider or it
- 5 actually runs through our fuel clause in Kansas,
- 6 for our Kansas component of KCP&L.
- 7 Q. You flow through transmission
- 8 expenses in Kansas?
- 9 A. For our Kansas share of KCPL that
- 10 flows through our, they call it an ECA but it's our
- 11 Fuel Adjustment Clause in Kansas.
- 12 Q. I believe you were also asked some
- 13 questions about cost benefit analysis or studies
- 14 that you've done in the context of cases involving
- 15 your request to continue to be participating in
- 16 SPP, do you recall those?
- 17 A. I do recall that.
- 18 Q. If the Commission adopted a similar
- 19 condition that you do cost benefit analysis
- 20 regularly, periodically, what would you have to do
- 21 and is that a practical approach from your
- 22 standpoint?
- 23 A. Well, as I mentioned I think that
- 24 takes a long time, those are very involved studies,
- 25 may result in pretty expensive consultant dollars

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- 1 but the bigger concern is, and Staff and parties
- 2 have been part of those interim participation
- 3 cases, those benefits are not easy to quantify.
- 4 The costs we got on an invoice from SPP and that's
- 5 pretty clear but, the benefits are benefits from
- 6 public policy, you know, i.e., meaning that, you
- 7 know, transmission is being billed so that more
- 8 wind and renewables can be put in. Those are
- 9 difficult, more difficult to quantify. Many of the
- 10 benefits are also avoided costs. It's a view of
- 11 what's the benefit of being in an RTO versus not
- 12 being in an RTO. It's been several years as my
- 13 discussion with Mr. Woodsmall went since we have
- 14 not been in an RTO so we are projecting and
- 15 estimating what it would look like today if we
- 16 weren't in an RTO, not necessarily hard dollars and
- 17 cents that you could quantify and put back to
- 18 customers like an invoice from an RTO.
- 19 Q. Thank you Mr. Ives for your patience.
- 20 I have no other questions.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you Mr. Fischer.
- 22 Can this witness be excused?
- MR. FISCHER: As far as I'm concerned
- 24 that would be great.
- JUDGE BURTON: You're excused Mr.

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- 1 Ives. Thank you.
- 2 MR. IVES: Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: All right. At this
- 4 time it's 3:46 p.m. Did we want to go ahead and
- 5 take a quick recess or do you want to go ahead and
- 6 work our way through? Speak up or forever hold
- 7 your peace.
- 8 MR. FISCHER: We're okay with
- 9 whatever you want to do.
- JUDGE BURTON: Let me just clarify.
- 11 Do the parties expect a long time for cross
- 12 examination let's say for the four remaining
- 13 witnesses that we have? Is there any likelihood
- 14 that we're going to be able to finish this if we
- 15 stay today? Because we do have issues tomorrow
- 16 obviously with agenda meeting and I know that
- 17 Commissioner Hall might not be available as well.
- 18 MR. FISCHER: Judge with a few
- 19 minutes I think I can shorten my cross of some of
- 20 the Staff witnesses. I think there's a shot at
- 21 getting done to be honest.
- 22 JUDGE BURTON: I would prefer then
- 23 that we go ahead and continue in that vein.
- 24 Then I would say let's go ahead and
- 25 we'll call the next witness and I will just advise

Page 240 the parties and the commissioners if anyone is 2 needing a break please let me know and we'll 3 request a recess. 4 Mr. Stahlman would you raise your 5 right hand? 6 (Whereupon, the witness was sworn) 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION QUESTIONS BY MS. HAMPTON: 8 9 Q. Would you please state your name for 10 the record? Α. Michael L. Stahlman. 11 12 Q. Where are you employed and in what 13 capacity? 14 Α. Missouri Public Service Commission as 15 a regulatory economist. 16 Are you the same Michael Stahlman who

- caused to be prepared the testimony that's been
- 18 marked as Staff's Exhibit 1?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have anything you wish to
- 21 correct in that testimony?
- 22 A. Yes. On page 2, line 13. I state
- 23 that a Staff data request regarding this issue is
- 24 still pending, I would like to note that that
- 25 request was answered and the response is the same

Page 241 as Mr. Ives' surrebuttal on page 13. Q. And with that correction in mind if 3 asked the same questions today would your answers be the same? 5 A. Yes. MS. HAMPTON: Your Honor Staff offers 6 7 Exhibit 1 and tenders the witness for cross. JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Any objections 8 to Staff Exhibit 1? 10 Hearing no objection it is admitted into the record. 11 12 At this time I believe it is your witness Mr. Downey, is that correct? 13 14 MR. DOWNEY: I have no questions. 15 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Mr. Woodsmall? 16 MR. WOODSMALL: No questions. 17 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Mills? 18 MR. MILLS: No questions. 19 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Lowery? 20 MR. COOPER: He stepped out and I 21 don't know the answer to your question. 22 JUDGE BURTON: How about you Mr. 23 Cooper? 24 MR. COOPER: I have no questions. 25 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Why don't we go

Page 242 ahead than and continue. KCPL? 2 MR. STEINER: Just a few Your Honor. 3 JUDGE BURTON: Do you want to see if he has some or do you want to start? 4 5 MR. STEINER: I can start now. 6 JUDGE BURTON: That would be fine. 7 CROSS EXAMINATION QUESTIONS BY MR. STEINER: 8 9 Q. Good afternoon Mr. Stahlman. You're a member of the energy rate design and tariff 10 unit --11 12 MR. LOWERY: I apologize Your Honor. 13 No, I don't have any cross. 14 JUDGE BURTON: I'm sorry, please continue Mr. Steiner. 15 16 Q. (BY MR. STEINER) Did you hear my 17 question? 18 Α. I think so. I am a part member of the energy rate design and tariff unit. 19 20 Is it your understanding that the Q. 21 transmission costs that KCPL and GMO are seeking to defer in the AAO requested in this case are similar 22 23 to the transmission costs that are recovered 24 through the FAC clause of Ameren Missouri? 25 I don't know. I'll refer you to Α.

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- 1 Staff witness Mark Oligschlaeger for that.
- Q. Okay. Go to page 4 of your rebuttal.
- 3 Do you see on line 9 that you reference a finance
- 4 committee report to the SPP board of directors?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And it's my understanding you found
- 7 that report on the website that you reference on
- 8 line 10, is that right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Now isn't it correct that many of the
- 11 SPP committee reports, presentations, et cetera,
- 12 can be found on-line at the SPP website?
- 13 A. I believe that is correct, yes.
- 14 Q. Would you agree that members of the
- 15 Commission's advisory staff have spent considerable
- 16 time and effort monitoring the activities of SPP
- 17 and its members?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Would you also agree that SPP is
- 20 currently in the process of expanding its
- 21 transmission system that it administers?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think that this expansion
- 24 represents a significant and substantial effort to
- 25 improve the region's transmission system?

			Page 244	
1	Α.	I don't know.		
2	Q.	Do you think it detracts from the		
3	region's tran	smission system?		
4	Α.	I don't know.		
5	Q.	Do you know if Staff supports the		
6	6 goal of improving the region's transmission system?			
7	Α.	I'm not aware of Staff's position.		
8	Q.	Thank you. That's all I have.		
9		JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.		
10		Chairman Kenney do you have any		
11	questions?			
12		CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Thank you very		
13	much.			
14		JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Kenney?		
15		COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No thank you.		
16		JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Hall?		
17		COMMISSIONER HALL: No questions.		
18		JUDGE BURTON: I don't have any.		
19		Are there any redirects?		
20		MS. HAMPTON: No, your Honor.		
21		JUDGE BURTON: Can this witness be		
22	excused then?			
23		All right, thank you.		
24		Staff may call its next witness.		
25		MR. DOTTHEIN: Mr. Oligschlaeger.		

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1	(Whereupon, the witness was sworn)		
2	DIRECT EXAMINATION		
3	QUESTIONS BY MR. DOTTHEIN:		
4	Q. Would you please state your name for		
5	the record?		
6	A. Mark L. Oligschlaeger.		
7	Q. Would you identify your place of		
8	employment?		
9	A. I work for the Missouri Public		
10	Service Commission.		
11	Q. And would you identify your position?		
12	A. I am manager of the auditing unit.		
13	Q. Did you cause to be filed rebuttal		
14	testimony which is marked as Staff Exhibit No. 2 HC		
15	and Staff number 3 NP?		
16	A. Yes.		
17	Q. At this time do you have any		
18	corrections or changes to make to your rebuttal		
19	testimony?		
20	A. Yes, I have one change on page 26 of		
21	Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 3, line 20, the sentence that		
22	begins in the middle of that line, the word is		
23	should be inserted between the words that and		
24	beneficial so now the sentence should read when the		
25	regulatory lag that is beneficial.		

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- 1 Q. If I were to ask you today the same
- 2 questions that are contained in your rebuttal
- 3 testimony that has been marked as Exhibit No. 2 HC
- 4 and Exhibit No. 3, Staff Exhibit No. 3 NP, would
- 5 your answers be the same as corrected?
- 6 A. They would.
- 7 Q. Okay. Is the information contained
- 8 therein true and correct to the best of your
- 9 knowledge and belief?
- 10 A. It is.
- 11 Q. Okay. And do you adopt Staff Exhibit
- 12 No. 2 HC and Staff Exhibit No. 3 NP as your
- 13 testimony in this proceeding?
- 14 A. I do.
- 15 **Q.** Okay.
- 16 MR. DOTTHEIN: At this time I would
- 17 tender Mr. Oligschlaeger for cross examination.
- 18 JUDGE BURTON: Did you want to admit
- 19 those?
- MR. DOTTHEIN: Yes, and I would offer
- 21 for admittance Staff Exhibit No. 2 HC and Staff
- 22 Exhibit No. 3 NP.
- JUDGE BURTON: Any objections?
- 24 All right. Staff Exhibit No. 2 HC
- 25 and Staff Exhibit 3 NP are both admitted.

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1	And I believe Mr. Downey.		
2	MR. DOWNEY: No cross.		
3	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Woodsmall?		
4	MR. WOODSMALL: Briefly Your Honor.		
5	JUDGE BURTON: Okay.		
6	CROSS EXAMINATION		
7	QUESTIONS BY MR. WOODSMALL:		
8	Q. Good afternoon Mr. Oligschlaeger.		
9	A. Good afternoon.		
10	Q. Does GMO have a Fuel Adjustment		
11	Clause?		
12	A. They do.		
13	Q. And does KCP&L have a Fuel Adjustment		
14	Clause?		
15	A. They do not.		
16	Q. Would you agree that KCP&L has		
17	voluntarily foregone its ability to seek an FAC		
18	until some time in 2015?		
19	A. That is my understanding.		
20	Q. And KCP&L's agreement not to seek a		
21	Fuel Adjustment Clause was contained in the KCP&L		
22	2005 regulatory plan, is that correct?		
23	A. Yes.		
24	Q. And that regulatory plan was a result		
25	of a stipulation among the parties, is that right?		

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- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Were there other aspects of the
- 3 regulatory plan besides KCP&L's agreement not to
- 4 seek a Fuel Adjustment Clause?
- 5 A. There were many other aspects to it.
- 6 Q. Would you agree that one important
- 7 aspect was the creation of a regulatory
- 8 amortization mechanism?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 O. And that mechanism allowed KCP&L to
- 11 charge rates that are higher than they otherwise
- were entitled to simply to allow KCP&L to meet
- 13 certain financial metrics during the construction
- of Iatan 2, is that correct?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Are you aware of any other instances
- 17 besides the KCP&L and Empire regulatory plan where
- 18 customers have paid higher rates simply to allow
- 19 the utility to meet certain financial metrics?
- 20 A. I am not aware of any other companies
- 21 or instances.
- Q. Would you agree subject to check that
- 23 KCP&L recovered approximately 147 million from
- 24 ratepayers in the regulatory amortization
- 25 mechanism?

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- 1 A. I don't recall off the top of my
- 2 head. I can accept that subject to check.
- 3 Q. Thank you.
- 4 Mr. Ives states that KCP&L should be
- 5 treated consistent with Ameren who has a Fuel
- 6 Adjustment Clause. Are you aware of any, in the
- 7 last 10 years, any regulatory plan with Ameren?
- 8 A. Certainly nothing that was similar to
- 9 the plans agreed to and entered in by KCPL and
- 10 Empire.
- 11 Q. Would you agree that transmission
- 12 costs are included in Ameren's Fuel Adjustment
- 13 Clause?
- 14 A. I would agree.
- 15 Q. And would you agree that transmission
- 16 revenues are included in that Fuel Adjustment
- 17 Clause?
- 18 A. I would agree.
- 19 Q. Would you agree that surveillance
- 20 reports are required as part of Ameren and GMO's
- 21 fuel adjustment clauses?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Would you agree that all system sales
- 24 margins are included in the Ameren and GMO Fuel
- 25 Adjustment Clauses?

Page 250 1 Α. Yes. 2 Is it your understanding that a Fuel Q. 3 Adjustment Clause can only be modified in the context of a rate case? 4 5 Α. That's my general understanding. 6 Ο. And is it also your general 7 understanding that a fuel adjustment clause can 8 only be implemented in the context of a rate case? 9 My recollection per the rule Α. 10 governing the implementation of FACs, that is true. Have you seen Mr. Ives' schedule 11 Q. 12 regarding the list of AAO cases? 13 Α. I have. 14 I'm not going to ask you about any Q. 15 specific question, just about a couple of the 16 subjects that are listed there just to give us some 17 background about them. Are you familiar with FAS 18 106? 19 Α. Yes. 20 Q. And that concerns what is otherwise 21 known as other post employment benefits besides 22 pensions? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Known at OPEBs? Q.

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Α.

Yes.

25

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- 1 Q. Can you tell me what was the event 2 that caused the need for the FAS 106 OPEB AAOs? 3 Well, the initial AAOs that were requested regarding FAS 106 and I think Ameren, at 4 5 the time Union Electric Company, filed the first one in 1992, the concern was that the companies 6 7 wish to maintain its accounting practice of booking 8 those costs according to the traditional pay as you go method in lieu of the new FAS 106 accrual method that was at that time being implemented by the 10 Financial Accounting Standards Board. 11 12 Q. Did the utilities in Missouri have to 13 follow the new accounting standard for FAS 106? 14 Α. In general, yes. 15 Q. Okay. Did the same type of event occur for pensions? 16
 - 17 There was a changeover in terms of
 - the accounting for pensions in the late 1980s, I 18
 - don't recall there were specific AAO requests tied 19
 - to that. There have been occasional AAO requests 20
 - 21 for pensions mostly wanting to maintain a
- traditional again rate making treatment of having 22
- the amounts included in their rates based on 23
- contributions as opposed to an accrual method. 24
- 25 Q. And an accrual method was dictated by

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- 1 the Financial Accounting Standards Board, is that
- 2 correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. And that's FAS 87?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. There are a number of cases there
- 7 regarding gas safety. Can you just give us some
- 8 discussion about the event that caused the need for
- 9 the gas safety AAO?
- 10 A. Yes. In the late 1980s there were a
- 11 series of explosions, I think many of them were in
- 12 the service territory of KCP&L gas service though
- 13 they may not have been limited to that specific
- 14 company. As a result of the explosions the
- 15 Commission was concerned that the rules needed to
- 16 be changed to in particular mandate replacement of
- 17 old service lines or yard lines and to some degree
- 18 it may have also dealt with main replacement as
- 19 well and a series of, or a rule was implemented
- 20 mandating certain infrastructure improvements and
- 21 AAOs were granted regarding the costs that were
- 22 incurred by the utilities to meet the new rules.
- 23 Q. There were two AAOs listed that
- 24 concern MGE's request for an AAO associated with
- 25 Kansas property taxes. Are you familiar with that?

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- 1 A. Yes, I am.
- 2 Q. And can you tell me what the event
- 3 was that caused the need for that AAO, those AAOs?
- 4 A. Probably not quite 10 years ago I
- 5 believe the Kansas legislature passed a law
- 6 implementing, or calling for the assessment of
- 7 property taxes on gas in storage held by local
- 8 distribution companies, possibly pipeline companies
- 9 as well. This was a new type of property tax that
- 10 MGE and I believe other local distribution
- 11 companies in the state of Kansas in particular
- 12 resisted, have resisted and may still be resisting
- 13 in the court system.
- Q. Okay. But that was a new property
- 15 tax that was questioned by the Kansas legislature,
- 16 is that correct?
- 17 A. That's my recollection.
- 18 Q. Okay. And I'm wrapping up pretty
- 19 quickly. There were a couple cases there regarding
- 20 manufactured gas plant cleanup. Do you believe
- 21 that manufactured gas plant cleanup is a recurring
- 22 cost for gas companies?
- 23 A. The broader topic of environmental
- 24 costs or environmental remediation costs I would
- 25 say is generally recurring. The one company I'm

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- 1 most familiar with Missouri Gas Energy had a series
- 2 of MTP sites that it was obligated in part along
- 3 with other parties to incur costs to clean up. I
- 4 would say I would view those as recurring.
- 5 Q. One last question. Would you agree
- 6 that in most AAO cases Staff and the parties do not
- 7 oppose the utility's request for deferral?
- 8 A. Over time as the ground rules for
- 9 granting of AAOs have been more subtle than
- 10 established by the Commission I say there's been a
- 11 trend towards more agreement. Early on there was a
- 12 lot of disagreement as to the proper scope of what
- 13 an AAO should cover.
- 14 Q. Do you recall litigating a case
- 15 regarding AAOs in the last 10 years?
- 16 A. I know at least the Kansas property
- 17 tax one that you earlier discussed was litigated
- 18 though I think, the Company's and Staff's position
- 19 was not identical but in that particular case I
- 20 think we were more aligned against Office of Public
- 21 Counsel.
- 22 Q. No further questions. Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- Mr. Mills?
- MR. MILLS: Maybe just one or two.

Page 255 1 CROSS EXAMINATION 2 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLS: 3 Mr. Oligschlaeger, Mr. Ives testified 4 that he doesn't see any relationship between 5 instruction 7 and deferral accounting to accounts 6 182.3 and 254 and I think he hinted that maybe you 7 would agree with him on that. Do you agree with 8 him on that, that there's no connection? 9 I would agree in the limited sense that I don't think there is a specific and direct 10 link between the two per the USOA. Where I would 11 12 disagree is I believe this Commission has 13 established over the long term a policy by which the criteria of extraordinary which is laid out and 14 15 defined in generally instruction number 7 should generally guide whether deferrals should be allowed 16 17 into account 128.3. 18 Q. Thank you. 19 MR. MILLS: That's all I have. 20 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 21 Mr. Lowery? 22 MR. LOWERY: No questions. 23 JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Cooper? 24 MR. COOPER: No questions. 25 MR. FISCHER: Mr. Fischer?

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- 1 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 2 QUESTIONS BY MR. FISCHER:
- 3 Q. Let's start at that last point. Mr.
- 4 Oligschlaeger, if you could turn to page 27 of your
- 5 rebuttal testimony at line 14 and 15. I believe
- 6 you say that Staff does not disagree with the
- 7 overall conclusion made by Mr. Ives and Mr.
- 8 Bresette that utilities may not be able to book
- 9 deferrals on costs in certain circumstances for
- 10 financial reporting purposes without an order from
- 11 the Commission explicitly authorizing such
- 12 deferral. Is that right?
- 13 A. That's what it states.
- 14 Q. Is it correct then to conclude that
- 15 you believe it is necessary for the Commission to
- specifically authorize the deferral before the
- 17 companies could defer transmission costs that are a
- 18 subject of this proceeding?
- 19 A. And perhaps this is ripe for
- 20 clarification. There's two different things we're
- 21 talking here. One is the accounting directives
- 22 this Commission has in its scope governing the
- 23 accounting of all the subject utilities. Number
- 24 two is the jurisdiction of the financial accounting
- 25 community over the Company's published financial

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- 1 reports. Obviously the external auditors don't
- 2 govern what this Commission does in terms of
- 3 accounting and this Commission can't govern what
- 4 the external auditors decree in terms of the
- 5 published financial reports. My point here is
- 6 without explicit authorization from the Commission
- 7 for a deferral it is unlikely a company's external
- 8 auditors, their public accounting firm would allow
- 9 them to book the deferral for purposes of their
- 10 published financial reports. If they were not
- 11 allowed to do that then at least some, much of the
- 12 benefit that the company intends as part of the
- 13 deferral process can not be accomplished.
- 14 Q. Okay. So you're saying it's not
- 15 practical for the companies to do it without an
- order from the Commission?
- 17 A. Now in this particular case there's
- 18 not a lot of history or a track record of deferrals
- 19 being allowed for transmission expenses and I think
- 20 particularly in this circumstance if it is the
- 21 Commission's intent to allow such a deferral they
- 22 would, should order an explicit, or issue an
- 23 explicit order authorizing that.
- 24 Q. Let me just ask you this question:
- 25 Do you agree that the companies can not

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- 1 unilaterally choose to defer these costs without a
- 2 specific order from the Commission authorizing them
- 3 to do so?
- 4 A. My opinion would be they cannot
- 5 reflect such on their published financial
- 6 statements.
- 7 Q. Okay. Then if we go to page 27 at
- 8 line 17 through 19 you testify that in the event
- 9 that it is the Commission's intent that the
- 10 companies be allowed to book a deferral of
- 11 transmission policies as a result of this
- 12 proceeding Staff believes that the Commission
- 13 should issue an order authorizing an AAO or tracker
- 14 for that purpose. Is that right?
- 15 A. That's what it states.
- 16 Q. And that's your opinion.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. So on that point the companies
- 19 and the Staff seem to agree, right, that if the
- 20 Commission intends for the companies to be able to
- 21 defer they should issue a specific order
- 22 authorizing that deferral.
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Let's go to your schedule ML 01 which
- I think lists a lot of the cases that you've been

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- 1 involved with over the years and I was just looking
- for a few of the AAO cases. It looks like there's
- one that, United Missouri Water, or United Water
- 4 Missouri, the FAS 106 deferrals that you talked
- 5 about I think with Mr. Woodsmall. The Commission
- 6 approved that one for FAS 106, is that right?
- 7 A. They did not.
- 8 Q. They did not. Okay. They did
- 9 approve some FAS 106 cost approvals for, or they
- 10 did authorize AAOs for some FAS 106 costs for some
- 11 utilities?
- 12 A. They did. Perhaps to go, to expand
- on that a little bit because of subsequent
- 14 developments in the financial accounting community
- 15 some of the those authorizations were not allowed
- 16 to be used by the utilities.
- Q. Okay. Then you also mention on that,
- 18 on your second page there of the Missouri Gas
- 19 Energy case that appears to involve a deferral of
- 20 SLRP deferrals and Y2K deferrals, do you see that?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 O. Is that a reference to service line
- 23 replacement program costs?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And is that also a reference to the

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- 1 upgrades of computers and the computer system for
- 2 the transition to the year 2000, is that what Y2K
- 3 means?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And did the Commission approve AAOs
- 6 for those kinds of expenses?
- 7 A. In both cases, yes.
- 8 Q. And then you've already mentioned I
- 9 think with Mr. Woodsmall the Kansas property tax
- 10 AAO. In your 30, what, 32 years here at the
- 11 Commission do you recall the Commission has
- 12 approved AAOs or deferrals or trackers for such
- 13 topics as renewable energy standards costs?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And you've said, already said the
- 16 Kansas property tax, what about construction
- 17 accounting for new power plants, have there been
- 18 deferrals related to those?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you mentioned pensions and OPEBs.
- 21 By the way, what are OPEBs?
- 22 A. OPEBs basically to move away from the
- 23 acronym for a moment is retiree benefits commonly
- 24 offered to, medical benefits to retirees of utility
- 25 companies.

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- 1 Q. Has the Commission made, had
- 2 approvals for AAOs or trackers or deferrals for
- 3 security costs?
- 4 A. One, yes.
- 5 Q. And what about, I think you mentioned
- 6 safety costs with Mr. Woodsmall?
- 7 A. And by safety I believe that's a
- 8 specific reference to the service line replacement
- 9 program type costs incurred by local distribution
- 10 companies.
- 11 Q. And main line and replacement costs
- 12 program have been approved by for AAOs?
- 13 A. You mean a main replacement, water
- 14 main?
- 15 Q. I was thinking of the gas side but
- 16 probably water too.
- 17 A. Well, on the gas side I believe that
- 18 the ongoing safety programs may have encompassed,
- 19 I'm not quite, I don't remember exactly, main
- 20 replacement as well. On the water side the
- 21 Commission approved some AAOs for water main
- 22 replacement or infrastructure replacement but later
- 23 ended those.
- Q. Would you agree with me generally
- 25 that the ones we've just mentioned didn't involve

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- 2 A. I believe in one way or the other the
- 3 Commission found that they were extraordinary in
- 4 nature but I would agree that they were not all the
- 5 classical acts of God type situation.
- 6 O. Some of them were more normal
- 7 expenses utilities just incur, right?
- 8 A. Well, again as a general rule the
- 9 Commission found something extraordinary about
- 10 them.
- 11 Q. And the Commission's allowed public
- 12 utilities over the years to defer those kinds of
- 13 costs for possible recovery in a future rate case.
- 14 A. That's what the AAOs usually have
- 15 been used for.
- 16 Q. Let's talk about the carrying cost
- issue just a little bit. On page 26 at line 6 you
- 18 state carrying charges are the equivalent of a
- 19 return on investment that may be added to a
- deferred cost to recognize the delay and recovery
- in costs and rates. Is that right?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. If the Commission approves the
- 24 Company's AAO request the transmission costs would
- 25 be deferred but the recovery of those costs would

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- be considered in the Company's next rate case, is
- 2 that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So is it correct to conclude that any
- 5 recovery in rates would not occur until some time
- 6 in the future when the Commission reviews the
- 7 prudency of those costs?
- A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. So would you agree there will be a
- 10 delay from the time the companies incurred, a delay
- 11 between the time the Company actually incurs the
- 12 transmission costs until the time the Company would
- 13 be allowed to recover those costs?
- 14 A. As is typical with any cost incurred
- 15 by a utility.
- 16 Q. So page 26 at line 12 you state even
- 17 if deferral authority is granted for a particular
- 18 cost the utility deferring the cost will still lose
- 19 the time value of money for the lag between
- 20 incurring the costs and recovering the cost of
- 21 rates through an amortization, is that right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. A dollar that's not recovered until
- 24 future is worth less than a dollar that is
- 25 recovered immediately, would you agree?

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- 1 A. I would agree.
- 2 Q. And it's that time value of money
- 3 that carrying costs are sometimes designed to
- 4 compensate for, right?
- 5 A. I believe that's their primary
- 6 intent.
- 7 Q. Is it correct that Staff's position
- 8 is to purposely ensure that the companies can not
- 9 recover its costs including that time value of
- 10 money?
- 11 A. Well, purposely makes it sound kind
- 12 of punitive or vengeful or something. The
- 13 Commission has stated that mitigation of regulatory
- 14 lag is one of the purposes of the AAO mechanism but
- 15 they are not intended to completely eliminate the
- 16 phenomena of regulatory lag as it would apply to
- 17 the costs being deferred and our position on
- 18 carrying costs in this case and some other cases is
- 19 based upon that belief that it is good policy to
- 20 completely eliminate this final lag for a
- 21 particular cost item incurred by a utility.
- 22 Q. Let's look at page 27 of your
- 23 rebuttal at line 5 where you say the practical
- 24 effect of this approach, and by that I think you're
- 25 talking Staff's recommendation, is to share

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- 1 responsibility for the extraordinary expenses
- 2 between the utility shareholders and ratepayers.
- 3 Is that right?
- 4 A. Well that's, I guess that describes
- 5 what we're proposing in this particular case. It
- 6 also describes the affect of what has been the
- 7 approach in many past Accounting Authority Order
- 8 cases in terms of rate based treatment of the
- 9 deferral.
- 10 O. So for transmission costs at least
- 11 the Staff position is that shareholders and
- 12 ratepayers should share the costs to serve the
- 13 customers even if they're prudently incurred
- 14 transmission costs?
- 15 A. No, not in the sense of the normal
- 16 ongoing level of transmission expense that is
- 17 normally included in the utility's rates. We're
- 18 talking about, however, costs that are deferred
- 19 normally pursuant to a claim of extraordinary,
- 20 being extraordinary in nature and in that
- 21 particular instance we believe in general that the
- 22 risk of extraordinary events or losses should be
- 23 shared between customers and the shareholders of
- 24 the unit.
- 25 Q. So for purposes of the transmission

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- 1 costs though that we're talking about in this case
- you're suggesting they ought to be shared between
- 3 shareholders and ratepayers, right?
- 4 A. I'm saying to the extent there are
- 5 deferred costs, deferred transmission expenses
- 6 resulting from this application the ultimate rate
- 7 making treatment, we're not there yet, should
- 8 generally follow the past Commission policy of not
- 9 charging the entire amount or putting the entire
- 10 responsibility for those costs on the customers of
- 11 the utility.
- 12 Q. Well, are there other prudently
- incurred costs to certain customers that Staff
- 14 believes should be shared?
- 15 A. In general we believe that most
- 16 deferrals should be shared, when it is appropriate
- 17 to give them rate recovery should be shared in some
- 18 manner and that is why we have typically suggested
- 19 an amortization over a period of time with no rate
- 20 based treatment.
- Q. Well let's talk about that condition.
- 22 Under your sixth condition the amortization of the
- 23 deferral would commence on KCPL and GMO's books in
- 24 the first full calendar month following the
- 25 Commission approval of the AAO or the tracker, is

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1	that	right?
_	LIIaL	rrgnc:

- 2 A. That's what we are suggesting.
- 3 Q. If the companies don't have rate
- 4 cases for some period of time, and let's just
- 5 assume for purposes of this discussion 30 months,
- 6 half of that 60 month amortization, wouldn't this
- 7 mean that the companies would only be eligible to
- 8 recover about one half of the transmission costs?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Well, in any event because the
- 11 amortization begins before the date of the new
- 12 rates the companies would be eligible to recover
- 13 less than half of that full transmission cost,
- 14 wouldn't they?
- 15 A. Well, again a company does not have
- 16 to have an explicit rate case on, go into effect in
- 17 order to recover new costs. To the extent their
- 18 existing rate levels are sufficient to carry the
- 19 new costs but their earnings are still adequate
- 20 that they do not need to seek earnings, or rate
- 21 relief then for practical purposes they should be
- 22 deemed to have recovered it. In your scenario you
- 23 said they could wait for 30 months before filing or
- 24 getting a rate increase. That suggests for a
- 25 period of time of impact of the amortization was

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- 1 not significant enough to force them into a rate
- 2 case.
- 3 Q. Okay. So you're assuming that they
- 4 can recover those costs because they didn't file a
- 5 rate case, not because -- once they get to that
- 6 rate case they'll only be eligible to recover half
- 7 of them, right?
- 8 A. From that point going forward, yes.
- 9 Q. Even though those transmission costs
- 10 might be determined to be prudent and necessary to
- 11 serve the public, right?
- 12 A. I think it's always been our policy
- 13 to include prudent and necessary transmission
- 14 expenses in the Company's cost of service.
- 15 Q. But if they're amortized before you
- 16 get to that rate case they wouldn't be eligible to
- 17 ask for recovery.
- 18 A. Well, it would be up to the Company
- 19 to ask for recovery. The impact of those
- 20 transmission experiences were to bring your
- 21 earnings down to an unacceptable level then at that
- 22 point the proper action on the part of the Company
- 23 would be to file a rate increase.
- 24 Q. Let's look at your seventh condition
- 25 which I think is deferral resulting from AAOs or

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- 1 trackers which cease under certain circumstances
- depending upon KCPL and GMOs reported return on
- 3 equity. Is that one of the conditions?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. On page 3 of your rebuttal testimony
- 6 you state that Staff recommends that if KCPL or GMO
- 7 reports that it is earning at or in excess of its
- 8 authorized ROE on a 12 month rolling forward
- 9 average basis in quarterly earning surveillance
- 10 reporting any deferrals of under collections in net
- 11 transmission costs should cease from that point
- 12 forward and only resume on a perspective basis if
- 13 this surveillance reporting shows it is now earning
- 14 its lowest authorized ROE. That's your suggestion,
- 15 right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. KCPL, GMO and other public utilities
- 18 in the state have other AAOs or trackers that have
- 19 been approved by the Commission, is that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Are you familiar with any AAO or
- 22 tracker approved by the Commission which
- 23 automatically ceases if the utility surveillance
- 24 report shows it's earning more than its authorized
- 25 **ROE?**

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- 1 A. This is a fairly new condition, I
- 2 think we proposed it actually for, in the prior
- 3 KCPL and GMO cases and their request at that time
- 4 for a transmission tracker.
- 5 Q. And I believe you also may have
- 6 mentioned it in the Ameren case?
- 7 A. You're correct as well.
- 8 Q. And was it approved in any of those
- 9 cases?
- 10 A. I think the Commission's ruling in
- 11 both those cases more or less made the point moot
- 12 so I don't believe the Commission directly
- 13 addressed this condition.
- 14 Q. Would you agree with me that the
- 15 Commission has never approved this condition?
- 16 A. I would agree with that.
- 17 Q. Is it your understanding the KCPL has
- 18 been providing annual surveillance reports to the
- 19 Commission staff?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And those annual KCPL surveillance
- 22 reports are more detailed than other company's
- 23 quarterly or monthly surveillance reports?
- A. That's my understanding.
- 25 Q. And that practice goes back to some

Page 271 time after the Wolf Creek case in the late '80s? 2 Α. Late '80s, early '90s. 3 Q. Probably 20 years? 20 plus years, yes. Α. 5 If the Commission adopted the Staff's Q. sixth condition wouldn't KCPL need to change that 7 surveillance reporting in order to meet your 8 condition? 9 Α. We would certainly be agreeable to foregoing the annual report in lieu of the new 10 quarterly reports that would be required under this 11 12 condition but would also be required to the extent KCPL moves in the future to utilize a fuel 13 adjustment clause or any other kind of rate rider 14 15 that might be available to them. 16 Q. Does the surveillance report 17 submitted by electric companies in the state normalize their earnings for weather? 18 19 It does, they do not. Α. 20 Q. Do KCPL or Ameren normalize for 21 nuclear fuel recycling, for cycles? I do not believe Ameren does, I 22 believe KCPL performs some kind of accrual slash 23 24 normalization of Wolf Creek refueling expenses on

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their books for reporting purposes.

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- 1 Q. Going back to weather, would you
- 2 agree with me that if it's a hotter than normal
- 3 year or colder than normal year that that can
- 4 affect the Company's earnings that are shown on
- 5 those surveillance reports?
- 6 A. Certainly.
- 7 Q. Do the surveillance reports typically
- 8 include the myriad of rate making adjustments that
- 9 we talked about in rate cases?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Staff monitors those surveillance
- 12 reports filed by public utilities in the state,
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Does Staff always file a rate
- 16 complaint when the surveillance report shows the
- 17 Company may be earning more than the last
- 18 authorized ROE?
- 19 A. No. I mean the surveillance reports
- 20 would be kind of the starting point of that
- 21 analysis. I would say in general terms we are
- 22 unlikely to initiate some kind of complaint process
- 23 without a fairly sustained and material, sustained
- 24 period of material earnings.
- 25 O. Doesn't Staff even sometimes conduct

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- 1 a mini audit before they decide to file a rate
- 2 complaint against the utility?
- 3 A. I would expect we would do that.
- 4 Q. Does the cost to capital change over
- 5 time?
- A. Yes, it does.
- 7 Q. Sometimes it goes up, sometimes it
- 8 goes down, correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Would Staff consider the current
- 11 costs of capital before they filed a rate complaint
- 12 against public utilities even though the
- 13 surveillance report might show it over earnings?
- 14 A. I believe we would take that into
- 15 account.
- 16 Q. Would you agree with me that
- 17 surveillance reports are a rough guide or
- 18 guesstimate of the Company's earnings levels and
- 19 that additional considerations are considered by
- 20 Staff when they assess whether a rate complaint
- 21 should be filed against a public utility?
- 22 A. Certainly. Surveillance reports are
- 23 not detailed enough to justify changes in rates in
- 24 and of themselves.
- 25 Q. If the Commission adopts the Staff's

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- 1 seventh condition would you expect there to be
- 2 hearings to determine if the Company was over
- 3 earning before the deferral was turned off or
- 4 terminated?
- 5 A. No. I think that's a
- 6 misunderstanding of what we're proposing. We are
- 7 proposing a bright line in regard to the
- 8 extraordinary mechanism you are seeking in terms of
- 9 the accounting authorization.
- 10 Q. So the companies wouldn't have an
- 11 opportunity to challenge whether they were over
- 12 earning or not?
- 13 A. It is again, this would be intended
- 14 as a bright line. If you are over earning per your
- 15 surveillance reports the extraordinary accounting
- 16 mechanism would end for the period of over earning
- 17 for the reason that it seems to default the purpose
- 18 of the overall deferral if it's intended to
- 19 mitigate a situation where a company asserts it can
- 20 not reasonably earn its expected or its authorized
- 21 return on equity without the deferral authority but
- 22 nonetheless they are over earning in reality.
- Q. Well, if the Commission decided to
- 24 convene hearings to consider whether the companies
- 25 were over earning before they turned off the

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- deferral would you expect there might be a fair
- 2 amount of controversy in the hearing room about
- 3 that issue?
- 4 A. Under that set of circumstances I'm
- 5 sure there would be disputes, yes.
- 6 Q. Mr. Oligschlaeger, in your preparing
- 7 for this case did you come across other states in
- 8 the SPP region that have authorized riders or other
- 9 mechanisms to include recovery of transmission
- 10 costs from SPP?
- 11 A. The only jurisdiction I specifically
- 12 made any kind of review of was Kansas.
- 13 Q. And do they allow recovery of the
- 14 transmission costs through some kind of a
- 15 mechanism?
- 16 A. I believe it's called the ECA
- 17 mechanism which I think is equivalent to the FAC
- 18 mechanism. Did a quick review of the Kansas tariff
- 19 sheets and they appear to encompass transmission
- 20 expenses.
- 21 Q. Let's go to your conditions regarding
- 22 revenues and expenses.
- 23 A. Sure.
- Q. Would you describe your understanding
- of what a local or a zonal transmission project is

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- 1 as contrasted to a regional transmission project?
- 2 A. Broadly speaking a regional
- 3 transmission project is supposed to provide
- 4 benefits to I guess SPP members over a widely
- 5 disbursed area while local or zonal projects are
- 6 intended to provide primary benefit to the
- 7 utilities I guess constructing the assets or those
- 8 close by.
- 9 Q. A regional transmission project is
- 10 subject to SPP's cost allocation procedures, is
- 11 that right, whereby all the costs are shared by all
- 12 the SPP members?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Is that true for local projects?
- 15 A. My general recollection is local
- 16 projects may be financed entirely by the owner
- 17 slash constructor.
- 18 Q. Would you agree that the Missouri
- 19 portion of KCPL and GMO, that each pay about four
- 20 percent of the costs of those regional transmission
- 21 projects?
- 22 A. On a load share ratio basis, yes.
- 23 Q. So about eight percent of the
- 24 Missouri portion of KCP&L and GMO combined that's
- 25 what we're talking about?

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- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. If KCPL built a regional transmission
- 3 project at the request of SPP it would also receive
- 4 revenues to pay the, for the other 92 percent of
- 5 the regional project costs, is that your
- 6 understanding?
- 7 A. The entity financing the construction
- 8 bearing the costs would receive all revenues.
- 9 Q. Staff wouldn't expect all those
- 10 revenues from other SPP members for that kind of a
- 11 regional transmission project to be included in a
- 12 transmission AAO, would it?
- 13 A. Revenues received by KCPL to finance,
- 14 or -- well, I think that -- I'll go back. I think
- 15 that's a hypothetical situation, that was not
- 16 specifically considered by Staff in terms of its
- 17 position in this case. I'm not aware that KCPL and
- 18 GMO are constructing any regional projects.
- 19 Q. I would agree it's a hypothetical but
- 20 if KCPL and GMO customers are only paying for eight
- 21 percent of the costs under that scenario why should
- 22 they get the benefit of 100 percent of the revenue
- of regional transmission projects?
- A. At this stage we're not suggesting
- 25 they should, I think that's a question for if that

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- 1 situation should arise somewhere down the line.
- Q. Okay. Well, in this case the
- 3 companies have excluded revenues associated with
- 4 their own construction and maintenance of their own
- 5 local transmission system. Is that your
- 6 understanding?
- 7 A. They are, their position is to
- 8 include revenues received from other SPP members
- 9 associated with use of KCPL and GMO's transmission
- 10 systems.
- 11 Q. And they've always included in the
- 12 AAO requests the costs associated with their
- ownership and maintenance of those local
- 14 transmission projects, is that right?
- 15 A. The costs charged through retail
- 16 rates, yes.
- 17 O. And that's where we handle those
- 18 local transmission projects is in rate cases, is
- 19 that right?
- 20 A. Well we've handled all transmission
- 21 costs to date through rate cases. KCPL and GMO are
- 22 proposing to change that in regard to costs paid by
- 23 KCPL and GMO through SPP, we believe a proper
- 24 matching is the revenues received by KCPL and GMO
- 25 through SPP are appropriate as an offset.

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- 1 Q. Well, haven't the companies excluded
- 2 from their AAO requests both the costs and the
- 3 revenues associated with their local transmission
- 4 projects?
- 5 A. Yes, but Staff does not agree that
- 6 that is a logical way of looking at a proper
- 7 matching in light of what KCPL and GMO are
- 8 attempting to receive in terms of the accounting
- 9 treatment.
- 10 Q. And hasn't Staff proposed to include
- 11 the revenues associated with those local
- 12 transmission projects in the AAO?
- 13 A. In the same manner they're included
- in Ameren's FAC currently.
- 15 Q. So the answer is yes?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. The revenues are in but the costs are
- 18 **out**.
- 19 A. No. That's not how we view it. The
- 20 revenues from SPP are in and the costs from SPP are
- 21 not. In a proper matching you take into account
- 22 both.
- 23 O. But the costs are considered in a
- 24 rate case rather than in the AAO.
- 25 A. Well, a portion of the costs are

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- 1 recovered not from retail customers but through the
- 2 payments received from other SPP members through
- 3 the SPP allocation process. Those are
- 4 appropriately offset against the increased costs
- 5 that the Company also must or can pay through SPP
- 6 for their use of other company's transmission
- 7 systems.
- 8 Q. But hasn't Staff proposed to include
- 9 the costs of the local transmission projects in the
- 10 AAO -- I'm sorry, let me ask it again.
- 11 The Staff has not proposed to include
- 12 the costs of those local transmission projects in
- 13 the AAO if the Commission grants the approval of
- 14 the AAO in this case.
- 15 A. Well, the Company is seeking the
- 16 portion of its transmission expenses that are
- 17 typically paid for by retail customers.
- 18 Q. But the Staff has suggested that the
- 19 revenues that are associated with that local
- 20 project, local transmission project, would be
- 21 included.
- 22 A. Yeah. The revenues associated with
- 23 other company's use of your systems, not your
- 24 retail customers use of those systems.
- 25 O. The Commission in this case could

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- decide to leave both its costs and the revenues
- 2 associated with the Company's ownership and
- 3 maintenance of those local transmission projects
- 4 out of the AAO, correct?
- 5 A. They could. We would not recommend
- 6 that.
- 7 Q. Instead the Commission could consider
- 8 both the costs and the revenues associated with the
- 9 local transmission projects in a local rate case,
- 10 right?
- 11 A. As they typically do.
- 12 Q. And that has been what's been done in
- 13 the past, right?
- 14 A. Yes. All components of your
- 15 transmission revenue requirements are considered in
- 16 general rate cases.
- 17 O. If the Commission did that and left
- 18 the local transmission costs and the revenues for
- 19 consideration in the next rate case wouldn't there
- 20 be a matching of the costs of revenues associated
- 21 with the ownership and operation of the local
- 22 transmission project?
- 23 A. Well, again we do not agree that that
- 24 is the logical way to approach appropriate matching
- 25 for this AAO. The appropriate matching or to match

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- 1 the expenses KCPL pays and seek deferral of
- 2 associateD with their use of other member systems
- 3 with the revenues that KCPL and GMO receive from
- 4 other members for their use of the KCPL and GMO
- 5 systems. That is an appropriate matching.
- 6 Q. But you haven't included in the AAO,
- 7 just so the record's clear, the cost of owning and
- 8 maintaining the local transmission projects.
- 9 A. We have not included and the Company
- 10 has not sought inclusion.
- 11 Q. But you would suggest that the
- 12 revenues associated with those should be included
- if the Commission grants the AAO.
- 14 A. Yes. The revenues you receive from
- 15 other members of SPP.
- 16 Q. Okay. Let's change to a different
- 17 condition. The second condition, I believe there
- 18 you propose that on a monthly basis copies of
- 19 billings from SPP for all SPP rate schedules that
- 20 contain charges and revenues will be included in
- 21 the deferral. You'd want the, on a monthly basis
- 22 the copies of the billings and all the schedules,
- 23 right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Would you expect that that kind of

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- information would be available to Staff during rate
- 2 case audits even if the Commission didn't suggest
- 3 it has to be provided on a monthly basis?
- 4 A. We would hope so and expect so.
- 5 Q. And that would be true too of
- 6 internally generated reports that management would
- 7 have related to transmission projects, correct?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. AnD then under your third proposed
- 10 condition KCPL and GMO would maintain an ongoing
- 11 analysis and quantification of all benefits and
- 12 savings associated with participation in SPP not
- 13 otherwise passed on to ratepayers in other general
- 14 rate cases, is that right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Now, would you agree that in the past
- 17 the companies have provided cost benefit analysis
- 18 for their participation in SPP in some of those
- 19 proceedings where they've sought to continue their
- 20 membership in that RTO?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And would you also agree with me that
- 23 those are fairly complex studies to determine the
- 24 costS and benefits of participation in the RTO?
- 25 A. I would agree with that.

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- 1 Q. Is it also your understanding that
- 2 KCPL and GMO have committed to provide those
- 3 complex studies in 2017?
- 4 A. That sounds right to me, yes.
- 5 Q. And then on your fourth condition
- 6 KCPL and GMO would be required to maintain
- 7 documentation of its efforts to minimize the level
- 8 of costs deferred under any AAOs or trackers
- 9 authorized for, right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Now, we may be quibbling with you but
- 12 you really think it's appropriate to minimize the
- 13 cost of transmission or wouldn't you agree it's
- 14 more appropriate to try to optimize the cost and be
- 15 provided efficient level of costs to consumers for
- 16 the benefit of the transmission service they're
- 17 **getting?**
- 18 A. I would state that the wording in my
- 19 testimony probably isn't ideal. The real goal here
- 20 is that KCPL and GMO make every effort to maximize
- 21 the benefits that accrue to both its customers and
- 22 it's shareholders from its involvement with SPP.
- 23 Now that maximization of benefits, one aspect of
- 24 that is obviously cost minimization but that's not
- 25 the only aspect.

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- 1 Q. Does the Commission have an advisory
- 2 staff such as that of McKinney and others that
- 3 attend SPP and RTO meetings?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And does the Commission also
- 6 participate in I think it's a state regional group
- 7 that participates in SPP and MISO meetings or
- 8 activities?
- 9 A. I believe so.
- 10 Q. Does the Commission have the ability
- 11 to submit comments to SPP or to FERC regarding
- 12 proposed transmission projects?
- 13 A. I believe they have that power either
- 14 on its own or in conjunction with other
- 15 jurisdictions or within OMS or whatever the SPP
- 16 group.
- 17 Q. And is it your understanding that
- 18 they have submitted such comments?
- 19 A. In the past, yes.
- 20 Q. Is it also your understanding that
- 21 SPP keeps minutes of its meetings that are publicly
- 22 available?
- 23 A. That's my understanding.
- Q. And they have a website where you can
- look at what's going on at SPP and get information

Page 286 fairly readily? 2 Α. Yes. 3 And we agree, don't we, that if the Commission grants the AAO in this case that rate 4 5 making consideration should be left for the next rate case? 6 7 Α. I believe the Company accepts that 8 position. 9 MR. FISCHER: I think that's all I have Judge. Thank you very much. 10 11 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 12 At this time Chairman Kenney do you 13 have any questions? 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Thank you Mr. 15 Oligschlaeger. 16 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Kenney? 17 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I have a quick 18 question. 19 EXAMINATION 20 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY: 21 Mr. Oligschlaeger, has the Commission 22 issued an AAO for RTO expenses before? I am not aware they have. 23 Α. 24 Have they issued a tracker for RTO Q. 25 expenses?

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1	A. Again I'm not aware that they have.		
2	Q. Thanks.		
3	JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Hall?		
4	COMMISSIONER HALL: No questions.		
5	JUDGE BURTON: I don't have any		
6	questions.		
7	Any recross?		
8	Mr. Fischer?		
9	MR. FISCHER: No, thank you.		
10	JUDGE BURTON: Any redirect?		
11	MR. DOTTHEIN: Yes. Limited.		
12	JUDGE BURTON: Okay.		
13	REDIRECT EXAMINATION		
14	QUESTIONS BY MR. DOTTHEIN:		
15	Q. Mr. Oligschlaeger, in responding to		
16	some questioning from Mr. Fischer I think you		
17	indicated that the Commission has ended some AAOs.		
18	Did I hear that correct? Were you possibly		
19	referring to ending some AAOs that might be		
20	referring to recurring costs?		
21	A. Yes. And actually your question, I'm		
22	not sure ending is the right technical term. What		
23	I was specifically referring to was the Commission		
24	issued a series of AAOs to St. Louis County Water		
25	Company in the '90s related to a water main		

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- 1 infrastructure replacement type program. After
- 2 several of those had been approved by the
- 3 Commission the Company sought approval for a new
- 4 one in the context of its 2000 rate case. At that
- 5 time the Commission said it would no longer issue
- 6 AAOs for that because of the recurring nature of
- 7 the costs among other reasons.
- 8 Q. Mr. Fischer discussed with you
- 9 carrying costs. Can you identify what the
- 10 Commission has generally done regarding carrying
- 11 costs relating to AAOs?
- 12 A. Well, there's been some variety and
- 13 practice. There are some AAOs in which there are a
- 14 general consensus that carrying costs are
- 15 appropriate. Typically those might have to do with
- 16 the cost of, to comply with Commission mandates,
- 17 rules and so forth and in fact in some cases the
- 18 rules themselves call for carrying costs to be
- 19 applied to rate recovery of the cost to comply with
- 20 the rule. There are other circumstances in which
- 21 carrying costs might be appropriate, I can think of
- 22 demand side management costs for someone with gas
- 23 and electric utilities prior to the DSM rule. For
- 24 the most part most AAOs do not feature our carrying
- 25 costs. If your question is has the Commission, how

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- 1 has the Commission ruled on carrying costs, I'm not
- 2 sure I can recall a specific precedent unless you
- 3 can bring one to my mind.
- 4 Q. Mr. Fischer asked you a number of
- 5 questions regarding the amortization area. Has the
- 6 Commission in its AAO orders put time limits as far
- as, in not literally in direct reference to the
- 8 amortization period but time limits as far as when
- 9 the Company must come in for a rate case or lose
- 10 the deferral?
- 11 A. In the 1990s in particular when there
- 12 was a flood of AAO cases that the, compared to what
- 13 we had seen before the Commission had a general
- 14 policy of attaching a time limit by which a company
- 15 must come in to file for rates to seek inclusion of
- 16 the deferral and its rates or else lose the
- 17 deferral on the basis that without filing a rate
- 18 case their earnings would be proved sufficient to
- 19 not need the deferral mechanism any further. Over
- 20 time there's been a slight shift away from using a
- 21 specific time limit for a rate case to an approach
- 22 where a more immediate amortization of the deferral
- 23 is normally either agreed to or in some cases has
- 24 been ordered by the Commission again to prevent the
- 25 Company from maintaining its deferred costs on its

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- 1 books for an extended period of time without
- 2 seeking rate relief.
- 3 Q. Thank you Mr. Oligschlaeger.
- 4 JUDGE BURTON: If there's nothing
- 5 further for this witness.
- 6 You may be excused. Thank you.
- 7 Why don't we go ahead and take a
- 8 brief 10 minute break, stretch and walk around and
- 9 we'll reconvene.
- 10 (RECESS TAKEN BY PARTIES)
- JUDGE BURTON: I'm showing it's 5:03
- 12 p.m., let's go ahead and go back on the record and
- 13 let's see, we have our witness here on the stand.
- 14 (Whereupon, the witness was sworn)
- 15 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 16 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLS:
- 17 Q. Good evening.
- 18 A. Good evening.
- 19 Q. Can you please state your name for
- 20 the record?
- 21 A. My name is William Addo. Addo is
- 22 spelled A-D-D-O.
- 23 Q. And for whom do you work?
- 24 A. I work for Missouri Office of Public
- 25 Counsel.

Page 291 1 Q. And what is your position there? 2 Α. Public Utility Accountant 1. 3 Q. Are you the same William Addo who caused to be filed testimony in this case that has 4 5 been marked as Public Counsel Exhibit 1, both a 6 highly confidential and a nonproprietary version? 7 Α. Yes, I am. 8 Q. Do you have any additions or corrections to make to that testimony? 10 Α. No. 11 If I were to ask you the same Q. 12 questions that are contained therein would your answers be the same? 13 14 Α. Yes. 15 And are those answers true and Q. correct to the best of your knowledge and belief? 16 17 Α. Yes. 18 MR. MILLS: With that Judge I will offer Exhibit Public Counsel 1, both the highly 19 confidential and the nonproprietary version and 20 21 tender the witness for cross examination. JUDGE BURTON: Are there any 22 objections to the admission of OPC Exhibit 1? 23 24 Hearing no objections it is admitted into the record. 25

		Page 292
1	And I believe Mr. Downey this is	
2	your	
3	MR. DOWNEY: No cross.	
4	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Woodsmall?	
5	MR. WOODSMALL: Nothing Your Honor.	
6	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Lowery?	
7	MR. LOWERY: No questions Your Honor.	
8	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Cooper?	
9	MR. COOPER: No questions.	
10	JUDGE BURTON: And then Mr. Fischer?	
11	MR. FISCHER: No questions.	
12	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Thompson?	
13	MR. THOMPSON: No questions. Thank	
14	you Judge.	
15	Chairman do you have any questions?	
16	CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions.	
17	Thank you very much.	
18	JUDGE BURTON: And Commissioner	
19	Kenney?	
20	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.	
21	Thank you.	
22	JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner Hall	
23	doesn't appear to have any questions at this time.	
24	We'll go back. Is there any	
25	redirect?	

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- 1 MR. MILLS: For the record this is
- 2 Mr. Addo's first time on the stand and he was very,
- 3 very, very, well prepared and he would have been
- 4 great had there been questions, so.
- I have no questions, no redirect.
- 6 Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: You may be excused.
- 8 Thank you Mr. Addo.
- 9 MR. ADDO: Thank you.
- 10 MR. LOWERY: For the record I really
- 11 wanted to ask if Lewis Mills is a good boss or not.
- JUDGE BURTON: Well, we'll never
- 13 know.
- 14 (Whereupon, the witness was sworn)
- 15 MR. DOWNEY: Just to avoid confusion
- 16 for the benefit of everybody here Mr. Myer is a
- 17 witness of the MIEC, he's also a witness of David
- 18 Woodsmall's client and so to speed things up Mr.
- 19 Woodsmall is going to offer the direct of this
- 20 witness, after all the cross Mr. Woodsmall will do
- 21 redirect, I will have my opportunity for redirect
- 22 if there's anything left unaddressed by Mr.
- 23 Woodsmall.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- Were there any questions about what

Page 294 Mr. Downey has just stated? 2 Okay then. Your witness Mr. 3 Woodsmall. DIRECT EXAMINATION 4 5 QUESTIONS BY MR. WOODSMALL: 6 Would you state your name for the Q. 7 record please? 8 Α. Give me just a minute. It's Greq Myer, M-Y-E-R. 10 Q. Did you cause to be filed what has been marked as MECG Exhibit 4 in this case? 11 12 Yes, I did. 13 Q. And do you have any corrections, 14 changes, additions to make to that? 15 Yes, I do. On page 12, line 19, I Α. need to strike and GMO's, so the sentence will read 16 17 I am also aware that KCPL's net plant, open paren

I also have an updated schedule that

plant in service less accumulated depreciation,

close paren has decreased from the levels included

- 22 appears on page 14, it's highly confidential that
- goes through October 2013.

in its last rate case.

- MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor I'd like
- 25 to provide that if we could, just mark as Exhibit 5

Fax: 314.644.1334

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- 1 if that suits you.
- JUDGE BURTON: That would be fine so
- 3 MECG Exhibit 5 would be the revised surveillance
- 4 data that's referred to in Greg Myer's testimony on
- 5 page 14 of the highly confidential.
- 6 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) And could you
- 7 briefly just describe what MECG 5 is?
- 8 MR. FISCHER: Judge I'm going to
- 9 object, this is more in the nature of additional,
- 10 this is rebuttal, it's not typically allowed to
- 11 supplement your testimony from the stand to what
- 12 you could have, we've had this for, since the time
- 13 of the procedural schedule for filing and rebuttal
- 14 and it's not appropriate to supplement it with more
- 15 recent information. I'm going to object.
- 16 MR. WOODSMALL: All we're attempting
- 17 to do is to update to show the ongoing earnings.
- 18 It wasn't possible to put this in the rebuttal
- 19 because we didn't have the most recent information.
- 20 We always attempt to keep the Commission informed
- 21 with the most recent information when we do rate
- 22 cases and we do true-ups. All we're trying to do
- 23 is give the Commission that most recent
- 24 information. It doesn't change any of his
- 25 analysis, it doesn't change how he did it, it's

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- 1 just most recent information.
- JUDGE BURTON: When was this
- 3 information made available?
- 4 MR. WOODSMALL: In data requests in
- 5 the last week or two.
- JUDGE BURTON: And did you provide
- 7 any of this information to the other attorneys
- 8 prior to today?
- 9 MR. WOODSMALL: Well, the information
- 10 came from KC -- or from GMO so we didn't provide it
- 11 to them but no, none of the other attorneys.
- 12 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. At this time
- 13 I'm going to go ahead and just allow discussion
- 14 about this from this witness and then whenever it's
- 15 offered we'll readdress those issues that you have
- 16 Mr. Fischer.
- 17 A. So could you repeat your question?
- 18 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) Would you just
- 19 describe what Exhibit 5 is?
- 20 A. Exhibit 5 without going into any
- 21 details is a graph that shows GMO's earnings,
- 22 reported earnings from its surveillance reporting
- 23 from January 2013 through October 2013. Each month
- is a 12 month analysis of where GMO's earnings
- 25 would be and so this is, this graph includes the

Page 297 operations of MPS and LNP. 2 Okay. And just to be clear that is 3 highly confidential information, is that correct? 4 Α. That's correct. 5 Do you have any other changes to make Q. 6 to your testimony? 7 Α. No, I do not. 8 Q. And if I were to ask you the same questions here today would your answers be the 10 same? They would. 11 Α. 12 Q. And those answers are true and 13 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief? 14 Α. They are. MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor I offer 15 16 Exhibits 4 and 5 and tender the witness for cross examination. 17 18 JUDGE BURTON: Let's go head and look 19 at MECG Exhibit 4 which I believe is going to entail both the highly confidential and NP version 20 21 of his testimony. 22 MR. WOODSMALL: Right. 23 JUDGE BURTON: Are there any objections? 24 25 Hearing none MECG Exhibit 4 is

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- 1 admitted into the record.
- Now for MECG Exhibit 5 which is the
- 3 revised graph at this time Mr. Fischer I believe
- 4 you have an objection?
- 5 MR. FISCHER: Yes Judge. I think
- 6 this is more in the nature of supplemental
- 7 testimony that's not typically permitted here at
- 8 the Commission. We have pre-filing rules for a
- 9 reason, that's so we can all prepare for it and I
- 10 think this goes beyond that and I would object to
- 11 the level of our introduction in this exhibit.
- 12 JUDGE BURTON: Do any other parties
- 13 have objections to this?
- MR. LOWERY: As a general matter I
- 15 would join in that objection that just because we
- 16 have true-ups we don't after the true-up period
- 17 unless there is a good cause or reason given just
- 18 supplement everybody's testimony at the hearing,
- 19 two, three, four months later so I would join in
- 20 that objection.
- 21 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to go ahead
- 22 and overrule that objection, we're going to go
- 23 ahead and allow MECG Exhibit 5 into the record.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you Your Honor.
- 25 Tender the witness for cross examination.

Page 299 1 JUDGE BURTON: And Mr. Mills? 2 MR. MILLS: Thank you. 3 CROSS EXAMINATION QUESTIONS BY MS. MILLS: 4 5 Q. Mr. Myer I'm going to ask you some 6 questions that sort of go around the periphery of 7 your highly confidential information, I'm going to 8 try to do it in such a way that we don't have to go in camera but if for some reason you believe that in order to answer my question we have to just make 10 11 sure we stop and let the Judge know before you say 12 anything. Okay? 13 Α. Okay. 14 Do you have a copy of Mr. Ives' Q. 15 surrebuttal testimony there with you? 16 Α. Yes, I do. 17 Q. And at page 10 of his surrebuttal testimony beginning at line 13 he talks about some 18 19 of your analysis based on the surveillance reports. 20 Do you recall that portion of his testimony? 21 Α. Yes, I do. 22 Q. One of his criticisms is that your 23 analysis has not been subjected to normal 24 regulatory adjustments and you've heard Mr. Fischer 25 here today talk about weather any number of times.

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- 1 Did you look at the effect of whether or not
- weather would make a difference to your analysis of
- 3 GMO's earnings?
- 4 A. Yes, I did.
- 5 Q. And what did that show you?
- 6 A. The MECG submitted data requests 2
- 7 dash 4 and 2 dash 5 and I think 2 dash 5 related to
- 8 $\,$ GMO and what it -- all right. When you look at the
- 9 sales for 2012, I'm sorry, when you look at the
- 10 sales what it does, what 2 dash 5 gives you is it
- 11 gives you what the actual sales of the utility are
- 12 for the period versus what they would be with
- 13 normal weather. When you look at the 12 months
- 14 ending September 2013 the weather normalized sales
- would be greater than the actual sales the Company
- 16 experienced.
- 17 Q. And the 12 month period ending
- 18 September 2013 is the period that's shown in your
- 19 analysis on page 14 of your testimony, correct?
- 20 A. That graph, that's correct.
- Q. Now another thing that you've heard
- 22 Mr. Fischer talk about during the course of the
- 23 hearing today is nuclear refueling. Does the idea
- 24 of nuclear refueling have any impact on your
- analysis of GMO's return on equity?

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- 1 A. I don't believe it does because I'm
- 2 not aware that GMO has nuclear, a nuclear plant in
- 3 its rate base.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. But just so we're clear, if it did,
- 6 remember this analysis starts in January and goes
- 7 through, now the update goes through October. Each
- 8 of those months is a 12 month rolling average so
- 9 what you've got here is you're actually looking at
- 10 over an approximately I think 20 month period, so
- if they even had it, which they don't, these
- 12 results would still reflect a nuclear refueling
- 13 outage.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. Because the Callaway and Wolf Creek
- 16 are generally taken down on 18 month cycles for
- 17 refueling.
- 18 Q. Okay. So with respect to the general
- analysis that you performed, and again without
- 20 getting into the specifics, did that look at the
- 21 types of all relevant factors that the Commission
- 22 would look at in a rate case?
- 23 A. Is your question did the surveillance
- 24 look at all relevant factors?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 Q. The surveillance reports actually
- look at all the operations of a utility at that
- 3 specific point. It reflects the records of all the
- 4 expense and revenues up through that point. If you
- 5 were, as Mr. Oligschlaeger says if you were
- 6 attempting to determine if a rate adjustment should
- 7 be done that's a different type of analysis. This
- 8 merely is showing that the revenues that are being
- 9 collected from ratepayers is sufficient to cover
- 10 all their operating expense currently and to
- 11 provide a return that's in excess of their
- 12 authorized.
- 13 Q. And when you say all of their
- 14 operating expenses do you include in that phrase
- 15 the payments for transmission expenses that are at
- issue in this case? Were those included in your
- 17 analysis?
- 18 A. Yes. This new schedule on 5 would
- 19 include the 10 months of increased transmission
- 20 expenses that I believe Mr. Ives testified was
- 21 approximately 4.5 million. It would be whatever
- the share of the 4.5 million is already in those 10
- 23 months.
- 24 Q. Okay. Because again the extension
- 25 that's provided in MECG 5, that's a rolling average

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- 1 so what you're saying is that it includes all of
- 2 the increased transmission expense and it still
- 3 shows what it shows.
- 4 A. That's correct. Just so we're clear
- 5 if the Commission determined that GMO should be
- 6 allowed to remove those expenses this curve would
- 7 go higher.
- 8 Q. Now, in the brief portion of page 14
- 9 of your testimony that's not highly confidential
- 10 you talk about KCPL proper as opposed to GMO, is
- 11 that correct?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. And did you make any attempt to look
- 14 at the earnings situation of KCPL proper for the
- 15 preparation of your testimony? You state in your
- 16 testimony that you don't have the surveillance data
- 17 comparable to what you had for GMO. Did you do any
- 18 kind of analysis?
- 19 A. Yeah. I guess the point of your
- 20 question is have I looked at the, what the data
- 21 requests that we've submitted have I been able to
- 22 make a determination of the operations of KCPL
- 23 through this period.
- 24 **Q.** Yes.
- 25 A. Yes.

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1	Q. And what was your conclusion based on
2	that analysis?
3	A. We submitted data requests MECG 18
4	and 19 and those, the responses are identical, the
5	requests are of different nature but what they
6	asked for was what was the change in Great Plain's
7	energy equity percentage and their cost of debt and
8	the response shows that on the last rate case the
9	percentage of, excuse me, of equity in the capital
10	structure has declined from 52.56 percent to the
11	current September level of 49 47, 49.47 percent.
12	The data request response also shows that the cost
13	of long term debt has declined from, I looked at
14	the previous rate case and in the previous rate
15	case the cost of long term debt included in the
16	Staff's copy structure was 6.19 percent and that's
17	now declined through September 30th to 5 percent.
18	MR. FISCHER: Judge I think I'm going
19	to interpose an objection here. I think what we're
20	experiencing is friendly cross examination for
21	starters but in his testimony Mr. Myer says it's
22	impossible to determine how KCPL has earned since
23	its rate case concluded and now based on these
24	questions, open ended questions from Public Counsel
25	he is now attempting I think to determine how KCPL

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- 1 has earned since the last rate case whenever he's
- 2 already testified that that's impossible to do. So
- 3 I'm going to object on the grounds that this is
- 4 friendly cross and it's inappropriate at this time.
- 5 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to go ahead
- 6 and overrule that objection, you're going to have
- 7 the opportunity to cross examine the issue as well
- 8 so you can go into those issues more deeply at that
- 9 time.
- 10 Q. (BY MR. MILLS) So some of the stuff
- 11 that you just talked about is on page 12 of your
- 12 testimony but what does that lead you to believe
- 13 about the level of KCPL's earnings since its last
- 14 rate case?
- 15 A. Well, based off of those two
- 16 consequences as well as other analysis that I've
- 17 done, I've looked at the level of labor or payroll
- 18 expense compared from what the Company has reported
- 19 from, for the 12 months ending 20, or I'm sorry,
- 20 September 2013 versus what was in, what they
- 21 recorded in 2012 and that has shown that labor
- 22 expense has actually gone down. I've also looked
- 23 at off system sales revenues, the company is making
- 24 more plans on off system revenues than what they
- 25 had included in the last case. I looked at

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- 1 non-fuel through a Company response 2 dash 7 and
- 2 non-fuel O&M is fairly flat, I think it's increased
- 3 by \$1 million. So when you look at all the, and
- 4 when you look at all of the areas that I've looked
- 5 at although that gives you a definitive number of
- 6 what those earnings are for KCPL I think it's
- 7 fairly, at least speculative that they are earning,
- 8 that there's a good possibility that they too are
- 9 earning above their authorized return. Because it
- 10 would match from, if they managed KCPL in a similar
- 11 manner that they managed GMO it would seem that
- 12 those would track.
- 13 Q. Now you had a lot of this information
- 14 in your, I think it's labeled direct testimony but
- 15 I think it was filed as rebuttal testimony at pages
- 16 13 through 14. Did any of the Company witnesses in
- 17 their surrebuttal testimony provide any sort of
- 18 quantitative analysis to show that you were wrong?
- 19 A. No. I think that where the parties
- 20 have differed and gone in different directions I
- 21 think is Mr. Ives' attempts to take the
- 22 surveillance data and use it as a rationale that
- 23 you can't use it because he looks at it for
- 24 purposes of changing rates. That's not my purpose
- 25 here. My purpose here is because, to show that

Page 307 these revenues that are being collected from 2 current rates are sufficient to already cover the 3 increased transmission expenses that GMO is incurring and that there's a good possibility that 4 5 we don't have them, you know, we don't have the surveillance data because it's only submitted on an 6 7 annual basis but the same may be true for KCPL. 8 Q. And my question is did the Company for either KCPL or GMO try to provide any kind of 10 quantitative analysis to show that that's incorrect? 11 12 Α. No. 13 Q. Okay. 14 MR. MILLS: That's all the questions I have. Thank you. 15 16 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. 17 Mr. Thompson? 18 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you Judge. 19 CROSS EXAMINATION 20 QUESTIONS BY MR. THOMPSON: 21 Q. Good afternoon Mr. Myer. 22 Good afternoon. Α. 23 Were you present during the Q. examination of Mr. Ives? 24 25 Α. I was.

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- 1 Q. Did you hear Mr. Ives explain that
- 2 the reason the Company did not file a general rate
- 3 case was because of the results of an analysis of
- 4 all relevant factors?
- 5 A. I did hear that.
- 6 Q. In your professional opinion do you
- 7 take that to support the results of your analysis?
- 8 A. What I take from that is he's done an
- 9 analysis of their current operations and I think
- 10 his surveillance data proves that and that he would
- 11 be putting his excess earnings at risk for trying
- 12 to attempt to increase his rates.
- 13 Q. Mr. Myer, you were previously a
- 14 member of the PSC accounting staff, isn't that
- 15 correct?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. How long were you a member of PSC
- 18 accounting staff?
- 19 A. 29 years.
- Q. Based on the analysis that you've
- 21 presented in this case and based on your experience
- 22 for 29 years as a member of the PSC staff,
- 23 accounting staff, would you pursue an over earnings
- 24 complaint against these two companies?
- 25 A. Based strictly on this data?

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1	Q. Yes, sir.	
2	A. No.	
3	Q. Thank you very much.	
4	MR. THOMPSON: I have no further	
5	questions.	
6	JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.	
7	And Mr. Lowery?	
8	MR. LOWERY: No questions Your Honor.	
9	JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Mr. Cooper?	
10	MR. COOPER: No questions.	
11	JUDGE BURTON: Mr. Fischer?	
12	CROSS EXAMINATION	
13	QUESTIONS BY MR. FISCHER:	
14	Q. Good afternoon Mr. Myer. Have you	
15	analyzed the level of fuel costs in the 2013 case	
16	as compared, or in 2013 as compared to what was in	
17	the last rate case?	
18	A. No I haven't but I have looked at the	
19	cost per kilowatt hour from, for the 12 months	
20	ending September 2013 to 2012 in their	
21	Q. Have you analyzed	
22	A. Excuse me, I haven't finished.	
23	Q. I'm going to object if you're about	
24	to supplement it, you've answered my question.	
25	JUDGE BURTON: We're going to go	

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- 1 ahead and just allow him to finish a little bit
- 2 more but just try to stay with what the question
- 3 is.
- 4 A. All I was saying is they haven't
- 5 changed.
- 6 Q. (BY MR. FISCHER) Have you analyzed
- 7 the level of property taxes paid in 2013 as
- 8 compared to the level included in rates in the last
- 9 rate case?
- 10 A. That information was not provided to
- 11 me.
- 12 Q. Did you attempt to do a payroll
- 13 annualization as a part of your analysis?
- 14 A. As I told you before I looked at the
- 15 payroll that was experienced through the data
- 16 request and that payroll was less in, for the nine
- 17 months ending, for the 12 months ending 2013 versus
- 18 2012.
- 19 Q. Did you do any bad debt adjustment
- analysis for purposes of your analysis?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Does the surveillance report in
- 23 Missouri typically include operating results
- 24 without rate making adjustments?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 Q. And while you were on the staff did
- 2 staff always file a rate complaint whenever a
- 3 monthly surveillance report indicated the earnings
- 4 were higher than authorized?
- 5 A. For a month, no.
- 6 Q. Are you familiar with any orders
- 7 dealing with AAOs where the Commission specifically
- 8 cited declining capital costs as a reason to deny
- 9 the AAO?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Are you familiar with any orders
- dealing with AAOs where the Commission specifically
- 13 cited depreciation expense as a reason to deny the
- 14 **AAO?**
- 15 A. No, I'm not.
- 16 Q. Are you familiar with any orders
- 17 dealing with AAOs where the Commission specifically
- 18 cited the results of surveillance reports as a
- 19 reason to deny an AAO?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. That's all the questions I have.
- 22 Thank you.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.
- 24 And Chairman Kenney?
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions.

Page 312 1 Thank you very much. 2 JUDGE BURTON: Commissioner? 3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. Thank you. 4 5 JUDGE BURTON: Commission Hall? COMMISSIONER HALL: No questions. 7 JUDGE BURTON: I don't have any 8 questions either. Redirect, I believe we're starting 9 with Mr. Woodsmall. 10 11 MR. WOODSMALL: Very briefly. 12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION QUESTIONS BY MR. WOODSMALL: 13 14 Q. You were asked a question about weather normalized sales and you say weather 15 16 normalized sales would be greater, do you recall 17 that question? A. I do. 18 19 Q. And does that mean in your mind that 20 GMO's earnings as reflected on that graph on page 21 14 are for the inflated by weather effects, is that 22 correct? That's correct. In fact these 23 24 results would reflect whether they would go higher. 25 Q. Okay. You were asked about a number

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- of factors, did you happen to look at KCP&L's rate
- 2 base or plant accounts?
- 3 A. I did.
- 4 MR. FISCHER: Judge I'm going to
- 5 object, beyond the scope of cross examination of
- 6 any party, nobody asked about rate base
- 7 corrections.
- 8 MR. WOODSMALL: He was asked about
- 9 the things that he looked at in determining, in
- 10 making his conclusion.
- JUDGE BURTON: I'll go ahead and
- 12 allow it.
- 13 A. The statement's in my testimony too.
- 14 Net plant has decreased from what was included in,
- 15 and net plant is gross plant maintenance
- 16 depreciation is reserved as decreased from what was
- 17 included in the 2012 rate case.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. WOODSMALL) You were asked
- 19 some questions and you talked about in regard to
- 20 the capital structure equity percent is down for
- 21 KCP&L, debt percent is up. Can you tell us what
- 22 affect that would have on income taxes?
- 23 A. Income taxes for determining rates
- 24 would be less.
- Q. Okay. One last question. You were

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- 1 asked by Mr. Thompson after 29 years on staff based
- 2 upon what you have would this lead you to file a
- 3 complaint and you said no. Let me ask you, would
- 4 this data lead you to look further at their
- 5 earnings?
- 6 A. Absolutely. A prolonged earnings of
- 7 this nature I think you would have to look at the
- 8 circumstances and determine if an over earning
- 9 complaint should be filed.
- 10 MR. WOODSMALL: No further questions
- 11 from me Your Honor.
- JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Mr.
- 13 Downey?
- MR. DOWNEY: No questions.
- JUDGE BURTON: You may be excused.
- 16 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor I had one
- 17 more thing. I mentioned in my opening statement
- 18 Ameren's brief from a previous case interpreting
- 19 the Commission's extraordinary standard, Ameren's a
- 20 party here, Ameren doesn't have a witness so I have
- 21 no one to ask about that but I'd like to offer as
- 22 an exhibit their brief from that case, they can
- 23 certainly, it just stands for what it says, it's an
- 24 admission from a party in this case and it can be
- 25 addressed in brief but I'd like to offer it so

Page 315 everybody has it. 1 2 JUDGE BURTON: So that would be MECG 3 Exhibit 6? 4 MR. WOODSMALL: Correct. 5 JUDGE BURTON: And have you already 6 provided copies? 7 MR. WOODSMALL: No, I'll hand it out 8 now Your Honor. 9 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. 10 MR. WOODSMALL: That was the last thing I had. 11 12 JUDGE BURTON: While Mr. Woodsmall is 13 getting that ready are there any other exhibits? And I'll go ahead once we've concluded with this 14 15 identify which exhibits have been admitted. 16 MR. FISCHER: Judge, I think I can 17 already react. Company will object to the introduction of someone else's argument, it's not 18 relevant to the case. Facts that are here, it's 19 not evidence, it's someone's argument and we can 20 21 talk about that in briefs I suppose but it's not appropriate for the admission of evidence. 22 23 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, first off 24 they're a party to the case. I can see why KCPL doesn't want it because it's not their brief but 25

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- 1 Ameren is a party to the case. Ameren has taken
- 2 positions on this and I believe I'm allowed to show
- 3 prior inconsistent statements made through
- 4 admissions.
- JUDGE BURTON: But are they
- 6 considered a party opponent on this specific issue?
- 7 MR. WOODSMALL: They're certainly a
- 8 party opponent, they've taken positions contrary to
- 9 mine.
- 10 MR. LOWERY: The admission of a party
- 11 opponent doctrine that Mr. Woodsmall is, and I'm
- 12 going to join in Mr. Fischer's objection, is a
- 13 exception to the hearsay rule. We don't have a
- 14 witness, there's no hearsay issue here. He's
- 15 trying to apply an exception to the hearsay rule to
- do a wholesale dump of pleadings drafted by
- 17 lawyers, not based on what witness's testimony
- 18 necessarily in another case simply because we're an
- 19 intervenor in this case. Before you can take
- 20 official notice there has to be an identity of
- 21 parties, there's only a partial identity. The
- 22 case, the facts need to be interwoven, they're not.
- 23 The facts of this case have nothing to do with the
- 24 facts of KCPL's case here so he's misapplying the
- 25 doctrine of admission of a party opponent and he's

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- 1 also asking you to take official notice of
- 2 something that doesn't meet the criteria to do so.
- 3 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, first off
- 4 I'm not claiming this as a hearsay exception, this
- 5 isn't hearsay. Hearsay is out of court statement
- 6 offered for the truth of the matter asserted. I'm
- 7 not offering for the truth of the matter asserted,
- 8 I'm offering it to show that they have prior
- 9 inconsistent statements to what they're saying here
- 10 today. It's, they are taking different positions
- 11 and you should be allowed to show that Ameren is
- 12 taking different positions. As far as interweaving
- 13 the fact or the facts, the issues I'm offering this
- 14 only for pages 8 through 16 and that argument talks
- 15 about the provisions of the Uniform System of
- 16 Accounts, gives the Commission the authority to
- 17 grant Ameren Missouri's application on an AAO and
- 18 it talks about the AAO standard and how Ameren said
- 19 then that AAO should be limited to extraordinary,
- 20 interpreting the USOA that deferrals should only be
- 21 limited to extraordinary events so they're taking a
- 22 different position now and I should be allowed to
- 23 show that.
- 24 JUDGE BURTON: I'm going to go ahead
- 25 and sustain that objection, I'm not going to admit

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- 1 this into the record because I do believe it's just
- 2 simply arguments concerning facts in a completely
- 3 different matter. It's not an official decision of
- 4 the Commission, that specific case where we've seen
- 5 facts.
- 6 MR. WOODSMALL: I understand your
- 7 decision. Without this in the record may I still
- 8 brief and include this in a brief to show their
- 9 inconsistencies when they file their brief?
- 10 JUDGE BURTON: I would say not. If
- 11 you're wanting the Commission to take official
- 12 notice of any record as far as the Commission's
- 13 decision and their report and order in that case
- 14 then I'll consider that.
- MR. WOODSMALL: So Ameren is allowed
- 16 if Ameren takes inconsistent positions now as
- 17 compared to this I can't use this to show that
- 18 inconsistency?
- 19 JUDGE BURTON: You had an opportunity
- 20 to subpoena witnesses and that would have been your
- 21 opportunity to cross examine a witness on this
- 22 matter if you so chose.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Okay. I understand.
- MR. THOMPSON: Judge, Staff would
- 25 like to make an offer of proof with respect to the

Page 319 rejected exhibit. 1 2 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. 3 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. MR. WOODSMALL: And since I would be 4 5 a party I guess appealing I would make the same 6 offer of proof. 7 JUDGE BURTON: Okay. So noted. 8 At this time are there any additional matters? 10 MR. FISCHER: Judge I'd just like to thank the Commission for your time today. Full 11 12 day. 13 JUDGE BURTON: It's been a very full 14 day. 15 MR. DOTTHEIN: Yes, Judge. 16 JUDGE BURTON: Yes. 17 MR. DOTTHEIN: As far as the cases listed on Mr. Ives' schedule, surrebuttal 18 19 testimony --20 JUDGE BURTON: I was going to go 21 ahead, let's first discuss the cases for official notice because that might make it a little bit 22 23 easier for us to discuss for briefing issues and 24 then I'll go ahead and go over the record so the 25 attorneys will be aware of what's actually been

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- 1 admitted into the record and then I'll go ahead and
- 2 discuss the briefing schedule that we might have.
- 3 Okay?
- 4 Now I believe that Mr. Woodsmall you
- 5 had requested that the cases that are identified in
- 6 Schedule DRI slash 1 of Mr. Ives' surrebuttal
- 7 testimony, all of those cases be identified and
- 8 reported for official notice by the Commission?
- 9 MR. WOODSMALL: No, I don't think I
- 10 ever said that. It's my understanding that in
- 11 briefs I can utilize any Commission order from
- 12 briefs so to the extent you think I need to take,
- 13 ask for official notice of Commission orders I
- 14 would do that but it's my understanding that I
- don't need to do that so the only thing I want to
- 16 be able to use are the orders in those cases.
- 17 JUDGE BURTON: For the Commission to
- 18 consider and just to cross all of his Ts and dot
- 19 all of our Is we're going to go ahead and take
- 20 official notice of all of those cases.
- 21 MR. WOODSMALL: The entire case or
- 22 just the addition?
- JUDGE BURTON: The final orders in
- 24 those cases. Commission orders in those cases.
- In addition the Commission is going

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- 1 to go ahead and take official notice of the report
- 2 and order in case ER 2012 dash 0174 and ER dash
- 3 2012 dash 0175. The report and orders for those
- 4 were the rate cases involving KCP&L and GMO. And I
- 5 believe there was reference also to the case so
- 6 we're going to go ahead and take official notice of
- 7 the order approving the stipulation agreement in EO
- 8 dash 2005 dash 0239.
- 9 If there's any objections to any of
- 10 those reports and orders that I've referenced the
- 11 parties can identify those let's say in the next
- 12 week, so by February 4th.
- MR. WOODSMALL: So I know can you
- 14 give me those numbers again for the last order?
- JUDGE BURTON: EO dash 205 dash 0239.
- 16 In addition to ER dash 2012 dash 0174 and ER dash
- 17 2000, or 2012 dash 0175, those were the prior rate
- 18 cases.
- 19 MR. WOODSMALL: And just for the
- 20 completeness of the record would you also take
- 21 notice of KCP&L's application for rehearing and the
- 22 order denying that application for rehearing?
- JUDGE BURTON: Yes.
- MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you.
- MR. MILLS: And Judge not to get too

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- 1 deeply into the weeds but in the 2005 0239 case
- 2 there was not only the order approving the
- 3 stipulation and agreement but there was subsequent
- 4 action in which the stipulation and agreement was
- 5 modified and then the Commission recognized the
- 6 modifications so to be complete I would think you
- 7 would want those as well.
- 8 JUDGE BURTON: Any orders involving
- 9 recognition of any modifications of those
- 10 stipulations and agreements are also included.
- MR. MILLS: Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE BURTON: Just to clarify, to
- 13 make sure, the exhibits that I have that have been
- 14 admitted into the record are KCPL Exhibit 1, KCPL
- 15 Exhibit 2, KCPL Exhibit 3, KCPL Exhibit 4, KCPL
- 16 Exhibit 5, Staff Exhibit 4, MECG Exhibit 3, Staff
- 17 Exhibit 1, Staff Exhibit 2, HC, Staff Exhibit 3,
- 18 NP, OPC Exhibit 1, MECG Exhibit 4 and MECG Exhibit
- 19 5 and we also have the offer of proof for MECG
- 20 Exhibit 6 which you I believe are going to submit
- 21 for the record in a written form.
- MR. DOWNEY: Judge? I think MECG
- 23 Exhibit 4 is a joint exhibit with MIEC. Not that
- 24 it matters, it's noted in the record, but.
- JUDGE BURTON: We do note that but

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- 1 just for reference in any briefing I would say
- 2 let's go ahead and just refer to it as MECG if
- 3 that's okay.
- 4 MR. WOODSMALL: Okay.
- 5 JUDGE BURTON: Is there anything that
- 6 I missed or any additional exhibits to be offered?
- 7 Now I know that according to the
- 8 procedural schedule we had looked at having
- 9 February 11th for the initial brief, the court
- 10 reporter has identified it will probably be the 7th
- 11 of February by the time we get back a copy of the
- 12 transcript so do you want to --
- MR. MILLS: Yes.
- 14 JUDGE BURTON: So looking at the
- 15 schedule assuming that we get the transcript from
- 16 the hearing in on the 7th why don't we push back a
- 17 week or 10 days or two weeks for original?
- 18 MR. WOODSMALL: Two weeks from the
- 19 transcript.
- JUDGE BURTON: Okay. Then let's go
- 21 ahead and have February 21st as a deadline for
- 22 original briefs and then do you need two weeks for
- 23 the reply or am I being generous?
- MR. WOODSMALL: A lot of times we put
- 25 10 days.

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1	JUDGE BURTON: All right. Then March	Page 324
2	7th for the reply briefs.	
3	Is everyone clear on those dates?	
4	MR. WOODSMALL: Give me the original	
5	brief date again.	
6	JUDGE BURTON: The 21st.	
7	MR. WOODSMALL: Thank you.	
8	JUDGE BURTON: Are there any other	
9	issues that need to be addressed?	
10	Well thank you very much for your	
11	time and your patience, especially for staying late	
12	and getting this hearing concluded in one day.	
13	We're going to go ahead and go off the record.	
14	Thank you.	
15		
16	(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 5:47 p.m.)	
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1	REPORTER CERTIFICATE	
2		
3	I, SUZANNE BENOIST, Certified Shorthand	
4	Reporter, do hereby certify that there came before	
5	me at the Missouri Public Service Commission, 200	
6	Madison Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102 the	
7	above-referenced parties, that the proceeding was	
8	translated and proofread using computer-aided	
9	transcription, and the above transcript of	
10	proceedings is a true and accurate transcript of my	
11	notes as taken at the time of said event.	
12	I further certify that I am neither attorney	
13	nor counsel for nor related nor employed by any of	
14	the parties to the action in which this examination	
15	is taken; further, that I am not a relative or	
16	employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the	
17	parties hereto or financially interested in this	
18	action.	
19		
20		
21		
22	SUZANNE BENOIST, RPR, CCR, CSR-IL	
23		
24		
25		

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