## SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant [X] Filed by a Party other than the Registrant [ ]
Check the appropriate box:
<pre>[ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement [ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))</pre>
<ul> <li>Definitive Proxy Statement</li> <li>Definitive Additional Materials</li> <li>Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 240.14a-11(c) or Rule 240.14a-12</li> </ul>
KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY (NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)
Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):
[] \$125 per Exchange Act Rules 0-11(c)(1)(ii), 14a-6(i)(1), 14a-6(i)(2) or Item 22(a)(2) of Schedule 14A.
[ ] \$500 per each party to the controversy pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 14a-6(i)(3).
[ ] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11:
(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
(5) Total fee paid:
[X] Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
[ ] Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
(1) Amount Previously Paid:
(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
(3) Filing Party:
(4) Date Filed:
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[Advertisement appearing in newspapers commencing July 26, 1996]

July 25, 1996

Dear Shareholder:

AN OPEN LETTER TO KCPL SHAREHOLDERS:

With KCPL's August 7 Special Meeting of Shareholders now less than two weeks away, we are writing to urge you to send in your WHITE proxy card and vote FOR the KCPL/UtiliCorp merger if you

have not already done so. It is very important that your vote be counted at the Meeting.

IN THESE FINAL DAYS, WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED WESTERN RESOURCES TO TRY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES THAT WE HAVE FOUND TO BE OF GREATEST CONCERN TO OUR SHAREHOLDERS -- the impact of Western's rate case before the Kansas Corporation Commission and its potential effect on Western's revenues and earnings, the long-term value of Western's stock and Western's ability to pay dividends at its promised rate.

INSTEAD, WESTERN HAS CHOSEN TO PURSUE A CAMPAIGN OF EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED AND PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST ME, OUR BOARD AND MANAGEMENT. In recent letters to KCPL shareholders and in full-page paid advertisements, Western has inaccurately and unfairly predicted levels of compensation for me and other members of management following our KCPL/UtiliCorp merger, and has charged falsely that this has improperly influenced our evaluations of the Western offer.

BOTH CHARGES ARE UNTRUE AND MISLEADING, AND WESTERN KNOWS IT. First, as to the assertion that I will be leaving the Company following the KCPL/UtiliCorp merger, let me assure you, I intend to be at a combined KCPL/UtiliCorp for years to come.

In addition, you should know that in a letter dated April 14, 1996, JOHN HAYES, WESTERN'S CHAIRMAN, ASSURED ME THAT I WOULD HAVE THE SAME POSITION AND COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH WESTERN AS I WOULD HAVE FOLLOWING THE UTILICORP MERGER. This was something that John Hayes wanted me to know; but apparently it is not something he has chosen to include in his communications to you. KCPL'S OPPOSITION TO WESTERN'S OFFER HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION. IT IS BASED ON OUR UNSHAKABLE BELIEF THAT THE UTILICORP MERGER WILL PROVIDE SUPERIOR VALUE TO KCPL SHAREHOLDERS.

YOUR BOARD IS CONVINCED THE KCPL/UTILICORP MERGER WILL INCREASE EARNINGS PER SHARE, REDUCE INVESTMENT RISK AND POSITION YOUR COMPANY TO BE A FORMIDABLE COMPETITOR IN BOTH ITS SERVICE TERRITORY AND THE WORLDWIDE ENERGY MARKET.

Looking back on my eight years as KCPL's Chief Executive Officer, I think KCPL's Board and management can be proud of their accomplishments. From May 1, 1988 until the KCPL/UtiliCorp merger agreement was signed on January 19, 1996, KCPL's total return to shareholders\* was 230%. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE BELIEVE THAT A COMBINED KCPL/UTILICORP CAN CONTINUE THIS RECORD OF CREATING SUPERIOR SHAREHOLDER VALUE. By contrast, Western's total return to shareholders\* during this same period was only 148%.

Again, I strongly urge you to vote FOR the KCPL/UtiliCorp merger on the WHITE proxy card. If you have any questions or need assistance in voting your shares, please call KCPL Investor Relations at 800-245-5275 or our proxy solicitor, D.F. King & Co., Inc., at 800-714-3312.

Thank you for your continued consideration and support.

Sincerely,

/s/Drue Jennings

KANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

July 26, 1996

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE IN VOTING YOUR SHARES, PLEASE CALL KCPL INVESTOR RELATIONS AT 1-800-245-5275 OR OUR PROXY SOLICITOR, D. F. KING & CO., INC., AT 1-800-714-3312.

<sup>\*</sup>Total return is measured by stock price appreciation, assuming reinvestment of dividends.

[Addressee]

Dear [Addressee]:

Drue Jennings asked that I drop you a note of apology for the unfortunate and unintended impression our letter of June 19, 1996, left with you. As you know, the last impression we want to leave is the very one you had and we apologize. Our hope is that you will reconsider your vote.

To the point in your letter, the facts of the merger are pretty clear to us: Western's advertised \$31 price for a share of stock in their company in exchange for your shares of KCPL is not supported by the facts: When one considers a pending cost of service electric case in Kansas of as much as \$105 million; and what we believe are overstated synergies by as much as one-third in 1998, the first full year of operation of a proposed combination with us and, the unrealistic retention rates in their synergy analysis of 70% from a merger with us, we conclude that their future stock price isn't supportable by the facts and the dividend they propose isn't either.

Consider by contrast our proposed merger with UtiliCorp and you find operational synergies, growth enhancements and dividend rates disclosed and substantiated in our Proxy Statement of June 26, 1996, that we believe are achievable and sustainable. The long-term growth potential of our proposed merger with UtiliCorp will begin earning for you from the day of closing forward, which given our current schedule, is under one year away. Further, we believe our dividend of \$1.85 is sustainable and has growth potential as well.

Again, we apologize for the offense, but hope that we can regain a measure of confidence in your mind to the extent that you will reconsider your vote. A vote for the KCPL/UtiliCorp merger is a vote for long-term growth in the value of your shares in our company. I have enclosed a white proxy card and envelope for your convenience.

Best regards,

Sincerely, /s/Turner White Senior Vice President Retail Services

/jmh Enclosure [KCPL Press Release]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KCPL CONCERNS ABOUT WESTERN RESOURCES' FINANCES
HEIGHTENED BY WESTERN'S PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
WITH KCC STAFF

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI (July 26, 1996) -- Kansas City Power & Light Company (NYSE:KLT) today in response to Western Resources' announcement of its proposed settlement with the Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission made the following statement.

Drue Jennings, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of KCPL said, "Based on the Kansas Corporation Commission Staff's press release, we see this proposed settlement as a major setback for Western and confirms what we have been telling KCPL shareholders. This establishes a minimum level of over \$300 million of revenue reductions that Western faces over the next five years in its pending rate case. With this proposed settlement it is now clear to KCPL that Western faces serious financial challenges that could negatively impact upon its stock price and ability to pay dividends at its promised rate.

"As Western has acknowledged, any final rate settlement will be made with the Kansas Corporation Commission, not the Staff, and it is possible that Western could face even further revenue reductions. There are still significant intervenors to be heard in this case including industrial customers and the City of Wichita. Wichita faces rates that are some 40% higher than Topeka. In addition, Western still has failed to address KCPL's serious concerns that Western's merger-related savings are inflated by as much as \$518 million compounded by Western's unrealistic assumption of claiming 70% of its merger savings for shareholders.

Kansas City Power & Light Company provides electric power to a growing and diversified service territory encompassing metropolitan Kansas City and parts of eastern Kansas and western Missouri. KCPL is a low-cost producer and leader in fuel procurement and plant technology. KLT Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of KCPL, pursues opportunities in non-regulated, primarily energy-related ventures.

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July 26, 1996/For Immediate Release

Release No. 96-22 Docket No. 193,306-U 193,307-U

KCC UTILITIES DIVISION STAFF AGREES TO STIPULATION REDUCING WESTERN RESOURCES' ELECTRIC RATES BY \$64.7 MILLION

TOPEKA - The Kansas Corporation Commission's Utilities Division staff has entered into a stipulation and agreement, which if approved by the three-member Commission, would reduce Western Resources' electric rates by \$64.7 million. The stipulation was agreed to by KCC Utilities Division staff and Western Resources.

Under the stipulation, rates for KGE customers will be reduced by \$46 million, with an additional \$10 million reduction on January 1, 1998. Electric rates for KPL customers will be reduced by \$8.7 million. Over the next five years, customers will receive additional accumulated rate reductions of \$180 million over those proposed by Western Resources.

In addition, a five-year incentive mechanism will be established. Under the incentive mechanism all regulated annual earnings in excess of a 12 percent ROE (return on equity) will be split 50/50 between customers and shareholders. The customers' share of any incentive savings will be issued in an annual rebate to KGE customers. The ROE is the amount of money a company has the opportunity to earn on its common equity provided by stockholders.

The stipulation and associated reduced rates will remain in place for five years. This moratorium would be subject to any changes in the law or events having a substantial influence on the company's operations, including any future mergers.

In August 1995, Western Resources filed an application requesting an electric rate reduction of \$8.7 million per year for seven years, resulting in an accumulated rate reduction of \$61 million by the end of the seventh year for KGE customers. The proposed rate reduction was tied to a request to accelerate the depreciation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station by \$50 million per year for seven years. No change in electric rates was proposed for KPL customers.

In November 1991, the KCC froze both KPL and KGE electric rates until August 1995, as a condition of the agreement approving the merger of KPL and KGE.

Western Resources, through its KPL and KGE operating companies, provides electric service to approximately 600,000 customers in eastern and central Kansas.