

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 18th
day of March, 2026.

In the Matter of Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a)
Evergy Missouri Metro's Request for)
Authority to Implement a General Rate)
Increase for Electric Service)

Case No. ER-2026-0143

**ORDER SETTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND DIRECTING THE
FILING OF DATES FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Issue Date: March 18, 2026

Effective Date: March 18, 2026

This order sets a procedural schedule with an evidentiary hearing and directs the parties to file proposed dates and locations for the Commission to hold local public hearings.

Background

On February 6, 2026, Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro filed a tariff with the Commission to initiate a general rate case. The Commission issued notice of the case and suspended Evergy Missouri Metro's tariff until January 6, 2027, to allow time for an evidentiary hearing. The Commission also directed that the parties submit a joint proposed procedural schedule by March 6, 2026.

The Commission also, as part of the procedural process and to allow sufficient time for it, scheduled an evidentiary hearing for two weeks beginning September 28, 2026.

On March 6, 2026, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a proposed procedural schedule on behalf of itself and Evergy Missouri Metro and noted that differences of opinion in scheduling procedures and preferences had ended coordination with the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel). Staff's schedule proposed that the evidentiary hearing be held over two weeks starting October 5, 2026.

On March 9, 2026, Public Counsel filed an alternative proposed procedural schedule and a pleading in support of that schedule. Public Counsel's proposed procedural schedule keeps the hearing as originally scheduled, for the two week's beginning September 28, 2026. Public Counsel also proposed that local public hearings in this case occur prior to non-company direct testimony. Public Counsel argues that customer concerns should be heard early in the schedule so that concerns could be timely investigated. Public Counsel's pleading notes that the parties disagreed about when local public hearings would be held and opines that Public Counsel did not see Staff's completed proposed procedural schedule until it was filed on March 6, 2026.

On March 10, 2026, Public Counsel filed *The Office of The Public Counsel's Motion for Expedited Treatment and Suggestions for LPH Locations*. That pleading proposed that the Commission hold four in-person local public hearings and two virtual local public hearings. Public Counsel also proposed locations for the in-person local public hearings.

On March 13, 2026, Evergy Missouri Metro filed a response to Public Counsel's schedule. Evergy Missouri Metro argues that Public Counsel's concerns over rate shock and affordability are not best addressed by holding local public hearings earlier. Evergy Missouri Metro also noted that Staff and Public Counsel typically provide a summary of

their cases to the attendees of local public hearings. Every Missouri Metro asserts that Staff and Public Counsel will be in a better position to summarize their cases if local public hearings are held after the filing of non-company direct testimony.

Decision

The Commission duly notes that Public Counsel disagrees with Staff and Every Missouri Metro regarding the timing of local public hearings. Competing proposed procedural schedules were filed because of this disagreement.

Local public hearings offer an opportunity to educate the public about the case, to have the parties answer the public's questions, and for the public to provide comments concerning the case to the Commission.

Local public hearings begin with a question-and-answer period wherein the parties provide an overview of the case and their positions regarding the case. The Commissioners are not present during the question-and-answer portion of the local public hearing because the Commissioners might hear evidence outside of an evidentiary hearing, which would be inappropriate. The question-and-answer portion of the local public hearing provides the parties with an opportunity to explain the case to the public as they see it, and for the public to ask questions. Therefore, the first part of a local public hearing is about informing the public.

The second part of the local public hearing is for the public to make comments directly to the Commission. The Commissioners are present for the second part of the local public hearing. The second part of local public hearings is more formal. A court reporter is present for the comments portion of the hearing and records any comments for the Commission to review. Comments from the public are how the Commission learns

what issues in the rate case are most important to the public. Though concerns may arise during a local public hearing that should be appropriately investigated, initiating investigations is not the reason that the Commission holds local public hearings.

The Commission has considered parties' pleadings. The Commission does not find that holding local public hearings earlier benefits either the parties or the public. The Commission finds that Staff's proposed procedural schedule to be the most reasonable and shall adopt it with minor modifications. The Commission will direct the parties to file proposed dates for local public hearings.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The following procedural schedule is established:

Discovery Conference	April 7, 2026
Discovery Conference	May 5, 2026
Discovery Conference	June 9, 2026
Staff/Intervenor Direct Testimony-Revenue Requirement	June 30, 2026
Discovery Conference	July 7, 2026
Staff/Intervenor Direct Testimony-Rate Design	July 14, 2026
First Technical Conference	July 27, 2026
Evergy Provides True-Up Information	August 7, 2026
Rebuttal Testimony	August 11, 2026
Discovery Conference	September 1, 2026
Surrebuttal/True-Up Direct Testimony	September 10, 2026
Non-Utility Parties Values of Issues for Reconciliation	September 14, 2026

Reconciliation (not filed)	September 17, 2026
List of Issues	September 22, 2026
Reconciliation Filed	September 22, 2026
True-up Rebuttal and Discovery Cut-off	September 23, 2026
Settlement Conference	September 23-24, 2026
Position Statements	September 25, 2026
Evidentiary Hearing	October 5-9, 13, 15, and 16, 2026 ¹
Filing of Expedited Transcripts	October 23, 2026
Initial Briefs	November 6, 2026
Reply Briefs/True-Up Briefs	November 18, 2026
Operation of Law Date	January 6, 2027

2. The hearing shall be held at the Commission's office at the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. This building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Hearing will start on October 5, at 9:00 a.m. If additional accommodations are needed to participate in this hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

3. The parties shall comply with the following procedural requirements:
- (A) Testimony shall be prefiled as defined in Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.130. All parties must comply with this rule, including the requirement that testimony be filed on line-numbered pages.
 - (B) Although not all parties may agree upon how each issue should be described, or on whether a listed issue is in fact a proper issue, the parties

¹ October 12, 2026, is a state holiday, and further, the Commission has a scheduling conflict on October 14, 2026.

shall agree upon and Staff shall file a list of the issues to be heard, the witnesses to appear on each day of the hearing, the order in which they will be called, and the order of cross-examination for each witness. The list of issues should be detailed enough to inform the Commission of each issue that must be resolved. The Commission will view any issue not contained in this list of issues as uncontested and not requiring resolution by the Commission.

- (C) Each party shall file a simple and concise statement summarizing its position on each disputed issue. Position Statements shall track the list of issues. Any position statement shall set forth any order requested, cite any law authorizing that relief, and allege facts relevant under the law with citations to any pre-filed testimony in support.
- (D) All pleadings, briefs, and amendments shall be filed in accordance with Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.080. Briefs shall follow the same list of issues as filed in the case and must set forth and cite the proper portions of the record concerning the remaining unresolved issues that are to be decided by the Commission.
- (E) If testimony or documents are prefiled and served upon the parties before a hearing, a party need only provide a copy of the testimony or document to the court reporter to be marked as an exhibit at the hearing. If not prefiled and served upon the parties, then a party who has a document marked for use at the hearing shall have sufficient copies of the document to provide a copy not only to the court reporter, but also to each Commissioner, the Presiding Officer, and counsel for each other party.
- (F) All parties shall provide copies of testimony (including schedules), exhibits, and pleadings to other counsel of record by electronic means and in electronic form, essentially concurrently with the filing of such testimony, exhibits, or pleadings where the information is available in electronic format. Parties are not required to put information that does not exist in electronic format into electronic format for purposes of exchanging it.
- (G) Public documents filed in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS) shall be considered properly served by serving those documents on counsel of record for all other parties via e-mail. To provide additional security, confidential documents are considered served when filed in EFIS and shall not be served via e-mail.
- (H) Where workpapers or data request responses include models or spreadsheets or similar information originally in a commonly available format where inputs or parameters may be changed to observe changes in inputs or outputs, if available in that original format, the party providing the workpaper or response shall provide this type of information in that original format with formulas intact. Workpapers shall be provided in electronic

format by e-mailing or by delivery of a compact disc or other electronic storage media.

(l) With regard to data requests:

i. Data requests issued to or by Staff shall be submitted and responded to in EFIS, if feasible, or in electronic format on compact disc or by other means agreed to by counsel, if infeasible. Counsel for each party shall receive electronically from each other party serving a data request, an electronic copy of the text of the “description” of that data request contemporaneously with service of the data request. Regarding Staff-issued data requests, if the description contains confidential information, or is voluminous, a hyperlink to the EFIS record of that data request shall be considered a sufficient copy. If a party desires the response to a data request that has been served on another party, the party desiring a copy of the response must request a copy of the response from the party answering the data request. Data requests shall be sent by e-mail to counsel for the other parties. Counsel may designate other personnel to be added to the service list for data requests but shall assume responsibility for compliance with any restrictions on confidentiality. Data request responses shall be served on counsel for the requesting party, unless waived by counsel, and on the requesting party’s employee or representative who submitted the data request, and shall be served electronically, if feasible and not voluminous as defined by Commission rule. Every’s responses to Staff data requests will be available to other parties on EFIS. In addition, Every’s responses to all parties’ data requests will be available for review on CaseWorksEX for parties who complete the requirements for accessing the CaseWorksEX system.

iii. The parties shall try to not include confidential information in data requests. If confidential information must be included in a data request, the confidential information shall be appropriately designated as such pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135.

iv. Until the filing of Staff/Intervenor Direct Testimony-Rate Design testimony, the response time for all data requests shall be 20 calendar days, and 10 calendar days to object or notify that more than 20 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. After the filing of Staff/Intervenor Direct Testimony-Rate Design testimony (July 14, 2026) and before the filing of Surrebuttal testimony (September 10, 2026), the response time for data requests shall be 10 business days to provide the requested information, and 5 business days to object or notify that more than 10 business 4 days will be needed to provide the requested information. After the filing of Surrebuttal testimony (September 10, 2026), the response time for data requests shall be 5 business days to provide the requested information, and 2 business days to object or notify that more

than 5 business days will be needed to provide the requested information. Data requests sent after 5:00 pm will be considered served on the next business day. The Commission may rule on discovery motions filed after Surrebuttal testimony is filed without holding the conference required by 20 CSR 4240- 2.090(8)(B).

(J) Exhibit numbers are assigned in the following manner:

Evergy Missouri Metro	1-99
Staff	100-199
Public Counsel	200-299
MECG	300-349
Renew Missouri	350-399
Velvet Tech	400-449
Google LLC	450-499
MIEC	500-549

If any party requires additional exhibit numbers, it may add a 1000 to the beginning of its assigned numbers. For example, if Evergy Missouri Metro has exhibits in addition to exhibit number 99, its next exhibit numbers would be 1001, 1002, 1003, etc.

(k) Each party shall prepare a list of its pre-filed, pre-marked exhibits and submit a copy of that list to every other party and to the regulatory law judge prior to the start of the evidentiary hearing.

3. The parties shall submit proposed dates, times, and locations for local public hearings no later than March 31, 2026.

4. This order shall be effective when issued.

BY THE COMMISSION



Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Coleman, Kolkmeier,
and Mitchell CC., concur.

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission,
at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 18th day of March 2026.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 18, 2026

File/Case No. ER-2026-0143

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.