

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

In the Matter of Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy)
Missouri Metro’s Request for Authority to) Case No. ER-2022-0129
Implement A General Rate Increase for Electric)
Service)

In the Matter of Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a)
Evergy Missouri West’s Request for Authority to) Case No. ER-2022-0130
Implement A General Rate Increase for Electric)
Service)

**MOTION TO ESTABLISH DOCKET
FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF DATA PRODUCTION**

COME NOW Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro (“EMM”) and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West (“EMW”) (collectively, the “Company”), by and through their counsel and, for their *Motion to Establish Docket for Further Consideration of Data Production* (“Motion”) states as follows:

1. On August 30, 2022, the Company filed a *Stipulation and Agreement* (“Stipulation”) in the above-captioned dockets.
2. On September 22, 2022, the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued its *Order Approving Four Partial Stipulations and Agreements* (“Order”) which encompassed approval of the Stipulation referenced above.
3. Per the approved Stipulation the Company agreed to the following:

Data Retention:

 - a) Prior to July 1, 2023, the Company will identify and provide the data requested in the direct testimony of Sarah Lange. If the requested data is not available or cost-prohibitive to produce, the Company will file a motion to establish an EO docket. In that docket the Company will provide the reason why it cannot provide the requested data and its individual estimate

of the cost to provide each set of requested data, for the further consideration of the parties and the Commission.¹²

4. The purpose of this pleading is to request the opening of an EO docket so that Evergy can provide in detail the reasons why the requested data is not available and cost-prohibitive to produce.

5. In preparation for this pleading Evergy reevaluated the data requested by Staff and assessed the feasibility of producing the data. If the data were not on hand, Evergy examined the level of effort and timeline associated with securing and generating the data. Generally, the data requested resides in disparate systems and is not easily available for direct query. To locate, access, download, and assimilate the required data to provide the data requested by Staff, it is expected that external expertise will be needed to supplement Evergy's internal capabilities. In some cases, the data was not believed to be available to satisfy the Staff's request and organizational process changes would be required to begin generating the requested data.

6. To estimate the cost of obtaining the requested data, Evergy consulted with internal staff and consultants familiar with some of our major systems to consider a range. Absent a detailed scope of work, precision is not possible, but all expert opinions have determined that it will be a costly effort that would be material, exceeding one million dollars and requiring in excess of eighteen months to complete. Some estimates, associated with broad interpretations of the data needs are more extreme, exceeding \$100 million and requiring multiple years to complete. Precise

¹ See, *Stipulation*, p. 12, Rate Design and Program Settlement, §4(a).

² The data requested in the direct testimony of Staff ("Staff") witness Sarah Lange is detailed in witness Lange's direct testimony on p. 62, ln. 1 through p. 64, ln. 28.

estimates of cost and duration will only be possible once detailed scope of work with exact requirements are fully known and understood.

7. It was observed that most of the Evergy's subject matter experts ("SMEs") required to accomplish this task are already committed to the execution of the Missouri Residential TOU migration preparation. This severely limited the SME's ability to evaluate the need in detail or to produce the requested data by the July 1st filing date.

8. In opening this EO docket, Evergy requests the Commission consider the impact of the Missouri Residential TOU migration in setting the procedural schedule. It would be reasonable to expect that billing system and technology personnel will be constrained through the summer of 2024 responding to customer needs. Evergy requests that the Commission schedule a prehearing conference for the purpose of developing a realistic procedural schedule for the docket.

9. On June 14, 2023, the Commission issued its *Report and Order* ("Ameren Missouri Order") in ER-2022-0337 and ordered on p. 48 that Ameren Missouri to prepare a study of customer specific information by account, rate schedule and voltage by its next rate case.³ Many aspects of the data ordered for this study are similar to the data requested by Staff from Evergy. Evergy believes it would be more efficient to include Ameren Missouri in the requested EO-docket so that the Commission and Staff can address the issue of data availability in one proceeding.

³ On page 49 of the Ameren Missouri Order, the Commission stated: "The Commission is reluctant to order Ameren Missouri to provide all the information that Staff requested, not because the Commission believes it unnecessary, but because the Commission does not know the full extent of information Ameren Missouri can provide, or the expense associated with collecting that information. The Commission finds it reasonable that Ameren Missouri provide more granular data for any rate modernization workshop, nonresidential working docket, and the Company's next rate case. Therefore, the Commission directs Ameren Missouri to provide the information Staff requested that it can provide at reasonable expense. Ameren Missouri shall also work with Staff to provide a better understanding of what information is available, so that Staff can better request information the Company can access."

10. Ameren Missouri has indicated that it will participate in the docket in hopes of resolving the data collection matters discussed herein.

11. Although The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty is not under a Commission order to collect similar data, Liberty recognizes the need to understand and resolve the issue of data availability as it relates to collecting similar customer-specific information in the future. Liberty therefore also does not oppose a docket to resolve these issues that includes the participation of Liberty.

12. At the conclusion of this docket, the Company will seek to obtain specific guidance from the Commission on what data and level of effort is reasonable to address Staff's stated need.

WHEREFORE, the Company requests the Commission issue an order establishing a new EO docket for further consideration of the issues referenced herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger W. Steiner

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served upon counsel for all parties on this 30th day of June 2022, by either e-mail or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

/s/ Roger W. Steiner

Roger W. Steiner