### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West for Approval of Tariff Revisions to TOU Program

) File No. ET-2024-0061

### EVERGY'S NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION

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**COMES NOW**, Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro ("Evergy Missouri Metro") and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West ("Evergy Missouri West")(collectively, the "Company") file this *Notice of Withdrawal of Proposals and Amendment to Application* ("Amended Application"). In support of its Amended Application, the Company states as follows:

1. On September 8, 2023, the Company filed its Application and tariffs which requested the approval of revised tariffs for Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West which will authorize the following changes to the Company's approved Time-of-Use ("TOU") Implementation Program tariffs. Evergy seeks to:

(i) Modify the default TOU rate from the high differential 2period TOU rate [i.e. Standard Peak Saver] to the low differential Peak Adjustment TOU rate [i.e. Peak Reward Saver];

(ii) Modify the tariffs to allow residential customers to opt-in to the traditional residential rate (i.e. "Anytime Plan") which has historically been in effect and is proposed to be offered as an option beginning May 1, 2024 rather than being terminated as scheduled under the approved TOU Implementation Program;

(iii) Restrict rate switching to mitigate adverse revenue impacts by selective switching between the offered tariffs to artificially lower a customer's annual bill below reasonable cost of service through tariff selection only;

(iv) Revise the estimates of education, outreach and implementation costs consistent with the revisions requested to be approved in the Application.

2. Through its initial Application, Evergy did not anticipate the significant amount of response from other parties that the Commission has received. Evergy believes that its Application was responsive to customer and other feedback and that the resulting impact from approval of its Application would be in the public interest and consistent with the Commission's stated intention to further TOU rate adoption and use.

3. However, as a result of concerns raised in response to the Application, by this pleading, Evergy hereby amends its Application to withdraw all of its proposed tariff changes, with the exception that Evergy continues to request approval to change its tariffs to: (i) Modify the default TOU rate from the high differential 2-period TOU rate [i.e. Standard Peak Saver] to the low differential Peak Adjustment TOU rate [i.e. Peak Reward Saver]. The Company also withdraws its request to have the tariffs effective by October 1, 2023.

4. Under the current tariffs and requirements of the Amended Report and Order from the Company's last rate case, the Company has flexibility within the October 1 to December 31, 2023 timeframe to implement the TOU rates for individual customers.<sup>1</sup> The key requirement is that the transition begin in October, 2023 and be completed by December 31, 2023.

5. With the flexibility given the Company to transition the implementation of customers to the TOU rates during this three-month period, Evergy will be able to implement any of the requested improvement in the TOU rate Implementation Plan if the revised tariffs are effective no later than October 14, 2023. Therefore, the concern raised by Public Counsel in its recent pleading<sup>2</sup> regarding the need for a 10-day effective date on the Order and an effective date

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Amended Report and Order stated: "Additionally, the transition to TOU default rates shall be phased-in between October 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. The phase-in shall occur by appropriate groupings of customers on the appropriate customer's billing cycle such that the TOU implementation for all Evergy customers shall be completed by December 31, 2023." (Amended Report and Order, p. 72)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Response to Evergy's Application, Request For Waiver Of 60 Day Notice Requirement, Motion For Expedited Treatment and Motion To Approve Tariffs On Less Than 30 Days' Notice, and Motion To Dismiss filed on September 15, 2023, pp. 7-12.

of tariffs later than the originally requested date of October 1, 2023, should not dissuade the Commission from adopting the improvement requested by the Company in its Amended Application.

6. As the Commission knows, on October 1, 2023, Evergy was to begin the transition process for implementing the TOU rates. Based upon Evergy's billing cycles, Evergy is planning to initiate the plan to default customers to the high-differential TOU rate in mid-October. Evergy is planning to have the transition completed by the end of the year, as required by the Amended Report and Order.

7. The Company's goal in this case is to have enough time from the issuance of an Order to ensure the Company's billing system is configured correctly to implement the changes to the plan.

8. Should the Commission desire a hearing on the Application, the Company requests that it schedule it as soon as possible.

9. If the Company knows the Commission's desires and any changes that the Commission wants to make to the Implementation Plan by October 4, the Company will be in a position to transition customers who have not yet selected a rate to the low differential Peak Adjustment TOU rate.

10. For example, if the Commission issued its Order on October 4, with a 10-day effective date, this would be sufficient for the Company to transition customers who have not yet selected a rate to the low differential Peak Adjustment TOU rate. What is most important is that the Company needs to know by early October if the Commission intends for it to implement any changes to the plan.

11. As the Company's request for withdrawal of proposals seeks to simplify the Application and the requests being withdrawn were not requested to be available to customers until

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May 1, 2024, the Company believes no harm or additional burden has been placed on responsive parties or the Commission.

12. Upon approval by the Commission, Evergy will file compliance tariff sheets that will implement the Commission order and any required changes to the tariffs. Evergy requests that the compliance tariffs be made effective no later than October 14, 2023.

**WHEREFORE**, Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West respectfully request that the Commission adopt its Amended Application and tariffs, as requested herein, in this docket.

Respectfully submitted,

# <u>|s| Roger W. Steiner</u>

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## ATTORNEYS FOR EVERGY MISSOURI METRO AND EVERGY MISSOURI WEST

#### **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF MISSOURI ) ) ss COUNTY OF JACKSON )

Darrin Ives, being first duly sworn, on his oath and in his capacity as Vice President – Regulatory Affairs of Evergy, Inc., states that he is authorized to execute this Amended Application on behalf of Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West, and has knowledge of the matters stated in this Amended Application, and that said matters are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Darrin Ives

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

My Commission Expires:  $\frac{4/2u/2025}{2025}$ 

	ANTHONY R. WESTENKIRCHNER
	NOTARY PUBLIC - NOTARY SEAL
	STATE OF MISSOURI
MY	COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 26, 2025
	PLATTE COUNTY
	COMMISSION #17279952

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been emailed to the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Public Counsel this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

|s| Roger W. Steiner

Roger W. Steiner