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

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JUN 07 2005

In the Matter of the Application of Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO, for Approval of an Accounting Order to Permit Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO to Recover Amounts Necessary to Expend in Order to Establish and Maintain a Gas Ceiling Price for the 2005-2006 Heating Season.

Suman Talify Docket Room

Docket No. 05-AQLG-616-HED

JOINT MOTION FOR AN ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

COME NOW Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO ("Aquila"), the Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("Staff" and "Commission," respectively) and Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") (collectively, "Joint Movants"), and request that the Commission issue its order approving the Stipulation and Agreement entered into between Aquila, Staff and CURB, dated June 7, 2005 ("Stipulation and Agreement") with respect to the Application filed herein by Aquila. In support of their Joint Motion, Aquila, Staff and CURB state as follows:

1. On January 28, 2005, Aquila filed its Application with the Commission in this docket seeking approval of an accounting order to permit Aquila to recover such amounts as may be necessary to expend in order to establish and maintain a gas ceiling price for the 2005-2006 heating season under the Gas Hedge Program and for approval to continue with its "Gas Hedge Program" tariff.

On January 31, 2005, CURB filed a Petition to Intervene in this matter and on February
2, 2005, the Commission entered its Order granting CURB's intervention.

3. On February 2, 2005, the Commission issued a Suspension Order pending a full

investigation of the Application.

4. Pursuant to negotiations among Aquila, Staff, and CURB, the parties executed a proposed Stipulation and Agreement dated June 7, 2005. The proposed Stipulation and Agreement both conditions and modifies the Gas Hedge Program Aquila sought in its Application. The primary modifications are: 1) an increase in the Program budget amount; and 2) a change in Program status from year to year to permanent. A copy of the proposed Stipulation and Agreement is attached hereto as Attachment A.

5. Separately, Staff will file a Memorandum in support of the Commission approving the proposed Stipulation and Agreement. For the evidence presented in its Memorandum, it is Staff's opinion the Commission could find the proposed Stipulation and Agreement to be consistent with the public interest. Aquila, Staff and CURB, being in agreement with conditions regarding the implementation and design of the proposed Gas Hedge Program as contained in the terms and conditions of the Stipulation and Agreement, unanimously agree to support approval of the proposed Stipulation and Agreement.

6. Because the Gas Hedge Program described in the proposed Stipulation and Agreement is similar to the program which the Commission approved for Kansas Gas Service Company ("KGS") (Docket No. 05-KGSG-580-HED) and Atmos Energy ("Atmos") (Docket No. 05-ATMG-617-HED), the parties believe that the proposed Stipulation and Agreement could be approved without the need for a hearing.

WHEREFORE, Aquila, Staff, and CURB respectfully request the Commission issue its order

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granting Joint Movants' motion approving the proposed Stipulation and Agreement; approving the

permanent Gas Hedge Program for Aquila as conditioned by the Stipulation and Agreement; and grant

such other relief as the Commission may deem appropriate.

Tames G. Flaherty, #11177 **ANDERSON & BYRD, LLP** 216 S. Hickory, P. O. Box 17 Ottawa, Kansas 66067 (785) 242-1234 Attorneys for Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO

Otto A. Newton, #8760 Assistant General Counsel Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 S. W. Arrowhead Road Topeka, Kansas 66604 (785) 271-3157 Attorney for Staff

David R. Springe, #15619 Consumer Counsel Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road Topeka, Kansas 66604 Attorney for Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

JOINT MOTION FOR AN ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT Docket No. 05-AQLG-616-HED Page 4

VERIFICATION

STATE OF KANSAS

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FRANKLIN COUNTY

The undersigned, upon oath first duly sworn, states that he is the attorney for Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO; that he has read the above and foregoing Joint Motion for an Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement, that he is familiar with the contents thereof; and that the statements contained therein are true and correct.

James G. Flahert SLIBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 7^{44} day of June, 2005. NOTARY PUBLIC – State of Kansas RONDA ROSSMAN My Appt. Expires 53506 AINGEN Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the above and foregoing was mailed, postage prepaid, this $\underline{\gamma}_{2}^{3}$ day of June, 2005, addressed to:

Otto A. Newton, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Corporation Commission, 1500 S. W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604

David R. Springe, Consumer Counsel, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604

James G. Flaherty

BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

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In the Matter of the Application of Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO, for Approval of an Accounting Order to Permit Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO to Recover Amounts Necessary to Expend in Order to Establish and Maintain a Gas Ceiling Price for the 2005-2006 Heating Season.

Docket No. 05-AQLG-616-HED

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

COME NOW Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO ("Aquila"), the Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("Staff" and "Commission", respectively), and Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") and stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Aquila is a jurisdictional public utility as defined by K.S.A. 66-104 and is providing

gas utility service in Kansas pursuant to grants of authority from the Commission.

- 2. Aquila filed its Application in this matter on January 28, 2005.
- 3. On February 2, 2005, the Commission issued a Suspension Order.
- 4. Pursuant to negotiations among Aquila, Staff, and CURB, the parties executed this

proposed Stipulation and Agreement dated June 7, 2005. This proposed Stipulation and Agreement both conditions and modifies the Gas Hedge Program Aquila sought in its Application. The primary modifications are: 1) an increase in the Program budget amount; and 2) a change in Program status from year-to-year to permanent.

5. Separately, Staff will file a Memorandum in support of the Commission approving this proposed Stipulation and Agreement. For the evidence presented in its Memorandum, it is Staff's

opinion the Commission could find the proposed Stipulation and Agreement to be consistent with the public interest. Aquila, Staff, and CURB, being in agreement with conditions regarding the implementation and design of the proposed Gas Hedge Program, as contained in the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Agreement, unanimously agree to support its approval. The parties stipulate and agree that the permanent Gas Hedge Program and Accounting Order for Aquila shall be as follows:

A. The budget for Aquila's Gas Hedge Program shall not exceed \$2.3 million annually. All Hedge Program costs incurred by Aquila, such as transaction costs, interest on margin accounts and the direct costs of financial derivatives are to be covered by the approved budget. The rate of interest on margin accounts will be the prime rate as published in the <u>Wall</u> <u>Street Journal</u>. An interest charge will be assessed on the initial margin amount, starting from when the account is first established through the expiration of the swap or futures contract, as the case may be. Aquila may file a Motion to adjust the approved budget depending on market conditions.

B. All payoffs, positive or negative, associated with the settlement of financial derivatives shall be passed-through to Aquila's PGA clause customers, except for its irrigation-class customers, in accordance with the clause's provisions.

C. Consistent with the findings from the Summer 2004 focus group sessions, Aquila's preferred hedge strategy is the placement of a price cap. Aquila will meet and consult with Staff and CURB prior to program implementation for the purpose of setting a planned program design, which includes specifying the following parameters:

- 1. quantity or volume of gas to hedge;
- 2. winter, and possibly summer months to be hedged;
- 3. price cap (and possibly floor) level;
- 4. hedge instruments to be used to set the cap;
- 5. timing of hedge placement.

For each of the listed parameters, Aquila shall describe its decision-making process and the analysis it used to support that process.

D. Aquila shall have full discretion over selection of the final Gas Hedge Program parameters. Aquila shall also meet with Staff and CURB throughout the implementation period, as needed, for the purpose of discussing significant changes from the planned hedge program.

E. Aquila shall recover the program costs for each Gas Hedge Program year from its PGA customers, except irrigation, during the months of April through October on a volumetric basis. Aquila shall maintain a monthly balance for amounts spent on hedge costs compared to amounts recovered from customers through the hedge charge. To the extent the net monthly balance shows that Aquila's expenditures on hedges exceed the amounts recovered from customers, Aquila shall accrue interest on the excess amount during the following month at the prime rate as published in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u>. To the extent the monthly balance shows that Aquila's expenditures on hedges are less than the amounts recovered from

customers through the hedge charge, Aquila shall accrue interest on the shortfall during the following month at the Commission's approved rate for customer deposits. Aquila shall recover or pay interest pursuant to the methodology above through a charge to or credit to the approved budget. The interest charges set forth in this paragraph E are separate from the interest on margin accounts described in paragraph A, which are treated separately. Aquila shall show the amounts collected from customers through the hedge charge as a separate line item on the customer's bill during the months of April through October.

F. Aquila shall submit monthly hedge reports to Staff and CURB throughout the program year. Reports during the implementation months shall detail actual implementation of the program while reports during the winter months will detail actual program performance. Monthly reports will be submitted electronically and during the first week of each month. The implementation reports will describe all activity during the prior calendar month while the performance reports will summarize performance for the instant calendar month. At the end of each program year, Aquila shall also submit a report on the cumulative, historical performance of its hedge program efforts.

G. Aquila shall retain all information and records necessary to verify derivative transactions performed either by Aquila or on its behalf so that Staff or CURB may perform an audit of those transactions.

H. The parties agree that the Gas Hedge Program shall be made permanent. To the extent that the Company, Staff or CURB believe that modifications to the previously

> approved program are necessary, such as a change in the budget, it shall file a Motion in this Docket requesting such changes as it deems necessary.

6. Aquila must file its revised Gas Hedge Program tariff (Index 28, Schedule PGA-96, Gas Hedge Program) with the Commission for approval within thirty (30) days of the date of the Order approving this Stipulation and Agreement.

7. This proposed Stipulation and Agreement is entered into in good faith by the parties and is intended to avoid the time and expense of any further proceedings in this matter. If the Commission does not approve all parts of the proposed Stipulation and Agreement, or approves the Stipulation and Agreement but provides for terms and conditions which have not been included herein, then, at the option of any signatory party, this Stipulation and Agreement shall become null and void and not binding upon the parties.

Dated this $\underline{ 14}$ day of June, 2005.

James G. Flaherty, #11177 ANDERSON & BYRD, LLP 216 S. Hickory, P. O. Box 17 Ottawa, Kansas 66067 (785) 242-1234 Attorneys for Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - KGO

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Otto A. Newton, #8760 Assistant General Counsel Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 S. W. Arrowhead Road Topeka, Kansas 66604 (785) 271-3157 Attorney for Staff

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