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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024
12:00 PM

Jefferson City, MO 65101.
via WebEx

VOLUME 6

RON PRIDGIN, Presiding
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair
JASON R. HOLSMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
COMMISSIONERS.

Reported By:
Ms. CANDICE K. PEREZ

1 LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

2 VOLUME 6

3 * * * * *

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon. We are on-the-record.
5 This is a virtual local public hearing for the Evergy rate
6 case, file No. ER-2024-0189. It is being held at noon on
7 August 1, 2024. The Missouri Public Service Commission has set
8 this time for a local public hearing to give members of the
9 public a chance to comment about Evergy West's general rate
10 increase application.

11 The commission regulates the rates charge by public
12 utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates
13 are just and reasonable. The commission also regulates
14 the quality of service and safety of the operations of
15 public utilities. My name is Ron Pridgin. I am the
16 regulatory law judge presiding over this hearing. The
17 commissioners have not made any decisions in this case and
18 they cannot answer any questions because they need to wait
19 until all of the evidence has been presented.

20 Let me see if we have any entries of appearance from
21 counsel, beginning with Evergy please.

22 MR. STEINER: Yes. Can you hear me, Judge?

23 THE COURT: Yes, sir, I can.

24 MR. STEINER: My name is Roger Steiner. I am an
25 attorney for Evergy Missouri West. My address is 1200 Main

1 Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64105.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Steiner, thank you. Any entry on
3 behalf of the staff of commission please?

4 MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge. Thank you. Can you hear
5 me?

6 THE COURT: I can, thank you.

7 MR. PRINGLE: This is Travis Pringle appearing on
8 behalf of staff. My contact information is P.O. Box 360,
9 Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Pringle, thank you. Any entry on
11 behalf of the office of the public counsel?

12 MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you, Judge. Marc Poston
13 appearing for the office of public counsel.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Poston, thank you. Any entries
15 from -- or any interveners? All right. Hearing none. I don't
16 know if Mr. Pringle or if anyone else can answer this, if we
17 have any sort of sign-up sheet to see what kind of witnesses we
18 might have today.

19 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Nothing on my end, Judge. I
20 have not seen a list.

21 THE COURT: All right. Is anyone aware of any sort
22 of sign-up sheet?

23 MR. PRINGLE: I don't believe so, Your Honor. There
24 was some people asking -- some customers asking questions at
25 the Q&A session, but --

1 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Steiner, thank you. In that
2 case let me see first before we take any witnesses if there are
3 any commissioners who wish to make any opening remarks before
4 we proceed to testimony.

5 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Judge, this is Commissioner
6 Holsman.

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

8 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you. I just want to
9 thank everybody. If anyone testifies today, this is the fourth
10 hearing -- or local public hearing that we've had in the
11 consecutive days. This is the first virtual one. We did have
12 some participants last night who felt like they wanted to have
13 more time. We offered to have them come in today so maybe
14 we'll hear from some of them. I also want to mention that
15 Sheriff Hahn is participating from the listening standpoint.
16 She's unable from a technical standpoint to contribute, so I
17 would just like to welcome everybody on behalf of the
18 commissioners to this local public hearing via WebEx. Thank
19 you.

20 THE COURT: Commissioner, thank you. Any further
21 opening remarks from commissioners?

22 Okay. Hearing none, we will then proceed to
23 testimony. And because I don't have any sort of sign-up
24 sheet, I guess I will just ask if anyone would like to
25 testify.

1 MR. GLAUZ: Hello. My name is Bob Klaus. I'm a
2 resident of Lees Summit. And --

3 THE COURT: Okay. If you'd like to testify, let me
4 swear you in and then ask you to spell your name for the court
5 reporter. And then I'm going to ask everyone to limit their
6 testimony to five minutes so everyone has plenty of time to
7 testify. So Mr. Glauz, if you'll raise your right hand to be
8 sworn please.

9 MR. GLAUZ: Yes.

10 [Witness sworn in.]

11 THE COURT: Thank you very much. If you'll state and
12 spell your name for the court reporter please.

13 MR. GLAUZ: Yes. My name is Robert Glauz, spelt
14 G-L-A-U-Z.

15 THE COURT: All right. And what is your testimony
16 for the commission please?

17 MR. GLAUZ: I just want to make some comments about
18 some observations from the Evergy 2023 annual report.
19 Specifically they show return on equity for Evergy -- this
20 segment, Missouri West -- and how it compared to other utility
21 companies in the S -- S&P 500. Over the last five years Evergy
22 has shot about a 2 percent return on equity whereas the average
23 for the S&P 500 Company is about a 7 percent return. The
24 increase that they are requesting is targeting a 10.5 percent
25 return on equity. And I know that some jurisdictions limit

1 that return on equity or at least limit what they are striving
2 for, and I thought that the 10.5 was overreaching rather high
3 for a utility company.

4 That was the main point I wanted to make. I'm hoping
5 that that request will be assessed in a manner that would
6 preferably result in a lower return on equity in line with
7 other utility companies.

8 One other comment, this increase is going to be
9 hitting residential customers more than commercial
10 customers. And I understand that there's some process for
11 determining that, but as a residential customer, I'm not
12 too happy that we're catching more of the burden of this
13 increase. And that's all I have.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Glauz, thank you. Are there any
15 commissioner questions?

16 All right. Hearing none, Mr. Glauz, thank you for
17 your testimony. Is there anyone else who wishes to
18 testify? All right. Going once, going twice, I'll --
19 I'll give up one last opportunity. Does anyone else wish
20 to make any testimony in today's local public hearing?

21 **THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor.**

22 THE COURT: Okay. I'm sorry. If you'll identify
23 yourself please.

24 MR. GREEN: Jesse Green.

25 THE COURT: --

1 MR. GREEN: -- Green like the color.

2 THE COURT: If you'll raise your right hand to be
3 sworn please.

4 [Witness sworn in.]

5 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. When you're ready, your
6 five minutes is beginning.

7 MR. GREEN: It'll be short and sweet. I made some
8 comments last night there in Sedalia and just had a -- a quick
9 follow-up in the Q&A and touching base there. And it was
10 pretty obvious that what I spoke about last night with false
11 advertisement became very true whenever I learned in the Q&A
12 session from Evergy's spokesperson that the actual average bill
13 in Evergy Missouri West is \$126, so 26 -- 26 percent higher
14 than their flyer put out. So when -- whenever we are talking
15 dollars to the consumer, I would assume that we would try to be
16 more accurate in the -- in the false advertisement, but it's
17 definitely something that has turned out to be something that
18 Evergy maybe would normally do. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Does the commission have any
20 questions?

21 All right. Hearing none. Mr. Green, thank you
22 again. Does anyone else --

23 MR. GREEN: All right. Thanks.

24 THE COURT: -- wish to testify?

25 All right. Hearing no volunteers, is there --

1 MR. FOSTER: Yes -- yes, I do.

2 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Could you identify yourself
3 please?

4 MR. FOSTER: Daryl Foster.

5 THE COURT: All right. If you'll raise your right
6 hand to be sworn please.

7 [Witness sworn in.]

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. If you'll state
9 and spell your name for the court reporter please.

10 MR. FOSTER: Daryl Foster D-A-R-Y-L F-O-S-T-E-R.

11 THE COURT: All right. And what is your testimony
12 today?

13 MR. FOSTER: Well, I'd just like to bring up the fact
14 that the -- you know, they want to do this fuel adjustment --
15 raising this up -- the fuel adjustment cost. I know on the
16 management side I believe they're -- they're kind of heavy on
17 that side. And with this day and age of computers and -- and
18 that sort of technology -- the -- you know, some of these
19 service centers that have maybe seven or eight employees if
20 they have a supervisor over them could be ran -- you know, by
21 another service center or whatever and they could cut some --
22 trim some fat that way and -- and you know, I don't know what's
23 going on with the wind energy out in Western Kansas and if
24 that's being used and utilized like it should be. But I think
25 this 17 percent increase could be a lot less if they'd just let

1 us know -- you know, I don't know what -- like I said, I don't
2 know what's going on with -- with that out there. But there is
3 some -- some fat that could be trimmed in other places I
4 believe. Thank you.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. Any
6 commissioner questions?

7 All right. Hearing none. Thank you. Does anyone
8 else wish to testify?

9 Okay. I have waited a few seconds. I haven't heard
10 any other request to testify. Are there any remarks from
11 the commissioners before we close?

12 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Judge, I just want to
13 reiterate our appreciation for the time that the testimony have
14 given taken today, especially Jeff who was -- was there last
15 night and made his remarks to -- you know, to come back the
16 next day and follow-up does show us that there's a commitment
17 in getting more educated on the issues and sharing -- sharing
18 his thoughts, and as well as -- as Bob and everyone else who
19 came today. We appreciate it. We have another one at 6:00
20 this evening. So if someone didn't get a chance to -- to get
21 in today, there's one more opportunity for our fifth local
22 public hearing, then I would encourage them to -- to do that as
23 well.

24 Otherwise, we thank them for their time and I thank
25 you, Judge, for running the meeting. And everyone, have a

1 great afternoon.

2 THE COURT: All right. Commissioner, thank you.
3 Anything else from any commissioners before we close? All
4 right. Hearing nothing, that will conclude the noon local
5 public hearing. As Commissioner Holsman said, we also have
6 another one set for 6:00 p.m. this evening. Thank you very
7 much for your attendance and your participation. And we are
8 off-the-record.

9 [Hearing dismissed.]

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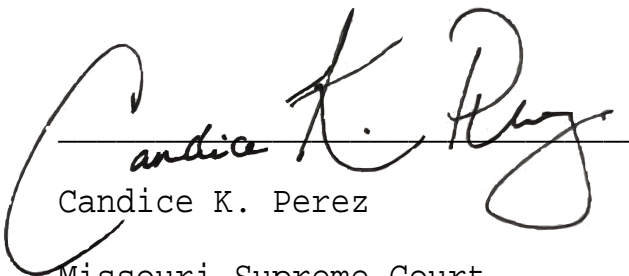
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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I, Candice K. Perez, a Certified Court Reporter for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; the testimony of said witness was 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.


Candice K. Perez

Missouri Supreme Court
Certified Court Reporter

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