

In the Matter of Evergy Metro, Inc.

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Missouri Public Service Commission

August 10, 2022

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Vol 06

**PHIPPS REPORTING**

*Raising the Bar!*

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Wednesday, August 10, 2022  
12:23 p.m. - 12:46 p.m.

Missouri Public Service Commission  
WebEx

VOLUME 6  
Pages 1 - 19

In the Matter of Evergy Metro,        )  
Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri        )  
Metro's Request for Authority to    ) File No. ER-2022-0129  
Implement a General Rate        )  
Increase for Electric Service       )

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

JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner  
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

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

Job No. 266349

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1 (The following proceedings began at 12:23 p.m.):

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

6 Today is August 10, 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 either Evergy Missouri Metro or Evergy  
10 Missouri West's electric general rate increase  
11 applications. Those file numbers, there's two of them,  
12 ER-2022-0129. That's for Evergy Missouri Metro.  
13 ER-2022-0130 is the rate increase request of Evergy  
14 Missouri West.

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

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

1 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

2 My name is Charles Hatcher. I am the  
3 Regulatory Law Judge that will preside over this  
4 hearing. With me today are Commissioners Jason Holsman  
5 and Glen Kolkmeyer. This is an official hearing of the  
6 Missouri Public Service Commission and the statements  
7 and testimony of witnesses will be recorded by a court  
8 reporter and they are given under oath.

9 The Commission has not made any decisions in  
10 this case, and thus the Commissioners cannot answer any  
11 questions today. They have to remain impartial until  
12 all of the evidence is presented. Let's start with our  
13 abbreviated entries of counsel. Addresses are well  
14 established on the record. We'll start with Evergy  
15 Missouri Metro.

16 MR. STEINER: Yes. Roger Steiner appearing  
17 for Evergy Metro and Evergy West.

18 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Commissioner Holsman.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Commissioner  
20 Holsman. Good afternoon. We are just getting started.  
21 For Evergy Missouri West.

22 MR. STEINER: Roger Steiner for Evergy  
23 Missouri West.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. For the Staff  
25 of the Commission.

1 MS. KERR: Carolyn Kerr for the Staff of the  
2 Public Service Commission.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And the Office of  
4 the Public Counsel.

5 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of the  
6 Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. Thank you.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. And again, we  
8 do have a number of intervening parties in this case.  
9 They're not required to be at this hearing, but in case  
10 there are any of the counsel for any of the intervenors  
11 who would like to have their presence noted for the  
12 record, please go ahead and speak up now.

13 Okay. Let the record reflect there were no  
14 replies. Let's move on. The process for this hearing  
15 is I will call the names on the sign-up sheet in the  
16 order that they appear. I have four names on my sign-up  
17 sheet. When I call your name, please go ahead and  
18 unmute. I will then place you under oath and ask you to  
19 state and spell your name and then ask you for your  
20 testimony.

21 If you are a telephone caller, to unmute it is  
22 \*6. If you're on the app or the WebEx, there's going to  
23 be a button associated with your log-in screen. But for  
24 telephone users it's \*6 to unmute.

25 We'll get started. The first name I have on

1 my list is Rebecca Daugherty, D-a-u-g-h-e-r-t-y. I'm  
2 pretty sure I might be mispronouncing that. Rebecca.  
3 Okay. No answer. Let's move to Kimmy Igla. The  
4 spelling I have is I-g-l-a.

5 MS. IGLA: Yes, that's correct.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Is there a Kimmy Igla to  
7 testify?

8 MS. IGLA: Yes, I'm here.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Excellent. Thank you. Do you  
10 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are  
11 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing  
12 but the truth?

13 MS. IGLA: Yes.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: I am not hearing you.

15 MS. IGLA: Yes. Can you hear me now?

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Oh, perfect. There you are.  
17 Okay. Thank you. And tell me how do we pronounce your  
18 name?

19 MS. IGLA: It's Igla.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Igla. Ms. Igla, please go  
21 ahead with your testimony.

22 MS. IGLA: Thank you.

23 Thereupon:

24 KIMMY IGLA,  
25 having been sworn, testified as follows:



1 MS. IGLA: Thank you. I'm really grateful for  
2 the opportunity to offer my testimony today. As  
3 mentioned, my name is Kimmy. I've lived under Evergy in  
4 Kansas City, Missouri for the last seven years. I'm  
5 here because Evergy's proposed rate increase will harm  
6 the most vulnerable while exacerbating the climate  
7 crisis, and I feel called to use my voice in this  
8 hearing to stand up for myself and my community against  
9 what I believe to be extortion of our money for purposes  
10 we do not align with.

11 While Evergy continues to invest in  
12 non-renewable fossil fuel nearly \$500 million a year on  
13 imported coal, we the ratepayers continue to plead for a  
14 better life out from under the thumb of an energy  
15 monopoly that is willfully harming our planet and our  
16 livelihoods using our own dollars.

17 Evergy as a corporation with its millions of  
18 dollars from the people could utilize the best energy  
19 technology that betters all of our lives and the  
20 corporate executives who profit from those millions are,  
21 in fact, human beings with an innate ability to feel  
22 empathy. Instead I see this empathy as cast aside while  
23 ratepayers suffer from worsened air quality and the  
24 subsequent health conditions. The millions that could  
25 be invested in a renewable future are instead dumped

1 back into coal which is not only more expensive, it's  
2 proven harmful to the planet and all of us, including  
3 the executives who make these choices.

4           With 13 percent of Missourians living below  
5 the poverty line, this rate increase will only further  
6 the looming risk of energy and security. Imagine what  
7 it would be like to have to pick between feeding  
8 yourself or paying your energy lord. This is a choice  
9 that poverty stricken Missourians have had to make and  
10 will only be made worse with an increased rate in our  
11 most susceptible communities.

12           Next, imagine the benefits if Evergy were to  
13 spend that same 500 million a year investing in  
14 efficiency and renewable energy in Missouri and Kansas.  
15 I believe our state regulators will hold Evergy  
16 accountable for all of us, and that is why I'm here  
17 today. It's clear that the corporation sits on  
18 increased rates. So I ask that this money be used to  
19 invest in building a better future utilizing renewable  
20 energy such as wind and solar.

21           Evergy has the power to halt the investment in  
22 archaic technology. It's time to listen to statistics  
23 and reason, to invest in technology that's not only more  
24 affordable for all, it's safe, reliable and efficient.  
25 Listen to the people and help prepare this earth for

1 future generations, please.

2 Everyy needs to expedite the retirement of its  
3 Hawthorn coal plant by 2025 and all of its coal plants  
4 no later than 2030, because we have a shot at avoiding  
5 the worst impacts of our already changing climate.  
6 Thank you for hearing me today.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Igla. Are  
8 there any Commissioner questions? All right. Hearing  
9 none. The next name on our list is Mary Kay McGinty.  
10 Ms. Mary Kay McGinty.

11 MS. MCGINTY: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Yes, I can. Thank you.

13 MS. MCGINTY: Did you want my video on?

14 JUDGE HATCHER: No, ma'am. If you would like  
15 to turn it on, that's completely your choice. Do you  
16 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are  
17 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing  
18 but the truth?

19 MS. MCGINTY: I do.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And please go  
21 ahead and tell us your testimony.

22 Thereupon,

23 MARY KAY MCGINTY,  
24 having been sworn, testified as follows:

25 MS. MCGINTY: Yes. Again, my name is Mary Kay

1 McGinty. I live in Kansas City, Missouri, 4th District.  
2 I've lived here since '94. And I also would like to  
3 state that I am very concerned about the future of our  
4 environment and climate change. I am a mom who worries  
5 what my daughter will inherit, and I believe that the  
6 continued use of fossil fuels is going to continue to  
7 degrade our environment and continue to cause hardship  
8 not only for those who are most vulnerable but that will  
9 expand and more and more people will suffer.

10 Fossil fuels not only are exacerbating climate  
11 change but they harm our health, and I would like to see  
12 Evergy take their ratepayers' money and invest it in  
13 cleaner options such as clean, safe, affordable,  
14 renewable energy. I know that -- or I understand that  
15 Evergy spends about \$500 million of its customers' money  
16 to import coal, and I can only imagine what the company  
17 could do with those funds if they switched to investing  
18 in efficient renewable energy.

19 I would like to ask that the Public Service  
20 Commission disallow future investments in Evergy's coal  
21 plants and I would ask that Evergy look to retire the  
22 Hawthorn coal plant as soon as 2025 and all of its coal  
23 plants no later than 2030.

24 I appreciate so much this opportunity to speak  
25 to the Public Service Commission, and myself and my

1 family are relying on you to guide Evergy towards  
2 sustainable energy sources like wind and solar. Thank  
3 you.

4 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. McGinty. Are  
5 there any Commissioner questions for Ms. McGinty? All  
6 right. We'll move on. The last name I have on my list  
7 -- And for everyone in the audience, I will open up to  
8 anyone who did not pre-register if they decided they  
9 want to give their comments to the Commissioners today.

10 First we'll get to our last name on the list,  
11 Connie Harden. Connie Harden. Just say hello and that  
12 will bring you to the front of everyone's screen.

13 Again, if you're on the telephone, it's \*6 to unmute.  
14 Connie Harden. No response. I'll call the first name  
15 on the list. Rebecca Daugherty. Again, no response.

16 Is there anyone in the audience who would like  
17 to testify just as you've seen and give your comments to  
18 the Public Service Commissioners?

19 MR. BOSTON: Yes, I would like to do so.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Yes. Go ahead and give me  
21 your name, please.

22 MR. BOSTON: My name is Cody Boston. Can you  
23 hear me okay?

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Yes, absolutely. Mr. Boston,  
25 do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you

1 are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and  
2 nothing but the truth?

3 MR. BOSTON: I do.

4 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. Please go  
5 ahead with your comments.

6 MR. BOSTON: Thank you.

7 Thereupon:

8 CODY BOSTON,  
9 having been sworn, testified as follows:

10 MR. BOSTON: I just want to thank everyone  
11 here for the opportunity to hear my testimony. Like I  
12 said, my name is Cody Boston. I've lived in Kansas City  
13 for four years now. I was born and raised in Shawnee.  
14 Much like the previous two testimonies, I have a lot of  
15 concerns about a livable future in a climate crisis that  
16 is unmitigated and would hope the Board recognizes that  
17 utility companies like Evergy have a large role to play  
18 in preserving a livable future on this planet for folks  
19 in my generation, I'm 28, and generations to come.

20 I know personally speaking I don't plan to  
21 bring children into a world where I'm unsure that they  
22 will have a future that is livable on this planet. I  
23 have many friends who share that concern, many family  
24 members as well. Additionally, in the four years that  
25 I've spent in Kansas City, I've experienced some of the

1 hottest summers of my life, one of the most extreme  
2 winter storms we've ever had, Winter Storm Uri. Not  
3 only have these extremes resulted in massive utility  
4 bills for myself and many others. As one of the roughly  
5 46 percent of Kansas Citians who rents, I have little to  
6 no control over the conditions of my home. I have the  
7 ability for it to stay warm in the winters or cold in  
8 the summers. I spent that winter storm and those  
9 summers in a home which was unable to retain the energy  
10 I was paying a significant amount of my income to. As  
11 the case for both renters, disproportionately so for low  
12 income communities and communities of color who live in  
13 places that have homes that are not up to code and able  
14 to retain energy that they pay for. And most of these  
15 renters are subject to cooperating or trying to  
16 cooperate with landlords who could not care less.  
17 That was my experience. That's the experience of many,  
18 many people I know and love.

19 I've reported on the effects of climate  
20 change. I've had to understand a lot of the grim  
21 outcomes scientists predict for us in an unmitigated  
22 climate crisis.

23 For instance, we know that the link between  
24 greenhouse gas emissions and what climate effects we  
25 experience averages at a 30-year delay. So that means

1 that the warming that we experience today and this  
2 summer is a result of emissions created 30 years ago.  
3 So even if Evergy stopped burning coal tomorrow, we know  
4 that's not in their plans, we would still have the last  
5 30 years of emissions that they are in part responsible  
6 for to live with and continue to pay for as captive  
7 ratepayers in Kansas City.

8           The science behind climate change has been  
9 clear since the mid eighties, and the speed by which  
10 utility companies have moved to transition away from  
11 fossil fuels has not been proportional to the danger it  
12 poses.

13           Evergy has even chosen to make donations to  
14 campaigns of politicians like Josh Hawley, Roger  
15 Marshall, Ann Wagner who belong to a party that traffics  
16 for a long time in climate change denial and obstructs  
17 --

18           JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Boston, I appreciate your  
19 testimony, but can we maybe steer away from the  
20 political statements. That doesn't seem to be very on  
21 point to our discussion.

22           MR. BOSTON: Unfortunately I think it is.  
23 They curb any attempts to solve or mitigate the climate  
24 crisis through legislation at a federal level and state  
25 level. And that's where the majority of my concern



1 lies. A lot of funding and ability to combat some of  
2 these.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Sir, those concerns are going  
4 to be best taken up with those bodies. This is the  
5 Public Service Commission. It's a creature of statute.  
6 So they enforce the statutes that are on the books. So  
7 do you have some testimony directly addressing this rate  
8 case?

9 MR. BOSTON: Yes, I would just like to please  
10 ask the Board to hold Evergy responsible for the role  
11 that they've played in the current status of the climate  
12 crisis and what we know the predictions for the future  
13 -- for the near future of the climate crisis to be in  
14 that the costs associated with those and maintaining the  
15 infrastructure required to get energy and livable homes  
16 to folks in Kansas City, those costs should not be  
17 passed on to the ratepayers. That's all I have. Thank  
18 you so much.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Boston. Are  
20 there any Commission questions for Mr. Boston?

21 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Judge, this is  
22 Commissioner Holsman. I don't have a question, but I  
23 just didn't want to have us break without thanking  
24 everybody for coming and taking their time to share  
25 their thoughts and testify today. A lot of things you

1 could be doing but to take your afternoon and let us  
2 hear your opinion matters and we are listening. I just  
3 want to thank everybody who took their time. Thank you,  
4 Judge.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Absolutely. Thank you,  
6 Commissioner Holsman. I echo that as well.

7 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge, this is  
8 Commissioner Kolkmeier.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Go ahead, Commissioner  
10 Kolkmeier.

11 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, thank you. I  
12 want to echo Commissioner Holsman's statement and  
13 thoughts. We do want to thank everyone that took the  
14 time to express their opinion here today. We do take it  
15 seriously. So thank you very much.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Absolutely. Thank you, sir.  
17 We'll do one last call. Anyone that would like to  
18 testify who is on the call this afternoon? Registered  
19 or not, anyone who would like to testify, just speak up  
20 and that will bring you to the front of everyone's WebEx  
21 screen. Otherwise, we'll be closing this public  
22 hearing.

23 Again, it's \*6 if you called in on a telephone  
24 to unmute. Okay. Hearing no responses, again, I'd like  
25 to thank all of our participants and witnesses.

1 Especially I'd like to thank all of the counsel for  
2 taking their lunch hours and the Commissioners to join  
3 us at this public hearing. If you did have comments and  
4 didn't want to make them here or you know of someone who  
5 would like to make comments, they can still make  
6 comments in this case, written comments, by going to the  
7 PSC's web page that is [psc.mo.gov](http://psc.mo.gov), and up in the upper  
8 right-hand corner is a link that will take you to  
9 offering comments on a case, and just make sure to put  
10 down the file number for Evergy Missouri Metro that  
11 again is ER-2022-0129, and for Evergy Missouri West that  
12 is ER-2022-0130.

13 If you have any questions for the Office of  
14 the Public Counsel, please send those to them. Their  
15 email address is [mopco@opc.mo.gov](mailto:mopco@opc.mo.gov). Again, I want to  
16 thank you all for coming to our WebEx hearing and  
17 participating. We are off the record. This hearing is  
18 now adjourned.

19 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 12:46  
20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI )  
COUNTY OF COLE )

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission local public hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 18, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

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

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2022.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640