

BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners: John Wine, Chair
 Susan M. Seltsam
 Cynthia L. Claus

In the Matter of the Investigation of the October)
22, 1996 Snowstorm and Associated Electric)
Utility Outages Affecting the Kansas City Power)
& Light Company, Western Resources, Inc. and)
the Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative.)

Docket No. 97-GIME-483-GIE

ORDER

NOW, the above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("KCC" or "Commission") for consideration and determination with respect to Kansas City Power & Light Company ("KCPL") and Western Resources, Inc. ("WRI"). Being duly advised in the premises, the Commission rules as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. In October of 1996, Northeast Kansas experienced an unprecedented snowstorm, resulting in numerous power outages throughout the region. KCPL estimated 175,000 of its customers in Kansas and Missouri were without power on October 23, and WRI had more than 79,000 customers without power in its KPL service territory.

2. This major event prompted an investigation by the Commission's Staff ("Staff") and ultimately resulted in the issuance of two Orders requiring KCPL and WRI to provide annual tree trimming reports to the Commission.

3. The Commission Orders set forth three criteria for the companies to report:

- A) Annual tree trimming expenditures;
- B) Annual hours of labor devoted to tree trimming; and
- C) Annual performance statistics for tree trimming including but not limited to trees trimmed, trees removed, and line-miles cleared.

4. Both KCPL and WRI have submitted conforming reports for 1997.

5. Since the issuance of the original Orders in this docket, however, both KCPL and WRI have informed Staff that they are unable to provide the information regarding the number of line-miles cleared as required.

6. Staff, therefore, reviewed the value of the line-miles cleared information in increasing overall performance and concluded that requiring the companies to submit such data is not as useful as originally anticipated.

7. Thus, Staff explored substitute performance measures, and recommends the Commission amend its Orders of April 24, 1997 to require that the annual tree trimming reports include sustained interruption indices instead of the number of line-miles cleared.

8. Staff believes that substituting three sustained interruption indices for the number of line-miles cleared will provide the Commission with better information to gauge utility compliance with the tree trimming standards. These three indices, the System Average Interruption Duration Index, ("SAIDI") the System Average Interruption Frequency Index, ("SAIFI") and the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index ("CAIDI") are used widely throughout the electric industry to uniformly measure distribution service reliability, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

(“IEEE”) has proposed them in a draft standard, IEEE-P1366.

9. Further, Staff recommends requiring KCPL and WRI to provide both normalized and unnormalized indices, where the normalized indices should be calculated excluding outages resulting from major events, like extensive damage to the electric power system, an unusually high percentage of simultaneous customer outages, or unusually long service restoration times caused by extreme weather or earthquakes. Staff has suggested specific alternative language, which, if adopted, would implement the changes sought. See, Attachment “A.”

FINDINGS OF FACT

10. The Commission finds that the Orders issued in this docket on April 24, 1997, which applied to KCPL and WRI should be amended to reflect Staff’s recommendations as set forth above and in Attachment “A.”

11. The Commission additionally finds that Staff’s proposed modifications are reasonable and necessary in light of Staff’s Memorandum, submitted to the Commission on January 7, 1998. Further, the Commission views Staff’s proposed changes as positive, since they will not require the companies to track factors which are not usually monitored in the electric industry.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. The Commission concludes that pursuant to K.S.A. §§ 66-101 et seq. (1992 & Supp. 1997) it has the authority to regulate electric utilities within the State of Kansas.

13. The Commission also concludes that its Orders of April 24, 1997 pertaining

to KCPL and WRI should be modified to the extent that the companies shall now be required to incorporate Staff's proposed language included in Attachment "A."

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

That the two Orders entered in this docket pertaining to Kansas City Power & Light and Western Resources, Inc. shall be modified in accordance with Staff's recommendation to require the companies to include normalized and unnormalized information according to the System Average Interruption Duration Index, the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index and the System Average Interruption Frequency Index, as set forth above and in Attachment "A."

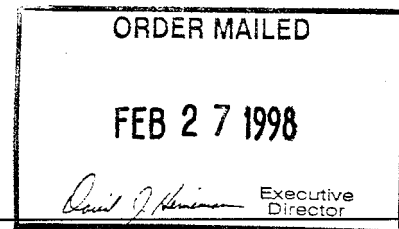
Any party may file a petition for reconsideration of this order within fifteen days of the date this order is served. If service is by mail, three days may be added to the above time frame.

The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties for the purpose of entering such further order or orders as it may deem necessary.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Wine, Chair; Seltsam, Corn.; Claus, Corn.

Dated: FEB 26 1998



Executive Director
David J. Heinemann

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