

**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 Filings |) | JE-2024-0082 |

STAFF’S PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and reiterates its request for a hearing in this matter to be conducted as expeditiously as possible on the narrow issue of the availability of time-differentiated rate plans to customers participating in the Solar Subscription Rider. Given the subject matter, this hearing could occur concurrently with the January 22, 2024 on the record presentation scheduled in EW-2023-0199, “In the Matter of a Collaborative Workshop for Customer Education and Outreach Regarding the Introduction of Default Time-of-Use Rates by Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West.” In the alternative, Staff proposes the following procedural schedule:

| Deadlines | Time-based participation issues | Other program issues |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Evergy Direct | January 12 ¹ | February 12 |
| Staff Direct | N/A | May 16 |
| Rebuttal | January 19 | June 17 |
| Sur/Cross Rebuttal | January 22 | July 17 |
| Issues List | January 23 - Noon | July 22 |
| Position Statements | January 24 – 9:30 a.m. | July 26 |

¹ All date references are to 2024, unless otherwise stated.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Hearing | January 24 – Following Agenda | August 5 |
| Initial and Reply Briefs | Present as closing arguments | To be determined |
| Target Order Date | January 31 | To be determined |
| Target compliance date | February 13 | To be determined |

Staff has consulted with Evergy Missouri West on this schedule. **Evergy opposes it.** In support of Staff’s proposed schedule and reiterating Staff’s presentation at the procedural conference: It is Staff’s contention that without any tariff authority to do so, Evergy forces participants in the Subscriber Solar Rider (SSR) to choose between participation in the SSR program and taking service on a desired Time of Use (TOU) rate plan.² To the extent that SSR customers choose participation in a desired TOU rate plan, non-participating customers bear a share of the costs of the solar resources no longer covered by the lost subscription revenue. Through discussions between Evergy and Staff, beginning with an email from Evergy of 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 Evergy desired or intended to make changes to its SSR tariff to restrict the availability of the Solar Subscription Rider to only those residential customers taking service on the Residential Peak Adjustment rate plan.

Until this pending tariff filing, Evergy had not sought those tariff changes to restrict the availability of the SSR to only those customers taking service on the Residential Peak Adjustment rate plan, but has nonetheless enforced that restriction with its customers

² SSR participants are committed to participate in the SSR program for one year, and there is a \$25 fee to transfer a subscription.

without any tariff provision authorizing this restriction. In related discussion, Evergy has informed Staff that it anticipates that multiple months will be required to update any changes into its billing system regarding the relationship between the SSR and any of the more differentiated TOU rate plans.

Simply put, customers who have not chosen to participate in the SSR should not be obligated to cover the costs of the SSR solar resource where Evergy has delayed for a year to implement the tariff changes and billing changes necessary to allow current SSR participants to remain SSR participants, and Evergy should not continue to enforce this restriction unless authorized by the Commission to do so.

So why an expedited hearing and/or the two-track procedural schedule? Staff contends that the process will be prejudiced by procedural inertia if this matter is not resolved well before summer time of use rates go into effect.

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 January 8, 2024, by electronic filing in EFIS, electronic mail, hand-delivery, or U.S. postage prepaid.

/s/ Paul T. Graham