

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 19th day of January, 2022.

In the Matter of Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a)	
Evergy Missouri Metro's Request for)	<u>File No. ER-2022-0129</u>
Authority to Implement a General Rate)	Tracking Nos. YE-2022-0200
Increase for Electric Service)	and YE-2022-0201

**ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF, GIVING NOTICE OF CONTESTED
CASE STATUS, DELEGATING AUTHORITY, AND SCHEDULING AN
EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

Issue Date: January 19, 2022

Effective Date: January 19, 2022

Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro submitted tariff sheets on January 7, 2022, to produce a net increase in its electric base rates of approximately \$43.9 million, an increase of 5.20%. The proposed tariff sheets have an effective date of February 6, 2022.

A. Suspension of Tariff

Section 393.150 RSMo (2016), authorizes the Commission to suspend the effective date of proposed tariff sheets for 120 days, plus an additional six months to allow for a hearing. To provide sufficient time to determine if Evergy Missouri Metro's proposed tariff sheets are just and reasonable,¹ the Commission will suspend the tariff sheets for 120 days beyond their effective date. The Commission's experience demonstrates that a full hearing cannot be concluded within 120 days, so the Commission will suspend the tariff sheets for an additional six months.²

¹ Section 393.140(5) RSMo. Unless otherwise noted, all statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri as codified in 2016.

² Section 393.150.2 RSMo.

B. Notice of Contested Case

Suspension of the tariff may occur only pending a “full” hearing and decision on the tariff’s propriety.³ The provision for a full pre-decision hearing signifies that this action is now a “contested case.”⁴ A contested case is a formal hearing procedure, but it allows for waiver of procedural formalities and a decision without a hearing,⁵ including by stipulation and agreement.⁶ This order and notice does not require any party to file an answer. The Commission’s discovery regulations may be found at 20 CSR 4240-2.090.

C. Delegation as to Discovery

The Commission may delegate any adjudicative authority to the regulatory law judge assigned to this action.⁷ To ensure that all discovery disputes are ruled upon expeditiously, the Commission will delegate its authority to the regulatory law judge assigned to this action to rule on discovery disputes raised at the discovery conferences and to rule on all motions to compel discovery. The Commission will set forth further provisions for discovery by separate order when setting a full procedural schedule.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The proposed tariff sheets, filed under Tracking Nos. YE-2022-0200 and YE-2022-0201, by Evergy Missouri Metro, are suspended for 120 days from February 6, 2022, to June 6, 2022, plus six months thereafter, until December 6, 2022.
2. The regulatory law judge assigned to this action shall have full authority to rule on any discovery dispute, including any motion to compel, and may make any such ruling at a discovery conference.

³ Section 393.150.1 RSMo.

⁴ Section 536.010(4) RSMo.

⁵ Section 536.060 RSMo.

⁶ 20 CSR 4240-2.115.

⁷ Section 386.240 RSMo.

3. The evidentiary hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 29 through September 16, 2022.

4. The evidentiary hearing shall be held at the Commission's office at the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, and will begin each day at 9:00 a.m. This building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in the evidentiary hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

5. Each conference and local public hearing shall be held via WebEx teleconference.⁸ If any person needs an accommodation to participate in any conference or local public hearing, please call the Missouri Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711.

6. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman, and
Kolkmeier CC., concur.

Hatcher, Regulatory Law Judge

⁸ As the impact of COVID-19 during the hearing process is unknown, hearings may be changed to in-person by request of the parties or by the Commission on its own motion.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 19th day of January, 2022.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 19, 2022

File/Case No. ER-2022-0129

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.