

Edgar Filing: AES CORPORATION - Form 35-CERT

AES CORPORATION
Form 35-CERT
December 01, 2003

DB DRAFT 170807v3
PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

The AES Corporation

)

File No. 70-9779

Certificate Pursuant to Rule 24 and Release No. 35-27363
Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935

On March 23, 2001, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") issued an order, Release No. 35-27363 in File No. 70-9779 ("Exemption Order"), granting an exemption under Section 3(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended, to The AES Corporation ("AES") in relation to its proposed acquisition of IPALCO Enterprises, Inc. ("IPALCO"), which has a public-utility subsidiary company, Indianapolis Power & Light Company ("IPL"). The Exemption Order required AES to file certain certificates (as described in the Exemption Order) under Rule 24 within 60 days of the close of each calendar quarter for a period of two years beginning March 31, 2001 and every six months thereafter. A certificate complying with the Exemption Order is set forth below (as an attachment) for the period ending September 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Earle H. O'Donnell

Earle H. O'Donnell
Andrew B. Young
Hugh E. Hilliard

Dewey Ballantine LLP
1775 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dated: December 1, 2003

THE AES CORPORATION
SEC FILING PURSUANT TO SECTION 3(a)(5) EXEMPTION ORDER
QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

ITEM (1) PER EXEMPTION ORDER (STATEMENTS ATTACHED):

- 1) Pro Rata Consolidated Statement of Operations of The AES Corporation for the 12 months ended September 30, 2003
- 2) Pro Rata Consolidated Balance Sheet of The AES Corporation at September 30, 2003
- 3) Statement of Consolidated Income of IPALCO for the 12 months ended September 30, 2003

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- 4) Statement of Income of IPL for the 12 months ended September 30, 2003
- 5) Consolidated Balance Sheet of IPALCO at September 30, 2003
- 6) Balance Sheet of IPL at September 30, 2003

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THE AES CORPORATION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
(INCLUDES IPALCO)
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2003
PRORATA BASIS (1)
(UNAUDITED)

(\$ in millions)	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 9/30/2003

REVENUES:	
Sales and services	\$ 7,814
OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES:	
Cost of sales and services	5,726
Selling, general and administrative expenses	145

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	5,871

OPERATING INCOME	1,943
OTHER INCOME AND (EXPENSE):	
Interest expense, net	(1,681)
Other (expense) income, net	1,120
(Loss) gain on sale of assets and asset impairment expense	(2,097)

(LOSS) INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(715)
Income tax (benefit) expense	462

(LOSS) INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	(1,177)
Loss from operations of discontinued components (net of income taxes)	(1,545)

(LOSS) INCOME BEFORE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF ACCOUNTING CHANGE	(2,722)
Cumulative effect of accounting change (net of income taxes)	(2)

NET (LOSS) INCOME	\$ (2,724)
	=====

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 (1) In accordance with the analysis used in the order requiring filing of this certificate, this table is calculated on a proportional consolidation basis whereby AES' subsidiaries are included by multiplying each applicable line item from the statement of operations of each AES subsidiary times AES' percentage ownership interest in such subsidiary.

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THE AES CORPORATION

PRO RATA BASIS(1) CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
 (INCLUDES IPALCO)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2003
 (\$ in millions, unaudited)

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	1,477
Restricted cash		433
Short-term investments		204
Accounts receivable, net of reserves		1,263
Inventory		399
Receivable from affiliates		16
Deferred income taxes - current		127
Prepaid expenses		85
Other current assets		769
Current assets of discontinued operations and businesses held for sale		141

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,914

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Land		754
Electric generation and distribution assets		20,883
Accumulated depreciation and amortization		(4,739)
Construction in progress		2,048

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET		18,946

OTHER ASSETS

Deferred financing costs, net		432
Investments in and advances to affiliates		675
Debt service reserves and other deposits		380
Goodwill, net		1,385
Deferred income taxes - noncurrent		999
Long-term assets of discontinued operations and businesses held for sale		584
Other assets		2,100

TOTAL OTHER ASSETS		6,555

TOTAL	\$	30,415
		=====

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(1) In accordance with the analysis used in the order requiring filing of this certificate, this table is calculated on a proportional consolidation basis whereby AES' subsidiaries are included by multiplying each applicable line item from the balance sheet of each AES subsidiary times AES' percentage ownership interest in such subsidiary.

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THE AES CORPORATION

PRO RATA BASIS(1) CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (INCLUDES IPALCO)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2003
(\$ in millions, unaudited)

LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,148
Accrued interest	643
Accrued and other liabilities	1,384
Current liabilities of discontinued operations and businesses held for sale	67
Non-recourse debt - current portion	4,303

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	7,545
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	
Non-recourse debt	10,045
Recourse debt	5,280
Deferred income taxes	838
Pension liabilities	1,275
Long-term liabilities of discontinued operations and businesses held for sale	354
Other long-term liabilities	2,685

TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	20,477
Minority interest	897
Company-obligated Convertible Mandatorily Redeemable Preferred Securities of Subsidiary Trusts Holding Solely Junior Subordinated Debentures of AES	809
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Common stock	6
Additional paid-in capital	5,710
Accumulated deficit	(659)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(4,370)

TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	687
TOTAL	\$ 30,415
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(1) In accordance with the analysis used in the order requiring filing of this certificate, this table is calculated on a proportional consolidation basis whereby AES' subsidiaries are included by multiplying each applicable line item from the balance sheet of each AES subsidiary times AES' percentage ownership interest in such subsidiary.

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IPALCO ENTERPRISES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME
(IN THOUSANDS)
(UNAUDITED)

FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

ELECTRIC UTILITY OPERATING REVENUES	\$	825,301
UTILITY OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Operation:		
Fuel		177,389
Other operating expenses		116,772
Power purchased		16,605
Maintenance		76,574
Depreciation and amortization		123,050
Taxes other than income taxes		28,165
Income taxes - net		106,104

Total operating expenses		644,659

UTILITY OPERATING INCOME		180,642

OTHER INCOME AND (DEDUCTIONS):		
Allowance for equity funds used during construction		4,029
Gain (loss) on sales of assets, net		1,081
Other - net		(4,503)
Income tax benefit - net		26,815

Total other income (deductions) - net		27,422

INCOME BEFORE INTEREST AND OTHER CHARGES		208,064

INTEREST AND OTHER CHARGES:		
Interest on long-term debt		102,352
Other interest		572
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction		(1,896)
Amortization of redemption premiums and expense on debt - net		2,125
Preferred dividends of subsidiary		3,213

Total interest and other charges - net		106,366

NET INCOME	\$	101,698
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INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY STATEMENT OF INCOME (IN THOUSANDS) (UNAUDITED)

For the Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2003

OPERATING REVENUES	\$	825,301

OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Operation:		
Fuel		177,389
Other		116,772
Power purchased		16,605
Maintenance		76,574
Depreciation and amortization		123,050
Taxes other than income taxes		28,165
Income taxes - net		106,104

Total operating expenses		644,659

OPERATING INCOME		180,642

OTHER INCOME AND (DEDUCTIONS):		
Allowance for equity funds used during construction		4,029
Miscellaneous income and (deductions) - net		(1,660)
Gain on sale of asset		2,343
Income (taxes) applicable to other income and deductions		81

Total other income and (deductions) - net		4,793

INCOME BEFORE INTEREST AND OTHER CHARGES		185,435

INTEREST AND OTHER CHARGES:		
Interest on long-term debt		41,393
Other interest		572
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction		(1,896)
Amortization of redemption premium and expense on debt - net		1,700

Total interest and other charges - net		41,769

NET INCOME		143,666

PREFERRED DIVIDEND REQUIREMENTS		3,213

INCOME APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	\$	140,453
		=====

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IPALCO ENTERPRISES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(IN THOUSANDS)
(UNAUDITED)

ASSETS	SEPTEMBER 30, 2003
UTILITY PLANT:	
Utility plant in service	\$ 3,175,040
Less accumulated depreciation	1,615,622
Utility plant in service - net	1,559,418
Construction work in progress	143,012
Property held for future use	7,708
Utility plant - net	1,710,138
OTHER ASSETS:	
Nonutility property - at cost, less accumulated depreciation	1,451
Other investments	9,411
Other assets - net	10,862
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash and cash equivalents	34,821
Restricted cash	21,905
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenue (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,806)	41,539
Fuel - at average cost	28,441
Materials and supplies - at average cost	46,696
Net income tax refunds receivable	3,006
Prepayments and other current assets	7,604
Total current assets	184,012
DEFERRED DEBITS:	
Regulatory assets	164,291
Miscellaneous	29,637
Total deferred debits	193,928
TOTAL	\$ 2,098,940

IPALCO ENTERPRISES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(IN THOUSANDS)
(UNAUDITED)

CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES	SEPTEMBER 30, 2003
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CAPITALIZATION:

Common shareholders' deficit:	
Premium on 4% cumulative preferred stock	\$ 649
Paid in capital	70
Accumulated deficit	(52,918)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(51,546)

Total common shareholders' deficit	(103,745)
Cumulative preferred stock of subsidiary	59,135
Long-term debt (less current maturities and sinking fund requirements)	1,401,994

Total capitalization	1,357,384

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Current maturities and sinking fund requirements	80,294
Accounts payable	30,367
Accrued expenses	18,081
Dividends payable	880
Accrued taxes	28,893
Accrued interest	36,993
Other current liabilities	12,915

Total current liabilities	208,423

DEFERRED CREDITS AND OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:

Accumulated deferred income taxes - net	390,984
Unamortized investment tax credit	28,862
Accrued postretirement benefits	5,917
Accrued pension benefits	100,441
Miscellaneous	6,929

Total deferred credits and other long-term liabilities	533,133

TOTAL	\$ 2,098,940
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INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
BALANCE SHEETS
(IN THOUSANDS)
(UNAUDITED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT:

Utility plant in service	\$ 3,175,040
Less accumulated depreciation	1,615,622

Utility plant in service - net	1,559,418
Construction work in progress	143,012
Property held for future use	7,708

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Utility plant - net	1,710,138

OTHER PROPERTY -	
At cost, less accumulated depreciation	4,963

CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash and cash equivalents	30,569
Restricted cash	21,905
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenue (less allowances for doubtful accounts of \$1,793)	40,584
Receivable due from Parent	959
Fuel - at average cost	28,441
Materials and supplies - at average cost	46,702
Net income tax refunds receivable	2,505
Prepayments and other current assets	7,643

Total current assets	179,308

DEFERRED DEBITS:	
Regulatory assets	164,291
Miscellaneous	20,900

Total deferred debits	185,191

TOTAL	\$ 2,079,600
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INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
BALANCE SHEETS
(IN THOUSANDS)
(UNAUDITED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES

CAPITALIZATION:

Common shareholders' equity:	
Common stock	\$ 324,537
Premium and net gain on preferred stock	2,642
Retained earnings	367,573
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(51,543)

Total common shareholders' equity	643,209
Cumulative preferred stock	59,135
Long-term debt (less current maturities and sinking fund requirements)	651,994

Total capitalization	1,354,338

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Current maturities and sinking fund requirements	79,994
Accounts payable	30,367
Accrued expenses	15,278

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Dividends payable	805
Accrued taxes	38,053
Accrued interest	12,876
Other current liabilities	13,991

Total current liabilities	191,364

DEFERRED CREDITS AND OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:	
Accumulated deferred income taxes - net	391,749
Unamortized investment tax credit	28,862
Accrued postretirement benefits	5,917
Accrued pension benefits	100,441
Miscellaneous	6,929

Total deferred credits and other long-term liabilities	533,898

TOTAL	\$ 2,079,600
	=====

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ITEM (2) PER EXEMPTION ORDER (INCOME STATEMENT AMOUNTS ARE 12 MONTHS ENDED):

IPL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
AES/IPALCO CONSOLIDATED HOLDING COMPANY
(PRO RATA CONSOLIDATION BASIS (1))
(\$MM)

	12 MOS. ENDED 9/30/02	12 MOS. ENDED 9/30/03
	-----	-----
GROSS REVENUES (2)	9.38%	10.56%
IPL	810	825
IPALCO (excluding IPL)	-	-
AES	7,830	6,989
AES/IPALCO	8,640	7,814
OPERATING INCOME	13.37%	14.77%
IPL	299	287
IPALCO (excluding IPL)	-	0
AES	1,938	1,656
AES/IPALCO	2,237	1,943
NET INCOME	(23.03%)	(5.14%)
IPL	161	140
IPALCO (excluding IPL)	(29)	(39)
AES	(831)	(2,825)
AES/IPALCO	(699)	(2,724)
NET ASSETS	5.81%	6.84%
IPL	2,017	2,080
IPALCO (excluding IPL)	26	19
AES	32,645	28,316
AES/IPALCO	34,688	30,415

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(1) In accordance with the analysis used in the order requiring filing of this certificate, the AES line items in this table are calculated on a proportional consolidation basis whereby AES' subsidiaries are included by multiplying each applicable line item from the statement of operations or balance sheet, as applicable, of each AES subsidiary times AES' percentage ownership interest in such subsidiary. The numbers presented for AES in this table exclude CILCO, which AES sold during the first quarter of 2003.

(2) Gross business revenues (utility and non-utility) of IPALCO combined as a percentage of total gross business revenues (including IPALCO/IPL, utility and non-utility) of AES.

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ITEM (3) PER EXEMPTION ORDER - GENERATION INFORMATION:

AES Generating Plants in Operation at September 30, 2003 (excluding IPALCO):

UNIT	COUNTRY	CAPACITY (MW)	AES INTEREST (%)	AES EQUITY (MW)	REGULATOR STATUS
	-----	-----	---	-----	-----
AES Deepwater	USA	143	100	143	QF
AES Beaver Valley	USA	125	100	125	QF
AES Placerita	USA	120	100	120	QF
AES Thames	USA	181	100	181	QF
AES Shady Point	USA	320	100	320	QF
AES Hawaii	USA	189	100	189	QF
AES Warrior Run	USA	180	100	180	QF
AES Somerset	USA	675	100	675	EWG
AES Cayuga	USA	306	100	306	EWG
AES Greenidge	USA	161	100	161	EWG
AES Westover	USA	126	100	126	EWG
AES Alamitos	USA	2,123	100	2,123	EWG
AES Redondo Beach	USA	1,330	100	1,330	EWG
AES Huntington Beach	USA	904	100	904	EWG
AES Hemphill	USA	14	67	9	QF
AES Mendota	USA	25	100	25	QF
AES Delano	USA	50	100	50	QF
AES Puerto Rico	USA	454	100	454	FUCO
AES Granite Ridge	USA	720	100	720	EWG
AES Ironwood	USA	705	100	705	EWG
AES Red Oak	USA	832	100	832	EWG
AES Whitefield (sale pending)	USA	16	100	16	QF
AES Wolf Hollow	USA	730	100	730	EWG
DOMESTIC SUBTOTAL:		10,429		10,424	

UNIT	COUNTRY	CAPACITY (MW)	AES INTEREST (%)	AES EQUITY (MW)	REGULATOR STATUS
	-----	-----	---	-----	-----

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AES Kingston	Canada	110	50	55	EWG
AES San Nicholas	Argentina	650	88	572	EWG
AES Cabra Corral	Argentina	102	98	100	FUCO
AES El Tunal	Argentina	10	98	10	FUCO
AES Sarmiento	Argentina	33	98	32	FUCO
AES Ullum	Argentina	45	98	44	FUCO

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AES Quebrada	Argentina	45	100	45	FUCO
AES Alicura	Argentina	1,040	99	1,030	FUCO
AES Bayano	Panama	236	49	116	FUCO
AES Panama	Panama	42	49	21	FUCO
AES Chiriqui - La Estrella	Panama	42	49	21	FUCO
AES Chiriqui - Los Valles	Panama	48	49	24	FUCO
AES Los Mina	Dom. Rep.	210	100	210	EWG
AES Xiangci - Cili	China	26	51	13	FUCO
Wuhu	China	250	25	63	FUCO
Chengdu Lotus City	China	48	35	17	FUCO
AES Jiaozuo	China	250	70	175	FUCO
AES Hefei	China	115	70	81	FUCO
AES Chongqing Nanchuan	China	50	71	36	FUCO
Yangcheng	China	2,100	25	525	FUCO
AES Ekibastuz	Kazakhstan	4,000	100	4,000	FUCO
AES Ust-Kamenogorsk GES	Kazakhstan	350	100	350	FUCO
AES Shulbinsk GES	Kazakhstan	330	100	330	FUCO
AES Ust-Kamenogorsk TETS	Kazakhstan	1,464	100	1,464	FUCO
AES Sogrinsk TETS	Kazakhstan	702	100	702	FUCO
Altai-Ust-Kamenogorsk Heat Nets	Kazakhstan	310	Mgmt	0	FUCO
OPGC	India	420	49	206	FUCO
AES Lal Pir	Pakistan	351	90	316	FUCO
AES PakGen	Pakistan	344	90	310	FUCO
AES Borsod	Hungary	171	100	171	FUCO
AES Tisza II	Hungary	860	100	860	FUCO
AES Tiszapalkonya	Hungary	250	100	250	FUCO
AES Elsta	Netherlands	405	50	203	FUCO
Medway (Sale pending)	U.K.	688	25	172	FUCO
AES Indian Queens	U.K.	140	100	140	EWG
AES Kilroot	U.K.	520	97	504	FUCO
AES Uruguaiiana	Brazil	639	100	639	FUCO
AES Tiete (10 plants)	Brazil	2,651	53	1,405	FUCO
AES EDC	Venezuela	2,316	87	2,015	FUCO
AES Merida III	Mexico	497	55	273	FUCO
AES Ottana	Italy	140	100	140	FUCO
AES Mammonal	Colombia	90	62	56	FUCO
AES Chivor	Colombia	1,000	96	960	FUCO
AES Gener-Electrica de Santiago	Chile	379	89	337	FUCO
AES Gener-Energia Verde	Chile	42	99	42	FUCO
AES Gener-Guacolda	Chile	304	49	149	FUCO
AES Gener-Norgener	Chile	277	99	274	FUCO
Itabo	Dom. Rep.	587	25	147	FUCO
AES Bohemia	Czech Rep.	50	100	50	FUCO
AES SONEL	Cameroon	850	56	476	FUCO
Central Dique	Argentina	68	34	23	FUCO
AES Termoandes	Argentina	643	99	637	FUCO
AES Parana	Argentina	845	100	845	FUCO
Ebute	Nigeria	290	95	276	FUCO
AES Gener - Cordillera	Chile	245	99	243	FUCO

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AES Gener - Costa	Chile	512	99	507	FUCO
AES Haripur* (sale pending)	Bangladesh	360	100	360	FUCO
AES Meghnaghat* (sale pending)	Bangladesh	450	100	450	FUCO

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AES Barka	Oman	427	85	363	FUCO
Ras Laffan	Qatar	413	55	229	FUCO
FOREIGN SUBTOTAL:		30,832		24,064	
TOTAL - September 30, 2003		41,261		34,488	
Foreign Generation as a Percentage of Total:		75%		70%	

* Currently in discontinued operations status.

IPALCO Generating Plants at September 30, 2003:

UNIT	COUNTRY	CAPACITY (MW)	AES INTEREST (%)	AES EQUITY (MW)	REGULATOR STATUS
Petersburg	USA	1,715	100	1,715	IURC
H.T. Pritchard (Eagle Valley)	USA	367	100	367	IURC
E.W. Stout	USA	1,116	100	1,116	IURC
Georgetown	USA	80	100	80	IURC
TOTAL - September 30, 2003		3,278		3,278	

Revenues from electric generation capacity - 12 months ended September 30, 2003
(millions of dollars):

IPALCO	578	13%
AES (excluding IPALCO)	3,768	87%
Total	4,346	100%

IPALCO's electric revenues are allocated between electric generation and electric transmission and distribution activities according to utility rate base. AES generation revenues are derived from the total generation revenues earned by AES subsidiaries times the percentage ownership interest of AES in those subsidiaries.

There has been no change in the amount of generation capacity owned by IPALCO and a 4,339 MW decrease in the amount of generation capacity owned by AES (excluding IPALCO) from 38,578 MW to 34,239 MW since March 31, 2003. There has been a 2% increase in the total revenues earned from the capacity owned by AES and IPALCO in the 12-month period ended September 30, 2003 compared with the 12-month period ended March 31, 2003. The percentage of the total revenues derived from the generation capacity owned by IPALCO has decreased from 14% to

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13%. (1)

The countries in which AES' net generating capacity increased during the second and third quarters of 2003 are as follows: Oman, Qatar and the United States.

(1) This evaluation excludes the electric generation assets and revenues of CILCO, which AES sold during the first quarter of 2003.

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ITEM (4) PER EXEMPTION ORDER - ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION AND GAS DISTRIBUTION:

Electric transmission and distribution and gas distribution assets owned as of September 30, 2003 (millions of dollars):

IPALCO	1,386
Total AES (excluding IPALCO)	5,014

Total	6,400

Electric transmission and distribution and gas distribution revenues for 12 months ending September 30, 2003 (millions of dollars):

IPALCO	248
Total AES (excluding IPALCO)	3,219

Total	3,467

IPALCO's electric revenues are allocated between electric generation and electric transmission and distribution activities according to utility rate base. AES transmission and distribution revenues are derived from the total revenues earned by AES transmission and distribution subsidiaries by multiplying these revenues by the percentage ownership interest of AES in those subsidiaries.

The total transmission and distribution assets owned by AES and IPALCO have increased since March 31, 2003. IPALCO's transmission and distribution assets have increased while the revenues derived from such assets have decreased since March 31, 2003. AES' transmission and distribution assets have increased and the revenues derived from such assets have decreased since March 31, 2003. IPALCO's percentage of the total transmission and distribution assets has decreased from 23% to 22%, and IPALCO's percentage of the total revenues from such assets has remained the same at 7%, for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2003 compared to the 12-month period ending March 31, 2003. (1)

(1) This evaluation excludes the transmission and distribution assets and revenues of CILCO, which AES sold during the first quarter of 2003.

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ITEM (5) PER EXEMPTION ORDER:

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IPL has not sold or transferred any electric and/or gas utility assets to any affiliate company of the AES consolidated holding company system during the second and third quarters of 2003.

ITEM (6) PER EXEMPTION ORDER:

During the second and third quarters of 2003, no application has been made to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("IURC") that involves AES' ownership position or AES' oversight over the operations of IPL or IPALCO. The IURC issued an order on April 16, 2003 in which it clarified an order it issued on February 12, 2003. The February 12, 2003 order required IPL to file certain reports to the IURC before declaring or paying a dividend on IPL common stock and provided that IPL shall not pay such dividend until either the IURC approves the dividend or 20 days elapse without the initiation by the IURC of a proceeding to further explore the implications of such dividend. A copy of each of the February 12, 2003 and April 16, 2003 orders are attached to this certificate.

ITEM (7) PER EXEMPTION ORDER:

As previously reported, on January 31, 2003, AES announced completion of the sale of CILCORP, including CILCO, to Ameren Corporation after receiving all necessary regulatory approvals.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended, AES has duly caused this certificate to be signed on its behalf on this 1st day of December, 2003 by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

The AES Corporation

/s/ Ashley A. Meise

By: Ashley A. Meise
Assistant General Counsel

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT)
COMPANY, AN INDIANA CORPORATION, FOR (1))
APPROVAL OF ITS 2003-2006 FINANCING)
PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES THE ISSUANCE OF)
UP TO \$380,650,000 IN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL)
AMOUNT OF (1A), FIXED OR VARIABLE RATE)
SECURED OR UNSECURED LONG-TERM DEBT IN)
AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$370,650,000 IN)
AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL, AND (1B) CAPITAL)
LEASE OBLIGATIONS NOT TO EXCEED)
\$10,000,000 IN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL; (2) TO)
EXECUTE AND DELIVER ONE OR MORE)
SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURES TO ITS)
MORTGAGE AND DEED OF TRUST DATED AS OF)
MAY 1, 1940 AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED,)
FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING OR SECURING)
EACH NEW SERIES OF FIRST MORTGAGE)
BONDS; (3) TO EXECUTE LETTERS OF CREDIT)

CAUSE NO. 42292

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OR OTHER CREDIT FACILITIES DEEMED)
APPROPRIATE BY PETITIONER TO PROVIDE)
LIQUIDITY FOR ITS VARIABLE INTEREST RATE) APPROVED: FEB 12 2003
OBLIGATIONS AS PROPOSED TO BE ISSUED)
HEREIN, THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE)
UNDERLYING OBLIGATION; (4) TO EXECUTE)
AND DELIVER PROMISSORY NOTES AND OTHER)
EVIDENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS RELATING TO)
ISSUANCE OF LONG-TERM DEBT; (5) TO ENTER)
INTO INTEREST RATE RISK MANAGEMENT)
TRANSACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH ITS)
VARIABLE RATE OBLIGATIONS AS PROPOSED)
TO BE ISSUED HEREIN, THROUGHOUT THE LIFE)
OF THE UNDERLYING OBLIGATION(S); AND (6))
AUTHORITY TO APPLY THE NET CASH)
PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF SUCH LONG-)
TERM DEBT AFTER PAYMENT OF EXPENSES)
INCURRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, TO)
DISCHARGE, REFUND OR REPLACE CERTAIN)
SERIES OF ITS FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS)
OUTSTANDING AND TO REIMBURSE ITS)
TREASURY, REPAY SHORT TERM BORROWINGS,)
AND FINANCE ITS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.)

BY THE COMMISSION:
DAVID ZIEGNER, COMMISSIONER
GREGORY S. COLTON, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

On September 19, 2002, Indianapolis Power & Light Company, an Indiana corporation ("IPL" or "Petitioner"), filed its Verified Petition and supporting testimony in this Cause seeking an order by this Commission approving Petitioner's 2003-2006 financing program.

Pursuant to notice of hearing duly given and published as required by law, proof of which was incorporated into the record by reference and placed in the official files of the Commission, a public hearing was held in this Cause at 10:00 a.m. on October 29, 2002, in Room E306 of the Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. That hearing was continued to November 18, 2002, at which time Petitioner submitted testimony and other evidence in support of its petition and the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") also presented evidence.

Based upon the applicable law and the evidence herein, the Commission now finds as follows:

1. NOTICE AND JURISDICTION. Due, legal and timely notice of the time and place of the public hearing conducted by the Commission in this Cause was given and published as required by law. Petitioner is a "public utility" as defined in Ind. Code Section 8-1-2-1 and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission in the manner and to the extent provided by the laws of the State of Indiana including, among other things, with respect to the issuance and sale of securities. This Commission has jurisdiction over Petitioner and the subject matter of this proceeding.

2. PETITIONER'S CHARACTERISTICS. IPL is an Indiana corporation with its principal office and place of business at One Monument Circle, Indianapolis, Indiana. It furnishes electric services to the public and is subject to regulation by the Commission under the laws of the State of Indiana. IPL renders retail electric utility service to approximately 450,000 retail customers located principally in and near the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, and in

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portions of the following Indiana counties: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Owen, Putnam and Shelby Counties. IPL owns, operates, manages and controls electric generating, transmission and distribution plant, property and equipment and related facilities, which are used and useful for the convenience of the public in the production, transmission, delivery and furnishing of such utility service.

3. PROPOSED FINANCING. Petitioner seeks Commission approval of a program (the "Financing Program") that would permit Petitioner from time to time, over a multi-year period to issue a maximum aggregate indebtedness of \$380,650,000 (collectively, "New Debt") that Petitioner anticipates will be comprised of:

- (a) \$160,000,000 increase in indebtedness ("New Bonds");
- (b) \$210,650,000 issued to retire, refund, or redeem four debt issues currently outstanding ("Lawful Refundings");
- (c) \$10,000,000 in Capital Leases ("Lease[s]")

The proceeds from Petitioner's New Bonds shall be used to pay, in part, for [a] the costs associated with Petitioner's construction program during the period governed by this Petition;

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and [b] to reimburse Petitioner's Treasury for funds previously expended to install the new combustion turbine at Petitioner's Harding Street plant.(1) Proceeds from Petitioner's Lawful Refundings shall be used to refund securities that [A] mature within the next four years ("Maturing Series"), or [B] are callable within the next four years (Redemption Series") as given in Table (1).

Table (1)

Description	Balance Outstanding (000's)	Redemption Price
Maturing Series		
6.05% 39th Supplemental First Mortgage Bond due 02/01/2004 - taxable	\$ 80,000	100%
8.00% 34th Supplemental First Mortgage Bond due 10/15/2006 - taxable	58,800	100%
Redemption Series		
6.10% 36th Supplemental First Mortgage Bond due 01/01/2016 - tax-exempt	41,850	102% - 2003 101% - 2004
5.50% 38th Supplemental First Mortgage Bond due 10/01/2023 - tax-exempt	30,000	102% - 2004 101% - 2005
Total Lawful Refundings	\$ 210,650	

The maximum fixed rate on the issuance of New Debt shall not exceed those generally obtainable at the time of pricing or repricing of such New Debt for securities having the same or reasonably similar maturities and having reasonably similar terms, conditions, and features issued by utilities of the same or reasonably comparable credit quality. However, the maximum fixed rate on the reissuance of the Redemption Series of such Lawful Refundings as given in

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Table (1) shall be less than the economic break-even rate that allows the net present value of the such indebtedness, including all redemption premiums and issuance expenses, to equal the net present value of the existing Redemption Series, considering the remaining life of such securities.

Petitioner's witness Connie R. Horwitz, Treasurer of IPL, testified regarding the Financing Program. Ms. Horwitz stated that the most significant item included in Petitioner's proposed construction program are costs associated with Petitioner's plan to reliably and economically achieve compliance with required reductions in nitrogen oxide ("NOx") emissions at its generating stations. As demonstrated in Petitioner's evidence in Cause No. 42170, Petitioner expects to make capital expenditures of approximately \$260 million to achieve compliance with these new environmental regulations. Ms. Horwitz testified that IPL currently estimates that it will raise a total of \$160 million in New Debt to [a] fund a part of its NOx

(1) Petitioner received Commission authorization for the Harding Street Combustion Turbine in December, 2001, and the Turbine was placed in-service in May, 2002.

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construction, [b] reimburse Petitioner's treasury for funds already expended for installation of the Harding Street combustion turbine as previously authorized by this Commission and subsequently placed in service in May, 2002, and [c] fund its other ongoing capital projects.

4. PURPOSE OF THE FINANCING. Petitioner proposes, subject to Commission approval, to issue the securities to provide funds to acquire property, material or working capital; to construct, complete, extend and/or improve its facilities, plant and distribution system; to improve its service; to discharge, lawfully refund or refinance its obligations, including the possible redemption of debt; to repay any short-term indebtedness incurred by Petitioner for such purposes; or for other general corporate purposes.

Long-term debt issued pursuant to the proposed financing program will be made for maturities not to exceed 40 years at fixed or variable market interest rates. The long-term debt may be in the form of promissory notes or other unsecured evidences of indebtedness or secured debt issued pursuant to the Mortgage. Debt issued pursuant to the Mortgage will be in the form of Mortgage Bonds issued in accordance with one or more Supplemental Indentures to the Mortgage creating new series of Mortgage Bonds and specifying the terms thereof.

5. PROPOSED CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATIONS. Petitioner also seeks Commission approval to enter into, from time to time, over a period ending December 31, 2006, up to \$10,000,000 million principal amount of Lease obligations for a term not to exceed ten years. Ms. Horwitz testified that IPL proposes to utilize Leases to acquire property and equipment in order to optimize the cost of financing commensurate with the underlying asset's expected life. Ms. Horwitz testified that assets purchased could be in the form of, but not limited to, buildings, transformers, computers, software, telecommunications equipment, and fleet vehicles. The Leases will have structures and terms similar to other forms of debt financing, but with the potential, in certain instances, to lower the overall cost associated with financing property and equipment acquisitions. The amount financed under such Leases, excluding transaction costs, is not expected to be more than the net capitalized cost of the appraised value of the underlying property or equipment, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The term of a lease is also structured so as not to exceed the useful life of the asset financed. Ms. Horwitz opined that at lease expiration, Petitioner will have several available

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options. These options include the ability to renew the lease at a price and term mutually agreeable to Petitioner and the lessor, to terminate the lease, or to purchase the equipment.

6. PROPOSED INTEREST RATE RISK MANAGEMENT TRANSACTIONS. Petitioner also seeks authority to enter into interest rate risk management transactions for variable interest rate obligations issued as part of the Proposed Financing. Petitioner seeks authority to enter into any such interest rate risk management transactions throughout the life of any Notes in order to mitigate the interest rate risk associated with such securities. Such interest rate risk management transactions would include, but not be limited to, interest rate swaps, caps, floors, collars, forwards, and forward starting swaps. Petitioner proposes to enter into such interest rate risk management transactions with terms and characteristics as shall be fixed and determined by Petitioner's Board of Directors.

The main concept behind interest rate risk management transactions from the Petitioner's perspective is to establish an effective ceiling rate for floating-rate debt for a specified period of

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time. In order to assure a maximum ceiling interest rate, Petitioner would pay a premium, much like an insurance policy, for this protection.

Ms. Horwitz opined that since market opportunities for interest rate risk management transactions are transitory, Petitioner must be able to execute swap, cap, collar, forward and/or forward starting swap transactions when the opportunity arises to obtain the most competitive pricing. Thus, Petitioner seeks approval to enter into any or all such transactions in connection with the new Unsecured Notes during the entire term of the underlying obligations.

Ms. Horwitz stated that for book purposes, Petitioner proposes to account for all payments or receipts involving such transactions, including administrative costs, as a decrease or increase in interest expense. For ratemaking purposes, Petitioner contemplates reflecting the net effect of such transactions in its embedded debt cost. This accounting treatment is consistent with the Commission's determination in Petitioner's latest financing petition, Cause No. 41439.

7. PETITIONER'S CAPITALIZATION AND BALANCE SHEET. A Balance Sheet of Petitioner as of June 30, 2002, and an Income Statement of Petitioner for the twelve months ended June 30, 2002, were provided to the Commission. Ms. Horwitz testified that the original cost net utility plant exceeds the total capitalization of Petitioner. This Commission has repeatedly recognized that due to historic inflation and other factors, Petitioner's fair value of its net utility plant would exceed its net original cost, and thus, once Petitioner completes the financing transactions contemplated herein, Petitioner's total capitalization will not exceed the fair value of Petitioner's net utility plant.

As of June 30, 2002, the capitalization of Petitioner amounted to \$1,402,824,000, and consisted of long-term debt in the amount of \$621,964,000 (excluding unamortized discount of \$686,000 and current maturities in the amount of \$-0-); cumulative preferred stock in the amount of \$59,135,000; and common equity in the amount of \$721,725,000. All of the outstanding bonds, preferred stock and common stock have been duly authorized by Orders of this Commission.

At June 30, 2002, the long-term debt of Petitioner was represented by twelve series of First Mortgage Bonds and two unsecured notes. The outstanding First Mortgage Bonds have been issued under and pursuant to a Mortgage and Deed of Trust dated as of May 1, 1940, as supplemented and modified by supplemental

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indentures (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Mortgage"). At June 30, 2002, the First Mortgage Bonds and the two unsecured notes constitute the only long-term debt of Petitioner.(2) Petitioner had no other outstanding indebtedness except current liabilities.

At June 30, 2002, the issued and outstanding capital stock was comprised of five separate issues of Cumulative Preferred stock totaling 591,535 shares with a par value of \$100 per share, 17,206,630 shares of Common Stock without par value, and Retained Earnings of an undisclosed amount.

(2) Additional off-balance sheet indebtedness of Petitioner includes the \$50 million Asset Securitization of Petitioner's accounts receivable in 1996. Petitioner expenses interest incurred therefrom as an operating expense in accordance with SFAS140.

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8. THE OUCC'S POSITION. OUCC witness Russell J. Robertson testified that the OUCC is not asking that IPL's financing petition be denied. IPL is required to install NOx equipment to meet certain EPA requirements and Mr. Robertson agreed that financing is an appropriate means to accomplish that installation. In addition, Mr. Robertson agreed that IPL should be given the opportunity to renegotiate certain indebtedness if such action can benefit ratepayers as well.

Mr. Robertson did however express concern that Petitioner's financing request may be impacted by the financial condition of AES and IPALCO. Mr. Robertson testified that IPL's parent company, IPALCO, was purchased by AES in March 2001. Mr. Robertson opined that "[s]ince that time, AES has experienced significant financial pressure in the market which has been well documented in the press." Mr. Robertson went on to testify "the OUCC believes that the financial troubles of IPL's parent companies may lead to cash outflows from IPL (through e.g. dividends or loans) that might result in insufficient cash to provide reasonably adequate service or result in an inappropriate debt to equity ratio."

In support of its concerns, the OUCC during cross-examination extracted admissions from Ms. Horwitz that IPL's credit rating has fallen significantly due to financial troubles at IPL's parent company. She conceded that one reason Petitioner's credit rating fell may have been due to the investment community's concern that IPL's parent companies might extract cash from IPL in an amount that would jeopardize IPL's current financial position. Ms. Horwitz agreed that IPL should not be able to send cash to its parent company to the extent that its debt equals 100% of its capital structure. Although she agreed that some amount of dividend payment might be too excessive, she contended that IPL management should make this decision and the Commission should not interfere.

The OUCC recommended that the Commission prohibit IPL from providing loans to AES or IPALCO without prior Commission approval. In addition, Mr. Robertson recommended that IPL should not be allowed to pay dividends to its parent companies in an amount greater than its earnings.

The Petitioner charged that the proposed restriction limiting dividends to "earnings" is nebulous given the many possible interpretations of that term. The OUCC countered that, to allow for variations in earnings by quarter, the Commission might limit IPL dividends so that the total dividends paid in the preceding twelve-month period (including the proposed dividend) not exceed IPL's earnings for the most recent four quarters. To ensure that this restriction not unreasonably prevent the withdrawal of equity from the company, the OUCC proposed that IPL be permitted to come to the Commission at any time to request that these restrictions be relaxed. In such proceedings, the OUCC suggested that

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the burden should fall on IPL to show that either the parent company's financial difficulties no longer pose a risk of substantial cash withdrawals from the company or that withdrawals of equity can be made without unreasonable affecting IPL's quality of service.

9. PETITIONER'S REBUTTAL. Petitioner submitted the rebuttal testimony of Connie R. Horwitz, the Treasurer of IPL. Ms. Horwitz commented that there is no factual basis to support Mr. Robertson's recommendation that "IPL, as a condition of approval in this case, be prohibited from providing to AES or IPALCO loans without prior Commission approval." Ms. Horwitz

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noted that there is no allegation that IPL has previously loaned money to either AES or IPALCO. She stated that in an effort to resolve the matter, however, IPL would be willing to comply with this recommendation during the period of this financing authority.

Ms. Horwitz stated that Mr. Robertson's recommendation that "IPL should not be allowed to pay dividends to its parent companies in an amount greater than its earnings" causes IPL concern. She stated that the OUCC's proposal attempts to constrict the day-to-day operations of IPL. She stated her belief that the Commission may not or should not impose the OUCC's own idea of fiscal corporate policy under the guise of the Commission's financing approval function. Ms. Horwitz noted that the OUCC had not articulated any concern regarding IPL's prior or current dividend policy, nor had it accused IPL's management of any abuse or harm to consumers. She continued that there is no factual justification presented in the OUCC's testimony to support this recommendation. Ms. Horwitz further noted that the OUCC's proposal is nebulous. She stated that "earnings" is undefined in the OUCC's proposal. She stated that if the term "earnings" means cumulative retained earnings, which is the only rational definition, given the volatility of monthly, quarterly or annual measures of profit, and since material changes in cumulative retained earnings have the greatest effect on debt-equity ratios, the proposed financing restriction is unnecessary. IPL's current Mortgage and Deed of Trust provides that its dividends will not exceed its cumulative retained earnings. Ms. Horwitz opined that it is possible that the condition's vagueness, uniqueness and its restriction of management discretion would create uncertainty in the minds of potential bond purchasers and bond rating agencies, which could negatively affect the marketing of the bonds. She continued that another concern with the OUCC's proposal is that there is no time limit articulated regarding the OUCC's proposal. Ms. Horwitz testified that IPL is willing to provide to the Commission on a yearly basis, for the term of this financing authority, a report of its capital expenditures. She stated that this will assure the Commission that IPL's capital expenditures exceed its additional long-term borrowings. She stated that IPL would commit to place its proceeds from any new long-term borrowings into a restricted account, which would only be utilized to pay for its capital expenditures. This is a restriction rationally related to a financing proceeding, unlike the OUCC's proposed broad restriction on IPL's dividend policy. She concluded with IPL's assurance that it will comply with all conditions of its Mortgage and Deed of Trust.

Ms. Horwitz was cross-examined by the OUCC. On re-direct, Ms. Horwitz further explained IPL's current bond ratings. She stated that IPL's debt had been down-graded by Standard & Poor's ("S&P") because of a "notching" rule that S&P utilizes, but that IPL's bond ratings by other investment analysts remained strong. She further explained that one of the reasons that IPL has maintained its level of bond rating is that various safeguards are in place, which the investment community views as protections. For example, Ms. Horwitz explained that in addition to the constraint on dividend pay-outs present in IPL's First Mortgage Bonds, there is also an interest rate coverage ratio and a

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debt-to-capital ratio that must be maintained at the IPALCO level. Ms. Horwitz was asked to submit, as a late-filed exhibit, copies of documents provided to S&P, which explain the presence of "ring fencing." In response to this request, on November 20, 2002, IPL asked the Commission to take administrative notice of IPALCO's Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. In addition, IPL filed a copy of a "Separateness Agreement," which articulates the independence of IPALCO and AES. No party opposed IPL's requests for Administrative Notice, and the Commission now grants the requests.

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10. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS. The provisions of the Indiana Code that govern utility financings include I.C. 8-1-2-76 through 80 and I.C. 8-1-4-1. Of particular interest to the Commission in this case are the criteria set forth in I.C. 8-1-2-79(a) which include the following:

For the purpose of enabling it to determine whether the proposed issue is in the public interest, in accordance with laws touching the issuance of securities by public utilities, and reasonably necessary in the operation and management of the business of the utility in order that the utility may provide adequate service and facilities, the commission also may consider the total outstanding capitalization of the utility, including the proposed issue, in relation to the total value of or investment in the property of the utility, including the property to be acquired by the proposed issue, as shown by the balance sheet, accounts, or reports of the utility, the records of the commission, or other evidence, and the character and proportionate amount of each kind of security, including the proposed issue, and the unamortized discount suffered by the utility in the sale of the outstanding securities.

(a) REQUESTED FINANCING AUTHORITY. The Commission determines that the proposed Financing Program outlined herein, including all steps contemplated by the Financing Program, is advantageous and necessary, in the public interest and in the best interest of Petitioner and its customers.

Based on the evidence presented, the Commission finds that the long-term debt which Petitioner will have outstanding pursuant to the Financing Program will bear a reasonable proportion (50.2%) to Petitioner's total capitalization and will be reasonable in aggregate amount, with due consideration given to the nature of Petitioner's business, Petitioner's credit, future prospects and earnings and the effect which the issuance of such securities may have on the management and efficient operations of Petitioner. We further find that Petitioner's total outstanding capitalization, when adjusted for the Financing Program, and the application of the proceeds therefrom, will be reasonable in relation to the total value of Petitioner's property and will not be in excess of the fair value of Petitioner's property used and useful for the convenience of the public.

The Commission finds that the issuance of long-term debt pursuant to the Financing Program is reasonably necessary for the purposes for which such securities may be authorized by the Commission and is in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of Indiana relating to the issuance of securities by public utilities. Therefore, the Commission finds that the Financing Program (which includes the issuance of New Bonds, the Lawful Refundings, the use of Leases, and the use of Interest Rate Risk Management Transactions) should be approved and authorized by the Commission, and a Certificate of Authority should be issued to Petitioner accordingly, subject to the condition set forth below.

The Petitioner made a number of offers to protect IPL customers' interests

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from the dangers that are of concern to the OUCC. First, IPL offered to make no loans to any parent without prior Commission approval during the period of this financing authority. Second, IPL expressed a willingness to provide to the Commission on a yearly basis, for the term of this

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financing authority, a report of its capital expenditures to assure the Commission that IPL's capital expenditures exceed its additional long-term borrowings. Third, IPL offered to place its proceeds from any new long-term borrowings into a restricted account, which will only be utilized to pay for its capital expenditures. Fourth and last, IPL represented that it will not make any dividend payments to its common shareholders that would result in its Leveraged Ratio exceeding 0.67:1.(3) The Commission finds that Petitioner's offers should all be accepted and that Petitioner should therefore be required to honor those commitments.

(b) RESTRICTION ON DIVIDENDS. Out of a concern that IPL may have to make substantial dividend distributions to its ultimate parent, AES, a company whose declining stock price and bond rating has raised concerns, the OUCC has suggested that the Commission restrict IPL's ability to pay out "earnings." The Commission believes there is merit to this suggestion.

As a regulatory agency charged with overseeing utilities, the Commission is attuned to factors that affect all utilities in general and individual utilities as well. With regard to IPL and its ultimate parent AES, the Commission is aware of considerable media attention to the recent financial difficulties of AES.(4) To ignore such reports would be a dereliction of our responsibility to exercise our statutory authority in an informed manner. In the case at hand, the OUCC's witness Mr. Robertson testified that IPL's ultimate parent, AES, has experienced significant financial pressure in the market, and that the financial troubles with IPL's parent companies may lead to cash outflows from IPL that might result in insufficient cash to provide reasonably adequate service, or result in an inappropriate debt to equity ratio. IPL's witness Ms. Horwitz testified that "IPL's credit rating was dropped by the Standard & Poor's rating agency solely because of a practice that Standard & Poor's has on linking a subsidiary to a much lower rated parent." She further conceded that implicit in the rating drop is a concern by the investment community that IPL's parent companies might extract cash from IPL in an amount that would leave IPL in a difficult situation. The evidence presented supports a finding, and we find, that the poor financial condition of AES has created a situation that could endanger the financial health of IPL.

At this time, IPL has a reasonable capital structure, and based on a snapshot of IPL's financial condition, the Commission has approved IPL's financing request. However, faced with an ultimate parent, AES, that is in financial distress, there is a risk that IPL may need to surrender dividends in such an amount that a factor critical to the Commission's approval of a financing request - the utility's capital structure - could be substantially changed. If the flow of cash dividends from IPL to its unregulated parent companies were unrestricted, such cash flows could lower the amount of equity retained in IPL to a level that the additional debt financing proposed herein might become imprudent. In addition, as a company increases the percentage of

(3) Our acceptance of IPL's offer to limit its Leveraged Ratio to 0.67:1 should not be construed as an indication that the Commission believes such a capital structure is reasonable. Moreover, we do not believe this is a significant concession on IPL's part. The evidence appears to indicate that IPL could distribute almost all of its retained earnings to its parent without running afoul of this concession. In addition, we note that such a requirement

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already limits transfers from IPALCO to AES. See, Section 9.4 of Article IX of IPALCO's Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation.

(4) See article by Gargi Chakrabarty, November 12, 2002, Indianapolis Star. Also see Staff and News Service Report, January 28, 2003, Indianapolis Star.

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debt in its capital structure, both its cost of equity and its cost of debt increase - a burden that eventually would fall on ratepayers.

IPL pointed to a number of safeguards that exist to protect its financial health and to ensure its independence from its parent IPALCO and IPALCO's parent, AES. However, the Commission has concerns that the operation of those safeguards may not preserve what is presently a sound financial condition. While the effects of some safeguards (e.g., the Mortgage Indenture) can be ascertained because they relate to objective financial criteria, the level of protection afforded by those safeguards may not be sufficient to protect the public interest. (5) The operation of other safeguards, like "ring fencing," leaves critical decisions to the IPL and IPALCO Boards of Directors. For example, Article VII, Section 6 of IPL's By-laws states, "The Corporation shall at all times ensure that its capitalization is adequate in light of its business and purpose." The Commission does not believe it is appropriate to leave the decision on "adequate capitalization" solely to the IPL and IPALCO Boards of Directors, in light of our experience with declining service quality shortly after IPALCO was acquired by AES. (6) The judgments of the IPL and IPALCO Boards of Directors are guided only by a fiduciary duty to their respective corporations. The Commission's duty to protect the public interest requires that it look beyond the interests of any single constituency, so that a proper balance can be found between a diversity of interests. Finally, with regard to "ring fencing," it appears that some of the "ring fencing" provisions erected to give IPL and IPALCO independence from their respective corporate parents can be undone. (7)

Petitioner objects that the Commission lacks authority to control the dividend policy of a utility. To the contrary, we note that I.C. 8-1-2-80 states, "The commission shall have such power to impose such conditions upon a public utility in issuing securities as it may deem reasonable." In the case at hand, where the unregulated ultimate parent of a major Indiana utility is in financial distress, it is appropriate for the Commission to assert this authority. Under the circumstances presented, the Commission finds the restrictions approved below to be "reasonable," within the meaning of I.C. 8-1-2-80.

The OUCC proposed that the Commission restrict Petitioner's dividends so that the total dividends paid in the preceding twelve months (including the proposed dividend) do not exceed Petitioner's "earnings" for the most recent four quarters. IPL claimed that the meaning of the term "earnings" is nebulous. The Commission is likewise unclear about how to describe the restriction that should be implemented. In the interest of avoiding a protracted hearing on this issue, which would hinder IPL's ability to make timely distributions, the Commission finds that IPL, before declaring or paying any dividend, should file with the Commission a report detailing (1) the amount of the proposed distribution, (2) the amount of dividends distributed during the

(5) For example, IPL's Mortgage Indenture provides that IPL's dividends shall not exceed its cumulative retained earnings. Thus, the Mortgage Indenture would allow IPL to distribute approximately \$350 million that now resides in that account, or nearly half of Petitioner's total current equity of \$780 million.

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(6) See the Commission's Orders in Cause No. 41962 investigating service quality problems of IPL.

(7) For example, Article IX of IPL's Amended and Restated By-laws permits the shareholders (i.e., IPALCO) to repeal the Separateness provisions found in Article VII. Likewise, Article X of IPALCO's Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation appears to permit the repeal of the limitations on dividends found at Section 9.4 of Article IX.

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prior twelve months, (3) an income statement for the same twelve-month period, (4) the most recent balance sheet, and (5) IPL's capitalization as of the close of the preceding month, as well as a pro forma capitalization giving effect to the proposed dividend, with sufficient detail to indicate the amount of unappropriated retained earnings. If within twenty (20) calendar days the Commission does not initiate a proceeding to further explore the implications of the proposed dividend, the proposed dividend should be deemed approved. The Commission finds the preceding approval process should continue in effect during the term of this financing authority, which expires December 31, 2006.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION THAT:

1. Petitioner be, and hereby is, authorized to carry out and consummate the Financing Program described in the Petition filed in this Cause and by the testimony, exhibits and evidence introduced at the hearing in this Cause, subject to the condition set forth in Ordering Paragraph No. 5 below. In particular, Petitioner is authorized over the period ending December 31, 2006 to issue \$380,650,000 (collectively, "New Debt") that Petitioner anticipates will be comprised of:

- (a) \$160,000,000 increase in indebtedness ("New Bonds")
- (b) \$210,650,000 issued to retire, refund, or redeem four debt issues currently outstanding ("Lawful Refundings")
- (c) \$10,000,000 in Capital Leases ("Lease[s]")

2. There shall be, and hereby is issued to Petitioner, a Certificate of Authority for the issuance of securities, upon the terms and conditions, of the character, for the consideration, in the manner, and for the purposes, set forth in this Order, including:

- (a) authority to issue from time to time over the period ending December 31, 2006 up to \$370,650,000 in aggregate principal amount of fixed or variable rate secured or unsecured long-term debt in amount on terms consistent with the evidence submitted herein;
- (b) authority to execute capital lease agreements not to exceed \$10,000,000 on terms consistent with the evidence submitted herein;
- (c) authority to the extent long-term debt issued pursuant to this authority is secured, to execute and deliver Supplemental Indentures supplementing and amending the Mortgage in order to create new series of Mortgage Bonds and to specify the characteristics thereof in accordance with the term and provisions of the Mortgage;
- (d) authority to execute and deliver promissory notes and other evidence of indebtedness relating to such long-term debt;

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- (e) authority to execute letters of credit or other credit facilities on terms consistent with the evidence submitted herein;
- (f) authority to execute Interest Rate Risk Management transactions on terms consistent with the evidence submitted herein;
- (g) authority to use and apply the cash proceeds arising from the issue and issuance of the long-term debt and/or capital lease obligations for the purposes set forth in the Petition.

3. Within thirty (30) days after each use of the authority granted herein, Petitioner shall submit a report to the Commission with a copy of the OUCC summarizing the results of the financing. The report shall include, at a minimum, the purpose of the financing, the type of financing and a description of the terms of the financing including the calculation of the effective interest rate and resulting capital structure.

4. The authority granted in this Order shall expire on December 31, 2006 to the extent it has not been utilized by that date.

5. Petitioner shall comply with the four commitments set forth in Finding Paragraph No. 10(a).

6. Petitioner shall comply with the findings set forth in Finding Paragraph No. 10(b) relating to dividends.

7. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

MCCARTY, HADLEY, LANDIS, RIPLEY, AND ZIEGNER CONCUR:
APPROVED: FEB 12 2003

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Order as approved.

Nancy Manley, Secretary to the Commission

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STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANAPOLIS POWER &)
 LIGHT COMPANY, AN INDIANA)
 CORPORATION, FOR (1) APPROVAL OF ITS)
 2003-2006 FINANCING PROGRAM WHICH)
 INCLUDES THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO)
 \$380,650,000 IN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL)
 AMOUNT OF (1A), FIXED OR VARIABLE RATE)
 SECURED OR UNSECURED LONG-TEM)
 DEBT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED)
 \$370,650,000 IN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL, AND)
 (1B) CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATIONS NOT TO)
 EXCEED \$10,000,000 IN AGGREGATE)
 PRINCIPAL; (2) TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER)
 ONE OR MORE SUPPLEMENTAL)

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INDENTURES TO ITS MORTGAGE AND DEED)
OF TRUST DATED AS OF MAY 1, 1940 AS)
SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, FOR THE)
PURPOSE OF CREATING OR SECURING)
EACH NEW SERIES OF FIRST MORTGAGE)
BONDS; (3) TO EXECUTE LETTERS OF) CAUSE NO. 42292
CREDIT OR OTHER CREDIT FACILITIES)
DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY PETITIONER TO)
PROVIDE LIQUIDITY FOR ITS VARIABLE)
INTEREST RATE OBLIGATIONS AS)
PROPOSED TO BE ISSUED HEREIN,)
THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE)
UNDERLYING OBLIGATION; (4) TO EXECUTE) ORDER ON PETITION
AND DELIVER PROMISSORY NOTES AND) FOR RECONSIDERATION
OTHER EVIDENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS)
RELATING TO ISSUANCE OF LONG-TERM)
DEBT; (5) TO ENTER INTO INTEREST RATE)
RISK MANAGEMENT TRANSACTIONS IN)
CONNECTION WITH ITS VARIABLE RATE)
OBLIGATIONS AS PROPOSED TO BE ISSUED)
HEREIN, THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE) APPROVED: APRIL 16, 2003
UNDERLYING OBLIGATION(S); AND (6))
AUTHORITY TO APPLY THE NET CASH)
PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF SUCH LONG-)
TERM DEBT AFTER PAYMENT OF EXPENSES)
INCURRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,)
TO DISCHARGE, REFUND OR REPLACE)
CERTAIN SERIES OF ITS FIRST MORTGAGE)

BONDS OUTSTANDING AND TO REIMBURSE)
ITS TREASURY, REPAY SHORT TERM)
BORROWINGS, AND FINANCE ITS)
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.)

BY THE COMMISSION:
DAVID E. ZIEGNER, COMMISSIONER
GREGORY S. COLTON, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

On February 12, 2003, the Commission issued an order in this Cause (the "Order") approving the financing program of Petitioner Indianapolis Power & Light Company ("IPL" or "Petitioner") for the 2003-2006 period.

On February 28, 2003, IPL filed its Petition for Reconsideration or, In The Alternative, For Rehearing ("Petition For Reconsideration"). On March 14, 2003, IPL filed its Notice of Appeal pursuant to Ind. Appellate Rule 9(I).

Being duly advised and having considered the matters set forth in IPL's Petition For Reconsideration, the Commission now finds:

1. JURISDICTION. In the Order, the Commission found it had jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this Cause. No party has challenged this finding. Petitioner filed a Notice of Appeal on March 14, 2003, and on April 7, 2003 sought a 30-day extension of the deadline for submission of the Clerk's Record, which was granted by the Court of Appeals. The Commission retains jurisdiction at this time to address the Petition for Reconsideration.

2. RELIEF REQUESTED BY PETITIONER. In its Petition For Reconsideration, IPL seeks the following with respect to the Order:

- (a) Modification of the Order by replacing the dividend "approval process"

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condition described in the Order with a Dividend Review Process ("DRP") containing an objective criterion acceptable to IPL. IPL proposes that to the extent common stock dividend distributions do not cause IPL's long-term debt capitalization ratio to exceed a specific threshold, the DRP condition will not apply in any manner to require IPL to withhold dividend distributions. To the extent a dividend distribution would result in a long-term debt capitalization ratio greater than the objective criterion, and the Commission initiates a separate, lawfully conducted investigation, the DRP would result in IPL temporarily withholding that portion of the dividend that causes the objective criterion to be exceeded, pending investigation. The DRP also would establish a reasonable time limit for the completion of any investigation the Commission may order.

- (b) Clarification that IPL's financing authority is approved and that no restriction on dividend distributions results from the Order but rather, the Commission is imposing a reporting requirement as a condition of the financing and that any

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order attempting to limit dividend distributions would result from a separate investigation under I.C. 8-1-2-59.

- (c) Modification of the Order to institute an upfront procedure whereby non-public information submitted to the Commission pursuant to the reporting requirement of the Order would be treated by the Commission as exempt from public disclosure in accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-4, I.C. 8-1-2-29, and I.C. 5-14-3-4, until the information has been publicly released.
- (d) Clarification that the dividend reporting and "approval process" condition is only applicable to dividend payments to IPL's common shareholder and not to dividend payments to IPL's preferred shareholders.
- (e) Corrections to statements on page 5 of the Order regarding the amount of IPL's retained earnings and the total shares of preferred stock outstanding as of June 30, 2002.

With regard to item (b) above, IPL proposed that a long-term debt capitalization ratio in the range of 55% to 60% was reasonable and should be approved. IPL further proposed that a reasonable time limit for completing an investigation of proposed dividends (for that portion of a proposed dividend that would result in a long-term debt capitalization ratio above the approved range) would be sixty days from the date the Commission initiates a proceeding.

3. POSITION OF THE OUCC. The OUCC made no filing in response to the Petition For Reconsideration.

4. COMMISSION FINDINGS.

A. IPL'S PROPOSED DIVIDEND REVIEW PROCESS. In its Petition For Reconsideration IPL criticized the "dividend approval condition" created by the Order, stating that the condition lacked objective criteria, a reasonable time limit for the completion of any investigation and any triggering mechanisms. To correct these perceived shortcomings, IPL suggested that the Commission instead implement a "Dividend Review Process" with the following details:

- (1) If a report filed by IPL on proposed common stock dividends verifies that, after payment of the proposed dividends, the ratio of IPL's

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long-term debt to the book value of its total capital structure is not greater than a specified threshold, the proposed dividends will not be subject to any condition other than the provision of the information required by Finding No. 10 of the Order. If the proposed dividends would result in a long-term debt capitalization ratio above the specified threshold, and the Commission initiates an investigation thereof within twenty (20) days of the informational filing, the payment of that portion of the dividend which causes the long-term debt capitalization ratio to exceed the specified threshold would be withheld pending the investigation, provided that the investigation is completed within sixty (60) days.

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- (2) If the Commission initiates a proceeding to explore the implications of proposed common stock dividends resulting in a long-term debt capitalization ratio in excess of the specified threshold, the Commission will provide IPL with notice and hearing pursuant to I.C. 8-1-2-59. The Commission also will complete the investigation and issue any order thereon within sixty (60) days from the date the Commission initiates the proceeding. IPL alleged that this sixty (60) day time limit is needed to ensure that the period of time of any withholding of that portion of the dividend which causes the long-term debt capitalization ratio to exceed the specified threshold will be reasonable and to avoid the pancaking of investigations of sequestered dividend payments.

After considering the proposed Dividend Review Process, the Commission is not persuaded to adopt it. IPL's proposed range of 55% to 60% for a long-term debt capitalization ratio is significantly higher than has previously been experienced by IPL, and appears to surrender to the notion that IPL's capital structure should be no better than is warranted by its current credit rating, which is depressed due to AES's financial condition. IPL also claims that, absent the certainty of an objective criterion establishing a presumptively reasonable capital structure, IPL cannot prudently plan its business and financing activities. The record evidence does not support the reasonableness of IPL's proposed debt capitalization ratio, nor does it support IPL's claim that an objective criterion is necessary.

B. THE ORDER'S DIVIDEND APPROVAL CONDITION. In its Petition For Reconsideration, IPL requests clarification of the "mechanics" of the dividend approval condition. IPL suggests that the dividend approval condition could be interpreted merely as a requirement that IPL must provide information to the Commission, after which the Commission might then decide to open an investigation into IPL's financial condition pursuant to I.C. 8-1-2-58 and/or 59. To dispel any uncertainty on this point, the Commission now clarifies that the dividend approval condition prohibits IPL from issuing any dividends unless those dividends are either deemed approved or explicitly approved by the Commission. (1) To further clarify, if the Commission initiates a proceeding to explore the implications of a proposed dividend, the Commission finds that IPL should not issue the dividends that are the subject of that proceeding until the proceeding is concluded by a Commission order, and then only if that order approves the proposed dividend.

IPL suggests that any investigation into the appropriateness of a proposed dividend should be addressed through I.C. 8-1-2-58 and/or 59. Those two statutory provisions are not the basis for the Commission's claimed authority over IPL's dividends and are therefore not applicable to the dividend approval process set forth in the Order. The Order indicates that the Commission's authority to restrict dividends is based on I.C. 8-1-2-80 which states in part, "The commission shall have power to impose such conditions upon a public utility

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in issuing of securities as it may deem reasonable." In the Order, the Commission determined that the

(1) We grant below IPL's request that the payment of dividends for preferred stock be excepted from the dividend approval condition.

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initiation of a proceeding to explore the implications of a proposed dividend was "reasonable" within the meaning of I.C. 8-1-2-80.

The Commission notes that since the issuance of the February 12, 2003 Order, IPL has twice petitioned for approval of proposed dividends. Without waiving any of the positions taken in its Petition for Reconsideration, IPL provided the financial information required by the Order, and sought Commission approval of first, a preferred dividend to be paid on April 1, 2003, and second, both a common stock dividend to be paid on April 9, 2003 and a preferred dividend to be paid on July 1, 2003. In no instance did the Commission initiate a proceeding to explore the implications of the proposed dividends, and they were all therefore deemed approved after twenty days had elapsed.

C. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION. IPL asserted in the Petition For Reconsideration that much of the information the Order requires IPL to submit before making dividend distributions may not yet have been publicly disclosed at the time the report must be filed. IPL explained that because it is the principal subsidiary of IPALCO, a reporting company, premature release of such material nonpublic information could cause repercussions at the IPALCO and AES levels. IPL stated that this makes it necessary for IPL to seek a protective order to ensure that the Commission treats such information as confidential and protected from public disclosure until such information has been generally made publicly available. IPL expressed its concern that if this confidentiality issue is first raised in a motion for a protective order at the time the report is due, there could be delays in the review of the report and completion of any review proceeding because IPL cannot provide the information to the Commission until at least a preliminary confidentiality determination has been made.

IPL alleged that public disclosure of proposed dividends prior to public declaration would be inconsistent with the scheme of SEC regulation. IPL also stated that public disclosure of an income statement or balance sheet that had not been previously issued or which did not fall within a quarterly reporting pattern would also be inconsistent with the SEC regulatory scheme. Therefore, IPL opined that there will be a need for confidential treatment with respect to each dividend report, and a mechanism should be established to allow the timely filing of the confidential information. IPL proposed that at the time of filing a report, IPL submit, pursuant to 170 IAC 1-1.1-4(b), a sworn statement as to: (a) the nature of the information; (b) the reason it is confidential; (c) the efforts taken to maintain its confidentiality; and (d) the date upon which IPL expects the information will become public. IPL requested that the Commission find that future dividend reports so verified by IPL would be confidential and exempt from disclosure under I.C. 8-1-2-29 and I.C. 5-14-3-4, until such time as the information has been publicly released. IPL expressed a willingness to enter into an appropriate nondisclosure agreement with the OUCC which will allow its representatives to immediately review the reports as filed with the Commission.

The Commission finds that IPL's proposed confidentiality procedure is consistent with federal securities laws and regulations, will expedite consideration of the information and will be efficient for the Commission and the parties. Accordingly, the Commission approves the proposed procedure and authorizes IPL to submit nonpublic financial information in its dividend reports under seal to one of the presiding officers for this Cause. The Commission finds

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such

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information is exempt from public disclosure and public access pursuant to I.C. 8-1-2-29 and I.C. 5-14-3-4. IPL is directed to notify the Commission when such information has been publicly released and is no longer confidential.

D. TREATMENT OF PREFERRED DIVIDENDS. As evidenced in Appendix B of IPL's Petition, IPL currently has outstanding 591,353 shares of preferred stock. In its Petition For Reconsideration, IPL stated that all shares of preferred stock are owned by holders other than IPALCO or AES. IPL stated that the preferred shareholders are entitled to dividends on their preferred stock on a quarterly basis according to the dividend rate fixed for each series of preferred stock which is approximately \$800,000 in the aggregate per quarter. IPL stated that as a result, subject to declaration by the Board of Directors, dividends on preferred stock are limited to specified amounts, payable on specified dates, similar to interest payments on debt. IPL stated that preferred shareholders have no right to the residual earnings of the company. IPL requested that the Order be clarified in a manner that makes it clear that the dividend reporting and "approval process" condition concerns only payments of dividends on IPL's common stock, not payments of dividends on IPL's preferred stock. The Commission finds that the requested reconsideration should be granted. Therefore, the reporting requirements of the Order and the need to obtain Commission approval are triggered only with regard to the payment of dividends on common stock, not to payments of dividends on preferred stock.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRECTIONS. On page 5 of the February 12 Order the Commission stated: "[a]t June 30, 2002, the issued and outstanding capital stock was comprised of five separate issues of Cumulative Preferred stock totaling 591,535 SHARES with a par value of \$100 per share, 17,206,630 shares of Common Stock without par value, and RETAINED EARNINGS OF AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT." [Emphasis added.] IPL stated that this statement is not correct because Appendix B to the Petition, which was admitted in evidence as PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT NO. 1, shows that as of that date IPL's retained earnings were \$407,283,000 and IPL had 591,353 shares of cumulative preferred stock outstanding. IPL requested that the Commission correct this finding. Based upon the Petition for Reconsideration and the Commission's review of PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT NO. 1, the Commission finds that the Order should be and hereby is so corrected.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION THAT:

1. IPL's Petition for Reconsideration is granted in part and denied in part, and the Commission's February 12, 2003 Order is clarified, modified and corrected consistent with the findings herein.

2. The Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

MCCARTY, HADLEY, RIPLEY AND ZIEGNER CONCUR; LANDIS CONCURRING IN PART AND DISSENTING IN PART:
APPROVED:

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS TRUE
AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORDER AS APPROVED.

NANCY E. MANLEY,

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SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

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CAUSE NO. 42292
ORDER ON PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION
APRIL 16, 2003

OPINION OF COMMISSIONER LANDIS, CONCURRING IN PART, DISSENTING IN PART:

1. I support and join in the findings of Finding Paragraph No. 4.A. regarding IPL's proposed Dividend Review Process. In particular, I concur with the majority opinion's finding that the record evidence does not support the reasonableness of Petitioner's proposed range of 55% to 60% for a long-term debt capitalization ratio.

In testimony, the Public proposed that the Commission should limit IPL's dividends to no more than IPL's earnings for the preceding twelve months. This standard may be too generous. A recent article in a trade journal suggests that dividends as a percent of earnings should, from an investor's perspective, be around 55%. [Public Utilities Fortnightly, "Is It Safe?: Finding the Best Utility Dividends," April 1, 2003].

I am not persuaded that either of the above specific approaches is necessarily appropriate or prudent.

Petitioner argues that the Commission's action has resulted in an atmosphere of "...risk and uncertainty created by this lack of clarity..." which, Petitioner contended, could compromise the proposed and approved Financing Program.

In a rating action released on April 11, 2003, Moody's Investors Service reports that "IPL plans to take on additional debt as approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to partially fund its upcoming capital expenditure program..." [Moody's Investor Service, April 11, 2003, quoted in "Moody's cuts IPALCO Enterprises ratings," Reuters News Service] while no mention is made of concern over the Commission's dividend approval process.

At the same time, the Commission's concerns regarding upstreaming to the parent are closely parallel to reservations reflected in Moody's statement: "Moody's notes that large dividend payments from IPALCO have been made to AES Corporation in 2001 and 2002 and a high pay-out from funds available to shareholders after utility operating needs are met is likely to continue. [ibid.]"

I am concerned that any good-faith attempt by the Commission to set a permissible range for a debt capitalization ratio or for dividends-as-a-percent-of-earnings might automatically be interpreted as a permissible upper boundary, rather than as general guidance, and therefore might be taken as license for IPL to abandon more stringent internal standards.

2. I respectfully dissent from parts of Finding Paragraph No. 4.B. I believe that in some respects the Commission's order would benefit from greater specificity and

guidance for Petitioner. I find merit in Petitioner's argument that "...the dividend 'approval process' lacks sufficient clarity..." Although the Commission has already allowed IPL to issue two rounds of dividend payments, I do not believe this provides sufficient guidance to enable IPL to act with greater

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assurance in future quarters. While recognizing the challenges inherent in arriving at some type of equitable, appropriate and productive guideline regarding dividend payments, I support the creation of guidelines for dividends that would be presumed to be reasonable and not subject to Commission disapproval. In addition, I believe Commission Staff can quickly identify and respond in those instances where Petitioner has requested approval of dividends above and beyond what is permitted under the guidelines. When Staff has completed its review process and has no objection to a proposed dividend, I would prefer that the Commission provide some affirmative notification to IPL, as opposed to "letting the clock run" on the twenty-day period.

3. I concur in the Order's findings relating to Confidentiality of Information (Finding Paragraph No. 4.C.), Treatment of Preferred Dividends (Finding Paragraph No. 4.D.) and Miscellaneous Corrections (Finding Paragraph No. 4.E.).