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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing Conference

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:01 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.

webEx

VOLUME 1
Pages 1 - 9

In the Matter of the)
Application of Evergy)
Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a)
Evergy Missouri West for)
Authority to Implement Rate) File No. ER-2023-0210
Adjustments Required by)
20 CSR 4240-20.090(8) and)
the Company's Approved Fuel)
Purchased Power Cost)
Recovery Mechanism)

ROSS KEELING, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:

Angie D. Threlkeld, CCR
Registered Professional Reporter

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy
3 Missouri West:

4 1200 Main Street
5 Kansas City, MO 64105

6 BY: ROGER STEINER, ESQ.
7 roger.steiner@evergy.com

8 2081 Honeysuckle
9 Jefferson City, MO 65109

10 BY: THOMAS FISCHER, ESQ.

11 On behalf of the OPC:

12 Governor's Office Building
13 P.O. Box 2230
14 Jefferson City, MO 65105

15 BY: JOHN CLIVER, ESQ.
16 opcservice@opc.mo.gov

17 On behalf of the PSC Staff:

18 200 Madison Street
19 P.O. Box 360
20 Jefferson City, MO 65102

21 BY: CASI ASLIN, ESQ.
22 casi.aslin@psc.mo.gov

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P R O C E E D I N G S

JUDGE KEELING: Today is March 13th, 2023. The time is 1:01 p.m. The Commission has set aside this time for a prehearing conference for File No. ER-2023-0210.

My name is Ross Keeling. I am the regulatory law judge in this matter.

Let's have Counsel and the parties make their entry of appearance.

And Evergy Missouri West, please go first.

MR. STEINER: Thank you. Roger Steiner and Jim Fischer appearing for the Company. We have already given our mailing address to the court reporter.

JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Staff?

MS. ASLIN: Casi Aslin for Staff. My address is 200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Anybody else for Staff?

Hearing none, let's go with the Office of the Public Counsel.

MR. CLIZER: John Clizer appearing on behalf of the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. My contact information has already been provided to the court reporter.

JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Good.

So the purpose of this conference is to, first of

1 all, discuss whether or not any settlement has come to
2 light between the parties.

3 And could anybody start? Have the parties come
4 to any settlement in this matter?

5 MR. STEINER: Judge, we think we're close on a
6 settlement of a procedural schedule of how we will do --
7 proceed with the case. But as far as an amount in dispute,
8 we have not been able to reach agreement.

9 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Good. And then the -- if
10 there's no settlement in a substantive issue, then I'll
11 move on to the proposed procedural schedule. I wrote an
12 order in this matter that made that procedural schedule due
13 today. I think that was a bit early. I will give -- I
14 will offer an additional week to file that procedural
15 schedule, if needed.

16 Does that sound suitable to anybody?

17 MR. STEINER: I think we would always take more
18 time. I don't know if we need a week. I can't remember.
19 Did you order -- it just has to be filed. You didn't order
20 staff or anybody to file it, just...

21 JUDGE KEELING: I did order staff to file it, I
22 believe.

23 MR. STEINER: Okay. Well, then I'll let staff
24 talk. Sorry.

25 MS. ASLIN: That's okay. Since we've already

1 been talking about dates, we'll just go with the week just
2 to be sure. I think it will be filed before then though.

3 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. And then -- so why don't
4 I go ahead -- I'll go ahead and issue an order setting
5 that -- setting that proposed procedural schedule out one
6 week from today. Is everybody okay with that?

7 MR. STEINER: Yes.

8 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Does -- okay. It appears
9 as though that notice has been filed in this matter that
10 says that the continuation of the existing FAR rates will
11 continue until the new FAR rates are approved. Is that
12 correct, and has anybody signed onto that?

13 MR. CLIZER: Sorry. John Clizer with the OPC. I
14 believe that the agreement was that the existing rates will
15 continue until new interim rates were filed.

16 JUDGE KEELING: Oh, okay.

17 MR. CLIZER: My technical expert could verify
18 that for me. I don't know if the other attorneys want to
19 jump in.

20 JUDGE KEELING: Has there been any discussion
21 about what's going to be included in the interim rates and
22 how those are going to be managed?

23 MR. STEINER: We have had discussion, and we're
24 not -- we don't have agreement. I don't -- I'm looking for
25 what we filed to continue these rates. I just don't have

1 it -- I don't have it in front of me.

2 MR. FISCHER: I think it said that until new
3 rates are -- new FAR rates are in effect or changed.

4 MR. STEINER: Yeah, it was filed on 2-28. And
5 paragraph 6 says: Commission Staff, Office of Public
6 Counsel have indicated to Evergy Missouri West it did not
7 object to continuing the existing FAR rates until new FAR
8 rates are approved.

9 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Does that indicate that
10 we're going to file some interim rates at some point or
11 does that cover it?

12 MR. STEINER: Well, that's what we're -- that's
13 what we're discussing, Judge.

14 JUDGE KEELING: Okay.

15 MR. STEINER: We don't have agreement on what the
16 undisputed amount is.

17 JUDGE KEELING: Uh-huh. Do you -- do you need
18 some time today to work that out or are you in constant
19 contact with one another through this matter?

20 MR. STEINER: We're in too much contact, I agree.
21 No. We were planning on, like we do on a lot of
22 prehearings, to have a discussion among the parties without
23 the judge.

24 JUDGE KEELING: Okay.

25 MR. STEINER: If that's acceptable to you?

1 JUDGE KEELING: That's what I had planned on
2 doing anyway, yeah.

3 MR. STEINER: Okay. Okay.

4 JUDGE KEELING: So when we get everything done,
5 we're going to go ahead and drop off -- I'll go ahead and
6 drop off and let you continue that discussion.

7 Do you have some idea of how long it's going to
8 take you to come up with that, with some resolution to that
9 issue?

10 MR. STEINER: I don't.

11 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Well, I would like to see
12 something -- something by the end of the week. Not a week
13 from today, but by the end of this week. Is that enough
14 time to come up with some sort of agreement?

15 MR. STEINER: That's enough time to come up with
16 the agreement or make a filing that we cannot come up with
17 the agreement. I don't know if -- John or Casi, I don't
18 know what you think.

19 MR. CLIZER: I -- well, I'll just come in like
20 this: As far as the OPC is concerned, the amount not in
21 dispute is just the amount that the OPC has chosen not to
22 dispute. So, I mean, I'm prepared to state at any point in
23 time what that amount is. I feel like it's fairly
24 straightforward. I'm fine with taking a week, but my
25 number isn't going to change. It's just the amount we

1 haven't disputed.

2 MS. ASLIN: Yeah, I think we could probably get
3 something filed by the end of the week.

4 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. I would like something
5 filed by the end of the week, that is, by the end of the
6 day this coming Friday; and that will be the 17th of March.
7 Okay? Does anybody have any objection or have anything
8 else to say about that?

9 MR. STEINER: No.

10 JUDGE KEELING: Okay, then. Okay. Those are --
11 so far I've covered the possibility of settlement and the
12 proposed procedural schedule. And now I'm going to go
13 ahead and drop off of this call and let you talk about the
14 amount not in dispute. Okay?

15 Does anybody have any questions for me?

16 MR. STEINER: No, I don't.

17 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Well, thank you very much.
18 We'll go off the record. And have a good afternoon.

19 (Off the record.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Angie D. Threlkeld, CCR and Registered Professional Reporter for the State of Missouri, that I was personally virtually present at said hearing and reported said proceedings, and the machine shorthand notes so made at the time and place mentioned on the title page hereof were transcribed under my direction and supervision by means of computer-aided transcription, and that the foregoing pages constitute a true, complete, and accurate transcript of the digital recording and my said machine shorthand notes.

Witness my hand this 14th day of March, 2023.



Angie Threlkeld, CCR, RPR