

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro) File No. EF-2023-0425
For Authority to Issue Debt Securities.)

**EVERGY MISSOURI METRO’S APPLICATION TO ISSUE DEBT SECURITIES
AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro (“Evergy Missouri Metro” or “Applicant” or “Company”), pursuant to Sections 393.180, 393.190 and 393.200, RSMo. 2000, 20 CSR 4240-10.125, 20 CSR 4240-2.060, and 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D), respectfully requests authority from the Missouri Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) to refinance existing Environmental Improvements Revenue Refunding Bonds (“EIRR Bonds”). In support thereof, Applicant states as follows:

I. APPLICATION

1. Applicant is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Missouri, with its principal office and place of business at 1200 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105. The Company is primarily engaged in the business of generating, transmitting, distributing, and selling electric energy in portions of eastern Kansas and western Missouri. The Company is an electric corporation and public utility as defined in Section 386.020 Mo. Rev. Stat. (2000), as amended. A Certificate of Good Standing was filed with the Commission in Case No. EN-2020-0063 and is incorporated herein by reference in accordance with 20 CSR 4240-2.060(1)(G). Applicant is an electric corporation and public utility as defined in Section 386.020, Mo. Rev. Stat. (2010), as amended.¹

¹ All statutory references are to the Missouri Revised Statutes (2010), as amended to date.

2. Applicant holds Certificates of Convenience and Necessity from the Commission to transact business as an electric public utility in certain areas of the State of Missouri. In addition, Applicant has heretofore filed with this Commission a certified copy of the Articles of Consolidation under which it was organized and of all amendments thereto.

3. In addition to undersigned counsel, communications in regard to this matter should be addressed to:

Anthony R. Westenkirchner
Senior Paralegal – Regulatory Affairs
Eversource Energy, Inc.
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4. Applicant has no pending action or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court that involves customer service or rates, which has occurred within three years of the date of this Application except for: *Timothy Allegri v. Eversource Missouri Metro*, File No. EC-2024-0015.

5. The status of Applicant’s Capital Stock outstanding at June 30, 2023, under its Articles of Consolidation, as amended, was as follows:

<u>Class of Stock</u>	<u>Number of Par Value Shares Authorized</u>	<u>Par Value</u>	<u>Number of Shares Without Par Value Authorized</u>	<u>Number of Shares Outstanding</u>
Common Stock	--	--	1,000	1

6. As of June 30, 2023, Applicant’s long-term indebtedness was \$2,925 million, represented by (i) \$1,600.0 million of collateralized Senior Secured Notes less \$12.5 million of unamortized discounts and issuance costs; (ii) \$1,168.7 million of General Mortgage Bonds (consisting of \$79.5 million of collateralized tax-exempt EIRR Bonds less \$0.0 million in unamortized discounts and issuance costs plus \$1,100.0 million of taxable General Mortgage

Bonds less \$10.8 million of unamortized discounts and issuance costs); and (iii) \$169.9 million of Environmental Improvement Revenue Refunding bonds less \$1.1 million of unamortized discounts and issuance costs.

7. Applicant had \$436.5 million of short-term indebtedness outstanding on June 30, 2023 (consisting of \$311.5 million of commercial paper and \$125.0 million of collateralized notes payable related to an accounts receivable securitization program).

8. Applicant seeks Commission financing authorization in order to refinance existing collateralized tax-exempt EIRR Bonds. The Company intends to refinance \$79,480,000 of EIRR Bonds scheduled to mature on December 1, 2023. The original proceeds of the bonds were used to finance the design, purchase and installation of certain air and water pollution control facilities at the Wolf Creek generating station. The pollution control facilities were initially financed with bond proceeds from the City of Burlington, Kansas, in 1983. The original bonds were subsequently refunded with EIRR Bonds Series 1993A and 1993B refunding bonds (collectively, the "Series 1993 Bonds"). The Series 1993 Bonds consist of \$40,000,000 of 1993A Burlington EIRR Bonds 2.95% due December 1, 2023, and \$39,480,000 of 1993B Burlington EIRR Bonds 2.95% due December 1, 2023.

9. Applicant intends to refinance the Series 1993 Bonds through the issuance of Series 2023 EIRR Bonds. The Series 2023 EIRR Bonds are beneficial to customers due to the Company's ability to refinance the bonds with tax-exempt interest rates, which typically carry lower interest rates than taxable bonds with similar security, tenor, etc. Accordingly, Applicant submits that such issuance and execution are in the public interest. The Company requests the Commission allow the Company to retain the flexibility to offer either fixed rate or floating rate refunding bonds. The Series 2023 EIRR Bonds are expected to have maturity of up to 25 years.

10. In connection with this request for authority from the Commission to refinance the EIRR bonds, the Applicant hereby agrees in advance to the imposition on the authority to be granted to Applicant the following general conditions, namely:

- (a) That nothing in the Commission's order shall be considered a finding by the Commission of the value of this transaction for rate-making purposes, and that the Commission reserves the right to consider the rate-making treatment to be afforded the financing transaction and its impact on cost of capital, in any future proceeding;
- (b) That Applicant shall file with the Commission through its electronic filing and information system (EFIS) in this case any information concerning communication with credit rating agencies concerning this issuance;
- (c) That Applicant shall file with the Commission as a non-case-related submission in EFIS under "Resources" - "Non-Case Related Query" - "Ordered Submission" any credit rating agency reports published on Applicant's corporate credit quality or the credit quality of its securities;
- (d) That to the extent that any non-regulated investments made by Applicant or Evergy, Inc. and affiliated companies may materially impact Applicant's credit quality and resulting credit ratings, Applicant shall notify Staff of such possibility within ten (10) business days of filing a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and provide a status report to the Commission.

11. Applicant will have authority from its Board of Directors for the refinancing of the EIRR Bonds pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-10.125(1)(D) the first week of September 2023 and will file a copy with the Commission at that time.

12. Applicant believes that this verified Application and exhibits will provide the Commission with sufficient facts and information to make a proper disposition of this Application without a hearing.

13. Applicant will file with the Commission within ten (10) days of the issuance of any bonds authorized in this case a report including the amount of EIRR Bonds issued, date of issuance,

interest rate (initial rate if variable), maturity date, and redemption schedules or special terms, if any. Applicant will also file a statement of the portion of the issuance of the EIRR Bonds, if any, which is subject to the fee schedule in Section 386.300, Mo. Rev. Stat. and pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-10.125(F). It is expected that none of these debt issuances will be subject to the fee schedule in Section 386.300, Mo. Rev. Stat.

14. The following exhibits were filed with the Company's Application or are herewith filed and made a part hereof:

Exhibit 1: **CONFIDENTIAL** Certified copy of resolutions of the Applicant's Board of Directors authorizing, among other things, the issuance of the EIRR bonds pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-10.125(1)(D).²

Exhibit 2: Five-year capitalization expenditures schedule.

Exhibit 3: **CONFIDENTIAL** Pro-Forma balance sheet and income statement.

III. MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

15. Pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.080(14) the Company requests the Commission issue an Order granting expedited treatment of its financing application. The Company seeks to refinance notes as soon as is practicable and therefore requests an October 20, 2023 effective date. Expedited treatment is necessary because the Series 1993 Bonds mature on December 1, 2023. The Company needs sufficient time before the maturity date due to the relative complexity of tax-exempt issuances and the tight issuance windows in November and December due to the holidays and Q3 earnings blackout. Expedited treatment will provide the Company access to the capital markets effective October 20, 2023, providing the Company maximum flexibility before the

² As noted in ¶11 above, Applicant will have authority from its Board of Directors for the refinancing of the EIRR Bonds pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-10.125(1)(D) the first week of September 2023 and will file a copy with the Commission at that time.

upcoming issuance blackout period. In the current interest rate environment it is paramount for the Company to refinance as quickly as possible to ensure maximum flexibility to address volatile interest rates.

16. There will be no negative effect on the Company's customers or the general public if the Commission grants this Motion.

17. This Motion was filed as soon as it could have been under the circumstances.

WHEREFORE, Applicant requests the Commission enter an appropriate Order, with an effective date of October 20, 2023, authorizing Applicant:

- (a) to refinance \$79,480,000 of EIRR Bonds;
- (b) to execute all documents necessary for the issuance and take all other actions necessary for the issuance and maintenance of the EIRR Bonds authorized in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger W. Steiner

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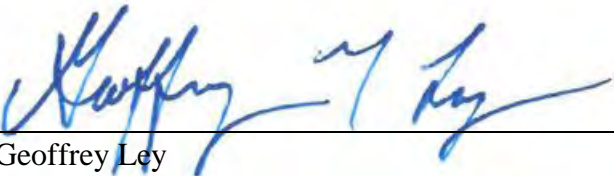
**ATTORNEY FOR EVERGY MISSOURI
METRO**

DECLARATION OF GEOFFREY LEY

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
COUNTY OF JACKSON) ss

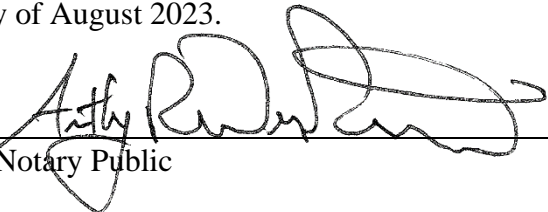
I, Geoffrey Ley, state that I am Vice President Corporate Planning and Treasurer for Evergy Metro, Inc., that I have reviewed the foregoing pleading, that I am familiar with its contents, that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Geoffrey Ley

Subscribed and sworn before me this 22nd day of August 2023.



Notary Public

My commission expires: 4/26/2025



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and copy of the foregoing application was emailed on this 22nd day of August 2023, to the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Public Counsel.

/s/ Roger W. Steiner

Roger W. Steiner

Exhibit 1

As noted in ¶11 of the Application, Applicant will have authority from its Board of Directors for the refinancing of the EIRR Bonds pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-10.125(1)(D) the first week of September 2023 and will file a Confidential copy with the Commission at that time.

Evergy Missouri Metro

Capital Investment Plan Update

Schedule 1 - Current Five-Year Plan by Category

February 28, 2023

In millions (may not foot due to rounding)		Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
Line	Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Projected 2023-2027
1	Current Plan							
2	01.New Renewables/New Generation	\$ -	\$ 61	\$ 48	\$ 108	\$ 76	\$ 38	\$ 331
3	02.Generating Facilities: Other	90	89	71	66	55	61	342
4	03.Transmission Facilities	51	50	39	46	60	55	250
5	04.Distribution Facilities	170	116	145	126	116	169	672
6	05.Information Technology	72	40	40	30	30	34	174
7	06.General Facilities	20	8	8	8	6	7	37
8	Total	\$ 403	\$ 364	\$ 349	\$ 385	\$ 343	\$ 364	\$ 1,806

EXHIBIT 3

**CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION
NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.**

ORIGINALS FILED UNDER SEAL.