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Staff – Exhibit 204
Francisco Del Pozo
Direct
File No. ER-2024-0189

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Issue(s): Revenue,
Billing Determinants
Witness: Francisco Del Pozo
Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Case No.: ER-2024-0189
Date Testimony Prepared: June 27, 2024

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS DIVISION

TARIFF/RATE DESIGN DEPARTMENT

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

FRANCISCO DEL POZO

**EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC.,
d/b/a Evergy Missouri West**

CASE NO. ER-2024-0189

*Jefferson City, Missouri
June 27, 2024*

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1 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

2 **FRANCISCO DEL POZO**

3 **EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC.,**
4 **d/b/a Every Missouri West**

5 **CASE NO. ER-2024-0189**

6 Q. Please state your name and business address.

7 A. My name is Francisco Del Pozo, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

8 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

9 A. I am employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) as
10 an Economist for the Tariff/Rate Design Department, in the Industry Analysis Division.

11 Q. Please describe your educational and work background.

12 A. I have a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics awarded from
13 Kansas State University, Bachelor of Science in Forestry Engineering from La Molina National
14 University, and several specialized trainings on macro and micro economic analysis. I have
15 more than 15 years of experience in regulatory, risk management programs and agricultural
16 trade policy research. My previous professional experience includes working as an Economist
17 and Risk Management Specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture. I started my
18 career with the Commission as an economist in April 2022.

19 Q. Have you previously testified in proceedings before the Missouri Public
20 Service Commission?

21 A. Yes. I have provided written testimonies in multiple cases before the Missouri
22 Public Service Commission. Please see Schedule FAD-d1.

1 **EXECTUIVE SUMMARY**

2 Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?

3 A. The purpose of my direct testimony is divided into two topics. First, I discuss
4 the weather variables Staff used to normalize weather billing determinants for Evergy Missouri
5 West, Inc., d/b/a Evergy Missouri West (“EMW”); and second, I provide Staff’s annualized
6 revenues and billing determinants for the Lighting class rate schedules of EMW.

7 Q. Please summarize your testimony on normalized weather billing determinants.

8 A. Each year’s weather is unique; consequently, test year usage, hourly loads,
9 revenue, and fuel and purchased power expense need to be adjusted to “normal” weather so that
10 rates will be designed on the basis of normal weather rather than any anomalous weather in the
11 test year. In the quantification of the relationship between test year weather and energy sales,
12 Staff used weather data observations for the update period, January 1, 2023, through
13 December 31, 2023.

14 Q. Do you provide any recommendations that should be specifically reflected in the
15 Commission’s Report and Order in this case?

16 A. Yes, I recommend that the Commission Order reflect Staff’s adjusted rate
17 revenue for the lighting classes as provided in my direct testimony along with the billing
18 determinants used to calculate the adjusted rate revenue.

19 **NORMAL WEATHER**

20 Q. What source did you use for weather data?

21 A. Staff used weather data produced by the Midwestern Regional Climate Center
22 (“MRCC”).¹ MRCC is a cooperative program between the National Centers for Environmental

¹ <https://mrcc.purdue.edu/>.

1 Information (“NCEI”) and Purdue University in Indiana. The NCEI is a part of the Department
2 of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”).² Staff used the
3 weather station data from the Kansas City International Airport (“MCI”) in Kansas City,
4 Missouri for the service territory of EMW for actual and normal weather variables. This
5 weather station was selected based on the availability and reliability of the weather data as well
6 as their approximate location to the customer base of EMW. The weather data sets consist of
7 actual daily maximum temperature (“ T_{max} ”) and daily minimum temperature (“ T_{min} ”) observations.
8 As is customary, “mean temperature” (T_{avg}) is defined as the average of T_{max} and
9 T_{min} for the day.

10 Q. What is a climate normal?

11 A. A climate “normal” is defined by the NOAA as the arithmetic mean of a
12 climatological element computed over three consecutive decades.³ In developing climate
13 normal temperatures, the NOAA focuses on the monthly maximum and minimum temperature
14 time series to produce the serially-complete monthly temperature (“SCMT”) data series.⁴ Staff
15 utilized the SCMT published in July 2011 by the National Climatic Data Center (“NCDC”) of
16 NOAA.

17 Q. Why does Staff use NOAA’s SCMT?

18 A. The serially-complete monthly temperature is an intermediate product that
19 includes adjustments for inconsistencies and biases that may occur in the 30-year time series of
20 daily temperature, (e.g., such as the relocation, replacement, or recalibration of the weather

² <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data>.

³ Retrieved on October 17, 2013, <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/land-based-station-data/land-based-datasets/climate-normals>.

⁴ Retrieved on October 17, 2013, <https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/normals/1981-2010/source-datasets/>. The SCMT, computed by the NOAA, includes adjustments to make the time series of daily temperatures homogeneous.

1 instruments). Changes in observation procedures or in an instrument's environment may also
2 occur during the 30-year period. NOAA accounted for documented and undocumented
3 anomalies in calculating its SCMT.⁵ The meteorological and statistical procedures used in the
4 NOAA's homogenization for removing documented and undocumented anomalies from the
5 T_{\max} and T_{\min} monthly temperature series is explained in a peer-reviewed publication.⁶

6 To Staff's knowledge, NOAA is the only entity that provides reasonably reliable
7 weather data for 30-year historical period and test year period for the Kansas City region. For
8 the purposes of normalizing the test year energy usage and revenues, Staff used the adjusted
9 T_{\max} and T_{\min} daily temperature series for the 30-year period of January 1, 1991, through
10 December 31, 2010, at MCI and the raw data series from MCI for the period of January 1, 2011,
11 through December 31, 2020. Staff used the raw data for the most recent period since NOAA
12 has not made the updated SCMT available at this time.

13 Q. How did Staff calculate daily normal weather?

14 A. Staff used a ranking method to calculate normal weather estimates of daily
15 normal temperature values, ranging from the temperature that is "normally" the hottest to the
16 temperature that is "normally" the coldest, thus estimating "normal extremes." Normal weather
17 is used to build the base forecast of future energy use. Staff ranked Mean Daily Temperatures
18 ("MDT") for each month of the 30-year history from hottest to coldest and then calculated the
19 normal daily temperature values by averaging the ranked MDTs for each rank, irrespective of
20 the calendar date. The ranking process results in the normal extreme being the average of the

⁵ Arguez, A., I. Durre, S. Applequist, R. S. Vose, M. F. Squires, X. Yin, R. R. Heim, Jr., and T. W. Owen, 2012: NOAA's 1981-2010 U.S. Climate Normals: An Overview. Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 93, 1687-1697.

⁶ Menne, M.J., and C.N. Williams, Jr., (2009) Homogenization of temperature series via pairwise comparisons. J. Climate, 22, 1700-1717.

1 most extreme temperatures in each month of the 30-year normal period. The second most
2 extreme temperature is based on the average of the second most extreme day of each month,
3 and so forth.

4 Q. Is Staff's calculation of daily normal temperatures the same as NOAA's
5 calculation of daily normal temperatures?

6 A. No. The Staff's calculation of daily normal temperatures is not the same as
7 NOAA's calculation of smoothed daily normal temperatures. NOAA's published climatic
8 normals are not directly useable by Staff since the daily normal is based on a calendar date
9 average rather than the ranked daily average that Staff uses. NOAA's normal values are derived
10 by statistically "fitting" smooth curves through the monthly temperatures. As a result, the
11 NOAA daily normal values reflect smooth transitions between seasons and do not directly relate
12 to the 30-year time series of MDTs as used by Staff.⁷ Staff calculated its normal daily
13 temperatures based on the rankings of the actual temperatures of the test year, and the test year
14 temperatures do not follow smooth patterns from day to day. Therefore, ranked daily average
15 method has the ability of generating mean daily temperatures of each rank, irrespective of the
16 calendar date. More details of Staff's ranked average method for normal weather are explained
17 in a peer-reviewed publication co-authored by Staff witness Dr. Seoungjoun Won.⁸ The article
18 highlights the importance of the ranked method in which both hot and cold extreme
19 temperatures variations are incorporated in the normals calculations whereas these
20 extreme values are dampened in the standard climate normal estimation. The standard

⁷ Won, S. J., Wang, X. H., & Warren, H. E. (2016). Climate normals and weather normalization for utility regulation. *Energy Economics*, 54, 405-416.

⁸ *Id.*

1 climate estimation methodology can inadvertently introduce biases in the weather
2 normalization adjustment.

3 Q. What is your recommendation regarding weather normalization in this case?

4 A. I recommend reliance on the weather normal Staff derived from the MCI
5 weather station data as the basis for weather normalization adjustments in this case. Staff
6 witness Michael L. Stahlman used this information in his direct testimony for weather
7 normalization of the test year kWh usage and update period hourly loads.

8 **LIGHTING REVENUES AND BILLING DETERMINANTS**

9 Q. What are billing determinants?

10 A. Billing determinants are the combination of components to which rates are
11 applied to calculate the customer's bill. Additionally, to produce rates the revenue requirement
12 is divided by the appropriate billing determinants⁹.

13 Q. What billing determinates are used to set rates for Lighting Classes?

14 A. Specifically, for lighting classes the billing determinants used for the metered
15 lighting rate classes are: customer charge and energy usage.

16 Q. What process was used to estimate test period revenues and billing determinants
17 by lighting rate schedule?

18 A. EMW provided the billing determinants by class, rate code and then item
19 number, which is the identifier for each charge type within a lighting class. For the test year, I
20 calculated revenues for each lighting class and each item number. This was done by

⁹ A billing determinant is a calculation usage data by each unique Lighting rate schedule to create rate charges. The billing determinant calculation applies a mathematical operator in kWh sales to interval data within a use period. Retrieved on June 17, 2024, https://docs.itrontotal.com/IEEMDMHelp/Content/Topics/billing_determinant.htm?TocPath=Rate%20modeler%7CBilling%20determinant%7C_____0

1 multiplying the units provided for each lighting item number by the verified tariff rate to come
2 up with a monthly revenue for each rate code and item number. The summation of the monthly
3 revenues provides the total annual revenue for each lighting rate code.

4 Staff updated test-year lighting revenues by making adjustments to reflect the change in
5 usage through the 12-months ending December 31, 2023, for lighting rate schedule revenues.
6 The update period revenue adjustment is calculated by subtracting test year revenue from the
7 update period revenue.

8 Q. Did you adjust the lighting usage for weather-sensitivity?

9 A. No. The lighting class is not considered to be weather sensitive. The
10 determinants for both the metered and non-metered lighting classes remain relatively consistent
11 regardless of weather, because the lighting classes are subject to regular schedules to serve
12 public places in all incorporated municipalities and other governmental agencies through long
13 term contracts.

14 Q. Does the currently effective EMW tariff include all of the rates that are charged
15 to the lighting class?

16 A. No. First, in the EMW tariff, lighting rate classes can have several items, and
17 those items are unique elements associated with a specific rate. Items are distributed across
18 multiple rates classes. Staff has submitted several inquiries in current¹⁰ and former rate cases¹¹
19 to clarify if the applied rate for specific items used in the EMW workbooks correspond to the
20 EMW tariff. In the previous rate case, Case No. ER-2022-0130, Staff requested the Tariff page
21 number containing the rate codes associated with the Item “MDCA” that appears in the rate
22 codes MON36, MON47, MON85, MOMLL. EMW’s response was that:

¹⁰ Data Response 0403 response in case EO-2024-0189

¹¹ Data Responses 0356 and 0331 in case EO-2022-0130

Direct Testimony of
Francisco Del Pozo

1 “The item type, MDCA, is a special contract for decorative lighting that
2 is unique to various historical districts...”¹²

3 While this response identifies what item MDCA is, it does not provide the rate that
4 is charged.

5 Q. Do you have any recommendation to enhance the process used to estimate test
6 period revenues and billing determinants by lighting rate schedule?

7 A. Yes, I recommend that EMW’s finalized “special lighting contracts between the
8 Company and the Customer¹³” be submitted with the next rate case application. Staff
9 understands that each contract is unique; however, an early disclosure of the specific rates used
10 will add transparency to the process.

11 Q. What is your recommendation concerning lighting revenues and
12 billing determinants?

13 A. I recommend the Commission rely upon the level of lighting class revenues and
14 determinants Staff has provided for incorporation into Staff’s revenue requirement and
15 rate design.

16 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

17 A. Yes.

¹² Data response for 0356 in case EO-2022-0130

¹³ Refers to individual installations served under special contract. EMW Tariff Page number No. 94.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI


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

AFFIDAVIT OF FRANCISCO DEL POZO

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW FRANCISCO DEL POZO and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the foregoing *Direct Testimony of Francisco Del Pozo*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.

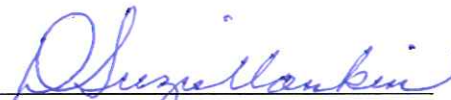


FRANCISCO DEL POZO

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 26th day of June 2024.

D. SUZIE MANKIN
Notary Public - Notary Seal
State of Missouri
Commissioned for Cole County
My Commission Expires: April 04, 2025
Commission Number: 12412070



Notary Public

Francisco A. del Pozo

Education

- 2007 M. S., Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, Manhattan.
2007 B.S., Forestry Engineering, Summa Cum Laude, La Molina National Agricultural University, Lima, Peru.

Professional Experience

- 2022 - Regulatory Economist, Missouri Public Service Commission
2019- Technical Advisor, AVCON Industries, Newton, Kansas.
2009-2017 Agricultural Economist, United States Department of Agriculture (Foreign Agricultural Service and Risk Management Agency), Washington DC and Kansas City, MO.
2007-2009 Congressional Hunger Fellow, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy
2006 Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), Summer Fellowship Program
2003-2006 Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant, Kansas State University
1997-2002 Program Manager, National Project on Watershed Management and Soil Conservation. Lima, Peru.
1996 Research Assistant, ADEFOR- Forestry Research Center. Cajamarca, Peru.

Recent Case Summary

Case Number	Company	Issues
GA-2023-0441	Spire Missouri	CCN Case
GA-2023-0374	Spire Missouri	CCN Case
GO-2024-0180	Missouri American Water	Carbon Offset Innit. Case
GA--2024-0100	Spire Missouri	CCN Case
GE-2023-0393	Spire Missouri	Tariff Rule Variation
GA-2023-0110	Spire Missouri	CCN
GR-2023-0038	Spire Missouri	C&I Custom Rebate Program
ER-2022-0337	Ameren Missouri	Electric Tariffs to Adjust to Revenues
GR-2021-0320	Liberty Utilities	Gas Rate Case
ER-2022-0129	Evergy Missouri Metro	Electric Rate Case

Expert Professional Presentations and Publications

Foreign Agricultural Service (“USDA”), Washington, DC July 2012
 In the Matter of USDA review of proposals for several free trade agreements tariff lines, developed and presented results scenarios of the tariff rate quotas using computational econometric methods in Both English and Spanish languages during high level trade negotiation meetings with foreign government representatives from Panama, Colombia and CAFTA-DR groups.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy (“FAO”) June 2009
 In the Matter of the policy analysis to prevent trade disruptions during due to increase of agricultural commodities, presented a research on the linking trade barriers imposed by countries in the Western Hemisphere based on the case of Argentina’s move to restrict agricultural exports during the 2008 food price crisis causing distortions on prices paid to local agricultural producers with the matrix serving as a key tool for the Regional Office for the Latin America and Caribbean Office of FAO.

Agricultural Economics Department, Kansas State University. May 2007
 Size of Entry in Food Economy Firms in the United States between 1977 to 1992,” M.S. Thesis, Manhattan, Kansas.

Forestry Department, La Molina National Agricultural University. June 1997
 Determination of coefficient of sawing of plantations of Pinus in the Andean region