

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 2 STATE OF MISSOURI 3 4 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 5 6 Procedural Conference 7 June 16, 2020 Jefferson City, Missouri 8 9 Volume 1 10 11 12 13 In the Matter of the Application) of Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy) 14 Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri) File No. West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri) EU-2020-0350 West for an Accounting Authority 15) Order Allowing the Companies to) Record and Preserve Costs Related 16) to COVID-19 Expenses) 17 18 JANA JACOBS, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE 19 20 21 22 23 REPORTED BY: Beverly Jean Bentch, CCR No. 640 24 TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC 25

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1 APPEARANCES 2 ROBERT J. HACK, Attorney at Law 1200 Main Street 3 Kansas City, Missouri 64111 816.260.5174 Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West 4 FOR: 5 ROGER W. STEINER, Attorney at Law 1200 Main Street Kansas City, Missouri 64105 6 816.556.2314 7 Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West FOR: 8 KARL ZOBRIST, Attorney at Law DENTONS US LLP 9 4520 Main Street, Suite 1100 Kansas City, Missouri 64111 816.460.2545 10 Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West FOR: 11 JAMES M. FISCHER, Attorney at Law 12 FISCHER & DORITY PC 101 Madison, Suite 400 13 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 573.636.6758 14 FOR: Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West 15 DEAN COOPER, Attorney at Law BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND, PC PO Box 456 16 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456 573.635.7166 17 FOR: Missouri-American Water Company 18 DAVID WOODSMALL, Attorney at Law 19 308 E. High Street, Suite 204 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 20 573.636.6006 FOR: Midwest Energy Consumers Group 21 JAMES B. LOWERY, Attorney at Law SMITH LEWIS, LLP 22 111 South 9th Street, Suite 200 23 Columbia, Missouri 65201 573.443.3141 24 FOR: Ameren Missouri 25

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16	FOR:	Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers
17	MICHAEI	L C. PENDERGAST, Attorney at Law 423 South Main Street
		St. Charles, Missouri 63301
18	FOR:	314.288.8723 Spire Missouri, Inc.
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22	FOR:	Renew Missouri
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23		3115 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 600 St. Louis, Missouri 63118
24	FOR:	National Housing Trust
25		

PROCEEDINGS

1 2 JUDGE JACOBS: We are now on the record for the conference scheduled today. It's June 16, 2020, and 3 this matter, which is File No. EU-2020-0350, concerns 4 Evergy's filing for an Accounting Authority Order 5 6 Allowing Evergy Metro and Evergy Missouri West to Record 7 and Preserve Costs Related to COVID-19 Expenses. 8 The conference was set for 1:15 p.m. and it is now 1:32 p.m. because it takes that long to get this 9 10 many people together. My name is Jana Jacobs. I'm the 11 Regulatory Law Judge assigned to this matter. I'd like 12 to note that we also have on the line Mr. Ron Pridgin. Mr. Pridgin is a Senior Regulatory Law Judge with the 13 14 Commission and he's observing prehearing conferences. So he's also with us. 15 16 This conference is being conducted by 17 telephone and video conference. The Commission has set 18 aside this time for a procedural conference. The 19 purpose of the conference is to allow the parties to 20 meet to establish a hearing date and discuss other 21 procedural issues. Once I leave the call, the parties 22 may also wish to discuss the possibility of an agreement 23 to resolve this case.

24 We have a court reporter on the line who will be preparing a transcript of this on the record portion 25

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1	of the conference. I will begin by asking the parties
2	to enter their appearances for the record. Typically
3	counsel would provide a business card to the court
4	reporter; but because we are all participating remotely,
5	I will ask the lawyers participating to identify
6	yourselves by name, spell your name if the court
7	reporter typically asks you to do that because it's
8	unusual or difficult, then provide your address and
9	phone number for the court reporter.
10	Those of you who are appearing only by
11	telephone today will need to be careful to identify
12	yourselves at the beginning of your comments so the
13	court reporter can keep track of who's speaking.
14	Counsel, after you've introduced yourselves,
15	anyone else attending with you representing your client
16	may also be introduced at that time. So I'm going to
17	start with counsel for the Company, and I've got four
18	attorneys here. So if you'd want to go ahead, Mr. Hack,
19	and then I'll let the rest of the folks introduce
20	themselves after you.
21	MR. HACK: Certainly. Thank you, Judge.
22	You've shown remarkable patience. It's nice to meet you
23	even remotely. So thanks. My name is Robert J. Hack.
24	My business address is 1200 Main Street, Kansas City,
25	Missouri 64111. My phone number is 816.260.5174. I'm

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1	entering my appearance on behalf of Evergy Metro, Inc.			
2	d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West,			
3	Inc. d/b/a as Evergy Missouri West. And I will let			
4	Roger Steiner speak now.			
5	MR. STEINER: Thanks. Your Honor, let the			
6	record reflect the appearance of Roger W. Steiner, 1200			
7	Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105, phone number			
8	816.556.2314, appearing for Evergy Missouri West and			
9	Evergy Missouri Metro.			
10	JUDGE JACOBS: We can proceed with Mr. Fischer			
11	since that was the next person on my list. I'm sorry,			
12	sir. It looks like Mr. Fischer is muted.			
13	MR. FISCHER: Am I unmuted now?			
14	JUDGE JACOBS: Now we can hear you. Thank			
15	you, sir.			
16	MR. FISCHER: Okay. I'm sorry. My name is			
17	James Fischer with the law firm of Fischer & Dority PC.			
18	Our address is 101 Madison Street, Suite 400, Jefferson			
19	City, Missouri 65101, appearing on behalf of the			
20	applicants. And Mr. Zobrist?			
21	MR. ZOBRIST: Judge, Karl Zobrist, K-a-r-l,			
22	Zobrist Z-o-b-r-i-s-t, with the law firm of Dentons US,			
23	LLP, 4520 Main Street, Suite 1100, Kansas City, Missouri			
24	64111 on behalf of the Evergy companies.			
25	JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. Zobrist. I			

think I had swapped you with Mr. Steiner there. So I 1 2 apologize for that. Did the Company have any other folks on the line who are participating today? 3 MR. HACK: I believe we'll have Ronald Klote 4 5 and Darrin Ives, although I do not know if they're on as 6 we sit here right now. 7 JUDGE JACOBS: Mr. Klote or Mr. Ives, do you want to speak up if you're with us? 8 9 MR. KLOTE: Yes. Ron Klote with Evergy is 10 here. 11 JUDGE JACOBS: And typically you would provide 12 some kind of title or something. 13 MR. KLOTE: I'm the Director of Regulatory 14 Affairs and address 1200 Main Street, Kansas City, 15 Missouri 64105, phone number 816.304.5484. 16 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you very much, sir. Was 17 there anyone else appearing for Evergy today? Okay. Ι think we can move on then to the Commission Staff. So I 18 19 see Ms. Myers here. Ms. Myers, you can introduce 20 yourself and then let us know if you can identify the 21 other folks on the line for Staff. Thank you. 22 MS. MYERS: Thank you, Judge. Appearing on 23 behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service 24 Commission, Jamie Myers, M-y-e-r-s. My business address is 200 Madison Street, Suite 800, PO Box 360, Jefferson 25

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1	City, Missouri 65102, telephone number 573.526.6036.			
2	And I think I also have several Staff members			
3	participating today. I believe we have Mark			
4	Oligschlaeger, Kim Bolin, Byron Murray and possibly			
5	others. So if I missed someone could you please			
6	identify yourselves from Staff.			
7	MR. STOKES: This is Curt Stokes, Chief Deputy			
8	Counsel for Staff. I'm just going to be listening in			
9	today but I'm here.			
10	JUDGE JACOBS: Anyone else need to jump in			
11	there for Staff before we move on? Okay. Thank you			
12	very much. I think then we are on to Office of the			
13	Public Counsel. Mr. Hall?			
14	MR. HALL: Good afternoon, Judge. Thank you.			
15	Caleb Hall appearing on behalf of the Office of the			
16	Public Counsel. Our office is 200 Madison Street, Suite			
17	650, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, phone number			
18	573.751.4857, and I believe I'm the only attorney			
19	appearing on behalf of Public Counsel today.			
20	JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. If there's no one else			
21	from OPC to introduce themselves, we will move on to			
22	Midwest Energy Consumers Group. Mr. Woodsmall?			
23	MR. WOODSMALL: Good afternoon. David			
24	Woodsmall appearing on behalf of the Midwest Energy			
25	Consumers Group, 308 East High Street, Suite 204,			

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101. 1 JUDGE JACOBS: My apologies. All right. 2 So Mr. Woodsmall, did you get to finish your entry there 3 4 and could you let us know if anyone else is on the line 5 with you today? 6 MR. WOODSMALL: I think I got it all done. 7 The only other thing is Greg Meyer, a potential witness 8 for MECG, is on the line. 9 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Then I think we can move 10 on to Tim Opitz. I'm not sure about your last name. Ι 11 have Opitz --12 MR. OPITZ: Yes. JUDGE JACOBS: -- for Renew Missouri? 13 MR. OPITZ: Tim Opitz, O-p-i-t-z, on behalf of 14 15 Renew Missouri. My address is 409 Vandiver Drive, Suite 16 205, Columbia, Missouri 65202, and my phone number is 573.825.1796. 17 18 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you. And no one to 19 introduce today on the call? 20 MR. OPITZ: Not today, Judge. 21 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you very much. This is 22 another chance to see if we can connect with Mr. Henry 23 Robertson or any counsel for Sierra Club. Anyone want 24 to speak up for Sierra Club today? 25 MR. ROBERTSON: Can you hear me, Judge?

JUDGE JACOBS: Oh, yes. Is this 1 2 Mr. Robertson? MR. ROBERTSON: I've been able to see and hear 3 4 all along, but I've been having trouble getting here. 5 Anyway, yes, Henry Robertson for Sierra Club. 6 JUDGE JACOBS: Great. Thank you, sir. We can 7 hear you. I think if you could give an address and the 8 rest of your contact information and let us know if 9 there's anyone else on the call for Sierra Club. I 10 thank you for your patience. MR. ROBERTSON: I'm the lone representative 11 12 for Sierra Club on the call. My name is Henry 13 Robertson, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, 319 14 North 4th Street, Suite 800, St. Louis, Missouri, 63102. 15 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you. We've come around 16 now to Union Electric Ameren. Mr. Lowery, can we still 17 hear you, sir? Let's try again. 18 MR. LOWERY: Can you hear me, Judge? Thank James B. Lowery with the law firm of Smith Lewis 19 you. 20 LLP, 111 South 9th Street, Suite 200, Columbia, Missouri 21 65201 appearing on behalf of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri. I don't have anyone with me 22 23 today, Judge. 24 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you very much. And I believe we have Mr. Pendergast for Spire; is that right, 25

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1	sir?
2	MR. PENDERGAST: That's right, Your Honor.
3	Michael C. Pendergast appearing on behalf of Spire
4	Missouri, Inc. For the court reporter, that's
5	P-e-n-d-e-r-g-a-s-t. My business address is 423 South
6	Main Street, St. Charles, Missouri 63301, and my
7	telephone number is 314.288.8723.
8	JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you very much, sir.
9	Assuming that no one has come along with Mr. Pendergast
10	today, then we would move on to Mr. Cooper for
11	Missouri-American.
12	MR. COOPER: Thank you, Your Honor. Dean
13	Cooper from the law firm of Brydon, Swearengen & England
14	PC, PO Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102,
15	appearing on behalf of Missouri-American Water Company.
16	And also on the line today with me is Mr. Brian LaGrand,
17	Director of Rates and Regulatory Support for
18	Missouri-American Water Company.
19	JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you. And are you the
20	only counsel on the line, Mr. Cooper, or was Mr. Luft
21	attending?
22	MR. COOPER: Yes, I'm the only counsel for
23	Missouri-American on the line.
24	JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you very much. We can
25	move on to Ms. Plescia. I already forgot how to say

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1	your name, ma'am. It is your turn. Thank you.		
2	MS. PLESCIA: That's fine. My last name is		
3	pronounced Plescia, and I'll enter my appearance. Diana		
4	Plescia with the law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett &		
5	O'Keefe, 130 S. Bemiston, St. Louis, Missouri 63105,		
6	telephone number 314.704.8444.		
7	JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you very much. And that		
8	was for Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers. And now		
9	we'll move on to National Housing Trust.		
10	MR. LINHARES: Yes. Thank you, Judge. My		
11	name is Andrew Linhares entering appearance for National		
12	Housing Trust. I am with Renew Missouri as a staff		
13	member. My address is 3115 South Grand Boulevard, Suite		
14	600, St. Louis, Missouri 63118.		
15	JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So if there's anyone		
16	else who needs to introduce themselves right now, this		
17	is when you speak up and take care of that. Is there		
18	anybody who needed to do that?		
19	Okay. I think we have everyone accounted for.		
20	We also have on the line Jackie Keely, who is a member		
21	of the adjudication staff. She's making sure we don't		
22	run into some technical problems we can't handle. I		
23	wish I had prizes to give all of you for enduring that		
24	experience, and I thank you very much. Now we've gotten		
25	to the point where I ask you if there's any preliminary		

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1	matters that you would like to discuss. Anybody have
2	anything they want to talk about right now with me?
3	MR. HACK: Judge, this is Rob Hack for Evergy.
4	Really not much to discuss, I think. If a procedural
5	schedule becomes necessary, we will need a Commission
6	Order hopefully before the end of the year so that we
7	can record on our financial statements the impacts that
8	we're proposing to defer, assuming the Commission were
9	to grant a request. Just wanted you to know that.
10	We're hoping we can resolve issues, perhaps the case;
11	but if we do propose a procedural schedule, we'll want
12	to do so with an Order by the end of the year.
13	JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. I appreciate that.
14	That's important information. Did anyone have anything
15	else that they want to add on that point or other issue
16	to discuss?
17	Okay. So what I would like to do is ask that
18	the parties work together to decide who will file this
19	document. I was hoping that you could file either a
20	status report or a proposed procedural schedule by July
21	1. If you don't think it's appropriate to leave it open
22	about who's going to file it, then we can agree right
23	now about who will take that role on. I figured with
24	all of you you would come up with the right person in
25	your discussion today. Does anyone have a problem with

1 that plan?

2 MR. HACK: No, we can commit. Evergy would be 3 happy to file it.

4 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Thank you. As I said, 5 that's a status report. So you're going to let me know where things stand or if you're ready to go with a 6 7 procedural schedule because you've all figured out how 8 we're going to resolve this issue then you can propose 9 that as well. Does anyone have any questions about 10 that? I'm looking at faces. I don't see anybody who's 11 talking and can't get through. So I think we're okay.

12 Did anyone have anything else that they wanted to discuss with me at this time before I excuse myself 13 14 from the call and let you all proceed for as long as 15 you'd like to today? Okay. Nothing else to talk about 16 with me. So what I'm going to do is pass the host role 17 along, and I would propose to pass that along to Ms. 18 Myers, if she doesn't object, and then she would be the 19 person who can run the conference, she can mute all of you at will, she can do all sorts of stuff. So I will 20 21 pass that on to Ms. Myers. Before I do that, I will end 22 the on the record proceeding. Once Ms. Myers is the 23 host, you have to give me just a second to disconnect 24 myself from the call and then you can all continue 25 together without any of the observers from adjudication

1	or the court reporter. Anything to say before I do
2	that?
3	Okay. I'm moving the host role over to Ms.
4	Myers now. Ms. Bentch, we are off the record. So your
5	role here has been completed and I'm going to disconnect
6	from the call.
7	(Off the record.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640,
4	Certified Court Reporter with the firm of Tiger Court
5	Reporting, LLC, within the State of Missouri, do hereby
6	certify that I was personally present at the proceedings
7	had in the above-entitled cause at the time and place
8	set forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and
9	there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; and
10	that the foregoing is a full, true and correct
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