Exhibit No.:

Issues: Crossroads Witness: Greg R. Meyer Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal Testimony

Sponsoring Party: Midwest Energy Consumers Group Case No.: ER-2024-0189

Date Testimony Prepared: October 15, 2025

#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR 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

Rebuttal Testimony of

Greg R. Meyer

On behalf of

**Midwest Energy Consumers Group** 

October 15, 2025



Project 11912

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR 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

STATE OF MISSOURI ) SS COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS )

#### Affidavit of Greg R. Meyer

Greg R. Meyer, being first duly sworn, on his oath states:

- 1. My name is Greg R. Meyer. I am a consultant with Brubaker & Associates, Inc., having its principal place of business at 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017. We have been retained by Midwest Energy Consumers Group in this proceeding on their behalf.
- 2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my rebuttal testimony which was prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in Missouri Public Service Commission Case No. ER-2024-0189.
- 3. I hereby swear and affirm that the testimony is true and correct and that it shows the matters and things that it purports to show.

Greg R. Meyer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of October, 2025.

ADRIENNE J. FOLLETT
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
Jefferson County
My Commission Expires: Mar. 22, 2029
Commission # 21989987

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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

#### Rebuttal Testimony of Greg R. Meyer

1 Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS. 2 Α Greg R. Meyer. My business address is 16690 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 140, 3 Chesterfield, MO 63017. ARE YOU THE SAME GREG R. MEYER WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY FILED 4 Q 5 **TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING.** 6 Α Yes. I have previously filed Direct Testimony on September 15, 2025 in this 7 proceeding. ARE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE OUTLINED IN 8 Q 9 YOUR PRIOR TESTIMONY? 10 Α Yes. This information is included in Appendix A to my Direct Testimony filed on 11 September 15, 2025. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING IN THIS PROCEEDING? 12 Q 13 Α I am appearing on behalf of Midwest Energy Consumers Group ("MECG").

#### Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

2 A I will respond to various arguments presented in Evergy Missouri West's ("EMW")

Direct Testimony as it relates to the continued operations of the Crossroads Generating

4 Units ("Crossroads").

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#### 5 Q PLEASE SUMMARIZE EMW'S POSITION REGARDING CROSSROADS.

EMW proposes to negotiate four new transmission contracts to deliver point-to-point transmission service to the EMW service territory. EMW has indicated that unless the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") authorizes the full recovery of transmission costs from ratepayers, it will begin activities to sell Crossroads and construct new generating facilities in the Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") footprint.<sup>1</sup>

#### Q DO YOU SUPPORT EMW'S POSITION?

No. I believe, at a minimum, EMW must assume some responsibility for the original decision to obtain Crossroads for its EMW regulated service. In my Direct Testimony, I supported the position that EMW should still be responsible for the total recovery of the transmission costs associated with Crossroads.

I will not go into the history of Crossroads in this testimony. In 2010, the Commission ruled correctly on two aspects regarding Crossroads. First it acknowledged that the investment costs of Crossroads should match the value Aquila Inc. ("Aquila") received from selling similar units to Union Electric Company, now doing business as Ameren Missouri. The Commission cited that this decision was consistent with the Commission's approved affiliate transaction rules. Second, the Commission correctly found that all transmission costs to deliver energy to EMW should

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See Direct Testimony of Darrin R. Ives at page 18, lines 10-17.

1		not be assigned to EMW's ratepayers as those costs would not be a cost to ratepayers
2		if Crossroads had been constructed in the SPP footprint. <sup>2</sup>
3	Q	IN HIS DIRECT TESTIMONY, EMW WITNESS DARREN IVES DISCUSSES HOW
4		THE COMMISSION NEEDS TO STOP VISITING "'THE SINS' OF AQUILA" UPON
5		ITS SUCCESSOR EMW.3 PLEASE RESPOND.
6	Α	I can understand how EMW would like to shift all blame off what it claims as the financial
7		losses it has experienced with Crossroads on EMW's predecessor Company, Aquila.
8		However, the fact remains that EMW ultimately made the decision to acquire
9		Crossroads from Aquila. To insinuate that EMW is without responsibility for that
10		decision is without merit.
11	Q	PLEASE COMMENT ON MR. IVES' STATEMENT ON PAGE 18 OF HIS DIRECT
12		TESTIMONY:
13 14		EVERGY WOULD NOT CHOOSE TO INCLUDE GENERATING ASSETS IN ITS IRP THAT DO NOT HAVE A TRANSMISSION PATH.
15	Α	That is exactly what EMW did when it acquired Crossroads. Despite the arguments
16		provided by EMW to not rehash the same mistakes that have occurred in the past,
17		those exact decisions must be considered before allowing EMW to escape its decision
18		to save Crossroads.

 $^2 See$  Report and Order in Case No. ER-2010-0356 at page 96, paragraph 275.  $^3 See$  Direct Testimony of Darrin R. Ives at page 5, lines 4-10.

1	Q	ON PAGE 6 OF MR. IVES DIRECT TESTIMONY, HE PRESENTS A TABLE THAT
2		SHOWS THE HISTORIC COSTS OF TRANSMISSION EXPENSES FOR
3		CROSSROADS. MR. IVES CLAIMS THAT EMW HAS HAD TO ABSORB
4		APPROXIMATELY \$155 MILLION IN TRANSMISSION COSTS AS A RESULT OF
5		ITS POINT-TO-POINT TRANSMISSION CONTRACT. PLEASE COMMENT.
6	Α	I do not dispute the \$155 million that Mr. Ives has presented. However, I need to point
7		out that for all rate cases beyond the 2012 rate case, EMW either agreed through a
8		Stipulation and Agreement to absorb Crossroads' transmission costs or simply did not
9		seek recovery of the Crossroads' transmission costs. To now claim this as a hardship
10		appears self-serving.
11	Q	ON PAGE 11 OF HIS DIRECT TESTIMONY, MR. IVES DISCUSSES FACTORS
12		THAT HAVE INFLUENCED EMW'S CREDIT RATING. DO YOU HAVE A
13		RESPONSE?
14	Α	Yes. From my review of the testimony, readers were led to believe that the statements
15		about the two conditions listed were connected. I have included that portion of Mr. Ives
16		testimony below:
17 18 19		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."
20		My concern with this statement is that the two statements listed by Mr. Ives

My concern with this statement is that the two statements listed by Mr. Ives were discussed in two separate sections of the S&P Global Ratings' report. The geographic risk is discussed in the Business Risk section of the report and the "unprecedented natural conditions" statement is found in the Environmental, Social, And Governance section of the report. Those two statements are not related to each other as Mr. Ives attempts to portray.

1	Q	ARE YOU AWARE OF OTHER STATEMENTS IN THAT S&P GLOBAL RATINGS
2		REPORT THAT MR. IVES IGNORED?
3	Α	Yes. I have included two statements from the report that somewhat contradict Mr. Ives
4		statements or at a minimum should be pointed out to the Commission for their
5		consideration.
6		Business Risk
7 8		Our assessment of EMW's business risk profile reflects a lower risk regulated monopolistic utility with low exposure to industrial customers.
9		Financial Risk
10 11 12 13		We assess EMW's financial risk profile using our medial volatility benchmarks, which are more relaxed than the benchmarks we use for typical corporate issuers. This reflects EMW's lower-risk utility operations and effective regulatory risk management.
14	Q	TURNING YOUR ATTENTION TO MR. GUNN'S TESTIMONY. ON PAGE 5 OF HIS
15		DIRECT TESTIMONY, MR. GUNN INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND
16		ANSWER:
17 18 19 20		Q: HOW DO THESE DECISIONS RELATE TO THE CROSSROADS ISSUES THAT WERE RESERVED IN THE UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT (FILED OCTOBER 2, 2024) THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVED LAST YEAR?
21 22 23 24		A: NONE OF THE THREE CROSSROADS ISSUES IN SECTION 5 OF THE LIST OF ISSUES WERE RESOLVED BY THE UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT ("STIPULATION").
25		DO YOU AGREE WITH THE ABOVE STATEMENT BY MR. GUNN?
26	Α	Absolutely not. I have included the language form the Unanimous Stipulation and
27		Agreement that appears almost directly above Section 5.
28		3. Resolution of Issues:
29 30 31		All issues from the List of Issues filed in this docket on September 19, 2024, are resolved by the Agreement with the exception of Issues 3.A. and 5.C.

1 Clearly the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement does not comport with
2 Mr. Gunn's Direct Testimony. If indeed EMW is seeking to resolve Issues 5.A. and 5.B.
3 that dealt with transmission cost recovery in the revenue requirement, that action would
4 be in violation of a Commission Order which approved the Unanimous Stipulation and
5 Agreement. EMW needs to clarify its position such that parties can alert the

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In essence, Mr. Gunn is seeking to undo the Commission's decision in this case such that the rates that resulted from the filing of Case No. ER-2024-0189 would be revised to include cost recovery of transmission cost for Crossroads. This would be in violation of the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement agreed to by EMW, Commission Staff ("Staff"), Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), MECG, and Renew Missouri Advocates (collectively, the "Parties") in this case.

Commission of a potential violation of its agreement and the Commission's Order.

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RESOLVING ISSUE 5.C., REGARDING THE PRUDENCY OF RENEWING A FIRM POINT-TO-POINT TRANSMISSION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ENTERGY CORPORATION ("ENTERGY")?

In resolving issue 5.C., the Commission will determine the future operations of the Crossroads generating plant. In the Direct Testimony of EMW, it was proposed that 100% recovery of transmission costs for Crossroads would be the most economic option. The Staff, OPC, and MECG have proposed that recovery of transmission costs should continue to be borne by EMW. It has also been suggested by MECG that the future transmission costs' responsibility could be shared between EMW's ratepayers and shareholders. The Commission will need to render a decision on the future operations of Crossroads and if the Commission determines Crossroads should remain a regulated generation unit of EMW, including who should pay the transmission costs of Crossroads.

- 1 Q HOW DOES THAT DECISION AFFECT MR. GUNN'S POSITION AND WHAT IS
  2 YOUR OPPOSITION?
- A Mr. Gunn is proposing that whatever decision is made by the Commission regarding
  Crossroads, that current rates should be adjusted to reflect that decision. That is why
  Mr. Gunn has proposed that issues 5.A. and 5.B. (that dealt with transmission cost
  recovery in the current revenue requirement) are still unresolved. I am opposed to that
  position because cost recovery of Crossroads has already been addressed in the
  Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement reached by the Parties, including EMW.
- 9 Q IN HIS DIRECT TESTIMONY, MR. GUNN RAISES THE CONCERN THAT THE
  10 IMPACT FROM ENTERGY'S DECISION TO JOIN THE MIDCONTINENT
  11 INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR ("MISO") WAS NOT CONSIDERED IN THE
  12 COMMISSION'S ORDERS IN EITHER CROSSROADS I (EMW'S 2010 RATE CASE)
  13 OR CROSSROADS II (EMW'S 2012 RATE CASE). PLEASE COMMENT.

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That was not a situation the Commission had to contemplate at the time of Crossroads I or Crossroads II. To imply now that those decisions may have been different under different circumstances is an argument without merit. Consideration of the risk of increased transmission costs was EMW's responsibility in the due-diligence phase of making the decision of whether to purchase the Crossroads stranded investment located over 500 miles away from Kansas City.

1	Q	IN YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY, YOU DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE SHARING
2		PROPOSAL FOR THE RECOVERY OF TRANSMISSION EXPENSES AFTER THE
3		EXPIRATION OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT. COULD YOU PLEASE
4		ELABORATE ON WHAT YOU WOULD PROPOSE?

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Yes. As was pointed out in the EMW testimony, the initial disallowed transmission cost recovery for Crossroads totaled \$4.7 million a year. The current transmission costs for Crossroads in 2024 is \$18.1 million. Prior to the renewed transmission contract going into effect, MECG believes that there should be no cost recovery for Crossroads transmission cost. Once the contract is renewed and in effect, I propose that EMW be required to absorb \$4.7 million, as adjusted for inflation to the expiration date of the current contract. This amount should be subtracted from the total transmission cost of Crossroads.<sup>4</sup> This will help keep customers from being harmed by past imprudent decision making by EMW.

# 14 Q HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS ANY TRANSMISSION COST INCREASES 15 BEYOND 2029?

I would propose that we establish the cost sharing as of 2029 as a base level. Any increases in the total transmission costs above the 2029 base level should be split on a 50% Company/50% customer basis. For any changes, the Company should be required to make a filing with the Commission notifying the Parties of the change and demonstrating that its implementation and management of the contract was prudent.

<sup>4\$4.7</sup> million adjusted for inflation through 2024 equates to \$6.5 million.

#### 1 Q HOW LONG WOULD THIS COST SHARING PROPOSAL BE IN EFFECT?

- 2 A In my Direct Testimony, I stated that the remaining life of Crossroads was 2047. I
- 3 believe my sharing proposal should be in effect through 2047. This will eliminate the
- 4 possibility that EMW would seek a short-term contract period in hopes of having
- 5 another opportunity to re-negotiate more favorable cost recovery terms.

#### 6 Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

7 A Yes, it does.

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