

1
2 **COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**
3 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
4

5 **IN THE MATTER OF:**
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7 **APPLICATION OF BIG RIVERS)**
8 **ELECTRIC CORPORATION) CASE NO. 2019-00269**
9 **FOR ENFORCEMENT OF RATE)**
10 **AND SERVICE STANDARDS)**
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19 **SECOND AMENDED DIRECT TESTIMONY**
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21 **OF**
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23 **CHRISTOPHER HEIMGARTNER**
24 **GENERAL MANAGER OF HENDERSON MUNICIPAL POWER & LIGHT**
25

26 **ON BEHALF OF**
27

28 **INTERVENOR CITY OF HENDERSON, KENTUCKY, AND**
29 **HENDERSON UTILITY COMMISSION d/b/a**
30 **HENDERSON MUNICIPAL POWER & LIGHT**
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SECOND AMENDED DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

CHRISTOPHER HEIMGARTNER

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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. Please state your name, business address, and position, and provide a brief summary of your professional experience.

A. My name is Christopher Heimgartner. I am the General Manager of Henderson Municipal Power & Light (“HMP&L”), an electric utility owned by the City of Henderson and governed by the City of Henderson Utility Commission (jointly “Henderson”). The utility is located at 100 Fifth Street, Henderson, Kentucky, 42420. I have held the position of General Manager since 2017. Since that time, I have overseen the negotiation and implementation of power-supply contracts to serve the City of Henderson and its inhabitants following the closure of the Station Two generating plant. I have also overseen the utility’s integration into the Midwest ISO (MISO) market and the requisite designation of HMP&L as a market participant for the purpose of securing an additional power supply capable of meeting the needs of the utility’s 12,000 customers. My responsibilities also include oversight of all other utility operations, including compliance, safety, emergency response and mutual aid, and board and community relations. I am familiar with the Station Two contracts as well as the numerous and complicated disputes that still exist between Henderson and Big Rivers and that Big Rivers is now asking the Commission to settle, manage, and oversee, presumably forever. Prior to serving as HMP&L’s General Manager, I was employed for 25 years in various capacities with Pacific Gas & Electric Co., first as an engineer and later as a superintendent overseeing gas and electric operations and construction and maintenance crews in a high-growth area. I then spent three years as Customer Service and Energy Delivery Officer for Seattle City Light. After that, I served as Assistant General Manager

1 of Distribution and Engineering Services for Snohomish County Public Utility District in
2 Everett, Wash., from 2009 until 2016. All told, I have some 39 years of experience in the
3 utility industry.

4 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

5 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

6
7 A. The primary purpose of my testimony is to articulate Henderson's interest in this
8 proceeding and its position with respect to the financial and other contractual disputes
9 Big Rivers is asking the Commission to resolve. My intent is to correct the most
10 significant misstatements and mischaracterizations Big Rivers has placed into the record
11 concerning the history of its relationship with Henderson, the nature and extent of the
12 remaining liabilities associated with the retirement of Station Two, and the reasons the
13 parties to date have been unable to resolve their differences. Another purpose of my
14 testimony is to point out for the Commission's benefit the complexity of and seemingly
15 unlimited scope of the task Big Rivers wants the Commission to undertake. My testimony
16 will also support Henderson's position that i) Big Rivers has miscalculated the amounts
17 due from one party to the other to settle their financial disputes; ii) Henderson has
18 correctly defined decommissioning and determined that the decommissioning of Station
19 Two is complete; iii) Henderson has no further liability with respect to the Green
20 Landfill; and iv) Henderson has not tried to keep Big Rivers from using city-owned joint-
21 use facilities.

22 **Q. Are you sponsoring any exhibits?**

23 A. Yes. I have prepared the following exhibits:

- 24
- Exhibit Heimgartner-1: Resume

- 1 • Exhibit Heimgartner-2: May 25, 2016, letter
- 2 • Exhibit Heimgartner-3: PSC Order dated January 5, 2018
- 3 • Exhibit Heimgartner-4: February 16, 2018, letter
- 4 • Exhibit Heimgartner-5: November 10, 2017 email
- 5 • Exhibit Heimgartner-6: April 11, 2019, letter

6 **Q. Please identify any additional witnesses who will testify on behalf of Henderson and**
7 **the issue or issues each witness will address.**

8 A. The following witnesses will provide additional testimony:

- 9 • Barbara Moll, Chief Financial Officer for HMP&L. Ms. Moll will verify the accuracy of
10 the figures contained in the HMP&L Accounting Summary and will provide the
11 methodology used to arrive at the amounts owed between HMP&L and Big Rivers to
12 resolve their financial disputes.
- 13 • Brad Bickett, Reliability Compliance Manager for HMP&L. Mr. Bickett will confirm the
14 adequacy of HMP&L’s capacity reservation prior to the closure of Station Two and
15 HMP&L’s compliance with regulatory requirements for operating reserves. Mr. Bickett
16 will identify and describe those Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc.
17 (“MISO”) fees which Big Rivers incurred and which are attributable to HMP&L’s load
18 and will provide the correct calculation of MISO fees owed to Big Rivers.
- 19 • Seth Brown, Vice President of Transmission Services Department for GDS Associates
20 Inc. Mr. Brown will describe two (2) specific types of MISO fees (Schedule 17 fees and
21 Schedule 23 fees) that together account for a substantial portion of the fees Big Rivers
22 seeks to recover from HMP&L and will explain why recovery of those fees would
23 constitute a double recovery in violation of the MISO tariff.

1 **III. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES**

2 **Q. Has Big Rivers accurately described the history of the parties' relationship?**

3 A. While I believe the Commission is generally familiar with the relationship, I do
4 find it necessary to correct certain misstatements and mischaracterizations contained in
5 the Direct Testimony of Big Rivers President & CEO Robert Berry.

6 It is true that the deterioration of the parties' relationship is traceable in part to
7 2009, when Big Rivers emerged from a period of receivership and assorted other legal
8 troubles to regain control of its electrical system and resume responsibility for its rights
9 and obligations under the Station Two contracts. A dispute soon developed concerning
10 which party was entitled to take and sell surplus Station Two energy which exceeded
11 what Henderson needed to serve its customers but which fell within the amount of
12 generating capacity Henderson had reserved. Both parties wanted the energy because the
13 market was strong and the energy was capable of being sold at a profit. At Big Rivers'
14 request, the dispute was referred to arbitration, where a panel ultimately concluded the
15 energy belonged to Henderson. Big Rivers nonetheless continued to deny Henderson
16 access to the energy, claiming Henderson had failed to submit an acceptable scheduling
17 protocol. In the absence of an approved protocol, Big Rivers continued to exploit what
18 was then a robust power market and profit from sales of Henderson's energy. Henderson
19 later brought suit in the Henderson Circuit Court to recover the revenue Big Rivers had
20 received for sales of Henderson's energy between 2009 and 2016. The parties eventually
21 resolved their dispute over this wanted energy and signed a Settlement Agreement
22 specifically referencing the Henderson Circuit Court action, Civil Action No. 09-CI-693,
23 on December 15, 2017. Energy provider E.ON, as guarantor for Western Kentucky

1 Energy (WKE), paid Henderson \$6,250,000 on behalf of Big Rivers pursuant to the terms
2 of a 2009 Indemnification Agreement in which WKE indemnified Big Rivers for any
3 losses Big Rivers might suffer in the event Big Rivers were deprived of the ability to take
4 and sell Excess Henderson Energy and to pay Henderson the nominal sum of \$1.50 per
5 megawatt hour.

6 During the time the parties were litigating their rights with respect to energy both
7 parties wanted, market forces were creating a new category of energy which was not
8 contemplated and not in existence at the time the Station Two contracts were drafted and
9 executed and which was not considered an issue in the Settlement Agreement:
10 unprofitable energy unwanted by either party. This new category of energy gave rise to a
11 new dispute concerning which party should have to take and pay for energy which was
12 not wanted by either party, but which had to be generated to keep the Station Two units
13 in continuous operation under the terms of the contracts. Big Rivers responded by
14 notifying Henderson that, beginning on June 1, 2016, it would no longer take and sell
15 Henderson's energy unless the energy happened to be profitable. Otherwise, Big Rivers
16 would sell the unwanted energy into the market on Henderson's behalf and allocate to
17 Henderson the revenues, minus variable production costs. The new strategy would enable
18 Big Rivers to preserve its ability to capture profits when the market was strong and shift
19 losses to Henderson when the market was weak. The May 25, 2016, letter in which Big
20 Rivers announced its new practice is attached as Heimgartner Exhibit -2. Big Rivers later
21 confirmed to the Commission that, also beginning on June 1, 2016, Big Rivers had
22 changed the sequence in which it generated power from Station Two. Historically, Big
23 Rivers operated Station Two so as to first generate the energy Henderson needed to serve

1 its native load, followed by energy associated with the Station Two capacity allocated to
2 Big Rivers. Any excess associated with Henderson’s reserved capacity was generated
3 last. Beginning on June 1, 2016, Big Rivers arbitrarily flipped the generation sequence so
4 that all unwanted energy was generated immediately after Henderson’s native load so as
5 to ensure the unwanted energy was assigned to Henderson’s capacity reservation. This
6 meant the units, when operated at what Big Rivers represented to be minimum operating
7 levels, would produce little or no uneconomic energy attributable to Big Rivers’
8 allocation. And yet Big Rivers would retain the ability to cherry pick profitable energy
9 with wide profit margins. The change in generation sequence violated the practice Big
10 Rivers had agreed to follow under its Indemnification Agreement with WKE and violated
11 the course of dealing the parties had followed for more than four decades.

12 On July 29, 2016, with the Henderson Circuit Court action involving wanted
13 energy still pending, Big Rivers filed an application asking the Commission to declare
14 Big Rivers not responsible for variable costs associated with the production of unwanted
15 energy and to assign those costs to Henderson instead. There is no mistaking Big Rivers’
16 understanding of the type of energy at issue before the Commission. Big Rivers President
17 & CEO Robert W. Berry described the distinction in his rebuttal testimony filed in that
18 case:

19 “The difference in the definitions, which centers on whether
20 energy within Henderson’s reserved capacity that is subject to a
21 third party sale is characterized as Excess Henderson Energy, is
22 immaterial to the question of who is responsible for the variable
23 costs of producing energy within Henderson’s capacity reservation
24 that neither Henderson nor Big Rivers wants. Henderson
25 acknowledges that it is responsible for the variable costs of energy
26 it sells to a third party. It is the responsibility for the variable costs
27 of producing the remaining Excess Henderson Energy, which I
28 refer to as the “unwanted Excess Henderson Energy,” that is the

1 subject of this proceeding.” (PSC Case No. 2016-278, Rebuttal
2 Testimony of Robert W. Berry, p. 7, lines 11-18).

3
4 Big Rivers represented to the Commission both in its application and in sworn
5 testimony that its newly minted practice was to sell unwanted energy on Henderson’s
6 behalf and credit Henderson with the revenue to offset variable production costs. For
7 example, Mr. Berry testified in response to a question from Commission counsel at the
8 February 7, 2017, hearing on Big Rivers’ application:

9 Q. For the actual costs of the coal and reagent that is being
10 used to generate the energy attributable to Henderson, are
11 those costs being netted in any way from the energy that
12 Big Rivers uses to sell into the market?
13

14 A. We are, we are netting the cost with Henderson on the
15 MISO revenues that we receive from that energy going into
16 MISO. We net that difference between that revenue and the
17 expense of the refuel and reagent and send Henderson
18 checks, although they have returned those checks. (PSC
19 Hearing, Case No. 2016-278 Robert W. Berry testimony at
20 25:12 through 25:56; February 7, 2017)
21

22 On January 5, 2018, three weeks after the parties had executed the December
23 2017 Settlement Agreement resolving the Henderson Circuit Court dispute involving
24 *wanted* energy, the Commission entered an Order finding Big Rivers not obligated to take
25 or pay the variable costs of producing *unwanted* energy. The language of the 2018 PSC
26 Order confirms that any energy Henderson wanted to take and schedule for sale to a third
27 party, i.e. wanted energy, was excluded from the issue Big Rivers had asked the
28 Commission to decide. The issue before the Commission was whether Big Rivers was
29 responsible for paying the variable production costs of energy neither party wanted to
30 take or sell. This issue was separate and distinct from the issue Henderson had raised in
31 the Henderson Circuit Court claim, namely Henderson’s right to receive revenue

1 associated with the energy Henderson wanted to access and had a contractual right to take
2 and sell.

3 Soon after the parties settled the Henderson Circuit Court claim, the parties jointly
4 filed an Agreed Order dismissing the case as settled. No such dismissal was filed with the
5 Commission because the issue Big Rivers had raised in its application was still alive and
6 well. Big Rivers did not take any steps to withdraw its application and still has not asked
7 the Commission to set aside its Order. If Big Rivers believed the December 2017
8 Settlement Agreement resolved the issue involving unwanted energy, then Big Rivers
9 would have to have done one or both of those things. If Big Rivers believes the
10 Settlement Agreement resolves the unwanted-energy issues, then Big Rivers' remedy is
11 to seek enforcement of the agreement in the Henderson Circuit Court.

12 No sooner had the Commission entered its Order than Big Rivers reversed the
13 position Big Rivers had taken in front of the Commission. Big Rivers now claimed that,
14 even if Henderson were to agree with Big Rivers and accept responsibility for the
15 variable production costs of unwanted energy, Henderson would owe Big Rivers the
16 variable costs, but would not be entitled to the revenue associated with the sale of that
17 energy. Big Rivers began to take the position that Henderson received all of the revenue
18 it was entitled to receive for the sale of excess energy, regardless of whether the energy
19 was wanted or unwanted, when the parties settled the Henderson Circuit Court claim (see
20 Big Rivers' response to Item No. 11 of Henderson's first data requests). Big Rivers
21 appears to have overlooked the fact that the claim for wanted energy is the only type of
22 claim for which WKE indemnified Big Rivers as part of the 2009 "unwind" transaction.

1 Had the claim involved energy Big Rivers did not want and could not have sold at a
2 profit, E.ON would not have paid a settlement.

3 Nevertheless, letters from Big Rivers to Henderson dated after the date of the
4 Commission's Order began to characterize the remittance of the unwanted-energy
5 revenue as a "settlement" offer. The revenue Big Rivers told the Commission it was
6 passing through to Henderson now became leverage to extract further concessions from
7 Henderson. A letter dated February 16, 2018, attached to my testimony as Heimgartner
8 Exhibit-4, includes an exhibit reflecting the net amount due Henderson as a result of Big
9 Rivers' having used Henderson's coal and lime to generate unwanted energy until
10 Henderson's supply was depleted and then supplying the shortfall. However, the offer to
11 remit the revenue was conditioned upon Henderson's acceptance of other proposed
12 settlement terms.

13 Big Rivers was aware prior to the signing of the Settlement Agreement that the
14 only dispute addressed in the settlement was the dispute involving wanted energy and
15 raised in Civil Action No. 09-CI-693. Not only does the Settlement Agreement explicitly
16 say so, but Big Rivers' counsel acknowledged in an email dated November 10, 2017, that
17 "nothing in this settlement agreement affects or has anything to do with the PSC case." A
18 copy of the email is attached to my testimony as Heimgartner Exhibit-5. Big Rivers
19 cannot assert the Settlement Agreement as a basis for its position and yet ask the
20 Commission to interpret the agreement. Jurisdiction over the substance and scope of the
21 Settlement Agreement likely lies with the Henderson Circuit Court.

22 In the absence of Henderson's agreement to accept other liabilities, Big Rivers
23 now wants Henderson to pay millions to reimburse Big Rivers for coal and lime

1 purportedly used to generate unwanted energy, write off millions more in Henderson-
2 owned coal and lime used until the supply was depleted, and forego millions in MISO
3 revenue to help offset those costs. Such a result would produce a windfall to Big Rivers,
4 threaten Henderson's financial stability, and harm Henderson taxpayers at a time when
5 funding for municipal services is in serious jeopardy.

6 Big Rivers' post-settlement attempt to erase the well-documented distinction
7 between wanted and unwanted energy is a glaring example of the disingenuous approach
8 Big Rivers has often taken in its dealings with Henderson and is one of the main reasons
9 the parties have reached a stalemate. Others include i) the unauthorized registration of the
10 Station Two units in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) market and
11 the assignment of related fees to Henderson without corresponding benefit; ii) a unilateral
12 attempt to raise Henderson's capacity reservation for Fiscal Year 2018-2019; iii) a
13 demand without contractual basis for Henderson to help fund a Green Landfill expansion;
14 iv) a demand that Henderson agree to decommissioning costs unlimited in scope or
15 duration; v) the surreptitious inclusion of employee severance costs in the proposed
16 Station Two operating plan for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 after Henderson clearly declined
17 an invitation to share in those costs; and vi) the discontinuance of Big Rivers'
18 longstanding practice of acting as the Local Balancing Authority (LBA) for Henderson
19 immediately upon securing Henderson's agreement to retire Station Two earlier than
20 previously agreed.

21 Most recently, Big Rivers denied a wholly unrelated request from the Henderson
22 Water District to install a pump in the intake structure at Big Rivers' Sebree plant for no
23 apparent reason other than to create leverage in its dispute with Henderson.

1 **Q. Does Henderson have any objection to the Commission deciding the disputed issues?**

2 A. Yes. My understanding is that the Commission's job is to regulate utility rates and
3 service standards, neither of which is implicated in Big Rivers' application. It is also my
4 understanding that the Commission's authority does not extend to cities, except in those
5 narrow circumstances where a city and a utility execute a contract that fixes a rate or
6 service standard. The issues remaining in dispute between Henderson and Big Rivers are
7 so complex in nature and so far removed from issues of utility rates or service, it is
8 difficult at first blush to understand why Big Rivers thinks the Commission can or should
9 get involved. If Big Rivers can invoke Commission jurisdiction simply by claiming a
10 contractual obligation might eventually cause it to raise rates, then every person, branch
11 of government, and private business considering entering into a contract with a regulated
12 utility should exercise caution lest it find itself unwittingly subject to Commission
13 jurisdiction rather than the jurisdiction of the courts.

14 Big Rivers appears to take the position that no dispute involving Big Rivers
15 should escape Commission scrutiny. An examination of the Commission's mission points
16 to the reason. The Commission's mission statement plainly states the Commission's
17 charge is to "foster the provision of safe and reliable service at a reasonable price to the
18 customers of jurisdictional utilities while providing for the financial stability of those
19 utilities by setting fair and just rates, and supporting their operational competence by
20 overseeing regulated activities." Big Rivers is well aware of the standard the Commission
21 must apply and repeatedly exploits the Commission's mission to Big Rivers' advantage.
22 Big Rivers has made a routine practice of manipulating its contractual relationship with
23 Henderson to Big Rivers' advantage and then bringing the inevitable dispute to the

1 Commission under the guise of a rates and service issue. Because Henderson is being
2 treated as a jurisdictional utility based on the alleged contractual impact on Big Rivers’
3 rates and service, Henderson’s customers should be afforded the same standard of
4 reasonableness and fairness as Big Rivers’ customers and Henderson should be subject to
5 the same standard of fairness as any other regulated utility.

6 However, to circumvent the judicial limitation applicable to Commission review
7 of contract issues, Big Rivers simply announces a new practice that contravenes the
8 parties’ course of dealing, unilaterally and arbitrarily assigns new or higher expenses to
9 Henderson that Henderson is not obligated to pay, asserts that every expense always
10 affects rates, and then exploits its character as a regulated utility to gain approval for its
11 decisions. Big Rivers now wants the Commission to interpret at least one contract and
12 potentially two if the Settlement Agreement resolving the Henderson Circuit Court case
13 requires interpretation. Big Rivers also, among other things, wants the Commission to
14 simply rubber stamp those expenses Big Rivers deems to be decommissioning expenses
15 when even the power industry has not adopted a universally applicable definition of what
16 constitutes decommissioning. The Commission simply is not designed to function in this
17 way.

18 **Q. What is the status of the other litigation between Henderson and Big Rivers?**

19 A. Henderson has appealed the Commission’s Order issued in Case No. 2016-278 to
20 the Franklin Circuit Court on jurisdictional and other grounds and has asked the Court to
21 set aside the Order. Big Rivers has filed a Counterclaim to enforce the Order and recover
22 the variable production costs of unwanted energy. Henderson has filed a responsive
23 Counterclaim to demonstrate that the amount of revenue Big Rivers received from the

1 sale of unwanted energy exceeded the variable costs of producing that energy and that
2 Big Rivers thus could not maintain a claim. The appeal and counterclaims are stayed
3 pending the Commission's decision in this proceeding.

4 Henderson has also brought suit against Big Rivers in the Henderson Circuit
5 Court to recover amounts due to Henderson in settlement of the Station Two budgets for
6 the fiscal years that ended in 2018 and 2019. Henderson Circuit Court Judge Karen
7 Wilson has recused herself to avoid any appearance of conflict and the parties are
8 awaiting appointment of a special judge.

9 Two other actions remain pending in the Webster Circuit Court. In the first,
10 Henderson is seeking a declaratory order concerning the validity of a provision in the
11 Station Two deed, which provides that title to the Station Two property shall revert to Big
12 Rivers when plant operations cease and when bonds related to the completion of Station
13 Two are retired. On July 2, 2020, the Court issued an Order confirming the validity of the
14 reversion provision. The Court found questions of fact concerning the date plant
15 operations ceased and the date related bonds were retired and denied competing motions
16 for Summary Judgment. A copy of the July 2, 2020, Order is attached hereto as Exhibit
17 Heimgartner-7. The second action pending in the Webster Circuit Court is Henderson's
18 request for a declaratory order that Henderson has correctly calculated its share of
19 expenses related to closure and post-closure care of the Reid-HMPL Ash Pond.

20 **Q. Has Henderson made any further attempts to resolve its disputes with Big Rivers**
21 **since the date of the Informal Settlement Conference?**

22 A. Henderson has communicated to Big Rivers its interest in a fair settlement of all
23 issues on numerous occasions. However, the only resolution that appears to interest Big

1 Rivers is one in which Henderson incurs unlimited expense without a contractual
2 obligation to do so and without receiving a corresponding benefit. As a steward of public
3 funds, Henderson cannot and will not voluntarily obligate our ratepayers to subsidize Big
4 Rivers' members.

5 For example, Big Rivers wants Henderson to write off millions of dollars in fuel
6 and reagent Big Rivers arbitrarily used from Henderson's supply to generate unwanted
7 energy. Big Rivers also wants Henderson to reimburse Big Rivers for fuel and reagent
8 Big Rivers claims to have used from its own supply when Henderson supposedly did not
9 have enough to generate unwanted energy. On top of all this, Big Rivers wants to keep all
10 revenue received from the sale of unwanted energy, a position directly at odds with what
11 Big Rivers previously testified to before the Commission.

12 Big Rivers also wants Henderson to help fund an expansion of Big Rivers' Green
13 Landfill for the sole purpose of extending the life of the landfill, despite the fact that
14 Henderson has already paid its share of landfill expenses and despite the fact that the
15 existing dimensions of the landfill are adequate to contain any ash-pond dredgings
16 attributable to Henderson. The list goes on. Big Rivers wants Henderson to incur
17 unlimited and as-yet unconfirmed decommissioning expenses based solely upon Big
18 Rivers' notion of what constitutes "prudent utility practice."

19 At the request of Henderson Mayor Steve Austin, Henderson and Big Rivers
20 recently attempted to renew settlement negotiations, but the attempt was not successful.
21 Henderson has suggested to Big Rivers that the parties try to resolve the dispute in
22 mediation, but Big Rivers has declined the offer. Given the complexity and scope of the
23 issues, it seems reasonable that an experienced mediator would be better suited to resolve

1 these contractual, environmental, decommissioning, and financial issues than an agency
2 focused on rates and service issues.

3 **IV. UNWANTED ENERGY VARIABLE COSTS AND REVENUE**

4 **Q. How does Henderson believe the dispute concerning the costs and revenue**
5 **associated with unwanted energy should be resolved?**

6 Big Rivers is aware - and was aware at the time the Commission issued its Order
7 in Case No. 2016-278 – that the unwanted energy then at issue before the Commission is
8 and was separate and distinct from the wanted energy which was at issue in a civil action
9 pending before the Henderson Circuit Court at the time Case No. 2016-278 was filed and
10 which was the subject of a Settlement Agreement dated December 15, 2017. The
11 Commission’s Order in Case No. 2016-278 was based upon Big Rivers’ representations
12 and upon the equitable premise that whichever party would be held responsible for the
13 variable production costs of unwanted energy would also be entitled to the MISO revenue
14 or to a credit against those costs in the amount of the MISO revenue. Section 6.7 of the
15 parties’ Power Sales Contract, as amended in 2005, provides support for the premise that
16 the party taking the energy is responsible for the variable costs of producing that energy.
17 It follows that whichever party takes the energy and pays the variable production costs is
18 entitled to receive the revenue from the sale of that energy.

19 Henderson’s appeal of the Commission’s Order remains pending and Henderson
20 has not accepted responsibility for the variable costs at issue in Case No. 2016-278. Even
21 if Henderson were to accept responsibility for those costs, however, Big Rivers has taken
22 a position contradictory to the position it took before the Commission and now claims
23 any revenue that would be due Henderson was included in the resolution of the wanted-

1 energy claim. (Direct Testimony of Paul Smith, p. 7, lines 4-19; Big Rivers response to
2 Item No. 13 of Henderson's First Data Requests).

3 In a letter dated April 11, 2019, attached to my testimony as Exhibit Heimgartner-
4 6, Big Rivers provided Henderson with an updated version of the Exhibit A attached to
5 its letter of February 16, 2018. The updated exhibit again indicates that Big Rivers used
6 Henderson's supply of coal and lime to generate unwanted energy until the supply was
7 depleted and then used Big Rivers' coal and lime to generate the remainder. The exhibit
8 reflects Big Rivers' receipt of MISO revenue in the sum of \$16,955,597 for the sale of
9 unwanted energy from June 1, 2016, the date Big Rivers implemented its new practice,
10 through January 31, 2019, the date Station Two ceased operation. Big Rivers has
11 acknowledged that Henderson is entitled to the MISO revenue, less variable costs,
12 associated with unwanted energy generated after the date of the 2017 settlement payment.
13 Accordingly, Big Rivers has credited Henderson for revenue net of costs in the amount of
14 \$3,310,482 for that time period in the Interim Accounting Summary attached to the
15 Direct Testimony of Big Rivers Chief Financial Officer Paul Smith in Big Rivers'
16 pending application. The exhibit indicates that Big Rivers made up coal and lime
17 shortfalls after Henderson's supply was depleted and paid other costs so that the total cost
18 to Big Rivers of generating unwanted energy from June 1, 2016, through January 31,
19 2019, was \$15,810,204. It is important to note that these figures do not account for the
20 \$2,149,084 in Henderson-owned coal and \$1,351,135 in Henderson-owned lime Big
21 Rivers purportedly used to generate unwanted energy before declaring Henderson's
22 supply depleted. Under this scenario, Henderson must pay \$15,810,204 in variable costs
23 and must write off coal and lime totaling \$3,500,219. Henderson also would have to

1 accept payment of \$88,191 for energy Big Rivers elected to take and which produced net
2 revenue to Big Rivers totaling \$2,482,079 (Big Rivers' response to Item No. 11 of
3 Henderson's First Data Requests). Meanwhile, Big Rivers would enjoy a windfall of
4 \$10,696,158 in sales revenue for energy Henderson paid to generate. If Henderson is to
5 consider accepting Big Rivers' position and incur responsibility for the variable
6 production costs of unwanted energy, then Big Rivers must remit to Henderson the full
7 amount of revenue collected since June 1, 2016 - including the \$10,696,158 collected
8 from June 1 through December 31, 2017 - and not just the \$6,259,439 collected after the
9 date of the settlement payment and already credited to Henderson's account. As Big
10 Rivers correctly represents in Exhibit Moll-2, this calculation results in a net total
11 payment from Big Rivers to Henderson in the amount of \$1,233,584, not including the
12 coal and lime Henderson would have to write off. The payment would have to be made
13 and not conditioned upon any other settlement terms.

14 **V. BUDGET SETTLEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 AND 2019**

15 **Q. What is Henderson's position concerning amounts due from one party to the other
16 in settlement of the Station Two operating plans for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019?**

17 A. Henderson Chief Financial Officer Barbara Moll has prepared an accurate accounting of
18 the amounts due between the parties in settlement of the Station Two budgets for the last
19 two fiscal years the plant was in operation. Henderson's Accounting Summary, attached
20 to Ms. Moll's testimony as Exhibit Moll-4 corrects Big Rivers' miscalculations, which
21 are based upon an inaccurate capacity reservation for Henderson and which assign
22 expenses to Henderson that Henderson is not obligated to pay. After adjusting to reflect
23 the correct capacity reservation and to eliminate expenses Henderson is not obligated to

1 pay, my calculations indicate that Big Rivers owes Henderson \$6,359,736 in settlement
2 of the operating plans for those fiscal years.

3 **VI. MISO FEES**

4 **Q. Is Henderson contesting the fees Big Rivers has assessed to Henderson as a result of**
5 **Big Rivers having acted as Henderson's market participant in the MISO market?**

6 A. Yes. While Henderson is not contesting responsibility for legitimate MISO fees for which
7 Henderson received a service or corresponding benefit, Henderson is not responsible for
8 most of the fees Big Rivers wants Henderson to pay dating back to the date Big Rivers
9 registered the Station Two units in the MISO market over Henderson's objection and
10 with knowledge Henderson was in the process of negotiating with another potential
11 market participant. As explained in greater detail in the testimony of Brad Bickett,
12 HMP&L Reliability Compliance Manager, Henderson is responsible for only a fraction
13 of the \$1.4 million in MISO fees Big Rivers wants Henderson to pay. Another witness,
14 Seth Brown, Vice President of Transmission Services of GDS Associates Inc., will
15 explain that the assessment of charges under certain schedules constitute double recovery
16 and a violation of Big Rivers' MISO tariff. Other fees are not recoverable because Big
17 Rivers failed to file the appropriate Service Agreement with the Federal Energy
18 Regulatory Commission (FERC).

19 **VII. DECOMMISSIONING COSTS**

20 **Q. What, if any, responsibility does Henderson have with respect to the**
21 **decommissioning of the Station Two plant?**

22 A. Section 8 of the parties' Joint Facilities Agreement provides for the parties to share
23 decommissioning costs in the proportion in which they shared capacity during the life of

1 Station Two. Henderson’s position is that the Station Two plant has been
2 decommissioned since the plant was brought to “safe, dark, and dry” status in April 2019.
3 Big Rivers has not cited any legal requirement or industrywide justification for the plant
4 to be decommissioned in the manner or to the extent Big Rivers recommends, nor is there
5 a requirement that activities associated with decommissioning be completed on a
6 particular timeline. Additionally, the Webster Circuit Court on July 2, 2020, upheld the
7 validity of a deed provision calling for title to the Station Two property to revert to Big
8 Rivers when plant operations cease and when bonds related to the completion of the plant
9 are retired. The plant ceased to operate on January 31, 2019, and has since been brought
10 to “safe, dark, and dry” status. Station Two thus has been decommissioned. Upon transfer
11 to Big Rivers, any decisions to perform further activities and any costs associated with
12 those activities belong solely to Big Rivers.

13 **VIII. SEVERANCE COSTS**

14 **Q. Is Henderson contesting responsibility for a share of severance costs Big Rivers paid**
15 **to its employees?**

16 A. Yes. As an employer who assigned a portion of its work force to staff Station
17 Two, Big Rivers decided when the plant closed to offer severance packages to certain
18 employees formerly assigned to the plant. Henderson has never knowingly paid
19 severance costs for other Big Rivers employees and has no contractual obligation to do
20 so. As a result, Henderson declined Big Rivers’ invitation to share in the cost of the
21 severance packages it had offered certain employees. Nevertheless, Henderson
22 discovered in reviewing the proposed operating plan for Fiscal Year 2019 that Big Rivers
23 had assigned Henderson a share of the severance costs, although the costs were not

1 delineated as such. Even if Henderson were to agree to absorb a share of severance
2 expenses, which it does not, its share would not be calculated the way Big Rivers wants.
3 Not only are the costs calculated according to an improper capacity reservation, it is my
4 understanding that some employees who received severance packages were categorized
5 under the General and Administrative (G&A) budget, meaning Henderson paid a lesser
6 percentage of their salaries during the life of Station Two. Big Rivers can reassign
7 employees or incentivize separation in any manner it chooses. But Big Rivers is not
8 entitled to assign unapproved costs to Henderson without contractual authority and with
9 full knowledge that Henderson has no obligation to pay.

10 **IX. GREEN LANDFILL**

11 **Q. Does Henderson contest responsibility for costs associated with Big Rivers' Green**
12 **Landfill?**

13 A. Yes. Section 6.1 of the Joint Facilities Agreement obligates Henderson to share in
14 the costs of operating and maintaining joint-use facilities, including the Station Two ash-
15 pond dredgings, "so as to assure the continuous operation of the parties' respective
16 generating station or stations served thereby." Section 8.1 of the agreement states that this
17 obligation remains in effect "so long as either party continues to operate or maintain a
18 generating station which is served by any such joint-use facility." Neither party is
19 currently operating or maintaining a generating station which is "served by" the Station
20 Two ash-pond dredgings. Therefore, Henderson no longer has a contractual obligation to
21 operate or maintain any joint-use facilities, including the Station Two ash-pond
22 dredgings.

1 It is my understanding that Big Rivers has undertaken a three-phase expansion of
2 its landfill, which is expected to extend the life of the landfill by some 20 years. My
3 knowledge of this project is limited to that contained in the statements Big Rivers has
4 made in its application and exhibits, along with its responses to data requests. There is
5 nothing to indicate Big Rivers used competitive-bidding procedures to secure bids for the
6 landfill project as Big Rivers would have to have done if Henderson were obligated to
7 commit public funds to the project. However, to the best of my knowledge, there is
8 nothing in the Station Two contracts that obligates Henderson to incur any additional
9 expenses with respect to the operation or maintenance of the ash-pond dredgings, much
10 less to continue incurring expenses for the next 20 years or more until Big Rivers decides
11 to retire its landfill. Henderson has already paid the costs it was contractually obligated to
12 pay with respect to the operation, maintenance, and disposal of the ash-pond dredgings.

13 **X. JOINT-USE FACILITIES**

14 **Q. Describe the dispute concerning Big Rivers' use of joint-use facilities owned by**
15 **Henderson and located on Big Rivers' property.**

16 A. Henderson does not object to Big Rivers' continued use of joint-use facilities. However,
17 Henderson does not agree with Big Rivers' calculations as to how the costs of
18 decommissioning those facilities should be allocated. For example, the ash pond is
19 identified in the Joint Facilities Agreement as a joint-use facility and is subject to shared
20 closure costs. Henderson and Big Rivers have reached differing conclusions concerning
21 each party's share of closure costs. Henderson has filed an action seeking a declaratory
22 order from the Webster Circuit Court confirming that Henderson's calculation of its
23 responsibility for ash-pond closure costs is correct. That action remains pending.

1 **XI. CONCLUSION**

2 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

3 **A. Yes.**