

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**JOHN GARRETSON**

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
LOCAL UNION NO. 304**

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS OF WESTAR ENERGY, INC. AND  
KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO  
MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THEIR CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE**

**DOCKET NO. 17-WSEE-147-RTS**

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**Q: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS?**

A: John Garretson, 3906 N.W. 16th Street, Topeka, KS 66618

**Q: BY WHOM AND IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU EMPLOYED?**

A: The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 304 ("Union" or "IBEW Local 304"), Business Manager/Financial Secretary.

**Q: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE?**

A: I am currently the Business Manager and Financial Secretary for IBEW Local 304. I have been the Business Manager and Financial Secretary since 2014. Prior to being elected as Business Manager and Financial Secretary, I served 11 years as the East End Assistant Business Manager. In that capacity I have been involved in negotiations of successive contracts with Westar Energy. Before becoming the East End Assistant Business Manager, I was on the Executive Board and served as a steward and chief steward for the Union while

1 employed with Kansas Gas Service as a Journeyman Gas Worker from March 1982 to April  
2 2004.

3 **Q: HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS OR OTHER REGULATORY BODIES**  
4 **IN THE PAST?**

5 A: I have personally provided testimony before this Commission in Docket No. 15-WSEE-115-  
6 RTS and 16-KCPE-593-ACQ. Additionally, the Union has provided testimony in the past  
7 in 03-MDWE-421-ACQ; 06-MKEE-524-ACQ, and 12-WSEE-112-RS.

8 **Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

9 A: The purpose of my testimony is to convey labor's support for the grid resiliency projects  
10 discussed in the Stipulation and Agreement accepted by the Commission in the 115 docket  
11 as well as support the rate structure requested by the applicants. Demand rates encourage  
12 energy efficiencies and support a balanced generation portfolio. Utility grade solar is best for  
13 generation needs for all customers and demand rate supports individual solar while  
14 maintaining grid reliability and providing for associated maintenance. The positives of this  
15 application have been demonstrated at a national level where we have seen customer savings  
16 with the demand rate structure.

17 **Q: WHY IS THE UNION'S POSITION SIGNIFICANT IN THIS CASE?**

18 A: Generally, when IBEW 304 intervenes in rate cases, it remains neutral with regard to the  
19 application. However, in this case, we are in support of the application for the reasons  
20 outlined above.

21 **Q: WHY IS THE "ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION GRID RESILIENCY" OR "EDGR"**  
22 **PROGRAM IMPORTANT TO IBEW 304?**

23 A: The EDGR program is important because it was designed to address issues related to aging  
24 infrastructure, to improve the reliability of service to customers, and shorten recovery time

1 when outages inevitably occur. This is important because as aging infrastructure is replaced  
2 and upgraded, it becomes safer for the employees and more reliable for the customer.

3 Outages inevitably occur and safety concerns will always exist in this environment.

4 However, having updated systems helps to ensure a safer environment for the employees  
5 when they perform work and maintenance on such equipment. We have already begun to  
6 see reductions in equipment failures in the field which we believe is attributable to this  
7 program.

8 **Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCLUDING COMMENTS?**

9 A: Yes. Like I mentioned above, our position in this case is unique in that we are supporting  
10 the application as opposed to remaining neutral. We are especially supportive of the EGDR  
11 program and believe this program will continue to bring greater results the longer it goes on.  
12 Updating aging infrastructure benefits everyone from the customers, to the company and its  
13 employees who perform work on that infrastructure. While there will always be safety  
14 concerns while performing work in the utility industry, having newer equipment less  
15 susceptible to failure means less outages.

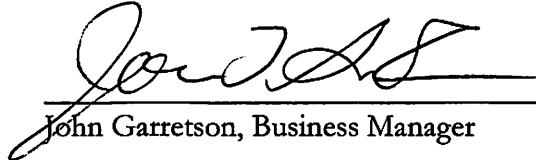
16 **Q: DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

17 A: Yes. Thank you.


**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF KANSAS            )  
  ) ss:  
COUNTY OF SHAWEE        )

John Garretson, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, upon oath states: He is Business Manager and Financial Secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 304, and that he has read the above Direct Testimony, knows the contents and knows that the statements made therein are true and correct, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

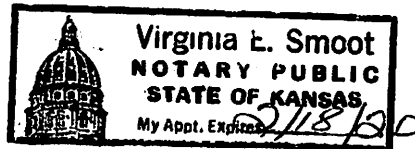
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Garretson, Business Manager

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

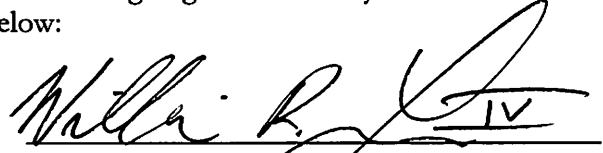
My Appointment Expires:

2/18/20



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic means on the 11th day of April, 2017 to the parties listed below:

  
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