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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI	Page 1
2	STATE OF MISSOURI	
3	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS PREHEARING CONFERENCE	
4		
5		
6	In the Matter of the Application) of White River Valley Electric )	
7	Cooperative, Inc., For Approval ) Of Designated Service )	
8	Boundaries Within Portions of )File No. EO-2025-0 Christian County, Missouri. )	228
9 10		
11		
12	THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025	
13	3:00 p.m.	
14	Jefferson City, MO via WebEx	
15	VOLUME 1	
16		
17		
18	KAROLIN WALKER, Presidi	nq
19	REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	2
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21		
22 23	TRANCOLLED DY.	
23 24	TRANSCRIBED BY: MELISSA EICKEN	
25 25		



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1	Page2 LAW JUDGE WALKER: The conference
2	it's we're going to go on the record. It's
3	April 10th, 2025. It is 3:00 p.m. This is a
4	procedural conference in EO-2025-0228. The
5	application of White River Valley Electric
6	Cooperative, Incorporated, is the complainant.
7	My name is Karolin Walker, and I'm the
8	regulatory law judge in this matter. We're going to
9	begin by having the attorneys enter their appearances.
10	Let's start with White River Valley Electric
11	Cooperative.
12	MS. MCCORD: This is Megan McCord on behalf
13	of White River Valley Electric Cooperative,
14	Incorporated.
15	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Thank you, Megan. Is
16	there yeah. I know there's Commission staff. I
17	can see you. Commission staff.
18	MS. KLAUS: Yes. Thank you. Alexandra
19	Klaus on behalf of staff. Our offices are at 200
20	Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
21	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Thank you, Alexandra.
22	Office of Public Counsel. Anybody for Liberty?
23	MS. CARTER: Hi, Judge. This is Diana
24	Carter for the Empire District Electric Company, doing
25	business as Liberty.



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1	Page 3 LAW JUDGE WALKER: Okay. Thank you, Dana				
2	{sic}. And is there anybody that I've missed?				
3	Okay. I have a few disclaimers. The				
4	procedural conference is called to discuss a				
5	procedural schedule. And it's under the jurisdiction				
б	of the Commission, and we're not here to address				
7	outside lawsuits, bankruptcy matters, disciplinary				
8	actions, federal agency issues, anything that's not				
9	relevant to what we're discussing today. We don't				
10	have a hearing date yet, but for everyone, I would				
11	like your available dates from the last two weeks in				
12	August through October, and the reason it's so late is				
13	because we currently only have, like, three days in				
14	June that are open and only a few days in July, so.				
15	And to let you know, just how this process				
16	works, you can suggest the dates that you would like,				
17	but the Commission decides when the hearing is, and I				
18	would like I would like you all to discuss the				
19	procedural schedule. I understand that you I				
20	understand from Alexandra's pleadings that you've all				
21	been discussing it every day. And I'd like to know				
22	what's going on with it.				
23	MS. MCCORD: Sure. Judge, if I may.				
24	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Absolutely.				
25	MS. MCCORD: This is Megan McCord for White				



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1	Page 4 River. Thank you.
2	From what I understand, staff and White
3	River were able to agree on most dates that are on a
4	procedural schedule. We were really attempting to get
5	this case wrapped up, you know, in the 90-day
6	timeline, if possible, and we had May 16th set aside
7	as an available hearing date for both parties. I I
8	haven't heard from Liberty on that. I certainly
9	understand if you have to push it back. But this is
10	an active development, and I'm trying very hard to
11	make sure the developers stays on schedule so that
12	they can get service when they need to, and I don't
13	think they can wait quite that long until August, but
14	certainly, if that's what the Commission needs to do,
15	we can do that, so. With that being said, I have lots
16	of availability in in that time frame, if we need
17	to discuss that.
18	LAW JUDGE WALKER: So do you have you're
19	saying, Megan, that you have agreed to all of the
20	dates in the procedural schedule?
21	MS. MCCORD: The schedule that was
22	circulated by Lexi, I can comply with, my client can
23	comply with, yes. We are fine with those dates.
24	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Is everything included
25	in that schedule before May 16th?



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1	Page 5 MS. MCCORD: You know, it's a tight					
2	timeline, but we do have dates for direct testimony,					
3	staff reports, rebuttal testimony, we've got a					
4	pretrial conference date list of issues, exhibits,					
5	statement of positions. It's tight. But the case has					
6	been pending, you know, now, I think, for two months					
7	and or maybe not quite that long, but we've been					
8	trying to get it moving since then with getting dates					
9	and things and getting everybody on board, so.					
10	LAW JUDGE WALKER: I agree with you, Megan,					
11	which is why I have this procedural conference. I					
12	want to move this case off the dime and get us closer					
13	to a hearing.					
14	MS. MCCORD: Yeah.					
15	LAW JUDGE WALKER: I guess, I I'll ask					
16	Lexi to go ahead. Whoever that is.					
17	MS. CARTER: Sorry. I I apologize. I'm					
18	on the phone, so it's a little bit harder for me to					
19	tell on the talking. We had a meeting with staff and					
20	OPC. They're in person this morning, and I am heading					
21	back to Joplin now in the car, so I I apologize if					
22	I'm talking over someone. This is Diana Carter for					
23	Empire.					
24	I as as we've been discussing, the					
25	three of us, by e-mail, we do not agree with the					



1	Prehearing Conference Vol I April 10, 2025				
1	Page6 proposed schedule as I believe it allowed about five				
2	days in between the filing of direct, rebuttal				
3	testimony, so. That, I believe, is just inherently				
4	unfair for Empire. It has that would not be				
5	sufficient time to review direct testimony.				
6	Obviously, that would not allow time to review any				
7	data requests and direct testimony, and then prepare				
8	rebuttal testimony. That seems patently unfair for				
9	Liberty				
10	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Okay.				
11	MS. CARTER: to have such time schedule.				
12	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Do do you have a				
13	schedule that you proposed?				
14	MS. CARTER: Yes. By e-mail, what not				
15	the entire schedule. I suggested a date for rebuttal,				
16	and then we can just move the date out accordingly.				
17	LAW JUDGE WALKER: And where is Liberty in				
18	all of this? They're an intervenor in this case.				
19	What is their procedural schedule, and what has been				
20	their interaction with you all in terms of the				
21	schedule. They're a party.				
22	MS. CARTER: I'm sorry, I did not hear				
23	that.				
24	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Well, just anyone can				
25	answer the question. I mean, Liberty is a party in				

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Page7 1 the suit, and the motion says it -- the -- the parties 2 have been talking about every day. So where are they 3 in terms of the procedural schedule? Lexi, can you 4 speak to that?

5 Yes, Judge. MS. KLAUS: So between the workdays of Friday, March 28th, and Tuesday, April 6 7 8th, staff did send correspondence to -- or was able 8 to communicate with the parties every day except for 9 Thursday, April 3rd. We did have an original initial 10 schedule that was proposed about April 1st by White 11 There were some tweaks that were made to that, River. 12 that was circulated to the parties. Unfortunately, 13 that version did not work. We did receive a suggested 14 rebuttal date of May 12th from Liberty, and we did incorporate that into the most recent version of the 15 16 procedural schedule that Ms. McCord had mentioned. Ι 17 do note that, that May 12th rebuttal testimony date is 18 60 days from the date on which Liberty filed its 19 motion to intervene.

LAW JUDGE WALKER: Okay. Well, Ms. McCord, I have to tell you that I think May 16th is incredibly optimistic in terms of a trial date. I don't think we have any availability in May, and the other thing is, I'm sure she hasn't told you, but staff counsel's office is down three attorneys, so.



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1	Page 8 MS. MCCORD: Oh.				
2	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Ms. Klaus is doing her				
3	work and the work of maybe three other people, so.				
4	We're a little backed up here.				
5	MS. MCCORD: Absolutely. I understand				
6	that, certainly.				
7	LAW JUDGE WALKER: I mean, her				
8	MS. MCCORD: Yeah.				
9	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Well, does anyone have a				
10	suggestion about how we resolve this conflict?				
11	MS. MCCORD: Judge, if I may, you know,				
12	there's been one other case like this at the Public				
13	Service Commission under the Territory Law 386.800 and				
14	that was kept with a pretty tight timeline. I know				
15	I was involved in that case, and I know there were				
16	often times filings that were ordered, and then due				
17	two days later, and I I have a vague memory of				
18	filing things on a Sunday one time, so. I know that				
19	sometimes these cases are, you know, on a tight				
20	timeline, and it's not fun to have to get responses				
21	back within a week or something like that, but. I				
22	I just ask that you do what you can to, obviously,				
23	with deference to staff counsel, but just to keep the				
24	case moving for my clients, because as I said, they've				
25	got a development under construction and they really				

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1	Page 9 need to wrap it up for the developer, otherwise, we're				
2	going to have a a big development and those that				
3	don't have power, so.				
4	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Well, go ahead. Lexi,				
5	do you have anything to add to this?				
6	MS. KLAUS: Just to say, you know,				
7	originally, we had indicated in a status report that				
8	we were trying to operate with an April 21st report				
9	date. That has since been altered to the most recent				
10	version of the proposed procedural schedule to				
11	May 2nd. So we are trying to work with all parties to				
12	find dates that work with everybody and move as				
13	quickly and efficiently as possible with this, but we				
14	do understand that the Commission's calendar is rather				
15	packed for the next few months. I know Ms. McCord has				
16	said that August might not be the most preferred, but				
17	if that's what it needs to be from staff's				
18	perspective, then then we understand.				
19	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Do you think that you				
20	can meet the deadlines that are in the current				
21	proposed procedural schedule?				
22	MS. KLAUS: I'm quite hopeful that we can.				
23	Ms. McCord had mentioned a previous case, and she can				
24	correct me if I'm wrong, but I I think I recall				
25	some motions to suspend the procedural schedule at				

1	Page 10 certain points and, you know, maybe that's a tool in					
2	the toolbox for this case as well.					
3	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Yeah. I we're really					
4	trying not to we're trying to collapse the motions					
5	for continuance and the extensions at least from the					
6	adjudication perspective. But you know what? Let's					
7	do this. The three of you and Lexi, will you, please,					
8	contact Liberty, send me your proposed procedural					
9	schedules, the ones you would like, and Ms. McCord, I					
10	understand and I feel your pain in terms of timing,					
11	so. Give me your available dates from June through					
12	October, and maybe we can fit you in those three days					
13	in June or those few days in July. Don't send me a					
14	procedural schedule if you cannot adhere to.					
15	MS. MCCORD: Absolutely. Thank you, Judge.					
16	I appreciate that.					
17	LAW JUDGE WALKER: If you need to make it					
18	longer, make it longer; does that sound good?					
19	MS. MCCORD: Sounds great for White River.					
20	Thank you, Judge.					
21	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Ms. Carter?					
22	MS. CARTER: Yes. Thank you, Judge.					
23	LAW JUDGE WALKER: Lexi?					
24	MS. KLAUS: Judge, may I ask when would you					
25	like to have this filed by?					



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1	Page 11 LAW JUDGE WALKER: Well, I'd like to have					
2	it filed tomorrow, but how about Monday?					
3	MS. KLAUS: We can do our best, and you had					
4	said not the schedule that staff and White River had					
5	worked out. That is not what you want filed?					
6	LAW JUDGE WALKER: No. I do want that.					
7	That's what they want.					
8	MS. KLAUS: Okay.					
9	LAW JUDGE WALKER: I want them you don't					
10	have to file it with the Commission. Well, I guess,					
11	you do have to file it with the Commission. How about					
12	this. I'll issue an order tomorrow and ask you to					
13	to file procedural schedules by Monday, and I want					
14	each of you and Liberty to file a schedule that you					
15	can adhere to and that you can meet and that you're					
16	happy with, and then, you know, I'm going to resolve					
17	the conflicts that you cannot resolve, and it sounds					
18	like there are very few. It sounds like you have one					
19	day you have a problem with so far. But I will get					
20	them and look them over, and we'll go from there.					
21	Does that sound good?					
22	MS. KLAUS: I think so.					
23	LAW JUDGE WALKER: All right. Well, thank					
24	you all. This is great. I feel like we made some					
25	real progress here.					

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1		MS.	MCCORD: Thank you, Judge. I r	Page 12 eally
2	appreciate	your	diligence with this.	
3		LAW	JUDGE WALKER: Okay.	
4		MS.	KLAUS: Thank you, Judge. Appr	eciate
5	your time.			
6		(Auc	lio ended.)	
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