

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

Before Commissioners: Dwight D. Keen, Chair
 Shari Feist Albrecht
 Susan K. Duffy

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Westar)
Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and Electric)
Company for Amendment of the Grandfathering) Docket No. 19-WSEE-474-TAR
Dates in their RS-DG and RS Tariffs.)

ORDER APPROVING JOINT APPLICATION

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having examined the files, the Commission finds and concludes as follows:

1. On May 17, 2019, Westar Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and Electric Company (Westar) filed a Joint Application with the Commission to amend the grandfathering dates in their RS-DG and RS Tariffs.¹ In the Joint Application, Westar seeks Commission approval to delay the grandfathering date for RS-DG customers from October 28, 2015, to October 1, 2018.

2. After negotiating with solar and environmental advocates, Westar agreed to delay the grandfathering date for RS-DG customers to October 1, 2018. Those customers who became net metering customers between October 28, 2015, and October 1, 2018, would be switched prospectively to the RS tariff while those net metering customers who began service after October 1, 2018, would remain on the RS-DG tariff.

3. After investigating and analyzing the Joint Application, on June 17, 2019, Commission Staff (Staff) filed its Report and Recommendation (R&R). In its R&R, Staff

¹ Application of Westar Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and Electric Company, May 17, 2019.

discussed Westar's most recent rate case, 18-WSEE-328-RTS, in which the Commission approved a new three-part rate design – service charge, demand charge, and energy charge – for RS-DG customers.² The approved rates were approximately revenue neutral: the average total bill for the RS-DG rate design would be nearly the same as the average total bill for RS-DG customers on the RS rate design. The new RS-DG three-part rate applied to all residential customers assigned to the RS-DG tariff – all residential net metering customers who took service after October 28, 2015.

4. Staff recommended: (1) accepting Westar's proposal to move the grandfathering date for the RS-DG tariff from October 28, 2015, to October 1, 2018, as an appropriate way of addressing RS-DG customer concerns regarding proper notice of the rate change; (2) directing Westar to calculate the electric bills for all RS-DG customers eligible to be grandfathered by using both the RS-DG and RS rate designs for the period October 1, 2018, to the most recent month's bill data available and send the results to the eligible RS-DG customers so they can compare the effect of the different rate designs on their electric bill; and (3) directing Westar to include educational information for RS-DG customers on controlling their demand in the bill calculations.

5. After reviewing Staff's Report and Recommendation, the Commission adopts Staff's recommendation and approves Westar's proposal to move the grandfathering date for RS-DG customers from October 28, 2015, to October 1, 2018. The Commission finds the enhanced consumer protections suggested by Staff to be in the public interest and directs Westar to: (1) calculate bills for RS-DG customers eligible to be grandfathered by using both the RS-DG and RS rate designs for the period October 1, 2018, to the most recent month's bill data available and send the results to the eligible RS-DG customers to compare the effects of the different rate designs on their electric bill by September 3, 2019; (2) include educational information for RS-DG customers

² Staff's Report and Recommendation, June 17, 2019, p. 4.

on controlling their demand; and (3) give any RS-DG customers who want to remain on the RS-DG rate design an opportunity to do so by October 1, 2019.

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. Westar's Application is granted. The grandfathering date for RS-DG customers to be part of the RS-DG tariff is October 1, 2018.

B. Westar is directed to: (1) calculate bills for RS-DG customers eligible to be grandfathered by using both the RS-DG and RS rate designs for the period October 1, 2018, to the most recent month's bill data available and send the results to the eligible RS-DG customers to compare the effects of the different rate designs on their electric bill by September 3, 2019; (2) include educational information for RS-DG customers on controlling their demand; and (3) give any RS-DG customers who want to remain on the RS-DG rate design an opportunity to do so by October 1, 2019.

C. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).³

D. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties to enter further orders as it deems necessary.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Keen, Chair; Albrecht, Commissioner; Duffy, Commissioner

Dated: 08/06/2019 _____



Lynn M. Retz
Executive Director

BGF

³ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

19-WSEE-474-TAR

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of
08/06/2019
electronic service on _____.

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