

Notice of Public Hearings and Comment Period

Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC (Mid-Kansas) filed a rate application on December 14, 2010, with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) requesting a retail rate increase for one of its six member divisions. The Mid-Kansas member division affected by the rate application is Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., Scott City, Kansas.

Mid-Kansas has proposed an increase in retail rates totaling \$4,264,081. Mid-Kansas estimates this as about a 19% aggregate increase in total over current rates. Mid-Kansas has requested this increase be phased in over two years. Phase I increase of \$2,384,968 will be effective immediately if approved by the Commission. Mid-Kansas has estimated this will result in about an 11% increase, or about a \$9.00 average increase per month for residential customers. Phase II increase of \$1,879,113 will be effective one year from the effective date of the Phase I increase and result in about an 8% incremental increase over the increase of Phase 1, or about an additional \$7.26 average increase per month for a residential customer. Mid-Kansas has indicated that of the additional Phase I revenue, \$52,043 is attributable to a requested increase in the local access charge for third-party use of the 34.5 kV line owned by Wheatland.

The requested rate increase will only affect those customers located in the service territory formerly served by West Plains Kansas (Aquila Corporation) and currently served by Mid-Kansas through Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. If you are unsure if you are affected by this rate application, please contact your retail electric provider or Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Regulatory Responsibility

The KCC is a state regulatory agency charged by the Kansas Legislature with the responsibility to establish just and reasonable electric rates that are not unduly preferential or discriminatory. The KCC Staff is investigating whether the proposed rate increase is just and reasonable. The Commissioners will consider the evidence presented by Mid-Kansas, KCC Staff, and other intervening parties before any determination is made. The Commissioners must issue their decision by August 11, 2011.

Public Hearing

The KCC has scheduled a public hearing concerning Mid-Kansas' requested increase on March 7, 2011, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposal.

Interested individuals may participate in person at the primary or the video conference sites at the following locations:

Primary Site:

Kingman High School Auditorium
260 W. Kansas Ave.
Kingman, Kansas

Video Conference Site:

Barton Community College
Fine Arts Building Room F-30
245 N.E. 30th Rd.
Great Bend, Kansas

Video Conference Site:

Anthony Medical Center
1101 East Spring St. (Basement Conf. Room)
Anthony, Kansas

The public hearing will consist of two parts. During the first part, the KCC will hold an informational meeting to allow Mid-Kansas to fully explain its request to the public and answer questions. KCC Staff will be available and the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) and other intervenors may also be there to answer questions. The second part is a formal public hearing to assure that members of the public have the opportunity to make their views on the application known to the Commissioners. The Commissioners will participate in person at the primary site and by video at the other sites.

Public Comments

The KCC encourages those unable to attend the public hearing to submit written or oral comments to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection (PACP), 1500 SW Arrowhead Dr., Topeka, KS 66604. Comments may also be submitted via email to public.affairs.@kcc.ks.gov or by calling 1-800-662-0027. Comments should reference Docket No. 11 - MKEE - 439 - RTS. Comments will be accepted until May 31, 2011, and will be filed for review by the Commissioners.

More Information

A complete copy of the Mid-Kansas application is found on the KCC website at: <http://kcc.ks.gov/docket/cal.cgi?docket=11-MKEE-439-RTS>.

The KCC will hold an evidentiary hearing to take evidence on the Mid-Kansas rate application beginning June 9, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in the first floor hearing room at the Commission's Offices located at 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas. At the evidentiary hearing, KCC Staff, Mid-Kansas, and any intervening parties will present evidence in support of their respective positions.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the primary or any of the video conferencing sites under The American with Disabilities Act needs to give notice to the Commission at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date at 1-800-662-0027 or (785) 271-3140.