

1 **Q. What was the impact on the rate of return as a result of the increase in the**
2 **effective income tax rate?**

3 A. LG&E recommends an overall rate of return on capital of 10.65% to be applied to the
4 January through February 2014 expense months and 10.61% to be applied to the
5 March through August 2014 expense months. Prior to the increase in the effective
6 income tax rate, the overall rates of return on capital were 10.23% for the January
7 through February 2014 expense months and 10.19% for the March through August
8 2014 expense months.

9 **Q. Should LG&E elect to take bonus tax depreciation in 2014 given the resulting**
10 **increase in the ECR revenue requirement in 2014?**

11 A. Yes, the increase in the deferred income tax liability associated with the bonus tax
12 depreciation deduction in 2014 will continue to reduce the environmental rate base
13 thus lowering the ECR revenue requirement in 2015 and beyond. Additionally, the
14 election to take bonus tax depreciation in 2014 will serve to further reduce base rates
15 as discussed in data response AG 1-26 in the current base rate case proceeding, Case
16 No. 2014-00372.

17 **Q. What effective income tax rate is LG&E recommending for use in the gross-up**
18 **revenue factor for 2015?**

19 A. LG&E recommends using an effective income tax rate of 35.6937% for the gross-up
20 revenue factor in the rate of return calculation for 2015 billing periods. This includes
21 the benefits associated with receiving the §199 manufacturing tax deduction. The use
22 of this lower effective income tax rate results in a rate of return of 10.07%, thereby,
23 lowering the ECR revenue requirement. Given that the impact of deciding whether to