

BEFORE THE KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Prairie)
Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. Seeking)
Commission Approval to Update Its Local) Docket No. 19-PLCE- 436 - TAR
Access Delivery Service Tariff Pursuant to)
the 34.5kV Formula Based Rate Plan)
Approved in Docket No.16-MKEE-023-)
TAR.

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

ELENA E. LARSON
MANAGER OF RATES AND REGULATORY SERVICES
POWER SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC.

ON BEHALF OF

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

April 24, 2019

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PART I - QUALIFICATIONS

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Elena E. Larson. My business address is 5883 Southwest 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66614, Suite 101.

Q. What is your profession?

A. I am a Manager of Rates and Regulatory Services in the Economics, Rates, and Business Planning Department at Power System Engineering, Inc. (“PSE”), which is headquartered at 1532 W. Broadway, Madison, Wisconsin 53713.

Q. Please describe the business activities of PSE.

A. PSE is a consulting firm serving electric utilities across the country, but primarily in the Midwest. Our headquarters is in Madison, Wisconsin with regional offices in Indianapolis, Indiana; Topeka, Kansas; Lexington, Kentucky; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Marietta, Ohio; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. PSE is involved in: power supply, transmission and distribution system planning; distribution, substation and transmission design; construction contracting and supervision; retail and wholesale rate and cost of service (“COS”) studies; economic feasibility studies; merger and acquisition feasibility analysis; load forecasting; financial and operating consultation; telecommunication and network design, mapping/GIS; and system automation including Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (“SCADA”), Demand Side Management (“DSM”), metering, and outage management systems.

Q. Please describe your responsibilities with PSE.

A. I work on a team of staff that provides economic, financial, and rate-related consulting services to investor-owned, cooperative, and municipal utilities as well as regulators and industry associations. These services include:

- Cost of Service Studies.
- Capital Credit Allocations.
- Demand Response.
- Distributed Generation Rates.
- Energy Efficiency.
- Financial Forecasting.
- Individual Customer Profitability.
- Large Power Contract Rates/Proposals.
- Line Extension Policies/Charges.
- Load Management Analysis.
- Load Forecasting.
- Market and Load Research.
- Merger Analysis.
- Pole Attachment Charges.
- Policy and Board Audits.
- Power Cost Adjustments.
- Rate Consolidation.
- Retail Rate Design and Analysis.
- Special Fees and Charges.
- Statistical Performance Measurement (Benchmarking).
- Value of Service.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. In 2008, I received my Masters of Business Administration (“MBA”) degree from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

Q. What is your professional background?

A. Prior to advancing to graduate degree studies in 2006, I worked as a computer programmer for a private corporation and taught mathematics. After graduating with an MBA in September 2008, I began my employment with the Kansas Corporation Commission (“KCC” or “Commission”) in Topeka, Kansas in July 2009 as an Energy Analyst in the Energy Operations Section of the Utilities Division. My work responsibilities at KCC at that time included monitoring and assessing various periodic compliance reports (e.g., Quality of Service and Electric Reliability); providing technical analysis on informal and formal electric and gas customer complaints; and assisting in writing the rules and regulations when mandated by the Kansas legislature. In January 2012, I assumed the position of Senior Utility Rate Analyst in the Economics and Rates Section of the Utilities Division of KCC. In that capacity, my responsibilities expanded to filing recommendations and/or testimony addressing utility applications for various tariff modifications, including change of retail and wholesale rates.

1 In April 2013, I joined PSE, where I assumed a position of Rate and Financial Analyst in the
2 Rates and Financial Planning Department. In January 2018, my title changed to Rate and
3 Regulatory Consultant. In June 2018, I was promoted to Manager, Rates and Regulatory
4 Services. My responsibilities include performing rate studies consisting of determination of
5 revenue requirements, cost of service (“COS”), and rate design; developing financial
6 forecasting, special rates, and programs; and performing other financial analysis for various
7 PSE clients. Additionally, I participate in the leadership of our department by heading PSE’s
8 Kansas office branch business development and helping develop strategy in the regulatory
9 services area.

10 **Q. Have you previously presented testimony before the KCC?**

11 A. Yes. I submitted testimony on behalf of KCC Staff in Docket Nos. 11-GBEE-624-COC, 11-
12 MKEE-597-GIE, 12-WSEE-112-RTS, and 12-MKEE-380-RTS; on behalf of Prairie Land
13 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“Prairie Land” or “Cooperative”) in Docket Nos. 15-PLCE-176-
14 TAR, 17-PLCE-478-TAR, and 18-PLCE-462-TAR; on behalf of Victory Electric Cooperative
15 Association, Inc. (“Victory”) in Docket No. 17-VICE-481-TAR and 18-VICE-479-TAR; on
16 behalf of Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. (“Western”) in Docket No. 17-
17 WSTE-477-TAR and 18-WSTE-473-TAR; on behalf of Midwest Energy in Docket No. 16-
18 MDWE-324-TFR; and on behalf of Southern Pioneer Electric Company (“Southern Pioneer”) in
19 Docket No. 18-KPPE-343-COC. I also helped prepare testimony on behalf of Southern
20 Pioneer, Victory, Western, Prairie Land, and Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC (“Mid-
21 Kansas”) in Docket Nos. 14-SPEE-507-RTS, 15-SPEE-161-RTS, 15-SPEE-357-TAR, 15-
22 SPEE-519-RTS, 16-MKEE-023-TAR, 16-PLCE-490-TAR, 16-VICE-494-TAR, 16-WSTE-
23 496-TAR, 16-SPEE-497-RTS, and 16-SPEE-501-TAR. Additionally, I authored Report and
24 Recommendations on behalf of KCC Staff in Docket Nos. 09-KGSG-927-COM, 10-BHCG-
25 409-COM, 10-WSEE-507-TAR, 10-KGSG-535-COM, 10-KGSG-644-COM, 10-MDWE-

1 733-TAR, 11-KCPE-031-COM, 11-WSEE-599-TAR, and 11-MDWE-763-TAR, as well as
2 performed analysis filed with the Applications on behalf of Mid-Kansas, Prairie Land, and
3 Southern Pioneer in Docket Nos. 14-MKEE-084-TAR, 14-PLCE-312-TAR, 15-SPEE-267-
4 TAR, 16-SPEE-306-TAR, and 17-SPEE-263-TAR.

5 **Q. Do you have any other relevant experience?**

6 A. I have attended several industry seminars/courses on cost of service, rate design, pricing,
7 distributed generation, financing transmission expansion, transmission cost allocation,
8 renewable power project siting, etc. I have also presented to the Cooperatives' Boards of
9 Directors and at industry events on the topics of Revenue Requirement, Cost of Service, Rate
10 Design, and Net Metering.

11 **PART II - SUMMARY OF DIRECT TESTIMONY**

12 **R. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

13 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application submitted in the instant Docket by
14 Prairie Land for the approval of its 34.5kV Formula Based Rate ("FBR") Annual Update filing
15 for Year 2019 based on the Historical Test Year ending December 31, 2018.

16 **Q. Are there particular Exhibits to Prairie Land's Application that you will be describing**
17 **and explaining?**

18 A. Yes. My testimony concerns, and is supported by, the following Exhibits to the Application
19 in the instant docket:

20 Exhibit 5 - 34.5KV FBR Calculation for Test Year
21 Exhibit 14 - Proposed Tariff Sheets Including Rate Adjustment

22 **Q. Have the exhibits been prepared by you or under your supervision?**

23 A. Yes.

24 **Q. Please briefly recap Prairie Land's 34.5kV FBR.**

1 A. The 34.5KV FBR, as approved for Prairie Land by the Commission in Docket No. 16-MKEE-
2 023-TAR (“16-023 Docket”), is a five-year ratemaking plan that provides a method for
3 periodic adjustments to a demand rate assessed on the Cooperative’s wholesale customers
4 taking the Local Access Delivery Service (“LADS”) over Prairie Land’s 34.5kV sub-
5 transmission facilities in its acquired Mid-Kansas division territory. The details of the
6 predetermined and agreed-upon calculations for the corresponding rate adjustments are
7 outlined in Sections D and E of the Commission-approved Prairie Land’s 34.5kV FBR
8 Protocols (“Protocols”), attached as Exhibit B to the March 10, 2016 Commission Order
9 Approving Settlement and April 29, 2016 Order Granting Petition for Clarification in the 16-
10 023 Docket. The purpose of this formulaic ratemaking mechanism is to allow for timely
11 adjustments to the aforementioned rate without incurring the substantial expense and/or
12 experiencing regulatory lag typically associated with the preparation of a full rate case.

13 **Q. What data formed the basis for Prairie Land’s 2019 34.5KV FBR calculation?**

14 A. Consistent with the Protocols, the calculation was based primarily upon a 2018 Historical Test
15 Year. As such, it utilized historical figures from Prairie Land’s (Mid-Kansas division)
16 December 2018 Operating Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Payroll Journal, and 2018
17 Monthly Trial Balance.¹

18 **Q. Please summarize the results of Prairie Land’s 2019 34.5KV FBR calculation.**

19 A. Completing the 34.5KV FBR template calculation consistent with the Protocols approved by
20 the Commission in the 16-023 Docket results in the Total Revenue Requirement of \$2,759,717.
21 Next, per Section E of the Protocols, a True-Up amount (under-recovery resulting from the
22 prior Annual Updates) of \$98,260 was added to the Total Revenue Requirement, resulting in
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25 ¹ Included in Prairie Land’s Application as part of Exhibits 4 (Comparative Operating Income Statements and Balance Sheets), 6 (Trial Balances), and 7 (Payroll Journals).

1 the Total Net Revenue Requirement of \$2,857,977. Lastly, in accordance with Section D.4 of
2 the Protocols, the resultant total dollar amount was divided by the total billing demand for the
3 Historical Test Year; and an applicable Property Tax Surcharge was subtracted out to arrive at
4 the final rate of \$2.87/kW, a \$0.08/kW increase from Prairie Land's currently effective rate for
5 LADS of \$2.79/kW authorized by the Commission in Docket No. 18-PLCE-462-TAR.
6 Translated into total dollars, this constitutes a \$75,471 increase.² Applying Prairie Land's
7 wholesale customers' Load Ratio Share ("LRS") of 40.5 percent indicates approximately
8 \$30,543 of the overall increase will be collected from these customers on the combined basis.
9 The detailed 34.5KV FBR calculation for the Test Year is contained in Exhibit 5 attached to
10 the Application filed in the instant Docket.

11 **PART III - ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ACTUAL TEST YEAR RESULTS**

12 **Q. You stated that 2018 actual results formed the basis for the 34.5KV FBR calculation. The**
13 **Protocols specify a limited number of adjustments to be made. What adjustments did**
14 **you make to Prairie Land's actual 2018 financial results in completing the 34.5kV FBR**
15 **template?**

16 **A. Consistent with Section D.1 of the Protocols, adjustments to reflect the projected amounts for**
17 **the 2019 Budget Year were made to the following categories of costs:³**

- 18 • Depreciation Expense - Other
- 19 • Interest on Long-Term Debt
- 20 • Interest Expense - Other
- 21 • Debt Service Payments

23 ² Applied to Test Year total billing determinants as reported by Mid-Kansas.

24 ³ Protocols also allow adjustment to Interest Charged to Construction. However, Prairie Land did not have
25 any amount booked in historical or budgeted for the projected Interest Charged to Construction. Therefore,
that expense category was not adjusted in this Annual Filing.

1 The projected amounts for the above expense categories are supported by the detail found in
2 Exhibit 9 attached to the Application filed in the instant Docket.⁴

3 Further, per Sections D.1.b and D.1.e of the Protocols, and in recognition of the
4 Commission policy adopted per K.S.A. 66-101f (a), Administrative and General (“A&G”)
5 expense was adjusted to remove certain amounts associated with the dues, donations,
6 charitable contributions, promotional advertising, penalties and fines, and entertainment
7 expenses incurred during the Test Year.⁵ The excluded amounts, as well as reasoning in
8 support of inclusion or exclusion of the associated items, are noted on Page 7 of Exhibit 5.

9 Additionally, per Section D.1.e of the Protocols, the Acquisition Premium amortization
10 portion was removed from the Other Deductions expense category.

11 Finally, Section D.2 of the Protocols mandates that certain revenue and expense categories
12 be further allocated to remove the costs not associated with Prairie Land’s 34.5kV facilities.

13 **Q. Please describe the adjustments made to the 2018 Test Year Depreciation Expense.**

14 A. Per Section D.1.c of the Protocols, depreciation expense allowed to be included in Prairie
15 Land’s 34.5kV FBR should reflect “...projected depreciation expense that reasonably reflects
16 the average monthly 34.5kV plant in service during the Budget Year using the Commission-
17 approved depreciation rates.” Furthermore, such projections are to be based upon the plant
18 additions and retirements planned by the Cooperative in the Budget Year. To achieve this,

20 ⁴ Although the Cooperative is also submitting its 2019 Budget in Exhibit 8, the amounts as shown and/or
21 calculated in Exhibit 9 were used instead, where the latter followed the methodology specified in the
22 Commission-approved Protocols. In some instances, such methodology may vary from how the Cooperative
23 budgets internally; for example, the Cooperative may not budget depreciation for the plant additions by
24 individual General Ledger (“GL”) accounts. Instead, work order and cost estimate modeling may be used
25 for the overall project amount estimates. The exact GL-specific detail (for example, number of wooden
poles for a line buildout) is typically not known until the project is complete. In addition, the Cooperative
Budget specifies total depreciation expense versus by plant category.

⁵ K.S.A. 66-101f (a) allows adoption of a policy of “ disallowing a percentage, not to exceed 50%, of utility
dues, donations and contributions to charitable, civic and social organizations and entities, in addition to
disallowing specific dues, donations and contributions which are found unreasonable or inappropriate.”

1 Section D.2.b of the Protocols directs the Cooperative to apply Commission-approved
2 depreciation rates to the projected monthly average plant for the Budget Year.⁶ Accordingly,
3 Pages 2 and 4 of Exhibit 9 detail the calculation of the projected Depreciation Expense for
4 Transmission and General Plant for the Budget Year using Commission-approved depreciation
5 rates. The projected average plant balances used in the calculations are shown on Page 1 of
6 Exhibit 9. As a result, the projected Transmission and General Plant Depreciation Expense
7 amounts, detailed on Exhibit 5, Page 1, Lines 13 and 14, Column (f), are \$589,536 and
8 \$111,156, respectively. As evidenced by Exhibit 9, these amounts are the result of an
9 approximately 1.4 percent projected net increase in transmission plant and an approximately
10 4.6 percent projected net increase in general plant expected to be in service at the end of the
11 2019 Budget Year.⁷ In comparison, the 2018 historical amounts for the Transmission and
12 General Plant Depreciation Expense were \$568,055 and \$108,359, respectively. Therefore,
13 Exhibit 5, Page 1, Lines 13 and 14, Column (e), details the respective adjustments of \$21,481
14 and \$2,796 to the historical Transmission and General Plant Depreciation Expenses. The
15 adjustments are calculated on Page 3 of Exhibit 5, Lines 13-21. It should be noted that in this
16 fourth 34.5kV FBR Annual Update, the Revenue Requirement was established using the
17 Modified Debt Service Coverage (“MDSC”) metric in accordance with the Protocols’ Section
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22 ⁶ Transmission Plant used in 34.5kV FBR is defined more broadly to also include General Plant allocated on
23 Labor ratio, as well as any Distribution Plant used in the provision of the LADS, if applicable (see Section
24 K of the Protocols). The latter does not apply in this instance. However, there was General Plant allocated
25 to the 34.5kV FBR. Accordingly, per Section D.2.b. of the Protocols, the depreciation expense was
calculated to recognize the portion corresponding with the allocated General Plant.

⁷ Comparing End of Year (“EOY”) 2019 balances to the EOY 2018 balances and considering both planned
additions and retirements. Comparing the Budget Year annual average balances to the EOY 2018, the net
increase in transmission and general plant is 0.5 and 2 percent, respectively.

1 D.3.⁸ Under the DSC rate-making, the depreciation expense amount becomes essentially
2 immaterial, as it is removed as an offset to the margin requirement.

3 **Q. Please describe the adjustments made to the 2018 Test Year Interest on Long-Term**
4 **Debt.**

5 A. The historical amount of Interest on Long-Term Debt for the 2018 Test Year was \$2,100,610,
6 as reported on Prairie Land's Operating Income Statement for 2018, included in Exhibit 4.⁹
7 The Protocols, in Section D.1.d., specify that the actual amount be adjusted to reflect Prairie
8 Land's interest on long-term debt projected for the Budget Year. Prairie Land's 2019 budgeted
9 long-term interest expense is \$2,063,998, as evidenced on Page 6 of Exhibit 9 that details the
10 budgeted amount by individual loans. Accordingly, a downward adjustment of \$36,611 was
11 included in Exhibit 5, Page 1, Line 17, Column (e). The details of this adjustment are shown
12 in Exhibit 5, Page 3, Lines 23-26.

13 **Q. Please describe the adjustments made to the 2018 Test Year Interest Expense - Other.**

14 A. The historical amount of Other Interest Expense for the 2018 Test Year was \$29,944, as
15 reported on Prairie Land's Operating Income Statement for 2018. Consistent with Section
16 D.1.d of the Protocols, the amount has been adjusted to reflect Prairie Land's 2019 Budget for
17 short-term interest expense of \$24,320, noted on Page 6 of Exhibit 9. To accomplish this, a
18 reduction of \$5,624 was included as an adjustment. The details of the adjustment can be
19 found in Exhibit 5, Page 3, Lines 33-36.

20 **Q. Please describe the adjustments made to the 2018 Test Year Debt Service Payments.**
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24 ⁸ Per Section D.3 of the Protocols, Cooperative may utilize either 1.8 Operating Times Interest Earned Ratio
("OTIER") or 1.8 MDSC. The ratio resulting in greater net margins required will be used. For 2018
Historical Test Year/2019 Budget Year, MDSC metric was used, as it produced greater net margins.

25 ⁹ Mid-Kansas division. Exhibit 9, Page 5, further details the reconciliation of that amount to the lender
statements.

1 A. Debt Service Payments are comprised of interest and principal payments on debt outstanding.

2 Since I previously discussed the adjustments to interest expense, I will now focus on the
3 adjustment to principal payments. The historical amount of Principal Payments for the 2018
4 Test Year was \$1,662,837 (see Exhibit 9, Page 5, Line 41 for the reconciliation to the lender's
5 statements). The Protocols, in Section D.1.f, require that the Test Year be adjusted to reflect
6 Prairie Land's budgeted amount for 2019, where the latter is calculated using an amortization
7 schedule at the expected borrowing rate(s) as specified in the Cooperative's agreements with
8 its lender(s). Prairie Land's budget for 2019 principal payments, detailed on Page 6 of Exhibit
9 9, is \$1,702,372. Accordingly, an adjustment in the amount of \$39,535 was included on Line
10 24, Column (e) of Exhibit 5. This adjustment is further detailed in Exhibit 5 on Page 3, Lines
11 46-49.

12 **Q. Please describe the adjustments made to the 2018 Test Year Operating Expenses in**
13 **conjunction with the Protocols' Section D, sub-sections b and e, and the Commission's**
14 **policy per K.S.A. 66-101f (a).**

15 A. A reduction in the amount of \$70,307, as evidenced on Page 1 of Exhibit 5, Line 10, Column
16 (e), was applied to the historical amount of \$2,155,862 in A&G Expense in order to remove
17 the amounts associated with promotional or image advertising and dues and donations; i.e.,
18 activities traditionally disallowed by the Commission either as unnecessary to provide safe,
19 efficient, reliable electric utility service, or consistent with the Commission policy adopted per
20 K.S.A. 66-101f (a). Accordingly, historical amounts, as recorded in Prairie Land's applicable
21 GL accounts, were adjusted as follows: promotional or image advertising items were excluded
22 100 percent, and dues and donations items were excluded 50 percent. Note that advertising
23 associated with items such as public safety announcements, annual meeting notices, and legal
24 ads were not removed, as those activities are directed toward keeping the members well
25 informed and thus align with the Commission-advocated goal of providing safe, efficient, and

1 reliable electric utility service.¹⁰ Additionally, dues associated with the Kansas Electric
2 Cooperatives, Inc. (“KEC”) statewide organization membership were not removed for similar
3 reasons, as KEC functions for the mutual benefit of its member-cooperatives to promote rural
4 electrification and provides essential services, such as safety programs and inspections,
5 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) compliance, Cooperative staff and
6 Board training, and administrative functions on a state-wide level.

7 Detailed listings of the aforementioned items by GL account and the corresponding
8 adjustments performed can be found in Exhibit 10 attached to the Application in the instant
9 Docket. The summary of the adjustments by GL, as well as the methodology applied by Prairie
10 Land, is included in Exhibit 5, Page 7. The adjustment was further reflected on Page 3 of
11 Exhibit 5, Lines 9-11. The resultant adjusted A&G amount is \$2,085,555, as reflected on Page
12 1, Line 10, Column (f) of Exhibit 5.

13 **Q. You have explained how the historical overall system (i.e., transmission and distribution)**
14 **costs were adjusted in accordance with the 34.5kV FBR Protocols. Next, please describe**
15 **how the adjusted system-wide financial results were allocated to the 34.5kV system to**
16 **arrive at Prairie Land’s 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement that includes only those costs**
17 **which are associated with the Cooperative’s sub-transmission facilities used in the**
18 **provision of LADS.**

19 A. Section D.2 of the Protocols specifies the methodology for allocating applicable total system-
20 wide operating expenses and margin requirements to the 34.5kV system so as to arrive at the
21 revenue requirement associated with Prairie Land’s sub-transmission facilities used to provide
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24 ¹⁰ Expenses related to both company image and safety-related messages were excluded 50 percent.
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1 LADS in the acquired Mid-Kansas service territory.¹¹ Following is an explanation of the
2 allocations:

- 3 • Per Section D.2.a of the Protocols, the A&G expenses are to be allocated using a Labor
4 ratio (“LAB”), where the latter is calculated as a ratio of Transmission Labor to Total
5 Non-A&G Labor. The corresponding labor dollar amounts are found in the Labor
6 Amount Column of the December 31, 2018 Payroll Journal, included with Exhibit 7
7 attached to the Application filed in the instant Docket. Next, Exhibit 5, Page 4, Lines
8 7-20 show how the resultant LAB ratio of 0.057097 is calculated. Applying LAB to
9 the \$2,085,555 in Adjusted Historical Test Year A&G expense assigns \$119,079 to the
10 34.5kV FBR, as shown in Exhibit 5, Page 1, Line 10, Column (i).
- 11 • Depreciation and Amortization Expense is to be calculated directly (a.k.a. “direct-
12 assignment”) in accordance with Section D.2.b of the Protocols. The calculation of the
13 associated depreciation expense for the Budget Year was already discussed on Pages 7
14 and 8 previously. The only additional detail here is that the \$111,156 in Adjusted
15 amount for the General Plant Depreciation Expense for the Budget Year is to be
16 allocated on the LAB ratio, ultimately assigning \$6,347 to the 34.5kV FBR, as
17 evidenced on Page 1, Line 14, Column (i) of Exhibit 5.
- 18 • For allocating Taxes - Other, Other Deductions, Interest on Long-Term Debt, Other
19 Interest, Principal Payments, and Offsets to Margin Requirements, the Budget Year
20 Net Transmission Plant Ratio (“NP”) is calculated. The Budget Year NP, as defined
21 in Section D.2 of the Protocols, reflects the ratio of the average monthly Transmission
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24 ¹¹ Again, to clarify, “system-wide,” as used in this context, is intended to mean combined distribution and
25 transmission.

Net Plant to the average monthly Total Net Plant for the Budget Year.¹² The calculation of the Budget Year NP allocation factor is detailed on Page 4, Lines 22-47 of Exhibit 5. The results of applying the calculated Budget Year NP of 0.293193 to the corresponding Adjusted Historical Test Year expenses are evidenced on Page 1, Lines 15-25, Column (i) of Exhibit 5.

It should also be noted that the Transmission Operation and Maintenance Expense is a category that is directly related to the provision of the LADS. Therefore, it was assigned 100 percent (i.e., using allocator of 1.0) to the 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement.

PART IV - REVENUE REQUIREMENT AND RATE CALCULATION

Q. How was Prairie Land's 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement calculated after performing all the adjustments and allocations detailed above?

A. Per Section D.4 of the Protocols, the Total 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement is a sum of all the applicable operating expenses and margin requirements. Specifically, after the 2018 actual operating expenses were adjusted to the budgeted levels, as allowed by the Protocols, and allocated to reflect the portion applicable to the Cooperative's sub-transmission facilities used in the provision of the LADS, the Total Cost of Service was quantified at \$2,003,147, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 21, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. Next, the Net Margin Requirement was calculated using 1.8 OTIER and 1.8 MDSC metrics, as contemplated in Section D.3 of the Protocols. The same Section dictates that the ratio resulting in greater net margins required will be used. An MDSC of 1.8 produced a greater margin (at \$756,571) than OTIER of 1.8 (at \$454,155), as evidenced on Page 1, Lines 23-30, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. Accordingly,

¹² As noted in footnote 6 previously, per Section K of the Protocols, Net Transmission Plant includes a General Plant allocation based upon a LAB ratio.

1 applying the MDSC-produced \$756,571 in Net Margin Requirement to the \$2,003,147 in Total
2 Cost of Service generates the 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement of \$2,759,717.

3 **Q. How was Prairie Land's 34.5kV FBR Total Net Revenue Requirement for Year 2019**
4 **calculated?**

5 A. Per Section E of the Protocols, the True-Up amount has been applied to the Total Revenue
6 Requirement to calculate the Total Net Revenue Requirement to be used to set the LADS rate.
7 Pages 9-12 of the filing Exhibit 5 include the True-Up calculation prescribed by Section E of
8 the Protocols, with the summary contained on Page 9, Lines 1 – 13 of Exhibit 5. Per Section
9 E.7, the projected revenue requirement filed and approved for the Budget Years 2017 and 2018
10 (second and third Annual Update filings) were weighted using the portion of a year each was
11 in effect.¹³ The resultant Weighted Projected FBR Revenue Requirement was \$2,641,711.
12 Next, this amount was compared against the 2018 Actual Revenue Requirement of \$2,736,975
13 (as calculated on Page 10 of Exhibit 5 using 2018 historical actual costs). Subtracting the
14 Weighted Projected FBR Revenue Requirement of \$2,641,711 from the Actual Revenue
15 Requirement of \$2,736,975 results in the under-recovery amount of \$95,264. Next, applying
16 the interest per Protocols' Section E.5.b, calculated at \$2,996, produces the True-Up amount
17 of \$98,260. Adding the True-Up amount of \$98,260 to the \$2,759,717 results in the Net
18 Revenue Requirement of \$2,857,977.

19 **Q. Please explain how the resultant wholesale demand rate for LADS was determined.**

20 A. Section D.4 of the Protocols further directs that the 34.5kV FBR Total Net Revenue
21 Requirement is to be divided by the Total Billing Demand for the Test Year. The latter is
22 comprised of both retail and wholesale billing determinants, as reported by Mid-Kansas (a
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25 ¹³ The Projected FBR Revenue Requirement amounts used are as filed and approved in Docket Nos. 17-PLCE-478-TAR and 18-PLCE-462-TAR, respectively.

1 generation and transmission Company (“G&T”) who serves as Prairie Land’s power supplier,
2 as well as metering and billing agent for the Cooperative’s wholesale LADS over its sub-
3 transmission facilities), and then factoring in the appropriate losses percentages, as specified
4 in Prairie Land’s Commission-approved LADS tariff. For 2018 Test Year, the Total Billing
5 Demand for Prairie Land’s 34.5kV system was quantified at 943,386 kW, as reflected on Page
6 1, Line 36, Column (i) of Exhibit 5 and further detailed on Page 6 of the same Exhibit. Dividing
7 the resultant Total Net Revenue Requirement of \$2,857,977 by 943,386 kW produces the
8 unadjusted rate of \$3.03/kW. Further, subtracting the \$0.16229/kW in Prairie Land’s Property
9 Tax Surcharge in effect, as approved by the Commission in Docket No. 19-PLCE-245-TAR,
10 produces the final unit rate of \$2.87/kW.¹⁴ When compared to Prairie Land’s currently effective
11 wholesale demand rate for LADS of \$2.79/kW, this represents a 2.87 percent increase.

12 **Q. What is your final recommendation to the Commission?**

13 A. My recommendation is to approve Prairie Land’s Application in the instant Docket, as the
14 resultant rate is reflective of the COS, which was calculated in accordance to the Commission-
15 approved 34.5kV FBR Protocols, and therefore is just and reasonable and in the public interest.

16 **Q. Have the proposed tariffs as required in the Protocols in Section F.14 been provided?**

17 A. Yes, they are included as Exhibit 14 of the Application filed in the instant Docket.

18 **Q. Does this conclude your prefiled Direct Testimony?**

19 A. Yes, it does.
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23 ¹⁴ Even though the Order approving the Property Tax Surcharge in Docket No. 19-PLCE-245-TAR was not
24 issued until January 2019, which is outside of the Test Year, it is appropriate to use this most recent PTS
25 approved by the Commission since it is set to recover the 2018 property tax expense incurred during the
2018 Test Year. The PTS rate effective during the 2018 Test Year, which was approved in Docket No. 18-
PLCE-269-TAR, was recovering the 2017 property tax expense.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF ANOKA)

The undersigned, Elena Larson, upon oath first duly sworn, states that she is an employee of Power System Engineering, Inc., and that the foregoing testimony was prepared by her or under her supervision, that she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Elena Larson

Elena Larson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24 day of April, 2019.

Marilyn M. Cuellar
Notary Public

My appointment expires: 1/31/20



MARILYN M. CUELLAR
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2020