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Issue(s): SSP Billing

Procedures

Witness: Sarah L.K. Lange
Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff
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Case No.: ET-2024-0182

Date Testimony Prepared: February 20,2024

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION INDUSTRY ANALYSIS DIVISION ENERGY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**DIRECT TESTIMONY** 

**OF** 

**SARAH L.K. LANGE** 

EVERGY METRO, INC. & EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC.

**CASE NO. ET-2024-0182** 

Jefferson City, Missouri February 2024

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1		ET-2024-0182
2		DIRECT TESTIMONY
3		OF
4		SARAH L.K. LANGE
5	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
6	A.	My name is Sarah L.K. Lange, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.
7	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
8	A.	I am employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") as
9	an Economist	for the Tariff/Rate Design Department, in the Industry Analysis Division.
10	Q.	Please describe your educational and work background.
11	A.	Please see Schedule SLKL-d1.
12	EXECUTIV	E SUMMARY
13	Q.	What is the purpose of your direct testimony?
14	A.	I provide a specimen tariff including tariff changes to clarify the billing
15	provisions u	nder the Solar Subscription Rider (Program) ("SSP") tariff for residential
16	customers on	various time-based rate designs. I will also provide the pertinent context for
17	Staff's provi	sion of this specimen tariff. Further, I provide Staff's recommendation that
18	non-participa	ting customers be held harmless from any adverse rate impact which may result
19	from Evergy	's delays in addressing the billing procedure issues. Finally, I recommend
20	inclusion of a	a provision defining how any applicable charges pursuant to 393.1700 shall be
21	billed for pur	poses of the SSP.
22	Q.	Do you recommend any other tariff changes?

A. No. Staff expert Cedric Cunigan, PE, provides additional testimony concerning 1 2 the unrelated tariff changes proposed by Evergy, and the risks to Evergy Metro and Evergy 3 West customers due to fluctuations in subscription levels. 4 Suggested billing procedures for customers on time-based rate plans Q. 5 Have you prepared a specimen tariff providing reasonable billing provisions for 6 SSP participants on residential time-based rate plans? 7 A. Yes, it is attached as Schedule SLKL-d2. 8 Are there many possible reasonable ways to modify the SSP tariff billing Q. 9 procedures to apply the SSP tariff to customers served under time-based rate plans? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. At its heart, what does the SSP tariff do? 12 The SSP tariff states its purpose is to "provide a limited number of Customers A. 13 the opportunity to voluntarily subscribe to the generation output of a solar resource and receive 14 electricity from solar resources." 15 Q. Does the energy from the solar facility actually offset the usage of participating 16 customers in real time, as would be the case for a customer with a solar panel installed at their 17 home? 18 A. No. As an explanation, first consider a customer with a solar panel installed at 19 their home. If, at a given point in time, that solar panel is providing 5kW of energy, and that 20 customer is using 5kW of energy, then that customer is not drawing energy from the Evergy 21 system, and the customer is not "pushing," energy to the Evergy system. This exact matching 22 in a given instant almost never occurs. Instead, the solar panel may be generating 5kW while

the customer is using 7kW, and if that continued for an hour, the net metered customer would

be billed for using 2kWh. Over the course of a month the pushed energy and metered consumed energy are netted. If the customer used 3kW for an hour while the solar panel is generating 5 kWh in that hour, the 2kWh would offset the customer's usage for other hours within that month. If over the course of the month, more generation was pushed than was metered as consumed, the net excess generation would create a credit to be applied to the customer's bill at the avoided cost rate. Where a customer owns the solar panel and it is installed at their home behind the meter, the Net Metering Easy Connection Act and related rules and tariffs govern. <sup>1</sup>

However, under the SSP, the customer does not actually own the solar facilities, and all energy used by the customer is delivered through the transmission and distribution systems to the customer meter. Therefore, if the customer uses exactly 5 kWh in an hour when the customer's proration of the solar facility generates exactly 5 kWh, there is no netting of the energy generated and consumed through the meter.

Because there is no netting of the energy generated and consumed through the meter within the meter itself, it is appropriate to include billing provisions in the SSP tariff to prescribe how the participant's solar resource energy production share offsets the participant's metered usage for each time-based rate structure block.

#### Billing provisions for customers taking service on the default rate schedule, RPKA

- Q. Based on Staff's proposed tariff language, how would SSP participants be billed who are served on the default residential rate plan, RPKA?
- A. Under schedule RPKA, in addition to a customer charge and applicable riders such as the FAC and MEEIA, customers are billed for (1) the total amount of energy used in a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Net-metering is limited to installations 100 kW and below. Interconnection of larger systems may be requested by the customer but the customer would not qualify for net-metering.

month,<sup>2</sup> (2) the amount of energy used in peak hours as an extra charge per kWh, which is tariffed as the "Peak Adjustment Charge," and (3) a credit is applied to offset the cost per kWh of the kWh consumed in off-peak hours. For the SSP billing provisions for customers on this rate plan, Staff's proposal is to first reduce the kWh that are billed out under the energy charges. Then, under Staff's proposal, the participant's share of energy from the solar facility that was generated during the "peak hours" is multiplied by the Peak Adjustment Charge. This dollar value is applied as a credit to the customer's bill, which cannot reflect a negative net energy

charge amount. The tariff language is set out below:

Step 1: The Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant for the billing month. Should the solar resource energy production amount for a given month be larger than the Participant's metered energy consumption, the net energy will be zero for that month.

Step 2: The Participant's bill will be adjusted to credit the product of the "Peak Adjustment Charge" for the applicable billing month and (a) 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production in summer billing months, or (b) 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production in non-summer billing months, except that the net of energy charges and credits may not be less than zero.

Q. Could you provide some examples?

A. Yes. Here is the customer usage and share of generation for the first example:

	Total	On Peak	Off Peak
July Customer Usage	1,000	300	150
Participant's Share of Generation in June	800	152	
Total Usage minus Generation Share	200	148	

<sup>2</sup> These energy charges are priced as inclining block in summer billing months of June – September, and are declining charges in the remaining billing months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Note, under Schedule RPKA there are many hours that are neither on-peak nor off-peak, so the sum of usage in these two time periods will not equal the total energy consumed in a given month.

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And here is the bill calculation (excluding riders and taxes) for the usage scenario set out above:

July Bill Calculation Step 1 Rate Determinant Charge Energy Charge Block 1 \$ 0.1409 200 \$ 28.19 Energy Charge Block 2 \$ 0.1409 \$ -\$ \$ Energy Charge Block 3 0.1509 \$ \$ Peak Adjustment Charge per on Peak kWh 0.0100 300 3.00 Peak Adjustment Credit per Super-Off Peak kWh \$ (0.0100)150 \$ (1.50)\$ Energy Charge Subtotal: 29.69 July Bill Calculation Step 2 Rate Determinant Credit \$ \$ Peak Adjustment Charge per on Peak kWh 0.0100 152 1.52 Greater of \$0.00 or Energy Charge Subtotal net of Credit: \$ 28.17 **Customer Charge** \$ 12.00 1 \$ 12.00 Solar Block Subscription Charge \$ 0.1284 200 \$ 25.68

\$

97.06

Q. Could you provide an example where the participation share was large enough relative to the total energy charge that the provision that "the net of energy charges and credits may not be less than zero?"

A. Yes. Consider a customer with this usage and generation characteristics:

	Total	On Peak	Off Peak
July Customer Usage	1,200	200	150
Participant's Share of Generation in June	1,200	228	
Total Usage minus Generation Share	-	(28)	

The bill would be calculated as set out below:

July Bill Calculation Step 1	Rate	Determinant	Charge
Energy Charge Block 1	\$ 0.1409		\$ -
Energy Charge Block 2	\$ 0.1409		\$ -
Energy Charge Block 3	\$ 0.1509		\$ -
Peak Adjustment Charge per on Peak kWh	\$ 0.0100	200	\$ 2.00
Peak Adjustment Credit per Super-Off Peak kWh	\$ (0.0100)	150	\$ (1.50)
Energy Charge Subtotal:			\$ 0.50
July Bill Calculation Step 2	Rate	Determinant	Credit
Peak Adjustment Charge per on Peak kWh	\$ 0.0100	228	\$ 2.28
Greater of \$0.00 or Energy Charge Subtotal net of Credit:			\$ -
Customer Charge	\$ 12.00	1	\$ 12.00
Solar Block Subscription Charge	\$ 0.1284	1,200	\$ 154.08
			\$ 168.86

- Q. Why does the bill calculation use July customer usage and June generation?
- A. Due to timing, the existing SSP tariff provides for a one-month lag in the matching process.
- Q. Are there other reasonable approaches to billing SSP customers taking service on the default residential time-based rate plan, RPKA?
- A. Yes. The level of specificity that could be applied to the calculation could vary. For example, specific percentages by month could be used in place of the seasonal percentages contained in the Staff specimen tariff, orthe credit to offset the Peak Adjustment Charge could be limited by the size of the Peak Adjustment Charge calculated in Step 1, as opposed to the energy charge subtotal. Various other refinements could be appropriate and reasonable, so long as the time-variant nature of the RPKA rate plan is recognized appropriately.

#### **Calculation of On Peak Percentages**

Q. What is the source of the percentages, 19% and 22% for summer and non-summer proration of the participant's share to the on-peak billing period?

A. In response to a data request, Evergy provided a workpaper purporting to report the generation of the Greenwood solar facility by hour. However, it was clear that the times reported and the generation reported were incongruent, as summarized below:

Staff contacted Evergy regarding this apparent error, and adjusted the times in the workpaper to Staff's understanding of the proper alignment of Central time and the hourly outputs reported. Staff then generally identified the hours associated with the defined peak time periods as those for the production hours of 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, and 7PM, on weekdays. Staff did not exclude holiday generation for this purpose. Staff organized the resultant output totals by month, and found the percentage of "on peak" production for the months of May – August for use in summer billing, and September – April for non-summer months. This accounts for the staggering of generation and customer usage by one month contained in the current SSP tariff.

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Q. 1 Should these percentages be updated from time to time? 2 A. Yes. First, Evergy has not confirmed that Staff's realignment of the generation 3 and time stamps is accurate, which could result in a minor shift in percentages. Second, the 4 generation used for this calculation is the Greenwood solar facility for the year 2022, as that 5 was the only information Evergy provided to Staff for its calculation. It would be reasonable 6 to incorporate the year 2023 into this calculation. It would also be appropriate to update these 7 calculations from time to time in rate cases. 8 Billing provisions for customers on differentiated rate plans, RTOU2 and RTOU3 9 Q. How is the application of the SSP tariff to customers taking service on the 10 RTOU2 and RTOU3 rate plans addressed? 11 These provisions as drafted in the Staff Specimen tariff are set out below: A. 12 1. For Customers receiving service under Schedules RTOU-2 13 During summer months, 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production 14 will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" 15 period for the billing month; and 81% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy 16 production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the 17 "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 19% of the Participant's share of the solar 18 resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the 19 "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered 20 energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month, except 21 that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month may not be less than zero. 22 During Non-Summer months, the 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy 23 production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the 24 "On-Peak" period for the billing month; and 78% of the Participant's share of the solar resource 25 energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant 26 during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 22% of the Participant's share of 27 the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant 28 during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the 29 metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month, 30 except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month may not be less than zero. 31 32 2. For Customers receiving service under Schedules RTOU-3

During summer months, 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production

will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak"

period for the billing month; and 81% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy

- production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the total energy consumed during the "On-Peak," and "Off-Peak" periods for that billing month, the remaining portion of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Super Off-Peak" period, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month in any time-differentiated period may not be less than zero.
- b. During Non-Summer months, the 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month; and 78% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month may not be less than zero. Should the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the total energy consumed during the "On-Peak," and "Off-Peak" periods for that billing month, the remaining portion of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Super Off-Peak" period, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month in any time-differentiated period may not be less than zero.
- Q. Is it Staff's position that this approach strikes the perfect balance between the interests of SSP participants and other customers, customer understandability, and billing system capability?
- A. Bluntly, Staff doesn't know. There are significant policy implications to resolution of this issue, especially within the context of an established tariff, with existing participants. Customers subscribed to the SSP program prior to the transition of Evergy's residential rate schedule to a time-based rate structure. Customers subscribed to the SSP program prior to Evergy's expansion of time-based rate schedule offerings. Those early subscribers may now wish to leave the program unless advantageous price arbitrage provisions are incorporated to the SSP billing procedures. Conversely, advantageous price arbitrage

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provisions for SSP participants will necessarily erode revenues to some degree, which could be 1 2 more detrimental to non-participants than current SSP participants unsubscribing. 3 Q. Does Staff have these same concerns for future SSP participants, including those 4 who may subscribe after an order is entered in this case? 5 A. No. It may be reasonable to bill future SSP participants in a manner that does 6 not allow price arbitrage, as those billing provisions would only be applicable to SSP 7 participants going forward. 8 How could those billing of those customers be reasonably addressed? Q. 9 While many different reasonable solutions are possible, reconfiguration of the A. 10 Services and Access Charge to align a charge with each time-based rate element under rate 11 schedules RTOU-2 and RTOU-3 may be the most straightforward. However, it is Staff's legal 12 opinion that changes to these charges should not be made outside of a general rate case. 13 Timing of Availability of RTOU2 and RTOU3 to SSP Participants 14 Q. In your opinion, are the customers who are likely to be interested enough in 15 broader energy policy to participate in the SSP program, the sort of customers who are also 16 likely to be interested in participating in the more sophisticated time-based rate plans? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. If these customers have to choose between SSP participation and participation 19 in RTOU2 or RTOU3, what does that mean for those customers? 20 A. SSP participants are required to participate for a minimum of 1 year. SSP

customers are not permitted to reenroll for a minimum of 1 year. Thus, if an SSP participant

quits the SSP program to take service on RTOU2 or RTOU3 during the summer of 2024,

1 then the earliest the customer could participate in the SSP program again would be the summer 2 of 2025. 3 Q. If the inability to participate in the RTOU2 and RTOU3 rate schedules results in 4 reduced participation in the SSP program, what does that mean for all customers of Evergy 5 Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West? 6 A. If overall SSP participation drops, then revenue from the SSP program drops. 7 Details of the risks to ratepayers under various scenarios are addressed by Staff expert Cedric 8 Cunigan, PE. 9 Q. In light of the risk of cost-shifts to nonparticipants, when do you recommend 10 that Evergy ensure it makes the necessary changes to its billing system to allow customer on 11 the SSP tariff to begin taking service on the RTOU2 and RTOU3 rate plans? 12 A. These changes should be done as soon as possible, but not later than the end of 13 May of 2024. The prompt resolution of this issue is required to avoid unnecessary drops in SSP 14 participation. 15 **Hold Harmless Provision** 16 Q. In the event subscriptions to the SSP fall off due to the inability of customers on 17 the SSP to participate in the rate plan of their choice, is it appropriate for the Commission to 18 order that non-participants be held harmless from related rate impacts? 19 A. Yes. As discussed below, Evergy has had over a year to address this problem. 20 The unwillingness of Evergy to address this issue in a timely manner is further addressed in 21 Staff's complaint, EC-2024-0092.

#### **History and Context**

- Q. When did Staff first become aware of an issue related to Evergy's ability to serve subscription solar customers on the customer's choice of residential rate plan?
- A. Through discussions beginning with an email from Evergy personnel 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, but that the "Services and Access" charge of the SSP would need to be set out as applicable to each residential rate plan for these purposes. 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.
  - Q. Did Staff cooperate with Evergy to explore billing options for SSP customers?
- A. Yes. While Staff indicated to Evergy that Evergy should file a case to get the matter before the Commission, Staff cooperated with Evergy to explore options.
  - Q. Did Evergy file the ET case it indicated it would be filing?
- A. No. However, on May 19, 2023, EMM and EMW filed tariff sheets, assigned Tracking Nos. YE-2023-0206 and YE-2023-0208, respectively, associated with File Nos.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Staff later concluded that simple adjustments to the billing provisions of the SSP tariff would be both sufficient and preferable, as reflected in the Staff Specimen tariff.

ER-2022-0129 and ER-2022-0130. The submitted tariff sheets (one per tariff number) replaced previously approved tariff sheets as part of the Solar Subscription Rider (Schedule SSP).

On June 1, 2023, Staff filed its response to the tariff sheet filings, "Staff Recommendation to Reject Evergy Metro and Evergy Missouri West's Proposed Tariff Sheets Rider and Motion to Open a New Docket." On June 7, 2023, Evergy responded with its agreement to the establishment of a new EO case file to consider the 45-day construction audit of the cost and generation projections related to the Hawthorn solar facility and to address any necessary updates to the current SSP tariffs. Evergy's response also stated its intent to withdraw the submitted tariff sheets, assigned Tracking Nos. YE-2023-0206 and YE-2023-0208, and to refile them after the conclusion of the new case to update the Commission-approved SSP tariffs currently in effect.

Evergy also stated that it would file a new ET docket for the Commission's consideration of the Time-of-Use 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 p. 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."

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, which are

- the tariff sheets under consideration in this case. Evergy failed to file any testimony identifying or explaining the tariff revisions sought, although it did nominally open an "ET docket," File No. ET-2024-0182. Significant other tariff changes are included in the suspended tariff sheets that are not necessary for the ToU billing issue, and that should not be expected to be easily resolved.
  - Q. Was it Evergy's stated intent to default SSP customers to a rate plan other than the rate plan to which the Commission ordered those customers be defaulted?
  - A. Yes. Prior to the Commission's September 27, 2023 order in ET-2024-0061, Evergy stated to Staff its intent to default SSP-participating customers contrary to the Commission's Amended Report and Order in Case Nos. ER-2022-0129 and ER-2022-0130 directing that all residential customers with AMI meters except those who are net metering customers would default to the two-period time-based rate plan.
  - Q. Did Staff provide Evergy with a specimen tariff prior to Evergy's filing of this ET case?
  - A. No. But Staff communicated clearly and repeatedly to Evergy that there were many reasonable ways to align the billing provisions of the SSP tariff and the various time-based rates. Staff indicated to Evergy the need to get the issue before the Commission, and out in the open, so to speak, so that other interested parties and the Commission itself could weigh in on balance of the various policy objectives at play.

#### **Billing Provisions for Charges Pursuant to 393.1700**

- Q. What language is included in Staff's specimen tariff with regard to 393.1700?
- A. The specimen tariff clarifies an existing billing provision as indicated below, in the bolded text:

in this state;

Any remaining metered energy consumption will be billed under the 1 2 rates associated with the Participant's standard rate schedule, including 3 all applicable riders and charges, except that any Securitized Utility 4 Tariff Charge or other charge promulgated pursuant to Section 5 393.1700 shall be applicable to all metered kWh, without any 6 reductions for the Participant's share of the solar resource energy 7 production. 8 Q. Pursuant to statute, could the SSP be used to bypass the application of a 9 Securitized Utility Tariff Charge to energy sold to Evergy's customers? 10 A. No. It is Staff's legal opinion that Section 393.1700 addresses nonbypassibility 11 three times. First, the SUTC is defined as nonbypassable, in 393.1700.1.(16): (16) "Securitized utility tariff charge", the amounts authorized 12 13 by the commission to repay, finance, or refinance securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs and that are, except as otherwise provided for 14 in this section, nonbypassable charges imposed on and part of all retail 15 16 customer bills, collected by an electrical corporation or its successors or assignees, or a collection agent, in full, separate and apart from the 17 electrical corporation's base rates, and paid by all existing or future retail 18 19 customers receiving electrical service from the electrical corporation or 20 its successors or assignees under commission-approved rate schedules, 21 except for customers receiving electrical service under special contracts 22 as of August 28, 2021, even if a retail customer elects to purchase 23 electricity from an alternative electricity supplier following a 24 fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in this state; 25 Second, it is Staff's legal opinion that there is a requirement that the financing order 26 include a requirement that the SUTC is nonbypassable, found in Section 393.1700. 2.(3)(c)d. 27 d. A requirement that, for so long as the securitized utility tariff 28 bonds are outstanding and until all financing costs have been paid in full, the imposition and collection of securitized utility tariff charges 29 30 authorized under a financing order shall be nonbypassable and paid by 31 all existing and future retail customers receiving electrical service from 32 the electrical corporation or its successors or assignees under 33 commission-approved rate schedules except for customers receiving 34 electrical service under special contracts on August 28, 2021, even if a 35 retail customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electric 36 supplier following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities

1 Finally, it is Staff's legal opinion that the Commission (and others) are prohibited from 2 interfering with the nonbypassability of the SUTC, in section 393.1700.11.(1).(a): 3 (a) Alter the provisions of this section, which authorize the commission to create an irrevocable contract right or chose in action by 4 5 the issuance of a financing order, to create securitized utility tariff 6 property, and make the securitized utility tariff charges imposed by a 7 financing order irrevocable, binding, or nonbypassable charges for all 8 existing and future retail customers of the electrical corporation except 9 its existing special contract customers. 10 Q. A SUTC was authorized for Evergy Missouri West in File No. EF-2022-0155. 11 No SUTC is authorized for Evergy Missouri Metro. Should this provision be included in the 12 SSP tariffs for both utilities? 13 A. Yes. It is reasonable to include clarifying billing provisions for both utilities in 14 the event a SUTC is authorized in the future. 15 Has Staff previously discussed this clarification of billing procedures with Q. 16 Evergy? 17 No. Staff became aware of this issue during the preparation of this testimony. A. 18 **CONCLUSION** 19 Does this conclude your direct testimony? Q. 20 A. Yes it does.

# 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 Misso West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West's Solar Subscription Rider Tariff Filings	) puri ) <u>File No. ET-2024-0182</u> )
AFFIDAVIT O	F SARAH L.K. LANGE
STATE OF MISSOURI ) ) ss COUNTY OF COLE )	
<del>-</del>	and on her oath states that she is of sound mind and oing Direct Testimony of Sarah L.K. Lange; and that best knowledge and belief.
Further the Affiant sayeth not.	Sarah L.K. Lange
	HIDAT

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 2014 day of February 2024.

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

#### Sarah L.K. Lange

I received my J.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 2007, and am licensed to practice law in the State of Missouri. I received my B.S. in Historic Preservation from Southeast Missouri State University, and took courses in architecture and literature at Drury University. Since beginning my employment with the MoPSC I have taken courses in economics through Columbia College and courses in energy transmission through Bismarck State College, and have attended various trainings and seminars, indicated below.

I began my employment with the Commission in May 2006 as an intern in what was then known as the General Counsel's Office. I was hired as a Legal Counsel in September 2007, and was promoted to Associate Counsel in 2009, and Senior Counsel in 2011. During that time my duties consisted of leading major rate case litigation and settlement, and presenting Staff's position to the Commission, and providing legal advice and assistance primarily in the areas of depreciation, cost of service, class cost of service, rate design, tariff issues, resource planning, accounting authority orders, construction audits, rulemakings and workshops, fuel adjustment clauses, document management and retention, and customer complaints.

In July 2013 I was hired as a Regulatory Economist III in what is now known as the Tariff / Rate Design Department. In this position my duties include providing analysis and recommendations in the areas of RTO and ISO transmission, rate design, class cost of service, tariff compliance and design, and regulatory adjustment mechanisms and tariff design. I also continue to provide legal advice and assistance regarding generating station and environmental control construction audits and electric utility regulatory depreciation. I have also participated before the Commission under the name Sarah L. Kliethermes.

#### **Presentations**

Midwest Energy Policy Series – Impact of ToU Rates on Energy Efficiency (August 14, 2020) Billing Determinants Lunch and Learn (March 27, 2019)

Support for Low Income and Income Eligible Customers, Cost-Reflective Tariff Training, in cooperation with U.S.A.I.D. and NARUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (February 23-26, 2016)

Fundamentals of Ratemaking at the MoPSC (October 8, 2014)

Ratemaking Basics (Sept. 14, 2012)

Participant in Missouri's Comprehensive Statewide Energy Plan working group on Energy Pricing and Rate Setting Processes.

#### **Relevant Trainings and Seminars**

Regional Training on Integrated Distribution System Planning for Midwest/MISO Region (October 13-15, 2020)

"Fundamentals of Utility Law" Scott Hempling lecture series (January – April, 2019)

Today's U.S. Electric Power Industry, the Smart Grid, ISO Markets & Wholesale Power Transactions (July 29-30, 2014)

MISO Markets & Settlements training for OMS and ERSC Commissioners & Staff (January 27–28, 2014)

Validating Settlement Charges in New SPP Integrated Marketplace (July 22, 2013)

PSC Transmission Training (May 14 – 16, 2013)

Grid School (March 4–7, 2013)

Specialized Technical Training - Electric Transmission (April 18–19, 2012)

The New Energy Markets: Technologies, Differentials and Dependencies (June 16, 2011)

Mid-American Regulatory Conference Annual Meeting (June 5–8, 2011)

Renewable Energy Finance Forum (Sept. 29–Oct 3, 2010)

*Utility Basics* (Oct. 14–19, 2007)

### Testimony and Staff Memoranda

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Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West	
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Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West for Appro	oval of Tariff Revisions
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Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West	
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Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Ever	rgy Missouri West
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NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC	EA-2022-0234
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<u>Company</u>	Case No.
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#### EVERGY METRO, INC. d/b/a EVERGY MISSOUR METRO

P.S.C. MO. No	7	<u>56th</u>	Revised Sheet No	39	
Canceling P.S.C. MO. No	7	<u>45th</u>	Revised Sheet No	39	
			For Missouri Retail Servi	ce Area	
SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION RIDER					
	Sch	edule SSP			

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Solar Subscription Pilot Rider (Program) is to provide a limited number of Customers the opportunity to voluntarily subscribe to the generation output of a solar resource and receive electricity from solar resources.

Program Participants will subscribe and pay for Solar Blocks of five hundred (500) watts (W AC) each. Energy produced by the subscribed Solar Blocks will offset an equivalent kWh amount of energy they receive and are billed for under their standard class of service. This program may be expanded, depending on Customer interest and with Commission approval, after successful completion of the initial offering. If the Company does not receive a sufficient number of subscriptions for the Program, the Company may request Commission approval to terminate this Schedule SSR.

The Company will seek to construct systems to be located in the most economic Missouri or adjacent state location, selecting the alternative with the lowest cost for implementation. Information concerning the decision will be provided to the Commission Staff and the Office of Public Counsel. Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West will combine the subscription requirements in sizing the solar resource. Opportunities to co-locate with other Company solar deployment will be considered. If deployed as the single system, the Solar Blocks will be split between the companies based on the same ratio as the expected Customer subscriptions. Once the Solar Block split is established, that amount will be fixed for the life of the solar resource. Any subsequent solar resource built under this tariff will also be split between the companies using the same approach, based on a ratio of the then expected Customer subscription and similarly fixed for the duration of that solar resource.

#### **AVAILABILITY:**

This Rider is available to any Customer currently receiving permanent electric service under the Company's retail rate schedules. Prior to June 15, 2024, participating residential Customers must take service under Residential Peak Adjustment Service, Schedule RPKA. Beginning June 15, 2024, Residential Customers may receive service under RPKA, RTOU-2, or RTOU-3. Customers must complete the required Participant Agreement and have an account that is not delinquent or in default.

Participants will be enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis. Service under this Rider will be limited to the Solar Blocks available to the jurisdiction, as described in the Purpose section. Customers applying but not allowed into the Program due to Solar Block unavailability will be placed on a waiting list and incorporated into the Program in the order they are received. Should Solar Blocks become available due to construction of additional solar resources or subscription cancellations, Customers on the waiting list will be offered the opportunity to subscribe. Subscription hereunder is provided through one meter to one end-use Customer and may not be aggregated, redistributed, or resold.

Total participation of non-residential Customers will be limited to no more than 50 percent of the total solar resource capacity during the first three months of the solar resource in-service date. After three months, and at the Company's sole discretion, all available solar resource capacity may be made available to all eligible Customers.

This Rider may not be combined with any other renewable energy program offered by the Company for the same Customer account.

#### EVERGY METRO, INC. d/b/a EVERGY MISSOURI METRO

P.S.C. MO. No.	7	<u>3rd</u> 4th	Revised Sheet No. <u>39A</u>				
Canceling P.S.C. MO. No.	7	<del>2nd</del> 3rd	Revised Sheet No. 39A				
			For Missouri Retail Service Area				
Solar Subscription Rider Schedule SSP							

#### **AVAILABILITY (Continued)**

Customers receiving Unmetered, Lighting, or Net Metering Service are ineligible for this Program while participating in those service agreements. This schedule is not available for resale, standby, breakdown, auxiliary, parallel generation, or supplemental service.

#### **PRICING**

The Solar Block Subscription Charge for energy sold through this Program is estimated to be \$0.1284 per kWh, made up of two costs:

- 1. The Solar Block cost of \$0.0884; and
- 2. The Services and Access charge of \$0.040 per kWh.

The Solar Block cost is defined by the total cost of the solar resources built to serve the program. The Services and Access charge will be adjusted when rates are reset in future rate cases by the average percentage change to volumetric rates in those future rate cases, unless a party provides a cost study demonstrating that it would be unreasonable to adjust the Services and Access. When an additional solar resource is added to the Program, the levelized cost of the new solar resource will be averaged with the remaining levelized cost of existing solar resource(s) to determine the new price for the cost of the Solar Block. Additional solar resources will be added only if the price is less than or equal to the previous price or otherwise deemed beneficial relative to the standard rates.

#### SUBSCRIPTION LEVEL

Participants may subscribe to Solar Blocks that, when combined, are expected to generate up to 50 percent of their annual energy. During initial sign-up, the Customer will designate their desired subscription percentage in increments of 10 percent. The Company will provide to the Customer the number of Solar Blocks necessary to supply their subscription percentage based on the Customer's annual energy usage (Subscription Level). The Customer's annual energy usage will be determined in one of two ways. If during initial signup the Customer has 12 consecutive months of usage history at the address where the subscription is being requested, then the annual energy will be the energy at the address where the subscription is being requested, then the annual energy will be estimated by the Company. The calculation for the number of Solar Blocks is equal to the annual energy (in kWh) divided by the expected annual energy production of one block rounded down to the lowest whole number. A Customer must have sufficient annual usage to support subscription of at least one Solar Block.

Subscription levels will be recalculated monthly if one of the following actions takes place in the previous month: (1) a new subscriber is added; (2) a subscription is cancelled; or (3) a subscription is transferred. All changes in Subscription status will occur at the end of the respective billing month in which the status change is requested.

A Participant may change their subscription level only once in any 12-month period after the initial 12-month subscription. In the event there is a significant and regular reduction in Participant metered energy consumption, the Company, at its sole discretion, may adjust the Participant's subscription level after customer notice.

Participants may not combine loads across the companies for achieving participation limits, determination of subscription levels, or aggregated billing. Loads will not be combined across companies for the purpose of applying minimum term limits.

#### EVERGY METRO, INC. d/b/a EVERGY MISSOUR METRO

P.S.C. MO. N	<b>[0</b>	3rd4th	_ Revised Sheet No	39B		
Canceling P.S.C. MO. N	o7	<del>2nd</del> 3rd	Revised Sheet No	39B		
			For Missouri Retail Serv	ice Area		
SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION RIDER Schedule SSP						

#### **BILLED PURCHASE QUANTITY:**

The quantity of energy that will be purchased by a Participant for each monthly billing cycle will be computed as follows:

$$PQ = \frac{SL}{TSC} \cdot AME$$

Where.

PQ = Monthly Purchase Quantity in kWh
 SL = Subscription Level in kW AC
 TSC = Total Solar System Capacity in kW AC
 AME = Actual Monthly Energy Produced by the Solar Resource in kWh.

#### **MONTHLY BILLING:**

- The monthly energy production of the solar resource will be measured and apportioned to each Participant based on their respective Subscription Level. To facilitate billing, energy production will be applied to the monthly billing one month after it occurs.
- 2. For non-Residential and Residential Customers receiving service under Schedule RPKA,

<u>Step 1:</u> The Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant for the billing month. Should the solar resource energy production amount for a given month be larger than the Participant's metered energy consumption, the net energy will be zero for that month.

Step 2: The Participant's bill will be adjusted to credit the product of the "Peak Adjustment Charge" for the applicable billing month and (a) 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production in summer billing months, or (b) 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production in non-summer billing months, except that the net of energy charges and credits may not be less than zero.

- 3. For Customers receiving service under Schedules RTOU-2
  - a. During summer months, 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month; and 81% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month may not be less than zero.
  - b. During Non-Summer months, the 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month; and 78% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month may not be less than zero. Case No. ET-2024-0182

Case No. ET-2024-018 Schedule SLKL-d2 Page 3 of 4

- 4. For Customers receiving service under Schedules RTOU-3
  - a. During summer months, 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month; and 81% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 19% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the total energy consumed during the "On-Peak," and "Off-Peak" periods for that billing month, the remaining portion of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Super Off-Peak" period, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month in any time-differentiated period may not be less than zero.
  - b. During Non-Summer months, the 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month; and 78% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month. Should 22% of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "On-Peak" period for the billing month, the excess energy will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Off-Peak" period for the billing month, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month may not be less than zero. Should the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production exceed the total energy consumed during the "On-Peak," and "Off-Peak" periods for that billing month, the remaining portion of the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production will be subtracted from the metered energy consumed by the Participant during the "Super Off-Peak" period, except that the net energy for which a customer is billed in that month in any time-differentiated period may not be less than zero.
- Any remaining metered energy consumption will be billed under the rates associated with the Participant's standard rate schedule, including all applicable riders and charges, except that any Securitized Utility Tariff Charge or other charge promulgated pursuant to Section 393.1700 shall be applicable to all metered kWh, without any reductions for the Participant's share of the solar resource energy production.
- 3.6. Other, non-energy charges defined by the standard rate schedule are not impacted by the Solar Block subscription and will be billed to the Participant.
- 4.7. The entire bill amount, inclusive of all standard rate charges and Program charges, must be paid according to the payment terms set forth in the Company Rules and Regulations.