

In the Matter of Evergy Missouri West, Inc.

Hearing before:

Judge Charles Hatcher

August 09, 2022

Vol 04

PHIPPS REPORTING

Raising the Bar!

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Tuesday, August 9, 2022
12:10 p.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Missouri Public Service Commission
WebEx

VOLUME 4
Pages 1 - 10

In the Matter of Evergy Missouri)
West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri)
West's Request for Authority to) File No. ER-2022-0130
Implement a General Rate)
Increase for Electric Service)

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

RYAN A. SILVEY, Chairman
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 266293

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1 (The following proceedings began at 12:10 p.m.):

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Let's go on the record. First
3 I want to ask that everyone please mute themselves
4 unless speaking. That will cut down on the noise level
5 and prevent audio feedback.

6 Today is August 9, 2022. The Missouri Public
7 Service Commission has set this time for a local public
8 hearing to give members of the public a chance to
9 comment about Evergy Missouri West's electric general
10 rate increase application. That is File No.
11 ER-2022-0130.

12 And I would like to state for the record
13 Chairman Ryan Silvey has joined us.

14 CHAIRMAN SILVEY: Good morning, Judge.

15 JUDGE HATCHER: Good afternoon, Chairman.

16 The Missouri Public Service Commission
17 regulates the rates charged by public utility companies
18 in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and
19 reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality
20 of service and safety of the operations of public
21 utilities.

22 The Commission is made up of five
23 Commissioners. The Commissioners are appointed by the
24 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.
25 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,

1 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other
2 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

3 My name is Charles Hatcher, and I'm the
4 Regulatory Law Judge that will preside over this
5 hearing. With me today are Chairman Ryan Silvey and
6 Commissioners Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman, and Glen
7 Kolkmeier.

8 This is an official hearing of the Missouri
9 Public Service Commission, and the statements and
10 testimony of the witnesses will be recorded by a court
11 reporter and are given under oath.

12 The Commission has not made any decision in
13 this case and therefore the Commissioners cannot answer
14 any questions today. They have to remain impartial
15 until all of the evidence is presented.

16 Let's go ahead and start with an entry of
17 appearance. We'll start with the Company, Evergy
18 Missouri West. Go ahead.

19 MR. FISCHER: On behalf of the Company, we
20 have Roger Steiner and James Fischer.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. And for the
22 Staff of the Commission.

23 MS. MERS: For the Staff of the Missouri
24 Public Service Commission, Nicole Mers, and my
25 information has been previously provided in the docket.

1 Thank you all for being here.

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Mers. And for
3 the Office of the Public Counsel.

4 MR. CLIZER: Good afternoon. John Clizer on
5 behalf of the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Clizer.

7 We also have a number of intervenors in the
8 case. As I did yesterday, they are not required to be
9 here, but I do want to offer any of their counsel the
10 opportunity to state for the record their attendance.
11 Hearing none.

12 A quick explanation. The process for this
13 hearing is going to be to call the names on our
14 pre-registered sign-up sheet. That was the email the
15 Commission asked everyone to send in before they
16 testified.

17 Today we do have a list of three witnesses.
18 I'm going to call those names in the order that they
19 signed up, and then I will open the floor up to anyone
20 who is on our call today who would like to testify and
21 did not sign up first.

22 With that said, one quick reminder. If you
23 have phoned in, in order to unmute you press *6.

24 Okay. Let's get started. Our first name is
25 Gerald Maloney. Gerald Maloney. If you would please

1 say hello, Mr. Maloney, that will bring you to
2 everyone's front screen on their WebEx. Hearing no
3 response, we'll come back and call Mr. Maloney once
4 again at the bottom of our list.

5 Tracy Gillenwater. Is there a Tracy
6 Gillenwater? Hearing no response.

7 The last name on our list is Cody Boston.
8 Cody Boston. And again, if you have called in, to
9 unmute yourself you press *6. If you're on a phone and
10 saying hello and you're not getting a reply, press *6.

11 Okay. Hearing no response, I'm going to run
12 through my list of names one more time quickly just if
13 anyone has joined recently. I know we have quite a
14 number of participants today. Gerald Maloney. No
15 answer for the record. Tracy Gillenwater. No answer
16 for the record. And Cody Boston.

17 Okay. I'll open it up to anyone who is on the
18 call who would like to testify and did not pre-register.
19 All you need to do is say hello -- or unmute yourself.
20 Again, if you're on a telephone, that's *6. Just say
21 hello. That will bring you to the front of the WebEx
22 screen and I'll swear you in and then we can take your
23 testimony.

24 MR. CLIZER: Your Honor, this is John Clizer
25 with OPC. I note that there is a Cody and a Tracy, no

1 last name, in the participants. If I could request that
2 whoever has host privileges unmute those individuals
3 just in case. Of course if they don't want to testify,
4 that's their choice. I thought for safety sake.

5 MS. KEELY: Judge, this is Jackie. I have
6 sent unmute requests, but the parties have to unmute
7 themselves.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. I'll call one more time
9 our list. Gerald Maloney, Tracy Gillenwater, Cody
10 Boston. Let the record reflect no response.

11 And once again, I'd like to open it up to
12 anyone on the call. If you're on the web page or the
13 app, you can press the unmute. If you're on a phone and
14 have called the 800 number to join this public hearing,
15 then you press *6. And the star on your phone is the
16 asterisk. Okay. We have waited a few moments and I
17 have not heard anyone step forward to offer their
18 testimony.

19 With that said, if you do have comments that
20 you would like to make in this case, and you chose not
21 to make them at this hearing, or you may have had
22 technical difficulties, you can still make your comment
23 by going to the PSC's website. That is psc.mo.gov. And
24 in the upper right-hand corner is a link to make written
25 comments on a case, and you just make sure and add the

1 file number for this case and that is again
2 ER-2022-0130.

3 If you have any questions or would like to
4 contact the Office of the Public Counsel, their email is
5 mopco@opc.mo.gov. Just because this has been an unusual
6 hearing having our sign-ups semi on line, I would like
7 to call once again, is there anyone in the audience who
8 would like to provide some testimony to the Commission?
9 Okay. Understandable.

10 We will go ahead and adjourn this hearing.
11 Thank you all. We are off the record. Chairman and
12 Commissioners, I do appreciate your attendance, as with
13 all of the counsel. I will see you all this evening for
14 the 6:00 p.m. hearing.

15 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 12:20
16 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF MISSOURI)

3 COUNTY OF COLE)

4 I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do
5 hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
6 stenographically report the foregoing Public Service
7 Commission local public hearing and that the transcript,
8 pages 1 through 9, is a true record of my stenographic
9 notes.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
11 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12 nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the
13 action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

14 Dated this 18th day of August, 2022.

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Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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<hr/> <p>1</p> <hr/> <p>12:10 4:1</p> <hr/> <p>2</p> <hr/> <p>2022 4:6</p> <hr/> <p>6</p> <hr/> <p>6 6:23</p> <hr/> <p>9</p> <hr/> <p>9 4:6</p> <hr/> <p>A</p> <hr/> <p>accountants 5:1</p> <hr/> <p>afternoon 4:15 6:4</p> <hr/> <p>ahead 5:16,18</p> <hr/> <p>analysts 5:1</p> <hr/> <p>appearance 5:17</p> <hr/> <p>application 4:10</p> <hr/> <p>appointed 4:23</p> <hr/> <p>attendance 6:10</p> <hr/> <p>attorneys 5:1</p>	<p>audio 4:5</p> <p>August 4:6</p> <hr/> <p>B</p> <hr/> <p>began 4:1</p> <p>behalf 5:19 6:5</p> <hr/> <p>C</p> <hr/> <p>call 6:13,18,20</p> <p>case 5:13 6:8</p> <p>Chairman 4:13,14,15 5:5</p> <p>chance 4:8</p> <p>charged 4:17</p> <p>Charles 5:3</p> <p>Clizer 6:4,6</p> <p>Coleman 5:6</p> <p>comment 4:9</p> <p>Commission 4:7,16,19,22 5:9,12,22,24 6:15</p> <p>Commissioners 4:23,25 5:6,</p>	<p>13</p> <p>companies 4:17</p> <p>Company 5:17,19</p> <p>confirmed 4:24</p> <p>counsel 6:3,5,9</p> <p>court 5:10</p> <p>cut 4:4</p> <hr/> <p>D</p> <hr/> <p>decision 5:12</p> <p>docket 5:25</p> <hr/> <p>E</p> <hr/> <p>electric 4:9</p> <p>email 6:14</p> <p>employ 4:25</p> <p>engineers 4:25</p> <p>ensure 4:18</p> <p>entry 5:16</p> <p>ER-2022-0130 4:11</p> <p>Evergy 4:9 5:17</p>	<p>evidence 5:15</p> <p>explanation 6:12</p> <hr/> <p>F</p> <hr/> <p>feedback 4:5</p> <p>field 5:2</p> <p>File 4:10</p> <p>financial 5:1</p> <p>Fischer 5:19,20</p> <p>fixed 4:24</p> <p>floor 6:19</p> <hr/> <p>G</p> <hr/> <p>general 4:9</p> <p>Gerald 6:25</p> <p>give 4:8</p> <p>Glen 5:6</p> <p>Good 4:14,15 6:4</p> <p>Governor 4:24</p>
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