### **BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Application of ) Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy ) Kansas South, Inc. for Approval to ) Make Certain Changes in their Charges ) for Electric Service Pursuant to K.S.A. ) 66-117.

Docket No. 25-EKCE-294-RTS

### **Cross-Answering Testimony of Justin Bieber**

)

#### on behalf of

**HF Sinclair El Dorado Refining LLC** 

June 20, 2025

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1		<b>CROSS ANSWER TESTIMONY OF JUSTIN D. BIEBER</b>
2		I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>
3	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
4	A.	My name is Justin Bieber. My business address is 111 E Broadway, Suite 1200,
5		Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.
6	Q.	Are you the same Justin Bieber who pre-filed direct testimony in this docket
7		on behalf of HF Sinclair El Dorado Refining LLC ("HF Sinclair")?
8	А.	Yes, I am.
9		
10		II. OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS
11	Q.	What is the purpose of your Cross Answer Testimony in this proceeding?
12	A.	My rebuttal testimony responds to the direct testimony of the Kansas Corporation
13		Commission Staff ("Staff") witnesses Kristina A. Luke Fry and Lana J. Ellis,
14		Citizen's Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") witness Glenn Watkins, and Walmart
15		Inc. ("Walmart") and CCPS Transportation, LLC ("CCPS") Witness Kavita Maini
16		regarding cost and revenue allocation.
17	Q.	Please summarize your conclusions and recommendations.
18	A.	I provide the following recommendations and conclusions:
19		• I recommend that the Commission reject proposals by Staff and CURB to use
20		alternative production cost allocation methods. Instead, I continue to
21		recommend that the Commission approve the Company's proposed AED-4CP
22		production cost allocation methodology.

In general, I support Ms. Maini's and Mr. Watkins' recommendations to make 1 • 2 additional movement towards aligning revenue allocation with the cost of service. However, I disagree with Mr. Watkins proposed modifications to the 3 revenue allocation because they are based on his alternative class cost of service 4 ("CCOS") studies. 5 However, regardless of which cost and revenue allocation 6 *methodologies* the Commission approves in this proceeding, for the reasons I 7 8 explained in my direct testimony, I continue to recommend that the CCOS study 9 separately allocate costs to each of the special contract customers, and that the individual cost allocation results for the HF Sinclair special contract should be 10 11 utilized to inform the appropriate revenue allocation to the HF Sinclair special 12 contract. 13 14 III. COST ALLOCATION How does Staff witness Kristina Luke Fry recommend that production plant 15 Q. should be classified? 16 17 A. Ms. Luke Fry recommends that production plant be classified based on the retail 18 system load factor. She explains that Staff calculated the system load factor as 49.1% energy related and 50.9% demand related.<sup>1</sup> 19 How does Staff recommend that production plant should be allocated? 20 **Q**. 21 A. Ms. Luke Fry explains that Staff allocated the 50.9% of production costs classified

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as demand-related based on the class contribution to the four coincident peak

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Direct Testimony of Kristina A Luke Fry, p. 14.

- ("4CP") demands, and allocated the 49.1% of production costs classified as energy related based on loss adjusted energy usage.<sup>2</sup>
- Q. How did Evergy Kansas Central ("EKC" or "the Company") allocate
   production plant in its proposed CCOS Study?
- 5 A. As I explained in my direct testimony, the Company proposed to continue the use 6 of the Average & Excess ("AED") allocation method, incorporating a four 7 coincident peak measure of demand (collectively "AED-4CP") to allocate 8 production plant.<sup>3</sup>

### Q. Can you please describe the AED allocation method?

A. The AED method, as described in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual ("NARUC Manual"), allocates production plant based on the average energy use and a measure of *excess* demand. According to the manual, the energy weighting is equal to the system load factor and the excess demand weighting is equal to one minus the system load factor.<sup>4</sup>

### 16 Q. How does Staff's recommended production allocation differ from the AED-

#### 17 4CP production cost methodology proposed by the Company in its CCOS?

- A. There is one key difference between Staff's recommended allocation methodology
   and the Company's proposed AED-4CP method. The AED-4CP method allocates
   production plant costs classified as demand-related based on *excess demand*, which
   is calculated as the difference between 4CP demand and average demand. In
  - $^{2}$  Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Direct Testimony of Justin Bieber, p. 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual, pp. 49-50.

contrast, Staff's recommended methodology allocates demand-related production
 plant costs based on the customer class 4CP, which is a measure of total <u>peak</u>
 demand.

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### Q. Does Ms. Luke Fry provide any explanation or justification to support Staff's proposal to use a different production cost allocation methodology?

A. No, she does not. Ms. Luke Fry merely describes Staff's allocation methodology
 without explicitly acknowledging that it differs from the methodology used in the
 Company's CCOS. She does not provide any explanation or justification to support
 Staff's alternative recommendation.

# 10Q.How does Staff's recommended production cost allocation methodology11compare to the Peak and Average ("P&A") production cost allocation12methodology?

A. The P&A cost allocation methodology is a cost allocation methodology that is 13 14 classified by the NARUC Manual as a judgmental energy weighting methodology. Staff's recommended methodology is similar to the P&A methodology because it 15 is an energy weighted allocation method that uses a measure of peak demand to 16 17 allocate the production plant classified as demand related. However, Staff's methodology differs from the P&A methodology, as prescribed in the NARUC 18 19 Manual, in one very important way. While Staff has proposed to classify 20 production plant based on its calculation of the system load factor, the NARUC Manual clearly prescribes a different energy weighting that is not based on the 21 22 system load factor.

1		According to the NARUC Manual, there are two variants of the P&A
2		allocation method. In the first method, the portion of production plant classified as
3		demand-related is calculated by dividing the annual system peak demand by the
4		sum of the annual system peak demand and the average system peak demand. <sup>5</sup>
5		$Demand Weighting = \frac{Annual Peak}{Annual Peak + Average Peak}$
6		Mathematically, the demand weighting can never be less than 50% because
7		the average peak can never be greater than the annual peak. Consequently, the
8		energy weighting—which is equal to 1 minus the demand weighting—can never be
9		greater than 50%, even for a 100% load factor system.
10		The other variant of the P&A allocation method prescribed by the NARUC
11		Manual utilizes a 12 CP measure of peak demand, with 1/13th, or 7.69% of
12		production plant classified as energy-related, and the remaining 12/13ths, or
13		92.31% classified as demand-related. <sup>6</sup>
14		These variants of the P&A method prescribed by the NARUC Manual
15		clearly do not weight the energy component equal to the system load factor and
16		would result in a significantly lower weighting for the energy component compared
17		to the 49.10% energy weighting proposed by Staff based on its analysis of system
18		load factor.
19	Q.	Why is it appropriate to utilize the system load factor for the energy weighting
20		component in the AED methodology but <u>not</u> appropriate to utilize the load
21		factor for the energy weighting in the P&A methodology?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual, p. 57. <sup>6</sup> *Id.* p. 58.

1 A. It is important to understand that the appropriate weightings of the energy and demand components differ depending on the cost allocation method that is 2 used. Structurally, the AED method is similar to the P&A method in that they are 3 both energy weighted production cost allocation methodologies. However, one key 4 difference between the P&A method and the AED method is that the P&A utilizes 5 6 a measure of *peak* demand while the AED method utilizes a measure of *excess* demand. Given this key difference, it is not appropriate to "mix and match" the 7 energy and demand weightings between these two methods. 8

9 Put simply, the P&A method is different from the AED allocation method. 10 While it is a commonly accepted practice to utilize the system load factor to 11 determine the energy weighted component in the AED method, it is not a 12 commonly accepted practice to utilize the system load factor to determine the 13 energy weighted component in the P&A method.

### Q. Do you have any other concerns with Staff's proposal to allocate production costs based on its proposed variant of the P&A methodology?

A. Yes. Structurally, the P&A method utilizes the full value of average demand (the 16 17 energy divided by hours in the year) in both the "average" component and the peak component of the calculation. As a result, the method "double-weights" the annual 18 energy usage. This structural bias that is inherent to the P&A method, and other 19 20 energy weighted methods that utilize a measure of total peak demand to allocate demand-related costs, unreasonably disadvantages higher-load factor customers. If 21 22 the P&A method, or another similar energy weighted cost allocation method that 23 uses a measure of total peak demand to allocate capacity costs is used to allocate

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the costs of production plant, the energy component weighting should not be
 modified in a manner that would further exacerbate this biased cost shifting toward
 higher-load factor customers.

Q. Can you please elaborate regarding the structural bias in the P&A, and other
variants of the P&A, that utilize a measure of total peak demand, to allocate
demand-related costs.

A. According to the P&A method, fixed production cost is allocated based on a
combination of each class's share of energy usage, as well as each class's share of
coincident peak demand.<sup>7</sup>

We can use a simple example to illustrate the P&A method and its inherent 10 analytical flaw. Assume we have two customer classes: Flat and Peaky. To 11 highlight the underlying drivers of the P&A method, let us assume that the Flat 12 class has a constant load of 500 MW throughout the year. Let us further assume 13 that the load pattern of the Peaky class is as follows: January-March: 300 MW; 14 April-May: 500 MW; June: 800 MW; July: 900 MW; August: 800 MW; 15 September-October: 500 MW; and November-December: 300 MW. This example 16 is illustrated in Figure JB-1, below. 17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> *Id.* pp. 57-58.



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Figure JB-1 shows the monthly demand of the Flat class at the bottom of the diagram. The monthly demand of the Peaky class is stacked on top of the Flat class's demand, such that the sum of the two constitutes the total demand for the system. The average demand of each of these classes is 500 MW, resulting in an average demand for this two-class system of 1,000 MW. Accordingly, the P&A method will allocate each of these classes 50 percent of the responsibility for the energy, or average demand, portion of costs.

12 The system peak demand of 1400 MW occurs in July. It is clear in this 13 example that all of the incremental capacity required above the system average of 14 1,000 MW demand is caused by the needs of the Peaky class – after all, the load of 15 the Flat class is, of course, flat. But the P&A method will not allocate the full cost 1 of this incremental capacity to the Peaky class. Instead, it will allocate these incremental costs in accordance with each class's share of total demand during the 2 peak month of July; that is, the Flat class will be allocated 5/14 of the incremental 3 cost and the Peaky class will be allocated 9/14 of the incremental cost. Put another 4 way, even though all of the Flat class's usage during July has already been 5 6 accounted for in the allocation of average demand, the Flat class will be allocated an additional 5/14 of the costs of the incremental capacity above system average 7 demand when the July peak demand is apportioned. 8

9 This additional allocation occurs because the P&A method allocates 10 capacity costs based on total demand during July, which includes the average 11 demand and the excess demand. Since the average demand has already been fully 12 allocated in the first step, this additional allocation results in a double-weighting of 13 the average demand, which I referred to above.

In my opinion, this double-weighting is an inherent analytical flaw that inappropriately biases the P&A method, and other energy weighted allocation methods that utilize a measure of total peak demand to allocate demand-relate costs.

### Q. What do you recommend regarding Staff's proposed production cost allocation methodology?

A. I recommend that the Commission reject Staff's proposal to classify production
 related costs based on the system load factor and to allocate the demand related
 portion based on the 4CP methodology. Instead, I continue recommend that the
 Commission approve the Company's proposed AED-4CP production cost
 allocation methodology.

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#### 2 Response to CURB Witness Glenn Watkins

## Q. How does CURB Witness Glenn Watkins recommend that the results of CCOS studies should be used in the ratemaking process?

5 A. Mr.Watkins states that regulators should consider cost allocations only as a guide, 6 with the results being used as one of many tools to assign class revenue 7 responsibility when cost causation factors cannot be realistically ascribed to certain 8 costs.<sup>8</sup>

### 9 Q. What does Mr. Watkins' recommend regarding the allocation of production 10 plant?

Mr. Watkins claims that the Company's proposed allocation of production plant A. 11 using the AED-4CP is not consistent with the Company's objective to allocate plant 12 considering both energy and peak demand. He claims that his alternative P&A 13 CCOS directly reflects a weighted method of production plant allocation that gives 14 classes a reasonable balance between the energy and capacity function of 15 generating facilities. As a result, he provides three alternative CCOS studies using 16 17 the 12 coincident peak ("12 CP"), Base/Intermediate/Peak ("BIP"), and P&A methods for allocating production plant, which he alleges more reasonably assign 18 generation costs among customer classes.<sup>9</sup> 19

### 20

### Q. What is your assessment of Mr. Watkins' alternative CCOS studies?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Direct Testimony of Glenn Watkins, p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *Id.* pp. 31-32

1	A.	Mr. Watkins' alternative cost allocation methods do not appropriately reflect cost
2		causation given the characteristics of EKC's system. I will address each of these
3		alternative methods in detail below.
4	Q.	When is it be appropriate to utilize the 12 CP allocation methodology?
5	A.	According to the NARUC Manual, a 12 CP allocator can be appropriate when there
6		are not significant variations in demand throughout the year. Specifically, the
7		NARUC Manual states that:
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		"[t]he utilization of a "12 CP allocation method is based on the principle that a utility installs facilities to maintain a reasonably constant level of reliability throughout the year or that significant variations in monthly peak demands are not present. Under this method, no single peak demand or seasonal peak demands are of any significantly greater magnitude than any of the other monthly coincident peak demands. Thus, the relative importance of each month is considered." <sup>10</sup>
16	Q.	Do EKC's retail loads meet the criteria in the NARUC manual for the
17		utilization of the 12 CP method to allocate transmission costs?
18	A.	No. EKC's retail peaks vary significantly throughout the year and the seasonal
19		demand clearly peaks during the summer months.
20	Q.	What is your assessment of Mr. Watkins' alternative CCOS study that utilizes
21		the BIP method to allocate production plant?
22	A.	I disagree with the underlying premise of the BIP allocation methodology that
23		specific plants can be considered to be serving different components of load.
24		Specifically, I disagree that a baseload plant does not provide any capacity value
25		and should be allocated entirely on the basis of energy. For example, Mr. Watkins

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual, p. 79.

classifies 100% of the costs of Evergy's nuclear unit, with an owned capacity of
609 MW, as a base load unit in the BIP methodology<sup>11</sup> and allocates 100% of the
costs on the basis of energy. This fails to recognize the significant and important
capacity value that base load and other high capacity factor resources provide to the
system.

### Q. Do you have any other concerns with Mr. Watkins' alternative BIP CCOS study?

Yes. I also have concerns with Mr. Watkins proposed application of the BIP 8 A. 9 methodology that would classify other production plant as energy-related based on the percent of hours connected to load. For example, based on this methodology, 10 Mr. Watkins' BIP study classifies the Hutchinson plant as 10.26% energy-related<sup>12</sup> 11 even though the annual capacity factor for this resource is only 1.1%. The capacity 12 factor indicates that Hutchinson is clearly a peaking resource that provides capacity 13 14 to the system. It is not appropriate to classify more than 10% of the fixed costs for 15 a capacity peaking resource like Hutchinson as energy-related.

## Q. What is your assessment of Mr. Watkins' alternative CCOS study that utilizes the P&A method to allocate production plant?

A. As I explain above, the P&A method utilizes the full value of average demand in
both the "average" component and the peak component of the calculation. I
disagree that this is an appropriate cost allocation method because this method
"double-weights" the annual energy usage which inappropriately skews the cost
allocation in favor of higher load factor customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Direct Testimony of Glenn Watkins, p. 24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Id.

1 Q. What do you recommend?

A. I recommend that the Commission reject Mr. Watkins' alternative production cost
allocation methods. Instead, for the reasons I explain above and in my direct
testimony, I continue recommend that the Commission approve the Company's
proposed AED-4CP production cost allocation methodology.

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#### IV. <u>REVENUE ALLOCATION</u>

8 Q. What does Staff witness Lana J. Ellis propose regarding revenue allocation?

A. Ms. Ellis explains that Staff's recommended CCOS study reflects Staff's recommended \$113,770,652 increase in EKC's revenue requirement,<sup>13</sup> which reflects an overall increase of 9.09%. She further explains that Staff's proposed revenue allocation uses an equal proportion allocation and the CCOS relative rate of return as the lower and upper bounds for Staff's targeted revenue allocation. According to Ms. Ellis, Staff's proposed rate increases move in the direction, but not the magnitude, indicated by the class relative rate of return.<sup>14</sup>

Staff's recommended revenue allocation is summarized in Table JB-1
below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Direct Testimony of Lana J. Ellis, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *Id.* p. 8.

Allocation of	the	e Increase in	Re	venue Requir	ement
	An F	nong Custom Revenue with Current Rates \$	er c	Classes Actual Increase in Iass Revenue	Percentage Increase in Class Share
		(1)		(2)	(3)
Residential	\$	640,295,893		57,946,778	9.0%
Residential DG	\$	6,942,311		624,808	9.0%
Small General Service	\$	139,497,049		12,554,734	9.0%
Medium General Service	\$	153,360,645		13,802,458	9.0%
Schools Services	\$	37,527,798		3,660,701	9.8%
Church Service	\$	1,887,706		184,139	9.8%
Large General Service	\$	182,367,978		16,413,118	9.0%
Large Power Service	\$	8,262,314		805,959	9.8%
Interruptible Service	\$	305,443		29,795	9.8%
Large Tire Manufacturer	\$	4,789,406		467,189	9.8%
Special Contracts	\$	48,960,342		4,775,905	9.8%
Business EV Service	\$	980,878		88,769	9.0%
Lighting Service	\$	26,699,426		2,416,298	9.0%
TOTAL	s	1,251,877,190	s	113,770,651	9.09%

Table JB-1

Staff Dropogod Dovonus Allocation 15

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### Q. What does Mr. Watkins propose regarding revenue allocation?

A. Mr. Watkins claims that while EKC witness Ms. Miller assigns slightly lower-than average system increases to the Large Power Service, Special Contracts, and
 Electric Vehicle classes, his alternative CCOS studies indicate that these classes
 have significantly deficient RORs and indexed RORs.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Reproduced from the Direct Testimony of Lana J. Ellis, p. 9, Table 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Direct Testimony of Glenn Watkins, p. 33.

1	Therefore, Mr. Watkins proposes to apply Ms. Miller's 110% of system
2	average cap to these classes based on his alternative CCOS studies. He further
3	recommends reallocating the resulting additional revenue to reduce the increases
4	for five classes that, according to his alternative CCOS studies, have RORs and
5	indexed RORs significantly above parity and the Company's proposed ROR.
6	These classes include Small General Service, Medium General Service,
7	Interruptible, Large Tire Manufacturing, and Lighting. <sup>17</sup>
8	Mr. Watkins' recommended revenue allocation is summarized in Table JB-

2 below. 9

10 11

### CURB Proposed Revenue Allocation<sup>18</sup>

	EKC	CURB
Class	<b>Proposed Increase</b>	Proposed Increase
Residential	14.96%	14.96%
RES DG	14.70%	14.70%
SGS	12.64%	12.39%
MGS	11.92%	11.68%
LGS	11.79%	11.79%
LPS	13.05%	14.92%
Educational	14.96%	14.96%
RTOD	14.95%	14.95%
Special Contracts	12.83%	14.92%
Interruptible	11.95%	11.70%
LTM	11.96%	11.71%
EV	12.18%	14.92%
Lighting	11.96%	11.71%
Total	13.56%	13.56%

Table JB-2

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#### What does Walmart witness Kavita Maini propose regarding revenue Q. 13

14

allocation?

 $^{17}$ Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Reproduced from Direct Testimony of Glenn Watkins, p. 34, Table 11.

1	А.	Ms. Maini acknowledges that EKC's recommended revenue allocation is aligned
2		with the CCOS study results directionally, but recommends that larger steps to align
3		with the CCOS results should be taken compared to the movement proposed by the
4		Company to better balance fairness and moderation by moving classes closer to the
5		COSS results. <sup>19</sup>
6		Ms. Maini's recommended revenue allocation is summarized in Table JB-3

7 below.

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Class	EKC Proposed Increase	Walmart and CCPS Proposed Increase
Residential	1/ 96%	17 00%
	14.90%	17.00%
KES DO	14.70%	17.00%
SGS	12.64%	11.15%
MGS	11.92%	9.51%
LGS	11.79%	9.51%
LPS	13.05%	12.37%
Educational	14.96%	17.00%
RTOD	14.95%	17.00%
Special Contracts	12.83%	12.37%
Interruptible	11.95%	9.51%
LTM	11.96%	9.51%
EV	12.18%	17.00%
Lighting	11.96%	9.51%
Total	13.56%	13.59%

### Table JB-3 Walmart and CCPA Proposed Revenue Allocation<sup>20</sup>

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#### Q. How do you respond to the other intervenor revenue allocation proposals? 11

12	А.	In general, I support Ms. Maini's and Mr. Watkins recommendations to make
13		additional movement towards aligning revenue allocation with the cost of service.
14		However, I disagree with Mr. Watkins proposed modifications to the revenue

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Direct Testimony of Kavita Maini, p. 15.
<sup>20</sup> Reproduced from Direct Testimony of Kavita Maini, p. 15, Figure 4.

allocation because they are based on his alternative CCOS, which I recommend the 1 Commission reject for the reasons that I have explained above. 2 However, regardless of which cost and revenue allocation methodologies 3 4 the Commission approves in this proceeding, for the reasons I explained in my direct testimony, I continue to recommend that the CCOS study separately allocate 5 costs to each of the special contract customers, and that the individual cost 6 allocation results for the HF Sinclair special contract should be utilized to inform 7 the appropriate revenue allocation to the HF Sinclair special contract. 8

9 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

10 A. Yes, it does.

### **BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Application of Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy Kansas South, Inc. for **Approval to Make Certain Changes** in their Charges for Electric Service Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-117.

**Docket No.** 25-EKCE-294-RTS

Virginia **STATE OF UTAH** Prince William County, VA SUMMIT COUNTY

Justin Bieber, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that:

- 1. He is a Principal with Energy Strategies. L.L.C., in Salt Lake City, Utah;
- He is the witness who sponsors the accompanying testimony entitled "Cross-Answering 2. Testimony of Justin Bieber;"
- 3. Said testimony was prepared by him and under his direction and supervision;
- 4. If inquiries were made as to the facts and schedules in said testimony he would respond as therein set forth; and
- 5. The aforesaid testimony and schedules are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Justin Bieber Justin Bieber

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this 19th day of June, 2025, by Justin Bieber.



1) Chrtsher Heit

Notary Public 8049360

My Commission Expires 02/28/2027

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the above and foregoing was sent via United States mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025, addressed to:

USD 259 903 South Edgemoor Room 113 Wichita, KS 67218

ELIZABETH A. BAKER ebaker@bakerstorey.com

NICK SMITH nick.smith@blackhillscorp.com

ROB DANIEL rob.daniel@blackhillscorp.com

DOUGLAS J. LAW douglas.law@blackhillscorp.com

KURT J. BOEHM kboehm@bkllawfirm.com

JODY KYLER COHN jkylercohn@bkllawfirm.com

JOSEPH R. ASTRAB Joseph.Astrab@ks.gov

TODD E. LOVE Todd.Love@ks.gov

SHONDA RABB Shonda.Rabb@ks.gov

DELLA SMITH Della.Smith@ks.gov

MELISSA M. BUHRIG mmbuhrig@cvrenergy.com

JASON T. GRAY jtg@duncanallen.com

JUSTIN BIEBER jbieber@energystrat.com

CATHRYN J. DINGES Cathy.Dinges@evergy.com LESLIE WINES leslie.wines@evergy.com

COLE A. BAILEY cole.bailey@evergy.com

DARRIN R. IVES darrin.ives@evergy.com

RONALD A. KLOTE ronald.klote@evergy.com

DAVID BANKS david@fheconsultants.net

DANIEL J. BULLER dbuller@foulston.com

MOLLY E. MORGAN mmorgan@foulston.com

LEE M. SMITHYMAN Ismithyman@foulston.com

JAMES P. ZAKOURA jzakoura@foulston.com

JON LINDSEY jon.lindsey@hfsinclair.com

CONSTANCE CHAN constance.chan@hfsinclair.com

GREG WRIGHT gwright@prioritypower.com

BRIAN G. FEDOTIN Brian.Fedotin@ks.gov

PATRICK J. HURLEY Patrick.Hurley@ks.gov

CARLY R. MASENTHIN Carly.Masenthin@ks.gov

LORNA EATON lorna.eaton@onegas.com LORNA EATON invoices@onegas.com

ROBERT E. VINCENT robert.vincent@onegas.com

VALERIE SMITH vsmith@morrislaing.com

TREVOR WOHLFORD twohlford@morrislaing.com

GLENDA CAFER gcafer@morrislaing.com

RITA LOWE rlowe@morrislaing.com

WILL B. WOHLFORD wwohlford@morrislaing.com

TIM OPITZ tim.opitz@opitzlawfirm.com

ANNE E. CALLENBACH acallenbach@polsinelli.com

FRANK A. CARO fcaro@polsinelli.com

JARED R. JEVONS jjevons@polsinelli.com

KACEY S. MAYES ksmayes@twgfirm.com

TIMOTHY E. MCKEE temckee@twgfirm.com

JOHN J. McNUTT john.j.mcnutt.civ@army.mil

KEVIN K. LaCHANCE kevin.k.lachance.civ@army.mil

James