BEFORE THE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF MID-KANSAS ELECTRIC COMPANY, LLC, LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.,] KCC Docket No. 13-MKEE-447-MIS SOUTHERN PIONEER ELECTRIC COMPANY, VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC., WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. AND WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., JOINT APPLICANTS, FOR AN ORDER APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATES] OF CONVENIENCE WITH RESPECT TO ALL OF MID-KANSAS' RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICES AND FOR OTHER RELATED RELIEF.

Received on

MAY 1 4 2013

State Corporation Commission of Kansas

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

ANDREA C. CRANE

ON BEHALF OF

THE CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD

May 14, 2013

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Appendix A – List of Prior Testimonies

1 I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

- 2 Q. Please state your name and business address.
- 3 A. My name is Andrea C. Crane and my business address is 90 Grove Street, Suite 211,
- 4 Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877. (Mailing Address: PO Box 810, Georgetown,
- 5 Connecticut 06829)

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- 7 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
- 8 A. I am President of the Columbia Group, Inc., a financial consulting firm that specializes in
- 9 utility regulation. In this capacity, I analyze rate filings, prepare expert testimony, and
- undertake various studies relating to utility rates and regulatory policy. I have held
- several positions of increasing responsibility since I joined The Columbia Group, Inc. in
- January 1989. I became President of the firm in 2008.

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- 14 Q. Please summarize your professional experience in the utility industry.
- 15 A. Prior to my association with The Columbia Group, Inc., I held the position of Economic
- Policy and Analysis Staff Manager for GTE Service Corporation, from December of
- 17 1987 to January 1989. From June 1982 to September 1987, I was employed by various
- Bell Atlantic (now Verizon) subsidiaries. While at Bell Atlantic, I held assignments in
- the Product Management, Treasury, and Regulatory Departments.

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- 21 Q. Have you previously testified in regulatory proceedings?
- 22 A. Yes, since joining The Columbia Group, Inc., I have testified in over 350 regulatory
- proceedings in the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas,

Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. These proceedings involved electric, gas, water, wastewater, telephone, solid waste, cable television, and navigation utilities. A list of dockets in which I have filed testimony since January of 2008 is included in Appendix A.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I received a Master of Business Administration degree, with a concentration in Finance, from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My undergraduate degree is a B.A. in Chemistry from Temple University.

A.

II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY

13 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

On February 23, 2007, in KCC Docket 06-MKEE-524-RTS ("524 Docket"), the Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC" or "Commission") approved the acquisition by Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC ("MKEC" or "Mid-Kansas") of the WestPlains Kansas ("WPK") electric utility operations of Aquila, Inc. MKEC is a Kansas cooperative utility that is owned by six Members: Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Prairie Land"), Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. ("Victory"), Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. ("Western"), Lane Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Lane Scott"), Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Wheatland"), and Southern Pioneer Electric Company ("Southern Pioneer"). On January 7, 2013, MKEC and its six Members (collectively "Joint Applicants") filed a Joint Application requesting approval to transfer

MKEC's Certificates of Convenience ("Certificates") to the Members. The Columbia 2 Group, Inc. was engaged by The State of Kansas, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") to review the Joint Application and to provide recommendations to the KCC. 3

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Was CURB's participation in this docket subsequently limited? Q.

Yes, it was. The Joint Application requested seven specific approvals from the KCC. A. On April 26, 2013, in the Order on Jurisdiction and Standing, the Commission limited CURB's participation to major issue number seven (7). 1 Issue 7 involves "determining the process to be followed by the member cooperatives to become or remain exempt from Commission regulation pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d after the transfer of the Certificate, and modifying the Commission's Order in the 524 Docket as necessary to reflect such a determination."² Therefore, my testimony will be limited to recommendations regarding the process to be followed by the Members to deregulate the former WPK customers in 13 the event that the KCC approves the transfer of MKEC's Certificates to its Members. 14

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III. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- What are your conclusions and recommendations regarding the deregulation 17 Q. provisions of the 524 Docket? 18
- Based on my analysis of the application and other documentation in this case, my 19 A. 20 conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

¹ Counsel for CURB has indicated that CURB's decision not to seek reconsideration or appeal this decision should not be considered as acquiescence or agreement with the Commission's decision to limit CURB's participation. Other factors, including CURB's desire to avoid further unnecessary rate case expense related to the issue raised sua sponte by the Commission, led to CURB's decision not to challenge this decision.

² Order on Jurisdiction and Standing, ¶ 3, pages 2-3, KCC Docket No. 13-MKEE-447-MIS.

1	1.	The provisions of the Stipulation and Agreement in the 524 Docket ("524 S&A")
2		should be upheld. Accordingly, if the Certificates are transferred, the former
3		WPK customers should vote on whether or not to deregulate.
4	2.	Requiring a vote on deregulation by the WPK members is not only consistent
5		with the terms of the 524 S&A, but it is also reasonable relative to the past history
6		of WPK.
7	3.	The 524 S&A anticipated the possibility that the Members would offer both
8		regulated and deregulated utility service after the acquisition.
9	4.	Denying the former WPK customers a vote on deregulation will have a chilling
10		effect on future settlement agreements.
11	5.	The concerns raised by MKEC and its Members regarding the possibility of
12		having the Members operate a partially-deregulated utility are baseless as this is
13		effectively how the majority of the Members are currently operating.

IV. <u>DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES</u>

18 Q. Please provide a brief background of this proceeding.

A. On November 16, 2005, Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks – WPK and MKEC filed a Joint Application in the 524 Docket for approval to transfer WPK's Certificates to MKEC. MKEC was formed by five Kansas cooperatives and one corporation, which is wholly-owned by a sixth Kansas cooperative, to purchase the electric utility assets and operations of WPK. The Application included transfer of WPK's electric generation, transmission, and distribution assets located in Kansas.

On February 23, 2007, the Commission Ordered and Approved the terms and conditions of a Stipulation & Agreement reached by MKEC, WPK, the Commission's Staff, and the intervening parties, including CURB, authorizing the transfer of WPK's electric business in Kansas to MKEC. Pursuant to the 524 S&A, the assets and Certificates were initially transferred to MKEC. MKEC began operation of the WPK system on April 1, 2007. The generation and transmission services were managed and operated on MKEC's behalf by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation ("Sunflower"), through a service agreement with MKEC. Sunflower is a generation and transmission company that is owned directly or indirectly by the Members of MKEC. The distribution assets were operated on behalf of MKEC by each Member through Service Agreements between MKEC and its Members.

On July 26, 2007, in Docket No. 08-MKEE-099-MIS, MKEC requested approval to spin down its distribution assets to its Members. In addition, MKEC proposed to enter into revised Service Agreements with each Member to provide certain services within the geographical service territory of each member. The spin-down of the assets was approved by the KCC on December 21, 2007.

On January 7, 2013, in Docket number 13-MKEE-447-MIS, Joint Applicants filed an application with the Commission seeking the approval of the transfer of the Certificates for MKEC's retail electric services to its Members. The Joint Application seeks an Order from the KCC for the following seven items:³

i. approving the transfer of Mid-Kansas' Certificate(s) to its Members with respect to all of its local distribution facilities and retail electric utility business and operations located in the State of Kansas, with Mid-Kansas retaining its certificate as to its generation and transmission assets and services, and its certificated right to provide transmission services in its currently designated retail certificated

³ Application in KCC Docket No. 13-MKEE-447-MIS, pages 19-20.

1 2		territory and finding the transfers of the Certificate(s) are in the public interest and approving the same;
3 4	ii.	approving, if required, the Wholesale Requirements Agreement;
5		
6	iii.	approving adoption by the Members of all applicable Mid-Kansas retail rates.
7		rules, and tariffs with respect to the local distribution and retail electric utility
8		services necessary for operations;
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10	iv.	approving the Shared Services Agreement, and, to the extent required, approving
11		the Settlement Agreement;
12		
13	v.	approving and finding that the terms of the wholesale services and rates provided
14		by KEPCo [Kansas Electric Power Cooperative] for the Victory and Prairie Land
15		load in the to be acquired territory be the same as the terms of the currently
16		approved wholesale services and rates provided by Mid-Kansas, as may be
17		modified by Mid-Kansas from time to time, and that the Commission make such
18		finding and order prior to the transfer of the Certificates of Convenience to
19		Victory and Prairie Land; provided further, should KEPCo elect in the future to
20		set terms of wholesale service and rates to Victory and Prairie Land that differ
21		from the approved Mid-Kansas wholesale terms of service and rates, ordering that
22		the wholesale terms of service and rates can be modified only after approval by
23		this Commission;
24	_	
25	vi.	if required, approving the assignment of the Wholesale Requirements Agreements
26		by and among Mid-Kansas, the Members, KEPCo and Sunflower, as applicable;
27	••	
28	vii.	determining the process to be followed by the Member cooperatives to become or
29 20		remain exempt from Commission regulation pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d after the
30		transfer of the Certificate, and modifying the Commission's Order in the 524
31		Docket as necessary to reflect such determination;
32 33	In ad	Hitian the Taint Applicants required Walley related will of that were he was in the
33	m ad	ldition, the Joint Applicants requested "other related relief that may be required to
34	fulfil	l the intent and purposes of the Application herein."
35		In its Order Setting Procedural Schedule, issued on February 14, 2013, the KCC
36	reque	ested that the parties file Briefs and Reply Briefs regarding 1) whether or not the
37	KCC	had jurisdiction over the issues that are included in this docket, 2) how each of the
38	issue	s affect residential and small business customers, and 3) the extent of CURB's

authority to participate in this docket in light of K.S.A. 66-1224.⁴ On April 26, 2013, the KCC issued an Order on Jurisdiction and Standing ("Stage 1 Order"). In the Stage 1 Order, the KCC decided to limit CURB's participation to issue number seven (7). which involves determining the process to be followed by the member cooperatives to become or remain exempt from Commission regulation pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d after the transfer of the Certificates. In addition, the KCC found that it did not have jurisdiction over issues 4-6, which involve a dispute between MKEC and KEPCo regarding the terms and conditions under which two of the Members will procure generation supply in the future if the Certificates are transferred to the Members. Accordingly, this proceeding is now limited to whether the Certificates should be transferred from MKEC to its Members; whether the current rates, rules, and tariffs for each service territory should be maintained; whether a Wholesale Requirements Agreement between MKEC and each Member should be approved; and what process should be used by those cooperatives seeking to deregulate their WPK customers. My testimony is limited to the last issue, pursuant to the KCC's Order on Jurisdiction that limited CURB's participation in this case.

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- Q. Did the signatories to the S&A in the 524 Docket anticipate that the Certificates relating to retail distribution service would eventually be spun-down to the Members?
- 21 A. Yes, they did. As stated by Mr. Lowry on page 3 of his testimony in this proceeding, 22 "[t]he Members expected to transfer the distribution assets and certificated territory for

⁵ Order on Jurisdiction and Standing, page 15, April 26, 2013, KCC Docket No. 13-MKEE-447-MIS.

⁴ K.S.A. 66-1224 states that "Neither the [CURB] Board or the Consumer Counsel shall have the power or authority concerning any action taken by an electric or telephone cooperative with a membership of less than 15,000."

retail services from Mid-Kansas to the six individual Members, forming a business structure mirroring the Sunflower business structure." Mr. Lowry goes on to state that "...in the acquisition docket...Mid-Kansas and its Members stipulated and agreed to file a request to transfer the distribution assets and the certificated territory as soon after the effective date of the acquisition as reasonably possible." Thus, it was always anticipated that retail distribution service would be provided directly by the Members at some point.

A.

Q. When MKEC acquired the WPK customers, were some of its Members already deregulated?

Yes, they were. When MKEC acquired the WPK customers pursuant to the Order in the 524 Docket, all of its Members except for Wheatland and Southern Pioneer were deregulated. At that time, K.S.A. 66-104d permitted cooperative utilities with less than 15,000 customers to exempt themselves from regulation. Thus, Prairie Land, Victory, Western, and Lane Scott were deregulated. According to the testimony of Mr. L. Earl Watkins, Jr. in the 524 Docket, once MKEC spun-down all operations to the Members, "...Victory Electric and Prairie Land Electric would likely become subject to KCC jurisdiction and only Western Electric and Lane-Scott Electric would meet the conditions of K.S.A. 66-104d to remain exempt from rate regulation by the Commission." K.S.A. 66-104d has since been amended to remove the 15,000 customer limitation for exemption from KCC regulation.

⁶ Testimony of Mr. Lowry, page 4, lines 10-13.

- Q. 1 Did the signatories to the S&A in the 524 Docket agree upon a procedure to be used 2 by the Members in the event that the Members sought to exempt the WPK 3 customers from KCC regulation?
- 4 A. Yes, they did. Addressing deregulation, the S&A in the 524 Docket states, "[T]he 5 acquired WPK customers of Lane Scott, Western and any other MKEC members that 6 may have the ability to choose deregulation must vote to deregulate before allowing 7 deregulation of Commission jurisdiction over the rates and services to these customers. The steps required for this process include: a) the WPK customers shall be given full 9 cooperative membership rights, and b) the deregulation petition and voting process, as set 10 out in K.S.A. 66-104d, for the acquired WPK customers shall be limited to only the acquired WPK customers." Furthermore the 524 Docket Order approving the S&A 12 states, "The Commission specifically approves provisions in the Agreement that describe the procedures for acquired WPK customers of Lane Scott, Western and any other 14 MKEC member with the ability to choose deregulation to vote on the decision to 15 deregulate."8

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Q. Are Joint Applicants seeking to revise the Docket 524 S&A in this case?

18 Yes. In this proceeding, the Joint Applicants are seeking to abandon the requirement that A. 19 the WPK customers affirmatively vote for deregulation. Instead, the Joint Applicants 20 propose that "...upon transfer of the Certificate of Convenience any Member that is 21 exempt from regulation at the time of the transfer shall remain exempt without further

⁷ Stipulation & Agreement, ¶ 25; January 10, 2007, p.13, KCC Docket No. 06-MKEE-524-ACQ (emphasis added).

vote of its customers." Mr. Lowry goes on to state that [t]he Aquila-WPK customers would not be harmed by such a result as those customers, if they desire to do so, could submit a petition of not less than 10% of the members of the cooperative to re-vote on deregulation. This is in addition to the right of no less than 5% of all the cooperative's customers or 3% of the cooperative's customers from any one rate class being allowed to require the Commission to investigate the Member's rates."

Q. What rationale do the Joint Applicants give for attempting to change this provision of the stipulation?

A. The Joint Applicants state that should the WPK members of an unregulated cooperative vote to retain regulation by the KCC, then "a situation would arise in which the Member is certificated by the Commission as exempt but a similar class of retail customers within a geographic sub-division is not." In addition, the Company states that K.S.A. 66-104d "does not contemplate a Member being exempt in part."

Q. Do you agree that the KCC should eliminate the requirement in the S&A that the WPK customers affirmatively vote to deregulate, as proposed by the Joint Applicants?

19 A. No I do not, for several reasons. First, the possibility of a Member providing service to
20 both regulated and deregulated customers was clearly envisioned by the parties to the
21 S&A, who agreed that WPK customers acquired by a deregulated Member should be

⁹ Testimony of Mr. Lowry, page 24, lines 1-3.

¹⁰ Id., lines 4-7.

¹¹ Joint Application, ¶ 44.

¹² Id., ¶ 45.

given the right to vote on whether to exempt themselves from KCC regulation. Moreover, eliminating this requirement would be unfair to WPK ratepayers, who up to this point have had limited opportunity to express their concerns about several acquisitions that resulted in higher costs and the loss of valuable assets. Third, eliminating this requirement would constitute a major and material change to the 524 S&A and would make the signatories more reluctant to enter into settlements in the future. For all these reasons, the Company's proposal should be rejected and the deregulation provision of the 524 S&A should be enforced.¹³

Q. Was the deregulation provision of the 524 Docket S&A initially proposed by Staff in its Direct Testimony in that case?

A. Yes, it was. As stated above, when the 524 Docket S&A was executed, it was envisioned that two cooperatives, Western and Lane Scott, would meet the statutory provisions of K.S.A. 66-104d under which a cooperative could exempt itself from regulation. Staff proposed that customers served by these Members be afforded the right to vote for deregulation. Moreover, Staff was very clear that voting should be limited to the newly-acquired customers. As stated by Mr. Holloway in his testimony in the 524 Docket,

However, the acquired WPK customers have not been given an opportunity to participate in a member election for deregulation per K.S.A. 66-104d. To address this issue, Staff recommends that, as a condition of this acquisition, the Commission should require that the WPK-acquired customers of both LSEC [Lane Scott Electric Cooperative] and WCEA [Western Cooperative Electric Association] vote to deregulate, before allowing deregulation of Commission jurisdiction of rates and services to these customers.

Staff does not propose that current LSEC and WCEA customers be subject to Commission jurisdiction. Instead, Staff merely recommends that only the acquired

¹³ My testimony does not address legal concerns expressed by the Joint Applicants. Legal issues will be discussed in CURB's Post-Hearing Brief in this case.

regulated WPK customers participate in determining if they will subsequently deregulate. As a point of clarification, current LSEC and WCEA ratepayers would not be subject to Commission rate jurisdiction. However, the acquired WPK customers should remain Commission jurisdictional until they alone decide otherwise.

To be specific, Staff recommends that for LSEC and WCEA to deregulate their acquired WPK customers, two things must occur. First the WPK customers should be given full cooperative membership rights. Second, that the K.S.A. 66-104d deregulation petition and voting process for the acquired WPK customers would be limited to only the acquired WPK customers. Staff believes with these provisions the statutory rights of the acquired WPK customers will be preserved. ¹⁴

- Q. Does the situation discussed in Mr. Holloway's testimony, whereby a utility meeting the exemption requirements of K.S.A. 66-104d acquires WPK customers that have not had a chance to vote for deregulation, still apply?
- A. Yes, it does. Although in 2009, K.S.A. 66-104d was amended to provide that any cooperative as defined by K.S.A. 66-104d was eligible to exempt itself from regulation, this does not change the fact that the acquired WPK customers have not had the opportunity to vote on deregulation. The situation envisioned in the 524 Docket with regard to Western and Lane Scott is exactly the situation that now applies to Victory and Prairie Land as well, i.e., the current customers of the Member are deregulated. Staff recommended that in this situation, the WPK customers should have the right to vote as to whether or not they wanted to be exempt from KCC regulation. That provision was agreed to by all parties, including MKEC and its Members, and became a critical component of the S&A in the 524 Docket.

Consistent with Staff's testimony in the 524 proceeding, the parties agreed that former WPK customers were entitled to vote on whether the company providing their

¹⁴ Direct Testimony of Larry Holloway, pp. 24-25, November 22, 2006, 06-MKEE-524-ACQ.

electric service should be exempted from regulation. Each of the members agreed. ¹⁵ Moreover, both Staff's testimony and the 524 S&A were very specific that this vote should be limited to the WPK customers. This provision was a critical component of the 524 S&A. One of the reasons why CURB was a signatory to the S&A was that it provided this safeguard for the WPK customers. As noted in CURB's Brief on Jurisdiction and Standing, and as summarized below, these customers are already paying higher rates because of a series of acquisitions, none of which were voted on by the customers. Given this history, CURB felt strongly any effort to deregulate should require a vote by the affected customers, to which Joint Applicants agreed. Now Joint Applicants are proposing to unilaterally change this critical provision of the 524 S&A by proposing that no vote should be necessary for the former WPK customers of Members whose current (native) customers are already deregulated.

- 14 Q. Prior to execution of the 524 S&A, did the Members consider the possibility of providing service to both regulated and deregulated customers?
- 16 A. Yes, they did. In Rebuttal Testimony filed on December 20, 2006 in the 524 Docket,
 17 Earl Steffens stated that "Lane-Scott is not opposed to a single rate structure for the
 18 current Lane-Scott customers and the acquired MKEC customers. Lane-Scott, however,
 19 is not in a position to determine if a single rate structure is feasible for the first rate case
 20 involving the WPK customer's [sic] if Lane-Scott WPK customers have not voted to

Acknowledgement of the Terms and Conditions of Stipulation and Agreement, March 19, 2007, KCC Docket No. 06-MKEE-524-ACQ.

remove themselves from rate regulation." ¹⁶ Similar Rebuttal Testimony was filed by
David Schneider on behalf of Western. ¹⁷

Q. Does the fact that additional members have been deregulated since the 524 S&A was signed necessitate a change to the deregulation provision of the agreement?

A. No, it does not. There was always the possibility that the Members could end up serving both regulated and deregulated utility customers. As noted above, four of the Members were already deregulated when the 524 S&A was signed. Therefore, the signatories to the 524 S&A knew that there was the potential that some deregulated Members might need to provide regulated utility service in the event that the WPK customers did not vote to deregulate. The Members clearly agreed to this provision. In fact, on March 19, 2007, the Members made a filing with the KCC specifically agreeing to be bound by the terms and conditions included in the 524 S&A. The fact that the 15,000 customer limitation in K.S.A. 66-104d has since been eliminated should have no bearing on the exercise of the deregulation provision, which anticipated the possibility of deregulated Members

Q. Are there difficulties from an operational perspective of providing service to both regulated and non-regulated customers?

providing regulated utility service to the acquired customers.

A. No, in fact, four of the five cooperatives effectively are already providing both regulated and non-regulated utility services. Moreover, in some cases, there are other non-regulated services (in addition to the provision of service to utility customers) that are

¹⁶ Rebuttal Testimony of Earl Steffens, p. 3, December 21, 2006, KCC Docket No. 06-MKEE-524-ACQ.

¹⁷ Rebuttal Testimony of David Schneider, p. 3, December 21, 2006, KCC Docket No. 06-MKEE-524-ACQ.

being provided by the Members. The fact that Members have been providing service on both a regulated and non-regulated basis has apparently not hampered the ability of the Members to provide utility service to the WPK customers or to allocate costs between regulated and deregulated services. Although technically the cooperatives do not hold the WPK Certificates, they have repeatedly argued that from a practical perspective they are already providing service to the WPK customers, as acknowledged by Mr. Lowry on page 6, lines 19-22 of his testimony where he states that "...since the acquisition, the Members have essentially been providing the retail services within the certificated service territory under the Electric Customer Service Agreement." So from an operational perspective, there is nothing that would need to change in order for the Members to continue to provide service to both regulated and non-regulated customers should the WPK customers vote to retain KCC jurisdiction.

Q.

A.

What is the basis for your statement that the WPK customers have had little opportunity to express their concerns regarding acquisition and that such acquisitions have resulted in higher rates?

A review of the history of the WPK service territory indicates that over the past 22 years, the WPK retail customers have been sold twice, for a total acquisition premium of over \$100 million. In neither of these sales did the WPK customers have direct input into the acquisition or the resulting utility rates. In addition, these acquisitions not only resulted in acquisition premiums that are now being recovered from ratepayers, but they also resulted in the loss of valuable generation facilities that will need to eventually be replaced at higher costs.

A.

Q. Can you provide a brief history of this service territory?

Yes, this service territory was originally served by Centel Corporation ("Centel"). At that time, Centel also owned an 8% undivided interest in the Jeffery Energy Center ("JEC") generation facility. On September 18, 1991, the KCC approved the acquisition of the Centel assets and customers by Utilicorp United, later known as Aquila or WPK. As part of the transaction, Centel also sold its interest in JEC to a financing entity for \$114.6 million, substantially higher than the net book value of \$58.6 million, which then leased the property back to WPK to supply power to its customers. Therefore, instead of outright ownership of a \$58.6 million coal plant supplying power for the WPK customers, WPK was now supplied the same power under a 27-year lease, with a price designed to recover \$114.6 million, plus interest. WPK retained a right to repurchase its JEC interest at the end of the lease.

WPK sought to recover the full lease payment, including the acquisition premium of \$56 million related to the lease, from its customers. Staff calculated that about \$5 million of the annual JEC lease payment related to the \$56 million acquisition premium. The KCC ultimately permitted WPK to charge customers \$2.35 million of the annual acquisition premium¹⁹ of \$5 million through the JEC lease. WPK's customers were now paying for the power plant they used to own, plus an additional \$2.35 million per year simply as a result of being sold.

In the 524 Docket, the KCC approved the acquisition of WPK by MKEC, at a price that included an estimated \$45.5 million acquisition premium.²⁰ Since the purchase price, including the acquisition premium, was financed by the Members through debt,

¹⁸ Order and Certificate, September 18, 1991, KCC Docket No. 175,456-U, 91-UCUE-226-MER.

¹⁹ See, Order on Application No. 10, January 19, 2000, ¶ 25, KCC Docket No. 99-WPEE-818-RTS.
²⁰ See, Order Adopting Stipulation and Agreement, February 23, 2007, KCC Docket No. 06-MKEE-524-ACQ.

this acquisition premium is being paid for by the WPK customers through their debt service costs, including the margins on debt service that are approved by the KCC. In addition, as a result of the Docket 524 transaction, WPK customers are also now paying the full \$56 million acquisition premium in generation rates from the Centel/WPK transaction, in addition to the \$45 million acquisition premium in distribution rates resulting from the 524 Docket.

In addition, Westar Energy, Inc. exercised a right of refusal over the transfer of the JEC lease from WPK to MKEC. At the end of the lease term, ownership of the 8% JEC interest now reverts to Westar Energy, and not back to the MKEC customers that originally owned the JEC generation.

Accordingly, MKEC customers could be paying rates that are nearly \$100 million higher (between \$5-\$10 million in annual amortization) simply because they were sold twice and they have lost the value of the 8% JEC interest they once owned. And since this power will have to be replaced at the end of the JEC lease term, MKEC customer rates will likely increase again to acquire additional generation. There were no customer votes before either of these acquisitions so WPK customers have had no direct input into these transactions.

A.

Q. Do the Joint Applicants now claim that the WPK system was not properly maintained prior to the acquisition by MKEC?

Yes, they do. After claiming that the acquisition premium paid for the WPK assets was reasonable at the time of the acquisition, MKEC and the Members now claim that the acquired system was not well maintained by Aquila/WPK and is in need of significant

upgrades. So not only are WPK customers paying rates that include recovery of a \$45 million acquisition premium associated with purchase by MKEC, they are also being asked to pay higher rates due to incremental debt needed to upgrade the acquired system. Accordingly, the WPK customers have now been sold twice, for a combined acquisition premium of \$100 million, have lost ownership of a valuable generation asset, and are facing still higher debt service costs due to the poor condition of the distribution assets. At no time have the customers themselves been given the opportunity to vote on their own destiny. The deregulation provision of the 524 S&A was one safeguard that was agreed to by the parties, including MKEC and its Members, for the former WPK customers. That safeguard should not now be unilaterally eliminated by the Joint Applicants.

MKEC and its Members (native cooperatives) are being held harmless for their decision to pay a premium for a system that they now claim was not well-maintained and requires significant upgrades. If the WPK system had been purchased by an investor-owned utility, the Commission would have the option to hold the shareholders responsible for the decision to pay a hefty acquisition premium for a system requiring substantial upgrades. Instead, without ever getting a vote, the former WPK customers are being held responsible for the decision made by MKEC and its Members to pay an acquisition premium for a poorly-maintained system. In fact, MKEC and its Members expect these customers to pay twice – once for an acquisition premium and once for upgrading the system to acceptable standards. At the very least the former WPK customers deserve the safeguard negotiated by CURB and Staff on their behalf to vote on

whether the company providing their electric service should remain regulated or be exempted from Commission regulation.

A.

Q. Doesn't the provision that 10% of the customers of a Member can petition to re-vote on deregulation provide adequate safeguards?

No, it does not. Mr. Lowry states that WPK customers would be not harmed by the proposed change to the 524 S&A because 10% of the customers of a Member can petition to re-vote on deregulation.²¹ In addition, he states that the KCC can also investigate a Member's rates if 5% of a cooperative's customers or 3% of the customers of a rate class petition the KCC.²² However, these provisions pertain to the entire membership of the Member, and not just to the WPK customers. Since these provisions pertain to the entire membership, the result is a much higher threshold for action than the voting requirement provision reflected in the 524 S&A. Therefore, these provisions do not provide the WPK customers with the same level of protection and customer safeguards contained in the 524 S&A.

In addition, in a recent Report and Recommendation filed in a K.S.A. 66-104d(g)(1) filing, Commission Staff contends that the level of scrutiny required by an investigation under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to determine whether a cooperative's rates are unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential is not the same as an undertaking to set rates that are just and reasonable. ²³ If Staff's contention is adopted by the Commission, then the ability of 5% of a cooperative's customers or 3% of the customers

²¹ Testimony of Mr. Lowry, page 24, lines 4-7.

²² Id., lines 7-10.

²³ "It is Staff's contention that a review of a cooperative's rates to determine if they are unjust or unreasonable is not the same as an undertaking to set rates that are just and reasonable." Notice of Filing of Staff's Report and Recommendation, April 19, 2013, Attachment A, p. 2, KCC Docket No. 13-LYCE-514-MIS.

of a rate class to petition the KCC for an investigation of the cooperative's rates does not provide the same level of safeguards to customers that rate regulation provides.

A.

Q. Why do you believe that changing the deregulation provision of the 524 S&A will have a chilling effect on future settlement agreements?

Settlement agreements generally involve significant negotiations and a high level of give and take by all parties. Parties must evaluate the individual provisions of a settlement agreement in order to determine if the overall settlement is reasonable. Moreover, in testifying that a settlement is reasonable and in the public interest, the parties must be able to anticipate the impact of a settlement on utility ratepayers in Kansas. Parties to a settlement agreement have the right to assume that the provisions of any settlement agreement will be upheld by the other signatories, especially once a settlement agreement is approved by the KCC. If the parties believe that an important provision of a settlement agreement can be unilaterally modified, then parties are much less likely to enter into such agreements. In order to protect the integrity of the settlement process, the KCC should strive to uphold the provisions of previously-approved settlements.

It is also reasonable for parties to expect some level of Commission integrity with respect to prior orders. Parties to settlements approved by the Commission should have some ability to assume that subsequent Commissions will uphold prior Commission decisions approving clear and unambiguous settlement provisions. Parties will have no reason to settle if they cannot expect a future Commission to uphold prior Commission decisions approving negotiated settlement terms and conditions. Abrogating an isolated term negotiated in a comprehensive settlement is patently unfair - one could reasonably

argue that the abrogation of the former WPK customer's right to vote whether to deregulate should be offset by abrogation of another negotiated term, such as the approval of the significant acquisition premium which former WPK customers have paid for in TIER- and DSC-based rates.

A.

Q. Please summarize your recommendation in this case.

If the Certificates are transferred from MKEC to its Members, the KCC should enforce the provisions of the 524 S&A that require a vote prior to deregulation of service provided to the former WPK customers. The 524 S&A clearly envisioned a situation whereby a Member was providing both regulated and non-regulated utility service. Moreover, the S&A was very clear that the WPK customers should not be deregulated until those customers were given the opportunity to vote on deregulation. Any process that eliminates a vote by the WPK customers or requires a vote by the full customer base of the Members weakens the safeguards provided for in the 524 S&A. Permitting Joint Applicants to abrogate this provision would not only be unfair to WPK ratepayers but would also have a detrimental effect on future settlement agreements.

Q. Does this complete your testimony?

19 A. Yes, it does.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD) ss: KIDGEFIELD
consultant for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer	upon her oath, deposes and states that she is a ver Board, that she has read and is familiar with the ts made herein are true to the best of her knowledge,
	<u>Andrea C. Crane</u> Andrea C. Crane
Subscribed and sworn before me this 9	<u>th</u> day of <u>May</u> , 2013.
	Notary Public Barbara C. Serplippi
My Commission Expires: $\frac{5}{31/2015}$	BARBARA C. SERFILIPPI NOTARY PUBLIC MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAY 31, 2015

APPENDIX A

List of Testimonies Filed Since January 2008

Company	Utility	<u>State</u>	<u>Docket</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	On Behalf Of
Mid-Kansas Electric Company	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-447-MIS	5/13	Transfer of Certificate Regulatory Policy	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Mid-Kansas Electric Company (Southern Pioneer)	Е	Kansas	13-MKEE-452-MIS	5/13	Formula Rates	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	G	Delaware	12-450F	3/13	Gas Sales Rates	Attorney General
Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	E	New Jersey	EO12080721	1/13	Solar 4All - Extension Program	Division of Rate Counsel
Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	E	New Jersey	EO12080726	1/13	Solar Loan III Program	Division of Rate Counsel
Lane Scott Electric Cooperative	Е	Kansas	12-MKEE-410-RTS	11/12	Acquisition Premium Policy Issues	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Kansas Gas Service	G	Kansas	12-KGSG-835-RTS	9/12	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Kansas City Power and Light Company	· E	Kansas	12-KCPE-764-RTS	8/12	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Woonsocket Water Division	W	Rhode Island	4320	7/12	Revenue Requirements	Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
Atmos Energy Company	G	Kansas	12-ATMG-564-RTS	6/12	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Delmarva Power and Light Company	E	Delaware	11-258	5/12	Cost of Capital	Division of the Public Advocate
Mid-Kansas Electric Company (Western)	E	Kansas	12-MKEE-491-RTS	5/12	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Atlantic City Electric Company	E	New Jersey	ER11080469	4/12	Revenue Requirements	Division of Rate Counsel
Mid-Kansas Electric Company (Southern Pioneer)	E	Kansas	12-MKEE-380-RTS	4/12	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	11-381F	2/12	Gas Cost Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Atlantic City Electric Company	E	New Jersey	EO11110650	2/12	Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP-2)	Division of Rate Counsel
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	G	Delaware	11-384F	2/12	Gas Service Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
New Jersey American Water Co.	www	New Jersey	WR11070460	1/12	Consolidated Income Taxes Cash Working Capital	Division of Rate Counsel
Westar Energy, Inc.	E	Kansas	12-WSEE-112-RTS	1/12	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	E/G	Washington	UE-111048 UG-111049	12/11	Conservation Incentive Program and Others	Public Counsel
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	G	Washington	UG-110723	10/11	Pipeline Replacement Tracker	Public Counsel
Empire District Electric Company	E	Kansas	11-EPDE-856-RTS	10/11	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Comcast Cable	С	New Jersey	CR11030116-117	9/11	Forms 1240 and 1205	Division of Rate Counsel
Artesian Water Company	W	Delaware	11-207	9/11	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Division of the Public Advocate

Сотрапу	Utility	<u>State</u>	<u>Docket</u>	<u>Date</u>	Topic	On Behalf Of
Mid-Kansas Electric Company	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-447-MIS	5/13	Transfer of Certificate Regulatory Policy	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Mid-Kansas Electric Company (Southern Pioneer)	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-452-MIS	5/13	Formula Rates	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Kansas City Power & Light Company	E	Kansas	10-KCPE-415-RTS (Remand)	7/11	Rate Case Costs	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Midwest Energy, Inc.	G	Kansas	11-MDWE-609-RTS	7/11	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Kansas City Power & Light Company	Е	Kansas	11-KCPE-581-PRE	6/11	Pre-Determination of Ratemaking Principles	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
United Water Delaware, Inc.	W	Delaware	10-421	5/11	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Division of the Public Advocate
Mid-Kansas Electric Company	E	Kansas	11-MKEE-439-RTS	4/11	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
South Jersey Gas Company	G	New Jersey	GR10060378-79	3/11	BGSS / CIP	Division of Rate Counsel
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	G	Delaware	10-296F	3/11	Gas Service Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Westar Energy, Inc.	Е	Kansas	11-WSEE-377-PRE	2/11	Pre-Determination of Wind Investment	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	10-295F	2/11	Gas Cost Rates	Attorney General
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	10-237	10/10	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Division of the Public Advocate
Pawtucket Water Supply Board	W	Rhode Island	4171	7/10	Revenue Requirements	Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
New Jersey Natural Gas Company	G	New Jersey	GR10030225	7/10	RGGI Programs and Cost Recovery	Division of Rate Counsel
Kansas City Power & Light Company	Ε	Kansas	10-KCPE-415-RTS	6/10	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Atmos Energy Corp.	G	Kansas	10-ATMG-495-RTS	6/10	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Empire District Electric Company	E	Kansas	10-EPDE-314-RTS	3/10	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Delmarva Power and Light Company	E	Delaware	09-414 and 09-276T	2/10	Cost of Capital Rate Design Policy Issues	Division of the Public Advocate
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	09-385F	2/10	Gas Cost Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	G	Delaware	09-398F	1/10	Gas Service Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Public Service Electric and Gas Company	E	New Jersey	ER09020113	11/09	Societal Benefit Charge Non-Utility Generation Charge	Division of Rate Counsel
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	09-277T	11/09	Rate Design	Division of the Public Advocate
Public Service Electric and Gas Company	E/G	New Jersey	GR09050422	11/09	Revenue Requirements	Division of Rate Counsel

Company	<u>Utility</u>	<u>State</u>	Docket	<u>Date</u>	Topic	On Behalf Of
Mid-Kansas Electric Company	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-447-MIS	5/13	Transfer of Certificate Regulatory Policy	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Mid-Kansas Electric Company (Southern Pioneer)	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-452-MIS	5/13	Formula Rates	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Mid-Kansas Electric Company	E	Kansas	09-MKEE-969-RTS	10/09	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Westar Energy, Inc.	Ε	Kansas	09-WSEE-925-RTS	9/09	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Jersey Central Power and Light Co.	Е	New Jersey	EO08050326 EO08080542	8/09	Demand Response Programs	Division of Rate Counsel
Public Service Electric and Gas Company	E	New Jersey	EO09030249	7/09	Solar Loan II Program	Division of Rate Counsel
Midwest Energy, Inc.	E	Kansas	09-MDWE-792-RTS	7/09	Revenue Requirements	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Westar Energy and KG&E	E	Kansas	09-WSEE-641-GIE	6/09	Rate Consolidation	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
United Water Delaware, Inc.	w	Delaware	09-60	6/09	Cost of Capital	Division of the Public Advocate
Rockland Electric Company	E	New Jersey	GO09020097	6/09	SREC-Based Financing Program	Division of Rate Counsel
Tidewater Utilities, Inc.	w	Delaware	09-29	6/09	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Division of the Public Advocate
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	G	Delaware	08-269F	3/09	Gas Service Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	08-266F	2/09	Gas Cost Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Kansas City Power & Light Company	Е	Kansas	09-KCPE-246-RTS	2/09	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Jersey Central Power and Light Co.	E	New Jersey	EO08090840	1/09	Solar Financing Program	Division of Rate Counsel
Atlantic City Electric Company	E	New Jersey	E006100744 E008100875	1/09	Solar Financing Program	Division of Rate Counsel
West Virginia-American Water Company	W	West Virginia	08-0900-W-42T	11/08	Revenue Requirements	The Consumer Advocate Division of the PSC
Westar Energy, Inc.	E	Kansas	08-WSEE-1041-RTS	9/08	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Artesian Water Company	W	Delaware	08-96	9/08	Cost of Capital, Revenue, New Headquarters	Division of the Public Advocate
Comcast Cable	С	New Jersey	CR08020113	9/08	Form 1205 Equipment & Installation Rates	Division of Rate Counsel
Pawtucket Water Supply Board	W	Rhode Island	3945	7/08	Revenue Requirements	Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
New Jersey American Water Co.	www	New Jersey	WR08010020	7/08	Consolidated Income Taxes	Division of Rate Counsel
New Jersey Natural Gas Company	G	New Jersey	GR07110889	5/08	Revenue Requirements	Division of Rate Counsel
Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	E	Kansas	08-KEPE-597-RTS	5/08	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

<u>Company</u>	<u>Utility</u>	State	<u>Docket</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	On Behalf Of
Mid-Kansas Electric Company	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-447-MIS	5/13	Transfer of Certificate Regulatory Policy	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Mid-Kansas Electric Company (Southern Pioneer)	E	Kansas	13-MKEE-452-MIS	5/13	Formula Rates	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Public Service Electric and Gas Company	Ε	New Jersey	EX02060363 EA02060366	5/08	Deferred Balances Audit	Division of Rate Counsel
Cablevision Systems Corporation	С	New Jersey	CR07110894, et al	5/08	Forms 1240 and 1205	Division of Rate Counsel
Midwest Energy, Inc.	E	Kansas	08-MDWE-594-RTS	5/08	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	G	Delaware	07-246F	4/08	Gas Service Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Comcast Cable	С	New Jersey	CR07100717-946	3/08	Form 1240	Division of Rate Counsel
Generic Commission Investigation	G	New Mexico	07-00340-UT	3/08	Weather Normalization	New Mexico Office of Attorney General
Southwestern Public Service Company	E	New Mexico	07-00319-UT	3/08	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	New Mexico Office of Attorney General
Delmarva Power and Light Company	G	Delaware	07-239F	2/08	Gas Cost Rates	Division of the Public Advocate
Atmos Energy Corp.	G	Kansas	08-ATMG-280-RTS	1/08	Revenue Requirements Cost of Capital	Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

13-MKEE-447-MIS

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 14th day of May, 2013, to the following parties who have waived receipt of follow-up hard copies:

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