#### BEFORE THE KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Western	)
Cooperative Electric Association, Inc.	
Seeking Commission Approval to Update	) Docket No. 23-WSTE
Its Local Access Delivery Service Tariff	)
Pursuant to the 34.5kV Formula Based	
Rate Plan Approved in Docket No. 21-	
SEPE-049-TAR.	

#### PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

ELENA E. LARSON
MANAGER, RATES AND REGULATORY SERVICES
ECONOMICS, RATES, AND BUSINESS PLANNING
POWER SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC.

#### ON BEHALF OF

### WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

May 1, 2023

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#### **PART I - QUALIFICATIONS**

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# Q. Please state your name and business address.

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A. My name is Elena E. Larson. My business address is 6 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 350, Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112. Currently, I am working remotely in Kansas.

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# Q. What is your profession?

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A. I am a Manager of Rates and Regulatory Services in the Economics, Rates, and Business

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Planning Department at Power System Engineering, Inc. ("PSE"), which is headquartered

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at 1532 W. Broadway, Madison, Wisconsin 53713.

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#### Q. Please describe the business activities of PSE.

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A. PSE is a consulting firm serving electric utilities across the country, but primarily in the

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Midwest. Our headquarters is in Madison, Wisconsin with regional offices in Kansas; St. Paul,

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Minnesota; Marietta, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. PSE is involved

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in: power supply, transmission and distribution system planning; distribution, substation and

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transmission design; construction contracting and supervision; retail and wholesale rate and

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cost of service ("COS") studies; economic feasibility studies; merger and acquisition feasibility

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analysis; load forecasting; financial and operating consultation; telecommunication and

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network design, mapping/GIS; and system automation including Supervisory Control and Data

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Acquisition ("SCADA"), Demand Side Management ("DSM"), metering, and outage

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# Q. Please describe your responsibilities with PSE.

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A. I work on a team of staff that provides economic, financial, and rate-related consulting services

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to investor-owned, cooperative, and municipal utilities as well as regulators and industry

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associations. These services include:

management systems.

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#### Testimony of Elena E. Larson Page 2

- Cost of Service Studies.
- Capital Credit Allocations.
- Demand Response.
- Distributed Generation Rates.
- Energy Efficiency.
- Financial Forecasting.
- Large Power Contract Rates/Proposals.
- Line Extension Policies/Charges.
- Load Management Analysis.

- Market and Load Research.
- Merger Analysis.
- Pole Attachment Charges.
- Policy and Board Audits.
- Power Cost Adjustments.
- Rate Consolidation.
- Retail Rate Design and Analysis.
- Special Fees and Charges.
- Load Forecasting.

# Q. What is your educational background?

A. I graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. In 2008, I received my Masters of Business Administration ("MBA") degree from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

### Q. What is your professional background?

A. Prior to advancing to graduate degree studies in 2006, I worked as a computer programmer for a private corporation and taught mathematics. After graduating with an MBA in September 2008, I began my employment with the Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC" or "Commission") in Topeka, Kansas in July 2009 as an Energy Analyst in the Energy Operations Section of the Utilities Division. My work responsibilities at KCC at that time included monitoring and assessing various periodic compliance reports (e.g., Quality of Service and Electric Reliability); providing technical analysis on informal and formal electric and gas customer complaints; and assisting in writing the rules and regulations when mandated by the Kansas legislature. In January 2012, I assumed the position of Senior Utility Rate Analyst in the Economics and Rates Section of the Utilities Division of KCC. In that capacity, my responsibilities expanded to filing recommendations and/or testimony addressing utility applications for various tariff modifications, including change of retail and wholesale rates.

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In April 2013, I joined PSE, where I assumed a position of Rate and Financial Analyst in the Rates and Financial Planning Department. In January 2018, my title changed to Rate and Regulatory Consultant. In June 2018, I was promoted to Manager, Rates and Regulatory Services. In January of 2021, I left PSE for one year to work at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative as a Manager of Regulatory Services. In February 2022, I re-joined PSE in the same Position as when I left. In my current capacity, my responsibilities include directing rate studies consisting of determination of revenue requirements, cost of service ("COS"), and rate design; developing special rates and programs; and performing other financial analysis for various PSE clients. Additionally, I participate in the leadership of our department by heading PSE's Kansas office branch business development and helping develop strategy in the regulatory services area.

### Q. Have you previously presented testimony before the KCC?

A. Yes. I submitted testimony on behalf of KCC Staff in Docket Nos. 11-GBEE-624-COC, 11-MKEE-597-GIE, 12-WSEE-112-RTS, and 12-MKEE-380-RTS; on behalf of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Prairie Land") in Docket Nos. 15-PLCE-176-TAR, 17-PLCE-478-TAR, 18-PLCE-462-TAR, 19-PLCE-436-TAR, 20-PLCE-434-TAR, and 22-PLCE-496-TAR; on behalf of Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. ("Victory") in Docket Nos. 17-VICE-481-TAR, 18-VICE-479-TAR, 19-VICE-448-TAR, 20-VICE-473-TAR, and 22-VICE-498-TAR; on behalf of Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. ("Western") in Docket Nos. 17-WSTE-477-TAR, 18-WSTE-473-TAR, 19-WSTE-443-TAR, 20-WSTE-440-TAR, and 22-WSTE-497-TAR; on behalf of Midwest Energy in Docket No. 16-MDWE-324-TFR; and on behalf of Southern Pioneer Electric Company ("Southern Pioneer") in Docket No. 18-KPPE-343-COC and 20-SPEE-169-RTS.

In Docket No. 21-SEPE-049-TAR, I submitted testimony on behalf of Prairie Land, Western, and Victory.

and 16-SPEE-501-TAR.

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PART II - SUMMARY OF DIRECT TESTIMONY

I also helped prepare testimony on behalf of Southern Pioneer, Victory, Western, Prairie

Land, and Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC ("Mid-Kansas") in Docket Nos. 14-SPEE-

507-RTS, 15-SPEE-161-RTS, 15-SPEE-357-TAR, 15-SPEE-519-RTS, 16-MKEE-023-

TAR, 16-PLCE-490-TAR, 16-VICE-494-TAR, 16-WSTE-496-TAR, 16-SPEE-497-RTS,

Additionally, I authored Report and Recommendations on behalf of KCC Staff in

Docket Nos. 09-KGSG-927-COM, 10-BHCG-409-COM, 10-WSEE-507-TAR, 10-KGSG-

535-COM, 10-KGSG-644-COM, 10-MDWE-733-TAR, 11-KCPE-031-COM, 11-WSEE-

599-TAR, and 11-MDWE-763-TAR, as well as performed analysis filed with the

Applications on behalf of Mid-Kansas, Prairie Land, and Southern Pioneer in Docket Nos.

14-MKEE-084-TAR, 14-PLCE-312-TAR, 15-SPEE-267-TAR, 16-SPEE-306-TAR, 17-

SPEE-263-TAR, 18-SPEE-270-TAR, 19-SPEE-236-TAR, 20-SPEE-277-TAR, 21-SPEE-

A. I have attended several industry seminars/courses on cost of service, rate design, pricing,

distributed generation, financing transmission expansion, transmission cost allocation,

renewable power project siting, etc. I have also presented to the Cooperatives' Boards of

Directors and at industry events on the topics of Revenue Requirement, Cost of Service,

22 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

411-TAR, 22-SPEE-501-TAR, and 23-SPEE-552-TAR.

Q. Do you have any other relevant experience?

Rate Design, and Strategic Planning.

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A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application submitted in the instant Docket by Western for the approval of its 34.5kV Formula Based Rate ("FBR") Annual Update filing for

Year 2023 based on the Historical Test Year ending December 31, 2022.

Q. Are there particular Exhibits to Western's Application that you will be describing and explaining?

A. Yes. My testimony concerns, and is supported by, the following Exhibits to the Application in the instant docket:

Exhibit 5 - 34.5kV FBR Calculation for Test Year Exhibit 12 - Proposed Tariff Sheets Including Rate Adjustment

Q. Have the exhibits been prepared under your supervision?

A. Yes.

Q. Please briefly recap Western's 34.5kV FBR.

A. The 34.5kV FBR, as approved for Western by the Commission in Docket No. 21-SEPE-049-TAR ("21-049 Docket"), is a five-year ratemaking plan that provides a method for periodic adjustments to a demand rate assessed on the Cooperative's wholesale customers taking the Local Access Delivery Service ("LADS") over Western's 34.5kV sub-transmission facilities in its acquired Mid-Kansas division territory.

The details of the predetermined and agreed-upon calculations for the corresponding LADS rate adjustments are outlined in Section D of the Commission-approved Western's 34.5kV FBR Protocols ("Protocols"), included in the Commission Order Approving Unanimous Settlement Agreement as Attachment A3 to Exhibit A filed in the 21-049 Docket on April 15, 2021. The purpose of this formulaic ratemaking mechanism is to allow for timely adjustments to the aforementioned rate without incurring the substantial expense and/or experiencing regulatory lag typically associated with the preparation of a full rate case.

It should be noted that the Application in the 21-049 Docket represented a request for the continuation of the initial 34.5kV FBR five-year plans approved by the Commission on March 10, 2015 in Docket 16-MKEE-023-TAR ("16-023 Docket) for Western and three other member-cooperatives of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. In addition to the request to

continue the initial FBR plans for the next five years, the applicants in the 21-049 Docket also sought, and were granted, the limited modification and minor clarifications to the initial FBRs, such as simplifying the process by adopting a historical test year and eliminating debt service projections and clarifying some language in the Protocols. Parties also sought and received the approval of the update to the line loss factors for their respective LADS tariffs.

#### Q. What data formed the basis for Western's 2023 34.5kV FBR calculation?

- A. Consistent with the Protocols, the calculation was based upon a 2022 Historical Test Year. As such, it utilized historical figures from Western's (Mid-Kansas division) December 2022 Operating Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Payroll Journal, and 2022 Monthly Trial Balance.<sup>1</sup>
- Q. Were there any extraordinary adjustments made to the 2022 Historical Test Year data in this year's filing that are outside of the adjustments dictated by the Protocols?
- A. Yes. In Accordance with the Commission's Order issued on February 15, 2021 in Docket No. 21-GIMX-303-MIS, Western, in the same manner as in its prior year's 34.5kV FBR filing, excluded principal and interest attributable to debt the Cooperative took out to cover its extraordinary purchased power costs related to Storm Uri and amortized over 3 years.<sup>2</sup>
- Q. Please summarize the results of Western's 2023 34.5kV FBR calculation.
- A. Completing the 34.5kV FBR template calculation consistent with the Protocols approved by the Commission in the 21-049 Docket results in the Total Revenue Requirement of \$1,010,280. In accordance with Section D.4 of the Protocols, the resultant total dollar amount was divided

Included in Western's Application as part of Exhibits 4 (Year-End Comparative Operating Income Statements and Balance Sheets), 6 (Year-End Trial Balances), 7 (Year-End Payroll Journals), and 8 (Supplemental Schedules, which include 12-month average Trial Balance).

See Page 3, Part C of the Order. Exhibit 8 filed in the instant Docket identifies debt service related to Storm Uri, see Loan Number 9012-001 detail. Inputs into this year's populated template for Long-term Interest and Principal (flowing into the LADS rate calculation from Page 2 of Exhibit 5, lines 45 and 62) already reflect amounts after excluding Storm Uri portion. See also Tom Ruth's testimony filed in the instant Docket. 3-year amortization reflects part of 2021, 2022, and part of 2023 (although 24 months in total).

by the total billing demand for the Historical Test Year; to arrive at the final rate of \$1.23/kW.

The resulting final LADS rate of \$1.23/kW represents a \$0.02/kW, or a 1.6%, decrease from

Western's currently effective rate for LADS of \$1.25/kW authorized by the Commission in

Docket No. 22-WSTE-497-TAR. Translated into total dollars, this constitutes a \$16,385

decrease.<sup>3</sup> The detailed 34.5kV FBR calculation for the Test Year is contained in Exhibit 5

attached to the Application filed in the instant Docket.

PART III - ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ACTUAL TEST YEAR RESULTS

Q. You stated that 2022 actual results formed the basis for the 34.5kV FBR calculation. The

Protocols specify a limited number of adjustments to be made. What adjustments did you

make to Western's actual 2022 financial results in completing the 34.5kV FBR template?

A. Per Sections D.1.b and D.1.e of the Protocols, and in recognition of the Commission policy

adopted per K.S.A. 66-101f (a), Administrative and General ("A&G") expense was adjusted

to remove certain amounts associated with the dues, donations, charitable contributions,

promotional advertising, penalties and fines, and entertainment expenses incurred during the

Test Year.<sup>4</sup> The excluded amounts, as well as reasoning in support of inclusion or exclusion

of the associated items, are noted on Page 7 of Exhibit 5.

Finally, Section D.2 of the Protocols mandates that certain revenue and expense categories be

further allocated to remove the costs not associated with Western's 34.5kV facilities.

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<sup>3</sup> Calculated by applying the \$0.02/kW adjustment to the Test Year total billing determinants (kW).

K.S.A. 66-101f (a) allows adoption of a policy of "disallowing a percentage, not to exceed 50%, of utility dues, donations and contributions to charitable, civic and social organizations and entities, in addition to disallowing specific dues, donations and contributions which are found unreasonable or inappropriate."

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A. A reduction in the amount of \$20,861, as evidenced on Page 1 of Exhibit 5, Line 10, Column (e), was applied to the historical amount of \$1,347,488 in A&G Expense in order to remove the amounts associated with promotional or image advertising and dues and donations; i.e., activities traditionally disallowed by the Commission either as unnecessary to provide safe, efficient, reliable electric utility service, or consistent with the Commission policy adopted per K.S.A. 66-101f (a). Accordingly, historical amounts, as recorded in Western's applicable GL accounts, were adjusted as follows: promotional or image advertising items were excluded 100 percent, and dues and donations items were excluded 50 percent. Note that advertising associated with items such as public safety announcements, annual meeting notices, legal ads. and job postings were not removed, as those activities are directed toward keeping the members well informed and/or represent direct business expense and thus align with the Commissionadvocated goal of providing safe, efficient, and reliable electric utility service. Additionally, dues associated with the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. ("KEC") statewide organization membership were not removed for similar reasons, as KEC functions for the mutual benefit of its member-cooperatives to promote rural electrification and provides essential services, such as safety programs and inspections, Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") compliance, Cooperative staff and Board training, and administrative functions on a state-wide level.

Expenses related to both company image and safety-related messages were excluded 50 percent.

Detailed listings of the aforementioned items by GL account and the corresponding adjustments performed can be found in Exhibit 9 attached to the Application in the instant Docket. The summary of the adjustments by GL, as well as the methodology applied by Western, is included in Exhibit 5, Page 7. The adjustment was further reflected on Page 3 of Exhibit 5, Lines 9-11. The resultant adjusted A&G amount is \$1,326,627, as reflected on Page 1, Line 10, Column (f) of Exhibit 5.

- Q. On page 6 above, Lines 11-16, you stated there was an additional adjustment included in this year's filing that is outside of the adjustments prescribed by the Protocols and is aimed at excluding debt service costs related to Storm Uri. Please describe this Commission-mandated adjustment.
- A. This same adjustment was made and approved in the Cooperative's last year's 34.5kV FBR filing. Given Western amortized the loan over 3 years, it is necessary again this year. In order to minimize modification to the template's established flow of the calculation, the adjustment to historical Long-Term interest and Principal were made on the input Workpaper 1, or page 2, of the Exhibit 5 filed in the instant Docket, see lines 45 and 62. Accordingly, historical Long-term Interest Expense of \$851,834, as reflected on Operating Income Statement/Exhibit 4, was reduced to remove \$31,736 in interest associated with the Storm Uri-related CoBank debt (as noted in Exhibit 8, note 19200208T05 detail), resulting in the net \$820,098 being included in Exhibit 5, page 1, Lines 17 and 25. Similarly, historical Principal amount of \$3,433,220, as reflected in Exhibit 8, was reduced to remove \$2,171,047 in principal associated with the Storm Uri-related CoBank debt (as noted in Exhibit 8, note 19200208T05 detail), resulting in the net \$1,262,174 being included in Exhibit 5, page 1, Line 24.
- Q. Now, please describe how the adjusted system-wide financial results were allocated to the 34.5kV system to arrive at Western's 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement that includes

<sup>6</sup> Again, to clarify, "system-wide," as used in this context, is intended to mean combined distribution and transmission.

only those costs which are associated with the Cooperative's sub-transmission facilities used in the provision of LADS.

- B. Section D.2 of the Protocols specifies the methodology for allocating applicable total system-wide operating expenses and margin requirements to the 34.5kV system so as to arrive at the revenue requirement associated with Western's sub-transmission facilities used to provide LADS in the acquired Mid-Kansas service territory. Following is an explanation of the allocations:
  - Per Section D.2.a of the Protocols, the A&G expenses are to be allocated using a Labor ratio ("LAB"), where the latter is calculated as a ratio of Transmission Labor to Total Non-A&G Labor. The corresponding labor dollar amounts are found in the Labor Amount Column of the December 31, 2022 Payroll Journal, included with Exhibit 7 attached to the Application filed in the instant Docket. Next, Exhibit 5, Page 4, Lines 7-20 show how the resultant LAB ratio of 0.015697 is calculated. Applying LAB to the \$1,326,627 in Adjusted Historical Test Year A&G expense assigns \$20,824 to the 34.5kV FBR, as shown in Exhibit 5, Page 1, Line 10, Column (i).
  - Depreciation and Amortization Expense is to be calculated directly (a.k.a. "direct-assignment") in accordance with Section D.2.b of the Protocols. Therefore, the \$283,185 in Transmission plant depreciation for the Historical Test Year is allocated to the 34.5kV FBR in its entirety, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 13, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. The \$156,384 in General Plant Depreciation Expense for the Historical Test Year is to be allocated on the LAB ratio, ultimately assigning \$2,455 to the 34.5kV FBR, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 14, Column (i) of Exhibit 5.

> It should also be noted that the Transmission Operation and Maintenance Expense is a category that is directly related to the provision of the LADS. Therefore, it was assigned 100 percent (i.e., using allocator of 1.0) to the 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement.

15-25, Column (i) of Exhibit 5.

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# PART IV - REVENUE REQUIREMENT AND RATE CALCULATION

A. Per Section D.4 of the Protocols, the Total 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement is a sum of all

the applicable operating expenses and margin requirements. Specifically, after the 2022 actual

operating expenses were adjusted as directed by the Protocols and allocated to reflect the

portion applicable to the Cooperative's sub-transmission facilities used in the provision of the

For allocating Taxes - Other, Other Deductions, Interest on Long-Term Debt, Other

Interest, Principal Payments, and Offsets to Margin Requirements, the Budget Year

Net Transmission Plant Ratio ("NP") is calculated. The Historical Test Year NP, as

defined in Section D.2 of the Protocols, reflects the ratio of the average monthly

Transmission Net Plant to the average monthly Total Net Plant for the 2022 Historical

Test Year. <sup>7</sup> The calculation of the NP allocation factor is detailed on Page 4, Lines 22-

47 of Exhibit 5. The results of applying the calculated NP of 0.219063 to the

corresponding Adjusted Historical Test Year expenses are evidenced on Page 1, Lines

Q. How was Western's 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement calculated after 16

performing all the adjustments and allocations detailed above?

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LADS, the Total Cost of Service was quantified at \$701,064, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 21, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. Next, the Net Margin Requirement was calculated using 1.8 OTIER and 1.8 MDSC metrics, as contemplated in Section D.3 of the Protocols. The same Section

Net Transmission Plant includes a General Plant allocation based upon a LAB ratio.

#### Testimony of Elena E. Larson Page 12

dictates that the ratio resulting in greater net margins required will be used. An MDSC of 1.8 produced \$309,216 in margin requirements, which was greater than the \$97,163 margin requirements produced by OTIER of 1.8, as evidenced on Page 1, Lines 23-30, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. Accordingly, applying the MDSC-produced \$309,216 in Net Margin Requirement to the \$701,064 in Total Cost of Service generates the 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement of \$1,010,280.

#### Q. Please explain how the resultant wholesale demand rate for LADS was determined.

A. Section D.4 of the Protocols further directs that the 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement is to be divided by the Total Billing Demand for the Test Year. The latter is comprised of both retail and wholesale billing determinants on Western's 34.5kV system for the Mid-Kansas division, and factors in the appropriate losses percentages, as specified in Western's Commission-approved LADS tariff.<sup>8</sup> For 2022 Test Year, the Total Billing Demand for Western's 34.5kV system was quantified at 818,131 kW, as reflected on Page 1, Line 34, Column (i) of Exhibit 5 and further detailed on Page 6 of the same Exhibit. Dividing the resultant Total Revenue Requirement of \$1,010,280 by 818,131 kW produces the resultant LADS rate of \$1.23/kW. This represents \$0.02, or 1.6 percent, decrease compared to the existing LADS rate of \$1.25/kW.

#### Q. What is your final recommendation to the Commission?

A. My recommendation is to approve Western's Application in the instant Docket, as the resultant rate is reflective of the COS, which was calculated in accordance with the Commission-

The billing determinants, as well as the financial information used to calculate the LADS rate, still represent

the Cooperative's Mid-Kansas division's data, as required by the Commission-approved 34.5kV FBR Protocols. The line loss percentage incorporated in the billing determinants is based on the Commission-approved percentages as stated in the April 15, 2021 Order on Unanimous Settlement Agreement filed in the 21-049 Docket.

	Testimony of Elena E. Larson Page 13
1	approved 34.5kV FBR Protocols and Commission-issued Emergency Order, and therefore is
2	just and reasonable and in the public interest.
3	Q. Have the proposed tariffs as required in the Protocols in Section E.12 been provided?
4	A. Yes, they are included as Exhibit 12 of the Application filed in the instant Docket.
5	Q. Does this conclude your prefiled Direct Testimony?
6	A. Yes, it does.
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	Testimony of Elena E. Larson Page 14	
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5	VERIFICATION	
6	STATE OF KANSAS )	
7	) ss NORTON COUNTY )	
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9	The undersigned, Elena E. Larson, upon oath first duly sworn, states that she is the Manager, Rates and Regulatory Services, Economics, Rates, and Business Planning for	
10	Power System Engineering, Inc.; that she has read this Prefiled Direct Testimony a knows the contents thereof; and, that the facts therein are true and correct to the best of	
11	knowledge, information, and belief.	
12	Elena & Larson	
13	Elena E. Larson	
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15	Subscribed and sworn to before me this <u>20</u> day of <u>April</u> , 2023.	
16		
17	Clusno Jorack	
18	A ALISHA J. STARK Notary Public Notary Public Notary Public Notary Public	
19	My appointment expires: 1-31-2025	
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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was electronically served this 1st day of May 2023 to:

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