

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

In the Matter of the Application of Evergy)	
Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri)	
West for a Financing Order Authorizing the)	<u>File No. EF-2022-0155</u>
Financing of Extraordinary Storm Costs)	Tariff No. JE-2024-0070
Through an Issuance of Securitized Utility)	
Tariff Bonds)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, through the undersigned counsel, and for its Staff Recommendation “about Evergy Missouri West’s securitized utility tariff sheets,” respectfully states as follows:

Background

1. On November 16, 2023, Evergy Missouri West (“EMW”) filed tariff sheets for its planned upcoming issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds. Those tariff sheets had a requested effective date of December 16, 2023, and were assigned Tariff Tracking File No. JE-2024-0070.¹

2. On November 17, 2023, the Commission issued its *Order Directing an Expedited Tariff Recommendation, Setting a Time for Responses, Directing Evergy to Provide a Timeline, and Directing Staff to Update the Commission on the Bond Pre-Issuance Process*.

3. Given the requested effective date of December 16, 2023, the November 17, 2023 Order directed Staff “to file an expedited recommendation on the

¹ **EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC. d/b/a EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, P.S.C. MO No. 1**, Original Sheet Nos. 168 through 168.5

proposed tariff sheets;” specifically, that Staff “file a recommendation about Evergy Missouri West’s securitized utility tariff sheets no later than November 29, 2023.”

4. Pursuant to discussions with Staff, on November 28, 2023, EMW voluntarily submitted a letter in this docket to “extend the requested effective date [of the subject tariff sheets] an additional thirty (30) days from the originally requested date, to and including January 15, 2024.”

5. Given that EMW voluntarily extended the requested effective date of the proposed tariff sheets an additional thirty (30) days, Staff likewise requested an additional thirty (30) days to file its recommendation concerning the tariff sheets, so that its recommendation would be due December 29, 2023. The Commission granted Staff’s request by Order issued November 30, 2023.

Recommendation

6. Staff has reviewed the tariff sheets in Tariff Tracking File No. JE-2024-0070,² and has determined that they are in substantial compliance with the Commission’s *Amended Report and Order* issued November 17, 2022 (the “Financing Order”) to the extent possible prior to bond issuance. The date to be included on Sheet 168.2 is not known at this time, and the rate(s) to be included on Sheet 168.5 is not known at this time. Further, a minor scrivener’s error that does not affect tariff application is found on Sheet 168.1 where a subsection includes misnumberings.

7. Staff recommends the Commission EITHER

(1) Enter an order finding the suspended tariff sheets in substantial compliance with the Financing Order to the extent possible prior to bond

² See Footnote 1 above.

issuance, but rejecting the tariff submission JE-2024-0070, and instructing Evergy to file a new tariff submission 5 business days prior to its desired effective date. This new tariff submission should include the rate elements of the securitized utility tariff charge, the indicated changes to Sheets 168.1, 168.2, and 168.5, and all remaining tariff sheets from JE-2024-0070 with issuance dates of the date of such filing, and an effective date 5 business days later; OR,

- (2) Enter an order finding the suspended tariff sheets in substantial compliance with the Financing Order to the extent possible prior to bond issuance, and approving the tariff submission JE-2024-0070. Such order should also instruct Evergy to file a new tariff submission 5 business days prior to its desired effective date. This new tariff submission should include the rate elements of the securitized utility tariff charge, the indicated changes to Sheets 168.1, 168.2, and 168.5, with issuance dates of the date of such filing, and an effective date 5 business days later.

An alternative approach would be that the Commission enter an order finding the suspended tariff sheets in substantial compliance with the Financing Order to the extent possible prior to bond issuance; further suspending the tariff sheets until March 1, 2024; and directing Evergy to submit (in JE-2024-0070) substitute sheets 168.1, 168.2, and 168.5 reflecting the changes described above, 5 business days prior to its desired effective date, including the rate elements of the securitized utility tariff charge. Out of an abundance of caution, Evergy should simultaneously substitute all remaining tariff sheets

with an identical effective date. However, this approach would require an order approving the tariff sheets, which is apparently inconsistent with the ordered language of ordered paragraph 8 of the Financing Order, stating “That compliance tariff sheet shall become effective on the date the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued with no further action of the Commission unless the Commission issues a disapproval letter as described in Ordering Paragraph 7.”

WHEREFORE Staff submits this recommendation as previously ordered by the Commission and prays the Commission issue such order as it deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

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Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record as reflected on the certified service list maintained by the Commission in its Electronic Filing Information System this 29th day of December 2023.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

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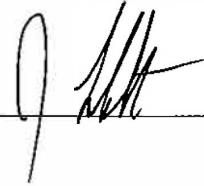
AFFIDAVIT OF J. LUEBBERT

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW J LUEBBERT, and on his oath states that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the foregoing *Staff Recommendation*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

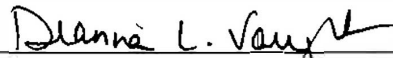
Further the Affiant sayeth not.

J LUEBBERT



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 27th day of December 2023.


Notary Public

