Exhibit No.:
Issue: Crossroads
Witness: Darrin R. Ives
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Sponsoring Party: Evergy Missouri West
Case No.: ER-2024-0189
Date Testimony Prepared: September 15, 2025

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: ER-2024-0189

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

DARRIN R. IVES

ON BEHALF OF

EVERGY MISSOURI WEST

Kansas City, Missouri

September 2025

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DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

DARRIN R. IVES

Case No. ER-2024-0189

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Q: Please state your name and business address.

A: My name is Darrin R. Ives. My business address is 1200 Main, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

Q: By whom and in what capacity are you employed?

A: I am employed by Evergy Metro, Inc. and serve as Senior Vice President – Regulatory and Government Affairs for Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a as Evergy Missouri Metro ("EMM"), Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West ("EMW"), Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Kansas Metro ("EKM"), and Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy South, Inc., collectively d/b/a as Evergy Kansas Central ("EKC") the operating utilities of Evergy, Inc.

Q: Who are you testifying for?

A: I am testifying on behalf of Evergy Missouri West ("EMW" or "Company").

Q: What are your responsibilities?

A: My responsibilities include oversight of the Company's Regulatory Affairs Department, as well as all aspects of regulatory activities including policy, cost of service, rate design, revenue requirements, regulatory reporting, and tariff administration. As of October 1, 2025, I also officially have responsibility for state and federal legislative and government policy and affair, customer support for our largest customers, economic development activities and energy solutions and products.

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and employment history.

A: I graduated from Kansas State University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with majors in Accounting and Marketing. I received my Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2001. I am a Certified Public Accountant. From 1992 to 1996, I performed audit services for the public accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. I was first employed by Kansas City Power & Light in 1996 and held positions of progressive responsibility in Accounting Services and was named Assistant Controller in 2007. I served as Assistant Controller until I was named Senior Director – Regulatory Affairs in April 2011. I have held my position as Vice President – Regulatory Affairs since August 2013 until I was recently named Senior Vice President – Regulatory and Government Affairs.

Q: Have you previously testified in a proceeding at the Missouri Public Service Commission ("MPSC" or "Commission") or before any other utility regulatory agency?

A: Yes. I have previously testified at the Commission.

Q: What is the purpose of your Direct testimony?

A: The purpose of my Direct testimony is to describe the current state of affairs related to the 300 MW simple-cycle, gas-fired Crossroads Energy Center ("Crossroads") generating plant in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and discuss why it is prudent for EMW to renew its firm point-to-point transmission service agreements which permit energy and capacity to benefit the Company's customers.

Q: Please summarize your testimony.

A: Circumstances have significantly changed since the Commission's 2011 and 2013 report and orders, where the Commission denied EMW's request to recover the Crossroads' transmission expense. Since that time, the annual transmission costs have risen significantly from approximately $4.7 million in 2011 and 2013, when the Commission previously considered this issue, rising to approximately $12 million in 2014 up to $18.1 million in 2024. Recently, Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") has increased the planning reserve margins of its load-serving members like the Company while tightening accredited capacity values for supply resources. These recent SPP actions serve to increase the importance of Crossroads' reliability benefits to EMW's customers. However, EMW's inability to recover the Crossroads transmission expense has contributed to EMW's declining credit metrics and its overall financial challenges.

The transmission service agreements that bring the benefits of Crossroads to EMW's customers are set to expire in February 2029. Given that Commission precedents view Crossroads transmission costs as imprudent and that they have been borne by the Company's shareholders since 2011, it would be imprudent for EMW to renew these agreements unless the Commission evaluates the environment and circumstances currently faced by EMW and allows these transmission costs to be recovered in rates. Therefore, EMW requests that the Commission, pursuant to Section 5.C of the Stipulation in this case[1] find that EMW's recovery of the Crossroads transmission expense is appropriate and that extending the transmission service agreements is prudent.

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[1] See Unanimous Stipulation & Agreement at 2-4 ("Stipulation").

II. THE FINANCIAL EFFECT OF THE COMMISSION'S CROSSROADS ORDERS

Q: How has the Commission treated Crossroads in past rate cases?

A: The Commission has consistently found that Crossroads, a 300-MW simple-cycle, gas fired generation peaking plant located in Clarksdale, Mississippi, was a prudent investment. The Commission first reached this conclusion in a 2011 Report & Order in a general rate case filed by the Company when it was known as KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Co. ("GMO").[2] However, the Commission has also consistently denied recovery of the cost of the firm point-to-point transmission agreements under a FERC-approved tariff to bring the benefits of Crossroads to EMW's customers in western Missouri. In 2011, when the Commission first denied the cost of the firm point-to-point transmission agreements, this annual cost was approximately $4.7 million.[3]

In the Company's next general rate case the Commission again denied recovery of the Crossroads transmission expense.[4] Declining to discuss the "tortured history" of the Company's previous owner Aquila, Inc., the Commission stated that such a "full recital" "only raises the issue of how long the Commission will visit the sins of the predecessor on the successor. It is true that GMO is the same legal entity as Aquila, but it is also true that management is different."[5]

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[2] Report & Order at 90-91, 99, In re KCP&L Greater Mo. Operations Co., No. ER-2010-0356 (May 4, 2011) ("Crossroads I").
[3] Id. at 86. The Commission stated that the "annual energy transmission cost was estimated as $406,000 per month." or $4.872 million. This number was derived from a footnote to Table 19 on page 42 of Company witness Burton Crawford's Schedule BLC 2010-10 filed with testimony in June 2010. The actual Crossroads transmission expense in 2011 was approximately $4.7 million.
[4] Report & Order at 57-59, In re KCP&L Greater Mo. Operations Co., No. ER-2012-0175 (Jan. 9, 2013) ("Crossroads II").
[5] Id. at 57, Crossroads II.

Q: Does the Company recommend that the Commission spend time reviewing the issue of the valuation of Crossroads in rate base or other historical issues?

A: No.

Q: Is now the time for the Commission to stop visiting "the sins" of Aquila upon its successor, Evergy Missouri West?

A: Yes. The time has come for the Commission to take a fresh look at the benefits that Crossroads provides as the energy industry in particular, and the American economy in general, undergoes a transformation of historic proportions as older resources are retired, replacement resources are constructed, weather events are more frequent and volatile, and as electrification advances.

The goal of EMW and the Crossroads plant is to provide capacity and energy to customers during winter and summer emergency events when adequate power supplies are at risk. As the President of SPP observed: "Changes in supply, demand, and extreme weather conditions are stressing the limits of energy reliability." See Southwest Power Pool, "Our Generational Challenge: A Reliable Future for Electricity" – A Message from the CEO (Summer 2024).[6] As the 2025 Annual Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") Update shows, Crossroads is an important part of Evergy's plans to reliably serve customers in the future. As reflected by the analysis in the IRP, its total costs - inclusive of transmission and regulatory costs - are predicted to be lower than building new replacement generation within our territory. For example, the levelized cost of energy ("LCOE") for Crossroads remaining in Mississippi, and EMW permitted to include the transmission expense in rate

[6] SPP's "Our Generational Challenge" report is provided as Schedule 2 to the Direct testimony of Company witness Cody VandeVelde.

base, is $11.61/kW per month when compared to $19.11/kW per month for new build replacement generation. But in order to include Crossroads in its portfolio going forward, the Company requires certainty that its transmission costs will be recoverable as with the costs for every other generation asset Evergy operates. Ancient history cannot provide Evergy with that certainty.

What started as a $4.7 million transmission cost disallowance to revenue requirement funded by the Company's shareholders, has grown to an approximate $18.1 million annual transmission disallowance and accumulated to an approximately $155 million transmission disallowance, since the Commission's 2011 decision. Overall, with the impact to date of approximately $52 million from the rate base disallowance to an aggregate disallowance of $207 million represents a substantial shareholder funded resource which has made it impossible for the Company to have a reasonable opportunity to earn its allowed return on equity.

Annual Crossroads Disallowance	
Year	**Transmission Disallowed (Millions)**
2011 (half)	4.7
2012	3.7
2013	4.7
2014	12.0
2015	12.5
2016	5.8
2017	11.2
2018	10.7
2019	11.5
2020	12.6
2021	14.8
2022	17.0
2023	15.7
2024	18.1
Total	*155.0*

Q: Is the Company asking the Commission to reconsider its two rate case orders issued in Crossroads I in May 2011 and Crossroads II in January 2013 that disallowed the Crossroads transmission cost?

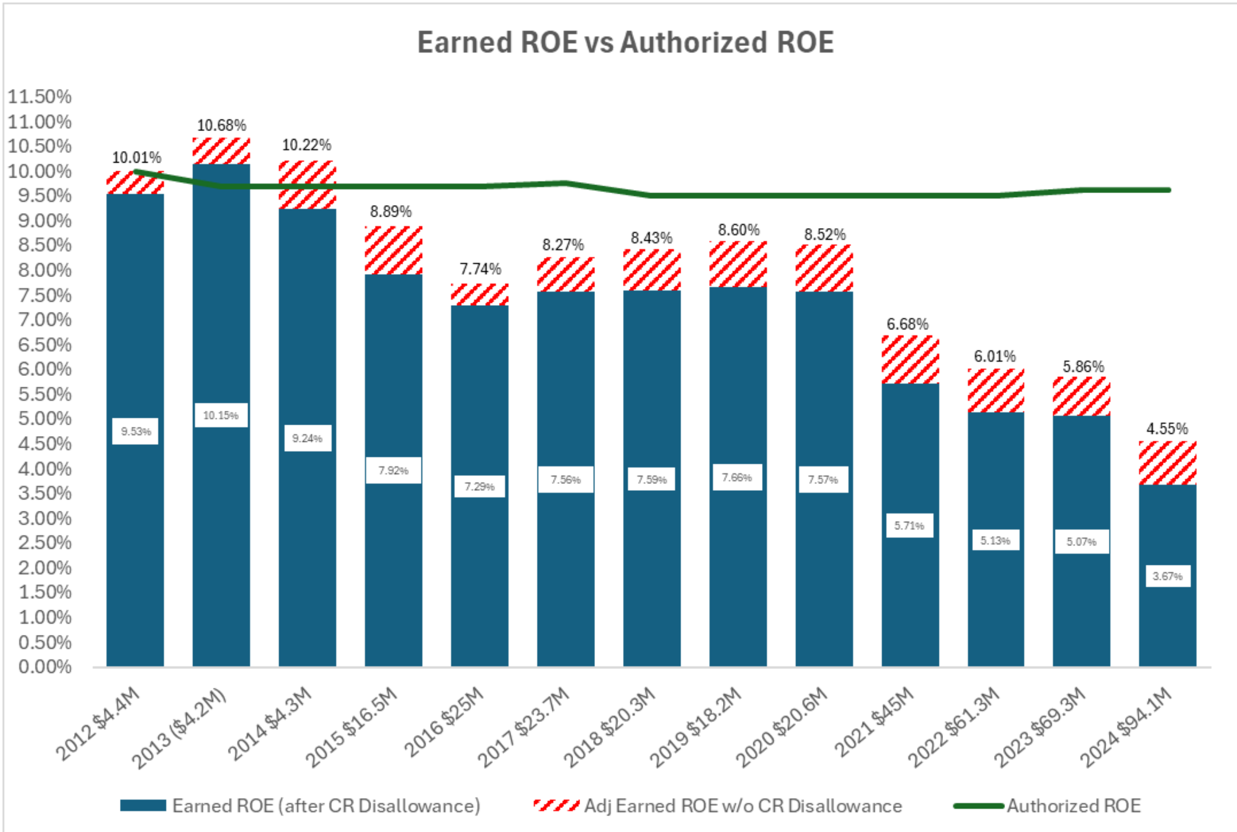
A: No. I only raise the disallowances incurred by shareholders to provide the magnitude of payment shareholders have made to address the "sins of the predecessor on the successor". It is clear however, that the Commission's 2011 and 2013 decisions were premised on a far different set of facts than are present in this case. The issues reviewed by the Commission in those proceedings were based on what was known no later than the end of October 2012 when the evidentiary hearings concluded in the second case. This was before Entergy Corp. ("Entergy") became a Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") member and integrated its regulated utility transmission assets into the MISO system in December 2013. At the end of 2014, the Crossroads transmission costs increased to $12.0 million from the prior year's $4.7 million. Every year since then, except for one year, transmission expenses have been at double-digit million-dollar levels, reaching a high of approximately $18.1 million in 2024.

EMW, nor any party, had no reason to believe these transmission costs would rise so significantly when Crossroads became a regulated asset of the Company in 2008 or when Crossroads I and II were tried before the Commission. The Company also had no reason to believe then that the electricity industry and the American economy would undergo such a dramatic transformation. At a high level, the causes are many. Among the major new challenges facing the Company are: (a) the retirement of coal and gas plants which are reducing the region's generating capacity to dangerously low levels; (b) the increase in intermittent wind and solar resources that present new reliability challenges; (c) the unexpected number of proposals for new generation and transmission assets that are overwhelming the SPP interconnection queue and delaying the construction of new resources; (d) the rise of extreme weather events that threaten human safety as winter and summer peak demands continue to grow; (e) the increase in customer load from new data centers, battery manufacturing, crypto-currency mining, and electrification that are causing a significant growth in demand; (f) SPP's recent decisions to tighten supply resource accreditation criteria; and (g) SPP's recent decision to increase its planning reserve margins in 2026 to 16% in the summer and 36% in the winter.[7]

Q: What has the impact of the substantial Crossroad's disallowances and resultant annual under-recovery of costs been on the Company?

A: EMW is consistently one of the lower earning utilities in the nation. Under the current ratemaking treatment for Crossroads, EMW does not have any reasonable opportunity to earn its allowed return on equity ("ROE"). As shown below, EMW persistently and significantly underearns relative to its allowed ROE simply because rates are not set to provide the Company with the opportunity to recover its cost of service, with a primary driver being the transmission costs necessary to utilize the capacity from Crossroads.

[7] See Cody VandeVelde Direct Testimony at 17 and Sched. 2 (Sept. 15, 2025), Southwest Power Pool, Inc., "Our Generational Challenge: A Reliable Future for Electricity" at 1-2, 4-17 (Summer 2014); SPP Media Release, "SPP board approves new planning reserve margins to protect against high winter, summer use" (Aug. 6, 2024).



Q: What are the penalties that Evergy shareholders have paid since 2014 and will pay if the Commission does not provide relief in this case?

A: From 2014 through 2024, shareholders have paid approximately $142 million for the transmission service that benefits retail customers. Given the benefits that Crossroads provides and the uncertainties of the future, customers should now be required to pay for the necessary transmission service going forward. If the Commission does not allow for recovery of the transmission path costs, the above amount is estimated to grow by an additional $75 million for the amounts paid by shareholders from 2025 to the expiration of the transmission service agreements in 2029. If Evergy shareholders are penalized for the transmission over the entirety of the transmission contract that was put in place to supply Crossroads generating capacity to EMW customers, that means the penalty will have reached approximately $230 million since the 2011 original Commission order.

Q: What will be the financial effect on the Company if the Commission fails to allow any recovery of transmission costs?

A: EMW's inability to recover any of these costs will continue to have a negative effect on the Company's revenues and, as a result, the credit ratings issued by Standard and Poor's ("S&P") and Moody's Investor Service ("Moody's"). The failure of the Company to recover any Crossroads transmission costs will perpetuate the downward financial pressure on EMW and the financial metrics that drive its credit ratings.

Q: Has S&P issued a more recent report on EMW since your September 2024 Surrebuttal?

A: Yes. On December 10, 2024 S&P Global Ratings issued a Ratings Score Snapshot of EMW and its current credit rating of BBB+/Stable/A-2. See Sched. DRI-8. The S&P report stated that EMW's funds for operations (FFO) to debt, will remain in the 13%to 16% range through 2026. Id. at 4. Accordingly, the report noted that EMW's 2024 rate case request, which granted the Company a rate increase of $55 million, was "largely due to the need to recover costs related to infrastructure investments aimed at improving system reliability and customer service, as well as certain expenditures tied to the Dogwood and Crossroads Energy Center natural gas plants." Id.at 2.

Additionally, S&P stated that although it believes "the company's regulatory construct in Missouri provides avenues for cost recovery," EMW's "credit quality will ultimately depend on timely rate recovery and funding access …." See Sched. DRI-8 at 1-2. S&P's statement regarding "timely rate recovery" clearly demonstrates the importance of the Company recovering the Crossroads transmission expense.

S&P also noted that "unprecedented natural conditions, including weather events have negatively influenced our rating analysis," which is increased by "EMW's limited geographic … diversity." Id. at 4-5. Specifically, the report observed that EMW's "operations are limited to northwestern Missouri, leaving cash flow susceptible to local weather and economic conditions." Id. at 4.

S&P's recognition of the value of geographically diverse generation is consistent with EMW witness Mr. VandeVelde's Crossroads direct testimony. As he explained, Crossroads provides the Company with both geographic and fuel diversity beyond western Missouri which provides a valuable hedge regarding local weather and economic conditions in its service territory. Therefore, the Commission should permit EMW to recover the Crossroads transmission expenses which will help the Company address cost recovery and other financial issues discussed in S&P's report.

Q: Has EMW's credit rating at Moody's changed since your September 2024 Surrebuttal?

A: Yes. In April 2025 Moody's downgraded EMW's issuer rating to Baa3 from Baa2, its senior secured first mortgage bond rating to Baa1 from A3, and its short-term commercial paper rating to Prime-3 from Prime-2." See Sched. DRI-9 at 1, Moody's Ratings Report (Apr. 29, 2025). Moody's also changed EMW's outlook to Stable from Negative, advising that the Company's "regulatory environment will remain relatively consistent and that its financial metrics will stabilize…." Id. at 2. See Sched. DRI-10 at 2, Moody's Credit Opinion (May 2, 2025). Moody's stated in the Credit Opinion that the downgrade "reflected persistently weak credit metrics that are not likely to improve due to elevated capital expenditures, higher debt issuance, and the lack of timely cost recovery mechanisms to expedite cash flow generation." See Sched. DRI-10 at 1.

Q: Did the Moody's Credit Opinion mention Crossroads?

A: Yes. In discussing issues related to "the recovery of reliability infrastructure investments and costs," Moody's noted the Company's "requested recovery for transmission costs connected to the [Crossroads] natural gas plant, which have not been included in [its] revenue requirement since a disallowance in 2011." See Sched. DRI-10 at 4.

Q: What do you conclude from these reports by S&P and Moody's?

A: The ratings downgrade from Moody's has put EMW's credit rating at Baa3, the lowest investment grade credit rating of Moody's. The downgrade to a Baa3 credit rating is anticipated to not only increase the cost of raising new long-term debt capital, but it could put additional pressure on EMW's ability to access the low-cost short-term commercial paper markets which will be primarily used to finance EMW's construction work-in-progress during the current elevated investment cycle. The reports from S&P and Moody's show why the Company is so troubled by its inability to recover its costs and to earn its authorized return on equity, and the consistent failure of Staff and OPC to recognize these facts. This inability to recover costs and achieve authorized returns is significantly impacted by the disallowance of Crossroads transmission costs which today amounts to approximately $155 million, which the Company has had to fund with compounding interest charges over time. As we noted throughout this proceeding, however, the Company is not asking to recover historical costs; rather, the Company is focused on the recovery of transmission costs going forward given the importance of a strong credit profile for EMW.

Q: What are the causes of this situation?

A: As S&P and Moody's recognized, EMW's historical problems with cost recovery were heightened by the significant delay in securitizing the $300 million debt caused by Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

However, EMW's Securitized Utility Tariff Rider became effective on February 26, 2024. And, as Moody's recognized, the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds has begun to address the Company's short-term debt issues.

Q: How does Crossroads fit into EMW's credit rating future?

A: A decision by the Commission that allows EMW to charge customers for the costs that allow the benefits of Crossroads to be brought to them would be the third major positive development in 2025, following the favorable July 31, 2025 Commission orders granting EMW Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for two solar facilities (EA-2024-0292) and three natural gas generation assets (EA-2025-0075). S&P and Moody's have stated that EMW's credit quality is dependent on timely rate recovery of operating expenses and a return of investment on its capital expenditures. Crossroads is specifically mentioned in the Moody's May 2025 Credit Report, Schedule DRI-10. Additionally, S&P notes that EMW's general lack of geographic diversity outside of western Missouri is a negative consideration for its credit rating analysis. Because Crossroads clearly mitigates that risk, now is the time for the Commission to recognize that fact and allow the Company to recover its transmission expenses.

III. <u>THE PATH FORWARD ON CROSSROADS</u>

Q: What are the key findings and decisions that the Commission should make regarding Crossroads?

A: First, given that so much has changed since Crossroads became a regulated asset of the Company in 2008 and since the Commission's orders in <u>Crossroads I</u> and <u>Crossroads II</u>, today's circumstances require a new approach to valuing the capacity, energy, and transmission expenses that are required to bring the benefits of Crossroads to EMW's customers. The Company's 2024 Triennial IRP Report and 2025 Annual IRP Update provide a roadmap to reach a solution that will preserve the Company's ability to provide customers with safe and reliable service. The IRPs are the most comprehensive assessment of what EMW should do. The 2024 Triennial IRP Report found that maintaining Crossroads in EMW's generation portfolio, including ***all*** related costs, is the most economical way to ensure that adequate capacity and energy are brought to the Company's customers. The alternatives that the 2024 Triennial IRP Report studied were all significantly more expensive, with the next best solution (a new gas plant in EMW's service territory) projected to be over $120 million more costly than keeping Crossroads in EMW's generation portfolio with all of its transmission costs.[8]

Second, given the starkly different facts that exist today, the Company requests that the Commission acknowledge that the time has come to end the ban on Crossroads transmission cost recovery. Commissioners recognized in 2013 that there would come a time to determine "how long the Commission will visit the sins of the predecessor on the

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[8] EMW 2024 Triennial IRP, Volume 6 at 57-59, No. EO-2024-0154 (Apr. 1, 2024).

successor."[9] Given the far different risks that EMW and its customers face today, that time is now. The capacity and energy benefits of Crossroads, located in MISO, are worth every penny of the transmission costs charged under the firm point-to-point transmission service agreements with Entergy that bring these benefits to Missouri for EMW's customers in SPP.

This is especially true as extreme summer and winter weather events are becoming more common. It is also true that allowing EMW to recover these costs will permit the Company to improve its financial position. This will enable it to maintain and potentially improve its financial metrics and credit ratings, and to lower its borrowing costs. As discussed by EMW witnesses Mr. VandeVelde and Mr. Gunn, the levelized cost of capacity (LCOC) of Crossroads remaining in Mississippi and EMW being permitted to obtain the transmission expense in rate base is $11.61/kW per month. If EMW were to sell Crossroads and build new generation in the Company's territory, or if EMW relocated the existing Crossroads facility to SPP, the LCOC for these options would be higher at $19.11/kW per month and $15.26/kW per month, respectively. Stated another way, the sale and replacement or relocation of the Crossroads facility would be expected to increase retail rates by an estimated $0.006-0.008/KWh, or a 7% to 9% increase to existing revenue requirement. This compares to an estimated increase of $0.002/KWh for EMW's total retail customer rate, or an approximate 2% increase to EMW's existing revenue requirement if EMW retains Crossroads as it is today and the Commission provides for recovery of the transmission costs to operate Crossroads and continue to provide the capacity and energy benefits to EMW's customers.

[9] Report & Order at 57, Crossroads II.

Third, to reassure the Company and its customers that Crossroads will be maintained as a reliable source of capacity and energy, the Commission should find that it is reasonable and prudent for Evergy Missouri West to renew the four firm point-to-point transmission service agreements with Entergy before they expire in February 2029. As discussed in Mr. VandeVelde's direct testimony, the transmission costs to bring Crossroad's capacity and energy from MISO to SPP are subject to a tariff that has been approved by FERC. Absent a Commission order that finds the Company's decision to renew the Crossroads transmission agreements is prudent, EMW will need to procure replacement capacity for Crossroads in accord with the Company's 2024 and 2025 IRP Reports.

Q: Are past decisions rendered by the Commission set in stone and irrevocable?

A: No. As an administrative agency, the Commission is not bound by its past decisions or precedents and is not hand-cuffed in this regard as long as its decision is reasonable and lawful.[10] With the passage of time, and the advent of economic, technological, and policy changes, the Commission can and should judge the facts that are presented today by the parties and decide that it is appropriate for the Company to recover the transmission costs that allow Crossroads to serve customers.

Q: How do you recommend the parties move forward?

A: We need to move beyond the cycle of zero transmission cost recovery, and advance to a position where EMW and other stakeholders work together for the benefit of current and future customers. When we do that, we can focus on the upcoming generation supply

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[10] Spire Missouri, Inc. v. PSC, 618 S.W.3d 225, 235 (Mo. en banc 2021); State ex rel, Aquila, Inc. v. PSC, 326 S.W.3d 20, 32 (Mo. App. W.D. 2010).

transition and meeting the evolving needs of customers. If the Commission believed in the past that Company shareholders should be penalized for management's decision to place Crossroads in rate base as a generating resource, it is clear that shareholders have paid that penalty.

It is time to acknowledge that Crossroads plays an important and valuable role EMW's generation portfolio. Evergy has accepted the outcome and financial consequences of prior Commission decisions, and the Company does not seek to recover any past disallowances. However, given the significant changes that have occurred since 2011 and the ongoing transformation of the electric power sector, the costs to bring Crossroads' power and capacity to our customers – including the transmission costs - are reasonable and prudent when compared to the alternatives.

As described by Evergy witness Peter Rogge, EMW complied with the Stipulation and Issue 5.C. and contracted with Black & Veatch to conduct a relocation study to determine EMW's options for Crossroads. The process for the study included joint meetings with Staff, OPC, and Black & Veatch, extensive site visits, and ongoing input from all parties, which ensured that Staff and OPC were involved in every stage, from developing the RFP to providing feedback on the study's progress and findings. After the study was completed, EMW compiled Owner Cost information to supplement the final report, ensuring comprehensive project scope coverage.

EMW has asked the Commission to determine whether it is prudent for EMW to renew its firm point-to-point transmission service agreements with Entergy Corp. before they expire in February 2029, per Issue 5.C of the Stipulation. As discussed by Evergy witness Cody VandeVelde, the study affirmed EMW's 2024 Triennial IRP Report and

2025 Annual IRP Update, which included Crossroads and the transmission expense in its Preferred Plan.

EMW will not renew the transmission service agreements to incur a cost that the Commission has previously deemed imprudent. Thus, it has properly asked the Commission to determine the decisional prudence question in Issue 5.C of the Stipulation.

Q: What options will the Company have if the Commission denies recovery of the Crossroads transmission path expense?

A: To state the obvious, transmission is a necessary component of any generating asset. Like every other vertically integrated utility in the country, Evergy would not choose to include generating assets in its IRP that do not have a transmission path. Therefore, without the ability to include the cost of transmission for Crossroads, a cost that is required for the Company to include the facility in SPP's required capacity reserve margins, EMW will begin the process of planning to remove Crossroads from service for EMW customers in conjunction with the expiration of the current transmission contracts. The Company will seek all appropriate and necessary approvals to sell or otherwise dispose of Crossroads and will take steps to replace the unit's 300 MW of capacity with newly acquired or constructed resources.

IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Q: What is EMW asking the Commission to do in this case?

A: The Company asks the Commission to acknowledge the capacity and energy value that Crossroads provides to customers today as power demand increases, dispatchable thermal units continue to retire, more non-dispatchable renewable resources come online, and reserve margin requirements increase. EMW is the only party to this proceeding that has analyzed the value that Crossroads provides to customers, including when its transmission costs are recovered in rates.

Crossroads is a key part of the least cost solution analyzed in the Company's 2025 IRP Preferred Plan Update. No other party has done any analysis or work to dispute or challenge the IRP's conclusions. The consistent refrain in other parties' testimony to "just say no" because transmission was disallowed in the past – with no consideration of the vastly different landscape we operate in today – is unreasonable. Given the compelling need to retain Crossroads' capacity in EMW's SPP planning reserve margin, the Commission must recognize that it will be more costly and more uncertain, as well as take longer, for the Company to explore new supply options and implement an alternative solution.

For Evergy Missouri West to proceed in the least cost and most efficient way, it is in the best interest of both EMW and its customers for the Commission to allow the Company to recover the transmission expenses of Crossroads in rates and to end the penalty that it has been paying since 2011.

Q: Does that conclude your testimony?

A: Yes.

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 Authority to Implement A General Rate Increase for Electric Service	))))	Case No. ER-2024-0189

AFFIDAVIT OF DARRIN R. IVES

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF JACKSON)

Darrin R. Ives, being first duly sworn on his oath, states:

1. My name is Darrin R. Ives. I work in Kansas City, Missouri, and I am employed by Evergy Metro, Inc. as Vice President – Regulatory Affairs.

2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Direct Testimony on behalf of Evergy Missouri West consisting of nineteen (19) pages, having been prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in the above-captioned docket.

3. I have knowledge of the matters set forth therein. I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached testimony to the questions therein propounded, including any attachments thereto, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Darrin R. Ives

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15th day of September 2025.

Notary Public

My commission expires: April 26, 2029

ANTHONY R WESTENKIRCHNER
NOTARY PUBLIC - NOTARY SEAL
STATE OF MISSOURI
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 26, 2029
PLATTE COUNTY
COMMISSION #17279952

SCHEDULES DRI-8 THRU DRI-10 CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

ORIGINALS FILED UNDER SEAL.

Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro and
Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West

Docket No.: ER-2024-0189
Date: September 15, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The following information is provided to the Missouri Public Service Commission under CONFIDENTIAL SEAL:

Document/Page	Reason for Confidentiality from List Below
Schedule DRI-8	3, 4, and 5
Schedule DRI-9	3, 4, and 5
Schedule DRI-10	3, 4, and 5

Rationale for the "confidential" designation pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.135 is documented below:

1. Customer-specific information;

2. Employee-sensitive personnel information;

3. Marketing analysis or other market-specific information relating to services offered in competition with others;

4. Marketing analysis or other market-specific information relating to goods or services purchased or acquired for use by a company in providing services to customers;

5. Reports, work papers, or other documentation related to work produced by internal or external auditors, consultants, or attorneys, except that total amounts billed by each external auditor, consultant, or attorney for services related to general rate proceedings shall always be public;

6. Strategies employed, to be employed, or under consideration in contract negotiations;

7. Relating to the security of a company's facilities; or

8. Concerning trade secrets, as defined in section 417.453, RSMo.

9. Other (specify) ____.

Should any party challenge the Company's assertion of confidentiality with respect to the above information, the Company reserves the right to supplement the rationale contained herein with additional factual or legal information.