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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

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

July 29, 2024  
7:23 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.

St. Joseph City Hall  
Council Chambers  
1100 Frederick Ave.  
St. Joseph, Missouri  
and WebEx

VOLUME 3

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair,  
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,  
JASON R. HOLSMAN,  
GLEN KOLKMEYER,  
COMMISSIONERS

REPORTED via Webex by:  
Tracy Taylor, CCR No. 939

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

ROGER W. STEINER  
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FOR: Evergy Missouri West

JOHN CLIZER  
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FOR: Office of the Public Counsel

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FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service  
Commission

1 JUDGE HATCHER: So today is July 29th,  
2 2024, and the Missouri Public Service Commission has  
3 set this time for a local public hearing to give  
4 members of the public a chance to comment about Evergy  
5 Missouri West's general rate increase application.  
6 And that is File Number ER-2024-0189.

7 The Commission regulates the rates  
8 charged by public utility companies in Missouri to  
9 ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. The  
10 Commission also regulates the quality of service and  
11 safety of the operations of public utilities.

12 There are five Commissioners. They are  
13 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.  
14 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,  
15 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other  
16 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

17 My name is Charles Hatcher. I am the  
18 Regulatory Law Judge that will preside over this  
19 hearing. With me today are Chair Kayla Hahn,  
20 Commissioner Glen Kolkmeyer; and online we have  
21 Commissioner Maida Coleman and Commissioner Jason  
22 Holsman.

23 The Commissioners have not made any  
24 decisions in this case and they cannot answer any  
25 questions today because they have to remain impartial

1 until after all of the evidence is presented.

2 Let's go ahead and start with our  
3 counsels' entry of appearance. For Every Missouri  
4 West?

5 MR. STEINER: Good evening. My name is  
6 Roger Steiner. I am the attorney for the applicant,  
7 Every Missouri West. My address is 1200 Main Street,  
8 Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you.

10 And for the Staff of the Commission?

11 MR. KEEVIL: Yes, Judge. Excuse me.  
12 Jeff Keevil representing Staff of the Missouri Public  
13 Service Commission. Our address is Governor Office  
14 Building, Suite 800, 200 Madison Street, PO Box 360,  
15 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you.

17 And the Office of the Public Counsel?

18 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of the  
19 Missouri Office of Public Counsel. My contact  
20 information is reflected in the record.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you.

22 Before I move on to take the comments, we  
23 do have several intervening companies that are  
24 intervening parties in this rate case. If any of them  
25 are in attendance and would like to enter their

1 appearance, please do so now. Thank you.

2 The process for this hearing will be  
3 calling the names on the sign-up sheet in the order  
4 they appear. This is the sign-up sheet that was at  
5 the front entrance hall when everyone came in.

6 When I call your name, please go on and  
7 step up to the microphone. I'll then ask for you to  
8 state and spell your name for the record. After that,  
9 I'll place you under oath and ask you to go ahead and  
10 offer your comments to the Commissioners.

11 If you did not sign up to give comments,  
12 that's okay. I will ask at the end of these five  
13 names if anyone else would like to give testimony.  
14 And if it turns out that testifying in public isn't  
15 your forte, I'll give you information at the end of  
16 the hearing on how to submit written comments.

17 With that, let's go ahead and start our  
18 witness list. The first name I have is Dean Van --  
19 exactly. Sir, if you would please state and spell  
20 your name for the record.

21 MR. VAN SCHOIACK: My name is Dean  
22 Van Schoiack, D-e-a-n, V-a-n S-c-h-o-i-a-c-k. I'm the  
23 Ninth District State Representative representing the  
24 counties -- the people of the counties of Andrew,  
25 DeKalb and northern Clinton.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And if you  
2 would please raise your right hand, I'll swear you in.

3 (Mr. Van Schoiack sworn in.)

4 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And please go  
5 ahead and give the Commissioners your comments.

6 MR. VAN SCHOIACK: Commissioners, thank  
7 you for hearing us today. We appreciate that very  
8 much.

9 My -- my comments are basically directed  
10 to you. I know that we've had rate cases before with  
11 Evergy in the recent past. You had received a letter  
12 from me from my office last year about the time-of-use  
13 rates. And this is something that I want to address.

14 People are not liking it, people are not  
15 saving money with it, it's costing people more money.  
16 It's not having the effect I'm told it was to have, to  
17 make rates more affordable for people. That is not  
18 happening.

19 I've not had anybody come up to me and  
20 say, "Gee, I love time-of-use rates and they're just  
21 great." No. Everybody's against them, nobody likes  
22 them.

23 One thing that you did do that I  
24 appreciated was that you said that people could change  
25 any time they wanted to. They could change plans any

1 time they wanted to.

2 Well, to start out, that was true. I  
3 changed plans back I think in probably October,  
4 November when it started to get cold. I said, "You  
5 know, we're not shutting the furnace off this winter,  
6 we're going to keep it on. We'll do the level pay  
7 plan for the winter and do that."

8 I put a request in online to do that.  
9 The very next day, we were switched over to that plan  
10 just as it said we would be.

11 So spring comes around. I said, "Gee, we  
12 want to go back to the weekend saver plan that we'd  
13 been using before." And so I contacted Evergy and  
14 they said that, "Well, you'll be switched back at your  
15 next billing cycle." Not the next day; the next  
16 billing cycle.

17 I contacted Evergy representative about  
18 that and he told me that the Commission had informed  
19 them that they really didn't mean that you could  
20 switch any time you wanted to, only that you could  
21 switch any billing cycle you wanted to.

22 So that's confusing to people. And it  
23 was very confusing to me certainly and I know other  
24 folks as well.

25 We've got folks turning off their furnace

1 in the wintertime, we're turning off our air  
2 conditioning in the summertime. Is this really the  
3 kind of thing we want to put upon the people of  
4 Missouri that they're going to need to do this? That  
5 they're going to need to swelter in the summer heat  
6 and freeze in winter's cold so they don't have to pay  
7 more money for their electricity?

8 That's what time-of-use does and that's  
9 the way the people look at it that I've talked to.

10 During the question-and-answer session, I  
11 questioned the Office of Public Counsel and the PSC  
12 Staff representative. I was interested to find that  
13 the Staff considers themselves independent of the  
14 Commission.

15 I just heard that they're employed by the  
16 Commission, which would leave me to believe that  
17 they're not independent of the Commission, that  
18 they're actually employees of and work for the  
19 Commission and I would hope that they would advise the  
20 Commission.

21 I have questions about how efficiently --  
22 effectively the Public Counsel -- Office of Public  
23 Counsel has stood up for the public in past hearings.  
24 I hope that he's done a good job, but yet we have  
25 questions about that.



1           We've had bills before us in the  
2 legislature this last year to restructure the PSC.  
3 We've taken a good hard look at that, we will continue  
4 to take a good hard look at that. Many are not up- --  
5 not happy at all with some of the decisions,  
6 especially the time-of-use rates decision that has  
7 been forced upon the people who are customers of  
8 Everygy. And it's my understanding they're going to be  
9 forced upon Ameren customers as well.

10           And I think that we need to take another  
11 look at that and look at why we're here. We're here  
12 to protect the public. That should be the number one.  
13 Protect the public. When you make your decisions, I  
14 hope that you make every decision with the public's  
15 interest in mind as the utmost thing that you need to  
16 be worried about. Thank you for your time.

17           JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir.

18           Are there any Commissioner questions for  
19 the Representative? Thank you, sir. You're dismissed  
20 from our witness stand.

21           MR. VAN SCHOIACK: Thank you.

22           JUDGE HATCHER: Kelry Smith. Ma'am, if  
23 you would please state and spell your name for the  
24 record?

25           MS. SMITH: Yes. My name is Kelry Smith,

1 K-e-l-r-y, last name Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

3 And I'll swear you in.

4 (Kelry Smith sworn in.)

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go  
6 ahead and proceed with your comments.

7 MS. SMITH: Okay. So my comment is I am  
8 100 percent against a rate hike. I'm going to go over  
9 some reasons why.

10 So first off, part of it is what I do for  
11 a living. See, I'm licensed in life and health  
12 insurance. Okay. So what I do is I sell Medicare  
13 advantage plans to our seniors, okay? It is a  
14 heartbreaking job every day, day in, day out when you  
15 talk to them and they can't afford things because they  
16 are on a fixed income.

17 Okay. Me, I can work a second, third  
18 job. Is that what you want? That's what I already  
19 do. Okay. I do about any gig -- I actually have a  
20 dog at my house that was from Rover because I have to.  
21 You know, laugh, but it's not funny. I drive Wal-Mart  
22 for Spark, I Door Dash, I Lyft. I can prove all of  
23 this. Because I have to because things are expensive  
24 right now. It is not the right time.

25 When I'm talking to one of my people

1 who -- you know, their medication is very expensive.  
2 Maybe it's a tier four medication. That's \$95. What  
3 medication are they not getting this month? I'm not a  
4 pharmacist, I'm not their doctor. I try and find them  
5 ways to save on their medication with the name that I  
6 have. Some of their medication is \$45. You'd be  
7 surprised how much medication some people have to  
8 take.

9           Okay. Fixed income people, which there's  
10 a lot around, they cannot afford it. Yeah, I can work  
11 myself to the bone. When I got off of one job today,  
12 I went to another job today. Okay. That's not  
13 living. That's not life. So I oppose it.

14           First off, one of the reasons I'm in  
15 opposition of this, I'm all electric. I had their  
16 nice PAYS program come out to my house to see how I  
17 could save money. I can't. My house is 100  
18 percent -- in my -- every room in the house, I have a  
19 ceiling fan, because that's supposed to help, with one  
20 LED bulb. Not four bulbs, one. All the ceiling fans.  
21 Okay. With one.

22           And the first thing he said, "Oh, you  
23 have LED bulbs." Yeah, it's very dim in here. Hope  
24 it's light outside because with one bulb running in  
25 the rooms, it is dim. It's a one-level,

1 three-bedroom, concrete slab, no basement, two-car  
2 attached garage. My bill is just shy of \$300.

3 I'm -- I work all the time. I'm hardly  
4 ever home. I have a Nest thermostat; that was  
5 supposed to be great. It's set at 74 to 75 degrees  
6 all the time. I don't cook from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
7 unless I grill out, because I can't afford to turn on  
8 the air fryer or the stove or the over. I simply  
9 cannot afford to.

10 My day starts at 6:00 a.m. Come about  
11 five o'clock, I'm hangry, I want to eat. But I can't  
12 because I have to wait. I don't do laundry until it's  
13 a weekend. Okay. I have already uprooted so many  
14 things and so have so many people. We can't keep  
15 doing this. We cannot afford 14, 17, 5 percent.  
16 Can't afford it.

17 When the all-electric plan went away, you  
18 did get a rate hike. A rate hike went in effect for  
19 many of us who were on the all electric. So you did  
20 get one. You know, the PAYS program -- so there's  
21 absolutely nothing I can do. I can't even upgrade my  
22 heating and air unit because it's already efficient  
23 enough. I can't upgrade a single appliance because  
24 it's already efficient enough.

25 You know, I would think -- you know, I --

1 I understand. There's been a lot of bad weather. I  
2 get it. We're in the Midwest. You know, there's bad  
3 weather. Welcome to life. We weather storms every  
4 day as people. Do we pick between are we eating or  
5 are we paying our power bill?

6 You know, Evergy claims they have all  
7 these programs. They're not Evergy programs. First  
8 off, they tell me, "Well, you make too much." Really?  
9 Then why am I scrimping and saving and cutting down on  
10 groceries and saying -- you know, surfing Facebook and  
11 Google for cheap meal ideas, budget meal ideas for  
12 2024, not 2022? Why am I doing that constantly before  
13 I make a grocery list? Why am I suffering to pay a  
14 power bill?

15 Because the programs that they send you  
16 to, which are not Evergy, they send you, they -- "Oh,  
17 you make too much." Okay, so I'm the working poor.  
18 Yay me. I still can't afford a rate hike.

19 You know, earlier they said that these  
20 things are 50, 60, 70 years old. Well, you should  
21 have been planning. You're a business. I'm sorry.  
22 You should have been planning. You knew this time was  
23 coming. Don't hit us with all this all at once.  
24 Because all -- people are reeling right now as it is.

25 You know, everybody wants their piece of

1 the pie and I feel like this is Everygy just asking for  
2 their piece of the pie because everybody else is. Now  
3 is not the right time. They showed a slide that said  
4 South Dakota -- they showed Texas and Oklahoma rates  
5 went up. They showed South Dakota went down  
6 10 percent -- or sorry, it was North Dakota. Let's be  
7 like North Dakota. Let's give everybody a break, you  
8 know.

9                   What can they do to change their  
10 finances? Because I know I've had to do a lot to  
11 change mine. So what can they do to change theirs  
12 that they don't have to pass this on to all the  
13 customers who have no choice and have to use them? I  
14 mean, because it's -- you know, we got to have power.

15                   So I feel it should be a zero percent  
16 increase and it should be maybe even a decrease  
17 because this is out of control. It is out of hand.  
18 And when people, including myself, have to pick and  
19 choose, well, do we want to keep the power on or, I  
20 don't know, eat? And that's real. That's reality.

21                   I'll be glad to show anybody my  
22 checkbook. Yeah, I still have one. I'll be glad to  
23 show you. I'm tired of working all the time. Why  
24 can't I start enjoying life too? Because I do work  
25 for a living. Why can't our seniors who are on fixed

1 income or people on disability, on fixed income, why  
2 can't they enjoy life too? They deserve it just as  
3 everyone else. Why does it have to be pick and choose  
4 if you're eating or you're paying your power bill?  
5 That's all I have.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Smith.  
7 Are there any questions from  
8 Commissioners?

9 Thank you, ma'am. Appreciate you  
10 testifying.

11 The next name I have is James Wedidinger.  
12 Mr. Wedidinger, if you would please state and spell  
13 your name, please, for the record.

14 MR. WEDIDINGER: My name is James,  
15 J-a-m-e-s, Wedidinger, W-e-d-i-d-i-n-g-e-r. German  
16 name.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. I apologize  
18 for that, Mr. Wedidinger.

19 MR. WEDIDINGER: You were right on.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Oh, good for me. Thank  
21 you. Let me go ahead and swear you in.

22 (James Wedidinger sworn in.)

23 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. If you'd  
24 like to go ahead and please give us your comments.

25 MR. WEDIDINGER: Yes. Thank you,

1 Commission, for coming and letting the people talk to  
2 you. Appreciate that.

3 I am a customer of -- of this company and  
4 they are a good company. They have always provided  
5 power, even in the storms. And when I thought other  
6 people were -- in other states were out of power, I  
7 thank them that in Missouri, we had power.

8 But it's getting to the point where  
9 affordability is an issue. As it was said before, I  
10 am one of the persons that are on a fixed income. I  
11 don't begrudge the company a profit.

12 And I don't know -- I rely on you,  
13 Commissioners, to decide how much that will be. I  
14 understand it's not a take all or nothing. That you  
15 are able to make some adjustments to that. And you  
16 all are in a better position than what I am to do  
17 that.

18 All I can say is my personal experience.  
19 And I have done everything that I could to reduce my  
20 bills to save electricity with the company's help.  
21 And I feel for the company too because I was paying  
22 4 dollars for gas. I think it's down to 3 dollars now  
23 for gas.

24 And I think that the company will realize  
25 some of those profits and hopefully -- or savings,



1 excuse me -- savings. That they will use those in a  
2 prudent manner to invest in their structure.

3 My point is I am willing to pay what rate  
4 is as a reasonable amount to have the services. But I  
5 thank that I am living in America and you all are  
6 listening to me about my position. Thank you very  
7 much.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Wedidinger.

10 Are there any questions? No.

11 Thank you, sir. I appreciate you coming  
12 to testify tonight.

13 Next, we have Dave Hopper. Thank you,  
14 sir. If you would please state and spell your name  
15 for the record.

16 MR. HOPPER: David Hopper, Sr., D-a-v-i-d  
17 H-o-p-p-e-r, S-r.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Hopper.  
19 And let me swear you in.

20 (David Hopper, Sr. sworn in.)

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go  
22 ahead with your comments.

23 MR. HOPPER: My comment is my bill is  
24 715 dollars for one month. I'm on disability, me and  
25 my wife. And by the time we pay the bills, we don't

1 have nothing to eat so I have to ask for handouts.

2 That's all I got.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir, for --  
4 for coming up. I appreciate that. That's -- that's  
5 okay. We don't have any questions.

6 The next name I have on the list is  
7 Maudie Schubert. Thank you. If you could state and  
8 spell your name for the record, please?

9 MS. SCHUBERT: Maudie Schubert,  
10 M-a-u-d-i-e S-c-h-u-b-e-r-t.

11 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, ma'am. And  
12 I'm going to go ahead and swear you in.

13 (Maudie Schubert sworn in.)

14 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go  
15 ahead with your comments.

16 MS. SCHUBERT: Comments is I can't afford  
17 another rate increase. I'm total electric, I'm on  
18 disability.

19 And right now it's canning system, you  
20 know, and all the prices are going up, food even. So  
21 one brother has planted a garden and I'm canning.  
22 Well, guess what? I got to wait till 2:00 or 3:00 in  
23 the morning to turn the stove on to can. It gets a  
24 little inconvenient though.

25 I shut everything off between 4:00 and

1 8:00. That way -- to keep costs down. My bill jumped  
2 from last month to this month almost 200 dollars and I  
3 shut everything off. I don't watch TV. I don't  
4 sit -- all the rooms, lights are off. Got one light  
5 on in the kitchen, none in the living room, none in  
6 the bedroom. Everything's off. My light bill jumped.

7 I just can't afford it. I mean -- and  
8 she mentioned medicine. People pick and choose. I  
9 have a lot of health issues and I have to pick and  
10 choose what medicine I -- I can pay for. And my  
11 doctors knows this too.

12 So -- because I've got heart issues, I've  
13 got breathing issues, I had lung cancer, a partial  
14 lung removal, got to go to chemotherapy in the  
15 morning. So -- and then I have also neurological  
16 issues as well. So it -- it's devastating. I just  
17 can't afford it. And I'm by myself. That's all I  
18 got.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, ma'am.

20 Are there any questions?

21 Thank you for coming to testify tonight.  
22 We appreciate that.

23 That was the end of our list of witnesses  
24 who had signed up. As I mentioned before, I would  
25 like to invite anyone who is in the audience who did

1 not sign up if you have been so moved to testify,  
2 please come on forward. And you've seen the process,  
3 we'll take your name and I'll swear you in. I  
4 understand that can be a little intimidating. That's  
5 okay.

6 Yes, ma'am, come up -- come on forward,  
7 please.

8 MS. LATHAM: My name is Diana Latham,  
9 D-i-a-n-a L-a-t-h-a-m. I live in St. Joseph,  
10 Missouri. I'm 67 years old. I am retired and my  
11 husband is retired.

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Latham?

13 MS. LATHAM: Yes.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: Can I swear you in real  
15 quick?

16 MS. LATHAM: Yeah, sure.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you.

18 (Diana Latham sworn in.)

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go  
20 ahead.

21 MS. LATHAM: Okay. First of all, I get  
22 \$800 a month. By the time I pay my insurance, I'm  
23 left with \$500 in my pocket. My husband's a little  
24 bit better off than that, but we still try to keep our  
25 household to a minimal on gas and electricity.

1 We're on the 4:00 to 8:00. We don't do  
2 anything between that time. We don't do laundry,  
3 don't dry things, we don't do anything.

4 So the -- the hike -- the hike went up in  
5 January, February. So now you want another hike. I  
6 think there should be a cap put on this for the people  
7 of St. Joe. Because there's so many low-income people  
8 in this town, that they can't afford to be housed,  
9 they can't afford to rent anywhere, they can't afford  
10 food, they -- they just can't afford it.

11 We have a lot of people with  
12 disabilities, a lot of people that are retired, just a  
13 whole lot of homeless people. And I work with the  
14 homeless people. I represent Eighth Street  
15 Backpackers. That's my group that I run. And I help  
16 clothe these people and give them shoes and everything  
17 else.

18 I ask them why they're not being housed.  
19 There's people out there that's waiting five years.  
20 And even if they did get housed, their disability is  
21 so low that they can't afford the electricity once  
22 they do pay their rent. And if some of them can pay  
23 their utilities, like just lights, they can't afford  
24 food even though they get food stamps.

25 My son is on disability for a number of

1 disabilities and gets \$50 a month for food stamps.  
2 That's it. Yes, you can go to InterServ and you can  
3 go to other places and get food. But he gets a small  
4 little box of beans, rice, maybe some -- a bag of --  
5 small bag of meat that he can eat. And he's lacking  
6 two or three weeks. I have to supplement his food.

7           Everything has gone up so high in the  
8 United States, that people just absolutely cannot  
9 afford to pay more. We watch what we do, we limit  
10 what we do, we just can't afford it.

11           And you have on the list one person in a  
12 family size has \$30,000 a year. Most people don't  
13 make that. I don't have the numbers, but people make  
14 about 15, 20 maybe with one person in the household.  
15 And they're struggling. If they've got kids, they're  
16 struggling to pay child support, pay for food, pay for  
17 medical, pay for anything the kids need for school.

18           They are not college degree people.  
19 That's what most of downtown area is, is non-college  
20 people. They're just typical, normal people that want  
21 to live and be able to pay their rent and pay their  
22 utilities and not have to go into some sort of  
23 one-building housing where there's drugs and alcohol  
24 and abuse and all kinds of rampant things that go on  
25 there. You wouldn't even want to walk through there

1 even during the daytime.

2           So why would these people want to take  
3 their children and live in a building like that? They  
4 are trying to make it. They are working. And if they  
5 happen to have two people in the household, they are  
6 definitely not making 40,000. Maybe 30, if that.

7           Because of this rate hike, I have  
8 considered in my household to have a woodstove, to use  
9 my fireplace because it's gas to heat with. I have  
10 lanterns, I have candles. Because I'm tired of paying  
11 out all these high utility bills and so are a lot of  
12 other people.

13           I'm here to represent the poor people in  
14 this -- in this town. And I'm telling you they cannot  
15 afford this high rate. And even if they could go to  
16 CAP and get some help, they have minimal time, a  
17 certain timeline they could go get the help that the  
18 government's paying for. Us taxpayers are paying for  
19 it to pay y'all and to pay the people that can afford  
20 it.

21           How do I know? I raised three children  
22 single, disabled. I did everything I could to save  
23 money. And I had to go to CAP and ask to get help  
24 with my electricity. We cooled two rooms with a  
25 window air conditioner. That's it. That's it. We

1 kept everything to the lowest minimum everything  
2 possible.

3           And that's the way a lot of people are  
4 now. They're trying to live on the edge of being  
5 scared to turn on a light, being scared to do laundry,  
6 being scared to cook. It's ridiculous that now you  
7 all want another raise hike. Let's -- yeah. Let's  
8 just put it on the people.

9           When do we get to vote for this? You all  
10 vote for it. When do we get to vote for this? I'm  
11 voting no. I'm voting a cap on electrical bills.  
12 That's what I want. And I would imagine a lot of  
13 other people would too.

14           There's a lot of people that's destitute  
15 in this -- in this town. There's a lot more coming  
16 out homeless because they couldn't pay utility bills.  
17 They come in and they -- they shut you off and then  
18 they're out on the street because they get evicted.

19           Same way with the water bill. I know  
20 tons of people that's out there on the street now  
21 because their electricity gets turned out -- off  
22 because they couldn't afford to pay it.

23           And I'm talking -- I'm not talking about  
24 young people on drugs. I'm talking about elderly  
25 people, people that are married, couples, single. I'm



1 voting no on this and I hope you all do too because  
2 St. Joe can't afford this. Thank you.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Latham.  
4 Any questions?

5 Thank you, ma'am.

6 We have once again come to the end of our  
7 witness list. I'll ask again if there's anyone in the  
8 audience who would like to testify? If not and you  
9 would still like to make a comment or you know someone  
10 at home who couldn't be here who would like to make a  
11 comment to the Commission, you can make written  
12 comments.

13 This case is still ongoing. You can go  
14 to the PSC's website, that's PSC.mo.gov, and in the  
15 upper right-hand corner of that page is a link that  
16 says Submit Comments. And I would ask that you just  
17 put the case number for this case, and that is  
18 ER-2024-0189, and your comments will get into the case  
19 file.

20 Are there any closing comments from our  
21 Commissioners?

22 CHAIR HAHN: Good evening. I know we're  
23 wrapping up here. I just want to thank you all for  
24 coming tonight. I know you could have chosen to do  
25 any number of things tonight; spend it with your

1 family, do your second or third job, any host of  
2 things, but instead you chose to come and spend your  
3 time with us, helping educate us about your service  
4 and about your thoughts on this case.

5 And unless we talk to you, we don't  
6 necessarily get that input. And so we appreciate it  
7 and we'll take it into consideration. Thank you all  
8 so much.

9 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, I want to  
10 echo the Chairman's comments. I want to thank  
11 everyone for coming out this evening and giving us  
12 your comments and your testimony on -- on this case.  
13 So again, thank you for coming out.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you all. And with  
15 that, we will go ahead and adjourn the hearing. Let's  
16 go off the record.

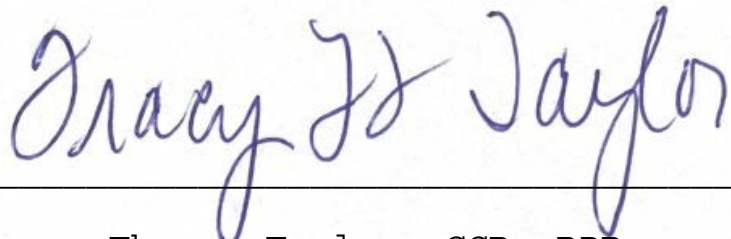
17 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
18 7:59 p.m.)

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## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was duly taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



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Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR, RPR

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