BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Barbara Edwards,

Complainant

v.

Evergy Missouri West, Inc., d/b/a Evergy Missouri West,

Respondent

ORDER CONTINUING HEARING AND SETTING PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

Issue Date: July 7, 2020

Effective Date: July 7, 2020

File No. EC-2020-0252

On May 19, 2020, the Commission held a prehearing conference in this matter. On May 29, 2020, the parties submitted a *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule*. The parties' proposed schedule requested an in-person hearing and asked that if the Commission determines an in-person hearing is not feasible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission postpone the hearing until an in-person hearing can be conducted. The Commission issued a procedural schedule on June 8, 2020, and set a hearing date of July 17, 2020, with the hearing to be conducted at the Fletcher Daniels State Office Building in Kansas City, which is located in Jackson County.

Conditions in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic remain uncertain. Jackson County recently adopted a mask ordinance.¹ Jackson County's municipal court has continued its July 8, 2020 docket to September 2020.² The 16th Circuit Court of Jackson County,

¹ <u>https://www.jacksongov.org/1209/10571/Face-Covering-Requirement</u> (accessed July 7, 2020).

² <u>https://www.jacksongov.org/438/County-Municipal-Court</u> (accessed July 7, 2020).

Missouri, requires all members of the public, including parties to cases and their lawyers, to wear masks in the courthouse and continues to hold some hearings by remote means.³ Under these circumstances, the hearing scheduled for July 17, 2020, will be continued.

The Commission will suspend the procedural schedule and set a prehearing conference to discuss the possibility of conducting an evidentiary hearing in this case by telephone or other remote means. The conference will be conducted by telephone.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The procedural schedule is suspended.

2. The parties shall appear at a prehearing conference at 10:30 a.m. July 17, 2020. Failure to appear at the conference without being excused may result in dismissal of the complaint and/or dismissal of a party, as permitted by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090(5).

3. The prehearing conference will be conducted by telephone conference call, also accessible by WebEx. Those who wish to participate in the prehearing conference by telephone may dial, toll-free, 1 (855) 718-6621 and enter access code **133 602 4073**, followed by **#**, at the time of the conference. Any party who is unable to connect via the toll-free number may dial 1 (650) 479-3207 and enter the access code above, followed by **#**, at the time of the conference.

- 4. In addition, the WebEx link will be distributed by email to all parties.
- 5. This order shall be effective when issued.

³ <u>https://www.16thcircuit.org/covid-19-information</u> (accessed July 7, 2020).

BY THE COMMISSION



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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Jana C. Jacobs, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo (2016).

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 7th day of July, 2020.