

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

In the Matter of Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a)	
Evergy Missouri Metro's and Evergy)	<u>File No. ET-2024-0182</u>
Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri)	Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0084 &
West's Solar Subscription Rider Tariff)	JE-2024-0082
Filings)	

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and makes the following recommendations concerning Evergy's tariff filings:

On December 1, 2023,¹ Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West (collectively, "Evergy") filed revised tariff sheets regarding a Solar Subscription Rider Tariff. Evergy also filed a Notice of Tariff Revisions and a Motion to Open New Docket. Evergy requests that the Commission open this file in order to receive comments on these tariff filings. The effective date of both tariffs (Tracking numbers JE-2024-0084 and JE-2024-0082) is January 1, 2024. On December 5, the Commission ordered Staff to file its recommendation or a status report on the tariff filings no later than December 15.

Staff's Memorandum is filed contemporaneously with this recommendation. Staff's investigation and analysis, so far as one has been possible based upon the filings in this case, is set out in the Memorandum. On the basis explained in the Memorandum, Staff recommends:

- (1) that the Commission reject the Tariffs sheets (Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0081 and JE-2024-0082);

¹ All date references will be to 2023 unless otherwise indicated.

- (2) that the Commission provide guidance applicable to the treatment of customers who are Solar Subscription Program participants on time-based rate plans. Staff suggests that the Commission convene an on-the record where it may require Evergy to address the kind of billing system changes needed for potential participation of SSP customers in the several time-based rate plans offered by Evergy Metro and Evergy West;
- (3) that the Commission direct Evergy to file tariff sheets allowing customers who are Solar Subscription Program participants to opt into service on time-based rate plans as soon as possible under the terms and conditions directed by the Commission;
- (4) Staff further recommends that if Evergy desires to make any other tariff changes to the Solar Subscription Program tariff, then the Commission shall order a procedural conference as quickly as possible to set up a procedural schedule. In this regard, Staff states that it is its position that the Services and Access Charge may not be changed outside of a general rate case.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests that the Commission will accept this recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Paul T. Graham #30416
Senior Staff Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Mo 65102-0360
(573) 522-8459
Paul.graham@psc.mo.gov

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned by his signature below certifies that the foregoing pleading was served upon all counsel of record on this December 15, 2023, by electronic filing in EFIS, electronic mail, hand-delivery, or U.S. postage prepaid.

/s/ Paul T. Graham

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. ET-2024-0182 and
Tariff Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0081 and JE-2024-0082

FROM: Sarah L. K. Lange, Economist, Tariff/Rate Design

/s/ Sarah L. K. Lange / 12/15/2023
Economist / Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation to Reject tariff Sheets and to Direct Evergy Metro and Evergy Missouri West to Submit Solar Subscription Rider Tariff Sheets in Compliance with Commission Order

DATE: December 15, 2023

Evergy Filing

On December 1, 2023, Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro submitted three tariff sheets as Tariff Tracking No. YE-2024-0081 and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West submitted four revised tariff sheets in Tariff Tracking No. YE-2024-0082, each bearing an issue date of December 1, 2023, with an effective date of January 1, 2024. Evergy failed to file any testimony identifying or explaining the tariff revisions sought.

Related Evergy Filings

On May 19 2023, Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro submitted revised tariff sheet 39A in Tariff Tracking No. YE-2023-0206 and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West submitted revised tariff sheet 109.1 in YE-2023-0208, each bearing an issue date of May 19, 2023, with an effective date of June 19, 2023. Evergy associated these tariff submissions with the recently-concluded rate cases, Case Nos. ER-2022-0129 and ER-2022-0130. The tariff submittals adjust charges related to Evergy's Solar Subscription Rider (Schedule SSP). Evergy did not submit testimony or other supporting documentation related to the proposed changes. Then, on June 14, 2023, the Commission opened Case No. EO-2023-0423, and Case No. EO-2023-0424.

On December 1, 2023, Evergy filed a status report in Case No. EO-2023-0423, and Case No. EO-2023-0424, stating:

The Company filed tariff revisions opening a new ET-docket to work through the issues associated with the Company's solar subscription rider tariffs ("Solar Subscription Rider").

Staff ("Staff") for the Commission has also filed a complaint (Docket No. EC-2024-0092) regarding, among other things, the Company's solar subscription rider tariffs.

In its June 7, 2023, filing in Case Nos. ER-2022-0129 and ER-2022-0130, Evergy stated that it would file a new ET docket for the Commission's consideration of the Time-of-Use (TOU) and the Service and Access charge issues contained in Staff's *Recommendation*. In particular, in its response, Evergy stated "However, the 'appropriate rate plan' issue discussed on page 4 of Staff's *Recommendation*, which the Company understands to be made up of the Time-of-Use ("TOU") and the Service and Access charge issues contained in Staff's *Recommendation*, should not be addressed in the EO docket, which will be focused on Staff's construction audit. The Company will file a new ET docket by June 30, 2023, for those issues to be addressed."

Need to Promptly Address Solar Subscription Rider Customers Use of Time-Based Rate Plans

Through discussions beginning with an email from Evergy to Staff on January 31, 2023, Evergy has informed Staff that it is of the opinion that "the Solar Subscription Rider billing is similar to Net Metering billing," and that it desired or intended to make changes to its tariff to restrict the availability of the Solar Subscription Rider to customers taking service on the Residential Peak Adjustment rate plan.

Staff informed Evergy that it did not see any serious obstacles to offering the SSP to customers on any residential rate plan.

Staff understood that Evergy would be filing an "ET" case requesting promulgation of new tariff sheets reflecting Evergy's preferred outcome and that Staff and other parties would have the opportunity to present alternative solutions to the Commission.

In a subsequent informal discussion, Evergy represented that changes to accommodate billing SSR customers on time-based rate plans other than the peak adjustment rate plan could be accomplished by June, 2024. Staff can only assume that this case, Case No. ET-2024-0182, is intended to address this issue. However, the tariff sheets submitted in Tariff Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0081 and JE-2024-0082 reflect that the implementation of the billing system changes will be delayed until months after the June 2024 date discussed, and significant additional tariff changes are included in Tariff Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0081 and JE-2024-0082, and none of the tariff changes are addressed in any testimony or otherwise explained.

Recommendations

1. Staff recommends that the Commission reject the Tariffs sheets (Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0081 and JE-2024-0082);
2. Staff further recommends that the Commission provide guidance applicable to the treatment of customers who are Solar Subscription Program participants on time-based rate plans. Staff suggests that the Commission convene an on-the record where it may require Evergy to address the kind of billing system changes needed for potential participation of SSP customers in the several time-based rate plans offered by Evergy Metro and Evergy West;
3. Staff further recommends that the Commission direct Evergy to file tariff sheets allowing customers who are Solar Subscription Program participants to opt into service on time-based rate plans as soon as possible under the terms and conditions directed by the Commission;
4. Staff further recommends that if Evergy desires to make any other tariff changes to the Solar Subscription Program tariffs, then the Commission shall order a procedural conference as quickly as possible to set up a procedural schedule. In this regard, Staff states that it is its position that the Services and Access Charge may not be changed outside of a general rate case.

Staff has verified that Evergy Metro and Evergy Missouri West are not delinquent on any assessment and has filed its Annual Report. Evergy's treatment of Solar Subscriber Customers placement on time-based rate schedules is the subject of Count 3 of Staff's complaint, Case No. EC-2023-0092.

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West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West's)	Tracking Nos. JE-2024-0084 &
Solar Subscription Rider Tariff Filings)	JE-2024-0082

AFFIDAVIT OF SARAH L.K. LANGE

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW Sarah L.K. Lange, and on her oath states that she is of sound mind and lawful age; that she contributed to the foregoing *Staff Recommendation in Memorandum form*; and that the same is true and correct according to her best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.

Sarah L.K. Lange
Sarah L.K. Lange

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 12th day of December 2023.

Dianna L. Vaughn
Notary Public

DIANNA L. VAUGHT Notary Public - Notary Seal State of Missouri Commissioned for Cole County My Commission Expires: July 18, 2027 Commission Number: 15207377
