Exhibit No.:Issue:Fuel Adjustment ClauseWitness:Lisa A. StarkebaumType of Exhibit:Direct TestimonySponsoring Party:Evergy Missouri WestCase No.:ER-2023-0011Date Testimony Prepared:July 1, 2022

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: ER-2023-0011

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LISA A. STARKEBAUM

ON BEHALF OF

EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC. d/b/a EVERGY MISSOURI WEST

Kansas City, Missouri July 2022

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Evergy Missouri West for Authority to Implement Rate Adjustments Required by 20 CSR 4240-20.090(8) and the Company's Approved Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Recovery Mechanism

Case No. ER-2023-0011

AFFIDAVIT OF LISA A. STARKEBAUM

STATE OF MISSOURI)) ss **COUNTY OF JACKSON**)

Lisa A. Starkebaum, being first duly sworn on her oath, states:

1. My name is Lisa A. Starkebaum. I work in Kansas City, Missouri, and I am employed by Evergy as Manager, Regulatory Affairs.

2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Direct Testimony on behalf of Evergy consisting of fifteen (15) pages, having been prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in the above-captioned docket.

3. I have knowledge of the matters set forth therein. I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached testimony to the questions therein propounded, including any attachments thereto, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Lisa G. Starkebaum

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of July 2022.

Notary Public

My Commission expires:

4/24/2025

ANTHONY R. WESTENKIRCHNER SOUR 26. 2025 COMMISSION #17279952

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LISA A. STARKEBAUM

Case No. ER-2023-0011

- 1 **Q**: Please state your name and business address. 2 A: My name is Lisa A. Starkebaum. My business address is 1200 Main, Kansas City, 3 Missouri 64105. 4 By whom and in what capacity are you employed? **Q**: 5 A: I am employed by Evergy Metro, Inc. as Manager, Regulatory Affairs for Evergy 6 Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro ("EMM"), Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West ("EMW"), Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Kansas 7 8 Metro ("Evergy Kansas Metro"), and Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy 9 South, Inc., collectively d/b/a Evergy Kansas Central ("Evergy Kansas Central"). 10 These are the operating utilities of Evergy, Inc. 11 **Q**: On whose behalf are you testifying? 12 A: I am testifying on behalf of EMW. 13 **Q**: What are your responsibilities? 14 My responsibilities include the coordination, preparation and review of financial A: 15 information and schedules associated with the Evergy, Inc.'s compliance and rider 16 mechanism filings including: Evergy Kansas Central, Evergy Kansas Metro, 17 Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West.
- 18 Q: Please describe your education.

A: In 1994, I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from Northwest
 Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

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Q: Please provide your work experience.

4 A: In 1995, I joined Cerner Corporation as an Accountant in the Finance Department 5 assisting with month-end close and reporting responsibilities. In 1997, I joined 6 Aquila, Inc. ("Aquila") where I worked in the Financial and Regulatory Reporting 7 group as an Accountant, until joining Regulatory Accounting Services as a 8 Regulatory Analyst in 1999. I was employed by Aquila for a total of 11 years prior 9 to beginning my employment with KCP&L in July 2008 as a part of the acquisition 10 of Aquila, Inc., by Great Plains Energy Incorporated. Since that time, I have held 11 various positions with increasing responsibilities within Regulatory Accounting 12 Services and Regulatory Affairs. As a Lead Analyst in the Regulatory Affairs 13 department, my main areas of responsibility included the preparation of FERC and 14 jurisdictional reporting, and the preparation of rate cases and rate case support for 15 both KCP&L and GMO. In December 2015, I became a Supervisor, Regulatory 16 Affairs responsible for overseeing a team dedicated to compliance reporting and 17 was later promoted to Manager, Regulatory Affairs effective June 2018. In my 18 current position, I am responsible for overseeing various reporting requirements to 19 ensure Evergy is compliant with its jurisdictional rules and regulations, in addition 20 to the implementation of new reporting or commitments resulting from various rate 21 case orders and other regulatory filings. In addition, I oversee the coordination, 22 review and filing of the various rider mechanisms.

Q: Have you previously testified in a proceeding before the Missouri Public
 Service Commission ("MPSC" or "Commission") or before any other utility
 regulatory agency?

- 4 A: Yes, I have testified before the MPSC, the Kansas Corporation Commission
 5 ("KCC" or "Commission") and have provided written testimony before the Public
 6 Utilities Commission of Colorado. I have sponsored testimony in Missouri related
 7 to various tariff filings involving rider mechanisms. In addition, I have worked
 8 closely with both MPSC and KCC Staff on numerous filings and rate case matters.
- 9

Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?

10 The purpose of my testimony is to support the Fuel Adjustment Clause ("FAC") A: 11 that has been filed by Evergy Missouri West ("Company"). This FAC tariff filing 12 consists of actual fuel and purchased power costs, net of off-system sales revenues 13 incurred by the Company and an updated adjustment for "extraordinary costs" 14 incurred as a result of the mid-February 2021 cold weather event known as Winter 15 Storm Uri. My testimony supports the rate schedule filed to adjust rates for the 16 adjusted FAC includable costs experienced during the six-month period December 17 2021 through May 2022. This six-month period represents the 30th accumulation 18 period under Evergy Missouri West's FAC, which was originally approved by the 19 Commission in Case No. ER-2007-0004 ("2007 Case") and modified in Case Nos. 20 ER-2009-0090, ER-2010-0356 ("2010 Case"), ER-2012-0175 ("2012 Case"), ER-21 2016-0156 ("2016 Case"), and ER-2018-0146 ("2018 Case"). After deferring \$31 22 million to the PISA regulatory asset deferral account for consideration in a 23 subsequent general rate case, the basis for which deferral is discussed in greater detail by Mr. Darrin Ives, the proposed FAC charge for residential customers is
\$0.00737 per kWh. Based on usage of 1,000 kWh per month, the customer will see
a monthly charge of \$7.37. This represents an increase of \$0.87 to an Evergy
Missouri West residential customer's monthly bill compared to the prior FAC.

5 6 **O**:

Please explain why Evergy Missouri West filed the FAC adjustment rate schedules at this time.

7 A: The Commission's rule governing fuel and purchased power cost recovery 8 mechanisms for electric utilities - specifically 20 CSR 4240-20.090(8)(A) -9 requires Evergy Missouri West to make periodic filings to allow the Commission 10 to review the actual net FAC includable costs the Company has incurred and to 11 allow rates to be adjusted, either up or down, to reflect those actual costs. The 12 Commission's rule requires at least one such review and adjustment each year. 13 Evergy Missouri West's approved FAC calls for two annual filings - one filing 14 covering the six-month accumulation period running from June through November 15 and another filing covering the accumulation period running from December 16 through May. Any increases or decreases in rates in these filings are then included 17 in the customers' bills over a subsequent 12-month recovery period.

For the 30th accumulation period covering December 2021 through May 2022,
Evergy Missouri West's "adjusted" actual FAC includable costs exceeded the base
energy costs included in base rates by approximately \$46 million. In accordance
with the Commission's rule and the Company's approved FAC, Evergy Missouri
West has calculated the FAC tariff that provides for a change in rates to recover

95% of those cost changes, or approximately \$43.7 million plus \$562k in interest. These amounts are before true-up or any other adjustments.

3 In addition, a true-up filing is being made concurrent with this filing 4 covering the 27th accumulation period of June 2020 through November 2020 and 5 its corresponding recovery period of March 2021 through February 2022. The 6 proposed 27th accumulation period true-up amount is an under-recovery of 7 \$522,660. Also included in this true-up filing is an ordered adjustment, or refund, 8 of (\$160,892) plus (\$10,613) in interest related to Missouri West's ninth FAC 9 prudence review, Case No. EO-2020-0262. These amounts combined result in a 10 total under-recovered true-up amount of \$351,155.

Finally, the Company is proposing to defer \$31 million of the total \$44.6 million Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment ("FPA") experienced during this 30th accumulation period to a PISA regulatory asset account for recovery in a subsequent general rate case which is discussed later in testimony.

In summary, all of these amounts combined result in a proposed FPA of
approximately \$13.6 million. The tariff being submitted with this filing reflects
recovery of the \$13.6 million of FAC-related costs in the fuel adjustment rate
effective September 1. 2022, after removal of the PISA deferral amount.

19 Q: What are some of the drivers impacting this 30th accumulation period?

A: Evergy Missouri West's Actual Net Energy Costs ("ANEC"), less the \$3.2 million
in SPP resettlements of February 2021 related to Winter Storm Uri, exceeds the
base energy costs included in base rates by approximately \$46 million.

1	When compared to the prior 29 th accumulation period, the ANEC are \$11.7
2	million lower in the 30 th accumulation period than the previous 29 th accumulation
3	period. This is due to a \$9.1 million, or 7%, decrease in purchased power expense
4	and lower fuel costs of \$10.7 million, or 8%, driven by 41% less generation
5	including the sale of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs"). The 30 th accumulation
6	period of December through May typically has lower retail load requirements than
7	the previous 29th accumulation period of June through November. In December
8	2021, weather was warmer than normal by 305 heating degree days, resulting in a
9	7% decrease in demand. However, this decrease in demand was offset by higher
10	natural gas prices. For December 2021 through May 2022, the published NYMEX
11	natural gas contract settlement price averaged \$5.48, which is 22% higher than the
12	\$4.51 averaged in June through November 2021. Lastly, the Company experienced
13	a decrease in off-system sales revenues of \$7.8 million, or 70%, compared to the
14	prior 29 th accumulation period.
15	It is worth noting that even though ANEC is lower in the 30 th accumulation
16	period than in the 29 th accumulation period, both of these periods are higher than
17	historical ANEC. When compared to same season or the 28th accumulation period
18	of December 2020 through May 2021, the 30 th accumulation period ANEC is \$40.5
19	million higher than the 28th accumulation period primarily due to a \$37.3 million,
20	or 44% increase in purchased power expense driven by higher natural gas prices.
21	For December 2021 through May 2022, the published NYMEX natural gas contract
22	settlement price averaged \$5.48, which is 99% higher than the \$2.75 averaged in
23	December 2020 through May 2021.

1	Q:	Are there adjustments to this filing that require further explanation?
2	A:	Yes, the following testimony provides further clarification around three separate
3		issues:
4		1. Removal of Winter Storm Uri costs due to SPP resettlements during this
5		AP;
6		2. the Ordered Adjustment from Missouri West's Ninth FAC Prudence
7		Review in Case No. EO-2020-0262; and
8		3. Deferral of \$31 million of the FPA to the PISA regulatory asset account
9	Q:	Please explain the updated adjustment to February 2021 actual costs incurred
10		as a result of Winter Storm Uri.
11	A:	The Company expected adjustments to the previously reported impact of Winter
12		Storm Uri due to resettlements of both costs and revenues from the Southwest
13		Power Pool ("SPP"). As explained in the Company's last FAR filing, in order to
14		identify the extraordinary costs associated with Winter Storm Uri, Evergy Missouri
15		West established a baseline to approximate the normal conditions for the month of
16		February 2021. In order to approximate more historic normal conditions in the
17		month of February, the Company calculated a three-year average baseline using
18		actual February costs for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for fuel, purchased power
19		costs, emissions, transmission expense and off-system sales revenues and
20		compared the actual costs and revenues that were incurred for February 2021 to
21		that three-year average. When compared to the three-year historic average for the
22		month of February, with costs and revenues updated through February 2022
23		resulting from SPP resettlements, Evergy Missouri West incurred approximately

	\$296.6 million of extraordinary costs in excess of the three-year average. This
	amounts to a \$3.2 million increase from the \$293.4 million identified and excluded
	from the previous 29th accumulation period, Case No. ER-2022-0174, which was
	requested for deferral treatment through an AAO in Case No. EU-2021-0283 and
	for which costs are being sought recovery through a securitization filing in Case
	No. EF-2022-0155. This \$3.2 million increase in Winter Storm Uri costs has been
	excluded in the current 30 th accumulation period FAR calculation as this activity
	flowed through the general ledger in December 2021 and February 2022. These
	adjustments are detailed in the workpaper support that accompanies this filing.
Q:	Is this the final adjustment to February 2021 actual costs incurred as a result
	of Winter Storm Uri?
A:	Yes, the Company does not expect any additional resettlements from SPP. Future
	adjustments due to Winter Storm Uri would be the result of a FERC order.
Q:	Please explain the Ordered Adjustment included in this filing.
A:	The Company is refunding the amount of \$160,892 plus interest of \$10,613 as
	ordered in its ninth FAC prudence review, Case No. EO-2020-0262, where the
	Commission found that Evergy acted imprudently by not calling more
	programmable thermostat and DRI curtailment events. The Commission's Report
	and Order was issued on May 4, 2022 with an effective date of June 3, 2022. The
	Order states "the Commission finds that due to Evergy's imprudent decision not to
	utilize its demand response programs to save energy costs for its customers, those
	customers paid more for energy than they should have during the FAC prudence
	A: Q:

1		review period of June 2018 through November 2019." The additional interest
2		calculation of \$10,613 is provided in the workpaper support.
3	Q:	Please explain the proposed \$31 million deferral from the FPA included in this
4		filing.
5	A:	The Company is proposing deferral treatment of \$31 million from recovery through
6		the Fuel Adjustment Rate ("FAR") for consideration in a subsequent general rate
7		proceeding.
8	Q:	What is the full amount of FAC-related costs incurred by Evergy Missouri
9		West during this accumulation period?
10	A:	As mentioned previously, the total FPA for this 30 th accumulation period is
11		approximately \$44.6 million.
12	Q:	Please explain the implication of including the full amount of these costs in a
13		fuel adjustment rate effective September 1, 2022, in regards to the PISA rate
14		caps under section 393.1655?
15	A:	As shown in the testimony of Mr. Ives, including \$44.6 million in the fuel
16		adjustment rate now would cause the overall rate increase resulting from the
17		impending Evergy Missouri West general rate proceeding in Case No. ER-2022-
18		0130 to exceed the 3 percent Compound Annual Growth Rate ("CAGR") cap under
19		section 393.1655.5.
20		Therefore, as discussed in greater detail by Mr. Ives, Evergy Missouri West
21		proposes to include \$13.6 million of FAC-related costs in the fuel adjustment rate
22		effective September 1, 2022, and defer the balance of approximately \$31 million
23		for further treatment in a subsequent general rate proceeding as appropriate.

1 Q: Is there anything else worth noting for this semi-annual FAC filing that2 should be mentioned?

3 A: Yes. There are a couple of items to note.

First, the supporting documentation provided in Tabs 8(A)2.A (I-V) reflects
the actual costs incurred by the Company and have not been adjusted for Winter
Storm Uri. Tab 8(A)2.A(XI) shows Winter Storm Uri extraordinary costs not to be
passed through as adjusted in December 2021 and February 2022.

8 Second, the Company performed the plant in service accounting ("PISA") 9 calculations to determine the impact, if any, on the Average Overall Rate and Class 10 Average Overall Rate for the Large Power customer class as set forth in the section 11 393.1655 RSMo, rate cap limitations. The compound annual growth rate 12 ("CAGR") cap provisions of section 393.1655 RSMo. applied to this FAR filing 13 are 11.6887% for the average overall rate cap and 7.6850% for the class average 14 overall rate cap for Large Power customers. After utilizing the deferral provisions 15 set forth in RSMo 393.1655.5, the FAC charge proposed in this filing does not 16 exceed the average overall rate by more than 11.6887%. In addition, the Company 17 is using projected Large Power sales to calculate a Large Power FAC rate. In 18 accordance with section 393.1655.6 RSMo., the proposed FAC charge applicable 19 to Large Power customers does not exceed 7.6850% of the class average overall 20 rate for this rate class. Therefore, there are no PISA adjustments in this FAR filing. 21 How did you develop the various values used to derive the proposed FARs that **Q**: 22 are shown on Schedule LAS-1?

- A: The proposed tariff rates are shown in Schedule LAS-1. The filing made in
 conjunction with this testimony contains all the information as set in 20 CSR 424020.090(8)(2)(A) which supports these proposed rates. In addition, I am submitting
 a copy of the workpapers that support the determination of the current FAR.
- 5 Q: Please describe the impact of the change in costs and how it will affect a typical
 6 customer.
- 7 A: The proposed current period FARs for Evergy Missouri West Large Power and
- 8

8 Non-Large Power customers by voltage level is shown below:

Proposed Current Period FARs			
Voltage			
Secondary	\$0.00164		
Primary	\$0.00161		
Substation	\$0.00159		
Transmission	\$0.00159		

This is the difference between base FAC includable costs and the proposed costs
 incurred by the Company including interest during the 30th accumulation period of
 December 2021 through May 2022 and will be billed over the recovery period
 running from September 2022 through August 2023.

14 The proposed FAR was calculated in the manner specified in the 15 Company's FAC tariff. Attached to my testimony, as Schedule LAS-1, is a copy 16 of the tariff sheet with the current FAR, the prior period FAR and the total FAR 17 that will be billed to customers over the recovery period. The FAR calculated for 18 the 28th accumulation period has been removed as its recovery period will cease in 19 August 2022. The FAR for the 29th accumulation period is added to the FAR for 20 the current 30th accumulation period to provide the annual FAR. Thus, given the proposed current FAR calculations, the annual FAR for Evergy Missouri West
 Large Power and Non-Large Power customers is shown in the table below:

		ER-2022-0174	
Voltage	Proposed 7th Revised Sheet No. 127.23	Now Effective 6th Revised Sheet No. 127.23	Impact
Secondary	\$0.00737	\$0.00650	\$0.00087
Primary	\$0.00726	\$0.00641	\$0.00085
Substation	\$0.00716	\$0.00632	\$0.00084
Transmission	\$0.00715	\$0.00631	\$0.00084

As stated earlier, based on usage of 1,000 kWh per month, this will result in a
monthly FAC charge of \$7.37, an increase to an Evergy Missouri West residential
customer's bill of \$0.87 per month compared to the prior FAC.

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7 Q: If the rate schedules filed by Evergy Missouri West are approved or allowed
8 to go into effect, what safeguards exist to ensure that the revenues the
9 Company bills to its customers do not exceed the fuel and purchased power
10 costs that Evergy Missouri West actually incurred during the Accumulation
11 Period?

12 A: Evergy Missouri West's FAC and the Commission's rules provide two mechanisms 13 to ensure that amounts billed to customers do not exceed the Company's actual, 14 prudently incurred fuel and purchased power costs. First, at the end of each 15 recovery period the Company is required to true up the amounts billed to customers 16 through the FAR with the excess fuel and purchased power costs that were actually 17 incurred during the accumulation period to which the FAR applies. Second, the 18 Company's fuel and purchased power costs are subject to periodic prudence 19 reviews to ensure that only prudently incurred fuel and purchased power costs are

billed to customers through Evergy Missouri West's FAC. These two mechanisms
serve as checks to ensure that the Company's customers pay only the prudently
incurred, actual costs of fuel and purchased power used to provide electric service.

Have each of these mechanisms been in effect throughout the FAC process

4 5 **Q**:

since its inception in the 2007 Case?

6 A: Yes, Evergy Missouri West is currently in its tenth prudence review, Case No. EO7 2022-0065.

8 On May 4, 2022, in the Company's ninth prudence review, Case No. EO-9 2020-0262, the Commission issued its Report and Order finding Evergy was 10 imprudent by not utilizing demand response programs to reduce energy costs for 11 its customers during the review period of June 2018 through November 2019. 12 Therefore, the Company is refunding the amount of \$160,892 plus interest of \$10,613 in this FAR filing for the 30th accumulation period. Also in the ninth 13 14 prudence review, on January 20, 2021 an Ordered Adjustment for Sibley retirement 15 costs was stipulated by parties amounting to \$1,039,646, or \$984,898 Missouri 16 jurisdictional with 95% sharing applied. Based on the agreement by parties, rather 17 than recovering this amount through the FAC, the Company recorded the 18 \$1,039,646 in retirement costs to the Sibley AAO account for consideration in the 19 upcoming 2022 general rate case, Case No. ER-2022-0130, and refunded the amount of \$984,898 plus interest of \$53,550 in the 28th accumulation period FAR 20 21 filing, Case No. ER-2022-0005.

In all previous prudence reviews, the MPSC Staff indicated in each of theirreports that there were no areas of imprudence identified within the audits with the

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exception of Staff's recommendation in the Company's third prudence review
which was taken before the Commission. However, following the Commission's
review, the Commission issued its order stating no indication of imprudence by the
Company.

5 In addition, the Company has made 26 true-up filings, all of which were 6 approved by the MPSC. The 27th true-up filing is being made concurrent with this 7 filing covering the 27th accumulation period of June 2020 through November 2020 8 and its corresponding recovery period of March 2021 through February 2022. The 9 Company's calculation of the proposed true-up resulting in an under-recovery for 10 Evergy Missouri West has been included in the calculation of the current proposed 11 tariff change.

12 Q: What action is Evergy Missouri West requesting from the Commission with
13 respect to the rate schedules that the Company has filed?

14 A: The Company requests the Commission approve the rate schedule to be effective15 as of September 1, 2022.

- 16 Q: Does this conclude your testimony?
- 17 A: Yes, it does.

Р.\$	S.C. MO. No	1	7th	Revised Shee	et No	127.23
nceling P.S	S.C. MO. No	1	6th	Revised Shee	et No	127.23
-				Fo	r Miss	ouri Retail Serv
		FUEL ADJU	STMENT CLAUS	E – Rider FAC		
				R ADJUSTMENT C	-	
				er 6, 2018 and Thei 2022 through Febr		
	Ellective for	the billing worr	ins of deptember		uary 20	,23)
Accu	Imulation Period Er	nding: May	2022			
1	Actual Net Energy	/ Cost (ANEC) =	(FC+E+PP+TC-O	SSR-R)		\$142,587,458
2	Net Base Energy	Cost (B)			-	\$96,513,978
	2.1 Base Fact	or (BF)				\$0.02240
	2.2 Accumula	tion Period NSI	(S _{AP})			4,308,659,751
3	(ANEC-B)					\$46,073,480
4	Jurisdictional Fac	tor (J)			х	99,81828%
5	(ANEC-B)*J					\$45,989,755
6	Customer Respor	nsibility			х	95%
7	95% *((ANEC-B)*	J)				\$43,690,267
8	True-Up Amount				+	\$522,660
9	Interest (I)	()			+	\$551,984
10	Prudence Adjustn	nent Amount (P)		+	(\$160,892)
11	Fuel and Purchas				=	\$44,604,020
		ferral (Sec. 393	. ,			(\$31,000,000)
		ject to Recover	,			\$13,604,020
12	Estimated Recove	,			÷	8,659,609,098
13	Current Period Fu		. ,		=	\$0.00157
						Q
14	Current Period FA	AR _{Sec} = FAR x V	AFsec			\$0.00164
15	Prior Period FAR				+	\$0.00573
16	Current Annual F	ARsec			=	\$0.00737
17	Current Period FA		/AF _{Prim}			\$0.00161
18	Prior Period FAR				+	\$0.00565
19	Current Annual F	AR _{Prim}			=	\$0.00726
20	Current Period FA					\$0.00159
20	Prior Period FAR		ArSub		+	\$0.00159
22	Current Annual F				=	\$0.00716
						<u> </u>
23 24	Current Period FA		VAFTrans		-	\$0.00159
24	Prior Period FAR				+ =	\$0.00556 \$0.00715
26	$VAF_{Sec} = 1.04$					
27	$VAF_{Prim} = 1.02$					
28 29	$VAF_{Sub} = 1.0^{\circ}$ $VAF_{Trans} = 1.0^{\circ}$					

*In accordance with Section 393.1655.5, the Current Period Fuel Adjustment Rate (FAR) is calculated by limiting the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment (FPA) to 3% per annum for all rate classes beginning December 6, 2018. For this filing, the FPA has been reduced by \$31M and deferred to a regulatory asset account for recovery per Section 393.1400.