

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 30th day of September, 2020.

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas City)
Power & Light Company for Authority to Extend)
The Transfer of Functional Control of Certain) **File No. EO-2012-0135 et al.**
Transmission Assets to the Southwest Power)
Pool, Inc.)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO MODIFY STIPULATION AND
AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Issue Date: September 30, 2020

Effective Date: October 30, 2020

On June 30, 2020, Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro (Evergy Missouri Metro), Evergy Missouri West Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West (Evergy Missouri West), the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Public Counsel, and Dogwood Energy, LLC, jointly filed a motion to modify the requirements in the May 16, 2013 stipulation and agreement¹ approved in this case.² Specifically, the Movants ask the Commission to modify the stipulation and agreement to: 1) relieve Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West of the obligation to file pleadings regarding continued participation in a regional transmission organization or its operation under an independent coordinator of transmission no later than June 30, 2020; 2) extend the “interim and conditional” approval described in Section IIA(1) of the May 16, 2013 Stipulations until

¹ The Commission approved the May 16, 2013 stipulation and agreement on June 19, 2013.

² The Movants also filed their motion in File No. EO-2012-0136. That file was consolidated into this file so it is not necessary to make a separate filing, or issue a separate order, in File No. EO-2012-0136.

September 30, 2024, while extending all associated Interim Period dates described in Section II (and subsections of Section II) of the May 16, 2013 Stipulations for an identical three-year period; and 3) designate the 2017 Interim Reports described in Section II of the May 16, 2013 Stipulations as 2023 Interim Reports with attendant activities and dates. The motion includes information about the benefits and costs of Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West continuing to participate in the Southwest Power Pool, which the Commission ordered the companies to provide in an October 30, 2019 order.

The Commission ordered that any party wishing to respond to the motion to modify do so by July 10, 2020. No responses were filed.

After considering the proposed modification to the May 16, 2013 stipulation and agreement, the Commission finds that the modification is reasonable. The Commission will grant the unopposed motion. However, while the procedural requirements of this particular case need to be modified, the Commission is concerned that the matters at issue in this case have once again been pushed off into the future without being addressed.

The Commission believes there are benefits resulting from Missouri's investor-owned electric utilities maintaining membership in an RTO. It is less clear that the long-term benefits of RTO membership exceed the long-term costs and commitments of RTO membership, especially given that the structure, services, and membership of both Southwest Power Pool and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) continue to change significantly with the passage of time. To determine whether continued membership in an RTO is in the ratepayers' best interest, the Commission must inquire into the nature of the benefits of RTO membership, the monetized value of those

benefits, and what time horizons should be employed to compare asset lives (costs) to the values of benefits streams. To undertake an examination of those factors, the Commission will order each Missouri investor-owned electric utility to take part in a workshop to determine 1) the kind of information needed to respond to the Commission's current and previous orders on RTO membership; 2) whether such information is reasonably and economically available, and if not, what kind of information could be used as a proxy to control costs and expeditiously respond to the Commission; 3) the cost of gathering, analyzing, and interpreting such information; and 4) whether there are any identifiable "deal breaker" events or categories of events that would make it unreasonable for a Missouri investor-owned utility to remain in an RTO. The Commission will establish these workshops by separate orders to be issued in new files.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The *Joint Motion of Evergy Missouri Metro, Evergy Missouri West, Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Office of the Public Counsel, and Dogwood Energy, LLC to Modify Stipulations* is granted.

2. Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West are relieved of the obligation to file pleadings regarding continued participation in a regional transmission organization or its operation under an independent coordinator of transmission no later than June 30, 2020. This does not relieve Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West of any other established filing obligation.

3. The "interim and conditional" approval described in Section IIA(1) of the May 16, 2013 Stipulations is extended until September 30, 2024, and all associated Interim

Period dates described in Section II (and subsections of Section II) of the May 16, 2013 Stipulations are extended for an identical three-year period.

4. The 2017 Interim Reports described in Section II of the May 16, 2013 Stipulations are designated as 2023 Interim Reports with attendant activities and dates.

5. This order shall become effective on October 30, 2020.

6. This case may be closed on October 31, 2020.



BY THE COMMISSION

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

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

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

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge