

- A. Does the potential study require the analyzation of new data versus the manipulation of existing data and reports in order to determine the benefits and costs of Kansas membership in SPP?
- B. What are the necessary elements of the potential study and how should these elements be presented?

- C. Should the potential study be a standardized activity by SPP conducted on a yearly basis or some other timeframe?
- D. Should the potential study be undertaken by Kansas utilities or be conducted by an independent consultant?

CURB appreciates the very insightful comments of the various parties in this docket. It is clear that these parties have a deep knowledge of the pertinent issues. Essentially CURB sees this docket as an opportunity for it to learn what benefits and costs are associated with Kansas membership in SPP from a ratepayer perspective. CURB again expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in this docket and hopes that its general comments and reply comments are worthy of consideration.

## **II. Reply Comments**

- A. Does the potential study require the analyzation of new data versus the manipulation of existing data and reports in order to determine the benefits and costs of Kansas membership in SPP?

3. From the comments of the various parties in this docket, there appears to be near unanimity with respect to the point that SPP membership provides benefits to Kansas utilities and ratepayers. Moreover, there are considerable existing data and reports which support that perspective. If the purpose of the Commission's potential study is to determine that each utility has historically enjoyed some savings which emanate from SPP membership, there may not be any need for additional study. In fact, a number of comments were made that no additional study is necessary or beneficial with respect to the benefits caused by Kansas membership in SPP.

4. On the other hand, if the Commission's potential study is to determine future benefits and costs of SPP membership, additional data and reporting is clearly necessary. CURB agrees that data and reports which are typically generated by Kansas utilities potentially could be

“tweaked” on a periodic basis to present the report which the Commission may require. As noted in CURB’s initial comments, existing information can be utilized where it addresses regional or state (Kansas) membership benefits and savings. CURB also wishes to echo the comments of several parties that the costs of any study should not outweigh the potential benefits derived by the study’s conclusions.

5. However, in reply to the parties comments in general, CURB reiterates that a simple “tweak” or added page to readily available data or reports typically generated by Kansas utilities may not be useful if the results do not show end-user applicability. In other words, Kansas ratepayers will always want to know that they are being assessed fairly for transmission services received, and that they are not carrying an inequitable burden that represents others’ costs. For a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) of the complexity of SPP, transparency through reporting of quantifiable facts is essential.

6. To CURB, the issue of the need for additional study versus use of existing data and reports essentially turns on the focus of the study required by the Commission. A number of parties have suggested a large scope for additional study showing virtually all costs and benefits of SPP membership.<sup>1</sup> Actions and statements by SPP can therefore be unquestionably germane, and readily verified as pertaining to the best interests of Kansas ratepayers and utilities. CURB wishes to reiterate that, whatever the scope of the potential study, and regardless of whether or not existing data and reports are available, the study should show in a verifiable and transparent manner that Kansas ratepayers specifically are being treated fairly with respect to the costs versus benefits of SPP membership. As stated by CURB in its initial comments, SPP should be held to account for savings and costs specifically associated with Kansas membership in the RTO.

---

<sup>1</sup> This issue is addressed below in Issue B.

B. What are the necessary elements of the potential study and how should these elements be presented?

7. As noted above, the relevance and materiality of existing costs and savings data (whether existing or new) depends upon the focal point of the report which the Commission requires. Some parties seem to have suggested a very broad study of the various benefits which are provided to Kansas utilities and ratepayers through SPP membership. CURB believes their point of view is worthy of consideration by the Commission, inasmuch as a full assessment of the costs and benefits of SPP membership could reasonably entail all material benefits provided and costs incurred. CURB further notes that in its comments, SPP appears willing to provide a Kansas-focused study, in line with the reports that it has presented for other states.

8. Yet, assuming that such a comprehensive study may be costly, limiting the potential study to IM and transmission benefits and costs (since these are core functions of SPP) is not unreasonable. Such a study would be limited to 2015 and forward, to coincide with the implementation of the SPP IM. The scope and time period limitations of such a study would hopefully keep study costs low, consistent with the comments of the parties herein.

9. In any case, CURB reiterates that any potential study should be relevant, detailed and transparent, as well as trustworthy, useful and quantitative. The report should be highly accessible, uncomplicated, and relevant to the Kansas residential or small customer. As noted earlier, the report should not only show that Kansas ratepayers benefit from SPP membership, but show that Kansas ratepayers are being treated fairly relative to the costs and benefits derived by other states through SPP membership.

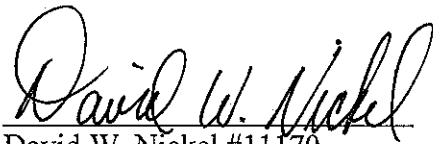
C. Should the potential study be a standardized activity by SPP conducted on a yearly basis or some other timeframe?

10. A number of parties commented that periodic reporting of benefits and costs associated with Kansas membership in SPP can be accomplished and would be worthwhile. CURB initially commented that a periodic report could be required depending upon existing circumstances and the requirements of the Commission, but that the frequency of such a report could reasonably be limited to one every three years. In view of the parties' comments that periodic reporting of savings/costs associated with Kansas SPP membership could be feasibly accomplished, CURB would additionally suggest that uniformity of periodic test reporting is important to trend analysis of reported savings/costs. The Commission should outline the parameters of any future study to ensure that uniformity will exist between reports/studies from year to year, as much as is practicable.

11. In view of the importance of SPP membership to Kansas ratepayers, CURB continues to believe that SPP should be held to periodically account for savings and costs specifically associated with Kansas membership in SPP. Based upon the comments of the parties pertaining to the information that is or may become available from studies conducted by SPP and Kansas Utilities regarding the transmission savings through SPP's transmission system and the costs and benefits of power generation savings through the SPP IM to the Kansas ratepayer, CURB believes that the Commission reasonably could require the SPP and Kansas Utilities to provide this information on a regularly set schedule as determined by the Commission. CURB wishes to affirm its position that, regardless of any periodic reporting which may be required by the Commission, if the circumstances in any year change to such an extent that an updated study is necessary, the Commission should be able to order an appropriate study.

D. Should the potential study be undertaken by Kansas utilities or be conducted by an independent consultant?

12. Some parties answered this question by suggesting that the potential study should be a cooperative venture between Kansas utilities and an independent consultant. Others suggested that it would be best to have the potential study performed by an independent consultant only. CURB anticipates that, regardless of whether the potential study performed by an independent consultant or jointly, Kansas utilities would be cooperative. CURB believes that these responses by the parties are reasonable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Nickel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David W. Nickel #11170  
Thomas J. Connors, Attorney #27039  
Todd E. Love, Attorney #13445  
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 271-3200  
(785) 271-3116 Fax

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF KANSAS                     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE            )       ss:

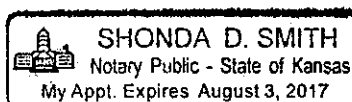
I, David W. Nickel, of lawful age and being first duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am an attorney for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board; that I have read and am familiar with foregoing **Reply Comments of Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board on Southwest Power Pool Membership** and attest that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David W. Nickel

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 08-03-2017.



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

17-SPPE-117-GIE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2017, to the following:

W. ROBERT ALDERSON, JR., ATTORNEY  
ALDERSON ALDERSON WEILER  
CONKLIN BURGHART & CROW LLC  
2101 SW 21ST STREET (66604)  
TOPEKA, KS 66604  
[BOBA@ALDERSONLAW.COM](mailto:BOBA@ALDERSONLAW.COM)

JAMES G. FLAHERTY, ATTORNEY  
ANDERSON & BYRD, L.L.P.  
216 S HICKORY  
PO BOX 17  
OTTAWA, KS 66067  
[jflaherty@andersonbyrd.com](mailto:jflaherty@andersonbyrd.com)

BRENT BAKER  
EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
602 S JOPLIN AVE (64801)  
PO BOX 127  
JOPLIN, MO 64802  
[BBaker@empiredistrict.com](mailto:BBaker@empiredistrict.com)

ANGELA CLOVEN  
EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 127  
602 S JOPLIN AVENUE  
JOPLIN, MO 64802-0127  
[acloven@empiredistrict.com](mailto:acloven@empiredistrict.com)

AARON DOLL  
EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
602 S JOPLIN AVE (64801)  
PO BOX 127  
JOPLIN, MO 64802  
[ADoll@empiredistrict.com](mailto:ADoll@empiredistrict.com)

FRED MEYER  
EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
602 S JOPLIN AVE (64801)  
PO BOX 127  
JOPLIN, MO 64802  
[FMeyer@empiredistrict.com](mailto:FMeyer@empiredistrict.com)

BRYAN OWENS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF PLANNING & REGULATORY  
EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
602 S JOPLIN AVE (64801)  
PO BOX 127  
JOPLIN, MO 64802  
[bowens@empiredistrict.com](mailto:bowens@empiredistrict.com)

DOUGLAS L. HEALY, ATTORNEY AT LAW  
HEALY LAW OFFICES, LLC  
3010 E BATTLEFIELD STE A  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804  
[doug@healylawoffices.com](mailto:doug@healylawoffices.com)

TERRY M. JARRETT, ATTORNEY AT LAW  
HEALY LAW OFFICES, LLC  
3010 E BATTLEFIELD STE A  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804  
[terry@healylawoffices.com](mailto:terry@healylawoffices.com)

HEATHER H. STARNES, ATTORNEY  
HEATHER H. STARNES  
12 PERDIDO CIRCLE  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211  
[heather@healylawoffices.com](mailto:heather@healylawoffices.com)

JAMES W. BIXBY, ATTORNEY - REGULATORY  
& LEGISLATIVE  
ITC GREAT PLAINS, LLC  
601 THIRTEENTH STREET NW  
STE 710S  
WASHINGTON, DC 20010  
[jbixby@itctransco.com](mailto:jbixby@itctransco.com)

HOLLY FISHER, ATTORNEY-CAP.  
PROJECTS & MAINTENANCE  
ITC GREAT PLAINS, LLC  
3500 SW FAIRLAWN RD STE 101  
TOPEKA, KS 66614-3979  
[hfisher@itctransco.com](mailto:hfisher@itctransco.com)

DENISE M. BUFFINGTON, CORPORATE  
COUNSEL  
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST 19th  
FLOOR (64105)  
PO BOX 418679  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-9679  
[DENISE.BUFFINGTON@KCPL.COM](mailto:DENISE.BUFFINGTON@KCPL.COM)

ROBERT J. HACK, LEAD REGULATORY  
COUNSEL  
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST 19th  
FLOOR (64105)  
PO BOX 418679  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-9679  
[ROB.HACK@KCPL.COM](mailto:ROB.HACK@KCPL.COM)



ROGER W. STEINER, CORPORATE COUNSEL  
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST 19th  
FLOOR (64105)  
PO BOX 418679  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-9679  
[roger.steiner@kcpl.com](mailto:roger.steiner@kcpl.com)

MARY TURNER, MANAGER REGULATORY  
AFFAIRS  
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
ONE KANSAS CITY PL 1200 MAIN ST (64105)  
PO BOX 418679  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-9679  
[MARY.TURNER@KCPL.COM](mailto:MARY.TURNER@KCPL.COM)

ANTHONY WESTENKIRCHNER, SENIOR  
PARALEGAL  
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST 19th  
FLOOR (64105)  
PO BOX 418679  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-9679  
[anthony.westenkirchner@kcpl.com](mailto:anthony.westenkirchner@kcpl.com)

MICHAEL DUENES, ASSISTANT GENERAL  
COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027  
[m.duenes@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:m.duenes@kcc.ks.gov)

ANDREW FRENCH, SENIOR LITIGATION  
COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027  
[a.french@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:a.french@kcc.ks.gov)

STEPHAN SKEPNEK, LITIGATION COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027  
[s.skepnek@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:s.skepnek@kcc.ks.gov)

PAUL MAHLBERG, GENERAL MANAGER  
KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY  
6300 W 95TH ST  
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212-1431  
[MAHLBERG@KMEA.COM](mailto:MAHLBERG@KMEA.COM)

SAM MILLS, DIRECTOR PROJECT AND ASSETS  
MANAGEMENT  
KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY  
6300 W 95TH ST  
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212-1431  
[MILLS@KMEA.COM](mailto:MILLS@KMEA.COM)

MARK CHESNEY, CEO & GENERAL MANAGER  
KANSAS POWER POOL  
100 N BROADWAY STE L110  
WICHITA, KS 67202  
[mchesney@kansaspowerpool.org](mailto:mchesney@kansaspowerpool.org)

JAMES GING, DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
SERVICES  
KANSAS POWER POOL  
100 N BROADWAY STE L110  
WICHITA, KS 67202  
[jging@kansaspowerpool.org](mailto:jging@kansaspowerpool.org)

LARRY HOLLOWAY, ASST GEN MGR  
OPERATIONS  
KANSAS POWER POOL  
100 N BROADWAY STE L110  
WICHITA, KS 67202  
[lholloway@kansaspowerpool.org](mailto:lholloway@kansaspowerpool.org)

CURTIS M. IRBY, GENERAL COUNSEL  
KANSAS POWER POOL  
LAW OFFICES OF CURTIS M. IRBY  
200 EAST FIRST ST, STE. 415  
WICHITA, KS 67202  
[CMIRBY@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:CMIRBY@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

ANNE E. CALLENBACH, ATTORNEY  
POL SINELLI PC  
900 W 48TH PLACE STE 900  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112  
[acallenbach@polsinelli.com](mailto:acallenbach@polsinelli.com)

FRANK A. CARO, ATTORNEY  
POL SINELLI PC  
900 W 48TH PLACE STE 900  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112  
[fcaro@polsinelli.com](mailto:fcaro@polsinelli.com)

MARK D. CALCARA, ATTORNEY  
WATKINS CALCARA CHTD.  
1321 MAIN ST STE 300  
PO DRAWER 1110  
GREAT BEND, KS 67530  
[MALCARA@WCRF.COM](mailto:MALCARA@WCRF.COM)

TAYLOR P. CALCARA, ATTORNEY  
WATKINS CALCARA CHTD.  
1321 MAIN ST STE 300  
PO DRAWER 1110  
GREAT BEND, KS 67530  
[TCALCARA@WCRF.COM](mailto:TCALCARA@WCRF.COM)

MO AWAD, DIRECTOR, REGULATORY  
COMPLIANCE  
WESTAR ENERGY, INC.  
818 S KANSAS AVE  
PO BOX 889  
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889  
[mo.awad@westarenergy.com](mailto:mo.awad@westarenergy.com)

JEFFREY L. MARTIN, VICE PRESIDENT,  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
WESTAR ENERGY, INC.  
818 S KANSAS AVE  
PO BOX 889  
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889  
[JEFF.MARTIN@WESTARENERGY.COM](mailto:JEFF.MARTIN@WESTARENERGY.COM)

PATRICK T. SMITH, CORPORATE COUNSEL  
WESTAR ENERGY, INC.  
818 S KANSAS AVE  
PO BOX 889  
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889  
PATRICK.SMITH@WESTARENERGY.COM

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shonda Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Shonda Smith  
Office Manager