

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're quite welcome.
2 Mr. Ochoa, if you would introduce the next
3 witness, please.

4 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Could somebody
5 grab Mr. Ochoa, he's right outside the window
6 there.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Or is there
8 somebody else?

9 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Do we have any
10 more witnesses, Mr. Ochoa?

11 MR. OCHOA: Yes.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Ochoa, could you
13 introduce the next witness, please.

14 MR. OCHOA: Reverend Daniel Childs.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Reverend, if you would
16 come forward to the court reporter and be sworn,
17 please.

18 (Whereupon, the oath was administered.)

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And when you're ready,
20 sir, if you would please state your name for the
21 record and spell your name for the court reporter.

22 REVEREND CHILDS: Daniel Childs,
23 D-A-N-I-E-L, C-H-I-L-D-S.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And either a business or
25 personal address, please.

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NOV 13 2006

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Dias Exhibit No. 1318
Case No(s). EL-2006-0314
Date 10-27-06 Rptr. fu

1 REVEREND CHILDS: 8401 Lydia, Kansas
2 City, Missouri 64131.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you a customer of
4 Kansas City Power & Light?

5 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Do you have
7 a statement for the Commission, sir?

8 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes, I do. First of
9 all, I am here to vehemently and ardently oppose a
10 rate increase specifically at this particular time
11 when all utilities and costs seem to be a
12 particular burden. I do have a passion and a
13 concern as a minister of the gospel for the inner
14 city and the urban core in which I live and
15 serve. Currently, and of course that's not a
16 KCP&L problem, but gasoline at the particular cost
17 that it is and other factors would only make an
18 increase a continued and added burden upon
19 indigent, poor and elderly persons at this
20 particular time.

21 In my particular ministry I come in
22 contact and deal with people on a daily basis who
23 cannot afford to pay their utilities. They
24 constantly have to make the decision to pay half
25 the bill or only pay the amount of the bill to

1 keep the service on to the next month and then
2 figure out what to do when the next month occurs.
3 And, of course, they come to the church and to
4 other social service entities and make various
5 applications for assistance to meet their need.
6 These are people with family.

7 They have jobs, but, you know, the
8 minimum wage hasn't increased. They're not making
9 any more, they're just paying more for what they
10 already get. Nextly if, in fact -- I feel that it
11 is definitely unfair if studies excluded the
12 inner city and the urban core in terms of what the
13 rate increase is based on. Part of a document
14 that I'm holding in my hand even says that part of
15 why they're asking for a rate increase has to do
16 with pension plans and fuel and transportation,
17 you know.

18 And it just appears that there is no
19 concern. When you talk about Missouri as opposed
20 to other states nationally, we are unique in the
21 fact that that's the only ball game in town for
22 the inner city when it comes to the delivery of
23 energy in our community. We know -- I know for a
24 fact that the weatherization program does not meet
25 many of the needs of the inner city in terms of

1 all of the income regulations and other
2 stipulations that you would have to have to even
3 qualify for it. I would also question, of course,
4 the minority participation in the weatherization
5 program.

6 And those are some of the things that
7 immediately come to my attention. The way we
8 currently receive service in the inner city, I
9 mean, if a good wind blows, our lights are subject
10 to blink and flash and be out. And you can call
11 that precious KCPL number if you want to, but you
12 may not get into it right away. So that would be
13 my comment.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you
15 very much, sir, for your testimony. And let me
16 see if we have any questions from the
17 commissioners. Commissioner Murray?

18 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Yes, thank you.
19 Do you live in an area in which you think that the
20 utility service is not as good as it is in the
21 rest of --

22 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: -- the Kansas City
24 area?

25 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And how many
2 outages have you had about, say, in the last six
3 months?

4 REVEREND CHILDS: In the last six months
5 at least one that I can remember, but several
6 blinkages to the point where you just start
7 disconnecting things anyway.

8 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I'm sorry, I
9 didn't quite understand your last --

10 REVEREND CHILDS: Blinkages in terms of
11 when there is no rain necessarily but thunder or
12 lightening and your power or your TV goes on and
13 off. So, I mean, you instinctively start
14 disconnecting or checking your power surge and
15 that kind of thing. I've come home several times
16 and my clock is flashing and I wasn't even aware
17 that there was a storm, you know, especially in
18 the particular area where I was.

19 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Have you talked to
20 any representative of KCP&L after you discovered
21 something like that?

22 REVEREND CHILDS: Absolutely not. I
23 would not dare call them every time I came home
24 and my clock was blinking.

25 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Have you talked to

1 them in general about the issue if you think that
2 you're receiving less --

3 REVEREND CHILDS: No.

4 COMMISSIONER: -- quality service than
5 other areas are receiving?

6 REVEREND CHILDS: No, I have not.

7 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Well, I understand
8 that there are several representatives from KCP&L
9 there today and you might wish to do that while
10 you have the opportunity. And do you have any
11 specific suggestions about what we should do
12 differently in terms of weatherization programs
13 and would you please enlighten me on what you mean
14 by the question minority participation?

15 REVEREND CHILDS: Of course, when I say
16 minority participation in terms of the contractors
17 and persons who actually deliver the -- who are
18 contracted with KCP&L to actually do the
19 weatherization. I think that's where my particular
20 concern is. The other thing about weatherization,
21 especially as it relates to the inner city or
22 urban community that I live in, there are -- it
23 has no component that deals with apartments or
24 landowners. I suggest even persons who rent out
25 houses or what have you. Naturally the person who

1 live in those houses couldn't get the place
2 weatherized and just -- and then, of course, the
3 fact that KCP&L is willing to by this document
4 participate in programs to help payment.

5 I mean, that says, of course, that there
6 are people who cannot afford to pay their bill as
7 it is now. There are no -- I haven't seen
8 anything about the current -- the number of
9 persons whose service is disconnected right now.

10 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Thank you.

11 REVEREND CHILDS: Or nothing addresses
12 the profit margin. I mean, you say revenues but,
13 you know, when you're increasing an entity's
14 profit margin and they are the only major
15 deliverer or supplier, then, you know, how does
16 this rate affect that?

17 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: All right. I
18 believe that's all the questions I have. Thank
19 you, Mr. Childs.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Murray,
21 thank you. Commissioner Gaw?

22 COMMISSIONER GAW: Good afternoon,
23 Reverend.

24 REVEREND CHILDS: Good afternoon.

25 COMMISSIONER GAW: How are you?

1 REVEREND CHILDS: I'm fine. It's just
2 difficult to talk to a voice.

3 COMMISSIONER GAW: I'm apologizing, sir.

4 REVEREND CHILDS: I'm looking at the
5 table and looking at the tripod.

6 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, I know. We
7 thought we were going to be able to see one
8 another. Let me ask you, how long have you been
9 pastoring that church there?

10 REVEREND CHILDS: I have been preaching
11 since 1976. I have pastored the past 10 years.

12 COMMISSIONER GAW: Been preaching since
13 you were three?

14 REVEREND CHILDS: No, no. For 30 years
15 since 1977. I have been pastoring 10 years.

16 COMMISSIONER GAW: I was just suggesting
17 you might be younger than you suggest.

18 REVEREND CHILDS: No, I'm every bit of
19 50.

20 COMMISSIONER GAW: There you go. So
21 help me out here, your church is -- you've been
22 pastoring in the Kansas City area?

23 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes, right in Kansas
24 City, Missouri. The address I gave though was
25 my own personal address.

1 COMMISSIONER GAW: All right.

2 REVEREND CHILDS: But I serve now at the
3 Prince of Peace Baptist Church, 4201 Wabash. I
4 have pastored congregations at 4201 Indiana, at
5 2103 Flora, at 5337 Bell Fountain.

6 COMMISSIONER GAW: I believe I've been
7 -- I might have been to your church, Prince of
8 Peace but it's been probably before you were
9 there.

10 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER GAW: Tell me something
12 now in the regard to your experience over the
13 years in dealing with the Kansas City area and
14 your congregations there and the people that you
15 work with about how things are today in respect to
16 the amount of burden on some of your parishioners
17 and their families dealing with energy cost as
18 compared to what it's been like in the past.

19 REVEREND CHILDS: Well, one of the
20 frustrations, of course, and I guess that's just
21 due to the terminological age in which we live, but
22 there is no physical place anymore where a person
23 can go to pay their bills or actually talk to a
24 live person. And so they make -- they really, of
25 course -- and of course when they come to the

1 church, naturally they either are disconnected or
2 they have delinquent notices. And, you know, I
3 might add, although KCP&L may not be concerned,
4 they don't just bring the light bill, they bring
5 the gas bill and the water bill. And to try to
6 show, there seems to be nothing from any of the
7 utilities even in terms of income management.

8 And so some people have tried again to
9 simply pay the amount. And a lot of times they
10 come just asking for enough just to get it back
11 on. And we know that's not the solution because
12 when they just get it back on they'll be back next
13 month.

14 COMMISSIONER GAW: Do you see more
15 difficulty today or in the, say in the last year
16 or two in regards to individual families having
17 problems paying their utility bills as opposed to
18 what it's been like in the past or not?

19 REVEREND CHILDS: I honestly believe
20 that it's more difficult now, again, because of
21 the increases perhaps in other things. Also, you
22 know of course, by this perhaps being one of the
23 hottest summers that we had, that's increased use.

24 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, sir. Now, in
25 regard to the issue of weatherization and you

1 raised an issue that I've been concerned about for
2 quite some time and I don't know that there are
3 any clear answers out there. But if you have
4 individuals who are renting, do you sometimes see
5 a significant issue in regard to how much their
6 utility bills are in those houses or apartments
7 that they do not own?

8 REVEREND CHILDS: Yes, absolutely.
9 Because it is my belief even from being in and out
10 of some of them that they're not weatherized. I
11 mean, their concept of weatherization may be
12 nailing some plastic up to the window. And I
13 don't think we know enough in terms of the use of
14 electricity what to do to weatherize a place
15 properly. But basically they are not their places
16 so they are limited in any structural things that
17 they could do that would modify their consumption.

18 COMMISSIONER GAW: In regards to the
19 owners of those apartments or houses that are
20 rented, do you know whether there is any
21 requirement or anything that causes the landlords
22 to make improvements on the efficiencies of those
23 places?

24 REVEREND CHILDS: Well, I would just
25 have to surmise that there is not because that

1 just doesn't seem to be a concern of theirs. They
2 collect the rent. If you don't pay it, they'll
3 put you out and get someone in that will.

4 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, sir. Have you
5 got any ideas about how that could be addressed?
6 Have you seen anybody that -- or heard of any
7 places outside of the Kansas City area where they
8 have been able to deal with that issue?

9 REVEREND CHILDS: No, I haven't.

10 COMMISSIONER GAW: But you think it's
11 something that ought to be examined and worked on
12 if I'm understanding?

13 REVEREND CHILDS: Absolutely.

14 COMMISSIONER GAW: Okay. Is there
15 anything else that you want to say about how we
16 should look at this and view the outcome on this
17 case from the standpoint of what you see with
18 those that you work with the most?

19 REVEREND CHILDS: Well, of course, in
20 terms of the device that would control climate,
21 it's still again my understanding that that test
22 was not done in the urban or the inner city.
23 There would have to be a lot of orientation in our
24 community in terms of that being a viable
25 situation. And, again, it would help if those

1 persons who delivered weatherization was
2 reflective of the minority community. And, I
3 mean, just off the top of my head that would be my
4 concern.

5 But in the climate or in the time when
6 everything is costing more and perhaps, you know,
7 there's no -- nothing that indicates the quality
8 has improved, it's just a hardship. And I just
9 couldn't -- and somebody should speak for those
10 persons.

11 COMMISSIONER GAW: Reverend, are you a
12 member of Ministerial Alliance or some other
13 organization?

14 REVEREND CHILDS: I'm a member of the
15 Baptist Minister's Union of Kansas City, Missouri.
16 I'm a member of the Concerned Clergy of Kansas
17 City, Missouri. I'm a life member of the NAACP
18 and other organizations.

19 COMMISSIONER GAW: I suspect you may not
20 be coming today as an official spokesperson for
21 those groups, but if you are, I want you to tell
22 me that.

23 REVEREND CHILDS: No, I don't have the
24 ability to be the official spokesperson because I
25 serve a very minor office in those organizations.

1 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, sir. But I --

2 REVEREND CHILDS: But I would point out
3 that each of those organizations has what is known
4 as a benevolent fund that is supported by the
5 members of those organizations for the express
6 purpose of aiding and assisting people who cannot
7 pay their bills. And we have done that for
8 numerous years.

9 COMMISSIONER GAW: My question that I
10 was going to get to, and I appreciate what you
11 just said, the question is whether or not in
12 visiting with other members of those organizations
13 you believe that there is a -- that the general
14 feeling is similar to what you're expressing
15 today?

16 REVEREND CHILDS: I would go on a limb
17 and say, Yes, that would be basic feeling. Of
18 course, you know, no one of us can speak for all
19 of us and all of us have varied opinions about
20 everything.

21 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, I've noticed
22 that.

23 REVEREND CHILDS: We are slightly
24 opinionated.

25 COMMISSIONER GAW: Well, I really thank

1 you for coming, Reverend.

2 REVEREND CHILDS: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER GAW: And I appreciate
4 hearing in particular what you have to say. Thank
5 you.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Gaw, thank
7 you. Commissioner Clayton?

8 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: No questions.
9 Thanks for coming, Reverend.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you,
11 Commissioner. Commissioner Appling?

12 COMMISSIONER APPLING: Thank you very
13 much for coming, sir.

14 REVEREND CHILDS: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER APPLING: We appreciate it.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. And I don't
17 have any questions, Reverend. Thank you very much
18 for your time and for your remarks this afternoon.

19 REVEREND CHILDS: Thank you.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.
21 Mr. Ochoa, do we have any further witnesses?

22 MR. OCHOA: There is one more on the
23 sign-up sheet. Pastor --

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. If you would
25 introduce the next witness, please.