

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

Before Commissioners: Mark Sievers, Chairman
 Ward Loyd
 Thomas E. Wright

In the Matter of Westar Energy, Inc. and)
Kansas Gas and Electric Company Seeking)
Commission Approval to Implement)
Changes in Their Renewable Energy) Docket No. 12-WSEE-652-TAR
Program Rider Adding a Sustainability)
Program Option for Large Commercial or)
Industrial Customers.)

SUSPENSION ORDER BY PREHEARING OFFICER

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. On May 7, 2012, the Commission designated Andrew French, Advisory Counsel, to act as Prehearing Officer in this proceeding. Having reviewed the files and records, and being duly advised in the premises, the Prehearing Officer makes the following findings:

1. On February 24, 2012, Westar Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and Electric Company (Westar) filed an Application seeking approval of tariff revisions for its Renewable Energy Program Rider.
2. On March 16, 2012, the Commission suspended Westar's Application for a period of 90 days from the date of its filing pursuant to K.S.A. 66-117(c). The Suspension Order set the effective deadline for a Commission Order on Tuesday, May 29, 2012.
3. On April 24, 2012, Occidental Chemical Corporation (OXY) filed a Petition to Intervene in this matter. On May 7, 2012, the Commission granted OXY's Petition to Intervene.

4. On May 7, 2012, Westar filed a Reply to contentions in OXY's Petition to Intervene.

5. On May 16, 2012, OXY filed a response to Westar's Reply and requested extension of the suspension period.

6. The Prehearing Officer recognizes that a Commission Staff Report and Recommendation has not yet been filed in this docket. Furthermore, OXY has raised numerous issues that will require analysis by the parties.

7. The Prehearing Officer finds that an extension of the suspension period is necessary in this docket. Westar's application will be suspended for a period of 240 days from the date the Application was filed, February 24, 2012, until October 22, 2012. The end of the 240 day suspension period falls on Sunday, October 21, 2012. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-503(c), the suspension period runs until the end of the next day, Monday, October 22, 2012. This time period will allow full investigation by Staff and further analysis of new issues raised by OXY.

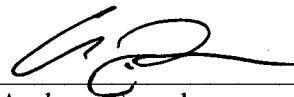
WHEREFORE, THE PREHEARING OFFICER FINDS AND CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS:

A. Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-117(c), the Application in the above-captioned docket shall be suspended, and the effective date deferred until October 22, 2012.

B. Parties have 15 days, plus three days if service of this order is by mail, from the date of service of this Order in which to petition the Commission for reconsideration. K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 77-529(a)(1).

C. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties for the purpose of entering such further order, or orders, as it may deem necessary and proper.

Dated: 5/23/12



Andrew French
Prehearing Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

MAY 23 2012

12-WSEE-652-TAR

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Suspension Order by Prehearing Officer was placed in the United States mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered this 23rd day of May, 2012, to the following:

TAMMY COOPER
ANDREWS KURTH L.L.P.
111 CONGRESS AVENUE
SUITE 1700
AUSTIN, TX 78701
Fax: 512-320-9292
tammycooper@andrewskurth.com

PHILLIP OLDHAM
ANDREWS KURTH L.L.P.
111 CONGRESS AVENUE
SUITE 1700
AUSTIN, TX 78701
Fax: 512-320-9292
phillipoldham@andrewskurth.com

HOLLY FISHER, ATTORNEY
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD ROAD
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027
Fax: 785-271-3354
h.fisher@kcc.ks.gov
Hand Delivered

ANDREW FRENCH, ADVISORY COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD ROAD
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027
Fax: 785-271-3314
a.french@kcc.ks.gov
Hand Delivered

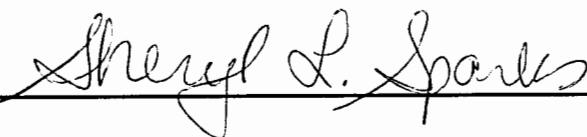
TERESA J. JAMES, ATTORNEY
MARTIN, PRINGLE, OLIVER, WALLACE & BAUER, LLP
6900 COLLEGE BLVD STE 700
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66211-1842
Fax: 913-491-3341
tjjames@martinpringle.com

STANFORD J. SMITH, JR., ATTORNEY
MARTIN, PRINGLE, OLIVER, WALLACE & BAUER, LLP
100 NORTH BROADWAY
SUITE 500
WICHITA, KS 67202
Fax: 316-265-2955
sjsmith@martinpringle.com

CATHRYN J. DINGES, CORPORATE COUNSEL
WESTAR ENERGY, INC.
818 S KANSAS AVENUE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
Fax: 785-575-8136
cathy.dinges@westarenergy.com

MICHAEL B. HEIM, SR. REGULATORY ANALYST
WESTAR ENERGY, INC.
818 S KANSAS AVENUE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
michael.heim@westarenergy.com

DICK F. ROHLFS, DIRECTOR, RETAIL RATES
WESTAR ENERGY, INC.
818 S KANSAS AVENUE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
Fax: 785-575-6472
dick.rohlf@westarenergy.com



ORDER MAILED MAY 23 2012