In the Matter of the General)
Investigation to Examine Issues)
Surrounding Rate Design for Distributed) Docket No.16-GIME-403-GIE
Generation Customers)
)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE

NON-UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

PREPARED BY

ROBERT H. GLASS, PHD

UTILITIES DIVISION

KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

June 20, 2017

1		I. INTRODUCTION
2		Qualifications
3	Q.	What is your name?
4	A.	Robert H. Glass.
5	Q.	By whom and in what capacity are you employed?
6	A.	The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) employs me as the Chief of
7	Economics and Rates.	
8	Q.	What is your business address?
9	A.	1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas, 66604-4027.
10 11	Q.	Are you the same Robert H. Glass who, in this Docket, filed initial comments on March 17, 2017, and reply comments on May 5, 2017?
12	A.	Yes.
13		<u>Organization</u>
14	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony?
15	A.	I am testifying in Support of the Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement
16	(S&A	a) submitted by Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas
17	("Staf	ff," and "Commission," respectively), Westar Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and
18	Electi	ric Company (collectively, "Westar"), Kansas City Power & Light Company
19	(KCP	&L), Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (Sunflower), Mid-Kansas Electric
20	Comp	pany, LLC (Mid-Kansas), Southern Pioneer Electric Company (Southern Pioneer),
21	Kansa	as Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), Midwest Energy, Inc. (Midwest Energy),
22	Empi	re District Electric Company (Empire), Brightergy, LLC, United Wind, Inc., and
23	IBEW	V 304, (collectively, "Settling Parties").

1 Q. How is your testimony structured?

- 2 A. First, I will discuss the substantive issues addressed in the S&A. Next, I will
- address the Commission's standard of review for settlement agreements. Finally, I will
- 4 conclude by recommending the Commission accept the S&A as a reasonable resolution
- 5 of the issues in this Docket.

6 II. ANALYSIS

Terms of the Stipulation and Agreement

- 8 Q. Please list the terms of the Stipulation and Agreement.
- **A.** The terms of the S&A are as follows:
 - 1. DG customers should be uniquely identified within the ratemaking process because of the potentially significant different usage characteristics. Utilities may create a separate residential class or subclass for DG customers with their own rate design, which appropriately recovers the fixed costs of providing service to residential private DG customers, or a utility may continue to serve residential private DG customers within an existing residential rate class if the utility determines there are too few DG customers to justify a separate residential private DG class or sub-class or determines that other justification exists to retain those customers in the existing rate class. A separate rate class for DG customers is not meant to punish those customers, rather such a rate class would serve to provide clarity for both utilities and customers.

a. Specific to Westar, Westar's Distributed Generation Residential Rate Schedule implemented in Westar's last rate case shall remain in place and effective for all residential customers installing distributed generation on or after October 28, 2015, and shall be treated as a separate class for purposes of future class cost of service studies and ratemaking generally.

2. The current two-part residential rate design is problematic for utilities and residential private DG customers.

3. The following rate design options are appropriate for residential private DG customers to better recover the costs of providing service to that class or sub-class of customers:

a. A cost of service based three-part rate consisting of a customer charge, demand charge, and energy charge;

b. A grid charge based upon either the DG output or nameplate rating; and

c. A cost of service-based customer charge that is tiered based upon a customer's capacity requirements.

The above list is not meant to preclude a utility from proposing other appropriate rate designs within that individual utility's rate case proceeding.

4. A customer education program must be implemented whenever new residential private DG rate structures are ordered, and that program should be completed as soon as practical after the Commission approves a new rate design.

5. Rates for private residential DG customers should be cost-based and any unquantifiable value of solar resource approach should not be considered when setting rates. A class cost of service study provides sufficient support for design of a residential private DG tariff (as identified above in paragraph [3]), and no further study is necessary for the purpose of this docket.

6. To the extent that a value of resource study (i.e. cost-benefit analysis) is ordered by the Commission to be completed in a future proceeding as a consideration in the ratemaking process for DG customers, the Settling Parties agree that such a study should be utility-specific, and (i) occur within a utility-specific rate case docket; and (ii) include only quantifiable market-based costs and benefits to the utility.

7. Present DG rate design policy is best determined in this docket (instead of delaying further) in order to provide certainty to all parties for the benefit of the orderly development of the private DG market in Kansas. However, electric utilities that do not currently have DG tariffs shall have the option to propose DG tariffs consistent with the principles established in this general investigation in subsequent general rate case filings for approval by the Commission.

8. Any DG-specific rate design implemented subsequent to this proceeding to serve residential private DG customers would apply to those customers adding DG systems on or after the effective date of those tariffs. Customers with distributed DG systems implemented and operating prior to that date and served by other rate designs will be allowed to remain on those preexisting rates until January 1, 2030 to the extent permitted by Kansas law. On and after January 1, 2030, all

1 2		distributed generation customers will be subject to the then current residential DG rate design.			
3 4 5		a. Specific to Westar, the settlement approved by the Commission in Westar's last general rate case regarding the creation of the "Residential"			
6		Standard Distributed Generation" tariff is still effective and customers			
7		who added DG on or after October 28, 2015, will be subject to the rate			
8		design change that occurs in future rate case dockets based on the policy			
9		established in this docket.			
10					
11		9. This Stipulation, if approved by the Commission in this Docket,			
12		provides guidance to the cooperatives that have elected to be self-			
13		regulated pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d, but such self-regulated cooperatives			
13 14		shall not be bound by the Stipulation.			
15					
16	Q.	Are any of the terms of the S&A contrary to positions espoused in your			
17		Initial or Reply Comments?			
18	A.	No. While the terms of the S&A result in more broad, or less proscriptive			
19	requir	ements for DG customers, none of the terms explicitly contradict my original			
20	recommendations. The terms still conform to Staff's core rate design principles, such as				
21	cost-based rates with minimized inter-class cross-subsidization articulated in my initial				
22	and reply comments and in testimony I've filed in other docket.				
23	The Commission's Standard of Review for Settlement Agreements				
24 25	Q.	Has the Commission previously addressed the standards it uses to review Settlement Agreements?			
26	A.	Yes. The Commission's Order in Docket No. 08-ATMG-280-RTS discusses			
27	these	five factors, or standards, and multiple agreements have been reviewed by the			
28	Commission using the five factors since that Order. ¹ These five factors are as follows:				
29		1. Whether there was an opportunity for the opposing party to be heard on their			
30		reasons for opposition to the stipulation and agreement;			

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Order Approving Contested Settlement Agreement, p. 5, Docket No. 08-ATMG-280-RTS (May 12, 2008).

- 1 2. Whether the stipulation and agreement is supported by substantial competent 2 evidence in the record as a whole;
- 3 3. Whether the stipulation and agreement conforms to applicable law;
- 4 4. Whether the stipulation and agreement results in just and reasonable rates; and
- 5 5. Whether the results of the stipulation and agreement are in the public interest,
- 6 including the interest of customers represented by the parties not consenting to
- 7 the agreement.
- 8 Each of these five factors is discussed individually below.

9 Please address whether each party had an opportunity to be heard on its Q. 10 reasons for opposing the S&A.

- 11 On July 12, 2016, the Commission issued an Order opening this general A.
- 12 investigation docket in order to examine various issues surrounding rate structure for
- Kansas distributed generation (DG) customers.² The Commission ordered the parties to 13
- 14 the docket "to file comments on how the general investigation should proceed to
- minimize the need for extensive comment periods." These comments were to be filed 15
- within 45 days of the date of the Order Opening General Investigation.⁴ 16
- 17 Following receipt of comments, the Commission issued an Order Setting
- 18 Procedural Schedule on February 16, 2017. The Order Setting Procedural Schedule
- 19 required parties to file initial comments with supporting affidavits by March 17, 2017,
- 20 and reply comments with supporting affidavits by May 5, 2017. The Order Setting
- 21 Procedural Schedule also established two roundtables for discussions among the parties,
- 22 which were held on March 30, 2017, and April 13, 2017.

² Order Opening General Investigation, Ordering Clause A (July 12, 2016).

³ Order Opening General Investigation, Ordering Clause D (July 12, 2016).

⁴ *Id*.

- The following parties filed Initial Comments: Staff, CURB, Westar, KCP&L,
- 2 Empire, Midwest Energy, Southern Pioneer, KEC, Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, Cromwell
- 3 Environmental, Inc. (Cromwell), Brightergy, United Wind, Inc. (United Wind), and
- 4 Climate + Energy Project (CEP).
- 5 The following parties filed Reply comments: Staff, CURB, Westar, KCP&L,
- 6 Empire, Midwest Energy, Southern Pioneer, KEC, Cromwell, Brightergy, CEP, IBEW
- 7 304.
- 8 On June 5, 2017, the parties met in person and by phone to discuss potential
- 9 settlement of the various issues in the docket. Detailed conversations and negotiations
- 10 continued until June 16, 2017. A large number of the parties were able to reach
- agreement on how they believe the Commission should address the issues in this generic
- docket. That agreement resulted in this non-unanimous S&A.
- 13 Q. Please address whether the S&A is supported by substantial competent
- evidence in the record as a whole.
- 15 A. The S&A is supported by substantial competent evidence in the record as a whole.
- 16 The S&A is supported by initial comments and reply comments filed in the docket.
- 17 These filed positions constitute the body of evidence that the Commission will rely on to
- make a determination of the issues presented by this case. The Settling Parties also relied
- 19 on this evidence in negotiations and eventually arrived at an agreed upon resolution of the
- 20 issues. It is Staff's position that the terms of this S&A, taken as a whole, are comparable
- 21 with what one could expect if the case were to be fully litigated.

Q. Please address whether the S&A conforms to applicable law.

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2 A. I am not an attorney. However, it is my understanding that the S&A does follow 3 precedent for similar settlements in the past that have been executed in an effort to 4 Staff negotiated this settlement consistent with its conform to applicable laws. 5 understanding of Staff's legally authorized role in settling utility regulatory matters and 6 Staff's understanding of applicable laws, regulations, and controlling authority. All 7 attempts were made to ensure that this S&A conforms to applicable laws and is presented in a fashion to allow the Commission to properly approve the S&A. Staff counsel will be 8 9 available at the hearing to address any specific issues or questions from the 10 Commissioners regarding the S&A's conformity to applicable laws.

11 Q. Does Staff believe that the S&A will result in just and reasonable rates?

A. Rates are not being set in this docket. Therefore, this factor is not applicable here.

However, the purpose of this generic investigation was to examine issues surrounding

distributed generation rate design and does not affect the rate structure for non-DG

customers. Staff believes the resulting policy guidance from this S&A will instruct just

and reasonable rates in future rate proceedings.

Q. Does Staff believe the results of the S&A are in the public interest?

A. Yes. There were multiple interests represented by the parties involved in the negotiations, with CURB representing the interests of residential and small general service ratepayers,⁵ Westar, KCP&L, Sunflower, Mid-Kansas, Southern Pioneer, KEC, Midwest Energy, Empire, Cromwell and United Wind representing the interest of their management and shareholders, IBEW 304 and C&E representing the interest of its

⁵ While CURB is not a signatory to the S&A, as their initial and reply comments indicates, they are in support of many provisions of the S&A, further evidence the public interest standard is met.

- 1 members, Brightergy representing the interest of its management and owners, and Staff
- 2 attempting to balance each of those interests while representing the interests of the public
- 3 generally.
- 4 Because some of these varied interests were able to collaborate and present a
- 5 reasonable resolution of most of the issues in this case, the evidentiary hearing will be
- 6 less extensive than it would be without this S&A. Therefore, if this S&A is approved, the
- 7 Parties would avoid some of the costly and time-consuming process of a fully-litigated
- 8 hearing. It will further the public interest to reduce these costs if possible and this S&A
- 9 accomplishes that.

10

III. RECOMMENDATION

- 11 Q. Should the Commission accept the S&A as a reasonable resolution of the issues in this docket?
- 13 A. Yes. All parties to the docket had an opportunity to express their reasons for
- opposing the S&A. Further, the S&A represents a reasonable resolution of the issues in
- this docket, is supported by substantial competent evidence in the record, conforms to
- applicable law, will provide guidance for designing just and reasonable rates in future
- 17 rate proceedings, and is in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission should accept
- the S&A as a reasonable resolution of the issues in this docket.
- 19 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 20 A. Yes, thank you.

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)

VERIFICATION

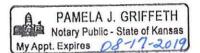
Robert H. Glass Ph.D. being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and says that he is Chief-Economics and Rates for the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas, that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing *Testimony in Support of Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement* and that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Robert H. Glass Ph.D., Chief-Economics and Rates

State Corporation Commission of the

State of Kansas

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of June, 2017.



Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: August 17, 2019

16-GIME-403-GIE

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Testimony in Support of Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement was served by electronic service on this 20th day of June, 2017, to the following:

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