

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
BEFORE THE ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD

ATCO Electric Ltd.)
2008 Distribution Tariff Application)

Application No. 1500878

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
PAUL CHERNICK
ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS & COUNTIES
AND
THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF REAS LTD

Resource Insight, Inc.

MAY 18, 2007

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1 **I. Identification and Qualifications**

2 **Q: Mr. Chernick, please state your name, occupation and business address.**

3 A: I am Paul L. Chernick. I am the president of Resource Insight, Inc., 5 Water
4 Street, Arlington, Massachusetts.

5 **Q: Summarize your professional education and experience.**

6 A: I received an SB degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June
7 1974 from the Civil Engineering Department, and an SM degree from the
8 Massachusetts Institute of Technology in February 1978 in technology and
9 policy. I have been elected to membership in the civil engineering honorary
10 society Chi Epsilon, and the engineering honour society Tau Beta Pi, and to
11 associate membership in the research honorary society Sigma Xi.

12 I was a utility analyst for the Massachusetts Attorney General for more
13 than three years, and was involved in numerous aspects of utility rate design,
14 costing, load forecasting, and the evaluation of power supply options. Since
15 1981, I have been a consultant in utility regulation and planning, first as a
16 research associate at Analysis and Inference, after 1986 as president of PLC,
17 Inc., and in my current position at Resource Insight. In these capacities, I have
18 advised a variety of clients on utility matters.

19 My work has considered, among other things, the cost-effectiveness of
20 prospective new generation plants and transmission lines, retrospective review
21 of generation-planning decisions, ratemaking for plant under construction,
22 ratemaking for excess and/or uneconomical plant entering service, conservation
23 program design, cost recovery for utility efficiency programs, the valuation of
24 environmental externalities from energy production and use, allocation of costs

1 of service between rate classes and jurisdictions, design of retail and wholesale
2 rates, and performance-based ratemaking and cost recovery in restructured gas
3 and electric industries.

4 **Q: Have you testified previously in utility proceedings?**

5 A: Yes. I have testified approximately one hundred and ninety times on utility
6 issues before various regulatory, legislative, and judicial bodies, including the
7 Ontario Energy Board, Arizona Commerce Commission, Connecticut Depart-
8 ment of Public Utility Control, District of Columbia Public Service Commission,
9 Florida Public Service Commission, Maryland Public Service Commission,
10 Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, Massachusetts Energy Facilities
11 Siting Council, Michigan Public Service Commission, Minnesota Public
12 Utilities Commission, Mississippi Public Service Commission, New Mexico
13 Public Service Commission, New Orleans City Council, New York Public
14 Service Commission, North Carolina Utilities Commission, Public Utilities
15 Commission of Ohio, Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission, Rhode Island
16 Public Utilities Commission, South Carolina Public Service Commission, Texas
17 Public Utilities Commission, Utah Public Service Commission, Vermont Public
18 Service Board, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, West
19 Virginia Public Service Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
20 and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
21 Commission.

22 **II. Introduction**

23 **Q: On whose behalf are you testifying?**

1 A: My testimony is sponsored by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts &
2 Counties (“AAMDC”) and Alberta Federation of REAs Ltd (“AFREA”).

3 **Q: What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

4 A: My sponsors have asked me to evaluate the basis for the large increase in
5 streetlighting revenue requirements that result from changes in direct
6 assignment and cost allocations. To accomplish this task, I reviewed the
7 analyses performed by ATCO Electric (“AE” or “the Company”) and Foster
8 Associates (“Foster”) in response to Directions of the Board.

9 **Q: Which of the Company’s analyses does your testimony address?**

10 A: I address the following analyses:

- 11 • direct assignments to streetlighting in response to Direction 11;
- 12 • the classification of all components of the distribution system, in particular
13 overhead lines, in response to Direction 13;
- 14 • definition and calculation of streetlighting customer counts, in response to
15 Direction 20;
- 16 • re-estimation of the customer weighting factors used in the cost-of-service
17 study (COSS), in response to Direction 24.

18 Each of these studies was conducted by Foster Associates, apparently under the
19 supervision of James J. Sarikas.

20 **Q: What is the result of these analyses?**

21 A: The Company’s allocation of costs to streetlighting increases drastically from
22 the 2004 COSS as shown in the revised Technical Session slides 13 and 14
23 dated March 16, 2007.

24 **Q: What do you conclude from your evaluation?**

1 A: The Company has not provided adequate documentation for its responses to the
2 Board's Directions; as a result, the responses cannot be fully reviewed and
3 therefore cannot be relied upon for setting rates. To the extent that I have been
4 able to review portions of the studies by AE and Foster, those analyses are
5 riddled with errors and overstate the costs of streetlighting. More specifically,
6 the following list describes the problems with the response to each of these four
7 directions:

- 8 • **Direction 11: direct assignments to streetlighting:** The direct-assignment
9 analysis started with work orders that include equipment serving non-
10 streetlighting loads, but neither AE nor Foster systematically identified or
11 excluded investments that served non-streetlighting at the time of
12 installation or today. Foster converts the work-order data to assignment
13 factors by misinterpreting regression analyses that are largely
14 undocumented and conceptually suspect, using incorrect and nonsensical
15 data.
- 16 • **Direction 13: classification of non-assigned distribution costs:** Foster's
17 treatment of some minimum equipment size as being customer-related is
18 conceptually flawed and inconsistent with the considerations that
19 determine the number of units and cost of distribution equipment. Foster
20 also makes computational errors in this zero-intercept computations.
- 21 • **Direction 20: streetlighting customer counts:** Foster estimates a
22 customer number for streetlighting that has no obvious relevance to the
23 causation of any cost. The number of streetlight customers for customer-
24 service purposes should be set at the number of entities requesting separate
25 bills and retailer choice. Any distribution costs driven by the number of

1 streetlights are directly assigned, so the number of streetlighting customers
2 for allocation of distribution costs should be set to zero.

3 • **Direction 24: customer weighting factors for transformers:** Foster's
4 analysis is entirely hypothetical and unrelated to the actual distribution of
5 customers served by various size transformers, or to the percentage of
6 customers in each class who require an additional transformer. Streetlights
7 are lumped together with the largest customers, resulting in a vast
8 underestimate of the number of customers sharing a transformer with the
9 typical streetlight.

10 **Q: What are your recommendations to the Board on these issues?**

11 A: I recommend that the Board should take the following steps:

- 12 • Reject AE's responses on all four of the issues discussed in this testimony;
- 13 • Not increase the share of revenue requirements borne by streetlighting in
14 this proceeding;
- 15 • Direct AE to correct the errors discussed in this testimony;
- 16 • Direct AE to file corrected analyses addressing Directions 11, 13, 20 and
17 24, in its next rate application.

18 **III. Direction 11: Direct Assignments to Streetlighting**

19 **Q: How substantial is AE's proposed direct assignment to streetlighting?**

20 A: Even this information is not easily determined. AE does not even specify the
21 total direct assignment in the explanation of its response to Direction 11.
22 (Application, Section 4-Attachment 2, pp. 1-5). The parties to this proceeding
23 have been told variously as follows:

- 1 • The total costs tabulated from the “streetlighting” work orders are \$30M in
2 Account Street Light 47-810 and \$10.9M in non-streetlighting accounts
3 (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-14(b)).
- 4 • Out of a total of \$74.9 million of gross plant (including General Plant) that
5 is allocated to streetlighting, \$72.2 million was directly assigned, of which
6 \$66.9 million is non-rural and \$4.5 million is rural. (PICA-ATCO-2(a),
7 rbas43, “ midyr_gross_PP&E”).
- 8 • The assignable assets are \$48.1M, \$43.7M for non-rural and \$4.5M for
9 rural streetlighting (Mif3, “Assignable Assets”)
- 10 • The plant capitalized to Street Light Account 47-810 is \$46.4M, more than
11 the total of all costs tabulated in the work-order study (March 9 2007
12 Technical Session, Slide 13, revised March 16 2007)

13 Without a clear statement of the amount of the direct assignment and how it was
14 derived, the parties and the Board cannot separate the effects of changes in
15 direct-assignment methodologies, allocation approaches and total distribution
16 rate base.

17 **Q: What is your understanding of the Company’s direct-assignment method?**

18 A: The documentation is inadequate and inconsistent. Most of the calculations have
19 not been provided, despite our requests for the information. As best as I could
20 determine, the data was derived from a detailed review of work orders dating
21 back to 1950. It selected the 4,475 work orders that included at least some plant
22 capitalized to Street Light Account 47-810 (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8,
23 Supplemental response, p. 1; Application, Section 4, Attachment 1, p. 3).¹ The

¹The Company asserts, “ATCO Electric identified and analyzed all work orders where any capital was closed to streetlighting” (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8 Attachment 1). This suggests that many of the work orders must have contained work for non-streetlighting customers, unless AE
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1 Company summarized data from each work order, including plant by street-
2 lighting (No. 47-810) and non-streetlighting account, number of existing and
3 new poles by size, number of davits installed and other information useful for
4 analysis of streetlighting costs (Application, Section 4, Attachment 2, pp. 2–3).

5 The Company provided the data summary, but not the individual work
6 orders, to Foster Associates for further analysis. Foster performed some
7 regressions, and perhaps some other analyses, and recommended that AE
8 directly assign about 38 cents of non-streetlight plant to streetlighting for each
9 dollar of actual streetlighting equipment (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8,
10 Attachment 1, p. 7). The Company claims to have used Foster’s results to assign
11 directly to streetlights much more than a dollar of non-lighting plant for each
12 dollar of lighting plant.

13 **Q: How did AE use the work orders and Foster’s direct-assignment analysis in**
14 **the cost-of-service study?**

15 A: I do not know. The Company has not explained how the costs attributed to
16 streetlighting in the Cost-of-Service Study were derived from AE’s work-order
17 analysis and Foster’s direct-assignment analysis. In response to a request to
18 “document the derivation of the overall direct assignment to streetlighting in the
19 Cost of Service Study from the assignments by work order,” AE refers only to
20 the place in the cost-of-service study in which the final result appears as an input
21 (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-12).

22 Also, AE has not demonstrated that the large contributions in aid of
23 construction collected from customers were subtracted from the non-
24 streetlighting plant assigned to streetlighting. In the work-order database, about

was in the habit of issuing one work order to install poles, transformers, primary and secondary lines, and service drops, and a second work order just for streetlights on the same poles.

1 90% of Account 47-810 and 10% of the other accounts are covered by customer
2 contributions.

3 **A. *The Work-Order Analysis***

4 **Q: In their direct-assignment methodology, how did AE and Foster treat work**
5 **orders that include a mix of streetlighting and non-streetlighting**
6 **investments?**

7 A: The parties in this proceeding have been variously told as follows:

- 8 • One hundred percent of costs in the 4,475 work orders are directly assigned
9 to streetlighting (Company statement on May 4, 2007 teleconference call);
- 10 • Only the portion of the non-Account 47-810 work order investments “that
11 can be shown to be street light-related” are directly assigned to street-
12 lighting (Application, Section 4, Attachment 2, pp. 3–4);
- 13 • The work order study “did not assign plant between streetlight and non-
14 streetlight categories” (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-9(a));
- 15 • The work-order study did assign plant between streetlight and non-
16 streetlight categories: The purpose of the study was to review “plant that
17 was installed at the same time and in conjunction with streetlight plant...to
18 determine if the plant (non-streetlight) should be directly assigned to the
19 streetlight function” (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-9(a)).

20 In short, we do not even know whether the plant costs that serve a mix of
21 customers are properly assigned between streetlighting and non-streetlighting
22 categories.

23 **Q: How did AE account for plant that originally served only streetlights but**
24 **has subsequently been used to serve other customers?**

1 A: It does not appear that AE identified such plant in the work-order study. Hence
2 some unknown amount of plant now serving non-lighting load was included in
3 the assignment to streetlights.

4 **B. Foster Associates' Analysis**

5 **Q: What was the contribution of Foster Associates to the development of the**
6 **direct assignment?**

7 A: Foster was responsible for determining what portion of non-streetlighting costs
8 should be assigned directly to streetlighting. It is not clear whether the analysis
9 assigned the non-streetlighting investment included in the 4,475 work orders, a
10 portion of secondary distribution backbone costs, or both. Foster recognized that
11 the analysis should make the following two adjustments to the streetlighting
12 assignment:

- 13 • A portion of the non-streetlighting plant that serves streetlighting is in the
14 work orders and has been assigned to streetlighting,
- 15 • The work orders include plant that currently “supports” other rate classes,
16 or “over time, may be used by other rate classes” (Application, Section 4,
17 Attachment 2, pp. 3–4).

18 While AE does not explain how it increased the \$30.1M of investment in
19 Account 47-810 in the work orders to \$72.2M directly assigned to streetlights in
20 the cost-of-service study, the Foster assignment analysis appears to have been
21 important.² The Company has not clearly explained the Foster assignment study
22 and has not provided the study’s data and calculations despite its huge role in

²The work orders included streetlighting plant that was since retired, but excluded streetlights added since 2003, so the other costs that AE assigned directly to streetlights may be more or less than \$72.2 million.

1 the cost allocation. Until May 10, the only documentation that Foster Associates
2 had provided to the parties, and apparently to the Company as well, were the six
3 pages in the Application and the seven-page explanation in the response to
4 AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8 Supplemental. On May 10, AE provided some of
5 the data and a few calculations described in AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8.³

6 **Q: How did Foster derive the direct assignments?**

7 A: Despite multiple requests, AE has not provided a derivation of the direct
8 assignments.⁴ The assignment results, in some manner, from work-order data,
9 regressions, and a 50% reduction in demand and customer allocators.⁵

10 The Company has offered general explanations of its regressions, such as
11 that the “work orders were analyzed to determine a relationship between the
12 number of lamps installed, the number and size of poles installed and the level
13 of plant capitalized by account. The result of the review supported the determi-
14 nation that the primary reason for the installation of the poles was for streetlight
15 function” (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-11(a)). In AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8,
16 Foster indicates that it ran some regressions, and provides brief descriptions of
17 those analyses, but leaves more questions than it resolves. Among other things,
18 AE and Foster have not provided the following information:

- 19
- the data used in the regressions;

³The Company has provided an Excel workbook that appears to have data from AE (some of which was redacted) on 4,472 work orders, as well as various computations and other additions from Foster.

⁴See, for example, AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-5, and 8

⁵It is my understanding that the 50% reduction in the customer and demand allocators affects only the \$2.7M of non-assigned plant. Foster intends to adjust for the use by other customers of the \$72.2M of plant directly assigned to streetlighting. The adjusted allocators may also be used in deriving the direct assignment.

- 1 • adjustments to the data, including the price adjustments, and the basis for
- 2 those adjustments;
- 3 • an account of how the regression analyses were used in the direct
- 4 assignment;
- 5 • the numerical effect of the regression results on the direct assignment;
- 6 • whether and how the regression analyses were used in “further allocation
- 7 of non-street light secondary distribution infrastructure costs” (Technical
- 8 Session, Slide12, Revised March 16 2007);
- 9 • the total effect Foster’s regression analyses had on the final streetlighting
- 10 cost allocation.

11 In discovery, AAMDC/AFREA requested the following information that
12 would have allowed the parties to understand and evaluate Foster’s analysis:

- 13 • an electronic copy of all spreadsheets used in the preparation of the direct
- 14 assignment of distribution plant and expenses to streetlighting, including
- 15 all formulas, lookup tables, tables of functionalization, classification and
- 16 allocation factors, and supporting calculations (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-
- 17 5).
- 18 • an electronic copy of all spreadsheets used in the preparation of the partial
- 19 allocation of distribution plant and expenses to streetlighting (AAMDC/
- 20 AFREA-ATCO-5).
- 21 • the derivation of the direct assignment to streetlighting (AAMDC/AFREA-
- 22 ATCO-5).
- 23 • the methodological rules and calculations for assignments of these
- 24 investments between streetlighting and non-streetlighting (AAMDC/
- 25 AFREA-ATCO-7).
- 26 • the data drawn from the work order on which the calculation relies.

- 1 • how the data for the calculation is derived from the work order (AAMDC/
2 AFREA-ATCO-7).
- 3 • how AE and the Foster analysis determine which non-streetlighting
4 investments that are considered to “support” streetlighting (AAMDC/
5 AFREA-ATCO-8).
- 6 • the methodological rules and calculations for assignments of investments
7 between streetlighting and general distribution plant (requested for
8 different descriptions of the AE-Foster methodology in AAMDC/AFREA-
9 ATCO-8; -9).
- 10 • the work-order-derived data on which the calculation relies (AAMDC/
11 AFREA-ATCO-9).
- 12 • other data used in the assignment and the source of that data (AAMDC/
13 AFREA-ATCO-9).
- 14 • the methodological rules for determining whether underground service
15 lines and conduits serve as the foundation for davits, and the methodo-
16 logical rules and calculations for the assignment of this investment to
17 streetlighting (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-10).
- 18 • how AE determined from work orders which wooden poles were built to
19 serve streetlighting only, and the methodological rules and calculations for
20 the assignment of this investment to streetlighting (AAMDC/AFREA-
21 ATCO-11).

22 Until May 10, none of the information requested had been provided. The
23 Company had not even provided a copy of the data it provided to Foster.⁶

⁶In addition, Foster’s explanations are often incomprehensible, or so vague as to be subject to widely varying interpretation.

1 In addition to all of the problems listed above, The Company has still not
2 provided *any* documentation for the following analyses Foster claims to have
3 performed and relied upon (Attachment 1, p. 5):

- 4 • “The pole work identified several work orders which were excluded from
5 the study due to a [de] minimus streetlighting investment coupled with a
6 major (e.g., greater than 5%) total non-streetlighting investment.”
- 7 • “Several work orders where no new lamps were installed but seemed to
8 represent a shifting of existing facilities associated with the widening of
9 roads.”⁷
- 10 • “A sample of work orders [for which] Foster requested ATCO Electric to
11 perform a detailed analysis of facilities installed. Foster reviewed the
12 analysis and used it to confirm both ATCO Electric’s and Foster’s
13 assumptions.”

14 **Q: Does AE appear to understand what Foster did on its behalf?**

15 A: No. In our telephone conversation of May 4, the AE staff claimed not to have
16 received any documentation of the Foster study other than what few pages were
17 provided in the Application. Hence, Foster had not even given AE the
18 documentation that the Company would need to evaluate the analysis.

19 **Q: What questions about the data used in the regressions were not answered in**
20 **the Application or in responses to discovery?**

21 A: The Company and Foster did not provide, for example, the following
22 information:

- 23 • Which of the sixty-some data categories (Foster Report, pp. 2–3) were
24 regressed against what other data. In AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8

⁷It is not clear what Foster intended to do with these costs.

1 Supplemental, AE provides three graphs, two of which (pp. 4 and 5) have
2 identical labels (“Investment in Conductors vs. Number New Poles Non-
3 Rural”) but show different data.⁸ Foster suggests that it performed addi-
4 tional regressions, and the ten assignment factors it recommends would
5 require additional analyses, but no documentation of those have been
6 provided.

- 7 • Which regressions were performed for rural installations, which for non-
8 rural installations, and which for both.
- 9 • Whether the data used for the regression of conductor investment against
10 the number of poles consist of (a) all poles and conductors on the system,
11 (b) just the equipment in the 4,475 work orders, or (c) a subset of those
12 work orders.⁹
- 13 • Whether Foster used 4,475 data points (one for each work order) or
14 whether Foster aggregated the work orders by year. The small number of
15 data points shown on the graph seems to suggest that Foster aggregated the
16 data by year, which would result in the loss of about 99% of the data.¹⁰

17 **Q: Has Foster explained how the regression analyses were used in “further**
18 **allocation of non–street-light secondary distribution infrastructure costs.”**

⁸On May 10, less than a week before the due date of this evidence, AE finally provided us with some of Foster’s work papers, which includes the figure on p. 5 of Attachment 1 labelled “Rural.” As I discuss below, these two graphs represent neither investment in conductors nor the number of new poles.

⁹The file received May 10 suggests that at least a few of the regressions were performed for subsets of the work-order data. Foster provided only one of the three regressions it reported in AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8 Attachment 1.

¹⁰That conclusion was reinforced by worksheets provided on May 10.

1 A: Not in the Report. In AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1, Foster
2 introduces an entirely new step in its computations:

3 The non-streetlight plant, by account, was compared with the streetlight
4 plant to determine the average level of streetlight related plant investment
5 in each non-street light account over the last ten years that occurs from
6 each dollar of investment in the streetlight account. (P. 7)

7 Foster then lists the adders it applies to streetlighting, for five accounts, with
8 different values for non-rural and rural lighting. For each dollar of street-light
9 investment over “the last ten years,” Foster claims to have found 38.2¢ of non-
10 streetlight investment for non-rural lights and 36.1¢ for rural lights. Foster says,
11 “These percentages...were multiplied by rural and non-rural streetlighting
12 investment (Account 47-810) to calculate forecasted additions. These additions
13 were directly assigned to the streetlighting function” (p. 7).

14 This discovery response was the first time that Foster mentioned the use of
15 a ten-year period for a portion of the direct-assignment analysis. Neither the
16 Company nor Foster has explained why, if the work orders included all the
17 streetlighting investments from 1950 through 2002, Foster needed to use
18 selected data for ten years and extrapolate to the entire streetlighting
19 investment.¹¹ Consistent with its practice in other parts of the streetlighting
20 assignment, AE has not provided a single computation regarding that important
21 step in the analysis.

22 **Q: Given the limited information available from Foster, can you form any**
23 **opinion regarding the use of the regressions?**

24 A: Yes, to a limited extent. It appears that Foster

¹¹This step may account for how Foster and AE managed to inflate \$10 million (in 2002 dollars) in non-streetlighting plant in work orders with streetlights, into about \$40 million in mixed nominal dollars.

- 1 • set up the analysis in a manner that would be likely to produce spurious
- 2 correlations,
- 3 • clearly used the wrong and meaningless data, and
- 4 • may have misinterpreted the results of the regressions.

5 **Q: What was wrong with the structure of Foster’s regression analysis?**

6 A: While no one other than Foster knows all the regressions that Foster performed,
7 we do have two examples: underground service investment as a function of the
8 number of davits, and conductor investment as a function of the number of new
9 poles.¹² In neither case has Foster revealed what the data comprise (all the work
10 orders, a selection of work orders, total work orders for a year, or total annual
11 book investment). I assume for this discussion that each data point is a work
12 order, but the critique would be the same for any of the data sources.

13 Foster finds that years with more davits have greater investment in
14 underground services. That is not surprising, since davits are used with lights
15 served from underground distribution. In any underground distribution project,
16 the services will be underground, whether they are services for a house, a store,
17 a traffic light, or a streetlight.¹³ A year with underground projects serving many
18 houses (as in a large residential development) or many stores (as in a major
19 redevelopment of a town center) and hence including many services, is also

¹²Foster provides two graphs labelled identically (as conductor investment as a function of the number of new poles, non-rural), with different data and data ranges. The text suggests that one of the regressions was intended to estimate conductor investment as a function of the number of “site/lamps” (whatever a site/lamp might be), but the graph matches results in the May 10 file for rural conductor investment as a function of the number of new poles.

¹³Overhead-served streetlights are generally served directly from the secondary lines, but some underground-served streetlights may be far enough from the secondary lines to require a service drop.

1 likely to include many streetlights, and hence require many davits. A year with
2 few davits will have few new underground-served streetlights, and thus likely
3 serve little additional areas with underground distribution and few new buildings
4 with few services. Hence, the number of davits in a work order is likely to be
5 correlated with the investment in services, even were none of the services
6 actually serving the streetlights.

7 Similarly, Foster's conclusion that the years with more poles have more
8 conductors would be true regardless of whether the poles or conductors are
9 required for streetlights or some other customer type. Conductors run between
10 poles; years in which many poles were added would require lots of conductor to
11 span them. This correlation would not tell Foster anything useful about how
12 streetlights cause the installation of conductors (even had Foster not made so
13 many errors in the regressions).

14 Foster's correlations here may be entirely spurious, just as would the likely
15 correlation of the number of burglaries in a city and the number of cars
16 registered in the city. Both burglaries and cars rise with the size of the city;
17 neither causes the other.

18 **Q: Where did Foster use wrong and meaningless data?**

19 A: In the two pole regressions described in Attachment 1, Foster claims to regress
20 conductor investment on the number of new poles. In the May 10 file, the
21 graphs provided in Attachment 1 are derived from regressions of inflation-
22 adjusted annual values labelled "Sum of TotalSites" as a function of the sum of
23 values labelled "Sum of Existing pole" and "Sum of TotalPoles." From other
24 sheets in the May 10 file, it appears "Sum of TotalSites" has nothing to do with
25 the sites identification numbers in the work-order database, and is simply the
26 sum of "Sum of Existing pole" and "Sum of TotalPoles." The "Sum of Existing

1 pole” value appears to be the total number of existing poles used in any way in
2 the work orders for that year, and “Sum of TotalPoles” appears to be the total
3 number of new poles added in the work orders for that year. In other words,
4 Foster regressed the number of poles used in the work orders, times an inflation
5 factor, against the number of poles. Neither the conductor investment nor the
6 number of new poles was an input to this regression.

7 **Q: Did Foster really regress the number of poles times an inflation factor**
8 **against the number of poles, and claim the result was a regression of con-**
9 **ductor investment versus new poles?**

10 A: Yes.¹⁴

11 **Q: Is there any possible justification for applying an inflation adjustment to**
12 **the number of poles, or for performing the regression Foster performed?**

13 A: No. Foster probably intended to perform completely different regressions.

14 **Q: How may Foster have misinterpreted the results of the regressions?**

15 A: In AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1, Foster claims that regressing

16 the price-level adjusted underground services and conduit investments in
17 relation to the number of davits installed by year.... explained over 75% of
18 underground services and conduit investments were related to the
19 streetlighting function. (P. 3)

20 and that regressing

21 price-level adjusted conductors...[against] the number of new poles and
22 davits installed, as well as between price-level adjusted conductors and the
23 number of site/lamps. These models seemed to explain that about 55–70%
24 of conductor investment was related to the streetlighting function. (P. 4)

¹⁴Foster did not even get the inflation adjustment right. The inflator Foster applied for 1950 was the inflator Foster computed for 2001. For rural investment, the inflators used for 1962–2002 were computed for five years earlier, and the inflators for 1954–60 were off by one to four years.

1 Foster did not provide any explanation of how it derived the percentages of
2 plant that it assigned to streetlights. The appropriate approach would be to use
3 the regression analyses (were those were performed properly, and without
4 spurious correlations) to estimate the streetlight-related non-streetlight costs,
5 and divide that estimate by the total streetlight investment. There is no evidence
6 that Foster did anything of the sort.

7 It may be coincidental, but the regression that Foster provided for
8 underground services had an R^2 of 0.7437, very close to Foster's claimed 75%
9 of underground services and conduit attributable to streetlights.¹⁵ Foster
10 reported that the two regressions it thought were for conductors had R^2 values of
11 0.5658 and 0.7119, which would round off to the 55%–70% of conductor
12 investment Foster claimed was related to streetlighting.¹⁶ Hence, it appears that
13 Foster may have confused the R^2 , a measure of goodness of fit, with the portion
14 of the other investments that would be explained by the coefficients of the
15 regression equations.

16 **Q: What additional steps would Foster have needed to convert regressions of**
17 **the sort it reports in AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1, pp. 3–5 to**
18 **the assignment factors on page 7 of Attachment 1?**

19 A: The description provided so far is missing at least three steps. First, Foster
20 would have needed to perform the remainder of the regressions (or whatever
21 other statistical analyses Foster refers to on page 3 of Attachment 1) for 1950–
22 2002. At page 7 of Attachment 1, Foster provides ten ratios of various accounts
23 to Account 48-710, for either rural or non-rural plant. Foster has only provided

¹⁵Perhaps Foster had another regression for conduit with an R^2 slightly over 0.75.

¹⁶The workbook provided on May 10 included the graphs that Foster used on pages 4 and 5 of AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1, but not the actual regression results.

1 three regressions, and one of those (“Investment in UG Services (\$2002) vs.
2 Number of Davits”) does not differentiate between rural and non-rural areas.¹⁷
3 Hence, eight additional regressions would be needed to do what Foster claims it
4 did.

5 Second, all three of the regressions Foster has provided attempted to
6 compare dollars of some category of non-lighting plant to physical units of
7 lighting equipment (davits) or general distribution equipment (poles). In order to
8 get to the assignment factors on page 7 of Attachment 1, which are in dollars on
9 non-lighting plant per dollar of lighting plant. Foster would need another set of
10 analyses to determine how dollars of each category of non-lighting plant vary
11 with dollars of lighting plant.

12 Third, Foster claims to have done some analyses of costs over the past ten
13 years, in some way modifying or supplementing the longer-term analyses.
14 (Attachment 1, p. 7) Given the emphasis in the Application on the use of all the
15 streetlighting work orders since 1950, it would be strange if Foster were to rely
16 entirely on post-1992 data.

17 Foster has not documented any of these steps.

18 **Q: Did Foster claim to do any other analyses to support its regressions?**

19 **A:** Yes. Foster claims that

20 an analysis of the number of poles installed in comparison to the number of
21 site/lamps was undertaken. The pole work was done on a work order by
22 work order basis to ensure consistency. A tight relationship of one pole per
23 site/lamp was found. This analysis insured no statistical outliers existed to
24 counter-balance each other. (AAMDC/AFREEA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1,
25 p. 5)

¹⁷The other two regressions, as described above, are nonsense.

1 While it is not clear what a site/lamp might be, the spreadsheet the
2 Company provided on May 10 shows a total of 30,480 new lamps and 16,103
3 conversions, but only 6,427 new poles installed. Hence, no “tight relationship of
4 one pole per site/lamp” could have been “found.”

5 **Q: Are the magnitudes of the assignment factors on p. 7 of Attachment 1**
6 **consistent with the data AE has provided?**

7 A: No. Each assignment factor cannot be greater than the ratio in the work-order
8 database of investment in the non-streetlighting account to streetlight invest-
9 ment. Foster seems to recognize the following costs in the work order database
10 should not be treated as related to streetlights:

- 11 • portions of the conductors, conduit and underground services identified in
12 the regression analyses (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1, pp. 3–
13 5).
- 14 • several work orders with “a [de] minimus streetlighting investment
15 coupled with a major non-streetlighting investment” (p. 5).
- 16 • “several work orders where no new lamps were installed but seemed to
17 represent a shifting of existing facilities associated with the widening of
18 roads” (p. 5).

19 Hence, the assignment ratios should be somewhat lower than the ratios in the
20 database.

21 Yet the assignment ratios are *higher* than the investment ratios in the
22 database. The following table compares the assignment factor for each account,
23 averaged over non-rural and rural factors, to the database investment ratio,

1 unadjusted and adjusted for the non-streetlight portions of conductor, conduit
2 and services Foster reports from its regressions.¹⁸

Account	Foster Ratio	Database Ratio	
		<i>All</i>	<i>Modified</i>
<i>Poles 47300</i>	7.9%	7.5%	
<i>Conductor 47400</i>	4.6%	3.7%	2.0%–2.6%
<i>Conduit 47500</i>	16.3%	9.5%	7.1%
<i>U/G Services 47510</i>	6.0%	10.6%	8.0%
<i>Line X'mers 47900</i>	3.4%	2.3%	
<i>Total</i>	38.1%	33.6%	26.9%–27.4%

3 Only the underground service ratio could conceivably be correct. The
4 Foster ratios for the other accounts range from 5% to 71% above the unadjusted
5 ratios from the database and are more than double the adjusted ratios for
6 conductor and conduit. In other words, Foster somehow concludes that more
7 than 100% of the non-streetlight costs in the database are due to the streetlights.

8 **C. Reducing Streetlight Allocators to Reflect Assigned Plant**

9 **Q: How did AE adjust the amount of non-streetlight plant allocated to**
10 **streetlighting, to recognize the fact that a large amount of secondary plant**
11 **was directly assigned to this class?**

12 **A:** In the Application, Foster states:

13 Using professional judgment and the work order analysis, Foster Associates
14 recommends street lighting billing determinants used to allocate secondary
15 distribution system investments (e.g., non-Account 47-810) to street
16 lighting be reduced by 50%. (Application, Section 4, Attachment 2, p. 4)

¹⁸I weighted the rural and non-rural assignment factors using the non-rural percentage (94.5%) of streetlight investment in the work orders whose location is identified. More than 20% of the streetlight investment in the work-order database is not identified in the “Rural/Non-rural” column.

1 The non-street lighting investments do not suffice to totally displace the
2 need for an allocation of secondary distribution costs to street lighting. (P.
3 5)

4 Foster expanded on its approach in discovery, where it said that this
5 issue was more difficult to analyze. If such non-streetlighting directly
6 assigned assets were found to be a complete substitute for the secondary
7 distribution system (i.e., thus attaching to the primary distribution system),
8 then such plant assets would not require the use of the secondary
9 distribution system and no secondary distribution system costs should be
10 apportioned to the streetlighting function.

11 To answer this complex question, an analysis was performed for each plant
12 account or asset. The following rationale was applied to each of the 4,475
13 work orders. If any non-streetlight work order, not included within Account
14 47-810, *contained a job which was not a complete substitute for the*
15 *secondary distribution system*, then that non-streetlight plant, represented in
16 that work order, would, by necessity, have to use a portion of the secondary
17 distribution system and could not be a substitute for the secondary
18 distribution system. Following this reasoning, some level of secondary
19 distribution system costs would need to be allocated to streetlight Rate 61
20 customers. (AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1, p. 6, emphasis in
21 original)

22 **Q: Does this description seem reasonable?**

23 A: For the most part. The one problematic point in the description is the focus on
24 the work order containing *a complete substitute for the secondary distribution*
25 *system*. Any equipment that substitutes for any part of the secondary distribution
26 system should be credited to the streetlighting class, whether or not the work
27 order contains the entire secondary system. From this description, it is not clear
28 whether Foster intended to count (properly) all plant that substitutes for any part
29 of the secondary distribution system, or (improperly) only plant in work orders
30 that included all the secondary equipment that the streetlights required.

31 **Q: Did Foster's subsequent discussion of its method clarify this point?**

1 A: No. The discussion on pages 6–7 of AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-8, Attachment 1,
2 regarding the rationale for determining which secondary costs are redundant
3 with direct-assigned transformers, poles and lines is largely incomprehensible,
4 and frequently incorrect. For example, Foster states as follows:

- 5 • “Only a minority of the work orders contained an investment in line
6 transformers greater than \$100. We termed this level of investment
7 ‘significant’ meaning the investment was not de minimus and was at least
8 \$100.” Foster’s statement that investments “greater than \$100” are “at least
9 \$100” is certainly true, but not very helpful in computing the portion of
10 streetlighting that is served by direct-assigned transformers.
- 11 • Direct-assigned “line transformers comprise non-streetlight plant and could
12 not be a substitute for the secondary distribution system,” when clearly
13 they could substitute for allocated transformers.
- 14 • “If the streetlights...with no new poles and...those only with davits were
15 directly attached to the primary distribution system, then these streetlights
16 would not utilize the secondary distribution system and thus could not be a
17 substitute for the secondary distribution system.” Again, Foster’s assertion
18 is false; if the streetlights do not use secondary distribution, the direct-
19 assigned plant has replaced the general secondary system.
- 20 • “Streetlights...with new poles would utilize some level of secondary
21 distribution pole system costs and would need to be allocated to streetlight
22 Rate D61 customers.” Of course, the streetlights would be allocated to
23 Rate D61. However, if the new poles serve other classes, or the new pole
24 has a transformer on it, or is adjacent to the pole with the transformer, not
25 other secondary poles would be used by the streetlights and no pole costs
26 would need to be allocated for those streetlights.

- 1 • “The analysis of lines was consistent with the apportionment of secondary
2 distribution system costs for poles. This meant that some level of
3 secondary distribution system costs for wires would need to be allocated to
4 streetlight Rate D61 customers.” It is not clear what Foster means by
5 “consistent with.” Perhaps Foster believes that streetlights with new poles
6 should be allocated line costs, or that streetlights with new lines should be
7 allocated line costs. Or something else.

8 **Q: Has Foster provided any other detail on its determination of the share of
9 streetlighting that can be served by the direct-assigned plant?**

10 A: In the Application, Foster provides some information about its approach for line
11 transformers.

12 The ratio of total wattage of street lamps fed by the secondary distribution
13 system’s line transformers (e.g., where such line transformer investment
14 was significant) to the total wattage of all street lamps was calculated. The
15 result showed approximately one-third of street light wattage was identified
16 and corresponds to work orders showing significant line transformer
17 investment. Thus, one-third of line transformer-supported street lamp
18 investment did not require any additional allocation of secondary
19 distribution system investment. (Section 4, Attachment 2, p. 4)

20 Foster does not provide its computation of the one-third values. Nor does
21 Foster provide any comparable explanation for other accounts (conductor,
22 conduit, services, poles).

23 **Q: Did AE provide any work papers or computations showing how Foster
24 progressed from the discussion you summarized above to the 50%
25 reduction in streetlight allocators?**

26 A: No.

1 **D. Plant Assigned to Streetlighting that Also Serves Other Classes**

2 **Q: Does Foster acknowledge that the non-streetlight plant it assigns to**
3 **streetlighting also serves other customers?**

4 A: Yes. Foster makes that point very clearly:

5 Foster recognizes this direct assignment includes some distribution
6 investments that, overtime, may be used by other rate classes.... The
7 analysis of total street lighting-related work orders provided evidence that
8 plant investment in street lighting also serviced other secondary distribution
9 system functions. For example, a certain level of line transformer
10 investment was directly assigned to street lighting. Additionally, both poles
11 and conductors used in street lights also may be used for other non-street
12 lighting secondary distribution system functions. (Application, Section 4,
13 Attachment 2, p. 4)

14 A review of a sample of work orders showed the related secondary
15 distribution system investment contained capacity investments that could
16 be used to serve other rate classes. (P. 5)

17 **Q: How did Foster reduce the assignments of non-streetlighting plant to**
18 **streetlighting customers, to reflect the use of that plant to serve other**
19 **classes?**

20 A: Foster asserts that “an adjustment made prior to the allocation of related
21 secondary distribution system investments to street lighting corrects for this and
22 will be explained below” (Application, Section 4, Attachment 2, p. 4). I cannot
23 find any such adjustment in the Application. The only adjustment following the
24 promise quoted above turns out to be Foster’s recommendation that the
25 streetlighting allocators be reduced 50% to reflect the fact that assigned plant
26 reduces the streetlights’ need for allocated plant, as discussed in the previous
27 section of this testimony.

1 **Q: Could the 50% reduction in the streetlight allocators include a credit for**
2 **the non-streetlight plant that AE assigns to streetlighting but also serves**
3 **other customers?**

4 A: No, for two reasons. First, the reduction in streetlight allocators is entirely the
5 wrong type of computation to reflect this credit. Reducing the streetlight
6 allocators to reflect the first consideration (the fact that assigned plant substi-
7 tutes for allocated plant) would properly vary the adjustment in proportion to the
8 amount of plant that would otherwise be allocated to streetlighting. But for this
9 second consideration—the adjustment for streetlight-assigned plant that serves
10 other classes—adjusting the streetlight allocators makes no sense. Foster
11 recognizes that some assigned plant serves other customer classes but fails to
12 follow through by reducing the plant assigned to streetlights. This second adjust-
13 ment would properly vary with the amount of plant that would otherwise be
14 assigned to streetlighting.

15 Second, the allocated plant is probably too small to reflect the amount of
16 streetlight-assigned plant that serves other classes. Depending on which of the
17 Company's data one starts with, at least \$20 million (and perhaps as much as
18 \$40 million) in non-streetlighting plant is assigned to streetlighting. In contrast,
19 only about \$2.7 million in non-streetlighting plant is allocated to streetlighting
20 (PICA-ATCO-2(a)). If as little as 14% of the non-lighting plant assigned to
21 streetlighting serves other classes, even reducing the lighting allocators to zero
22 could not capture that effect.

23 **Q: Are there other peculiar results in the direct assignments or allocations to**
24 **streetlighting?**

25 A: Yes. One example would be Foster's attribution of \$4.2 million of service drops
26 to streetlighting in the current cost-of-service study (Schedule 4-Bs, p. 22). I say

1 “attribution” because I cannot tell whether these costs are assigned or allocated.
2 \$3.2 million of service drops, of which Foster concludes only 75%, or \$2.4
3 million, are assignable to streetlights.

4 **Q: What is your recommendation to the Board regarding the direct assign-**
5 **ments to streetlighting?**

6 A: Directly assigning costs is desirable, where it is possible to identify the costs
7 that are incurred for only one rate class and are dedicated to that rate class, and
8 the assignment is not duplicative of allocations of plant used by multiple classes.
9 When investments serve a mix of customers, they should be allocated, not
10 assigned.

11 The Board cannot rely on the Foster study for direct assignment of
12 distribution plant to streetlighting. The Company and Foster Associates have not
13 been able to document most of the analyses, some of the few computations
14 Foster provided are incorrect and nonsensical, Foster’s explanations and
15 reasoning are frequently incomprehensible, and Foster’s recommended
16 assignments require that more than 100% of the distribution plant in its database
17 be directly assigned to streetlighting.

18 **IV. Direction 13: Classification of Non-Assigned Distribution Costs**

19 **Q: What is the Foster study’s approach to deriving distribution plant**
20 **classification factors?**

21 A: In Foster Associates’ view, customer-related costs and demand-related costs are
22 separable:

1 In classifying the distribution function, the demand and customer
2 relatedness split is based on the two distinct purposes of the distribution
3 system. The first is to attach customers to the system and, from a cost of
4 service perspective, such costs clearly are customer-related. The second
5 purpose is to meet existing customers' demands beyond their minimum
6 load. These costs clearly are demand-related. (Foster, p. 8)

7 In other words, Foster conceptualizes the division in cost causation
8 between load and customer number by rules that amount to:

- 9 • The number of units (feet of line, number of meters) is due to the number
10 of customers.
- 11 • The size of units is due to the load.

12 **Q: Are these rules based on a realistic view of an electric distribution system?**

13 A: No. This view is overly simplistic, for three reasons. First, much of the cost of a
14 distribution system is required to cover an area, and is not really sensitive to
15 either load or customer number. For example, serving many customers in one
16 multi-family building is no more expensive than serving one commercial
17 customer of the same size, other than metering. Extensions to span areas should
18 not be allocated to streetlighting. Adding lights to an existing system will not
19 add much more to the costs of the system other than the sum of the Streetlight
20 Account and dedicated streetlighting expenditures.

21 The distribution cost of serving a geographical area for a given load is
22 roughly the same whether that load is from concentrated commercial or
23 disbursed residential customers.¹⁹

24 Second, load levels help determine the number of units, as well as their
25 size. As load grows, utilities add distribution feeders and transformers in parallel
26 with existing equipment, such as adding a transformer to serve one end of a

¹⁹See Bonbright, James C., Albert L. Danielsen, and David R. Kamerschen, *Principles of Public Utility Rates*, Arlington, VA: Public Utilities Reports, 1988., p. 491.

1 block, as load grows beyond the capability of the transformer originally serving
2 the block. Indeed, large customers may be served by multiple transformers to
3 increase reliability.

4 In general, more small electric customers than large customers can be
5 served from one transformer. Higher loads require larger service drops and
6 secondary wires, so more transformers are added to reduce the length of the
7 wires. This multiplication of transformer number is expensive because (1)
8 transformers show large economies of scale in dollars of investment per kVA of
9 capacity, and (2) dispersed transformers have lower diversity than transformers
10 serving many customers, increasing the total installed kVA required to meet
11 customer load.

12 Third, load can determine the type of equipment installed, in addition to
13 size and number. Electric distribution systems are often relocated from overhead
14 to more expensive underground because the weight of lines required to meet
15 load makes overhead service infeasible. Voltages may also be increased to carry
16 more load, increasing the costs of equipment (e.g., insulation requirements for
17 transformers and lines).

18 Q: Will these minimum-system approaches produce a reasonable classification of
19 costs?

20 A: No. As Bonbright, Danielsen & Kamerschen explain, these approaches attempt
21 to classify costs that are fundamentally “unassignable”:

22 the inclusion of the costs of a minimum-sized distribution system among
23 the customer-related costs seems to us clearly indefensible....[cost analysts
24 are] under impelling pressure to fudge their cost apportionments by using
25 the category of customer costs as a dumping ground.... (Pp. 491–492)

1 Small customers are especially burdened when a high percentage of costs are
2 assumed to be customer-related; allocations should not rely on these flawed
3 methods.

4 **Q: How is the cost of the minimum distribution system generally derived?**

5 A: The most common methods used are:

- 6 • The Minimum-System Method,
- 7 • The Zero-Intercept Method.

8 Foster uses both approaches and averages their results

9 **Q: Please describe the Minimum-System Method.**

10 A: A minimum-system analysis attempts to calculate the cost (in constant dollars)
11 of the utility's installed units (transformers, poles, conductor-feet, etc.), were
12 each of them the minimum-sized unit of that type of equipment that would ever
13 be used on the system. The analysis asks, How much would it have cost to
14 install the same number of units (poles, conductor-feet, transformers), but with
15 the size of the units installed limited to the current minimum unit normally
16 installed? This cost will be customer-related, and the remaining cost will be
17 demand-related.²⁰

18 The ratio of the costs of the minimum system to the actual system (in the
19 same year's dollars) produces a percentage of plant that is claimed to be
20 customer-related.

21 **Q: Please describe the Zero-Intercept Method.**

²⁰The customer-related portion (which is computed in constant dollars) must be compared to the actual installed cost of the entire account (in mixed dollars); translating actual mixed dollars into constant dollars can be difficult, especially under conditions of technical change and different inflation rates for large and small installations (small installations are often more related to labour costs than are large ones, for example).

1 A: The Zero-Intercept Method attempts to extrapolate the cost of equipment below
2 the size of the minimum system, to the cost of equipment that carries zero load,
3 as in 0-kVA transformers, or the smallest units legally allowed (as 25-foot
4 poles), or the smallest units physically feasible (e.g., the thinnest conductors that
5 will support their own weight in overhead spans). The idea is that this procedure
6 identifies the amount of equipment required to connect existing customers, even
7 if they had virtually no load.

8 **Q: Does the minimum-system method exclude all demand-related investment?**

9 A: No, for the following reasons:

- 10 • The minimum system includes equipment that would carry a large portion
11 of the average customer's load. Foster recognizes that the minimum
12 system it classifies as "clearly customer-related" does carry load (Applica-
13 tion, Section 4-Attachment 2, pp. 2-3). For example, on the AE system, its
14 minimum-sized 10 kVA transformer is adequate to serve many street
15 lights. Since the minimum system probably carries all of the streetlighting
16 load, the \$1 million of non-assigned demand-related plant allocated to
17 streetlighting is double-counting (rbast43, "Mid-yr_GrossPP+E").
- 18 • The current minimum unit is sized to carry expected demand. Conse-
19 quently, as demand has risen over time, so has the minimum size of
20 equipment installed. In fact, utilities usually stop stocking some less-
21 expensive small equipment because rising demand has resulted in very
22 rare use of the small equipment and the cost of maintaining stock was no
23 longer warranted.
- 24 • Minimum-system analyses usually ignore the effect of loads on the number
25 of units installed, or the type of equipment installed. Hence, a portion of
26 the costs allocated to customer number is really driven by demand.

1 • Minimum systems analyses fundamentally assume that all area-spanning
2 investment is caused by the number of customers. As described above, this
3 is not true.

4 **Q: How should the number of units installed be categorized as customer or**
5 **demand-related?**

6 A: A type of equipment (e.g., transformer, conductor, pole, service drop or meter)
7 should be considered dedicated investment and therefore customer-related only
8 if the removal of one customer eliminates the unit. The number of meters and
9 services (although not the size) are customer-related, while transformers,
10 conductors and poles should be largely demand-related, especially in non-rural
11 areas. Reducing the number of customers, without reducing the demand in an
12 area, will

- 13 • occasionally eliminate a transformer, for an isolated customer, whose
14 transformer serves no other customers.
- 15 • sometimes eliminate a span of secondary conductor, if the customer is the
16 furthest one from the transformer on that secondary.
- 17 • rarely eliminate a pole, if the customer is at the end of the primary line.

18 In many situations, additional transformers and conductors are added to
19 increase capacity, rather than to reach an additional customer.

20 **Q: Can the zero-intercept method be relied on to determine the customer-**
21 **related portion of plant?**

22 A: No. The determination of the number of units required for a zero-demand
23 system are far from simple. A system designed to connect customers but provide
24 zero load would look very different from the existing system. For example, a
25 zero-capacity electric system would not use the overlapping primary and
26 secondary systems and line transformers, that the real system uses. Street

1 lighting, with its very low loads, uses a single distribution voltage, which
2 eliminates a large number of conductor-feet, reduces the required height of
3 many poles, and eliminates the need for line transformers, implying that all line-
4 transformer costs are demand-related.

5 The zero-intercept method is so abstract that it can be interpreted in many
6 ways, and can produce a wide range of results. Any use of this method must be
7 grounded in a firm understanding of the purpose and conceptual framework for
8 defining a zero-intercept.

9 **Q: Have you identified any calculational errors in Foster Associates' zero-**
10 **intercept system analysis?**

11 A: Yes. In its zero-intercept analysis of each of the three distribution components,
12 Foster incorrectly calculated the customer-related portion as the ratio of the
13 zero-intercept to the cost (derived from the regression line) of the average-sized
14 unit. The zero-intercept should instead be compared to the actual system average
15 cost per unit, a larger number. As a result, the Foster analysis overstates the
16 percentage of plant that is customer-related.

17 **Q: Would correction of this error be enough to make the minimum system**
18 **analysis a reliable basis for classification?**

19 A: No. For the reasons discussed, the methods used by Foster are fundamentally
20 flawed.

21 **V. Direction 20: Definition and Calculation of Street Lighting Customer**
22 **Counts for Allocation**

23 **Q: How did AE determine the number of streetlighting customers for**
24 **allocation?**

1 A: The Company delegated this determination to Foster Associates. In the
2 Application, Foster points out that streetlighting “customers are no longer the
3 Utility’s direct customers” and asserts that, as a result, it has no “accurate count
4 of the number of street lighting customers” (Application, Section 4, Attachment
5 2, p. 59).

6 I find it surprising that AE cannot determine the number of streetlighting
7 customers it serves, since AE would need to know, for each light, who to
8 contact if that light needs to be relocated for distribution-system work; who has
9 authorization to add, remove or convert lights; and who is authorized to request
10 information on streetlight counts for particular customers.²¹

11 The fact that AE does not know the number of streetlighting customers it
12 serves strongly suggests that the number of streetlighting customers on AE’s
13 system does not impose any costs on AE, and should be set to zero for cost-
14 allocation purposes.

15 **Q: How many streetlighting customers does Foster estimate AE serves?**

16 A: Foster claims that there are 1,046 “unique accounts,” although these do not seem
17 to be separate accounts that AE uses for any purpose. In Foster’s view, a unique
18 account is characterized by any “locational names representing the municipi-
19 pality’s subcategories (i.e., school districts and departments of park and recrea-
20 tion) where such locations would also connect to AE’s system” (Application,
21 Section 4, Attachment 2, p. 59).

22 **Q: Does Foster know how many streetlights the Company has on its system?**

²¹The Company was so protective of customer privacy that it redacted all customer identifiers from the streetlighting work orders and the summary of those orders.

1 A: In Table 20.1 of the Application (Section 4, Attachment 2), Foster reports a
2 “sum of customer count” of 28,989, a “count of customer count” of 29,640 and
3 35,800 lamps.²² The “sum” is the average number of lights served each month,
4 while the “count” is the total number of lights served at any time during the year
5 (or whatever period Foster used in its analysis). Foster does not explain why the
6 number of lamps is so much larger than the number of lights.²³ In the
7 Application, Section 4, Attachment 4, Foster reports 34,400 streetlighting sites.

8 **Q: When Foster uses the term “customer” in Table 20.1, does it mean**
9 **“customer” in any sense relevant to cost allocation?**

10 A: No. In various places, Foster uses “customer” to identify (1) a municipal entity
11 with an identification number on AE’s data system, (2) any identifiable
12 “additional locational names representing the municipality’s subcategories (i.e.,
13 school districts and departments of park and recreation),” and (3) any light.

14 Foster recognizes that each of the streetlights on the system is not a
15 separate customer, but does not appear to have any specific cost-based definition
16 of a streetlighting customer.

17 **Q: What definition of “customer” is relevant for the allocation of costs to**
18 **streetlighting?**

19 A: Counts of customers (or similar measures) are used in several ways in AE’s
20 COSS, but those can be simplified to two basis cost-allocation issues: (1)
21 billing, load-settlement, and other customer-service costs and (2) the portion of
22 the secondary distribution system deemed to be customer-related.

²²Table 20.1 consists of only the first few lines and last few lines of a much larger table.

²³Foster sometimes refers to lamps as “sites,” further confusing the nomenclature.

1 **Q: What definition of “customer” is relevant for the allocation of the**
2 **customer-service group of costs?**

3 A: For these categories, costs vary with the number of entities for which AE (and
4 sometime other entities, such as I-Tek) must track and respond to usage, retailer
5 choice, billing inquiries, and similar interactions. For streetlights, the relevant
6 unit would appear to be the municipality, unless the municipality elects to split
7 its streetlights as separate customers for billing and customer-choice purposes.
8 For each municipality, the number of streetlights of various sizes is analogous to
9 the number of kilowatts of billing demand and the kilowatt-hours of energy used
10 by a commercial customer. Just as a store is treated as a single customer,
11 regardless of how many kW and kWh it uses, a municipality is a single
12 customer, regardless of how many streetlights it pays for. The store has a meter,
13 gets a single bill, selects a single retailer, and is a single entity for the purpose of
14 requesting data, upgrades, and other services. The municipal streetlighting load
15 has a list of lights (which should be easier to administer and explain than meter
16 reports), gets a single bill, elects a single retailer, and is a single entity for the
17 purpose of requesting data, upgrades, and other services.²⁴

18 **Q: How many streetlighting customers should AE count for purposes of**
19 **allocating load settlement and other customer-service costs?**

20 A: The complete version of Table 20.1, which AE provided in response to
21 AAMDC/AFREA-ATCO-22, lists a total of 204 municipalities. Unless some
22 those municipalities choose to split into two streetlighting customers for billing
23 and retailer choice, the streetlighting customer count should be 204. If the “Site
24 Customer” column of Table 20.1 actually represents independent entities for

²⁴Again, unless the municipality wishes to be treated as multiple customers.

1 billing and retailer choice, the streetlighting customer count could be as great as
2 321.

3 One temporary exception to this rule may be the allocation of costs under
4 the Master Service Agreement (MSA) with ATCO I-Tek. From the Application,
5 Section 4, Attachment 4, it appears that the MSA specifies a price per delivery
6 site for the “Service Accounts” portion of the customer billing charge. Foster’s
7 applies that charge to 34,400 streetlighting sites (which is of the same order of
8 magnitude as the number of lights or lamps, but not the same as any other
9 measure of streetlights in the Application). That treatment may be rational,
10 given the current MSA. As noted above, the number of sites is irrelevant for
11 determining the real billing cost of a non-metered lighting customer. The bill is
12 a number of lights of various sizes; so long as that bill is sent to a single
13 customer, only a single billing fee should apply. The Company should be
14 instructed to change the MSA to treat all non-metered usage on a single bill as a
15 single unit for billing purposes. That charge should be no larger than the charge
16 for billing a single metered customer.

17 **Q: What definition of “customer” is relevant for the allocation of distribution**
18 **costs?**

19 A: As I discuss with reference to Direction 13, customer count is often used as a
20 poor proxy for the effect of each class on the costs required to cover the service
21 territory. The reasoning is that the number of poles and transformers and the
22 kilometres of conductor are (to some extent) driven by the need to have the
23 secondary system run to every occupied corner of the service territory, and that
24 classes with more customers require service to more locations than classes with
25 fewer customers. In this view, since there are many more residential customers
26 than commercial customers, there are likely to be many more poles added to

1 reach a residential customer at the end of a line, and many more transformers
2 added to serve a residential customer who is too far from any existing
3 transformer, compared the commercial class.

4 This argument does not apply for streetlighting, since Foster directly
5 assigns to streetlighting the cost of every meter of line, every pole, and every
6 transformer added to serve a streetlight (and probably much more). If AE must
7 use customer number for allocating distribution plant, it should set streetlighting
8 customer count to zero for this purpose.

9 **VI. Direction 24: Re-estimation of Customer Weighting Factors**

10 **Q: What customer weighting factors did Foster derive?**

11 A: Foster developed demand and customer weighting factors for transformers,
12 service drops, and meters. For streetlighting, weighting factors were derived
13 only for transformers, since streetlighting is not allocated any share of meters
14 and non-assigned service drops. As I discuss in relation to Direction 20,
15 customer number has a very small effect on the number of transformers.

16 **Q: How did Foster derive the demand weights and customer weights to be
17 applied to transformers?**

18 A: First, Foster placed transformers into service categories. The service categories
19 were defined by meter type and rate class. The transformers in each category
20 vary in size according to the range set in Foster's analysis. The categorizations
21 and transformer size ranges are provided on page 65 of Section 4, Attachment 2.

22 Second, Foster calculated the demand and customer weighting factors as
23 the total transformer number and total kVa capacity assigned to each customer
24 category divided by the category's customer number and total kW, respectively.

1 **Q: Is the basis for the assignments adequately documented?**

2 A: No. Foster omits the following information essential to the evaluation of the
3 weighting factors:

- 4 • the source of the total number and kVa of transformers,
- 5 • the streetlighting customer number used in the derivation of the street-
6 lighting weighting factors,
- 7 • a disaggregation of the number and kW of assigned customers by class,
- 8 • the basis for the maximum kVa transformer size for each service group,
- 9 • the number of transformers of each specific size assigned to each customer
10 class,
- 11 • the number of transformers by kVa size that end up being assigned to the
12 residual group, including streetlighting,
- 13 • The basis for these assignments.

14 **Q: Have you identified specific problems with Foster's analysis?**

15 A: Yes. Despite the limited documentation, I have identified two problems in the
16 analysis. First, Foster's derivation of the weighting factors, especially the
17 assignment of particular transformers to particular customer groups, is
18 essentially a hypothetical exercise, not tied to how the system actually works.
19 Foster simply assumes that certain types of customers are served by certain sizes
20 of transformers. A large transformer can serve a cluster of residential customers;
21 a bank of smaller transformers can serve one large customer, and a single
22 transformer can serve a mix of customer types. The mix of transformer sizes
23 serving each customer class is not as simple as Foster assumes. If AE wants to
24 know the size of transformers serving various classes of customers, it should
25 select a representative sample of customers and determine the size of
26 transformer serving each customer by checking its records or the actual

1 equipment. The same study would allow AE to determine how often a customer
2 is critical in determining the need for an additional transformer, which would
3 greatly improve AE's classification of transformer costs.

4 Second, Foster chose to group streetlights, the smallest of loads, with the
5 large demand-metered customers, including the Large General Service
6 customers. Foster computed a single hypothetical ratio of customers per trans-
7 former for this wildly heterogeneous group. As a result, the smallest customers
8 are assumed to use as much of a transformer as the largest customers.

9 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

10 A: Yes.

ATCO Electric Ltd.

**2008 General Tariff Application, Phase II
No. 1500878**

**Before the
Alberta Electric and Utilities Board**

Evidence of Drazen Consulting Group, Inc.

**on Behalf of the
Industrial Power Consumers Association of Alberta**



DRAZEN CONSULTING GROUP
Energy & Regulatory Economics

**Project No. 071411
May, 2007**

ATCO Electric Ltd.

2008 Distribution Tariff Application, Phase II No. 1500878

Evidence of Drazen Consulting Group, Inc.

Introduction

The issues addressed in this evidence are the ATCO Electric (AE) Diversity Study and the resulting allocation of AESO DTS charges.

Overview of Conclusions

AE proposes to allocate AESO charges attributable to monthly POD peak demands based on monthly rate class contribution to these demands. AE's calculation utilizes the average monthly demand, whereas the calculation should reflect both the change in the POD demand billing by month and the change in rate class contribution over time.

AE's proposed allocation methodology also highlights that the allocation of DTS demand charges among rate classes is impacted by the contract demands selected by AE. Lowering contract demand levels at PODs shifts additional costs on to industrial customers.

ATCO's Proposed Allocation of DTS Demand Charges

In this Application, AE proposes to allocate AESO DTS demand charges on the basis of contribution to monthly and annual POD peaks. AE proposes to allocate DTS demand charges based on a weighting of contribution to annual POD peaks and monthly POD peaks, with the annual peak weighting reflecting DTS billing on the basis of contract and ratcheted demand and the monthly peak weighting reflecting DTS billing on the basis of monthly peak demand.

Diversity Study

In previous rate cases, ATCO Electric (AE) allocated AESO demand-related transmission charges on the basis of ratcheted monthly rate class NCP demand. In response to Board directions in Decision 2005-025, AE undertook a study of rate class contributions to POD peaks (the Diversity Study).

The intent of the diversity study was to determine class responsibility for the total POD NCP demands, not the class responsibility for each POD peak. In the study, AE utilized load research data to estimate the contribution of each rate class to the sum of POD peak demands.

In the Diversity Study, AE calculated the contribution to each monthly POD peak for each sample customer. These contributions were accumulated for each rate class (effectively by weighting them by annual energy consumption) and extrapolated to the entire rate class (again, based on annual energy consumption).

The averaging and extrapolation of contribution to POD peaks utilizes the same techniques as have been previously used to calculate rate class NCP demand.

As a basis for estimating the impact of the study, AE also determined the class NCP demands.

AESO DTS Billing Capacity

The AESO DTS demand charges are paid on the basis of billing capacity where billing capacity in each month is the higher of: 90% of contract demand, monthly POD peak demand or 90% of the highest POD peak demand in the past 24 months.

The following table presents a breakdown of AE's AESO billing capacity for 2003 through 2005¹ and those forecast for 2008.² On a forecast basis, AE expects nearly 50% of AESO DTS charges to be levied on the basis of monthly peak POD demands.³

Billing Capacity by Year

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>Act.</u>	<u>Act.</u>	<u>Act.</u>	<u>Fcst.</u>
<u>MW-months</u>				
Contract Demand	10,391	10,316	8,135	3,116
Metered Demand	6,808	5,978	6,365	10,083
Ratcheted Demand	<u>3,434</u>	<u>4,491</u>	<u>6,005</u>	<u>8,069</u>
Total	20,633	20,785	20,505	21,268
<u>Percentage</u>				
Contract Demand	50%	50%	40%	15%
Metered Demand	33%	29%	31%	47%
Ratcheted Demand	<u>17%</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>38%</u>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The contrast between forecast and actual billing capacity suggests that AE is reducing its contract levels, thereby increasing the proportion of billing capacity determined on the basis of metered demand and ratcheted demand.

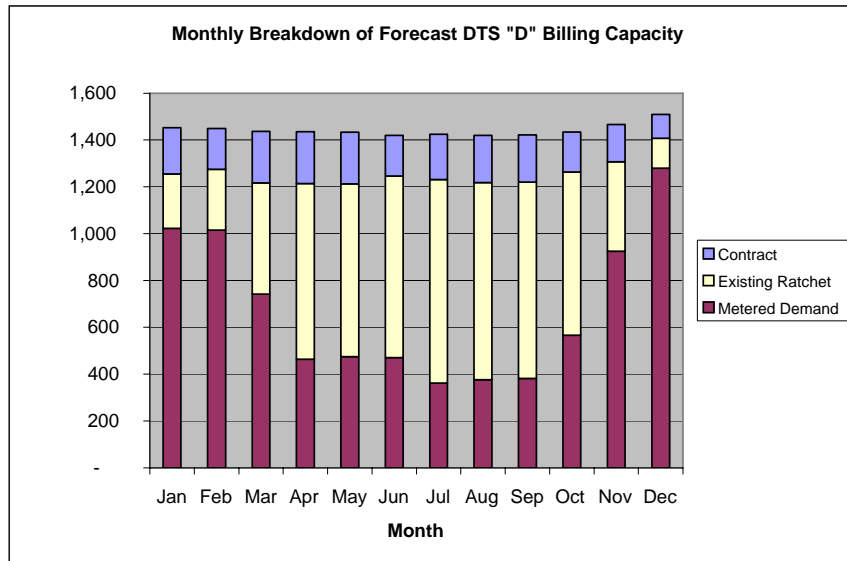
The breakdown of billing capacity varies significantly by month. The following graph presents the billing capacity forecast for 2008:⁴

¹ 2003 and 2004 data from IPCAA-AESO-25 from 2005 GTA, 2005 from IPCAA-AE-15 Schedule 2 and 2008 from IPCAA-AE-1 Schedule 1.

² IPCAA-AE-001 Schedule 1 for Rate D-31 "D" and "T" Customers. "T" Customers receive a flow-through of AESO charges and, therefore, are not impacted by the Diversity Study, but are included here for comparison with actual results that are provided with "T" customers included.

³ IPCAA-AE-001 Sum of monthly Metered Demand under Schedule 1 DTS Total Billing Capacity less Metered Demand DTS "T" Billing Capacity. These values may differ from those used in the EDLA Model. The EDLA model indicates a 39% weighting on the basis of monthly POD peak demand, 37% based on ratchets and 24% billed on contract.

⁴ IPCAA-AE-1 Schedule 1.



Charges in the winter months are primarily based on metered demand, whereas billings in non-winter months are primarily based on either contract or ratcheted demands (both of which are related to maximum POD demands).

AE's Proposed Allocation of DTS Demand Charges

The following table compares the allocation based on annual NCP demand⁵ with that based on contribution to annual POD peak demand and the weighted average contribution to monthly POD peak demand.

Rate Class Share of Demand Measures

	<u>Rate Class NCP</u>	<u>Annual POD Peak</u>	<u>Monthly POD Peak</u>
Residential total	17.4%	14.3%	13.1%
Farm total	7.3%	6.3%	5.6%
Small General Service total	9.8%	7.9%	8.5%
Irrigation total	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%
Lighting total	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Oil Field total	8.1%	3.9%	3.9%
Industrial SD Cust. total	53.7%	60.2%	61.5%
Industrial PD Cust. total	<u>6.2%</u>	<u>7.0%</u>	<u>7.1%</u>
AE Distribution total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

AE proposes to allocate AESO charges related to monthly peak demand on the basis of contribution to monthly POD peak and charges related to contract demand and demand ratchets on the basis of annual POD peak. AE has been reducing the level of contract demand over time (see earlier table), leading to an increase in demand ratchets (which AE proposes to allocate on the same basis as contract ratchets). Demand ratchets are increasing more slowly

⁵ EDLA Model Tab: Annual Class NCP Column Q.

than contract ratchets so the proportion of charges based on monthly demand increases and the proportion of costs paid by industrial loads also increases. At a high level, it is not logical that a reduction in the overall level of DTS contract demand should increase the costs borne by industrial customers.

Where charges from the AESO are based on monthly POD peaks, AE proposes to allocate the costs based on rate class contributions to those peaks in the given month. As discussed later, AE's allocation effectively utilizes a simple average of the monthly rate class shares. A weighted average allocation would be more appropriate.

The table below shows the allocation of such costs between rate classes, by month:

	<u>Allocation of Monthly POD Demand Costs</u>												<u>Wtd Avg.</u>
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	
Residential	15.4%	13.7%	13.4%	10.7%	9.6%	9.7%	9.4%	9.7%	10.1%	12.8%	14.5%	16.0%	13.1%
Farm total	6.8%	6.3%	5.8%	4.8%	4.1%	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%	4.5%	5.3%	6.1%	6.9%	5.6%
Small General Serv. total	7.8%	8.2%	8.1%	8.4%	9.0%	10.4%	10.4%	10.2%	9.0%	7.9%	8.2%	7.9%	8.5%
Irrigation total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lighting total	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Oil Field total	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%	3.9%	3.5%	3.2%	2.8%	2.8%	3.4%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Industrial SD Cust. total	58.5%	59.9%	61.0%	64.7%	66.1%	65.3%	66.1%	65.7%	65.4%	62.7%	60.0%	58.1%	61.5%
Industrial PD Cust. total	<u>6.8%</u>	<u>7.2%</u>	<u>7.1%</u>	<u>7.4%</u>	<u>7.7%</u>	<u>7.5%</u>	<u>7.6%</u>	<u>7.5%</u>	<u>7.5%</u>	<u>7.2%</u>	<u>7.0%</u>	<u>6.7%</u>	<u>7.1%</u>
AE Distribution Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The residential share of monthly demand charges drops by more than a third from winter to summer and the share borne by industrial loads increases from winter to summer, despite relatively uniform industrial loads throughout all months of the year.

In months where charges are based on ratcheted POD peaks or ratcheted contract demands, it is logical to allocate costs on the basis of the demand in the month in which the ratchet is incurred, not on the basis of the demand in the month in which the ratcheted charge is levied.⁶

Where charges are based on ratcheted demands, or contract demands, AE proposes to allocate charges based on ratcheted demands and contract demands on the basis of contribution to annual POD peak demands.

AE's Calculation of Blended Contribution to POD Peaks

In the Energy Demand and Loss Analysis (EDLA) model, AE provided the following breakdown⁷ of DTS billing capacity:

⁶ It is unlikely that the rate class contributions to contract demands could be determined on a POD by POD basis.

⁷ EDLA Model, Tab: System Inputs Cells: A54:C57.

Billing Capacity by Component

Billed on Ratchet	37.0%
Billed on Contract	24.0%
Billed on POD Peak	39.0%

It is not clear what data these percentages are based on as these figures do not agree with the 2008 forecast values⁸ or the 2005 actual results.⁹ The weightings utilized in the EDLA model should be consistent with the 2008 forecast for “D” customers (as provided in IPCAA-AE-001 Schedule 1).

AE Blended Contribution to POD NCP

AE has proposed allocating a portion of AESO demand costs on the basis of contribution to monthly POD peaks and a portion on the basis of contribution to annual POD peaks. Rather than undertake these allocations separately then combining the results, AE chose instead to calculate a single “blended” monthly/annual demand¹⁰.

Calculating a blended demand as AE has does not produce the same results as would be obtained by calculating the monthly and annual results separately and then combining them because the blended approach effectively computes a simple average of the monthly demands whereas it is more appropriate to utilize a weighted average.

The table below compares the weighted average monthly POD demand¹¹ versus the AE average monthly POD demand¹².

Weighted vs. Average Monthly POD Demand

	<u>Weighted Monthly</u>	<u>Blended 100% Monthly</u>
Residential total	13.1%	12.2%
Farm total	5.6%	5.2%
Small General Service total	8.5%	8.8%
Irrigation total	0.0%	0.0%
Lighting total	0.3%	0.2%
Oil Field total	3.9%	3.7%
Industrial SD Cust. total	61.5%	62.6%
Industrial PD Cust. total	<u>7.1%</u>	<u>7.2%</u>
AE Distribution Total	100.0%	100.0%

⁸ Provided in IPCAA-AE-001 Schedule 1.

⁹ Provided in IPCAA-AE-015 Schedule 2.

¹⁰ The calculation of the blended demand is further distorted as the weighting factors do not add to 100%. This appears to have no effect on the allocations as it is the relative allocations between rate classes that impact the results.

¹¹ Calculated based on 2008 forecast monthly POD demand billing determinants.

¹² AE's “blended” POD demand from the EDLA model with the monthly weighting set to 100%.

The results demonstrate that the simple average/blended approach distorts the allocation of costs based on contribution to monthly POD demands and increases the allocation to Industrial loads.

When the monthly POD demand components are combined with the annual demand billing components (to permit comparison of the total demand allocation), the results are as shown below:

Combined vs. Blended Demand Allocation

	<u>IPCAA Combined</u>	<u>AE Blended</u>
Residential total	13.7%	13.5%
Farm total	6.0%	5.9%
Small General Service total	8.1%	8.2%
Irrigation total	0.1%	0.1%
Lighting total	0.3%	0.3%
Oil Field total	3.9%	3.8%
Industrial SD Cust. total	60.8%	61.2%
Industrial PD Cust. total	<u>7.1%</u>	<u>7.1%</u>
AE Distribution total	100.0%	100.0%

The distortion created by utilizing the simple average in allocating monthly POD demand costs persists in the overall results resulting in an over-allocation of costs to industrial customers. The weighted average is a more reasonable approach to allocate the monthly costs.

AESO Tariff Utilized for Calculation

AE has chosen to utilize a draft version of the AESO tariff that reflects neither the CP-based tariff currently in place nor the NCP tariff the AESO ultimately applied for. While the AESO Phase II proceeding is well underway, a decision on the form of the AESO tariff will not be available prior to the evidentiary portion of the present application concluding. This may well lead to a mismatch between the AESO tariff and the allocation of transmission charges in the AE tariff. It is likely that the AESO decision will be rendered before an AE decision and, if significant changes are made to the AESO tariff from the form utilized by AE, it may be desirable for the Board to direct AE to provide a proposal (or proposals) to address the mismatch in a refiling.

Conclusion

AE's Diversity Study has been utilized to allocate the contribution of rate classes to POD peak demands. The allocation should be revised to reflect a weighted average calculation for the allocation of monthly demand costs.

The allocation of DTS demand costs between rate classes is impacted by the POD contract levels selected by AE. This is not logical a logical result.

WRITER'S E-MAIL rmccreary@rmrf.com

YOUR FILE

WRITER'S DIRECT PHONE (780) 497-3348

OUR FILE 101228-027-CRM

May 15, 2007

EMAIL**Attention: Mr. Brian Ploof
Application Officer**Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
Utilities Branch
5th Floor, 640 – 5th Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 3G4

Dear Mr. Ploof:

**Re: Application No. 1500878;
ATCO Electric Ltd. (AE)
2008 Distribution Tariff Phase II
Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate Load Research and Loss Factor Evidence**

Enclosed please find the Load Research and Loss Factor Evidence submitted on behalf of the Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate with Appendices labelled "A" and "B" and Attachments numbered 1 to 5 inclusive.

If further explanation is required, please let me know.

Yours truly,

REYNOLDS, MIRTH, RICHARDS & FARMER LLP

PER:


C. RANDALL MCCREARY
CRM/sdw

cc: Ron Henderson

316206;May 15, 2007

ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

ATCO ELECTRIC

2008 DISTRIBUTION TARIFF PHASE II

APPLICATION NO. 1500878

**LOAD RESEARCH AND LOSS
FACTOR EVIDENCE**

Submitted on behalf of:

The Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate

May 15, 2007

Q 1. Who has prepared this evidence?

A 1. This evidence was prepared for the Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate (UCA) by Mr. Herb Vander Veen and Mr. Mark Lively, whose qualifications are attached as Appendices “A” and “B” respectively.

Q 2. Please describe the Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate’s (UCA) involvement in this proceeding.

A 2. The UCA has a statutory mandate to represent residential, farm and small commercial customers in regulatory proceedings. As AE’s cost of service and rate design impact all three classes of customers, the UCA has taken an active role in this proceeding.

Q 3. What is the nature of the evidence filed in this proceeding?

A 3. In this submission, the UCA has focused its evidence on the following area:

- AE’s Load Research study;
- AE’s Loss Factor calculations by rate class

Q 4. What problems have you identified with the Load Research study that AE has presented in Section 10 of its filing?

A 4. The UCA has identified two issues with the AE calculation of losses by class of customer. First, AE has not appropriately recognized the basis for electrical losses. This results in the allocation of electrical losses on a MW-Mile basis instead of on a “piecemeal” MW-Squared Mile basis. The AE calculations create a bias in favor of those customers who are closest to the point of delivery; generally very large industrial customers, as is shown in the following table. For

instance, on UCA Attachment 1 for Feeder 18, we calculated that the loss factor for the oilfields is overstated at 3.58% instead of 1.10%, while the loss factor for Industrial > 2 MW Secondary are understated at 0.63% instead of 0.84%.

Second, AE’s selection of feeders has resulted in a group of feeders that seem to be less than random. Thus, there may be additional bias associated with the selection of the feeders for analysis. The following table shows the average distance customers are from the point of delivery for the two strata AE has used in its sample of feeders. As will be discussed in more detail later, Stratum 1 consists of lightly loaded feeders and Stratum 2 consists of more heavily loaded feeders. The mileage each customer is from the point of delivery as weighted by the annual energy used by the customer. This information comes from ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls, which presents distances in miles instead of the standard Canadian unit of kilometers. We have retained the mileage measurement to reduce the confusion of mixing these two measurement systems. Our calculations are slightly different from the results presented in Section 10, Attachment 1 of the filing at page 23, probably a difference in the way the mileage was weighted.

CLASS	GROUP	LEVEL	Weighted Average Mileage		
			Stratum 1	Stratum 2	All
Farm	< 2MW	SEC DIST	12.19	17.49	14.05
Industrial	< 2MW	PRIM DIST	5.94	25.00	12.37
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	10.28	8.49	8.87
Industrial	> 2MW	PRIM DIST	n/a	0.65	0.65
Industrial	> 2MW	SEC DIST	0.92	4.06	3.96
Irrigation	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.19	25.01	25.00
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	9.93	14.08	12.59
Private Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	7.03	5.03	5.88
Residential	< 2MW	SEC DIST	7.36	5.98	6.64
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	8.61	4.81	5.52
Street Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	7.61	6.07	6.57
Total			9.30	6.06	6.63

Based on our analysis of the 43 sample feeders, we have concluded that the loss factors are not appropriately calculated. Below is our estimation of the

appropriate primary energy loss factors to be used in AE's Cost of Service Study (COSS).

Recommended Primary Energy Losses

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	Stratum		Total
			1	2	
Farm	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.079%	3.424%	2.716%
Industrial	< 2MW	PRIM DIST	1.199%	6.985%	3.128%
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.700%	3.385%	2.496%
Industrial	> 2MW	PRIM DIST		0.243%	0.243%
Industrial	> 2MW	SEC DIST	0.434%	2.715%	2.487%
Irrigation	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.293%	5.713%	2.461%
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.440%	3.904%	2.527%
Private Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.995%	3.281%	2.463%
Residential	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.990%	2.946%	2.399%
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.493%	2.131%	1.794%
Street Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.480%	2.832%	2.656%
Grand Total			1.721%	3.055%	2.362%

Below is our estimation of the appropriate primary winter demand loss factors to be used in AE's Cost of Service Study (COSS) based on our analysis of the 43 sample feeders.

Recommended Winter Primary Demand Loss Factors

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	Stratum		Total
			1	2	
Farm	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.919%	3.865%	3.367%
Industrial	< 2MW	PRIM DIST	1.213%	6.509%	2.978%
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.303%	3.579%	2.906%
Industrial	> 2MW	PRIM DIST		0.269%	0.269%
Industrial	> 2MW	SEC DIST	0.481%	2.525%	2.320%
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.948%	4.140%	2.915%
Private Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.745%	3.726%	3.102%
Residential	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.804%	3.344%	3.036%
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.082%	2.305%	2.187%
Street Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	3.637%	3.224%	3.431%
Grand Total			2.438%	3.226%	2.819%

Q 5. How did you conclude that AE has not recognized the basis for electrical losses?

A 5. AE calculates total electrical losses on each sample feeder using a proprietary computer program, which is expected to provide an accurate estimate of those

total losses. However, AE denies the way losses are incurred when AE allocates those losses to customer classes.

Q 6. How does AE calculate total electrical losses?

A 6. AE describes the use of proprietary software used in the calculation.

“Load flow models are developed for the primary distribution portion of the feeders selected for the study. The load flows are conducted using PSS/Adept software distributed by Shaw Power Technologies, Inc. The customer level demands at the peak hour for each node calculated by the Node ID system are used as the initial estimates of loading on the feeder. The transmission substation bus from which the primary distribution line originates is the swing bus. The loads at the nodes on the feeder are scaled so that the demand supplied to the feeder from the substation bus in the model matches the actual demand for the feeder recorded during the peak hour. The output of the load flow program provides the primary distribution demand loss at the peak hour for each feeder in the sample.”
(Section 10-Attachment 1, Pages 5-6).

The UCA presumes that this software properly calculates losses as the system is likely to incur such losses. For instance, as lines become more heavily loaded, losses on the lines increase. **Absolute losses** are proportional to the square of the power flowing on the line. However, the **loss factor** is directly proportional to the flow of the power on the line.

For instance, if a line carrying 1 MW has a 1% **loss factor**, the same line, when carrying 5 MW, would have a 5% **loss factor**. The 5 fold change in the **loss factor** (from 1% to 5%) reflects the 5 fold change in the load being carried on the line (from 1 MW to 5 MW).

In the first case, a 1% **loss factor** on a 1 MW load is 10 KW of **absolute losses**. In the second case, a 5% **loss factor** on a 5 MW load is 250 KW of **absolute losses**. The 25 fold change in **absolute losses** (from 10 KW to 250 KW) demonstrates the square nature of absolute losses when there is a 5 fold change in loading (from 1 MW to 5 MW.)

Q 7. Did AE reflect this physical reality in its allocation of losses to customer classes?

A 7. No. AE ignores this principle in the way that AE allocates losses to customer classes.

“Primary Distribution energy and demand losses are allocated to rate classes/subgroups on the basis of kWh-miles or kW-miles. The energy or demand at each node for each rate class/subgroup is multiplied by the node's distance from the substation. This quantity is called kWh-miles (energy) or kW-miles (demand). The kWh-miles or kW-miles for each rate class/subgroup on a feeder is found by summing the kWh-miles or kW-miles for each rate class/subgroup at all nodes on the feeder. Primary distribution losses are allocated to rate classes/subgroups based on each rate class's/subgroup's percentage of the total kWh-miles or kW-miles for the feeder.” (Section 10-Attachment 1, Pages 9-10).

While the loss factor should increase and decrease with the loading on a line, AE keeps the **loss factor** constant in its allocation process. The effect is **absolute losses** changing in direct proportion with load instead of the **loss factor** changing in direct proportion with load.

Q 8. What is the effect on allocated losses to customer classes of incorrectly assuming that the loss factor is constant?

A 8. Assuming a constant loss factor in allocating losses to customer classes creates a bias in the allocation process. This bias in the allocation process works against the interests of those customers who are further from the point of delivery. The bias in the allocation process works in favor of those customers who are closer to the point of delivery, such as very large industrials (i.e. > 2 MW). This bias is typically inimical to the interests of farm and irrigation customers, since farm and irrigation customers are typically further from the point of delivery, as was shown in the above table. In the “mileage” table shown in A 3., irrigation customers averaged 25.00 miles from the point of delivery and farms averaged 14.05 miles from the point of delivery. The bias typically provides a subsidy to large

industrial customers, since large industrial customers are generally closer to the point of delivery. As shown in the above table, large industrial customers (> 2 MW) are only 3.96 miles from the point of delivery for those with secondary service and only 0.65 miles from the point of delivery for those with primary service.

We have used the methodology shown in UCA Attachment 1 to develop loss factors for all 43 feeders.

Q 9. Can you illustrate the effects of the AE calculations?

A 9. Yes. Table 1 and Table 2 of UCA Attachment 1 summarize the loss allocation performed by AE for feeder 18. The data for the two tables are taken from the attachment to ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls.

Table 1 of UCA Attachment 1 is Winter Peak on Feeder 18 (KW). The information in Table 1 of UCA Attachment 1 is a compilation of the data in column R of the worksheet ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls. Column R is titled Winter Demand Sales (KW). Table 1 of UCA Attachment 1 is presented as a graph in UCA Attachment 1A.

Table 2 of UCA Attachment 1 is AE Winter Peak Loss on Feeder 18 (KW). The information in Table 2 of UCA Attachment 1 is a compilation of data from column S of the worksheet ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls. Column S is titled Winter Primary Loss (KW). Table 2 of UCA Attachment 1 is presented as a graph in UCA Attachment 1B.

The penultimate line of UCA Attachment 1, page 1, is titled Grand Total Losses (AE). The line contains loss factors calculated from the Grand Total lines of the two tables. Thus, the Grand Total Losses (AE) of 0.626% is the Grand Total of 36.41 KW for 0.72 miles in Table 1 of UCA Attachment 1 divided by the Grand Total of 5,812.55 KW for 0.72 miles in Table 1 of UCA Attachment 1. Similarly,

the last Grand Total Losses (AE) of 4.569% is the Grand Total of 0.91 KW for 5.26 miles in Table 2 of UCA Attachment 1 divided by the Grand Total of 19.82 KW for 5.26 miles in Table 1 of UCA Attachment 1.

The last line of UCA Attachment 1, page 1, normalizes the loss factors for distance, creating Grand Total Losses Per Mile (AE). These numbers are obtained by dividing the Grand Total Losses (AE) on the penultimate line by the distance each group of customers is from the point of delivery. Thus, the first Grand Total Losses Per Mile (AE), 0.870%, is the Grand Total Losses (AE), 0.626%, divided by 0.72 miles. Similarly, the last Grand Total Losses Per Mile (AE), 0.869%, is the last Grand Total Losses (AE), 4.569%, divided by 5.26 miles.

The slight variation in the Grand Total Losses Per Mile (AE) is the result of the rounding associated with the data in ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls. The rounding is more pronounced when the numbers are very small. The near uniformity of the Grand Total Losses Per Mile (AE) (varying from a low of 0.867% to a high of 0.870%, or one part in 300) demonstrates the effect of the AE loss allocation method, that is, that losses are presumed to be invariant with the load being carried by the primary distribution, at least for losses as a percentage of the load being carried. This is an incomplete allocation methodology that does not take into account the data that AE has developed and used in its analysis.

We have used the methodology shown in UCA Attachment 1 to develop loss factors for all 43 sample feeders. We have previously presented a summary of the analysis in Answer 4.

Q 10. Why do you describe the AE loss allocation methodology as incomplete?

A 10. We describe the AE loss allocation methodology as incomplete because it ignores detailed data that are available to AE in the programs used to calculate total losses on the primary distribution system. By ignoring this data, AE biases its results

against those customers who are further away from the point of delivery in favor of those customers who are closer to the point of delivery. AE introduces this bias even though AE has data that show the magnitude of that bias. Without that data, the bias might be excusable, but given that AE has the data to calculate the size of the bias, AE should be required to make the more precise allocation.

Q 11. Were you able to make the calculation that AE should have made?

A 11. Yes. The allocations are shown in the Table 4 of UCA Attachment 1. Table 4 of UCA Attachment 1 presents UCA Winter Peak Losses on Feeder 18 (KW). The information in Table 4 of UCA Attachment 1 is shown graphically in UCA Attachment 1D. The losses on each segment of Feeder 18 are allocated to all of the loads that use that segment of Feeder 18.

For the first segment, the 0.72 miles from the point of delivery to the first cluster of customers, the losses are allocated to all loads served by Feeder 18. The losses on the first segment are allocated to all loads served by Feeder 18 since all loads are effectively served by that first segment.

For the second segment, the 2.40 miles from the first cluster of customers at 0.72 miles from the point of delivery to the second cluster of customers at 3.12 miles from the point of delivery, the losses are allocated to customers at that second cluster and to all customers beyond the second cluster of customers. Thus, the losses incurred on the second segment of Feeder 18 are allocated to the second cluster of customers, the third cluster of customers, the fourth cluster of customers, the fifth cluster of customers, and sixth cluster of customers, all customers except those in the first cluster at 0.72 miles from the point of delivery.

The actual allocation of losses to customer classes is based on the Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1. Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1 presents Winter Peak Served This Point and Beyond (KW). This information is shown graphically in UCA Attachment 1C. At 0.72 miles, the table presents the total demand for all

customers served on Feeder 18. At 3.12 miles, Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1 presents the total for all customers except those served at 0.72 miles. At 4.09 miles, the Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1 presents the total demand for all customers except those served at 0.72 miles and those served at 3.12 miles.

Q 12. Did AE provide the losses by segment that are contained in Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1?

A 12. No. We had to calculate those losses from the data available from the attachment included in ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls. The UCA had asked for losses by segment in UCA-ATCO-18 (c).

“For feeder 25, please provide the primary distribution demand loss at the peak hour for each segment of the primary distribution feeder, where a segment is defined as the portion of the feeder between adjacent nodes, providing an identification of the nodes connected by the segment. Also, please provide the same information for each other feeder.”

AE responded:

“Primary distribution demand loss at the peak hour for each segment is not readily available in the form requested. Pursuant to Rules 29(1)(b), ATCO Electric can not provide this information with reasonable effort.”

Accordingly, we had to allocate the total loss at the peak hour to the various segments, as is shown in the middle of UCA Attachment 1, page 2.

We note that in this proceeding we have been able to calculate losses by segment. This contrasts greatly with the situation in the FortisAlberta proceeding. AE has provided enough information by feeder for us to estimate the losses on individual feeders, as we show in UCA Attachment 1. FortisAlberta did not provide similar detail. Thus, in the FortisAlberta proceeding, the allocation could not be done on an individual feeder basis and had to be done on an aggregate basis, which was much less precise.

Q 13. How did you determine the losses by segment of Feeder 18?

A 13. The first step in allocating total loss at the peak hour to the various segments involved developing a set of indices, where each index was proportional to the losses that were experienced on the corresponding segment. The standard engineering approach is to calculate losses pursuant to the concept of “I Squared R”, where “I” refers to the current that is being carried on the wire and “R” is the resistance of the wire.

Since the load being carried on the wire is proportional to the current, the total load being served by a segment can be used as a proxy for the current in the development of an index. Under the assumption that the feeder has consistent wire sizes, then the length of the wire can be used as a proxy for the resistance in the development of an index.

UCA Attachment 1, page 2, has a line titled Segment I Squared R (Index). The numbers on that line are calculated from the length of the segment times the square of the load being served by that segment. In the case of the first segment, the length is 0.72 miles and the load being served is 6,309.8 KW. The Segment I Squared R (Index) for the first segment is thus $0.72 * 6,309.8 * 6,309.8$, which is 28,665,983.73, the first number on the line. The other numbers on that line are calculated in the same manner except that the length of each segment is the difference between the mileage markers. Thus, the second segment has a length of 2.40 miles, the difference between 3.12 miles and 0.72 miles. The Segment I Squared R (Index) for the second segment is $2.40 * 497.28 * 497.28$, which is 593,479.2537, the second number on the identified line.

The next line on UCA Attachment 1, page 2, is titled Segment Losses (KW). The total losses at peak on Feeder 18 were 54.21 KW, according to the data presented in ASBG/PGA-ATCO-8 Customer_Details.xls. The total losses at peak are shown in Table 2 of UCA Attachment 1, page 2. This has been mentioned before. The 54.21 KW total losses were allocated to segment based on the Segment I Squared R (Index). Since the first index from the Segment I Squared R (Index) is

approximately 97% of the total of the indices from the Segment I Squared R (Index), the first segment is allocated approximately 97% of the losses. Thus, about 97% of the primary losses on this 5.26 mile feeder occur on the first 0.72 mile.

The losses on each segment are then allocated to the classes served by that segment in proportion to the Winter Peak (KW) Served This Point and Beyond, as presented in Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1.

Q 14. What is shown on the last two lines on page 2 of UCA Attachment 1?

A 14. These two lines duplicate the calculations shown on the last two lines of page 1 of UCA Attachment 1, except for the appropriate recognition of UCA Winter Peak Losses (KW) as calculated in Table 4 of UCA Attachment 1. As the load carried on progressive segments declines, as shown in Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1, the Grand Total Losses Per Mile declines. This is consistent with the physics of the losses on the system.

For instance, Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1 shows that the first segment is carrying 6,309.82 KW versus the 497.28 KW being carried on the second segment. This is a difference of about a factor of 12. The Grand Total Losses Per Mile (UCA) can be seen to decrease by about a factor of 12 between the first segment and the second segment.

The relation between Grand Total Losses Per Mile (UCA) and the loading on the line segment is shown graphically in UCA Attachment 1E, which is presented in two parts, UCA Attachment 1E1 and UCA Attachment 1E2. Both UCA Attachment 1E1 and UCA Attachment 1E2 plot the Grand Total Losses Per Mile (UCA) against the Grand Total in Table 3 of UCA Attachment 1. UCA Attachment 1E2 differs from Attachment 1E1 by limiting the range of the plot so that the data points for last five segments can be seen more clearly. In Attachment 1E1 the six data points are so close together that there seem to be

only three data points. Indeed, even for UCA Attachment 1E2, two data points (27.85 KW, 0.00512%; 26.97 KW, 0.00496%) are almost indistinguishable.

Q 15. What is the result of a proper allocation of the primary losses?

A 15. Table 5 of UCA Attachment 1 presents a Summary for Feeder 18. The Industrial Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution, for Feeder 18 would be allocated a loss factor of 3.49% under the AE methodology, but only 1.13% under the UCA methodology. The Oilfield Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution, for Feeder 18 would similarly see a reduction in the allocated loss factor, from 3.58% to 1.10%. In contrast, Industrial Class, > 2MW, Secondary Distribution, for Feeder 18 would see an increase in its allocated loss factor from 0.63% to 0.84%. Similarly, the Small GS Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution, for Feeder 18 would see an increase from 0.60% to 0.84%.

Q 16. Would all feeders experience the same effect?

A 16. All feeders with multiple clusters of customers would see the loss factors having a smaller spread, just as the loss factors for UCA Losses in Table 5 of UCA Attachment 1 have a smaller spread than do the loss factors in AE Losses in Table 5 of UCA Attachment 1. However, though the Industrial Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution, would be a beneficiary using this analysis for Feeder 18, the Industrial Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution will not always be the beneficiary of the change in methodology for allocating loss factors. On some feeders the Industrial Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution, will be closer than average to the Point of Delivery and will see an increase in its allocated loss factor. In that case, removing the bias created by the AE methodology for allocating losses would increase the loss factor for the Industrial Class, < 2MW, Secondary Distribution.

Q 17. What problems have you identified in the method used by AE for selecting feeders to be analyzed for its loss analysis?

A 17. The primary problem with the sample selection is that the sample size was not large enough. The sample produces results that have too great of uncertainty relative to the estimated loss factors. This can be illustrated by looking at the effect of removing a specific feeder from the mix and determining the effect on the estimated percentage loss factors for each feeder, as is done in UCA Attachment 2.

Another problem is that the sample of feeders chosen by AE appears to be less than random. AE analyzed a sample of feeders to determine the percentage loss factors for each customer class. The sample of feeders is normally supposed to be random to reduce the bias in the in the result. The sample appears to be less than random. This can be illustrated by comparing the distribution of the feeders in the sample with the distribution of all AE feeders, as is done in UCA Attachment 5.

Finally, though AE adopted the conventional practice of a stratified random sample, the stratification seems to be ineffective. The purpose of stratification is to reduce the uncertainty associated with the answer, in this case, the percentage loss factors for each class. However, for the stratification to be effective in reducing uncertainty, the stratification needs to be in regard to a variable that is associated with that uncertainty. AE choose to use annual energy. Other possible variables, such as annual percentage loss factors, might be more likely to be associated with the variation in the percentage loss factors for each class. We will show the lack of correlation between the chosen variable and an alternative variable.

Q 18. Why do you say that AE chose too small a sample size?

A 18. We looked at the range of values AE calculated as loss factors for the various customer classes. For some customer classes, AE calculated loss factors on as few as three feeders. For other customer classes, AE calculated loss factors on as many as thirty-six feeders. The loss factors on these feeders varied widely for most customer classes. Some of the class loss factors were quite sensitive to the selection of the feeder for the sample. We tested this sensitivity by selectively eliminating a feeder to determine the effect on the class loss factor. UCA Attachment 2 presents the analysis of the AE Precision in Estimating Class Loss Factors. The precision is presented in a way that the larger the number, the more precise the estimate.

Q 19. How did you calculate the Precisions in UCA Attachment 2?

A 19. We first calculated the AE average loss factor for each class of customers across all of the feeders presented by AE in ASBG-PGA-Atco 8.xls. We then eliminated one feeder to determine the effect on that average. We next selected the feeder that had the highest loss factor for that class of customers. We also determined the effect of eliminating the feeder that had the lowest loss factor for that class of customers. The alternative elimination of these feeders resulted in a range of loss factors for the customer class, a range that could occur if AE had happened to exclude that feeder in its random selection of feeders. We then divided this range into the AE average loss factor, producing the precision factor presented in UCA Attachment 2. We did this for each class of customer and voltage level and for total losses, primary losses, and secondary losses. High numbers indicate very precise boundaries on the estimation of the average loss factor for a customer class.

Q 20. What were some of your findings in regard to the precision calculations?

A 20. Some classes were very imprecise in the estimation of their loss factors, most noticeably Industrial, < 2MW, Primary Distribution. The attachment to ASBG-PGA-AE 8 has information for this class on three feeders. The loss factors are 0.135% for feeder 34, 1.985% for feeder 32, and 7.155% for feeder 38. The average for these three feeders is 3.217%. Without the largest loss factor, that is, with the elimination of feeder 38, this class would have an average loss factor of 1.060%. Without the smallest loss factor, that is, with the elimination of feeder 34, this class would have an average loss factor of 4.570%. This is a spread of 3.510%. The AE average loss factor for this class of 3.217% is only 0.88 times the calculated spread. Thus, there is not a very precise estimate for the loss factor associated with Industrial customers, <2MW, Primary Distribution.

Q 21. Why did AE use a sample of its feeders to analyze the percentage loss factor for each customer class?

A 21. It is a complicated and expensive process to analyze a distribution feeder to determine the loss factor for each customer class on that feeder. That cost can be reduced by looking at a sample of feeders instead of all feeders. Since each feeder will have a different percentage loss factor, both in total and for each customer class, there will be some uncertainty in the result. The uncertainty in the result can be reduced by analyzing more feeders. For instance, analyzing all of the feeders should reduce the uncertainty almost entirely. AE chose to analyze 43 out of 314 of its feeders.

Q 22. Did AE choose to analyze the right number of feeders?

A 22. We don't know. Often, the "right number of feeders" is determined by the precision that is sought in the answer. For instance, perfect precision would

require that all of the feeders should be analyzed. The question becomes what is good enough for the current purpose. We have not seen any specification of how good that precision is supposed to be for percentage losses by class, such as those presented in UCA Attachment 2.

Q 23. Are there other ways to increase the precision of the estimate without increasing the number of samples?

A 23. Yes. The most common method is a stratified random sample, which is partially described by AE, first in its application and then in its response to the Information Requests, such as in response to Information Request UCA-AE-19. A stratified random sample breaks the sample into two or more strata, and then allocates a certain number of the samples to each stratum. The hope is that the variable to be estimated, in this case the percentage losses by rate class, has more consistency within each stratum than the variable has consistency within the whole universe, that is, for all feeders. Since the estimate of the variable should be more precise within each stratum, then the estimate of the variable for the whole universe should be more precise. Unfortunately, AE did not choose its strata in a way that improved consistency within each stratum.

Q 24. How did AE choose its strata boundary?

A 24. AE describes the process in response to Information Request UCA-AE-19 (a) through (c)

“(a) Feeders within the ATCO Electric distribution system are stratified based on the energy supplied to the feeder to obtain the most accuracy from the study for the resources used. Most of this benefit of stratification is realized using 2 strata.

(b) Stratum 1 is composed of all feeders with an energy supply less than or equal to 34,741.381 MWh and stratum 2 is composed of all feeders with an energy supply greater than 34,741.381 MWh.

(c) The strata boundary is selected based on the Dalenius methodology using feeder energy supplied”

(William G. Cochran, Sampling Techniques, Third Edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1977, pp. 127-131).

Though AE asserts that “benefit of stratification is realized using 2 strata”, AE presents no evidence of this benefit. UCA Attachment 3 is a plot of the Residential Primary Distribution Percentage Loss Factors for each of the feeders in Stratum 1 and Stratum 2. There is extensive vertical overlap between the percentage loss factors for the two strata. Indeed, the standard deviation for each stratum is greater than the difference between the averages of the strata. In regard to the alleged benefit of stratification, there appears to be none in regard to determination of the average Residential Primary Distribution Percentage Loss Factors.

The horizontal overlap is the result of the nomenclature adopted by AE and is irrelevant for this analysis. Further, 11 feeders in Strata 1 have no residential load. Thus, these 11 feeders are not plotted in UCA Attachment 3. Perhaps by coincidence, there are also 11 feeders in Strata 2 that have no residential load. These 11 Strata 2 feeders are also not plotted in UCA Attachment 3.

The above analysis in regard to residential has been presented as an example. Residential is not the only class for which AE is seeking to establish loss factors. UCA Attachment 4 shows a similar analysis for total losses on each feeder, not just losses associated with residential. But to make the analysis slightly more meaningful, we show the annual energy on each feeder and sort the feeders on that quantity. Thus, Attachment 4 shows how total losses vary by the size of the feeder. Since “Stratum 1 is composed of all feeders with an energy supply less than or equal to 34,741.381 MWh and Stratum 2 is composed of all feeders with an energy supply greater than 34,741.381 MWh”, the data points on UCA Attachment 4 are organized by Stratum. All of the data points for Stratum 1 end up being on the left of UCA Attachment 4 and all of the data points for Stratum 2 end up being on the right of UCA Attachment 4.

UCA Attachment 4 shows that there is no correlation between the annual energy on a feeder and the loss factor experienced on the feeder, either in total or for each

of the strata. Indeed, UCA Attachment 4 is presented in 3 parts, based on total losses on the feeder in UCA Attachment 4A, primary losses on the feeder in UCA Attachment 4B, and secondary losses on the feeder in UCA Attachment 4C. Of the six correlations estimated on the three graphs, only one appears to be significant, the correlation for primary losses on Stratum 1. However, this correlation is contraindicated by the correlation primary losses for Stratum 2, which is in the opposite direction.

Q 25. Why did you say that the selection of feeders appears to be biased?

A 25. Under the sampling technique AE presented, the selection of the feeders should be based on a random sample of the feeders. Because they have selected to do use two strata, there should be two random samples, one of the smaller feeders, *i.e.*, feeders that carry annual energy that is less than 34,741.381 MWh, and one of the larger feeders, *i.e.*, feeders that carry annual energy in excess of 34,741.381 MWh. But the distribution of the annual energy on the feeders selected for the sample appears to be slightly different from what we expect for a random sample, as is illustrated in UCA Attachment 5.

Q 26. What is shown on UCA Attachment 5?

A 26. UCA Attachment 5 presents the annual energy for each of the AE feeders identified on ASBG-PGA-ATCO-8 Schedule 1. The information has been sorted by the annual energy. Accordingly, the feeder with the least annual energy appears on the left of the graph and the feeder with the most annual energy appears on the right of the graph. The horizontal placement on the graph is based on the fraction of all feeders. As a result, each plot on the graph represents the fraction of the number of feeders that use that carried the indicated amount of annual energy or less. In some respects, it is the reverse of a load duration curve. Thus, 30% of the feeders carried an annual energy of about 10 GWH or less and

50% of the feeders carried an annual energy of about 20 GWh or less. A similar graph of an unbiased random sample of feeders would be expected to have the same pattern, at least without the use of a stratified sample.

The use of a stratified sample should produce a distribution close to the indicated target. The target reflects AE stratification with 23 samples in the range under 34,741.381 MWh and 20 samples in the range above 34,741.381 MWh. The target curve represents a molding of curve for all feeders in a way that allows the distribution of the samples to be 23 samples in the range under 34,741.381 MWh and 20 samples in the range above 34,741.381 MWh. The sample selection appears to be biased in favor of smaller feeders, where we use the phrase smaller feeders to represent those feeders with a less annual energy. This bias appears in the range from 20% to 40%, where the samples fall significantly below the target line, indeed even fall below the line showing the size of all feeders. The sample of 20 feeders in the range above 34,741.381 MWh appears to have less bias, in that they tend to be closer to the target line.

Q27. What conclusions do you draw from your analysis?

A27. We conclude that AE has done an inadequate job of allocating losses to customer classes. Though losses do increase with distance from the point of delivery, the loss factor does not increase nearly as quickly as is suggested by the AE method. On the first mile, losses are indeed very large. But as customers are served from the line, losses per mile decrease, a point not recognized in the AE method. The result is that AE under estimates the losses associated with very large industrial loads that are close to points of delivery and over estimates the losses associated with smaller loads that are further from the points of delivery. This issue should be examined in more detail the next phase II proceeding. Similarly, the next phase II proceeding should also examine the procedure AE uses to determine the random sample of feeders to be analyzed for determining losses. We repeat our recommendation for energy and winter demand losses.

Recommended Primary Energy Losses

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	Stratum 1	Stratum 2	Total
Farm	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.079%	3.424%	2.716%
Industrial	< 2MW	PRIM DIST	1.199%	6.985%	3.128%
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.700%	3.385%	2.496%
Industrial	> 2MW	PRIM DIST		0.243%	0.243%
Industrial	> 2MW	SEC DIST	0.434%	2.715%	2.487%
Irrigation	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.293%	5.713%	2.461%
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.440%	3.904%	2.527%
Private Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.995%	3.281%	2.463%
Residential	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.990%	2.946%	2.399%
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.493%	2.131%	1.794%
Street Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.480%	2.832%	2.656%
Grand Total			1.721%	3.055%	2.362%

Below is our estimation of the appropriate primary winter demand loss factors to be used in AE's Cost of Service Study (COSS).

Recommended Winter Primary Demand Loss Factors

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	Stratum 1	Stratum 2	Total
Farm	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.919%	3.865%	3.367%
Industrial	< 2MW	PRIM DIST	1.213%	6.509%	2.978%
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.303%	3.579%	2.906%
Industrial	> 2MW	PRIM DIST		0.269%	0.269%
Industrial	> 2MW	SEC DIST	0.481%	2.525%	2.320%
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	1.948%	4.140%	2.915%
Private Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.745%	3.726%	3.102%
Residential	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.804%	3.344%	3.036%
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	2.082%	2.305%	2.187%
Street Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	3.637%	3.224%	3.431%
Grand Total			2.438%	3.226%	2.819%

Q 28. Does this conclude your evidence?

A 28. Yes, at this time.

Winter Peak on Feeder 18 (KW)

Table 1

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	(miles)						Grand Total
			0.72	3.12	4.09	4.64	4.84	5.26	
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	9.65		443.71				453.36
	> 2MW	SEC DIST	5,797.92						5,797.92
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	4.83	10.82	14.89	0.89	7.14	19.82	58.40
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.15						0.15
Grand Total			5,812.55	10.82	458.60	0.89	7.14	19.82	6,309.82

AE Winter Peak Losses on Feeder 18 (KW)

Table 2

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	(miles)						Grand Total
			0.72	3.12	4.09	4.64	4.84	5.26	
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.06		15.74				15.80
	> 2MW	SEC DIST	36.31						36.31
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.03	0.29	0.53	0.04	0.30	0.91	2.09
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.00						0.00
Grand Total			36.41	0.29	16.27	0.04	0.30	0.91	54.21

Grand Total Losses (AE) 0.626% 2.709% 3.548% 4.027% 4.199% 4.569%

Grand Total Losses Per Mile (AE) 0.870% 0.868% 0.867% 0.868% 0.868% 0.869%

Winter Peak Served This Point and Beyond on Feeder 18 (KW)

Table 3

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	(miles)						Grand Total
			0.72	3.12	4.09	4.64	4.84	5.26	
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	453.36	443.71	443.71	-	-	-	453.36
	> 2MW	SEC DIST	5,797.92	-	-	-	-	-	5,797.92
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	58.40	53.56	42.74	27.85	26.97	19.82	58.40
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.15	-	-	-	-	-	0.15
Grand Total			6,309.82	497.28	486.45	27.85	26.97	19.82	6,309.82

Segment I Squared R (Index) 28665984 593479.254 229537.5 426.6659 145.432 165.0545 29489737.7

Segment Losses (KW) 52.69582 1.09097511 0.421952 0.000784 0.000267 0.000303 54.2101

UCA Winter Peak Losses on Feeder 18 (KW)

Table 4

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL	(miles)						Grand Total
			0.72	3.12	4.09	4.64	4.84	5.26	
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	3.7862	0.9735	0.3849	-	-	-	5.1445
	> 2MW	SEC DIST	48.4207	-	-	-	-	-	48.4207
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.4877	0.1175	0.0371	0.0008	0.0003	0.0003	0.6436
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	0.0012	-	-	-	-	-	0.0012
Grand Total			52.6958	1.0910	0.4220	0.0008	0.0003	0.0003	54.2101

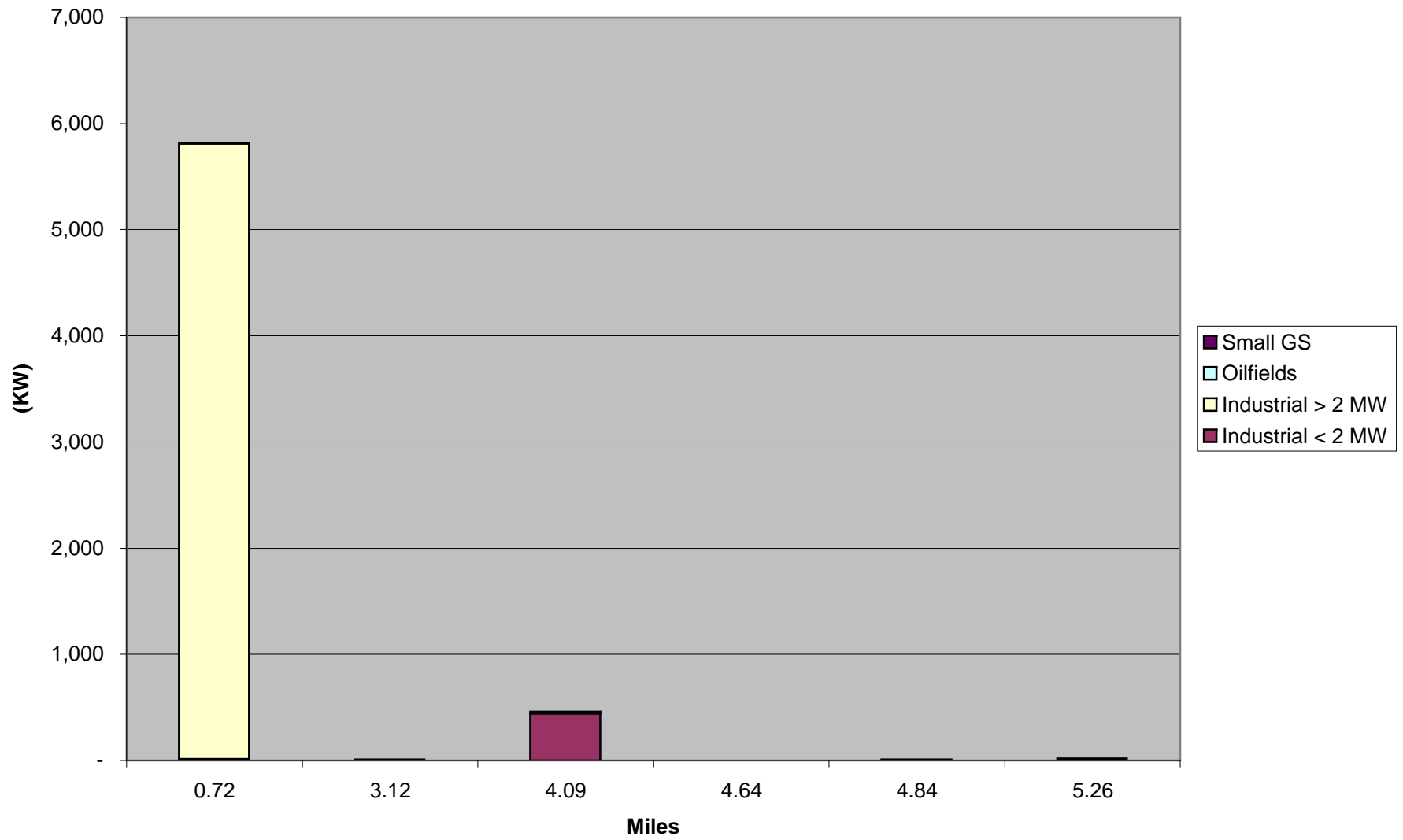
Grand Total Losses (UCA) 0.83514% 0.21939% 0.08674% 0.00282% 0.00099% 0.00153%

Grand Total Losses Per Mile (UCA) 1.15992% 0.09141% 0.08942% 0.00512% 0.00496% 0.00364%

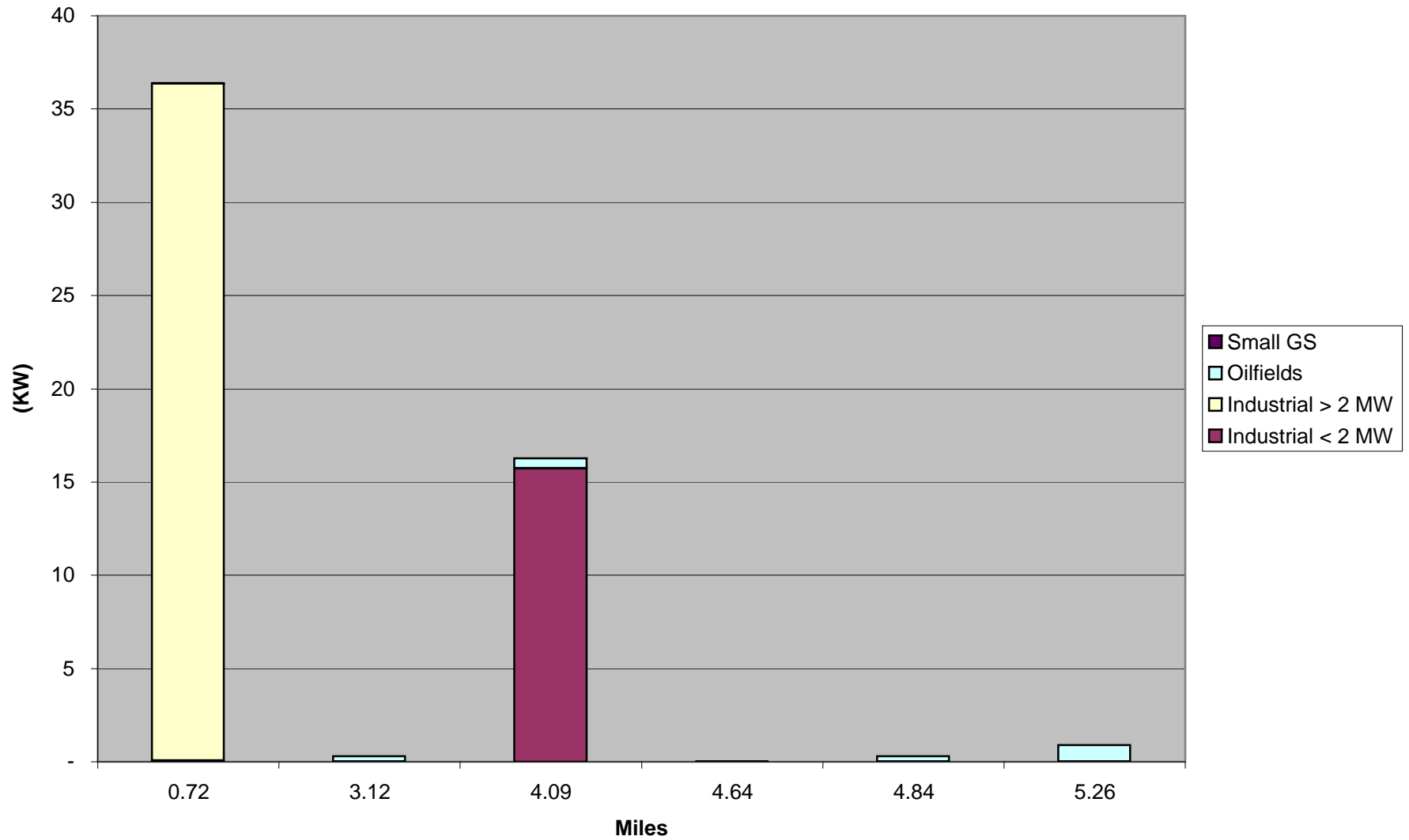
Summary for Feeder 18
Table 5

CLASS	GROUP2	LEVEL		Winter Peak	AE Losses		UCA Losses	
					(KW)	(%)	(KW)	(%)
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	Feeder18	453.36	15.80	3.49%	5.14	1.13%
	> 2MW	SEC DIST	Feeder18	5,797.92	36.31	0.63%	48.42	0.84%
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	Feeder18	58.40	2.09	3.58%	0.64	1.10%
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	Feeder18	0.15	0.00	0.60%	0.00	0.84%
Grand Total				6,309.82	54.21	0.86%	54.21	0.86%

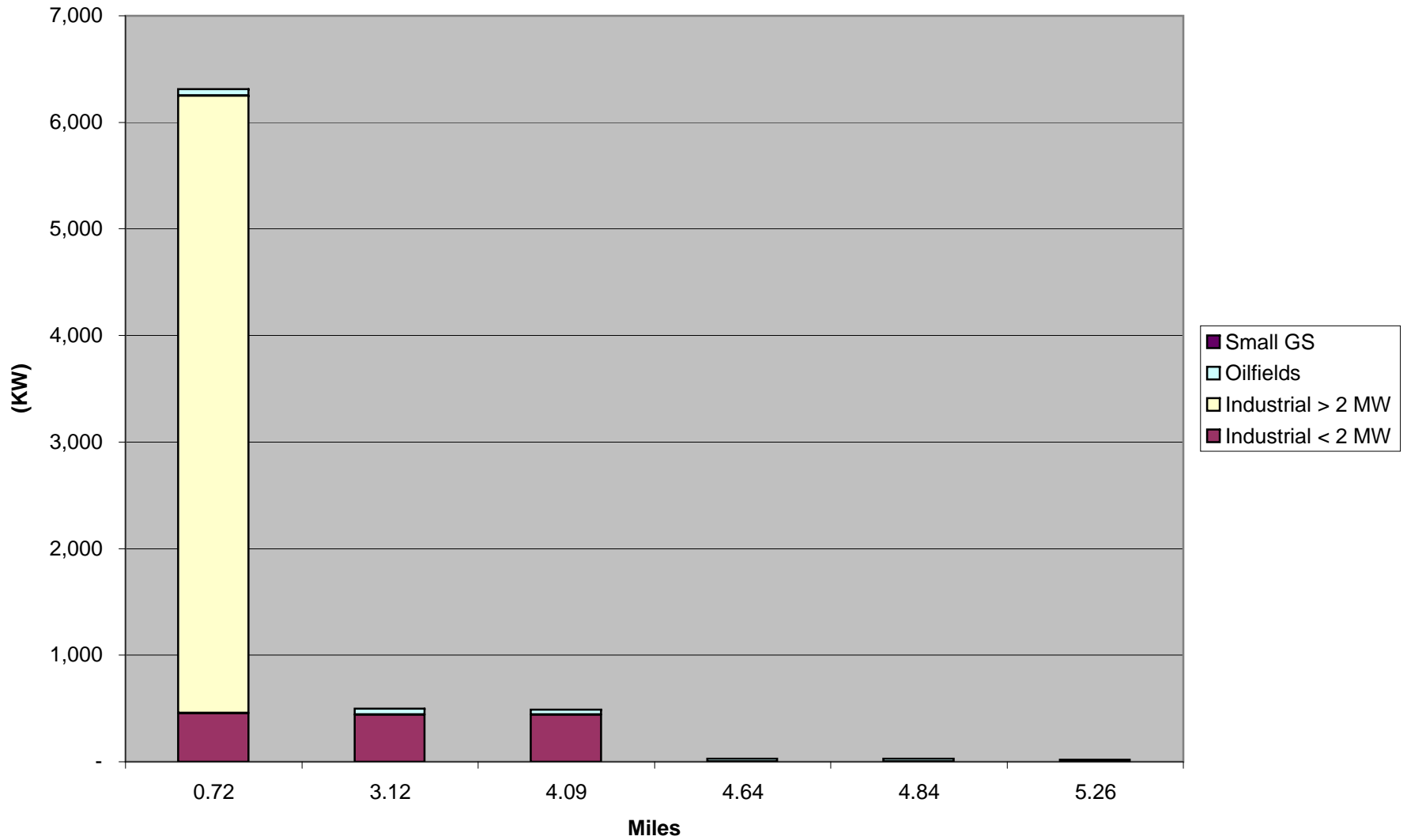
Winter Peak on Feeder 18



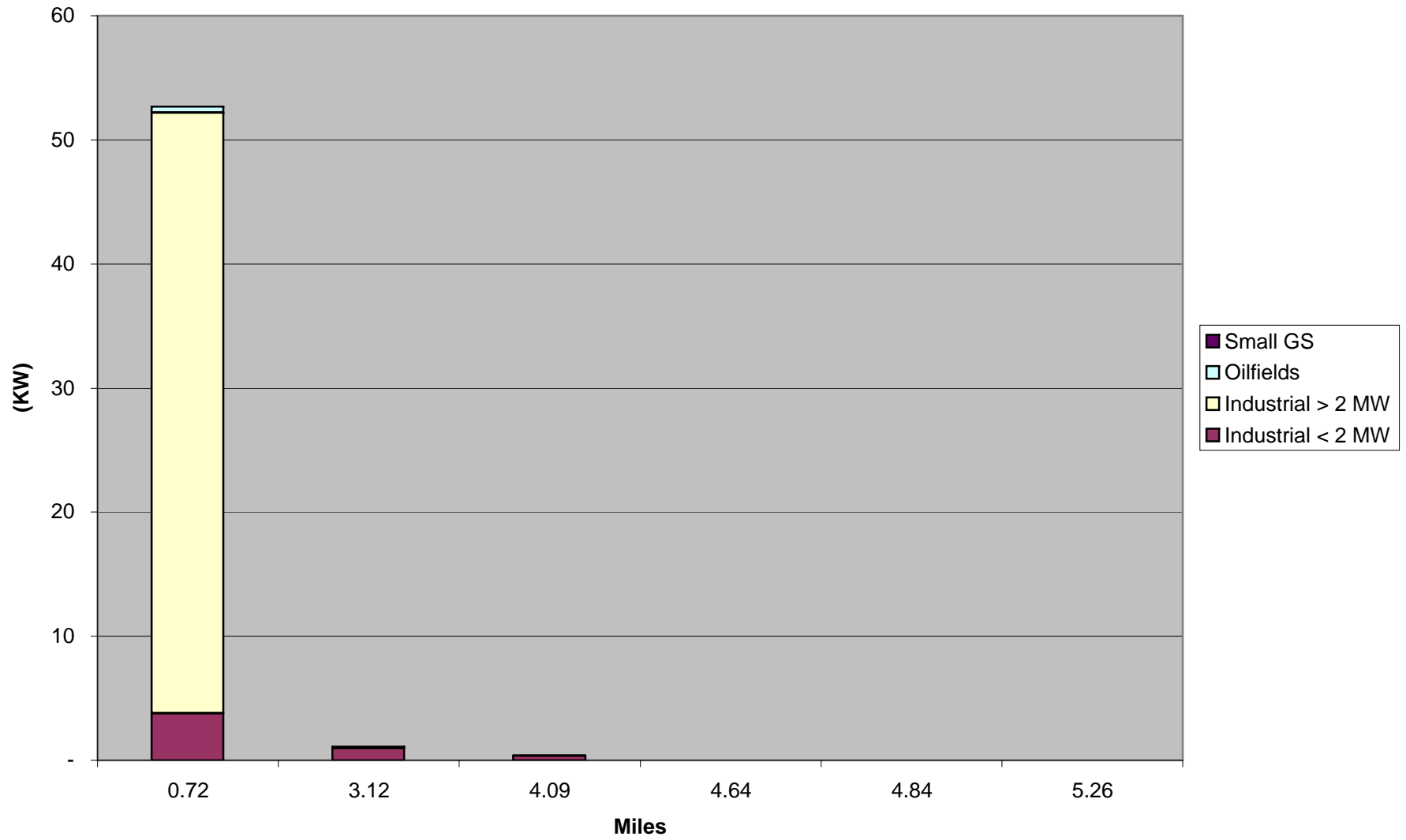
AE Winter Peak Losses Feeder 18



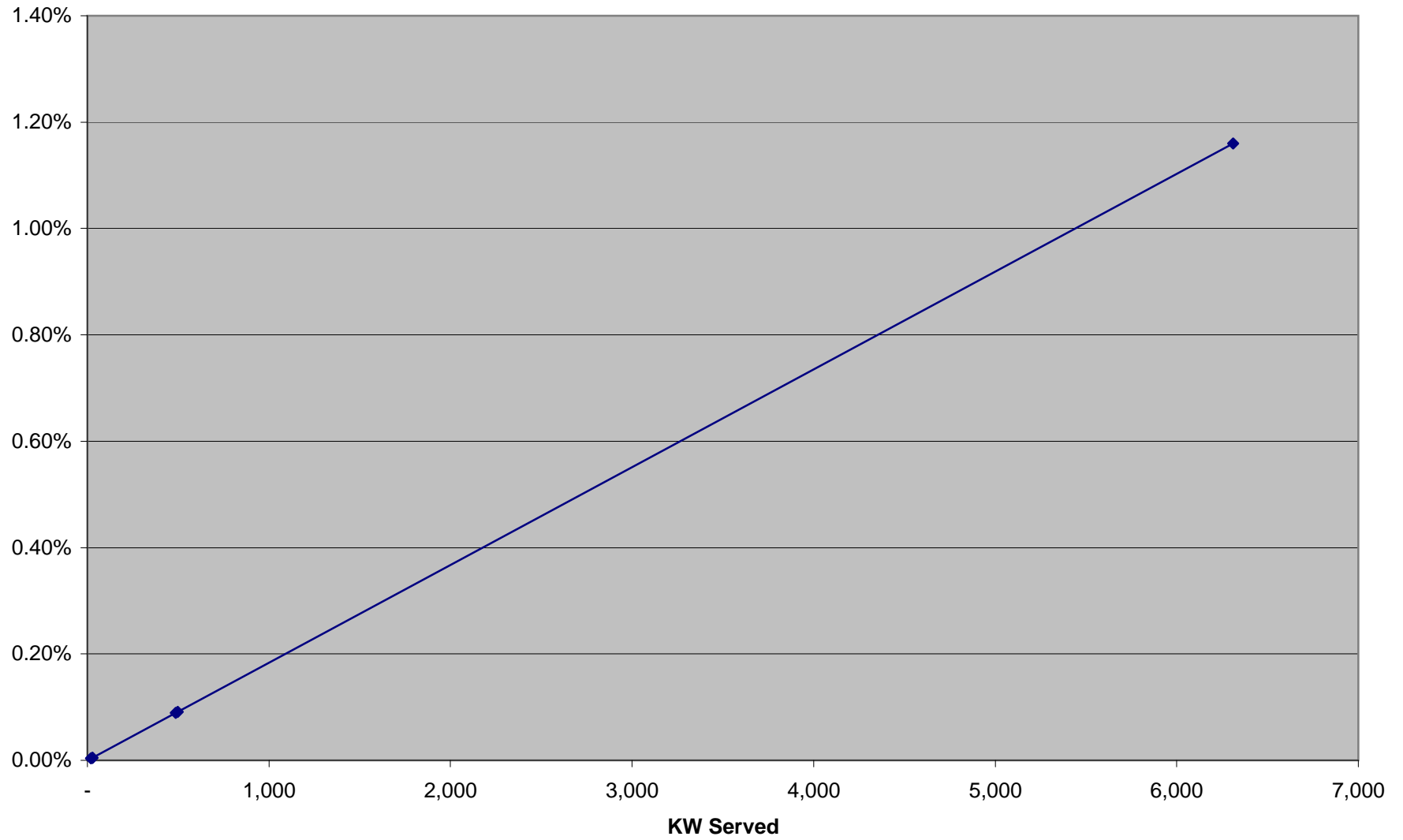
Winter Peak Served on This Segment



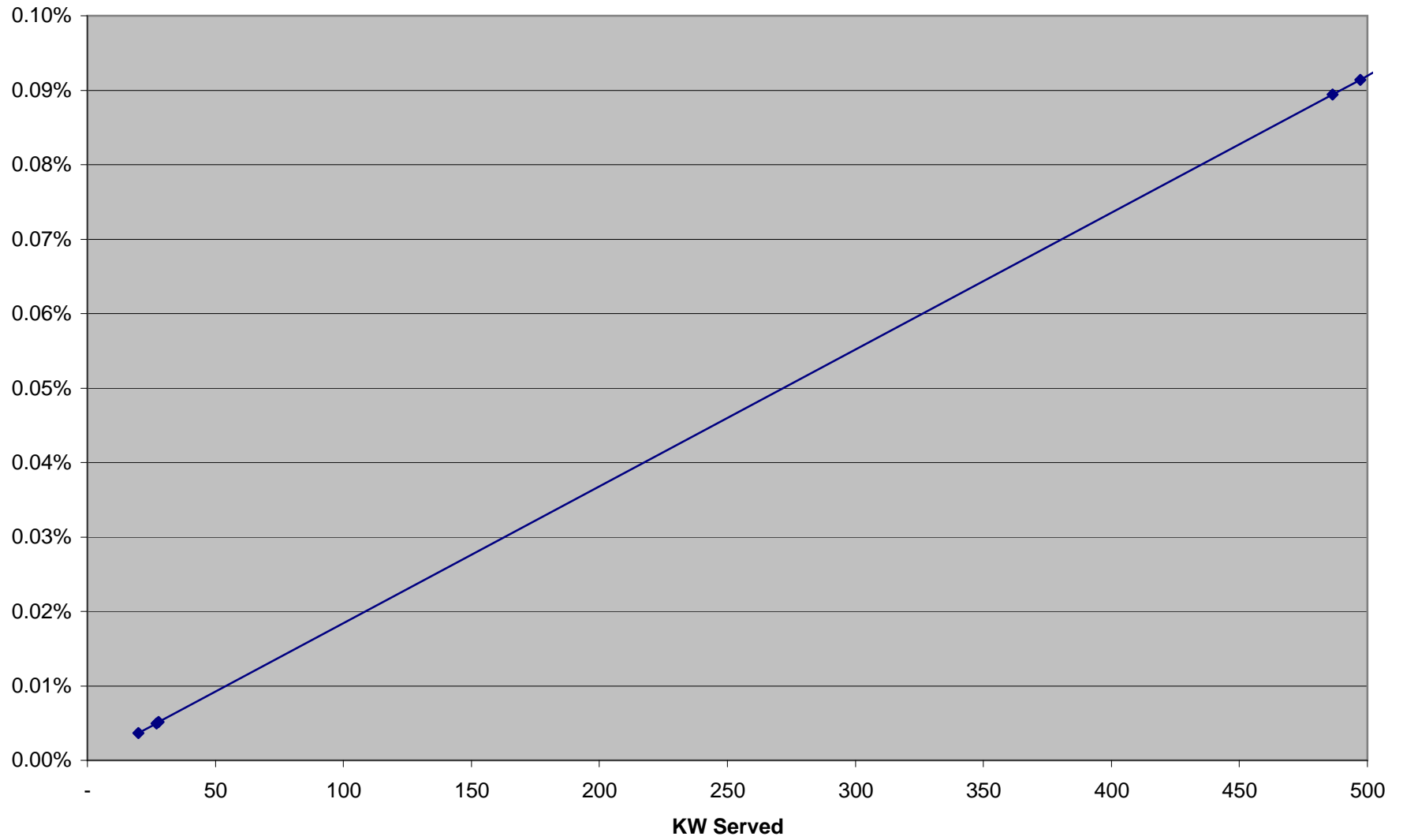
UCA Winter Peak Losses



Losses Per Mile on Identified Segments



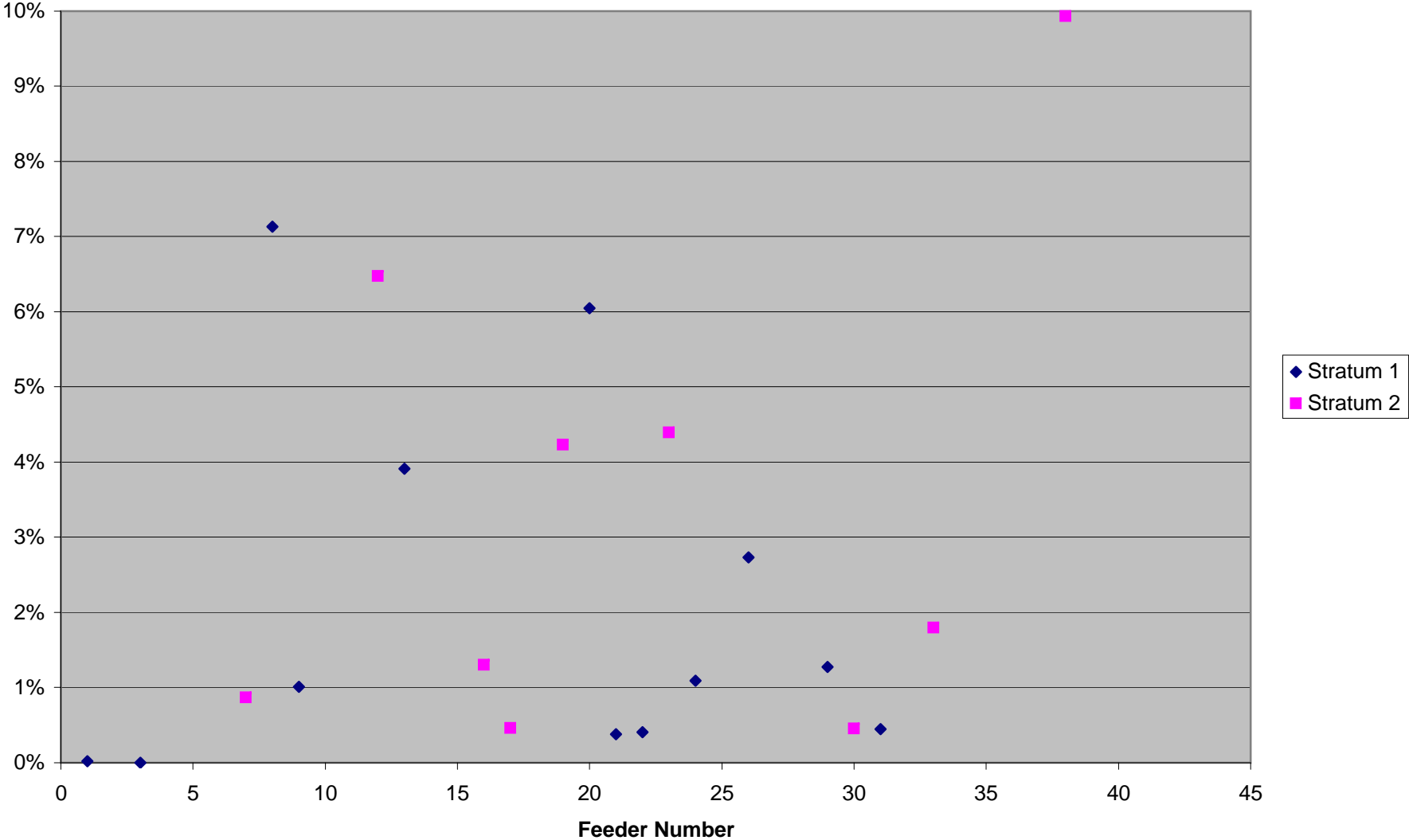
Losses Per Mile on Identified Segments



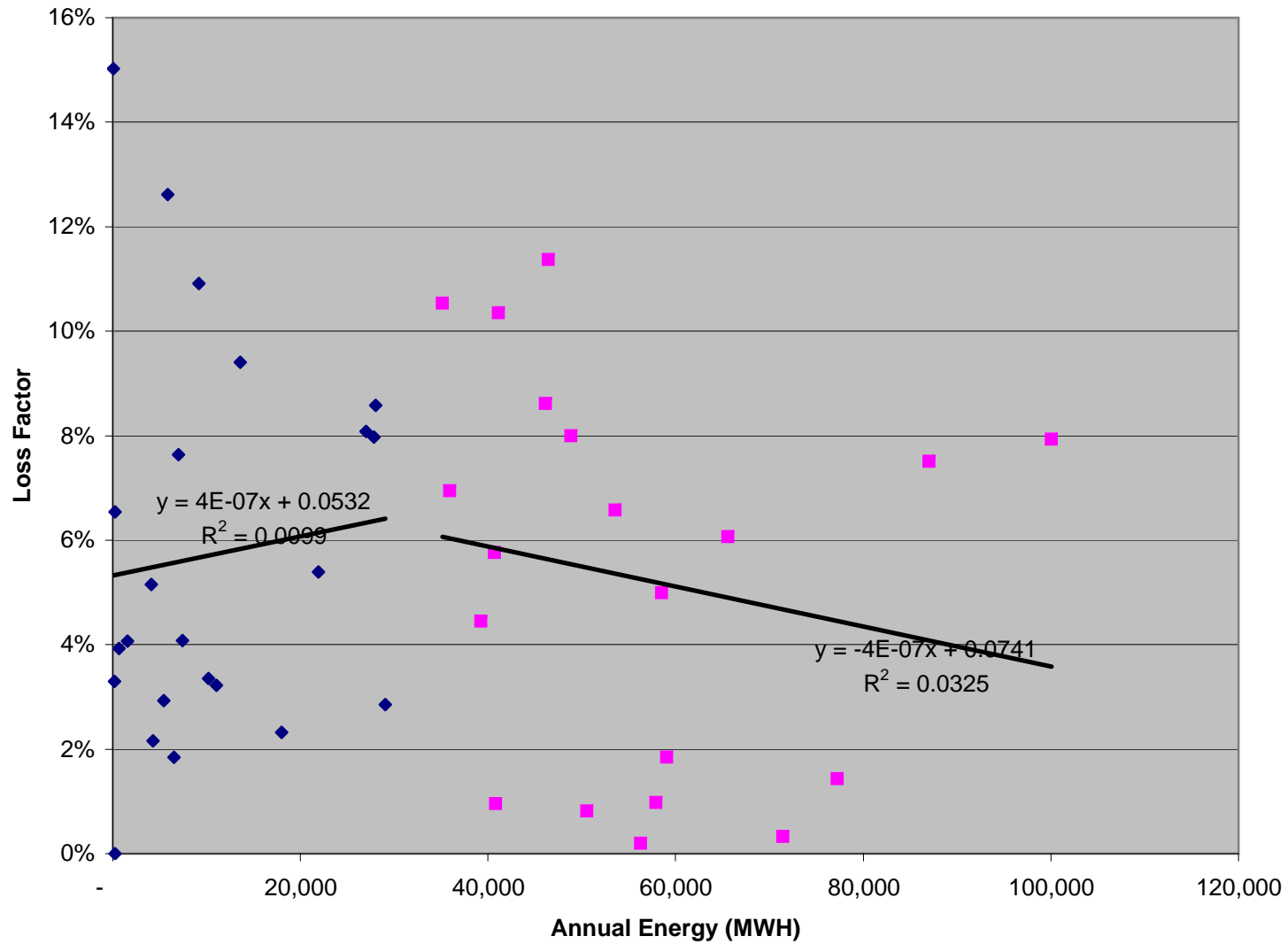
AE Precision in Estimating Class Loss Factors
Average Class Loss Factor For All Feeders Divided by Spread Absent One Feeder

RATE CLASS	SIZE GROUP	VOLTAGE LEVEL	Precision		
			Total	Primary	Secondary
Farm	< 2MW	SEC DIST	12.88	6.65	6.48
Industrial	< 2MW	PRIM DIST	0.88	0.88	N/A
Industrial	< 2MW	SEC DIST	17.28	10.62	10.09
Industrial	> 2MW	PRIM DIST	4.26	4.26	N/A
Industrial	> 2MW	SEC DIST	4.15	3.45	2.58
Irrigation	< 2MW	SEC DIST	3.39	1.29	4.01
Oilfield	< 2MW	SEC DIST	14.21	10.58	9.71
Private Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	13.18	5.58	8.15
Residential	< 2MW	SEC DIST	11.62	5.21	7.40
Small GS	< 2MW	SEC DIST	15.00	7.28	10.31
Street Lighting	< 2MW	SEC DIST	6.99	4.31	5.61
All Classes			15.41	10.38	9.62

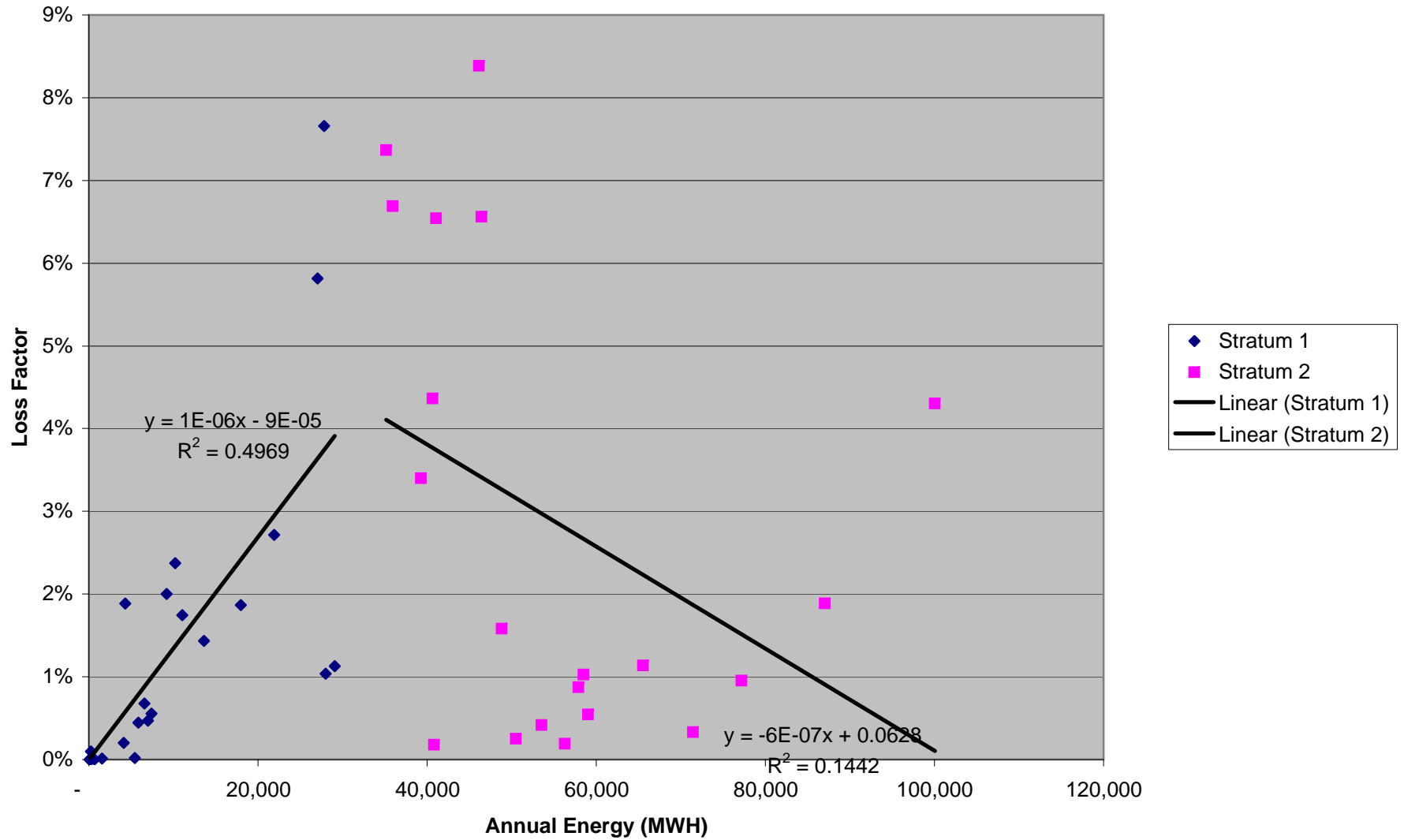
Residential Primary Loss Factors By Feeder



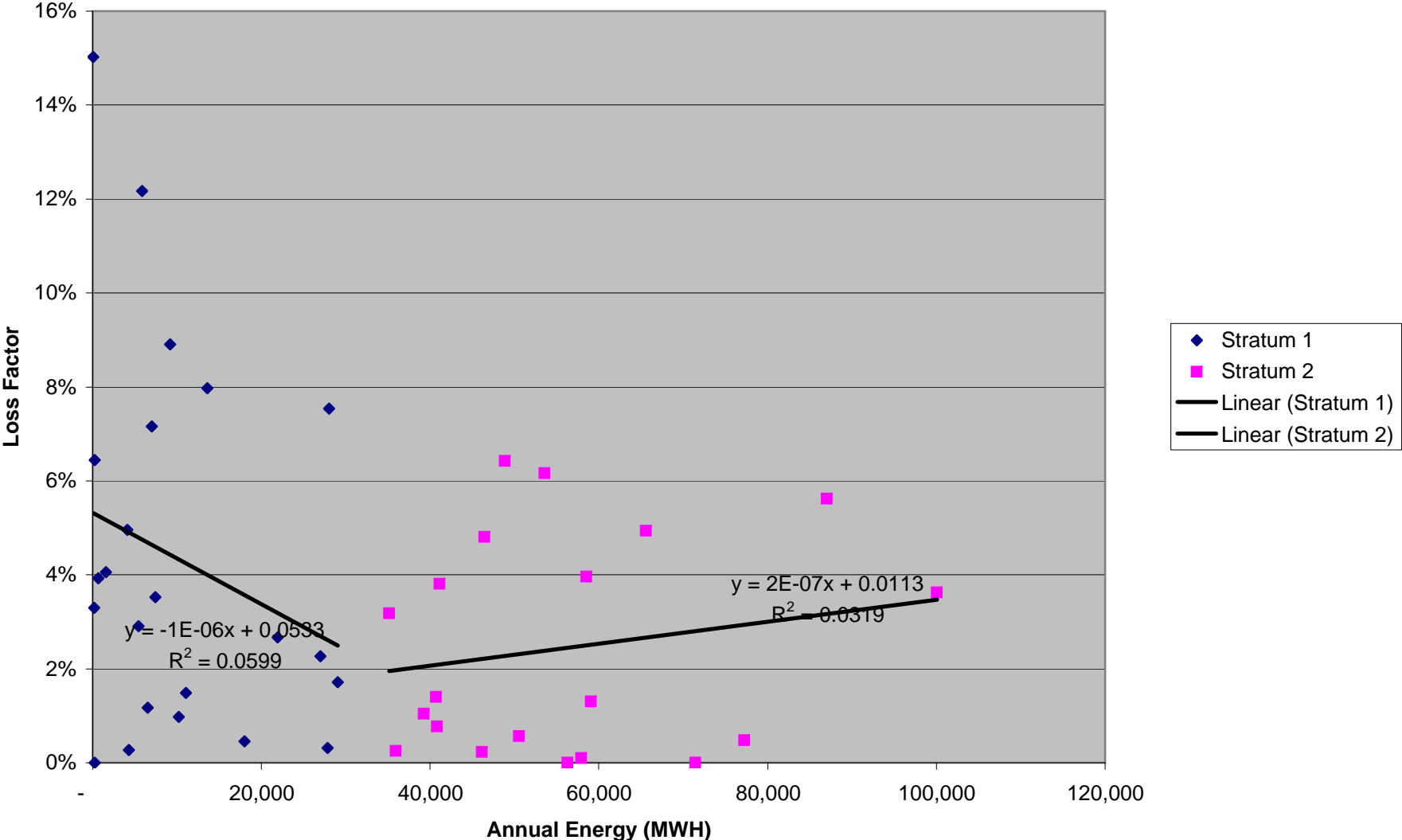
Total Losses versus Size



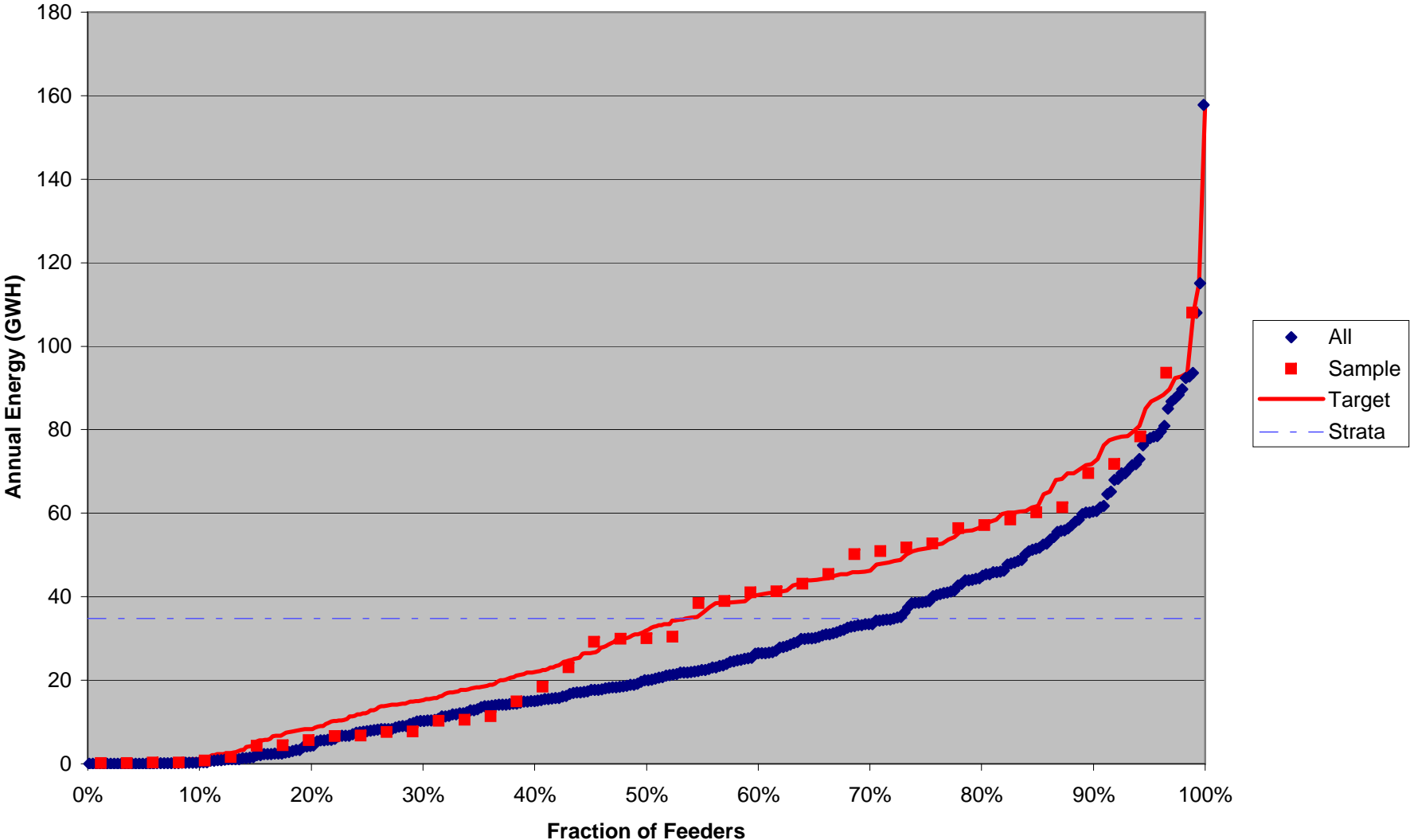
Primary Losses versus Size



Secondary Losses versus Size



Annual Energy by Feeder



**CURRICULUM VITAE OF
Mark Lively for the UCA**

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H.J. Herb Vander Veen for the UCA**

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