

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NOS. 06-0070, 06-0071 and 06-0072

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

ROBERT PORTER

Submitted On Behalf

Of

**CENTRAL ILLINOIS LIGHT COMPANY d/b/a AMERENCILCO,
CENTRAL ILLINOIS PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY d/b/a AMERENCIPS and
ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY, d/b/a AMERENIP**

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Robert Porter. My business address is 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Q. Are you the same Robert Porter who previously submitted testimony in these proceedings?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?

A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to the testimony of AG witness Effron and IIEC witness Gorman regarding adjustments to revenue requirements related to costs and savings from the acquisition of Illinois Power. Specifically I will address the adjustment to O&M expense suggested by AG witness Effron relating to differences in allocated corporate A&G to AmerenIP

23 and the adjustment suggested by IIEC witness Gorman to amortization of the
24 acquisition cost regulatory asset.

25 **Q. Please describe the adjustment to O&M expense for changes in corporate**
26 **allocated A&G expense as proposed by Mr. Effron.**

27 A. Mr. Effron calculates the difference between the A&G expense expected to be
28 allocated to AmerenIP by AMS and the actual A&G expense allocated to IP by
29 Dynegy, as reflected in IP's 2004 actual results. He includes an adjustment to the
30 Dynegy costs for injuries and damages costs reflected in the Company's Schedule
31 C-2.12. Mr. Effron asserts that the difference between the expected AMS costs
32 and the adjusted Dynegy costs represents a net increase in costs to customers
33 resulting from the acquisition of Illinois Power by Ameren.

34 **Q. Mr. Effron calculates the difference in IP allocated corporate costs to be**
35 **\$13.8 million. Is this a fair representation of the difference in costs under**
36 **Ameren ownership vs. ongoing ownership by Dynegy?**

37 A. No. As with any acquisition, it is difficult to determine what actual costs of
38 service would have been had the transaction not occurred. Such comparisons are
39 speculative at best. While the kind of comparison Mr. Effron is attempting to
40 make can be useful, there are problems in the numbers he uses. Specifically, the
41 2004 Dynegy allocation he uses is inappropriate for such a comparison.

42 **Q. What adjustments should be made to the Dynegy allocation to result in a**
43 **valid comparison?**

44 A. First, Mr. Effron's adjustment for injuries and damages should be eliminated. At
45 the time Mr. Effron filed his testimony this adjustment was valid. However, the

46 Company has since accepted an adjustment to the injuries and damages amount
47 on Schedule C-2.12 for the amount of the Dynegy allocated costs. Therefore, the
48 adjustment is no longer needed. Eliminating this adjustment increases the
49 Dynegy value from \$13.5 million to \$17.4 million.

50 Second, the Dynegy allocation for 2004 represents only 9 months of
51 allocated costs and should be adjusted to reflect a full year under Dynegy
52 ownership. If Dynegy had owned IP for the entire year the cost would have been
53 \$23.1 million based on a simple extrapolation of the first nine months.

54 Third, Dynegy was already in the process of reducing its corporate support
55 structure to reflect a change in focus to its core business. Prior to changes in
56 Dynegy's corporate cost structure, the annual corporate allocation to IP was in
57 excess of \$40 million. Only after Dynegy was led by its circumstances to take a
58 shorter-term business focus was the level of allocation to IP reduced to its 2004
59 level. Since IP would most likely have continued under Dynegy ownership only
60 in the absence of Dynegy's financial challenges, it is more appropriate to use a
61 historical average of the allocated corporate costs as an indication of what costs
62 would have been under continued Dynegy ownership. Using the above-
63 mentioned \$23.1 million for a full year of 2004 costs, the average annual
64 allocated corporate costs from 2001-2004 were \$27.1 million.

65 Finally, the Dynegy allocated costs are in 2004 dollars whereas the AMS
66 costs are in 2006 dollars. Adjusting for two years of wage increases and general
67 inflation brings the annual value for the Dynegy allocation to \$29.3 million.

68 **Q. Please state the comparison of allocated A&G costs as modified for the**
69 **changes you have described and any conclusions that you have drawn from**
70 **the results of the comparison.**

71 A. The expected AMS allocation of A&G costs of \$28.6 million is less than the
72 estimated allocation of Dynegy A&G costs of \$29.3 million. Therefore, no
73 adjustment to O&M expense should be made based on differences in corporate
74 A&G allocated costs.

75 **Q. Although the comparison you outline shows no increase in allocated A&G**
76 **costs resulting from the acquisition of Illinois Power by Ameren, do you**
77 **accept Mr. Effron's premise that changes in this or other individual cost**
78 **components represent an increase in the net costs resulting from the**
79 **acquisition?**

80 A. No. By focusing only on allocated A&G costs, Mr. Effron fails to take into
81 account other benefits resulting from the acquisition of IP by Ameren, such as
82 reductions in debt interest, depreciation expense, and fuel costs. The cost of
83 capital presented in Company witness McShane's direct testimony reflects
84 reductions in high cost debt issued by IP under Dynegy ownership. Changes in
85 depreciation expense resulting from the acquisition of IP by Ameren are included
86 in schedules filed with the Company's initial request and sponsored by Company
87 witness Stafford. Benefits related to improvements in service and overall
88 financial health are also ignored in Mr. Effron's analysis. All benefits of the
89 acquisition, both quantitative and qualitative, must be included in any analysis of
90 the overall costs and benefits to customers.

91 Any such comparison would still be speculative. However, I would note that the
92 qualitative benefits of the transaction are substantial. For example, Information
93 Systems has experienced a large number of improvements. In Disaster Recovery,
94 there have been improvements in data storage, data center operations, the Call
95 Center, and Mainframe operations. These improvements lead to faster recovery
96 with higher reliability. IP equipment that was no longer supported by the
97 manufacturer was upgraded with new equipment and contracted maintenance
98 programs were put into place. Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, documentation, and
99 procedures were improved by a move to Ameren systems which were more fully
100 documented and tested for compliance. IT Technology upgrades include Mobile
101 Data Terminals, Mobile Data Radio Service, Mainframe technical software, and
102 an upgrade from PC operating system to Windows XP. These upgrades have
103 moved IP forward in technology. There have also been printer provisioning
104 process improvements. Automated training applications are available to
105 employees and these include free online classes, free user guides, and professional
106 training throughout the territory. The shift from outsourced IT support to in house
107 staff for application development and support has been of benefit. Online
108 published information provide easy access to job postings, notification of IT
109 outages, policies and plans, and on-line forms, reference materials, and
110 documentation. Further improvements in Information Systems includes
111 improvements in HR reporting capabilities, improved IT hardware repair and
112 replacement capabilities, improvement within the IT Change Management
113 process and notification, implementation of a voice recognition software for

114 automated attendant, and better project management methodology and project
115 management tools. Employees have access to specialized tools and expertise not
116 available to smaller organizations. The Call Center has become more effective in
117 responding to customers with improvements in overflow response, call load
118 balancing, and off hours support. Service Dispatch has the potential for
119 improvement in response time due to new systems implemented and future
120 implementation of automated meter reading.

121 General Counsel has been improved in several areas. A dedicated Rate
122 department and specialization of legal resources have allowed for quicker
123 response to regulatory inquiries, better resolution capability, and the ability to
124 adapt to Staff and intervenor's concerns and needs. Security has also been greatly
125 improved. When the IP facilities were taken over the card access system was so
126 antiquated that spare parts are no longer available for them. The video system
127 was also in a state of disrepair and numerous cameras had to be replaced. Both of
128 these systems are being replaced. Improvements have also been made in
129 attempting to meet requirements set by NERC and Illinois law with regard to
130 providing specific levels of protection at "critical cyber" locations.

131 Safety of employees, customers, and property has been a priority and an area that
132 has also witnessed improvements. Safety was improved by flame resistant
133 clothing requirements imposed on IP employees and by increased safety training
134 and education. Economic Development has benefited from increased staff and
135 resources dedicated to economic development. The supply chain has also been
136 improved with cross company inventory sharing benefits. The supply chain has

137 seen better standardization which has resulted in the use of best practices in
138 equipment. Environmental has worked to find better solutions to potential
139 environmental problems and to reduce risks to customers and communities.
140 Improvements here include specialized support staff in specific disciplines and
141 coal tar expertise. Fleet has seen increased service reliability, capability, and
142 response by implementing fleet replacement cycles and has moved to in house
143 fleet management. Forestry is utilizing newer technology for vegetation control
144 and they are now back on a four year schedule for vegetation management.
145 More indirect improvements have also been realized in a number of areas.
146 Electric Planning has seen an improvement in reliability through shared expertise
147 in key areas, such as underground methods and project design. Changes in
148 processes and management to increase service levels to customers is an
149 improvement that has come from Design and Engineering. Metering and Relay
150 Services are now in house and this has led to quick response lab work.
151 Improvements in the Human Resources area include a higher level of service
152 provided to employees for benefit questions, an in-house Organizational
153 Development staff, a return to industry standards with respect to training and
154 development, and improvements in reporting capabilities for managing
155 operations. All of these improvements have provided customers with a better
156 trained, more professional staff that is able to deliver more effective solutions.
157 Field training is another area that has been improved. Training facilities have
158 been improved by increased in house training capability and specialization. There
159 is also a potential increase in training standards. Another service area that has

160 experienced improvement is Industrial Relations. Oversight and coordination of
161 union relations at the corporate level is an improvement seen in this functional
162 area. The Treasurer's account has seen better access to necessary cash flows by
163 utilizing the Money Pool. The Corporate Communications area has been
164 improved by offering a web-based information center that is available to
165 employees. Real Estate has been improved by offering an in-house non-utility
166 property management expertise. This has led to more effective utilization and
167 management. Internal Audit replaced Dynegy functions with in-house, utility-
168 specific capabilities.

169 Finally, it should be noted that in approving the acquisition of IP by Ameren in
170 04-0294, the Commission recognized a number of benefits to IP and its customers
171 that go beyond what is discussed above.

172 **Q. Please describe the adjustment proposed by Mr. Gorman to the amortization**
173 **of the acquisition cost regulatory asset.**

174 A. Mr. Gorman proposes a reduction in the amortization of the acquisition cost
175 regulatory asset based on the premise that the Company has not met the
176 commitments it made as outlined in the Commission's Order in Docket 04-0294.

177 **Q. What is the basis for Mr. Gorman's assertion that the Company has not met**
178 **its commitments.**

179 A. Mr. Gorman cites a portion of the Commission's conclusion in Finding 7
180 beginning on page 24 of the Order. The quoted portion is stated as follows, with
181 emphasis shown as in Mr. Gorman's testimony:

182 **“Commission Conclusion:** The Commission finds that Ameren, AG, and
183 CUB have agreed that, with the conditions agreed to by Ameren, including

184 Conditions 19 through 25 on Appendix A to this Order, the record
185 supports a conclusion that the Reorganization is not likely to result in any
186 adverse rate impacts for retail customers. No other party has disputed this
187 conclusion. While there was some disagreement in the record as to the
188 specific amounts of savings that IP will achieve after closing, Ameren has
189 agreed to measures to assure that IP is taking adequate steps to produce
190 savings and to impose quantifiable measures to insure that rates are not
191 increased if savings fail to materialize.” (ICC Docket No. 04-0294, Order,
192 September 22, 2004, p. 24)
193

194 Mr. Gorman asserts that the Company has not met its commitments with respect
195 to the estimated synergy savings based on information provided in my direct
196 testimony, which shows that the estimated synergy savings had not yet been
197 achieved.

198 **Q. What are the commitments agreed to by the Company with respect to**
199 **synergy savings in Docket 04-0294?**

200 A. The portion of the Commission Order in Docket 04-0294 cited by Mr. Gorman
201 refers to Commitments 19 through 25 of Appendix A to the Order. Commitments
202 21 through 23 address the treatment of synergy savings for purposes of setting
203 electric and gas rates. They read in part as follows:

204 21. In its next electric rate case and next gas rate case, IP will file as a
205 component of its initial filing a report (verified by a witness in the case)
206 detailing the milestones achieved as well as other identified savings. The
207 verified report shall provide information current as of the time of the rate
208 filing.
209

210 22. In IP’s next electric rate case and next gas rate case, for all Associated
211 Savings Amounts not reflected in the proposed test year, the Commission
212 may reduce O&M expenses by the jurisdictional (i.e., electric vs. gas)
213 portion of any Associated Savings Amount (“Jurisdictional O&M
214 Reduction”) for any milestone that IP has not achieved or cannot
215 demonstrate that it is reasonably certain to achieve by the time the rates
216 approved in that case go into effect...
217

218 23. In IP's next electric rate case and next gas rate case, IP will allocate
219 Associated Savings Amounts on a basis consistent with the underlying
220 O&M expenses to which they relate.
221

222 **Q. Please explain how the Company has met these commitments.**

223 A. In my direct testimony, I provided the status of each milestone related to synergy
224 savings, satisfying the terms of Commitment 21. Commitment 22 has been
225 satisfied as shown in the Company's Schedule C-2, which includes a reduction to
226 test year revenue requirements for savings not yet achieved, thus ensuring that all
227 Associated Savings Amounts are reflected in the proposed test year. Commitment
228 23 has been satisfied as shown in the Company's Schedule C-2.4, in which
229 savings are allocated to O&M accounts based on the costs to which the savings
230 relate.

231 **Q. Are these savings offset by changes in the allocation of A&G costs from AMS**
232 **to AmerenIP?**

233 A. No. As I mentioned previously, the A&G costs allocated by AMS to AmerenIP
234 are less than those that might have been allocated by Dynegy had the acquisition
235 not occurred, based on historical costs.

236 **Q. Mr. Gorman is proposing a reduction to the Company's proposed**
237 **amortization of acquisition cost regulatory asset. Does the Commission**
238 **Order in Docket 04-0294 address treatment of these costs?**

239 A. Yes. On page 27 of the Order the Commission concludes that:

240 "...the proposed allocation of savings and costs is reasonable, and that
241 establishment of a regulatory asset of up to \$67 million, to be amortized
242 over the period 2007-2010, is acceptable and should be approved, subject
243 to the conditions proposed by Staff and set forth in Paragraph 11 of
244 Appendix A to this Order."
245

246 **Q. Please state the conditions set forth in Paragraph 11 of Appendix A.**

247 A. Paragraph 11 of Appendix A states that:

248 “Except to the extent reflected in the regulatory asset approved in this
249 Order, IP will not seek recovery in rate proceedings of: (i) the stock
250 issuance costs associated with the equity issued by Ameren to acquire IP;
251 (ii) the severance and relocation costs associated with the integration of IP
252 into Ameren; (iii) the implementation costs associated with integration of
253 IP into Ameren; (iv) any acquisition adjustment associated with the
254 acquisition of IP by Ameren; and (v) any debt redemption costs associated
255 with the recapitalization of IP described in Applicants’ Ex. 24.1.”
256

257 **Q. Has the Company met the conditions of this commitment as it relates to this**
258 **proceeding?**

259 A. Yes. The Company has not included in its requested revenue requirement any of
260 the costs proscribed by Paragraph 11.

261 **Q. What is your conclusion with respect to Mr. Gorman’s proposed adjustment**
262 **to the amortization of acquisition costs?**

263 A. Mr. Gorman’s assertion that the Company has not met its commitments as stated
264 in the Commission Order in Docket 04-0294 are without basis, and the proposed
265 adjustment should be rejected.

266 **Q. In your direct testimony you noted that the total acquisition costs recorded to**
267 **the regulatory asset had not yet reached the \$67 million maximum allowed in**
268 **the Commission’s Order in Docket 04-0294. Have the actual costs now**
269 **reached the \$67 million maximum?**

270 A. Yes. As of December 31, 2005, the charges eligible to be recorded to the
271 acquisition cost regulatory asset had exceeded the allowed maximum of \$67
272 million. The Company made an entry on its books to reduce the balance held for
273 future rate recovery to the \$67 million maximum.

274 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

275 A. Yes.

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