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Kansas Corporation Commission
/S/ Susan K. Duffy

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Room

**BEFORE THE
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION**

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
MICHAEL VOLKER
ON BEHALF OF
MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL VOLKER

1 **Q: Please state your name, position and business qualifications.**

2 A: My name is Michael Volker. I am the Director of Regulatory and Energy Services for
3 Midwest Energy, Inc. (“Midwest Energy” or the “Company”) and am responsible for
4 developing gas and electric tariffs including rates, rules and regulations for utility
5 services, managing the energy services activities, measuring customer satisfaction,
6 and developing forecasts. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Mineral Economics
7 from Penn State University and a Master of Economics from North Carolina State
8 University. I began my career in 1984 as an Economic Analyst with the Federal
9 Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”). In 1985, I left FERC and accepted a
10 position with Carolina Power & Light Company (“CP&L”) in Raleigh, North
11 Carolina as a Junior Rate Analyst. I remained with CP&L until 1998 holding
12 positions in the Rates and Energy Services, Systems Planning, and Marketing
13 Departments. When I left CP&L in 1998, I was the Director of Market Research
14 responsible for developing all qualitative and quantitative market research and for
15 gathering and disseminating competitive intelligence. In 1998, I joined the Boston
16 Consulting Group (“BCG”) as an Energy Researcher in the Americas Energy Practice
17 located in Atlanta, Georgia where I was responsible for disseminating Competitive
18 Intelligence and making related recommendations for Energy Practice clients. I
19 joined Midwest Energy in 1999 as the Manager of Pricing and Market Research. I
20 added additional responsibilities managing the energy services activities and obtained

1 my current title in 2006. In 1999 I was also named an Adjunct Professor of
2 Economics and Finance at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. As an
3 Adjunct Professor at Fort Hays State, I teach Economics courses on a part-time basis.
4 I have testified before this Commission a number of times on rate-related topics.

5 **Q: What is the scope of your testimony in this proceeding?**

6 A: I am sponsoring the following portions of the Company filing: Section 9 Schedules
7 4-11, Section 12 Schedules 2 to 9, Section 15, Section 17, and portions of Section 18.
8 In Section 9, I am sponsoring all adjustments to Revenue (Adjustment Numbers 1-6)
9 and to the costs of Energy Supply (Adjustment Numbers 7-13) that are passed on to
10 customers via the Energy Cost Adjustment (“ECA”). I provide several Exhibits in my
11 direct testimony in support of the Weather Normalization adjustment to Revenue and
12 Energy Supply. In Section 12 Schedules 2 through 9, I am sponsoring a few
13 miscellaneous allocation factors and all functionalization, classification, and customer
14 class allocation factors used in the cost of service (“COS”) study and a map of how
15 they are used. Section 15 details the results of the COS study and proposed or
16 designed rate changes. Section 17 provides comparisons of unadjusted, adjusted and
17 proposed revenues. In Section 18, I am sponsoring the edited (redlined), cancelled,
18 and proposed tariff sheets. In addition, my testimony will address Midwest Energy’s
19 plans to expand energy efficiency services and how costs associated with expanded
20 energy services are reflected in other pro forma adjustments.
21 Finally, I sponsor an adjustment to Midwest Energy’s proposed M System rate
22 increase which takes into account the two-part phase in of the Goodman Energy

1 Center ("GMEC"). This adjustment lowers the proposed M System rates that would
2 be in place with full integration of GMEC (anticipated September 1, 2008). That is,
3 the adjustment would expire upon commercial operation of the last three units of
4 GMEC. Witness Gary Groninger more fully explains the GMEC.

5

6

SECTION 9

7

Q: What adjustments to the COS are you sponsoring in Section 9?

8

A: I have sponsored all the adjustments (1-14) to the June 30, 2007 test year revenues
9 and energy supply costs.

10

11

The Annualization Adjustment to Revenues and Energy Supply Costs

12

Q: Please explain the Annualization adjustment in Section 9 Schedule 6.

13

A: An important principle of ratemaking is the correspondence between costs and
14 revenues for the test year. The test year in this proceeding ends June 30, 2007. The
15 purpose of Annualization is to adjust the test year consumption and corresponding
16 booked revenues to reflect the same 12 month period year as the costs recorded for
17 the test period. Both sales and revenue from rates are based on cycle billed data
18 rather than the test year. Essentially, this means that a considerable amount of the
19 revenue or purchased power costs booked in July of 2007 actually corresponds to
20 consumption that occurred in June of 2007. Likewise, revenue or purchased power
21 costs booked in July of 2006 corresponds to a considerable amount of consumption

1 from June of 2006. Schedule 6 illustrates the calculation of the Annualization
2 adjustments.

3 The adjustment to revenues is calculated in three steps: First, differences in sales
4 volumes booked in the test year and consumed in the test year are estimated. The
5 amount of volume consumed one month but booked the next is estimated by analysis
6 of billing cycles and the average lag between the meter reading date and the billing
7 date (about five days). Typically, the average bill sent each month is based on usage
8 from the tenth day of the prior month through the ninth day of the current month.

9 Assuming linear usage through a month, this means that on average $2/3$ of the usage
10 on bills in the current month are based on consumption from the prior month. In
11 Section 9 Schedule 6, test year volumes are adjusted to remove $2/3$ of the volume
12 booked in July of 2006, and add back $2/3$ of the volume booked in July of 2007. In
13 this way, all volumes consumed in the test year correspond to all volumes booked in
14 the test year. The net adjustment to sales volumes by class of customer is shown in
15 column 5, of Schedule 6. The second step is to identify the rates to price the change
16 in volume in column 5. The rates are the incremental purchased power costs and the
17 delivery margin rates – columns 6 and 8. The final step is to calculate the total
18 Revenue Annualization adjustment. This is the sum of the change to marginal
19 revenue (column 5 times column 6) and the change to purchased power costs (column
20 5 times column 8). The Annualization Revenue Adjustment (Number 1) is
21 summarized in column 3 of Section 9, Schedule 4.

1 Just as revenues need to be adjusted to reflect the actual volumes consumed in the test
2 year ended June 30, 2007, so should the costs of providing the changed volumes be
3 adjusted to reflect the days of the test year. While most costs are not meaningfully
4 different on a booked versus a calendar year basis, the costs of Purchased Power are.
5 Purchased Power costs are booked one full month later than when the consumption
6 associated with the costs occurred. Purchase Power costs booked in July 2007 are for
7 consumption in June of 2007 and belongs in the test year. Purchase Power costs
8 booked in July of 2006 are for consumption in June of 2006 and should not be
9 included in the test year. Therefore, the Annualization Adjustment to Purchased
10 Power costs is simply the difference between Purchased Power costs booked in July
11 of 2007 versus those booked in July of 2006. The Energy Supply Annualization
12 Adjustment (Adjustment Number 7) reflects the adjustment to Purchase Power costs
13 and is summarized on the bottom of Schedule 6.

14

15 The Weather Normalization Adjustment to Revenues and Purchased Power Costs

16 **Q: Please explain the weather normalization adjustments in Section 9, Schedule 7.**

17 A: The second adjustment is the Weather Normalization Adjustment. Like the
18 Annualization Adjustment, Weather Normalization is an adjustment to both the
19 revenues received by the Company and to the purchased power costs incurred by the
20 Company.

21 **Q: Why is Midwest Energy proposing the Weather Normalization Adjustments?**

1 A: The purpose of the Weather Normalization Adjustment is to adjust test year revenues
2 and expenses so that the test year accurately reflects the revenues and expenses that
3 would have occurred if the weather had been normal. The revenues and expenses
4 change because the volume of sales changes with the weather. For example, if the
5 test year summer were warmer than normal, there would be more sales of electricity
6 for air conditioning purposes than in a normal year. Both the revenues and the
7 expenses associated with that higher sales volume would need to be adjusted to reflect
8 normal weather. A large portion of revenues are recovered through rates that are
9 based on volumetric charges, therefore revenues vary with the volume of sales.
10 Purchased Power costs vary with the volume of sales as well. However, it is critical
11 to make the weather normalization adjustment to both revenues and costs because a
12 considerable portion of costs associated with utility service are recovered through
13 volumetric rates even though those costs do not vary with the level of consumption.
14 The fact that sales volumes change due to abnormal weather are not reflected equally
15 in changes to revenue and costs make it critically important to adjust for abnormal
16 weather so the test year accurately reflects the expected or normal year relationship
17 between costs and revenues.
18 A normal year is one in which the actual weather experienced is consistent with the
19 way the weather has been on average for some period of history. In this case,
20 Midwest has averaged weather data based on 30 years of history to develop the
21 estimate of normal temperatures and 10 years of history to develop estimates of
22 normal precipitation. The weather metrics used in the forecast are heating and

1 cooling degree days (“HDD’s” and “CDD’s”) and precipitation. Heating and cooling
2 degree days represent a measure of how temperature impacts the demand for
3 electricity. For precipitation data – which strongly influences sales to irrigation
4 customers – I utilized variance from normal precipitation for the heaviest watering
5 months (May through October).

6 **Q: If the test year is normal, will an adjustment need to be made?**

7 A: No. But typically, no year is normal including this test year, so an adjustment needs
8 to be made to ensure that revenues and costs reflect normal weather. This is
9 particularly important because these rates may be in effect for many years to come.
10 Over time, weather and consumption tend toward normal. If normal weather is not
11 utilized in the calculation of rates then there will be a discrepancy in rates for all years
12 these rates are in place.

13 **Q: Has the Commission approved weather normalization adjustments in the past?**

14 A: Yes. The Commission had approved weather normalizations in a number of rate
15 proceedings both for electric and gas companies.

16 **Q: Please explain how the weather normalization adjustment is done.**

17 A: Weather normalization has four steps:

- 18 1) Determine the weather metric and how the metric varies from normal in the test
19 year;
- 20 2) Determine the sensitivity of usage to unit variations from normal weather;
- 21 3) Apply the sensitivity determined in step 2 to the variation from normal determined
22 in step 1 to determine the variation from normal in test year usage; and,

1 4) Adjust revenues and costs to reflect the change in usage due to abnormal weather.

2 **Q: What are the weather metrics?**

3 A: The weather metrics are measures of weather that are utilized to determine normal
4 weather and variation from that. In this proceeding, I use HDD's, CDD's and
5 precipitation.

6 **Q: Where does the weather data come from?**

7 A: The source of the weather data is from the Kansas State University Research &
8 Extension service. Both HDD's and CDD's are measured at the Hays Municipal
9 weather station – an Automated Surface Observation Station (“ASOS”) of the
10 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”). The precipitation
11 data utilized is from the Great Bend station – likewise an ASOS of NOAA.

12 **Q: Please explain why temperature data was measured at the Hays weather station.**

13 A: Ideally, the best weather station data to use is that which most closely resembles the
14 actual weather experienced by all customers. Midwest Energy's service territory
15 encompasses a very large geographic area that may experience greatly different
16 weather in one location compared to another. Theoretically, matching weather
17 stations within the Midwest Energy service area to sales in the same area would do a
18 better job of explaining heating and cooling related usage variation than just the Hays
19 station. Unfortunately, to use multiple weather stations, one must have some idea of
20 how much consumption is most closely influenced by the weather measured at that
21 station. In other words, usage data needs to be matched geographically to each
22 weather station utilized. Midwest does not have usage information readily available

1 on a geographic basis. The Hays weather data was utilized because it is the location
2 of the highest concentration of customers (residential primarily) whose usage is
3 sensitive to temperature variation. In short, from both an intuitive and statistically
4 measured standpoint, the Hays weather data works very well in measuring usage
5 variation due to temperature. Further, since we are measuring the marginal impact of
6 weather, it seems reasonable to assume that the changes (as measured by the
7 deviations from normal) in the HDD's and CDD's in Hays are likely to be consistent
8 with other parts of the service area even though the absolute measures differ.

9 **Q: Please explain the calculation of the HDD and CDD weather metrics.**

10 A: HDD's are the measure of how cold a day is. They are calculated by subtracting the
11 average of the daily high and low temperatures as measured at the weather station
12 from 65 degrees – the base temperature. The higher the number of HDD's the colder
13 the day and presumably the higher the consumption of electricity for heating or any
14 other purpose sensitive to cold. CDD's are the measure of how hot a day is. They are
15 calculated by subtracting 75 degrees – the base temperature – from the average of the
16 daily high and low temperature.

17 **Q: Why use the base temperature of 75 degrees in the calculation of CDD's?**

18 A: Some energy forecasters use 65 degrees as the base for both HDD and CDD
19 calculation. However, in less humid areas like western Kansas, energy consumption
20 by CDD-influenced uses (like air conditioning) does not begin to increase at as low an
21 average temperature as it would in an area where humidity is higher. Therefore,
22 intuitively it makes more sense to use the higher base temperature. For electricity

1 consumption on the M System, Residential and Commercial customers are sensitive
2 to warm weather as measured by CDD's. On the W System, Residential and
3 Commercial Classes and Irrigation customers are all sensitive to weather as measured
4 by CDD's.

5 **Q: Please explain why the Great Bend weather station was utilized for precipitation**
6 **data.**

7 A: Precipitation – particularly during certain months of the year – influences electricity
8 consumption for the M System Irrigation classes of customers. Like all other classes
9 of customers, Midwest Energy does not have readily available data on the irrigation
10 class to say geographically where the best weather station location is to determine
11 sensitivity. However, it is known that a significant portion of electric irrigation load
12 served by Midwest is near Great Bend. To a lesser degree, customers near Colby also
13 utilize electricity for irrigation purposes – though not as much as around Great Bend.
14 Intuitively then, it makes sense to utilize Great Bend precipitation data.

15 **Q: Were other weather stations considered for precipitation data?**

16 A: Yes. Hays and Colby precipitation data were also considered. Neither station was
17 effective at helping to explain variation in consumption for the irrigation classes
18 based on the results of the statistical analysis.

19 **Q: How was the precipitation data utilized to explain changes in usage?**

20 A: First, the monthly precipitation for Great Bend was gathered. Then, the normal
21 monthly precipitation was subtracted to determine the average variance from normal
22 precipitation. The data was lagged one month to create a better match between billing

1 cycle sales volumes and calendar month precipitation data. And finally – since
2 precipitation influences electricity usage by the irrigation classes very little in months
3 when watering is not normally done – actual precipitation data was ignored in those
4 months.

5 **Q: Please explain how the usage sensitivity to weather is determined.**

6 A: Regression analysis is used to determine the statistical relationship between the
7 weather variables (the independent variables in the regression equation) and the
8 quantity of electricity demanded (the dependent variable).

9 **Q: Please explain how regression analysis works and how it was used in this**
10 **proceeding.**

11 A: Regression analysis seeks to explain whether changes in one or more variables
12 (independent variables) can explain variation in another variable (dependent variable).
13 In this case the dependent variable is the monthly consumption of electricity for each
14 class of customer. The independent variables are the weather metrics, HDD's, CDD's
15 and the precipitation variable. The use of regression determines the sensitivity of
16 electricity usage to changes in the weather.

17 The regression equation is:

$$18 \quad \text{Usage}_t = c + \beta_0(\text{HDD}_t) + \beta_1(\text{CDD}_t) + \beta_2(\text{Precip}_t) + \dots + \varepsilon$$

19 Where Usage_t is the monthly consumption of electricity for the class measured in
20 kWh per month. HDD_t , CDD_t and Precip_t are the total monthly HDD's, CDD's, and
21 variance from normal precipitation respectively. The c , β_0 , β_1 , and β_2 are the
22 regression coefficients. The $+\dots$ after the Precip variable signifies that there could be

1 other variables utilized to explain usage in the regression equation but for the
2 purposes of weather normalization they are not relevant. The constant term, c ,
3 indicates how much electricity would be consumed if the HDD's, CDD's, Precip and
4 any other variable in the regression equation were all zero. The Beta terms, β_0 , β_1 ,
5 and β_2 , are the sensitivity terms which measure how much consumption changes if
6 HDD's or CDD's increase by one degree day or if Precip increases by one inch. The
7 ε term at the end of the equation signifies the error in the regression model.

8 **Q: What estimation method was used to determine the Beta coefficients for the**
9 **weather variables?**

10 A: Ordinary Least Squares ("OLS") – a basic statistical technique - was utilized to
11 estimate the Beta coefficients.

12 **Q: Does OLS do a good job estimating sensitivity to weather?**

13 A: Overall, OLS does a very good job estimating the beta coefficients and determining
14 sensitivity to weather for those classes of customers that are sensitive to temperature
15 or precipitation. It has been utilized for this purpose in countless dockets for gas and
16 electric utilities both in Kansas and across the country.

17 **Q: Which customer classes had test year usage that was sensitive to weather?**

18 A: The Residential classes, Small Commercial and Industrial, Large Power, and Special
19 Contracts classes were influenced by weather as measured in HDD's. The
20 Residential, Commercial, Large Power, and Irrigation (W System) classes were
21 influenced by weather as measured by CDD's. And the Irrigation classes (M System)

1 were influenced by the weather as measured by Precip. It is interesting to note that a
2 meaningful relationship between W System Irrigation and Precip could not be
3 derived. This could be because of a relatively short period of time with which to
4 compare history with the Precip variable, or perhaps because the Great Bend weather
5 station is not an adequate measurement point for the precipitation data. With the
6 inclusion of CDD's in the W System Irrigation model, at least a weather-sensitive
7 model has been derived.

8 **Q: What were the results of the estimations?**

9 A: Estimation results are summarized in Exhibit __ (Volker-1).

10 **Q: Please explain what these numbers mean.**

11 A: The numbers in columns 1, 3, and 5 are the sensitivities of class usage to a unit
12 change in the independent (weather) variable. For example, for the M-System
13 Regular Residential class, an additional Heating Degree Day will mean an additional
14 2,620 kWh of electricity consumption. Likewise, for an additional Cooling Degree
15 Day, usage in the M System Small C&I will increase by 10,226 kWhs. Finally, for
16 one additional inch of rain (between May and October), Irrigation customer electricity
17 usage will decrease by 393,227 kWhs.

18 **Q: What is the T-Stat in columns 2, 4, and 6 of Exhibit __ (Volker-1)?**

19 A: The T Statistic is a measure of statistical significance. In other words, are we
20 confident that the actual values of the regression coefficient are significantly different
21 than zero. Or more directly – do the weather variables examined explain variation in
22 the dependent variable (usage)? A rule of thumb is that a regression coefficient is

1 statistically significant if the absolute value of its T Statistic is greater than two.

2 Obviously all the beta coefficients examined have T Statistics with absolute values
3 well over two.

4 **Q: Do your regression models provide a measure of the proportion of the variation**
5 **in the dependent variable explained by the independent variables?**

6 A: Yes. For each class the R square provides a measure of the proportion of the variation
7 in the dependent variable explained by the independent variables. The Adjusted R-
8 Square values are reported for each class in column 7 of Exhibit __ (Volker-1).

9 **Q: What is the total Weather normalization adjustment to sales volumes?**

10 A: Exhibit __ (Volker-2) shows how the weather sensitivities were combined with the
11 variance from normal weather to create a class-by-class adjustment to sales volumes.
12 The statistically derived sensitivities are simply multiplied by the test year difference
13 from normal for each of the weather variables to derive the sales volume adjustment
14 for each customer class.

15 **Q: What are the Weather Normalization Adjustments to Revenues and Energy**
16 **Supply costs?**

17 A: Exhibit __ (Volker-3) illustrates the calculation of the Weather Normalization
18 Adjustments to Revenue (Adjustment Number 2) and Weather Normalization
19 Adjustment to Energy Supply Costs (Adjustment Number 8). First, the normalization
20 to Margin Revenue (column 5) is calculated by multiplying the Weather
21 Normalization Volume Adjustment (column 3) times the Average Margin Rate
22 (column 4). The Average Margin Rate represents the unbundled volumetric rates for

1 the non-production components of Midwest Energy's rates for each customer class.
2 Next, the calculation of the Adjustment to Energy Supply Costs (Adjustment Number
3 8 – column 7) is calculated by multiplying the same volume adjustment (column 2)
4 times the Incremental Power Cost (column 6). The Adjustment to Energy Supply
5 Costs represents two things: the unbundled production component of Midwest
6 Energy's rates for each customer class and the amount of pass through (ECA) revenue
7 associated with the Normalization. Like all other components in the ECA, this
8 amount is an equivalent component in both Energy Supply Costs and Revenues. The
9 total Weather Normalization Revenue Adjustment (column 8) is the sum of the
10 Normalization to Margin Revenue (column 5) plus the Normalization to Energy
11 Supply Costs (column 7).

12
13 Annualizing the Oakley Acquisition

14 **Q: What is the next adjustment you are sponsoring?**

15 A: The next adjustment is to adjust revenues and energy supply costs to reflect a full year
16 of the Oakley system being part of the M System.

17 **Q: Why are you making this adjustment?**

18 A: Midwest Energy purchased the City of Oakley municipal electric system effective
19 December 1, 2006. Therefore, revenues and costs associated with operation of the
20 Oakley system are only partially reflected in the test year. This adjustment will ensure
21 that revenues and energy supply costs are not understated in the adjusted test year due
22 to the partial year inclusion of Oakley operations in booked values.

1 **Q: Explain how sales volumes were adjusted to reflect a full year of the Oakley**

2 **system as part of the M System.**

3 **A:** Midwest Energy obtained historical monthly sales data from the City of Oakley while

4 analyzing the system prior to the acquisition. Column 3 of Section 9, Schedule 8 is

5 the most recent actual sales volume available by customer class as booked by the City

6 of Oakley for the months of July through November. This is the annualization

7 adjustment to sales volumes.

8 **Q: Explain the calculation of the Oakley Revenue and Energy Supply Adjustments.**

9 **A:** These Adjustments are calculated in a manner similar to the Weather Normalization

10 Revenue and Energy Supply adjustments. The annualization adjustment made to

11 sales volumes (column 3) is first multiplied by the Average Margin Rate (column 4)

12 to give the dollar Adjustment to Margin Revenue (column 5). Then, the volume

13 adjustment is multiplied by the Incremental Purchased Power cost (column 6) to give

14 the increase in Energy Supply Cost (pass-thru revenue from the ECA) in column (7).

15 This is the adjustment made to Energy Supply Costs reflecting the full year of Oakley

16 as part of the M System (Adjustment Number 9). Finally columns 5 and 7 are

17 summed in column (8) to reflect the combined Margin and Energy Supply (ECA) cost

18 pass-thru revenue. This is the total revenue adjustment to reflect full-year inclusion

19 of the former City of Oakley municipal system customers.

20 **Q: Are you making any other adjustments related to the Oakley acquisition?**

21 **A:** No. Company witness Tom Meis has addressed any other adjustments to test year

22 rate base or expenses (such as annualizing labor cost) for the Company as a whole

1 rather than specifically for the addition of the former City of Oakley municipal
2 system.

3

4 Removing Unregulated Power Sales from Revenue and Energy Supply Costs

5 **Q: What is the next adjustment you are sponsoring?**

6 A: The next adjustment is the Adjustment to Revenues Removing Unregulated Power
7 Sales (Adjustment Number 4) and the corresponding Adjustment to Energy Supply
8 Costs Removing Unregulated Power Sales (Adjustment Number 10). The purpose of
9 these adjustments is to remove the cost and revenues associated with unregulated
10 power sales to wholesale customers for retail cost of service purposes.

11 **Q: Please explain how this adjustment is made.**

12 A: Like the Annualization and the Weather Normalization adjustments, this adjustment
13 is reflected in both revenues and purchased power expenses. The adjustment to
14 revenues is straightforward. On line 1 (column 7) of Section 9, Schedule 9, revenues
15 associated with sales of electricity to wholesale customers are backed out of the test
16 year account 447 (Adjustment Number 4). The corresponding adjustment to
17 Purchased Power expense is done consistent with actual cost of power purchased on
18 behalf of wholesale customers and is equal to the cost of that power that was backed
19 out of the Company's monthly ECA filings during the test year. On row 27 of
20 Section 9, Schedule 9, annual capacity and energy charges backed out of the
21 Company's monthly ECA filings are summarized. Summed in row 27 column 4,

1 these are the total Adjustment to Energy Supply Costs (Adjustment Number 10)
2 associated with removing unregulated power sales to wholesale customers.

3

4 Adjustments to Revenue and Energy Supply Costs to Reflect New Purchased Power

5 Contracts (Adjustment Numbers 5, 11, and 14).

6 **Q: What are the next adjustments you are sponsoring?**

7 A: The next adjustments reflect the anticipated costs and corresponding pass-through
8 revenues associated with changes in purchased power agreements and with the
9 purchase of fuel for self generation – particularly for the GMEC.

10 **Q: Why are you making the adjustment for purchased power agreements instead of**
11 **just using the test year contracts?**

12 A: With the exception of one contract (P Contract), the Company's entire portfolio of
13 purchased power agreements terminates by May 31, of 2008. New agreements are
14 already in place for some of the purchased power requirements, but negotiations are
15 ongoing.

16 **Q: Explain the calculation of Adjustment Number 11 on Section 9, Schedule 10.**

17 A: First, purchased power costs (Account 555) are adjusted. Test year sales volumes are
18 normalized on Section 9, Schedule 11. This Schedule takes into account the test year
19 energy sales and all the pro forma adjustments to sales to yield adjusted sales volumes
20 by class. Next, the normalized sales volume (kWh) and capacity (kW) are allocated
21 to the source – contract or self generation – that will supply it. Normalized sales
22 volume and capacity allocations and their anticipated per unit costs by contract are

1 provided in Confidential Exhibit_(Volker-4). Next, a comparison is made between
2 the test year dollars spent by purchased power contract and the projected dollars from
3 new contracts to meet the energy and capacity requirements. This comparison is
4 made on Section 9, Schedule 5. On column 8 of this Schedule, the difference
5 between booked purchased power and projected purchased power costs is calculated.
6 This difference is Adjustment Number 11, the Adjustment to Purchased Power Costs
7 Associated with New Purchased Power Contracts, and is shown as allocated to each
8 rate class on column 3 of Section 9, Schedule 10.

9 **Q: What about changes in fuel cost for self generation?**

10 A: In addition to purchased power costs, Midwest Energy flows through costs of fuel
11 utilized in Company-owned generation facilities to its ECA mechanism. With the
12 anticipated completion of the GMEC, purchased power will be offset by a
13 considerable amount of generation from the GMEC. The fuel costs associated with a
14 full year's operation of GMEC is Adjustment Number 14 and has been calculated on
15 Exhibit_(Volker-5).

16 **Q: What are the pass-through revenue adjustments?**

17 A: Since both the purchased power adjustment for new contracts (Number 11) and fuel
18 cost (Number 14) flow directly through to consumers via the ECA mechanism, any
19 adjustment made to costs should also be made to revenues. Therefore, Adjustment
20 Number 5, the adjustment to ECA pass-through revenue associated with new
21 purchased power contracts and fuel for the GMEC, is a revenue adjustment that is

1 simply the sum of energy supply cost Adjustment Numbers 11 and 14. These
2 adjustments are summarized on Section 9, Schedule 10 on column 5.

3

4 Miscellaneous Revenue Adjustments (Adjustment Number 6)

5 **Q: Please explain Revenue Adjustment Number 6, Miscellaneous.**

6 A: Midwest has two Incidental Service rates, Non-Domestic Annual Service and
7 Incidental Irrigation Service for Irrigation customers. In both cases, meters are only
8 read and billed annually. For billing purposes, annual customer charge revenue for
9 both these rate classes have been booked to only the Non-Domestic Annual Service
10 rate class during the test year. The adjustment is not a change in revenue but rather a
11 shift for that portion of the customer charge revenue that should have been booked to
12 the Incidental Irrigation class. This adjustment is illustrated on lines 2 and 7 of
13 column 6, in Section 9, Schedule 4.

14 **Q: Is there another Miscellaneous adjustment to Revenue?**

15 A: Yes. On line 21, column 6 of the same schedule, revenues are increased to remove
16 the unbilled revenues from the test year.

17 **Q: Is there an Adjustment Number 13?**

18 A: No.

19

20 SECTION 12 – ALLOCATION FACTORS

21 **Q: Please briefly describe the cost of service (“COS”) model and allocation factors**
22 **in Section 12 of this application.**

1 A: The Cost of Service Model is a proprietary software model developed for use in this
2 filing. The model fully supports functionally unbundled rate designs and uses
3 available Company cost data to develop the unbundled cost by specific function. By
4 functionally unbundled, I mean the complete separation of costs into functional
5 components. Midwest Energy has defined its functional components as: Production,
6 External Transmission, Generation, MWE Transmission, Primary Distribution,
7 Secondary Distribution, and Onsite.

8 **Q: Please define each of those functions.**

9 A: The Production function refers to generation capacity and energy from non-Company
10 resources. External Transmission refers to non-Company owned transmission
11 expenses. Generation refers to Company owned generating facilities, including the
12 new Goodman Energy Center. MWE Transmission refers to the Company owned
13 Transmission system. Primary and Secondary Distribution functions refer to those
14 portions of the Company's Distribution system. Finally, Onsite refers to customer-
15 specific related items such as meters, billing systems, and services.

16 **Q: Please explain how the cost of service model works.**

17 A: The COS model follows the traditional three-step process: functionalization,
18 classification, and allocation. First, all inputs (rate base, expenses, and revenues) are
19 divided into the functional components noted above. Unlike traditional models, the
20 COS model does not depend solely on FERC account codes to functionalize inputs.
21 Instead, the model functionalizes the appropriate account items through the use of
22 allocation factors derived from more detailed information. Once functionalized, items

1 are classified into demand, energy, or customer components. Finally, the classified
2 components are then allocated to customer rate classes based on the cost causing
3 characteristics of each customer class.

4 **Q: What are the advantages of a functionally unbundled cost of service model?**

5 A: For Midwest Energy, this allows for a better separation into the basic components of
6 rates – Energy Supply, Local Generation, Transmission, and Distribution. The
7 Energy Supply component is the cost of securing power for retail customers. Energy
8 Supply is either purchased power costs or the cost of fuel to run Company-owned
9 generation that are passed through directly to customers. This means that on a
10 monthly basis an adjustment is made to rates via the ECA filings for changes in the
11 cost of Energy Supply. The ECA ensures complete recovery (or pass through) of
12 prudently incurred Energy Supply costs by having a true-up mechanism for over or
13 under recovery of these costs. Unlike Energy Supply costs, the other unbundled
14 portions of rates are only adjusted up or down during a general or base rate case such
15 as this proceeding. Midwest Energy last implemented a change to base rates with a
16 small rate increase in February of 2003 (less than 1 percent) which followed a small
17 decrease in July 2000 after the original unbundling of base rates in Docket 99-
18 MDWE-272-RTS. For practical purposes, base rates are at the same level they were
19 in 1989 for the M System. W System base rates have not changed since Midwest
20 Energy acquired the system in 2003. Since the nature of costs compared to the way
21 they are recovered through rates is very different, it is very important to unbundle
22 rates carefully.

1

2 Functionalization Allocation Factors

3 **Q: How are components of the COS allocated to each function?**

4 A: Functionalization is the process of assigning portions of rate base, revenues and
5 expenses to the seven functional components; Production, External Transmission,
6 Local Generation, MWE Transmission, Primary Distribution, Secondary Distribution,
7 and Onsite. Approximately 40 allocation factors have been derived either exogenous
8 to the COS model or within the model itself. The functional allocators are listed in
9 Section 12 Schedule 6 with the percent of the allocation to each of the seven
10 functions.

11 **Q: How are the functionalized components classified?**

12 A: Classification is the process of further breaking down functionalized components into
13 demand, energy, or customer classifications. Approximately 70 classification
14 allocators have been derived either exogenous to the COS model or within it. The
15 classification allocators are listed in Section 12, Schedule 7 with a brief description
16 and the percent allocation to each of the three classifications.

17 **Q: After rate base, expense, and revenue data have been functionalized and
18 classified, how are they allocated to customer classes?**

19 A: Class allocation is the process of allocating classified components to rate classes.
20 Approximately 350 customer class allocators have been derived either exogenous to
21 the COS model or within it. The classification allocators are listed in Section 12,
22 Schedule 8.

1 In addition, in Section 12, Schedule 9, is a map that summarizes the complete
2 functionalization, classification, and class allocation factors line by line through the
3 COS study. The map is organized with the amount to be allocated, and the functional
4 allocator on each page. For each function, the classification allocators are listed. And
5 finally, for each classification in each function, the customer class allocators are
6 listed.

7

8 SECTION 15 – COST OF SERVICE

9 **Q: Please summarize the results of the COS study.**

10 A: The third and final phase of the COS model – the class allocation phase – is
11 summarized in Section 15, Schedule 1. This schedule shows for each rate class, the
12 line by line results of the pro forma COS study including detailed rate base items,
13 expenses, revenues, net income, and rate of return (ROR) at current rates.

14 **Q: Please explain Schedules 2 and 3 of Section 15.**

15 A: Schedule 2 of Section 15 summarizes the results of the functional unbundling in this
16 model. In this Schedule is shown the rate base, expenses and revenue requirement by
17 each of the seven functions: Production, External Transmission, Local Generation,
18 MWE Transmission, Primary Distribution, Secondary Distribution, and Onsite.
19 Schedule 3 of Section 15 provides the Unit Costs by unbundled revenue function for
20 each rate class. Schedule 3 is particularly useful when different regulatory
21 mechanisms are used to adjust the rates in each function. For example, the unit costs
22 of Production and External Generation are reflected in the embedded power costs in

1 rates and are recovered via the ECA mechanism. Since the Company has proposed a
2 Formula Transmission Rate and Rider, the unit costs for the unbundled transmission
3 function are consistent with the template used to derive the transmission revenue
4 requirement for the formula rate.

5 The overall revenue requirement by customer class is summarized on line 30 of
6 Section 15, Schedule 2.

7 Designed Rates and Revenues

8 **Q: Are these the Rate Class Revenue Requirements the Company is proposing for**
9 **each rate class?**

10 A: No they are not. The COS study with equalized RORs is a starting point on how the
11 Company should meet its total revenue requirements, but there are a number of
12 reasons to vary the ROR for each rate class. These include:

- 13 1) Different risks associated with serving different classes of customers;
- 14 2) Competitive issues;
- 15 3) Mitigating rate change impacts;
- 16 4) Administrative simplicity; and
- 17 5) Social policy.

18 These issues have been taken into account when designing proposed rates.

19 Further, for reasons discussed in the testimony of Company witness Earnie Lehman, I
20 am not proposing W System rates at this time.

21 **Q: Please discuss Midwest Energy's rate design objectives.**

22 A: Midwest Energy has designed rates to meet a number of objectives:

- 1 1) The designs must provide enough revenue to allow the company to meet the
- 2 Company's revenue requirement as derived in the COS model;
- 3 2) The designs should move toward the class COS results;
- 4 a. Fixed charges should ultimately be at least 75 percent of the COS fixed
- 5 charge, however as an intermediate step in this proceeding we used a 60
- 6 percent target.
- 7 b. Class ROR should be closer to the System ROR than previous rates.
- 8 c. Avoid negative class RORs.
- 9 d. Practice gradualism when moving rates toward COS results.
- 10 3) The designs should simplify administration by combining rates classes where
- 11 practical; and,
- 12 4) Impacts on classes should be minimized where possible.

13 **Q: Do the recommended rate designs meet all of the Company's objectives?**

14 A: No. Achievement of one objective can compromise the achievement of others. For
15 example, it may be impossible to achieve a positive rate of return and not severely
16 impact a rate class due to the magnitude of the increase required.

17 **Q: Do the recommended rate designs provide enough revenue to meet the System**
18 **revenue requirement?**

19 A: Yes. However, it must be noted that the rates for the M System were not designed in
20 a vacuum. While new W System rates are not proposed here, W System rates have
21 been designed that, taken together with the M System rates proposed, meet the overall
22 retail Revenue Requirement of the Company. Section 15, Schedule 4, illustrates the

1 total proposed functional rates for the M System retail customers and those designed
2 for the W System pending the Commission decision in the accounting order request
3 (Docket 08-MDWE-180-ACT). Designed rates in Section 15, Schedule 4 yield
4 revenues within a few dollars of matching the COS based revenue requirement. The
5 total designed revenue is shown in column 1 on line 47 of Schedule 4. Comparing
6 this with line 326 from Schedule 1 (the COS summary output) shows that the
7 designed rates yield revenues that match the COS revenue requirement.

8 **Q: Please discuss how the rate designs bring rates closer to the second rate design**
9 **objective – moving closer to the COS results.**

10 A: Rates are brought closer to the COS in three ways: First, rates are designed with
11 customer charges that have been increased for a number of classes – especially those
12 that do not have a demand component to their rates. This results in a higher portion
13 of fixed costs to be covered by fixed charges and moves rates directionally toward the
14 COS results. Second, RORs are increasing for each class that are below the System
15 required ROR. Finally, with only a few exceptions, the rate designs yield a positive
16 ROR for all classes. The proposed Incidental Irrigation rate yields a negative ROR
17 despite an increase that is over double the system average percent increase. I believe
18 that further increasing the proposed rates would be overly burdensome to this class.
19 In addition, the rates designed for the W System Irrigation class yield a negative ROR
20 for the irrigation class. Again, the proposed increase is over double the system
21 average percent increase.

1 The proposed or designed ROR's for each class of customer are shown on line 51 of
2 Section 15, Schedule 2. The current ROR's by class are shown on line 305 of Section
3 15, Schedule 1. Under current rates, twelve rate classes are yielding negative RORs.
4 While the RORs under designed or proposed rates are moving in the right direction
5 with no need for additional explanation, the objective to recover a higher percentage
6 of fixed costs through fixed charges does. Even under proposed rates, the Company
7 is not close to meeting its desire to cover at least 75 percent of its fixed costs through
8 fixed charges. The proposed rates are merely a step in the right direction. A large
9 portion of utility service expenses are not sensitive to changes in volume, but rather
10 are fixed in nature. Yet by far the majority of utility service revenue is based on
11 volume. From a utility standpoint, this leaves an excessive portion of the revenue
12 subject to seasonal usage and weather. From a customer perspective – particularly a
13 residential customer – it makes bills in high consumption months even higher than
14 they should be. From an economic standpoint, this leads to inefficient consumption
15 decisions because of poor price signals. It is becoming more important to send the
16 appropriate price signal as new technologies such as Distributed Generation (DG) that
17 may enhance or even replace the distribution system become viable. The economic
18 decision by a customer or the utility to install DG will look at the incremental costs
19 and benefits. To include recovery of fixed costs on the basis of volume will likely
20 inflate the incremental benefit of the investment in DG by the customer. A poor
21 economic decision may result.

1 Section 15, Schedule 3, provides the unit cost of service based on the COS study
2 results. Note that on line 46 of this schedule, the total Customer classified costs in
3 dollars per meter per month are well below the proposed or designed customer
4 charges for most classes of customers. Again, the proposed or designed rates go in
5 the right direction since customer charge revenue would increase by a greater
6 percentage than the overall revenue requirement.

7 **Q: Please explain why there are no proposed rate changes under Section 15,**
8 **Schedule 4 for either the Lighting or Special Contract Classes.**

9 A: The Special Contracts rate class has rates that are fixed by contract, subject to
10 Commission approval, and therefore Midwest is not proposing any rate changes to
11 this class. Since each contract is different, it is not possible to show the unbundled
12 components as a class. However, assuming a normal year, the total revenue from the
13 class will be the same as the test year. Since the ROR achieved by this class is
14 slightly greater than the requested ROR for the system (see line 51 of Section 15,
15 Schedule 4), requested revenues from other classes have been reduced. Small
16 Customers are not subsidizing special contract Customers.

17 Similarly, for the Lighting Class, Midwest Energy is not proposing any changes to
18 existing rates. Lighting service is more of an end use product that most customers
19 have deliberately chosen to buy on a bundled basis. Functionally, this COS study
20 does not unbundle end uses. This does not mean that overall costs have not been
21 allocated appropriately to this class but rather changes to the rates required to recover
22 the costs requires a different type of analysis than has been conducted here. Again, the

1 ROR for Lighting is well above the requested overall system ROR – thereby reducing
2 required revenues from other classes. However, costs have changed between lighting
3 system components in recent years. Further, environmental issues have made the
4 availability of some types of lighting problematic. These issues need to be addressed
5 – but not in the context of a general rate proceeding since the Lighting class is
6 exceeding its overall revenue requirement. The Company must conduct a more
7 detailed study of this class before making any recommendations for changes to rates.
8 At this time, the Company will evaluate the current lighting offerings, update pricing
9 of existing offerings to be more reflective of current costs, update offerings to reflect
10 new technologies, cancel offerings that are no longer viable due to environmental
11 concerns or technological obsolescence, and assess the overall impacts on revenues.
12 If the study suggests a need to change the rates, the Midwest Energy will make a
13 recommendation at that time.

14 **Q: Have you proposed any new rates for the M System?**

15 **A:** Yes. I have split the General Service Large (“GSL”) rate class into two rate classes.
16 Currently, the GSL rate schedule includes any General Service customers with a peak
17 demand in the billing month of July, August or September of greater than 30 kW up
18 to as much as several megawatts. It has become apparent that there are considerable
19 differences in cost causation characteristics between customers so dramatically
20 different in size. As a way to more equitably recover costs as caused by different
21 customers, Midwest Energy proposes to create a new intermediate class of customers
22 on its M System, General Service Medium (“GSM”).

1 **Q: Please describe the GSM rate class.**

2 A: The GSM rate class will be comprised of customers with a summer peak demand
3 between 30kW and 200kW. This class will apply to most customers formerly under
4 the GSL rate schedule. Approximately 600 of the 670 customers currently under the
5 GSL schedule will migrate to GSM. The GSL rate schedule will now apply to
6 General Service customers with a peak summer demand of greater than 200kW –
7 approximately 70 customers.

8 **Q: Will customers migrating to the new GSM rate class be subject to a high rate
9 increase?**

10 A: No. Although the proposed increase in revenue for the GSM class is higher than for
11 the GSL class, the proposed GSM rate increase is still less than the average for all M
12 System customers.

13 **Q: Why did you set the division between GSM and GSL at 200 kW (summer peak)?**

14 A: The 200 kW summer peak seems to be a somewhat natural division between medium
15 and large customers. To illustrate: of the almost 600 customers that would migrate to
16 the GSM rate class, less than 20 had a summer peak greater than 150kW and 500 had
17 a peak less than 100kW. Further, this division is also consistent with the Large Power
18 rate under existing rates on the W System. Therefore, from an administrative
19 standpoint, the 200kW break point from Medium to Large General Service is
20 attractive.

21 **Q: Are you proposing Time of Day or Electric Space Heating rate options for the
22 GSM class as currently exist for the GSL class?**

1 A: No. There are so few customers on those rates (approximately 41 total) that it doesn't
2 make much sense administratively to design separate optional rates. However, for
3 customers electing to utilize these optional rates, there will not be a 200 kW division
4 between small and large. The same optional rates will apply to General Service
5 customers with a summer peak greater than 30kW even if they have a summer peak
6 greater than 200kW.

7 **Q: Will some customers on General Service Small move up to the new General**
8 **Service Medium Rate?**

9 A: Possibly. I have clarified the size of customer that may be considered a General
10 Service Small ("GSS") customer. Customers may not have a demand greater than
11 100 kW in non-summer months and remain in the GSS class. Similarly, the
12 maximum demand allowed in the GSM class is 300 kW even in the non-summer
13 months. In this way, the general service classes have been better defined based on
14 customer peak demand characteristics.

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SECTION 17

18 **Q: Please explain the schedules in Section 17.**

19 A: Section 17, Schedule 1 examines kWh sales volume and revenues as booked in the
20 test year, as adjusted, and as proposed for all rate classes. Revenue is separated into
21 base rate revenue and revenue attributable to the Energy Cost Adjustment. Schedule

1 2 presents adjusted revenues and proposed M System revenues, average customers,
2 per unit costs, and nominal and percent increases by customer class.

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SECTION 18

5 **Q: Please discuss the tariff changes you are sponsoring in Section 18.**

6 A: I am sponsoring the changes to the Master Tariff that are reflective of the proposed
7 rate design for M System rates in Section 15, Schedule 4. As previously mentioned, I
8 am sponsoring the new General Service Medium (GSM) tariff, and changes to the
9 General Service Large (GSL), GSL Time of Day, and General Service Heating tariffs.
10 I am sponsoring the new Transmission Service Charge Adjustment Rider sheets as
11 described later in my testimony and by Company witness Overcast. I am sponsoring
12 changes to rebase the M System in the Energy Cost Adjustment tariff. As will be
13 discussed at the end of my testimony, I am sponsoring the GMEC Phase-In Discount
14 Rider that will adjust M System rates from complete integration of GMEC to that
15 reflective of the first phase (six units). Finally, I am sponsoring all changes to the
16 Table of Contents tariff to reflect the previous changes.

17 **Q: Please discuss the Transmission Service Charge Adjustment Rider**

18 A: Pursuant to K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-1237(b)(2), the Company is seeking approval of an
19 initial Transmission Delivery Charge (“TDC”) and a mechanism to adjust this charge
20 through a formula. The Company refers to this TDC as its Transmission Service
21 Charge (“TSC”) – which is the Company’s unbundled retail transmission rate by
22 customer class. Company witness Overcast has sponsored the Formula Rate

1 Template utilized to calculate the Annual Transmission Revenue Requirement
2 (“ATRR”). The Template updating the ATTR is attached as Annex 1 to the tariff and
3 the Protocols to be followed in filing the Template are attached as Annex 2 to the
4 tariff.

5 **Q: Please explain what the TSCA tariff does.**

6 A: The Transmission Service Charge Adjustment Rider (“TSCA”) completes three tasks.
7 First, TSCA calculates the Retail Annual Transmission Revenue Requirement
8 (“RATRR”) for the test year in this Docket. The ATRR developed in the Formula
9 Rate Template is reduced by revenues received from non-native load usage of the
10 transmission system. In the test year, the ATRR for the Company was \$5,461,536.
11 The retail share of the ATRR was \$3,429,801 (RATRR).

12 **Q: Please explain the second task completed by the TSCA.**

13 A: The second task is the calculation of the Transmission Service Charge in the test year
14 for each rate class. Once the RATRR is calculated, it is allocated to the retail
15 customer classes via the 12CP allocator. The percent of retail allocation allotted to
16 each rate class is shown in Column 2 of the table under the “Calculation of the
17 Transmission Service Charge”. The result is the transmission revenue requirement
18 for each rate class. Dividing the class transmission revenue requirement by the
19 normalized test year kWh sales (Column 3) yields the Transmission Service Charge
20 by rate class (Column 4). On the last row of the table, the average retail Transmission
21 Service Charge for the test year is calculated by dividing the full RATRR by the
22 adjusted test year retail sales, \$0.002876/kWh.

1 **Q: Please explain the final task completed by the TSCA.**

2 A: After establishing the total retail and individual class Transmission Service Charges
3 for the test year, the basis is established to adjust the rate in future years. The third
4 task of the TSCA is to provide a mechanism to adjust the Transmission Service
5 Charges by retail customer class. The mechanism is driven by the Formula
6 Transmission Template (Annex 1) with the data in the Company's FERC Form 1. As
7 the ATRR is recalculated, so is the retail share (RATRR), and a new average retail
8 Transmission Service Charge. If the average retail Transmission Service Charge is
9 different than that established in the test year (\$0.002876), then the adjustment to each
10 rate class for the subsequent year is a change equal to the difference between the new
11 calculation of the average retail Transmission Service Charge and that established in
12 the test year.

13 **Q: Does the TSCA ensure that the RATRR is neither over nor under recovered?**

14 A: Yes. The Company will track its recovery of transmission system costs via its
15 Transmission Service Charges. Total recovery of the prior year transmission revenue
16 requirement will be compared to the prior year revenue recovery. Over or under
17 recoveries of the RATRR – including those caused by FERC adjustments to the
18 formula calculated ATRR - will act as an increase or decrease to the succeeding
19 year's RATRR. In this way Transmission Service Charges are increased or decreased
20 in the next year to reflect deviation from the revenue requirement each year.

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COMMENTS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

3

Q: Please comment on Midwest Energy's increasing efforts regarding energy efficiency.

4

5

A: Midwest Energy is embracing a more aggressive approach to implementing cost effective energy efficiency services on behalf of its customers. In order to embark in this new direction, a considerable amount of effort has been devoted to determine the areas of greatest potential. To start, Midwest Energy engaged the services of the Applied Energy Group (AEG) to complete a study of energy efficiency in Midwest Energy's service area. The purpose of this study was to determine the Technical, Economic, and Market (Achievable) Potential for energy conservation. In particular, the study looked at potential by class of customer and by end-use.

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Q: What were the results?

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A: With aggressive conservation efforts, Midwest Energy could save approximately 40,000 MWh per year (about 2.8 percent of its annual sales volumes). The greatest potential for savings is in the small commercial and residential classes. Electricity end-uses with the greatest potential are lighting and space conditioning.

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Q: Is Midwest Energy utilizing this information to develop new energy efficiency programs?

19

20

A: Yes. Midwest Energy is already recognized as a leader in promoting energy efficiency to our customer-owners. But, as costs rise and the ability to acquire cost effective capacity resources declines, the Company believes it must increase efforts in

21

22

1 this area. Midwest Energy has engaged the firm Market Development Group to assist
2 the Company in writing business plans to expand existing programs or develop new
3 programs.

4 **Q: What about the How\$martSM program?**

5 A: Midwest Energy has developed an innovative program with assistance from Staff,
6 CURB, and approval and encouragement from the Commission. The purpose of
7 How\$martSM is to remove market barriers from cost effective investments in energy
8 efficiency. One of the business plans currently being written addresses the expansion
9 of the How\$martSM program beyond the four county pilot program that currently
10 exists.

11 **Q: Are the costs of expanding the How\$martSM program or any other energy
12 efficiency programs included in the adjusted test year expenses?**

13 A: The Company has included as part of its pro forma adjustments to labor for an
14 additional employee and associated equipment as modest increases associated with
15 energy efficiency efforts. These adjustments are embedded in the Labor and
16 Common Plant adjustments sponsored by Company witness Tom Meis.

17

18 ADJUSTMENT FOR GMEC PHASE IN

19 **Q: What is the GMEC Phase-In Discount Rider?**

20 A: The rates designed and proposed in this study are based on costs associated with the
21 full implementation of the GMEC. The GMEC Phase-In Discount Rider (GPDR)
22 proportionally discounts M System rates to take into account the lower base rate

1 revenue requirement associated with only having the first six units (Phase 1) of
2 GMEC operational at the time rates take effect.

3 **Q: Please comment on the need for a phase-in adjustment for the GMEC.**

4 A: Midwest Energy would prefer to raise rates only once for all customers – M and W
5 Systems, as described in the testimony of Company witness Lehman. However, that
6 is not what is being proposed in this proceeding. Midwest Energy has filed this rate
7 increase for M System customers only pending the outcome of Docket 08-MDWE-
8 180-ACT. Given the need for timely rate relief upon commercial operation of the
9 GMEC, Midwest Energy is requesting a two part rate increase in this proceeding. The
10 first step of the increase will occur June 1, 2008, upon start-up of the first six units of
11 GMEC. The second step will occur about September 1, 2008, upon commercial
12 operation of the last three units of GMEC.

13 Because the timeframe between commercial operation of Phase 1 and Phase 2 is only
14 anticipated to be three months, and because it is Midwest Energy's preference to only
15 raise rates once (but do so for all retail customers), the Company has filed for revenue
16 requirements and cost of service treatment based on the fully integrated GMEC
17 (anticipated September 1, 2008). However, Company witness Tom Meis has made
18 changes to revenue requirement associated with the smaller rate base and lower non-
19 fuel Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses associated with the initial six units.
20 In addition, I have made adjustments to revenues and energy supply costs to reflect
21 changes to the pass through costs for fuel and purchased power. While annualized
22 fuel costs decrease, annualized purchased power costs increase more to replace the

1 capacity and energy that the last three units of GMEC provide. The changed cost for
2 purchased power is shown on Exhibit_(Volker-4) at lines 43 through 45. The cost of
3 fuel for Phase 1 only operation of GMEC is shown on Exhibit_(Volker 5) at line 14.
4 Given the changes to rate base, non-fuel O&M, and energy supply costs, I have run a
5 new COS study.

6 **Q: Why was it necessary to run a new COS study?**

7 A: The COS study allocates the expenses and rate base items of the revenue requirements
8 to the appropriate customer class. Since the proposed rate increase is for M System
9 retail customers only, it is important to determine the change in revenue requirements
10 for the M System retail customers only. Only through cost allocation – i.e. a COS
11 study – can that be determined.

12 **Q: What were the changes to overall revenue requirement?**

13 A: As shown of Exhibit_(Volker-6), annual Company revenue requirements dropped by
14 almost 1.1 million dollars when the Phase 2 units are removed. Running the COS
15 model utilizing the same allocation methods as in the full integration study (see
16 allocations in Section 12) yields a decrease in revenue requirements for M System
17 customers of almost 800 thousand dollars.

18 **Q: How will this lower revenue requirement be reflected in rates to M System
19 customers during the period between Phase 1 and full integration of the GMEC?**

20 A: The change in revenue requirement represented by the change from the full GMEC
21 integration to Phase 1 represents a decline in annual revenue requirement of 0.9740
22 percent. The GMEC Phase-In Discount Rider will apply a discount of 0.9740 percent

1 to all M System retail customers' electric utility bills (except special contract
2 customers) during the period of time between Phase 1 and full integration of the
3 GMEC.

4 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

5 A: Yes.

6

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
 TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
 WEATHER NORMALIZATION STATISTICAL ESTIMATION SUMMARY

Customer Class	HDD Sensitivity ²		CDD Sensitivity ¹		Precip Sensitivity ³		Adjusted R-Square (7)
	kWh/HDD (1)	T-Stat (2)	kWh/CDD (3)	T-Stat (4)	kWh/Inch (5)	T-Stat (6)	
M System Regular Residential	2,620	5.08	79,267	23.58			92.84%
All Electric Residential	846	34.07	1,971	13.67			95.17%
Small C&I (GSS)	551	3.09	10,226	9.01			64.38%
Small C&I (LGS)			4,268	3.44			88.66%
Large General Service (>1 MW)			2,345	9.24			72.33%
Special Contract Irrigation	656	4.95					80.60%
W System Regular Residential	1,054	4.11	21,383	12.81	-393,227	-2.72	98.14%
Peak Residential	284	22.75	1,131	11.82			85.28%
Small C&I Large			3,568	5.31			95.44%
Large Power Irrigation	792	3.79					87.09%
			7,031	6.77			54.16%
							95.59%
Total System	6,803		131,189		-393,227		

1. CDD Sensitivity defined - for an average daily temperature change of -1 degree farrenheit, energy usage changes by the listed amount.

2. HDD Sensitivity defined - for an average daily temperature change of +1 degree farrenheit, energy usage changes by the listed amount.

3. Precip Sensitivity defined - for an monthly increase of precipitation of 1 inch, energy usage changes by the listed amount.

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
WEATHER NORMALIZATION VOLUME ADJUSTMENT

Customer Class	HDD		HDD		CDD		CDD		Precipitation		Total Weather Normalization Volume Adj. (kWh) (3)+(6)+(9)=(10)
	Sensitivity kWh/HDD (1)	Abnormal HDD's (2)	Adjustment (kWh) (3)	Sensitivity kWh/CDD (4)	Abnormal CDD's (5)	Adjustment (kWh) (6)	Sensitivity kWh/Inch (7)	Abnormal Precip (8)	Precipitation Adjustment (kWh) (9)		
M System Residential	3,466	233.1	808,007	81,238	(83.5)	(6,780,643)		(4.5)		(5,972,636)	
Small C&I	551	233.1	128,478	14,494	(83.5)	(1,209,759)		(4.5)		(1,081,281)	
Large C&I		233.1		2,345	(83.5)	(195,715)		(4.5)		(195,715)	
Trans Level Service		233.1			(83.5)			(4.5)			
Oil Field		233.1			(83.5)			(4.5)			
Irrigation		233.1			(83.5)		-393,227	(4.5)	1,774,222	1,774,222	
Lighting		233.1			(83.5)			(4.5)			
Special Contracts	656	233.1	152,873		(83.5)			(4.5)		152,873	
Total M System	4,673		1,089,359	98,076		-8,186,117	-393,227		1,774,222	-5,322,536	
W System Residential	1,337	233.1	311,768	22,513	(83.5)	(1,879,103)		(4.5)		(1,567,336)	
Small C&I		233.1		3,568	(83.5)	(297,816)		(4.5)		(297,816)	
Public Schools		233.1			(83.5)			(4.5)			
Large C&I	792	233.1	184,721		(83.5)			(4.5)		184,721	
Oil Field		233.1			(83.5)			(4.5)			
Irrigation		233.1		7,031	(83.5)	(586,863)		(4.5)		(586,863)	
Lighting		233.1			(83.5)			(4.5)			
Total W System	2,130		496,489	33,112		(2,763,782)	0		0	-2,267,293	
Interdepartmental	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Total	6,803		1,585,848	131,189		(10,949,899)	(393,227)		1,774,222	(7,589,829)	

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
WEATHER NORMALIZATION REVENUE AND ENERGY SUPPLY COST ADJUSTMENT

	Booked Test Year Volume 6/30/2007 (1)	Total Weather Normalization Volume Adj. (kWh) (2)	Average Margin Rate (3)	Weather Adjustment to Margin Revenue (2)x(3)=(4)	Incremental Purchased Power (5)	Adjustment #8 Additional Purchased Power Cost/Revenue (2)x(5)=(6)	Adjustment #2 Total Weather Adj. to Revenue (4)+(6)=(7)
M System Residential	236,725,513	(5,972,636)	\$ 0.0236	\$ (140,877)	\$ 0.0500	\$ (298,632)	\$ (439,508)
Small C&I	236,758,831	(1,081,281)	0.0410	(44,318)	0.0500	(54,064)	(98,383)
Large C&I	21,089,700	(195,715)	0.0293	(5,732)	0.0500	(9,786)	(15,518)
Trans Level Service	34,150,816		0.0068		0.0500		
Oil Field	253,707,318		0.0212		0.0500		
Irrigation	50,653,060	1,774,222	0.0379	67,220	0.0500	88,711	155,931
Lighting	6,543,264		0.0410		0.0500		
Special Contracts	58,483,156	152,873	0.0100	1,529	0.0500	7,644	9,172
Resale	92,790,487						
Total M System	990,902,144	(5,322,536)		\$ (122,178.23)		\$ (266,126.79)	\$ (388,305.03)
W System Residential	70,753,186	(1,567,336)	\$ 0.0222	\$ (34,816.79)	\$ 0.0500	\$ (78,366.78)	\$ (113,184)
Small C&I	90,235,447	(297,816)	0.0140	-4,167	0.0500	(14,891)	(19,058)
Public Schools	5,137,003		0.0270		0.0500		
Large C&I	82,089,220	184,721	0.0143	2,640	0.0500	9,236	11,876
Oil Field	37,456,423		0.0140		0.0500		
Irrigation	9,121,619	(586,863)	0.0140	-8,211	0.0500	(29,343)	(37,554)
Lighting	3,726,521		0.0410		0.0500		
Resale	81,064,116						
Total W System	379,583,535	(2,267,293)		\$ (44,554)		\$ (113,365)	\$ (157,919)
Interdepartmental	102,104		\$ 0.0410		0.0500		
Total	1,370,587,783	(7,589,829)		\$ (166,733)		\$ (379,491)	\$ (546,224)

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC
ELECTRIC DEPT
TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
Allocation of Account 555

[1] ** CONFIDENTIAL **	[2] ** CONFIDENTIAL ** TYPE PURCHASE	[3] Capacity Provided	[4] Annual Capacity Charges	[5] Adjusted Energy Provided	[6] Adjusted Annual Energy Chrg	[7] Total Purchased Power
M SYSTEM						
1		125,000	\$9,969,996	316,564,808	\$5,944,653	\$15,914,649
2			328,633			328,633
3		1,500	41,817	2,900,000	47,276	89,093
4		3,300	29,850	0	0	29,850
5		0	0	57,817,095	2,601,769	2,601,769
6		67,000	10,251,000	586,920,000	10,271,100	20,522,100
7		30,000	1,800,000	2,628,000	210,240	2,010,240
8						
9						
10			42,015			42,015
11			355,042			355,042
12			260,117			260,117
13						0
14						0
15			507,508			507,508
16						
17						
18	Total M System Retail Account 555	226,800	\$23,585,979	966,829,903	\$19,075,038	\$42,661,017
19						
20						
21	W SYSTEM					
22						
23		4,000	\$162,000	0	0.00	\$162,000
24		33,000	5,049,000	289,080,000	5,058,900	10,107,900
25		20,000	1,200,000	7,015,180	561,214	1,761,214
26		0	0	18,832,905	847,481	847,481
27			124,967			124,967
28						
29						
30						
31			94,988		0	\$94,988
32						
33	Total W System Retail Account 555	57,000	\$6,630,955	314,928,085	\$6,467,595	\$13,098,550
34						
35	Total Company RETAIL Purchased Power Cost Total - Capacity	283,800	\$30,216,934	1,281,757,988	\$25,542,633	\$55,759,567
36	GMEC Energy and Capacity	75,600		52,980,480		
37		359,400		1,334,738,468		
38						
39	Check: Adjusted Retail Sales Vol.	1,192,795,771				
40	x Line Loss Factor	1.119				
41	Energy Required @ System Input	1,334,738,468				
42						
43	Replacement Power Costs - Phase 1 of GMEC Only	25,200	\$126,000	17,660,160	\$1,412,813	\$1,538,813
44	M System Allocation - 75.43%	19,008	\$95,042	13,321,059	\$1,065,685	\$1,160,726
45	W System Allocation - 24.57%	6,192	\$30,958	4,339,101	\$347,128	\$378,086

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC
ELECTRIC DEP'T
TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
Allocation of Account 555

	[1] ** CONFIDENTIAL **	[2] ** CONFIDENTIAL **	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
	M SYSTEM	TYPE PURCHASE	Capacity Provided	Annual Capacity Charges	Adjusted Energy Provided	Adjusted Annual Energy Chrg	Total Purchased Power
1			125,000	\$9,969,996	316,564,808	\$5,944,653	\$15,914,649
2				328,633			328,633
3			1,500	41,817	2,900,000	47,276	89,093
4			3,300	29,850	0	0	29,850
5			0	0	57,817,095	2,601,769	2,601,769
6			67,000	10,251,000	586,920,000	10,271,100	20,522,100
7			30,000	1,800,000	2,628,000	210,240	2,010,240
8							
9							
10				42,015			42,015
11				355,042			355,042
12				260,117			260,117
13							0
14							0
15				507,508			507,508
16							
17							
18	Total M System Retail Account 555		226,800	\$23,585,979	966,829,903	\$19,075,038	\$42,661,017
19							
20							
21	W SYSTEM						
22							
23			4,000	\$162,000	0	0.00	\$162,000
24			33,000	5,049,000	289,080,000	5,058,900	10,107,900
25			20,000	1,200,000	7,015,180	561,214	1,761,214
26			0	0	18,832,905	847,481	847,481
27				124,967			124,967
28							
29							
30							
31				94,988		0	\$94,988
32							
33	Total W System Retail Account 555		57,000	\$6,630,955	314,928,085	\$6,467,595	\$13,098,550
34							
35	Total Company RETAIL Purchased Power Cost Total - Capacity		283,800	\$30,216,934	1,281,757,988	\$25,542,633	\$55,759,567
36	GMEC Energy and Capacity		75,600		52,980,480		
37			359,400		1,334,738,468		
38							
39		Check: Adjusted Retail Sales Vol.	1,192,795,771				
40		x Line Loss Factor	1.119				
41		Energy Required @ System Input	1,334,738,468				
42							
43	Replacement Power Costs - Phase 1 of GMEC Only		25,200	\$126,000	17,660,160	\$1,412,813	\$1,538,813
44	M System Allocation - 75.43%		19,008	\$95,042	13,321,059	\$1,065,685	\$1,160,726
45	W System Allocation - 24.57%		6,192	\$30,958	4,339,101	\$347,128	\$378,086

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC
ELECTRIC DEP'T
TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
Fuel Cost Calculation - GMEC

1 Capacity	75,600 kW	
2 Heat Rate	8,500 Btu per kWh	
3 Hours of Operation	700.8 Hours (8%)	52,980,480 kWh generation - Full Integration
4		35,320,320 kWh generation - Phase 1 only
5		
6 MMBtu's of Gas	450,334 MMBtu's (from formula on row 8) - Full Integration	
7	300,223 MMBtu's (from formula on row 8) - Phase 1 only	
8		
9 (Capacity) x (Heat Rate) x (Hours of Operation) x (MMBtu/1 Million Btu) = MMBtu's of Gas		
10		
11 Fuel Price Estimate	\$7.00 per MMBtu (delivered)	
12		
13 Total Fuel Cost (5) x (10)	\$3,152,339 Full Integration	
14	\$2,101,559 Phase 1 only	
15		
16 Fuel Cost per kWh	\$0.0595	

MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
 TEST YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007
 REVENUE REQUIREMENTS CHANGE - PHASE 1 DISCOUNT

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Company</u>	<u>M System Retail</u>
1 <u>REVENUE REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS - Full Integration</u>		
2		
3 RATE OF RETURN by Function	7.5909%	7.5909%
4		
5 RATE BASE	238,295,582	179,651,730
6		
7 TOTAL EXPENSES	89,156,652	68,085,163
8 TARGET RETURN ON RATE BASE [3] x [5]	18,088,779	13,637,183
9		
10 TOTAL REVENUE REQUIREMENT [7] + [8]	107,245,431	81,722,346
11		
12		
13 <u>REVENUE REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS - Phase 1 Only</u>		
14		
15 RATE OF RETURN by Function	7.4990%	7.4990%
16		
17 RATE BASE	227,717,835	171,630,616
18		
19 TOTAL EXPENSES	89,112,980	68,055,814
20 TARGET RETURN ON RATE BASE [15] x [17]	17,076,560	12,870,580
21		
22 TOTAL REVENUE REQUIREMENT [19] + [20]	106,189,540	80,926,394
23		
24		
25 <u>CHANGE FROM FULL INTEGRATION TO PHASE 1 ONLY</u>		
26		
27 REVENUE REQUIREMENT - FULL INTEGRATION	107,245,431	81,722,346
28 REVENUE REQUIREMENT - PHASE 1 ONLY	106,189,540	80,926,394
29		
30 CHANGE IN REVENUE REQUIREMENT	(1,055,891)	(795,952)
31 % CHANGE IN REVENUE REQUIREMENT		-0.9740%
32		
33		
34 Percent Discount to be Applied to Full GMEC Integration Rates		-0.9740%