

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

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**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**TRAVIS LINCOLN**

**WESTAR ENERGY**

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**DOCKET NO. 18-WSEE-328-RTS**

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1     **Q.     PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2     A.     My name is Travis Lincoln. My business address is 818 South  
3             Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

4     **Q.     BY WHOM AND IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU EMPLOYED?**

5     A.     I am employed by Westar Energy, Inc. (Westar), a wholly-owned  
6             subsidiary of Evergy, Inc. (Evergy), as Director, Metering  
7             Operations.

8     **Q.     WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND**  
9             **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE?**

10    A.     In 2004, I received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Kansas  
11             State University. I also attended Friends University, where I earned  
12             an MBA. I am a Licensed Master Electrician, and a Licensed  
13             Professional Engineer in the State of Kansas.

1  
2 I joined Westar Energy as an Engineer in 2004. While at  
3 Westar, I have held a variety of positions in engineering and  
4 operational management, including the areas of power generation,  
5 substation maintenance and currently in the metering operations  
6 function. Prior to coming to Westar, I worked in the field for various  
7 electrical construction companies as a master electrician.

8 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE KANSAS**  
9 **CORPORATION COMMISSION ("KCC")?**

10 A. No.

11 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

12 A. The purpose of my testimony is to respond to Staff's  
13 recommendation to adjust the useful life of AMI meters from 15 to  
14 25 years.

15 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION?**

16 A. No.

17 **Q. WHY?**

18 A. The technological life of the device is significantly less than the 25-  
19 year life recommended by Staff witness Mr. Dunkel. These devices  
20 are basically computers in the field. They have programmed  
21 intelligence on board as well as communication systems allowing  
22 advanced interfaces to other modern computing systems. Because  
23 AMI meters are technologically-based, much like cellular smart  
24 phones and personal computers, the advancement pace of

1 technology quickly outpaces the physical life of the device. We  
2 have seen evidence of this even while we were deploying smart  
3 meters in our territory. During deployment, we received notification  
4 from a cellular provider that it would no longer support 3G cellular  
5 communication technology. This is just one example of how rapid  
6 changes in communication/information technology and computing  
7 systems can affect the useful life of devices interfaced to those  
8 technologies.

9 **Q. WHY IS A USEFUL LIFE OF 15 YEARS REASONABLE FOR AMI**  
10 **METERS?**

11 A. With Smart meters, there is minimal maintenance that can be  
12 completed, they are essentially a consumable item. In the past with  
13 mechanical meters, there was maintenance performed on the  
14 physical components of the device. With electronic meters, we are  
15 not able to source the electronic components for replacement, nor  
16 do we have the technical systems in place to make associated  
17 electronic component changes or repairs. In addition, our current  
18 meter vendor bases all its lifecycle performance studies on a 20-  
19 year life as its standard. Based on our experience as I have  
20 discussed and the timelines for deploying Smart Meters in the field  
21 coupled with the rapid advances in technology, it is my opinion that  
22 a 15-year mean service life for AMI meters is within a zone of  
23 reasonableness and consistent with our expectations. While some

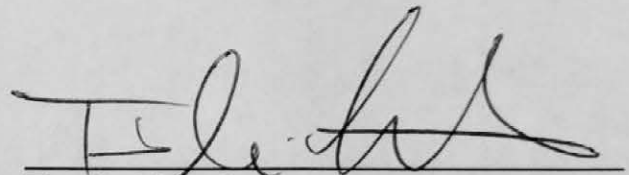
1           AMI meters may exceed a service life of 15 years, others will likely  
2           be retired and replaced before age 15. Based on my experience  
3           and knowledge of AMI metering, it is my belief that a distribution of  
4           retirements around 15 years is more likely than a distribution  
5           around the 25 years recommended by Mr. Dunkel.

6       **Q.    THANK YOU.**


STATE OF KANSAS                    )  
  ) ss:  
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE            )

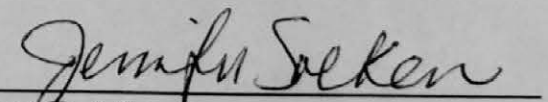
**VERIFICATION**

Travis Lincoln, being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and states that he is the Director, Metering Operations, for Westar Energy, Inc., that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing Direct Testimony, and attests that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

  
Travis Lincoln

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018.

 **JENNIFER SOEKEN**  
Notary Public  
State of Kansas  
My appointment expires 2-22-20

  
Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: 2-22-20