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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
DISCOVERY CONFERENCE

In the Matter of Evergy Missouri )  
West, Inc., d/b/a Evergy )  
Missouri West's Request for )  
Authority to Implement a General ) File No. ER-2024-0189  
Rate Increase for Electric )  
Service )

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024  
10:30 A.M.

Jefferson City, MO 65101  
via WebEx

VOLUME I

RON PRIDGIN, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

(Due to the quality of the recorded media, portions were unable to be transcribed and include inaudible portions. The transcript may also include misinterpreted words and/or unidentified speakers. The transcriber was not present at the time of the recording; therefore, this transcript should not be considered verbatim.)

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1           LAW JUDGE PRIDIGIN:  -- whomever from the  
2 company present, and then we'll go from there.

3           MR. PRINGLE:  All right.  Thank you very  
4 much, Judge.  Again, we're here today because of a  
5 staff DR's 159 and 160.  Both DRs are similar and  
6 received, in essence, the same response from the --  
7 the company.  Would you like for me to read out the  
8 DR, Judge, or just kind of go into my argument for why  
9 staff believes we need the information?

10           LAW JUDGE PRIDIGIN:  I think if you'll go  
11 into your argument -- I mean, I appreciate the e-mail,  
12 and I saw the DRs and the answer, so I -- I think I'm  
13 relatively up to speed on that.

14           MR. PRINGLE:  All right.  Well, thank you,  
15 Judge.  We'll -- for the most part Evergy suspended  
16 tariffs included significant restructuring of its  
17 small general service, large general service, and  
18 large power service rates.  Evergy also proposes to  
19 increase large general service, demand charges by more  
20 than six times as much as the energy charges.  While  
21 the general matter staff would seek to review customer  
22 impact in any rate case, in this rate case, review of  
23 customer impact, Evergy's requested nonresidential  
24 rate structuring is particularly important in light of  
25 the commission's concerns in the last case that a

1 study of nonresidential rate impacts had not occurred.

2 With regard to the nonrelative customers,  
3 the information staff requests in DRs 159 and 160 is  
4 necessary for staff to study the rate changes that  
5 Evergy West requests which will have significantly  
6 different impacts on customers depending upon the  
7 customers' usage and demand characteristics. With  
8 regard to residential customers, Evergy requests  
9 various regulatory relief for residential customer  
10 rate switching without providing any useful  
11 information as to the various in load among customers  
12 on various residential rate plans. Staff requires  
13 residential -- residential sample data to evaluate the  
14 reasonableness of Evergy's requested residential rate  
15 adjustment to evaluate the reasonableness of Evergy's  
16 requested residential revenue tracker and to evaluate  
17 customer impacts that Evergy requested in their class  
18 revenue shifts. Residential sample customers are also  
19 necessary to evaluate the effect of a customer charge  
20 on these two requested regulatory treatments as well  
21 as to estimate customer impacts in general. Evergy  
22 proposes to increase the residential customer charge  
23 by approximately 150 percent of the energy charge  
24 change which will cause various customer impacts  
25 across customers will require evaluation for customer

1 impact and for the sizing and gratefulness of Evergy's  
2 requested regulatory treatments. And that's it in a  
3 nutshell.

4 LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Mr. Pringle,  
5 thank you.

6 Mr. Fisher, anything from the company?

7 MR. FISHER: Yeah, Judge. Thank you very  
8 much. This is a very similar issue to the ones that  
9 are pending in front of the commission right now, a  
10 fully briefed case that I call the data collection  
11 case. If you're not familiar with it, it's -- it's an  
12 ongoing dispute about whether the company needs to  
13 produce and create and produce information that's not  
14 available related to rate design and cost of service  
15 issues. This is similar because, in this case, we did  
16 not produce -- we have not created and produced the  
17 data that is requested by the staff, and it -- it --  
18 it involves a lot of individual data, which the  
19 company did not need to present in its rate case, and  
20 its rate design proposals, but the -- the -- the  
21 information is -- that's being requested in the data  
22 collection case is the same kind of thing where we  
23 didn't have it, and it would be very expensive to  
24 produce, and we've asked the commission to tell us  
25 whether we need to go create it and produce it and --

1 and get reimbursed for the cost of it all and this --  
2 this would be the same situation here. We do not have  
3 this data. It's not -- it's not something we could  
4 produce. We would have to create it and -- and we  
5 haven't been told that this is something that has to  
6 be done by the commission, and we're hoping that we'll  
7 get some direction in the data collection case from  
8 the commission about this kind of thing. So anyway,  
9 it -- bottom line is, in discovery, you don't have to  
10 produce what doesn't exist, and that's where we're at.

11 LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Fisher,  
12 thank you.

13 And I noticed a few other counsel, I think,  
14 on the call. Does anyone else wish to be heard on  
15 this matter? All right. Hearing nothing, here's my  
16 plan. I would like to give this some thought, and if  
17 parties are able to talk this through and reach some  
18 sort of resolution, obviously, that would be great.  
19 And if so, if -- if somebody could file something in  
20 the -- in the docket sheet, I'd say by Thursday. It's  
21 Wednesday a state holiday, and likewise, if anybody  
22 wants to submit any written argument, if you'll do  
23 that by Thursday. I'm not going to order it, but  
24 if -- if anyone wants to -- to submit sort of a  
25 written brief or -- or argument, and if you can do

1 that by Thursday, and then my hope is to get some sort  
2 of ruling out to you by Friday. Does anyone have  
3 any -- anything else they want to bring to my  
4 attention or any questions?

5 MR. PRINGLE: I guess, Judge, I just want  
6 to clarify. Are you seeing staff filing a -- I guess  
7 a summation of these arguments or are we -- are we  
8 going straight to a motion to compel? I just want to  
9 make sure I -- I know what I'm filing.

10 LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's a good question.  
11 I suppose I would be fine with -- with either, to be  
12 honest with you, since I'm -- I reviewed the -- the  
13 discovery orders in the case, and it seems to give the  
14 judge quite a bit of leeway on how to rule on these.  
15 I -- I would be fine with -- with either.

16 MR. PRINGLE: Okay. Then most likely staff  
17 will file a motion to compel.

18 LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. That's -- that's  
19 perfectly fine.

20 MR. FISHER: And then, Judge, we would like  
21 an opportunity, of course, to respond to that motion  
22 to compel in writing, too. I don't know if -- that's  
23 a pretty short time period to have it -- if he files  
24 Thursday or -- and then you want to rule Friday, would  
25 it -- can we have a little more time than that?

1                   LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yeah. I -- I would be  
2 fine with that. I do want to kind of get this moving  
3 along for everybody's sake, but -- but certainly,  
4 if -- if staff files a motion to compel Thursday, I --  
5 I wouldn't plan on ruling Friday. I would want to  
6 give you a little time, and I'll -- if I -- if I get a  
7 motion, I'll probably read over it. Well, of course,  
8 I'll read over it, but. Kind of try to determine how  
9 much time I think you need, and then order or allow  
10 responses, and obviously, if you think you need more  
11 time, you can file a motion.

12                   MR. FISHER: That would be great.

13                   LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Anything further  
14 from -- from counsel?

15                   MR. FISHER: Thank you for your time,  
16 Judge. I appreciate it.

17                   MR. PRINGLE: Yeah. Same here, Judge.  
18 Thank you for the -- for getting this set up so  
19 quickly, and thank you for hearing us out.

20                   LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're quite welcome.  
21 And if there's nothing further from counsel, all  
22 right. I will -- I will disconnect the Webex. Thank  
23 you very much. Hope you have a good day.

24                   MR. FISHER: You, too.

25                   MR. PRINGLE: Same to you, Judge. Thank

1 you.

2 LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

3 (Audio ended.)

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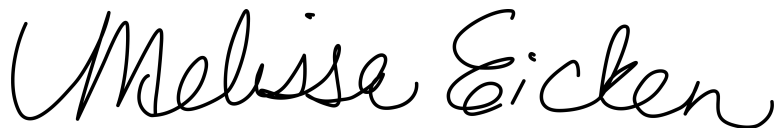
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