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JUDGE PRIDGIN: Let's go on the record then.

Good evening. Welcome to this evening's virtual local public hearing in the Evergy rate case.

This is in File Number ER-2024-0189. The Commission regulates the rates charged by public utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable.

The Commission also regulates the quality of service and safety of the operations of public utilities.

There are five Commissioners, and they are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.

The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other specialists in the field of utility regulation.

I'm Ron Pridgin; I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to preside over this hearing.

The Commissioners have not made any decisions in this case, and they cannot answer your questions this evening.

Let me see if I have any entries of appearance from any counsel. Do I have an entry from Evergy Missouri West?

MR. STEINER: Yes. Thanks, your Honor. Roger

Τ	Sterner, accorney for Evergy Missouri west.
2	My address is 1200 Main Street, Kansas City,
3	Missouri. Thank you.
4	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Steiner, thank you. Any
5	entry on behalf of the Staff of the Commission?
6	MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. This is Travis
7	Pringle, appearing on behalf Staff.
8	My address is P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City,
9	Missouri 65102.
10	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Pringle, thank you. Any
11	entry on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel?
12	MR. POSTON: Yes, Judge. Thank you. Marc
13	Poston, appearing on behalf of the Office of Public
14	Counsel.
15	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Any
16	entries on behalf any intervenors?
17	All right. Hearing none, are there any
18	Commissioners who would like to make any opening
19	statements before we proceed to testimony?
20	MR. HOLSMAN: Judge, this is Commissioner
21	Holsman.
22	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. When you're ready.
23	MR. HOLSMAN: I just want to thank everybody for
24	showing up tonight.
25	This is our fifth and final local public hearing



Τ	on this issue, and we do appreciate anyone taking the
2	time to share their thoughts.
3	It does matter, and we do appreciate it. So I
4	just wanted to say thank you.
5	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Holsman, thank you.
6	Any other opening remarks from Commissioners?
7	MR. MITCHELL: Yes, Judge. Commissioner Mitchell
8	speaking. Likewise, I would like to thank everyone for
9	attending.
L0	This is an important part of our process of
L1	gathering information and deliberations. So I just want
L2	to say thank you for being here and sharing your
L3	thoughts.
L4	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Mitchell, thank you. Any
L5	further opening remarks from Commissioners?
L6	All right. Hearing none, we will proceed then to
L7	testimony. And I don't believe I have any sort of
L8	witness list.
L9	So I'll simply ask for volunteers. Does anyone
20	wish to testify before the Commission this evening?
21	I have waited a few seconds, and let me give at
22	least one more opportunity. Is there anyone who would
23	like to testify before the Commission this evening?
24	MR. LAMONS: Press star six to unmute, if you're
25	on the phone.

Т	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes. Thank you.
2	MS. FURGESON: I guess I would, if there's no one
3	else.
4	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. If you would please
5	raise your right hand to be sworn marine.
6	(Witness sworn)
7	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you, ma'am. If
8	you will, please state your name and spell your name for
9	the court reporter.
LO	MS. FERGUSON: My name is Britney Furgeson,
L1	B-R-I-T-N-E-Y. And Furgeson is F-U-R-G-E-S-O-N.
L2	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ms. Furgeson, thank
L3	you. What is your testimony this evening?
L4	MS. FERGUSON: I guess I'm mainly joining in to
L5	see what the Missouri Public Service Commission's plan
L6	is from here on out.
L7	I think you've heard from many people that these
L8	plans are not working already, these time-based rates.
L9	I think that there desperately needs to be an option to
20	opt out of that.
21	If that is working for anybody which I don't
22	know anyone that it is working for then they should
23	be able to stay on it. If you want to opt out, you
24	should be able to do that.

So how are you going to work with Evergy going

Т	forward on this?
2	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Furgeson, thank you. Does
3	that conclude your testimony?
4	MS. FERGUSON: It does.
5	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. Are there
6	any Commissioner questions for this witness? I don't
7	hear any questions.
8	Ms. Furgeson, thank you for your testimony this
9	evening. Does anyone else wish to testify?
10	MR. ALLEGRI: Tim Allegri.
11	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Allegri, if you would raise
12	your right hand to be sworn, please.
13	(Witness sworn)
14	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. Whenever
15	you're ready.
16	MR. ALLEGRI: Okay. Yeah. I attended the
17	session last night and today. So if that's wrong, I
18	need to bow out. So Judge Pridgin, is this okay?
19	JUDGE PRIDGIN: You have five minutes, if you
20	would like, Mr. Allegri.
21	MR. ALLEGRI: All right. Very good. Thank you.
22	One of the concerns that came up last night was Ms.
23	Boggess, mayor pro tem for Sedalia, speaking of people
24	being notified of the sessions, of these hearings.
25	And one of the things that you know, receipt

of it, nonreceipt is one thing, but the marketing aspect of it.

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So if you're going to have people buy your hamburgers at McDonald's, you're going to offer a deal. Whereas -- so \$17.52, from a marketing perspective, if you want to have people not participate, particularly middle or higher-income people, you might toss them \$17.52.

Not that that's -- not to accuse that of being a nothing for middle-class income, but the interest is low, based upon on the assumption that these numbers are accurate.

And they're clearly not, because the average -- I don't know, rather, if the average bill is a hundred dollars, as it implies with the 17 percent turning into the 17.52.

But it implies that the average bill is a hundred, where we've since learned that it could be 126. In the question-and-answer session, we asked the Office of Public Counsel to explore those stats.

I, of course, could ask for those myself through a data request through Brad Lutz from Evergy, but I'm not going to. I got a life to live.

You guys have already given me a pacemaker, so thanks for that. You guys mean so much to me, Evergy,

that you've affected my life. But hey, it's working better now.

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But back to this. So the notification to people of this rate change, the rate proposal, it needs to be drawn back and reissued again.

It needs to -- the correct information needs to be provided to people, and accurate information. Don't sugarcoat it, saying it's 17.52.

Perhaps like the rate change and the time of use plan, it shows a table of when's the best time to use it, and when's the best time not to use it.

Whereas an example, if your monthly bill -- if you believe your monthly bill is an average of \$200, this will how much it will impact 400, 600.

So people who have an actual \$500 utility bill can see the impact and multiply times 12 to see the yearly impact to their life. So it's just misinformation.

And I wouldn't assume that it was done intentionally. And it's a nice way to toss a number out there -- a hundred; that's the best way to get to 17 percent, or 16 or 15, or any other odd number when you're starting with a hundred. So that's nice.

But an unintentional misinformation has occurred, is what I'm testifying to. And the notification process

-	1 1.	1	' ' '
	l nas	been	ineffective

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The gap for notifying people, I will allege,
without knowing, that if you're paper-based if you're
a paperless, rather, customer, and you're on autopay, I
would be willing to bet that those people were not
notified via paper at all.

And Evergy would act on this option; that everybody would logon to their account and see their bill, and then for a cycle of July 1st, the three attachments.

But the people that go paperless and they do autopay is so they don't have to look at that stuff. I used to work for the IRS. Nobody wants mail from the IRS. Nobody really cares about the stuff from Evergy.

MR. GOSSET: One minute, sir.

MR. ALLEGRI: Got it. So otherwise, all I'm saying is this needs to be paused, give the customers an opportunity to be properly and fairly informed, and give accurate stats if, in fact, those need to be corrected.

Please, please do so, Office of Public Counsel. Thank you.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Allegri, thank you for your testimony. Any bench questions?

Hearing none, is there anyone else who would like to testify before the Commission?

1	MS. DELLAGUARDIA: I have
2	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. If you will raise
3	your right hand and be sworn, please.
4	MS. DELLAGUARDIA: Okay.
5	(Witness sworn)
6	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
7	will, please state and spell your name for the court
8	reporter.
9	MS. DELLAGUARDIA: Robin, R-O-B-I-N.
10	Dellaguardia, D-E-L-L-A-G-U-A-R-D-I-A.
11	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Dellaguardia, thank you very
12	much. What is your testimony?
13	MS. DELLAGUARDIA: I am curious as to what the
14	Commission will do if there are enough customers not
15	wanting this rate increase.
16	There's been a lot of talk about this new rate,
17	where it seems to be where if you don't use this much
18	electricity between 4:00 and 8:00, that's supposed to be
19	the best for everybody. And with people with families,
20	obviously, it's not the best.
21	So I'm just curious if the Commission is just
22	going to go ahead and go with this rate increase, even
23	though people aren't wanting it, and we just have to
24	accept it because we have no other option, as far as who

we can have for our electricity company.

Т	That's my question; I just want to know if the
2	Commission is just going to go ahead and do this,
3	regardless of how the customers feel.
4	JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry. The Commission as
5	I said earlier, the Commission won't be answering any
6	questions.
7	Does that end your testimony, or did you have
8	anything else?
9	MS. DELLAGUARDIA: No. That ends it.
10	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you so much.
11	Are there any bench questions for this witness?
12	All right. Ms. Dellaguardia, thank you very much
13	for your testimony.
14	Does anyone else wish to testify before the
15	Commission?
16	MR. GOSSET: Judge we did have Shenice Brown
17	preregistered. I don't see her online.
18	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Is Shenice Brown on this WebEx?
19	I don't hear any response. Mr. Gosset, thank you.
20	Does anybody else wish to testify before the
21	Commission? I'll give just a few more seconds in case
22	people are having a hard time unmuting, or if they're
23	still deciding.
24	Does anyone else wish to testify before the
25	Commission this evening?

Τ	All right. Hearing no response, does the
2	Commission have any closing remarks before we go off the
3	record?
4	CHAIRPERSON HAHN: Judge, Chair Hahn.
5	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, ma'am. When you're ready,
6	Chair Hahn.
7	CHAIRPERSON HAHN: I just want to thank those who
8	participated in the hearing tonight to let us know their
9	comments.
10	We know you could choose to do any number of
11	things with your time in the evenings spend it with
12	your family, or work, or whatever you enjoy.
13	And instead, you chose to offer comments to us to
14	help inform our decision. I just want to say how
15	appreciative and thankful that we are, because that's
16	the only way we get to know your thoughts about the
17	requests before us.
18	So I just want to say thank you, and we
19	appreciate your time.
20	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn, thank you. Any other
21	Commissioners with closing remarks?
22	MR. HOLSMAN: Judge, I just want to echo the
23	Chair. We appreciate everybody, and thank you for
24	running the meeting.

JUDGE PRIDGIN:

My pleasure. Thank you,

Page 13 Commissioner Holsman. If there's nothing further from the bench, or from counsel? All right. Hearing nothing, that will conclude this evening's local public hearing in file number ER-2024-0189. Thank you very much. We're off the record.



1	Page 14 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2 3 4	STATE OF MISSOURI)) ss. CITY OF ST. LOUIS)
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6	I, Georgia B. Northway, Registered Professional
7	Reporter, a Certified Court Reporter (MO), do hereby
8	certify that the meeting aforementioned was held on the
9	time and in the place previously described.
10	
11	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
12	seal.
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