THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners:

Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair Jay Scott Emler Pat Apple

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In the Matter of the Application of Great Plains Energy Incorporated, Kansas City Power & Light Company, and Westar Energy, Inc. for Approval of the Merger of Westar Energy, Inc. and Great Plains Energy Incorporated.

Docket No. 18-KCPE-095-MER

ORDER GRANTING WAL-MART'S MOTION TO LATE FILE DIRECT TESTIMONY

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed the pleadings and record, the Commission makes the following findings:

1. On August 25, 2017, Westar Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and Electric Company (Westar), Great Plains Energy Incorporated (Great Plains) and Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCP&L) filed an Application seeking approval to merge. The Applicants intend to form a new, publicly traded holding company with a combined equity value of approximately \$14 billion, which will operate regulated electric utilities in Kansas and Missouri.¹ Westar and KCP&L would become wholly-owned subsidiaries of the new holding company.² As proposed, Westar shareholders will own approximately 52.5% of the combined company with Great Plains' shareholders owning the remaining 47.5% of the combined company.³

2. On October 10, 2017, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Wal-Mart) was granted intervention.⁴

¹ Application, Aug. 25, 2017, ¶¶ 9-10.

² Id., ¶ 10.

³ *Id.*, ¶ 11.

⁴ Order Granting Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.'s Petition to Intervene, Oct. 10, 2018, ¶4.

3. On November 21, 2017, the Commission issued its Order Setting Procedural Schedule, which included a January 29, 2018, 5:00 p.m. deadline for intervenors to file their direct testimony.⁵

4. On January 30, 2018, Wal-Mart filed a Motion to Late File Direct Testimony (Motion), explaining that due to other pressing matters, its counsel missed the deadline to file the Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Steve W. Chriss by approximately 40 minutes and requesting leave to late file its direct testimony.⁶ Wal-Mart suggests granting its Motion would not prejudice any of the other parties.⁷

5. Under K.A.R. 82-1-217, when a party is required to act within a specified time, and fails to do so, the Commission has discretion to extend the time where the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect.⁸ Wal-Mart acknowledges its failure to timely file was due to excusable neglect. Furthermore, none of the parties have objected to Wal-Mart's Motion or claimed they would be prejudiced if the Commission granted the Motion. Therefore, pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-217(b), the Commission grants Wal-Mart's Motion.

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. Pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-217(b), Wal-Mart's Motion to Late File Direct Testimony is granted. The Commission accepts the filing of the Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Steve W. Chriss.

B. The parties have 15 days from the date this Order was electronically served to petition for reconsideration.⁹

⁵ Order Setting Procedural Schedule, Nov. 21, 2017, ¶ 12.

⁶ Motion to Late File Direct Testimony, Jan. 30, 2018, ¶2.

⁷ Id., ¶ 3.

⁸ K.A.R 82-1-217(b).

⁹ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).

C. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties for the purpose of entering such further orders as it deems necessary.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Albrecht, Chair; Emler, Commissioner; Apple, Commissioner

Dated: _____ FEB 0 8 2018

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Secretary to the Commission

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FEB 08 2018

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I, the undersigned, certify that the true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following parties by means of

Electronic Service on FEB 0 8 2018

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