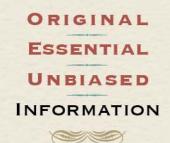
## AFP® Association for Financial Professionals® Annual Conference

— November 7-10, 2010 | San Antonio ——



### **B2B Payment Processing: The Efficient Frontier**

James P. Gilligan, CTP Senior Manager, Corporate Treasury Great Plains Energy | Kansas City Power & Light Company

> Nick Delgado Treasury Management Sales Consultant Wells Fargo

### Question to the audience

Does your company actively track metrics such as DSO?

YES

NO

I don't know



### Question to the audience

Does your company plan to promote electronic payment options in the near future?

YES

NO

I don't know



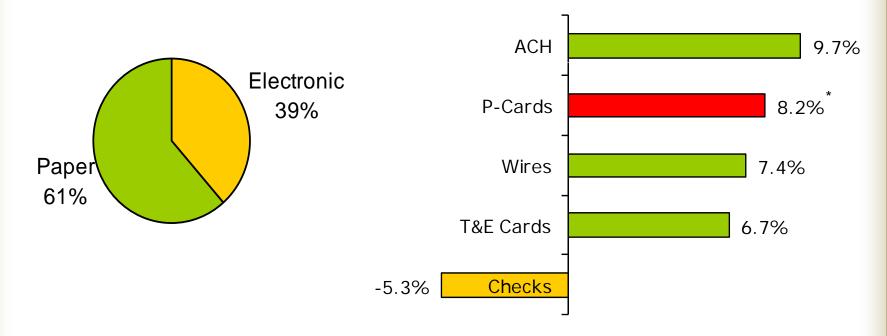
## Payment Landscape



## **Current Payment Landscape**

**How Payments are Made** 

**Trends Over Past 18 Months** 

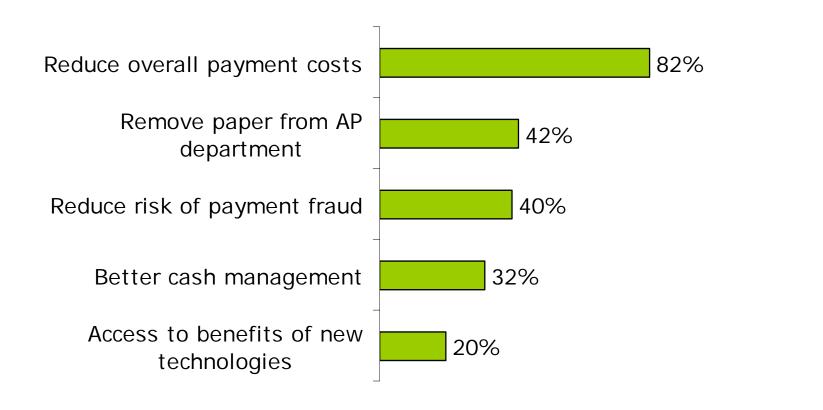


Source: Aberdeen Group, June 2008

<sup>\*</sup> Card payments within AP is the fastest growing payment option and are expected to surpass ACH B2B volume by 2012



## Top business reasons driving the focus on "electronifying" payments?





## **Aberdeen's Maturity Framework: Electronic Payments**

Definition of Maturity Class	Mean Class Performance	Cost*
Best-in-Class:  Top 20% of aggregate performers	80% of overall payments processed by electronic methods	\$1.05
Industry Average: Middle 50% of aggregate performers	30% of overall payments processed by electronic methods	\$6.76
Laggard: Bottom 30% of aggregate performers	7% of overall payments processed by electronic methods	\$23.70

\*Overall processing cost per payment Source: Aberdeen Group, June 2008



## KCP&L Focus on e-Payments and Process Automation



## KCP&L Background

- Founded in 1882
- Electric only investor owned utility (NYSE: GXP)
- 820,000 customers in Missouri and Kansas
- 18,000 square mile service territory
- 15 generating stations 6.1 MW
  - Nuclear
  - Coal
  - Gas
  - Wind







## **KCP&L Payment Options**



Automatic Payment



**Budget Billing** 



Online Account Access



Paperless Billing



Pay by Mail



Pay by Phone



Pay in Person



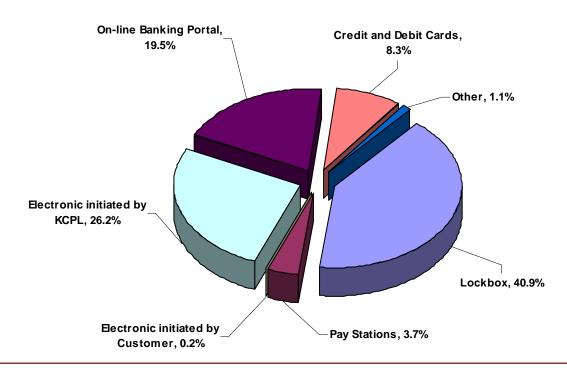
Pay Online





## Residential Payments (YTD Oct. 10)

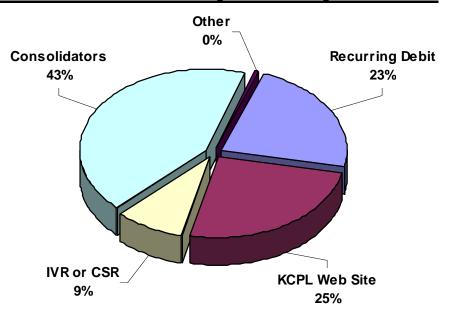
#### 2010 KCP&L Residential





## Residential Electronic by Channel

#### Residential Electronic Payments by Channel



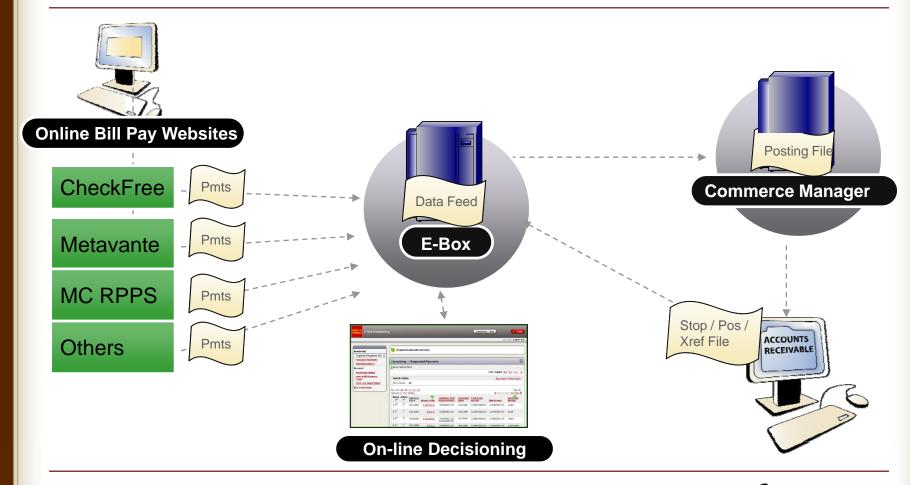


### **Previous C2B Payment Issues**

- Multiple 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors offering electronic payment alternatives to our residential customers
  - Some vendors still sending check & lists
  - Separate files sent to us by multiple vendors with different formats
  - No validation of customer account numbers/data
  - No visibility into payments received when asked by our customers
  - Received payments meant for another biller



## How KCP&L automated its C2B Payments



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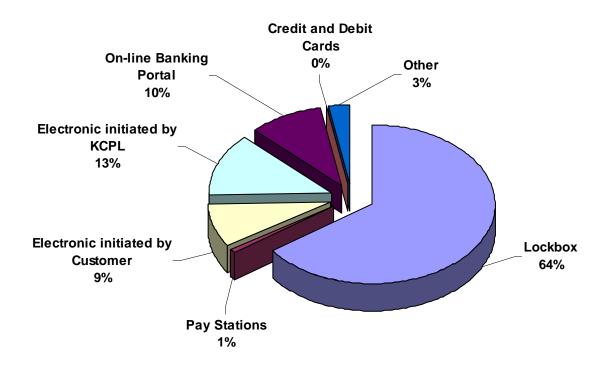
## **Current State of C2B Payments with automation**

- Single source for all on-line bill payments
- Processing features enable faster, accurate processing of payments
  - On-line decisioning for returns/corrections
  - Cross-references to handle recurring errors
  - Posting to multiple billing systems



## **Commercial Payments (YTD Oct. 10)**

#### 2010 KCP&L Commercial





### **Previous B2B Payment Issues**

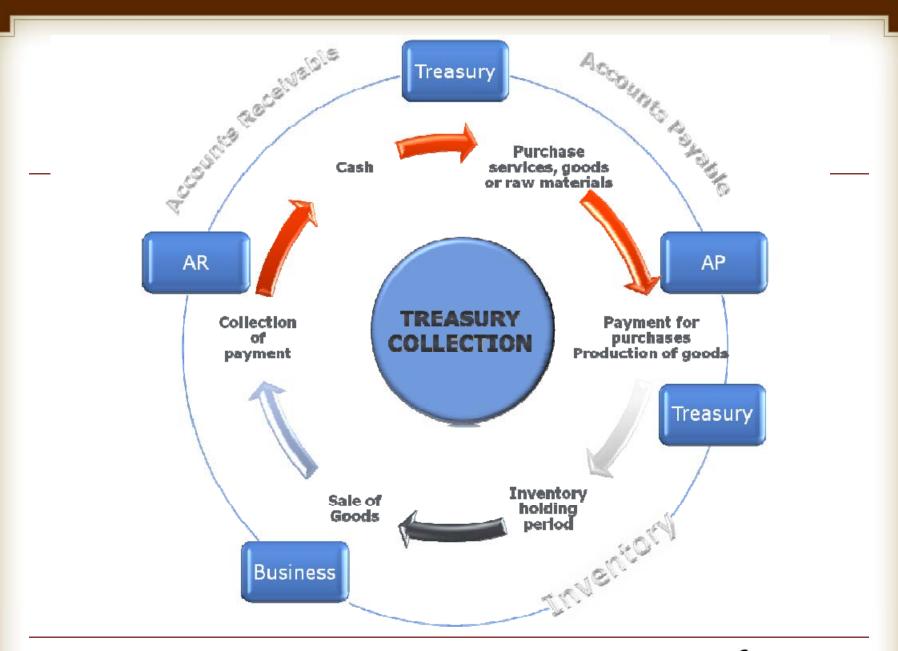
- Incomplete data prohibited prompt processing
  - No addenda information at all
  - Missing, unreadable or incorrect customer information
- Manual posting to CIS system required
  - Customers don't receive timely credit, creating penalty charges
  - Considerable staff time researching payments
  - CIS feeds to G/L, so delay could create inaccurate statement of financial results at reporting periods



### Why the Focus on B2B Now

- Improvement in Cash Working Capital means enhanced liquidity and lower borrowings – a strategic advantage
  - Reduced Float
  - Improved Days Sales Outstanding (DSO)
  - Faster posting of payments due to accuracy







### Why the Focus on B2B Now

#### Greater Customer Satisfaction

- Improves efficiencies for our largest customers, often resulting in lower costs for them as well
- Eliminates penalties for late payments
- Accurate posting of payments

#### Better Relationships

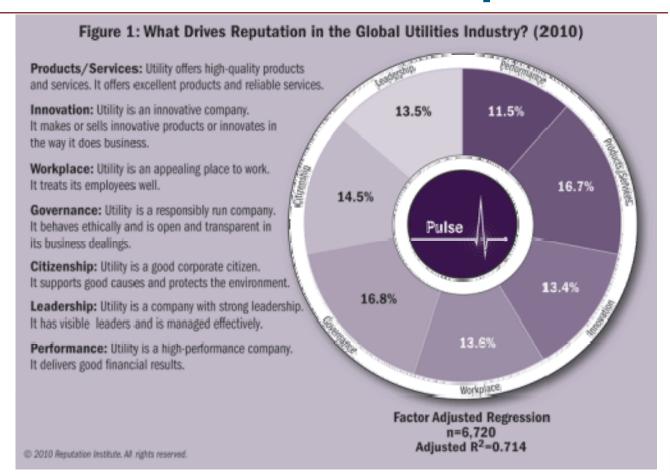
- Our customers appreciate improved technology
- We aren't your typical utility not difficult to deal with
- Rate increase requests aren't met with animosity

#### Reputation Risk

- News stories are positive rather than negative
- Our community values us as a corporate citizen



### **Products & Services drive reputation**





REPUTATION



### **DSO** reduction

- Accelerate customer payments
  - Lockbox
  - Remote Deposit Capture
  - Check conversion to ACH
  - Web Presentment and payment
  - Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)



Receivables data integration – enables business process automation



### **DSO** reduction

- Account Receivable Days Sales Outstanding
  - DSO: average number of days to convert a sale (A/R) into cash



- Accelerate customer payments
- Automate cash application process & reduce exceptions

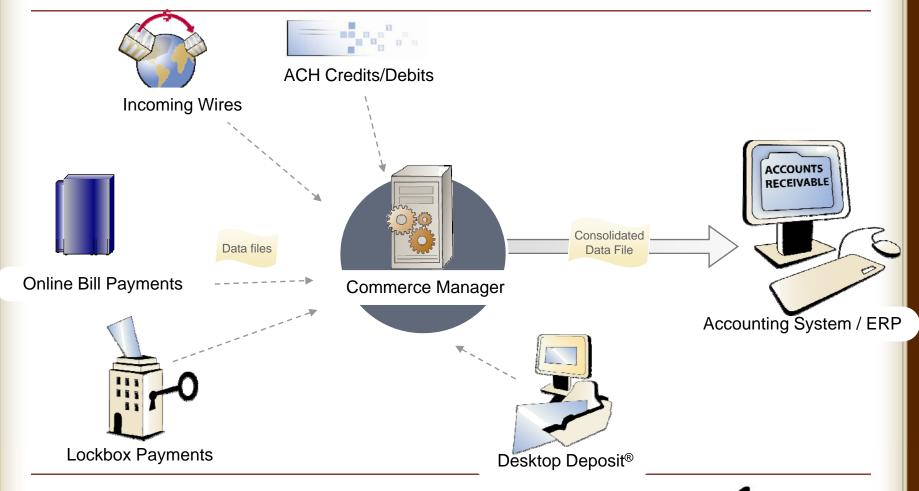


## Challenges faced with our electronic payment adoption

- Payment type options available
  - CCD
  - CCD+
  - CTX
- Who should we contact?
- What tools should we use in our campaign?
- How do we aggregate payment details and autopost?



## The Efficient Frontier - How KCP&L automated B2B Payments



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### **B2B Payments Implementation Plan**

- Implementation Pilot
  - Soft roll-out to a targeted large commercial customer
    - Current user of technology
    - Conversations one year in advance of implementation
    - Worked with banking partners to smooth transition
    - Partnered with Customer Service/Marketing Reps to keep communication lines open
  - Expansion to five other commercial customers
    - Advance conversations to prepare for changes
  - Full Market Rollout



## **Q & A**



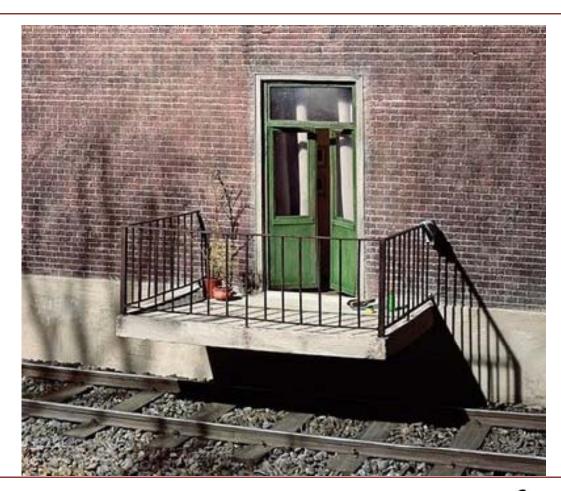


















# And the Winner is





### **Contact Us**

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