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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)	
Evergy Missouri West's)	
Request for Authority to)	File No.
Implement a General Rate)	ER-2024-0189
Increase for Electric)	
Service.)	

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Lee's Summit North High School
Performing Arts Center
901 NE Douglas
Lee's Summit, MO

VOLUME 4

KAROLIN WALKER, Presiding
Regulatory Law Judge

KAYLA HAHN, Chair
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN P. MITCHELL,
JASON R. HOLSMAN,
MADIA COLEMAN (remotely),
COMMISSIONERS

Reported By:
Jill A. Bleskey, RPR
Illinois CSR #084-004430
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A P P E A R A N C E S

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TESTIMONY BY:	PAGE :
Gregg Ochoa	5
Michelle Arps	7
Preston Smith	11
Chad Buck	15
Matt Roberds	19
Patricia Harms	20
Scott Howe	23
Justin Racette	24
David Northcraft	26

1 JUDGE WALKER: Welcome everyone. Let's go
2 on the record. First, I would ask that everybody
3 mute themselves unless you're speaking and that will
4 cut down on the noise level and the potential audio
5 feedback.

6 Today is July 30th, 2024. The Missouri
7 Public Service Commission has set this time for a
8 local public hearing for members of the public to
9 have a chance to comment about Evergy Missouri West's
10 generation rate increase application which is File
11 Number ER-2024-0189.

12 The Commission regulates the rates charged
13 by public utility companies in Missouri to ensure
14 that those rates are just and reasonable. The
15 Commission also regulates the quality of the service
16 and the safety of the operations of public utilities.
17 There are five commissioners, they are appointed by
18 the Governor and confirmed by the senate. The
19 commissioners employed a staff of engineers,
20 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other
21 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

22 My name is Karolin Walker and I am the
23 regulatory law judge that will preside over this
24 hearing. With me today is Chair Kayla Hahn to my
25 left, Commissioner Madia Coleman who is with us

1 remotely, Commissioner Jason Holsman who's at the end
2 of the table here, Commissioner Glen Kolkmeyer to my
3 left again, and Commissioner John Mitchell.

4 The commissioners have not made any
5 decisions in this case and they cannot answer any
6 questions today because they have to remain impartial
7 until all the evidence has been presented. So right
8 now we'll go through entries of appearance and then
9 we'll start with Everygy Missouri West.

10 MR. STEINER: My name is Roger Steiner and
11 I'm attorney for Everygy Missouri West. My contact
12 information has been provided to the court reporter.

13 JUDGE WALKER: Commission staff.

14 MR. CLIZER: I believe she might be in the
15 restroom.

16 JUDGE WALKER: We'll come back to her.
17 The Office of the Public Counsel.

18 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of the
19 Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. My contact
20 information is with the court reporter.

21 JUDGE WALKER: Okay. The process for this
22 hearing will be to call the names that are listed on
23 the sign up sheet in the order that they appear.
24 When I call your name, go ahead and come to the
25 podium. I'll place you under oath and ask you to

1 state and spell your name and then you can offer your
2 comments to the Commission.

3 We would like for people to, as well as
4 identifying themselves, know that you can submit your
5 comments to the Commission on the website. If you
6 hear a comment that's been made you don't have to
7 make it again and usually limit comments to five
8 minutes.

9 So the first person to testify is Gregg,
10 it looks like Ochoa.

11 And I can't see so if you could go ahead
12 and state your name and spell it.

13 MR. OCHOA: Sure. My first name is Greg
14 G-R-E-G-G, last name is O-C-H-O-A.

15 JUDGE WALKER: Okay.

16 * * * * *

17 GREGG OCHOA,

18 The witness, having been first duly sworn
19 upon his oath, testified as follows:

20 * * * * *

21 JUDGE WALKER: You may proceed with your
22 comments.

23 MR. OCHOA: Thank you. May it please the
24 Commission. They've been saying that this rate case
25 is about recovery of costs, I don't have a problem

1 with that. But I just wanted to bring a service
2 reliability issue to your attention. I live in Lee's
3 Summit and the power at my house has gone out about
4 nine times this year, including three times this past
5 Sunday. One of the outages this year lasted for
6 28 hours, it was over Memorial Day weekend, May 25th
7 to May 26th. Since 2022 there have been 20 outages
8 at my home. Most of the time there were no weather
9 involved, no high wind, anything of that nature.

10 I contacted Evergy, received text messages
11 from them as the power outages would go out and come
12 back on and some of the explanation was wildlife,
13 debris, unknown, and equipment failure. So I
14 understand, you know, with a lot of modern technology
15 20 outages over that period of time seems a lot. So
16 again, I just wanted to bring this reliability issue
17 to your attention. I have contacted Evergy and have
18 the times and dates of the outages. If the
19 Commission would like that, I would submit that as an
20 exhibit.

21 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you.

22 MR. OCHOA: Should I give that to the
23 court reporter?

24 JUDGE WALKER: Sure.

25 MR. OCHOA: And that's all I have. Thank

1 you very much for your time.

2 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you for your
3 comments. Michelle Arps. Can you state and spell
4 your name for the record, please.

5 MS. ARPS: Absolutely. It's Michelle,
6 M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, last name is Arps, A-R, P as in
7 Paul, S as in Sam.

8 * * * * *

9 MICHELLE ARPS,

10 The witness, having been first duly sworn
11 upon her oath, testified as follows:

12 * * * * *

13 JUDGE WALKER: Please begin.

14 MS. ARPS: Yes. Thank you. So I have a
15 list that I submitted to the Public Service
16 Commission. I've still yet to hear back on any of
17 those. But the first one that I have, the first
18 email -- and I will limit this. The first one is
19 there's no meter number that is present on your bill,
20 in their app, or on their full website any longer
21 since the time of use came into effect. So there's
22 no meter number, there's no previous read for your
23 bill and no last read for your bill on the billings.
24 Okay. That's the first thing I have.

25 The second thing I have is that their

1 quarterly report that they have of public record on
2 Business Wire, you know, was stating 13.42 percent
3 plus a .57 rate increase of fuel starting in 2025 for
4 the Evergy Metro West service.

5 Evergy Metro West had an increase on
6 January 9th when they changed their rates. And then
7 also we had additional increases per that same
8 Business Wire. But transparency seems to be a
9 concern. Per Business Wire 2-3 of '24 their bar
10 chart shows previous rate increases for Evergy Metro
11 West of 7.6 percent. The chart is very hard to read
12 and if you do not reference the note, Number 4, you
13 will miss it, it's very -- it's down way far in the
14 documentation there. But they were trying to put
15 that out there that there hasn't been any rate
16 increases since 2017. Okay.

17 Also, another concern I have. I know that
18 a lot of this rate increase has to do with going away
19 from coal and going to the gas fired plants.
20 However, we -- the Sibley plant closed in 2018,
21 Montrose closed in 2018. Lake Road decreased their
22 capacity in two -- you know, 2020. So we're asking
23 -- you know, they're asking for, you know, rate
24 increase for gas fired plants but this is only after
25 they've taken away the majority of what at least

1 feeds our peak in relation to, you know, the coal.

2 So in that -- those seem to be what just feeds this
3 area, the Evergy Metro West.

4 So my biggest question on that is why
5 would we allow knowing -- you know, it's public
6 knowledge that everybody knows that -- and even the
7 government talks about it on the federal level that,
8 you know, the aging infrastructure. And we
9 understand that as customers. However, the concern I
10 have is we get rid of our source of power and then we
11 come back and demand a rate increase so we can do
12 something different. So that's a concern.

13 And, you know, up until this meeting there
14 wasn't, you know, a Senate Bill 757 that was out
15 there to stop this very thing of closing your source
16 of power whether it's -- it doesn't say what source,
17 doesn't necessarily say coal, but any source of
18 generation then that needs to be -- you know, they
19 need to show due diligence that they have another
20 source before they decommission our sources of power.
21 'Cause right now we're not even getting our power
22 from this region, you know, our peak is supposedly
23 coming from Mississippi, okay. So that's a concern.

24 But also we wonder, as a customer, how it
25 could be that -- this is hard to say. But as a

1 customer how can it be that if you're going try and
2 be energy efficient, and we've gotten more energy
3 efficient, we're trying to become more energy
4 efficient but then whenever we become more energy
5 efficient and we lower the amount of our usage then
6 the rates get increased because they need to get a
7 profit. So that seems like a counterproductive
8 situation. You know, you use less and so they make
9 less so they have to increase their rates, okay. So
10 that's part of it.

11 And then another thing, you know, if you
12 go solar with Evergy -- you know, you can read that
13 12 page document online. If you go solar with them
14 you give up your energy credits to them. So then
15 they get to use that then as bargaining to get the
16 things that they want and need. So that's a concern.

17 MODERATOR: It's time.

18 MS. ARPS: It's time? Okay. Thank you.

19 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you for your
20 comments.

21 MS. ARPS: Appreciate your consideration.

22 JUDGE WALKER: Marvin Rollinson. Preston
23 Smith.

24 MR. SMITH: Thank you. I'm Preston Smith.
25 That's P-R-E-S-T-O-N, S-M-I-T-H, I'm from Blue

1 Springs.

2 * * * * *

3 PRESTON SMITH,

4 The witness, having been first duly sworn
5 upon his oath, testified as follows:

6 * * * * *

7 JUDGE WALKER: You may begin.

8 MR. SMITH: Okay. In this rate increase
9 Evergy says that they have nothing to do with solar
10 and wind power, nothing with renewable energy
11 sources. But my contention is that you cannot
12 separate this -- the company or the resources that
13 easily because simply because they are having a
14 shortfall in the solar and energy production that's
15 why in this rate increase they're asking to go out
16 and purchase a natural gas factory -- a plant in
17 Pleasant Hill. There's a shortfall. Also it's
18 because that -- there are so many different aspects
19 of this company that I think that you can't just have
20 a standalone product to separate themselves.

21 So I'd like to talk briefly about the
22 Evergy's overall goals. And it says from the press
23 release from April of 2021 their goal is to reduce
24 carbon emissions by 70 percent by 2030 and achieve
25 net zero carbon emissions by 2045. There was no

1 evidence that this ever appeared in any company
2 document or integrate a source plan to the Public
3 Service Commission before 2021. Out of their
4 \$11.6 billion new capital investments they have in
5 the company they're talking \$2.1 billion there's
6 going to be primary renewable sources.

7 If you look at their other aspects of
8 their business, Evergy has not done well in this
9 renewable area. For example, in western Oklahoma the
10 Persimmon Creek Wind Farm, 17,000 wind turbines
11 purchased for \$250 million and a 20 year payback of
12 at most \$191 million, 61 -- \$60 million shortfall.
13 And I believe it's the shortfall is what is going to
14 be on the backs of customers like me and people that
15 live in this area because we're having to make up
16 that difference.

17 And if you look a little bit closer, it's
18 only been in the last few years that Evergy's taken
19 this approach. For example, just in the last couple
20 of years they went to a group out in Palo Alto,
21 California called the Electric Power Research
22 Institute -- and this is from their investor
23 documents that they have on their own website from
24 Evergy. And the group that they went to, the name of
25 the seminar was Understanding Climate Scenarios and

1 Goal Setting Activities. And you know what, perhaps
2 they were able to set these goals of what they had --
3 wanted to achieve in this net zero carbon emission.
4 And during the Q&A I asked them directly twice if
5 given the choice between effective and cheap carbon
6 based fuels versus the renewable fuels which one
7 would you choose and I couldn't get a straight
8 answer.

9 So I would ask the Commission perhaps you
10 can get a straight answer from them because I think
11 that's really the guts of what we're talking about.
12 Because we're talking about one rate increase here
13 tonight. At the rate they're going and when they
14 close a coal plant that produces 4.5 megawatts they
15 close that one, along with all the other coal plants
16 that shut down, it's not going to be the last rate
17 increase that we're going to talk about because that
18 is the trend of where this company is headed.

19 And so I'm just telling you the research
20 that I've seen the kind of rate increases they're
21 talking about here for us is really unprecedented
22 around this country. I saw one rate increase in
23 California, around 25 percent, another one in Oregon,
24 Portland, I think it was about 20 percent. But for
25 the Midwest, my goodness, I think the next highest

1 largest -- the next largest increase that I could
2 find was in Wisconsin at about five percent.

3 Now they say, gee, it's been a long time
4 since we've had a rate increase. Well, no, we've
5 been pelted just a little bit at a time and this is
6 the first time we've had this formal hearing. So
7 here again, I fully dispute the total overall
8 percentages they're talking about tonight because I
9 think we've had other increases that we haven't been
10 able to pinpoint.

11 MODERATOR: You have one minute.

12 MR. SMITH: All right. My last thing I
13 wanted to say that it looks like from the estimates
14 based on when they shut the coal plant there's going
15 to be a short term capacity gap because there are
16 some needs here locally but they're going to be not
17 only buying from elsewhere but their total renewable
18 fuel from wind and solar over the next 20 years
19 they're saying over five megawatts. So this is a
20 disturbing trend it's -- I think it's a bad policy
21 and it's also making us pay a whole lot more for
22 something that is just outrageously expensive when we
23 had cheaper alternatives in the past. So essentially
24 they've gone woke and they're making us broke. Thank
25 you.

1 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you for your
2 comments. Now I would like to give the Staff of the
3 Public Service Commission another opportunity to
4 enter their appearance for the record.

5 MS. KERR: Thank you. My name's Carolyn
6 Kerr, I'm attorney for Staff Public Service
7 Commission.

8 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you, Ms. Kerr. Chad
9 Buck.

10 MR. BUCK: My name is Chad Buck, B-U-C-K.

11 * * * * *

12 CHAD BUCK,

13 The witness, having been first duly sworn
14 upon his oath, testified as follows:

15 * * * * *

16 JUDGE WALKER: Please proceed.

17 MR. BUCK: Thank you for your time
18 tonight, Commission, and for the opportunity to
19 appear before you. Earlier I spoke and attended
20 tonight not thinking I would speak tonight. But I
21 came tonight asking a question of -- in a previous
22 Q&A session about the -- to Evergy about the demand
23 loads associated with the hyperscale data centers
24 that fall within the Missouri West district. Much of
25 this tax -- or much of this increase and one of the

1 questions that was asked was how much of that load in
2 usage is forecasted for these type of companies.
3 These are multi-billion dollar companies that are
4 looking to expand.

5 Because of the need for AI data centers
6 are a growing industry and they're coming to Missouri
7 and Kansas region, and the Midwest, coming from the
8 lakes of Loudoun County, Virginia. And I would
9 encourage you guys to take a look at what's gone on
10 in the power sources of Loudoun County, Virginia and
11 some of the concerns that those citizens have had as
12 it related to the invasion of data centers into our
13 community.

14 While they're necessary -- they're
15 necessary in our current lifestyle and our future
16 lifestyle that we operate in with AI and the need for
17 data storage the thing I ask of this commission is
18 that they take time and consider about the property
19 owners and the citizens and the people that live in
20 the rural portions of Missouri. That they consider
21 that the power lines and the infrastructure and the
22 wind and solar that is being placed as a need to
23 power these facilities has done so in consideration
24 of people that have staked their whole lives in many
25 of these small rural communities that are now looking

1 to be faced with eminent domain or a large power pole
2 placed right in the middle of their front yard or
3 their farmland where they've raised their families
4 and attempted to leave a legacy and a family for
5 their children are at stake.

6 The need for additional power has come,
7 Evergy has asked -- or has said that. They're here
8 today asking to approve a rate increase because of
9 their purchase of a Dogwood gas facility in Pleasant
10 Hill, Missouri in Cass County.

11 In addition to those expenditures the
12 moneys that are needed for future growth may be those
13 required for a single user, the Googles of the world,
14 the Metas of the world and the data center providers
15 and we ask that that be done in transparency. I live
16 in an area where my parents live right behind --
17 within 50 feet of where a hyperscale data center is
18 being proposed to be placed without any setbacks.
19 Because of the loose zoning laws that you'll find in
20 many of these small jurisdictions Evergy and the
21 state has -- I'll just say, the power and the solar
22 and wind have massive amounts of money with attorneys
23 to go into these small communities and to take
24 liberties with their commissions and their citizenry.

25 And I ask that the Commission would place

1 a moratorium on power needs for future data center
2 growths until there can be such a time and a
3 comprehensive plan to look how data centers fit
4 within our identity of our society.

5 Much like the landfill measure which took
6 up just recently in the State of Missouri which we
7 were a part of that decision required that now
8 landfills be within -- not be within one mile of the
9 residential or city center. That was a smart
10 legislative move. Data centers are much like that.
11 Most people think data centers are harmless but quite
12 honestly they're not, the research is out there. And
13 we ask that you guys take the time and understand
14 it's not about this one source of entity, it's about
15 all the power, infrastructure, the peaking stations,
16 the substations and additional things that will come
17 to feed these behemoths of power. The requests of
18 power -- the request for power is likening of one
19 gigawatt of power, that's 750 homes of power. That's
20 a lot of power that's going to be deployed in a very
21 small set of assets and are they paying their fair
22 share. These billion dollar companies are asking for
23 us, the citizens of Missouri, to pay for these at
24 cost and our property rights and our quality of life
25 being protected. Thank you for your time.

1 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you. I want to see
2 if Marvin Rollinson is here. No. All right. Is
3 there anyone else who'd like to offer testimony
4 today? Come to the podium, please.

5 MR. ROBERDS: Good evening. My name is
6 Matt, M-A-T-T, Roberds, R-O-B-E-R, D like David, S.

7 * * * * *

8 MATT ROBERDS,

9 The witness, having been first duly sworn
10 upon his oath, testified as follows:

11 * * * * *

12 JUDGE WALKER: You may proceed.

13 MR. ROBERDS: I'm Matt Roberds, I am an
14 Everygy customer in Blue Springs. My concern tonight
15 is -- related to this rate increase is with
16 reliability. I've had a couple of outages earlier
17 this year, one of them was in the middle of April,
18 one of them was -- it was a little later on, it was
19 end of May, first of June and, you know, I'm used to
20 short outages when we have a storm or something the
21 power goes out for an hour, that's not that big of
22 deal. These two outages were eight plus hours each,
23 they involved pretty much all of my subdivision, 150
24 plus homes. The power did come back on but, you
25 know, I had to -- and I didn't, you know, have any --

1 suffer a loss. I had to go buy some ice, put that in
2 the freezer, things like that.

3 But as it relates to the rate increase I
4 would hope that Evergy would be able to show more
5 service reliability in order to get their rate
6 increase approved. You know, don't keep me in the
7 dark for a long time and then ask for money, you
8 know, fix the reliability first and then ask for
9 money after that. So that's the only consideration I
10 have. Thank you.

11 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you. I don't see
12 anyone else. Is there a hand?

13 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes, there is.

14 JUDGE WALKER: Come up.

15 MS. HARMS: Good evening. I'm Patricia
16 Harms, H-A-R-M-S. And I'm speaking to you this
17 evening --

18 JUDGE WALKER: Let me swear you in before
19 you talk.

20 MS. HARMS: I'm sorry.

21 * * * * *

22 PATRICIA HARMS,

23 The witness, having been first duly sworn
24 upon her oath, testified as follows:

25 * * * * *

1 JUDGE WALKER: You may proceed.

2 MS. HARMS: Thank you. I'm speaking
3 tonight as a residential customer for, golly -- well,
4 all my life, 60 plus years of KCPL and various
5 subsets of purchases and merged corporations,
6 whatever. My concern with this most recent rate
7 increase, and from the handout that was provided
8 tonight, is that there seems to be confusion within
9 Evergy on how many rate increases they've actually
10 had because as a homeowner I can tell you that I have
11 reduced the overall usage of my residence over the
12 past 10 years by 20 to 25 percent yet the bill keeps
13 going up and there's not just one line item on there
14 for charge it is customer charge, this rate group,
15 this rate group, this rate group, this RES RAM
16 something, this other category. Now there's a
17 recovery fee for the winter storm of February
18 whenever it was that I didn't use additional
19 electricity because my power was out, surprise.

20 So my concern is that when they're asking
21 for another rate increase it's not well documented
22 what exactly is the reason. We're buying natural gas
23 facilities to do what? I thought the goal was we're
24 supposed to be reducing usage of fossil fuels and
25 then they talk about well, no, this doesn't have

1 anything to do with fossil fuels. Well, yes, it
2 does.

3 The communications coming from Evergy have
4 been confusing to say the least. Over the past
5 minimum 10 years for every three months there's a
6 rate increase. We've been granted an increase in
7 this little junk fee, this little junk fee, this
8 little junk fee, and this little junk fee. Seriously
9 there are these 15 line items that comprise the
10 monthly bill now that's a fee for something. And
11 quite honestly I don't believe that Evergy has fully
12 figured out how to do a correct bill since the
13 rollout of time of use plans. That's all I have to
14 say.

15 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you. Is there anyone
16 else who would like to comment? All right. Seeing
17 none --

18 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: There's somebody.

19 JUDGE WALKER: There's somebody coming?
20 I'm sorry. I can't see.

21 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: You're staring in
22 the lights.

23 MR. HOWE: Good evening. My name is Scott
24 Howe, S-C-O-T-T, H-O-W-E. Did you need address or
25 just a resident?

1 JUDGE WALKER: Just your name is fine.

2 MR. HOWE: Okay.

3 JUDGE WALKER: Let me swear you in before
4 you start speaking, please.

5 MR. HOWE: Okay.

6 * * * * *

7 SCOTT HOWE,

8 The witness, having been first duly sworn
9 upon his oath, testified as follows:

10 * * * * *

11 JUDGE WALKER: Okay. Go ahead.

12 MR. HOWE: Good evening. Thank you for
13 your time. I've got basically two things that I'd
14 like to discuss or bring up. First, given that
15 Everygy, during the question and answer period earlier
16 this evening, they did state that with the new rate
17 plan that came out last summer, the time of use plan,
18 they haven't had enough time to evaluate the benefit
19 of that to them as far as whether or not that was
20 actually increasing their revenue or a break even.
21 They speculate or believe it will be kind of a break
22 even but they don't know.

23 So I would suggest -- or argue that given
24 that being the case, them saying they need more time
25 to analyze that, that it be analyzed before another

1 rate hike takes place because I know family of four,
2 kids getting home from school, getting home from work
3 between four and eight, impossible to not use
4 electricity. We're trying to do laundry, we're
5 trying to get ready to eat dinner, get ready for the
6 next day, kind of an impossible request to cut back
7 power usage during that time. So our bills have gone
8 up significantly.

9 And then my next piece would be in regards
10 to the large scale data centers or other large scale
11 corporate users such as Google. That the load letter
12 be provided to the Commission and made public before
13 any rate increases be allowed for that. And also,
14 imminent domain not be allowed to be used for adding
15 new transmission lines to provide power to large
16 scale users such as the hyperscale data centers or
17 even any single user. That's all I have. Thank you.

18 JUDGE WALKER: Thank you. I'm going to
19 ask again if there's anyone who would like to
20 comment. And I'm going to be more patient.

21 MR. RACETTE: My name's Justin Racette,
22 R-A-C-E-T-T-E.

23 * * * * *

24 JUSTIN RACETTE,

25 The witness, having been first duly sworn

1 upon his oath, testified as follows:

2 * * * * *

3 JUDGE WALKER: You may proceed.

4 MR. RACETTE: I'll make it quick. Based
5 off of some of the information that Evergy laid out
6 and some of the information they have on their
7 website as well, they like to brag about going carbon
8 neutral, which just happens to coincide with the year
9 2030, I think we all know what the significance of
10 that is. They like to brag about ESG. It's well
11 known that ESG is not a money maker, it does not help
12 companies on the bottom line and they're going in the
13 renewable -- you know, wind energy, solar energy, I'm
14 fine with hydro. But these are not money makers,
15 these are bad, poor business decisions for the bottom
16 line and they should have to eat that cost instead of
17 making us pay for it. So just like -- I believe his
18 name was -- Preston said, they're going woke and they
19 need to eat it themselves.

20 JUDGE WALKER: Is there anyone else who
21 would like to comment?

22 MR. NORTHCRAFT: My name is David
23 Northcraft, N-O-R-T-H-C-R-A-F-T.

24 * * * * *

25 DAVID NORTHCRAFT,

1 The witness, having been first duly sworn
2 upon his oath, testified as follows:

3 * * * * *

4 MR. NORTHCRAFT: I have two comments,
5 technical comments. I question the wisdom of a
6 decision made some time ago that is reflected in this
7 rate increase proposal of transmitting our
8 electricity from 500 miles away. I think that that
9 is -- was a bad decision. I think our sources of
10 electricity need to be closer for no other reason
11 than winter storms and/or these days terrorist
12 attacks.

13 The other thing is I want -- I've been
14 involved in the manufacture and sales of
15 antiterrorist barrier systems in the past. We are
16 vulnerable, our infrastructure is vulnerable to
17 terrorist attack. I petition the Commission to
18 insist upon a rate increase that they protect our
19 infrastructure, the electrical infrastructure from
20 possible terrorist and vandalism.

21 For example, some of the larger
22 transformers in the world are not made in this
23 country and it takes three to four years to make one
24 of them and these people -- the malevolent, they know
25 where they are and they can knock from Clarksdale --

1 Clarksdale, Mississippi to here is 500 miles.

2 There's got to be some high transmission, high
3 voltage lines between here and there.

4 The other thing -- last thing I want to
5 say is I would insist the Commission provide some
6 vehicle for investigation of newer design nuclear
7 power plants. For example, it's -- the physics is
8 beyond me but the Four M design to me seems pretty
9 feasible. It's an older design, was never used, but
10 you can run up to a gigawatt in small amounts,
11 there's very little waste when it's done. Like I
12 said, the physics is beyond me but I think that needs
13 to be investigated. Thank you.

14 MR. CLIZER: Your Honor. Your Honor, may
15 I pose a question?

16 JUDGE WALKER: Pardon me? Sure.

17 MR. CLIZER: Sir, really quick. You
18 mentioned transmitting energy from 500 miles away.
19 Can you specifically what you're referencing there?

20 MR. RACETTE: Well, my map app here says
21 from Clarksdale, Mississippi to Lee's Summit is
22 500 miles.

23 MR. CLIZER: Okay. Thank you.

24 JUDGE WALKER: Anyone else wishing to
25 comment? Okay. I'd like to thank all of the

1 participants today for your testimony. If you have
2 additional comments or there's someone who could not
3 be present that you know would like to comment, you
4 may make written comments by going to the Missouri
5 Public Service Commission's web page. If you have
6 questions of the Office of the Public Counsel go to
7 MOPCO at OPC dot Mo dot Gov.

8 I'd like to ask if the Commissioners have
9 any questions or comments before we adjourn.

10 CHAIRMAN HAHN: I just want to thank those
11 that came and participated in the public hearing
12 tonight. I know that you have other things that you
13 could do with your time in the evening whether that's
14 spend time with your family, you know, work at your
15 job or any other host of things. But without your
16 feedback and comments we wouldn't have any other way
17 of being alerted to your thoughts about the Company's
18 request. And so I just appreciate your time and
19 appreciate your comments and I look forward to
20 learning more. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: I just want to
22 echo the Chairman's comments and thank everyone for
23 coming out and giving us their comments this evening.
24 Thank you again.

25 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Not from me,

1 Judge.

2 JUDGE WALKER: All right. We will adjourn
3 the hearing. Thank you everyone for coming. Good
4 evening.

5 (Hearing was concluded at 8:09 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
CITY OF KANSAS CITY)

I, JILL A. BLESKEY, a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Shorthand Reporter (IL), and Certified Court Reporter (MO), 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 hearing 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 this action.

Jill A. Bleskey, CSR, RPR

Jill A. Bleskey, RPR, CSR, CCR

<hr/>	28 6:6	Absolutely 7:5	approve 17:8
\$	<hr/>	accountants 3:20	approved 20:6
\$11.6 12:4	3	achieve 11:24	April 11:23 19:17
\$191 12:12	<hr/>	13:3	area 9:3 12:9,15
\$2.1 12:5	30th 3:6	Activities 13:1	17:16
\$250 12:11	<hr/>	adding 24:14	argue 23:23
\$60 12:12	4	addition 17:11	Arps 7:3,5,6,9,14
<hr/>	4 8:12	additional 8:7	10:18,21
1	<hr/>	17:6 18:16 21:18	aspects 11:18
<hr/>	4.5 13:14	28:2	12:7
10 21:12 22:5	<hr/>	address 22:24	assets 18:21
12 10:13	5	adjourn 28:9 29:2	attack 26:17
13.42 8:2	<hr/>	aging 9:8	attacks 26:12
15 22:9	50 17:17	ahead 4:24 5:11	attempted 17:4
150 19:23	500 26:8 27:1,18,	23:11	attended 15:19
17,000 12:10	22	AI 16:5,16	attention 6:2,17
<hr/>	57 8:3	alerted 28:17	attorney 4:11 15:6
2	<hr/>	allowed 24:13,14	attorneys 3:20
<hr/>	60 21:4	alternatives 14:23	17:22
2-3 8:9	61 12:12	Alto 12:20	audio 3:4
20 6:7,15 12:11	<hr/>	amount 10:5	<hr/>
13:24 14:18 21:12	7	amounts 17:22	B
2017 8:16	<hr/>	27:10	B-U-C-K 15:10
2018 8:20,21	7.6 8:11	analysts 3:20	back 4:16 6:12
2020 8:22	70 11:24	analyze 23:25	7:16 9:11 19:24
2021 11:23 12:3	750 18:19	analyzed 23:25	24:6
2022 6:7	757 9:14	and/or 26:11	backs 12:14
2024 3:6	<hr/>	antiterrorist 26:15	bad 14:20 25:15
2025 8:3	8	app 7:20 27:20	26:9
2030 11:24 25:9	<hr/>	appearance 4:8	bar 8:9
2045 11:25	9	15:4	bargaining 10:15
24 8:9	<hr/>	appeared 12:1	barrier 26:15
25 13:23 21:12	9th 8:6	application 3:10	based 13:6 14:14
25th 6:6	<hr/>	appointed 3:17	25:4
26th 6:7	A	approach 12:19	basically 23:13
	<hr/>		begin 7:13 11:7
	A-R 7:6		

behalf 4:18	carbon 11:24,25 13:3,5 25:7	closed 8:20,21	Company's 28:17
behemoths 18:17	Carolyn 15:5	closer 12:17 26:10	comprehensive 18:3
benefit 23:18	case 4:5 5:24 23:24	closing 9:15	comprise 22:9
big 19:21	Cass 17:10	coal 8:19 9:1,17 13:14,15 14:14	concern 8:9,17 9:9,12,23 10:16 19:14 21:6,20
biggest 9:4	category 21:16	coincide 25:8	concerns 16:11
bill 7:19,23 9:14 21:12 22:10,12	center 17:14,17 18:1,9	Coleman 3:25	concluded 29:5
billings 7:23	centers 15:23 16:5,12 18:3,10, 11 24:10,16	comment 3:9 5:6 22:16 24:20 25:21 27:25 28:3	confirmed 3:18
billion 12:4,5 18:22	Chad 15:8,10,12	comments 5:2,5, 7,22 7:3 10:20 15:2 26:4,5 28:2, 4,9,16,19,22,23	confusing 22:4
bills 24:7	Chair 3:24	commission 3:7, 12,15 4:13 5:2,5, 24 6:19 7:16 12:3 13:9 15:3,7,18 16:17 17:25 24:12 26:17 27:5	confusion 21:8
bit 12:17 14:5	CHAIRMAN 28:10	Commission's 28:5	consideration 10:21 16:23 20:9
Blue 10:25 19:14	Chairman's 28:22	Commissioner 3:25 4:1,2,3 20:13 22:18,21 28:21,25	contact 4:11,19
bottom 25:12,15	chance 3:9	commissioners 3:17,19 4:4 28:8	contacted 6:10,17
brag 25:7,10	changed 8:6	commissions 17:24	contention 11:11
break 23:20,21	charge 21:14	communications 22:3	corporate 24:11
briefly 11:21	charged 3:12	communities 16:25 17:23	corporations 21:5
bring 6:1,16 23:14	chart 8:10,11	community 16:13	correct 22:12
broke 14:24	cheap 13:5	companies 3:13 16:2,3 18:22 25:12	cost 18:24 25:16
Buck 15:9,10,12, 17	cheaper 14:23	company 11:12,19 12:1,5 13:18	costs 5:25
business 8:2,8,9 12:8 25:15	children 17:5		Counsel 4:17,19 28:6
buy 20:1	choice 13:5		counterproductive 10:7
buying 14:17 21:22	choose 13:7		country 13:22 26:23
<hr/> C <hr/>	citizenry 17:24		County 16:8,10 17:10
California 12:21 13:23	citizens 16:11,19 18:23		couple 12:19 19:16
call 4:22,24	city 18:9		court 4:12,20 6:23
called 12:21	Clarksdale 26:25 27:1,21		credits 10:14
capacity 8:22 14:15	Climate 12:25		Creek 12:10
capital 12:4	Clizer 4:14,18 27:14,17,23		current 16:15
	close 13:14,15		

customer 9:24 10:1 19:14 21:3, 14	dispute 14:7	emissions 11:24, 25	expensive 14:22
customers 9:9 12:14	district 15:24	employed 3:19	explanation 6:12
cut 3:4 24:6	disturbing 14:20	encourage 16:9	
<hr/> D <hr/>	document 10:13 12:2	end 4:1 19:19	<hr/> F <hr/>
dark 20:7	documentation 8:14	energy 10:2,3,4,14 11:10,14 25:13 27:18	faced 17:1
data 15:23 16:5, 12,17 17:14,17 18:1,3,10,11 24:10,16	documented 21:21	engineers 3:19	facilities 16:23 21:23
dates 6:18	documents 12:23	ensure 3:13	facility 17:9
David 19:6 25:22, 25	Dogwood 17:9	enter 15:4	factory 11:16
day 6:6 24:6	dollar 16:3 18:22	entity 18:14	failure 6:13
days 26:11	dollar 16:3 18:22	entries 4:8	fair 18:21
deal 19:22	domain 17:1 24:14	equipment 6:13	fall 15:24
debris 6:13	dot 28:7	ER-2024-0189 3:11	families 17:3
decision 18:7 26:6,9	due 9:19	ESG 25:10,11	family 17:4 24:1 28:14
decisions 4:5 25:15	duly 5:18 7:10 11:4 15:13 19:9 20:23 23:8 24:25 26:1	essentially 14:23	Farm 12:10
decommission 9:20	<hr/> E <hr/>	estimates 14:13	farmland 17:3
decreased 8:21	earlier 15:19 19:16 23:15	evaluate 23:18	feasible 27:9
demand 9:11 15:22	easily 11:13	evening 19:5 20:15,17 22:23 23:12,16 28:13,23 29:4	February 21:17
deployed 18:20	eat 24:5 25:16,19	Every 3:9 4:9,11 6:10,17 8:4,5,10 9:3 10:12 11:9 12:8,24 15:22 17:7,20 19:14 20:4 21:9 22:3,11 23:15 25:5	federal 9:7
design 27:6,8,9	echo 28:22	Every's 11:22 12:18	fee 21:17 22:7,8, 10
difference 12:16	effect 7:21	evidence 4:7 12:1	feed 18:17
diligence 9:19	effective 13:5	exhibit 6:20	feedback 3:5 28:16
dinner 24:5	efficient 10:2,3,4,5	expand 16:4	feeds 9:1,2
directly 13:4	Electric 12:21	expenditures 17:11	feet 17:17
discuss 23:14	electrical 26:19		field 3:21
	electricity 21:19 24:4 26:8,10		figured 22:12
	email 7:18		File 3:10
	eminent 17:1		financial 3:20
	emission 13:3		find 14:2 17:19
			fine 23:1 25:14
			fired 8:19,24

fit 18:3	goodness 13:25	hike 24:1	increased 10:6
fix 20:8	Google 24:11	Hill 11:17 17:10	increases 8:7,10, 16 13:20 14:9 21:9 24:13
forecasted 16:2	Googles 17:13	Holsman 4:1 20:13 22:18,21	increasing 23:20
formal 14:6	Gov 28:7	home 6:8 24:2	industry 16:6
forward 28:19	government 9:7	homeowner 21:10	information 4:12, 20 25:5,6
fossil 21:24 22:1	Governor 3:18	homes 18:19 19:24	infrastructure 9:8 16:21 18:15 26:16,19
freezer 20:2	granted 22:6	honestly 18:12 22:11	insist 26:18 27:5
front 17:2	Greg 5:13	Honor 27:14	Institute 12:22
fuel 8:3 14:18	Gregg 5:9,17	hope 20:4	integrate 12:2
fuels 13:6 21:24 22:1	group 12:20,24 21:14,15	host 28:15	invasion 16:12
full 7:20	growing 16:6	hour 19:21	investigated 27:13
fully 14:7 22:11	growth 17:12	hours 6:6 19:22	investigation 27:6
future 16:15 17:12 18:1	growths 18:2	house 6:3	investments 12:4
<hr/> G <hr/>	guts 13:11	Howe 22:23,24 23:2,5,7,12	investor 12:22
G-R-E-G-G 5:14	guys 16:9 18:13	hydro 25:14	involved 6:9 19:23 26:14
gap 14:15	<hr/> H <hr/>	hyperscale 15:23 17:17 24:16	issue 6:2,16
gas 8:19,24 11:16 17:9 21:22	H-A-R-M-S 20:16	<hr/> I <hr/>	item 21:13
gee 14:3	H-O-W-E 22:24	ice 20:1	items 22:9
generation 3:10 9:18	Hahn 3:24 28:10	identifying 5:4	<hr/> J <hr/>
gigawatt 18:19 27:10	hand 20:12	identity 18:4	January 8:6
give 6:22 10:14 15:2	handout 21:7	imminent 24:14	Jason 4:1
giving 28:23	hard 8:11 9:25	impartial 4:6	job 28:15
Glen 4:2	harmless 18:11	impossible 24:3,6	John 4:3,18
goal 11:23 13:1 21:23	Harms 20:15,16, 20,22 21:2	including 6:4	judge 3:1,23 4:13, 16,21 5:15,21 6:21,24 7:2,13 10:19,22 11:7 15:1,8,16 19:1,12 20:11,14,18 21:1
goals 11:22 13:2	headed 13:18	increase 3:10 8:3, 5,18,24 9:11 10:9 11:8,15 13:12,17, 22 14:1,4 15:25 17:8 19:15 20:3,6 21:7,21 22:6 26:7, 18	
golly 21:3	hear 5:6 7:16		
Good 19:5 20:15 22:23 23:12 29:3	hearing 3:8,24 4:22 14:6 28:11 29:3,5		
	high 6:9 27:2		
	highest 13:25		

22:15,19 23:1,3, 11 24:18 25:3,20 27:16,24 29:1,2	lasted 6:5	14:21 18:20	Metas 17:14
July 3:6	laundry 24:4	Loudoun 16:8,10	meter 7:19,22
June 19:19	law 3:23	lower 10:5	Metro 8:4,5,10 9:3
junk 22:7,8	laws 17:19	<hr/>	Michelle 7:3,5,9
jurisdictions 17:20	learning 28:20	M	middle 17:2 19:17
Justin 24:21,24	leave 17:4	M-A-T-T 19:6	Midwest 13:25 16:7
<hr/>	Lee's 6:2 27:21	M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E 7:6	mile 18:8
K	left 3:25 4:3	made 4:4 5:6 24:12 26:6,22	miles 26:8 27:1, 18,22
<hr/>	legacy 17:4	Madia 3:25	million 12:11,12
Kansas 16:7	legislative 18:10	majority 8:25	minimum 22:5
Karolin 3:22	letter 24:11	make 5:7 10:8 12:15 25:4 26:23 28:4	minute 14:11
Kayla 3:24	level 3:4 9:7	maker 25:11	minutes 5:8
KCPL 21:4	liberties 17:24	makers 25:14	Mississippi 9:23 27:1,21
Kerr 15:5,6,8	life 18:24 21:4	making 14:21,24 25:17	Missouri 3:6,9,13 4:9,11,19 15:24 16:6,20 17:10 18:6,23 28:4
kids 24:2	lifestyle 16:15,16	malevolent 26:24	Mitchell 4:3 28:25
kind 13:20 23:21 24:6	lights 22:22	manufacture 26:14	Mo 28:7
knock 26:25	likening 18:18	map 27:20	MODERATOR 10:17 14:11
knowing 9:5	limit 5:7 7:18	Marvin 10:22 19:2	modern 6:14
knowledge 9:6	lines 16:21 24:15 27:3	massive 17:22	money 17:22 20:7, 9 25:11,14
Kolkmeyer 4:2 28:21	list 7:15	Matt 19:6,8,13	moneys 17:12
<hr/>	listed 4:22	measure 18:5	monthly 22:10
L	live 6:2 12:15 16:19 17:15,16	meeting 9:13	months 22:5
<hr/>	lives 16:24	megawatts 13:14 14:19	Montrose 8:21
laid 25:5	load 16:1 24:11	members 3:8	MOPCO 28:7
Lake 8:21	loads 15:23	Memorial 6:6	moratorium 18:1
lakes 16:8	local 3:8	mentioned 27:18	move 18:10
landfill 18:5	locally 14:16	merged 21:5	multi-billion 16:3
landfills 18:8	long 14:3 20:7	messages 6:10	mute 3:3
large 17:1 24:10, 15	longer 7:20		
larger 26:21	loose 17:19		
largest 14:1	loss 20:1		
	lot 6:14,15 8:18		

N	OPC 28:7	people 5:3 12:14 16:19,24 18:11 26:24	17,18,19,20 19:21,24 21:19 24:7,15 27:7
N-O-R-T-H-C-R-A-F-T 25:23	operate 16:16	percent 8:2,11 11:24 13:23,24 14:2 21:12	present 7:19 28:3
name's 15:5 24:21	operations 3:16	percentages 14:8	presented 4:7
names 4:22	opportunity 15:3, 18	period 6:15 23:15	preside 3:23
natural 11:16 21:22	order 4:23 20:5	Persimmon 12:10	press 11:22
nature 6:9	Oregon 13:23	person 5:9	Preston 10:22,24 11:3 25:18
necessarily 9:17	outages 6:5,7,11, 15,18 19:16,20,22	petition 26:17	pretty 19:23 27:8
needed 17:12	outrageously 14:22	physics 27:7,12	previous 7:22 8:10 15:21
net 11:25 13:3	owners 16:19	piece 24:9	primary 12:6
neutral 25:8	P	pinpoint 14:10	problem 5:25
newer 27:6	P-R-E-S-T-O-N 10:25	place 4:25 17:25 24:1	proceed 5:21 15:16 19:12 21:1 25:3
noise 3:4	p.m. 29:5	plan 12:2 18:3 23:17	process 4:21
Northcraft 25:22, 23,25 26:4	Palo 12:20	plans 22:13	produces 13:14
note 8:12	Pardon 27:16	plant 8:20 11:16 13:14 14:14	product 11:20
nuclear 27:6	parents 17:16	plants 8:19,24 13:15 27:7	production 11:14
number 3:11 7:19, 22 8:12	part 10:10 18:7	Pleasant 11:17 17:9	profit 10:7
O	participants 28:1	podium 4:25 19:4	property 16:18 18:24
O-C-H-O-A 5:14	participated 28:11	pole 17:1	proposal 26:7
oath 4:25 5:19 7:11 11:5 15:14 19:10 20:24 23:9 25:1 26:2	past 6:4 14:23 21:12 22:4 26:15	policy 14:20	proposed 17:18
Ochoa 5:10,13,17, 23 6:22,25	patient 24:20	poor 25:15	protect 26:18
offer 5:1 19:3	Patricia 20:15,22	portions 16:20	protected 18:25
Office 4:17,19 28:6	Paul 7:7	Portland 13:24	provide 24:15 27:5
Oklahoma 12:9	pay 14:21 18:23 25:17	pose 27:15	provided 4:12 21:7 24:12
older 27:9	payback 12:11	potential 3:4	providers 17:14
online 10:13	paying 18:21	power 6:3,11 9:10, 16,20,21 11:10 12:21 16:10,21,23 17:1,6,21 18:1,15,	public 3:7,8,13,16 4:17,19 7:15 8:1 9:5 12:2 15:3,6 24:12 28:5,6,11
	peak 9:1,22		
	peaking 18:15		
	pelted 14:5		

purchase 11:16 17:9	reason 21:22 26:10	24:6 28:18	Scott 22:23 23:7
purchased 12:11	reasonable 3:14	requests 18:17	seminar 12:25
purchases 21:5	received 6:10	required 17:13 18:7	senate 3:18 9:14
put 8:14 20:1	recent 21:6	RES 21:15	separate 11:12,20
<hr/>	recently 18:6	research 12:21 13:19 18:12	service 3:7,15 6:1 7:15 8:4 12:3 15:3,6 20:5 28:5
Q	record 3:2 7:4 8:1 15:4	residence 21:11	session 15:22
<hr/>	recovery 5:25 21:17	resident 22:25	set 3:7 13:2 18:21
Q&a 13:4 15:22	reduce 11:23	residential 18:9 21:3	setbacks 17:18
quality 3:15 18:24	reduced 21:11	resources 11:12	Setting 13:1
quarterly 8:1	reducing 21:24	restroom 4:15	share 18:22
question 9:4 15:21 23:15 26:5 27:15	reference 8:12	revenue 23:20	sheet 4:23
questions 4:6 16:1 28:6,9	referencing 27:19	rid 9:10	short 14:15 19:20
quick 25:4 27:17	reflected 26:6	rights 18:24	shortfall 11:14,17 12:12,13
<hr/>	region 9:22 16:7	Road 8:21	show 9:19 20:4
R	regulates 3:12,15	Roberds 19:5,6,8, 13	shows 8:10
<hr/>	regulation 3:21	Roger 4:10	shut 13:16 14:14
R-A-C-E-T-T-E 24:22	regulatory 3:23	Rollinson 10:22 19:2	Sibley 8:20
R-O-B-E-R 19:6	related 16:12 19:15	rollout 22:13	sign 4:23
Racette 24:21,24 25:4 27:20	relates 20:3	run 27:10	significance 25:9
raised 17:3	relation 9:1	rural 16:20,25	significantly 24:8
RAM 21:15	release 11:23	<hr/>	simply 11:13
rate 3:10 5:24 8:3, 10,15,18,23 9:11 11:8,15 13:12,13, 16,20,22 14:4 17:8 19:15 20:3,5 21:6,9,14,15,21 22:6 23:16 24:1, 13 26:7,18	reliability 6:2,16 19:16 20:5,8	S	single 17:13 24:17
rates 3:12,14 8:6 10:6,9	remain 4:6	S-C-O-T-T 22:24	Sir 27:17
read 7:22,23 8:11 10:12	remotely 4:1	S-M-I-T-H 10:25	situation 10:8
ready 24:5	renewable 11:10 12:6,9 13:6 14:17 25:13	safety 3:16	small 16:25 17:20, 23 18:21 27:10
	report 8:1	sales 26:14	smart 18:9
	reporter 4:12,20 6:23	Sam 7:7	Smith 10:23,24 11:3,8 14:12
	request 18:18	scale 24:10,16	society 18:4
		Scenarios 12:25	solar 10:12,13 11:9,14 14:18 16:22 17:21 25:13
		school 24:2	

source 9:10,15,16, 17,20 12:2 18:14	submit 5:4 6:19	20:24 23:9 25:1 26:2	type 16:2
sources 9:20 11:11 12:6 16:10 26:9	submitted 7:15	testify 5:9	<hr/> U <hr/>
speak 15:20	subsets 21:5	testimony 19:3 28:1	understand 6:14 9:9 18:13
speaking 3:3 20:16 21:2 23:4	substations 18:16	text 6:10	Understanding 12:25
specialists 3:21	suffer 20:1	thing 7:24,25 9:15 10:11 14:12 16:17 26:13 27:4	unknown 6:13
specifically 27:19	suggest 23:23	things 10:16 18:16 20:2 23:13 28:12, 15	unprecedented 13:21
speculate 23:21	summer 23:17	thinking 15:20	usage 10:5 16:2 21:11,24 24:7
spell 5:1,12 7:3	Summit 6:3 27:21	thought 21:23	user 17:13 24:17
spend 28:14	Sunday 6:5	thoughts 28:17	users 24:11,16
spoke 15:19	supposed 21:24	time 3:7 6:8,15 7:1,21 10:17,18 14:3,5,6 15:17 16:18 18:2,13,25 20:7 22:13 23:13, 17,18,24 24:7 26:6 28:13,14,18	utilities 3:16
Springs 11:1 19:14	supposedly 9:22	today 3:6,24 4:6 17:8 19:4 28:1	utility 3:13,21
staff 3:19 4:13 15:2,6	surprise 21:19	tonight 13:13 14:8 15:18,20,21 19:14 21:3,8 28:12	<hr/> V <hr/>
stake 17:5	swear 20:18 23:3	total 14:7,17	vandalism 26:20
staked 16:24	systems 26:15	transformers 26:22	vehicle 27:6
standalone 11:20	<hr/> T <hr/>	transmission 24:15 27:2	versus 13:6
staring 22:21	table 4:2	transmitting 26:7 27:18	Virginia 16:8,10
start 4:9 23:4	takes 24:1 26:23	transparency 8:8 17:15	voltage 27:3
starting 8:3	talk 11:21 13:17 20:19 21:25	trend 13:18 14:20	vulnerable 26:16
state 5:1,12 7:3 17:21 18:6 23:16	talking 12:5 13:11, 12,21 14:8	turbines 12:10	<hr/> W <hr/>
stating 8:2	talks 9:7		Walker 3:1,22 4:13,16,21 5:15, 21 6:21,24 7:2,13 10:19,22 11:7 15:1,8,16 19:1,12 20:11,14,18 21:1 22:15,19 23:1,3, 11 24:18 25:3,20 27:16,24 29:2
stations 18:15	tax 15:25		wanted 6:1,16 13:3 14:13
Steiner 4:10	technical 26:5		
stop 9:15	technology 6:14		
storage 16:17	telling 13:19		
storm 19:20 21:17	term 14:15		
storms 26:11	terrorist 26:11,17, 20		
straight 13:7,10	testified 5:19 7:11 11:5 15:14 19:10		
subdivision 19:23			

waste 27:11
weather 6:8
web 28:5
website 5:5 7:20
 12:23 25:7
weekend 6:6
West 4:9,11 8:4,5,
 11 9:3 15:24
West's 3:9
western 12:9
who'd 19:3
wildlife 6:12
wind 6:9 11:10
 12:10 14:18 16:22
 17:22 25:13
winter 21:17 26:11
Wire 8:2,8,9
Wisconsin 14:2
wisdom 26:5
wishing 27:24
woke 14:24 25:18
work 24:2 28:14
world 17:13,14
 26:22
written 28:4

Y

yard 17:2
year 6:4,5 12:11
 19:17 25:8
years 12:18,20
 14:18 21:4,12
 22:5 26:23

Z

zoning 17:19