

Exhibit No.:
Issue: Large Load Customers, Economic
Development
Witness: Zachary Gladhill
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Sponsoring Party: Evergy Missouri Metro & Evergy Missouri West
Case No.: EA-2026-0343
Date Testimony Prepared: August 31, 2026

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2026-0343

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

ZACHARY GLADHILL

ON BEHALF OF

EVERGY MISSOURI METRO & EVERGY MISSOURI WEST

Kansas City, Missouri

August 2026

Table of Contents

<u>I.</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
<u>II.</u>	<u>OVERVIEW OF THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER LANDSCAPE</u>	4
<u>III.</u>	<u>LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS IN THE APPLICANTS’ SERVICE TERRITORIES</u> ...	11
<u>IV.</u>	<u>CONCLUSION</u>	17

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

ZACHARY GLADHILL

Case No. EA-2026-0343

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q: Please state your name and business address.**

3 A: My name is Zachary Gladhill. My business address is 1200 Main Street, Kansas City,
4 Missouri 64105.

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

6 A: I am employed by Evergy Metro, Inc. and serve as Vice President – Strategy and Long-
7 Term Planning for Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro (“Evergy Missouri
8 Metro,” or “EMM”), Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West (“Evergy
9 Missouri West” or “EMW”), Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Kansas Metro (“Evergy
10 Kansas Metro” or “EKM”), and Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy Kansas South,
11 Inc., collectively d/b/a as Evergy Kansas Central (“Evergy Kansas Central” or “EKC”).
12 These are the operating utilities of Evergy, Inc. (“Evergy”).

13 **Q: Who are you testifying for?**

14 A: I am testifying on behalf of Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West
15 (collectively, the “Applicants”).

16 **Q: What are your responsibilities?**

17 A: My responsibilities include coordination with the executive team to develop and advance
18 Evergy’s corporate and business strategy. My function leads the development of Evergy’s

1 long-term generation plan through the integrated resource plans (“IRP”), the long-term
2 transmission and distribution planning, and other key cross-functional strategic initiatives.

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

4 A: I received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Oklahoma
5 Christian University, and a master’s in business administration from Arizona State
6 University. Additionally, I have completed the Utility Executive Course at the University
7 of Idaho. Prior to joining Evergy, I was employed at Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company
8 (“OG&E”) for over 20 years. I began my career there focused on the generation side of
9 the business as a Process and Maintenance Engineer. I held several operational and project
10 management leadership roles, including Generation Plant Manager and Director, before
11 transitioning to Distributed Energy Resource Director, and ultimately the most recent role
12 leading large customer major projects, strategy, and the company’s innovation functions.
13 I ended my tenure with OG&E as the Director of Grid Innovation and Integration.

14 **Q: Have you previously filed testimony in a proceeding at the Missouri Public Service
15 Commission (“Commission” or “PSC”) or any other utility regulatory agency?**

16 A: Yes. I filed testimony with the Commission in Evergy Missouri Metro’s pending rate case,
17 No. ER-2026-0143. I have also filed testimony at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission
18 and the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

19 **Q: What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

20 A: The purpose of my direct testimony is to discuss the influx and impact of new large load
21 customers in the service territories of Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West
22 and how these customers bring new opportunities for economic growth and energy
23 security. Additionally, I discuss how the approximately 710-megawatt (“MW”) advanced

1 class combined-cycle gas turbine (“CCGT”) electric generating plant known as the
2 Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 facility and the approximately 109 MW battery
3 energy storage system (“BESS”) known as the Foxtrot BESS Project (collectively, the
4 “Projects”), for which the Applicants seek Certificates of Convenience and Necessity
5 (“CCN”) to satisfy EMM’s and EMW’s capacity requirements, as discussed by Evergy
6 witness Mr. VandeVelde, as well as to further support economic growth which benefits all
7 EMM and EMW customers. I will also discuss how the Projects and large load customers
8 will benefit all customers through rate affordability and the strength of Evergy’s system as
9 a whole.

10 The Projects not only enable the Company to provide reliable, affordable, and clean
11 energy that customers desire but also contribute to the larger economic development
12 strategy across the State of Missouri to attract and retain businesses and bring the
13 significant benefits that accompany these customers to the betterment of all Missourians.
14 Additionally, the Projects were designed to take advantage of federal tax benefits, as well
15 as capitalize on land use by locating the BESS facility at the Foxtrot Solar Facility approved
16 by the Commission in No. EA-2024-0292. All this contributes to total cost savings and rate
17 affordability for all customers.

18 **Q: Please provide an executive summary of your testimony.**

19 A: Missouri is entering a period of significant load growth driven by data centers and other
20 large customers. Evergy has already secured substantial customer load commitments and
21 expects further demand. The Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 project and Foxtrot
22 BESS Project are proposed as essential resources to reliably serve this growth, strengthen
23 Missouri's economic competitiveness, support energy security, and improve affordability

1 by spreading costs across a larger customer base while protecting existing customers
2 through approved large-load tariff structures.

3 **II. OVERVIEW OF THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER LANDSCAPE**

4 **Q: What is the state of the large load customer energy landscape in Missouri and in the**
5 **region where the Evergy utilities operate?**

6 A: According to Barbara Sugg, the former President and CEO of Southwest Power Pool, Inc.
7 (“SPP”): “Demand for electricity is outpacing supply from our generation fleet.”¹ The
8 industry has entered a transformative era of electrification, driven by the adoption of
9 electric vehicles, rapid expansion of data centers, advancements in artificial intelligence
10 (“AI”) and manufacturing, and other emerging demand sources.

11 The technological renaissance occurring with the proliferation of AI technology
12 and advanced manufacturing technologies has been well publicized. AI technology,
13 combined with the widescale electrification of various industries, and policy and security
14 desires to on-shore many of the data centers and manufacturing plants needed to support
15 these advancements, are driving significant electric load growth across the country and
16 globe.² Notably, data centers are one of the fastest growing industries worldwide. While
17 national forecasts vary, one thing is clear – the nation is in the midst of the most dramatic
18 electricity load growth phases of modern times. According to the North American Electric
19 Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, 10-year peak
20 demand and energy growth rates “continue to climb higher than at any point in the past two

¹ “Our Generational Challenge: A Reliable Future for Electricity” at 3, Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (Summer 2024).

² Robert Walton, *Five-year US load growth forecast surges 456%, to 128 GW: Grid Strategies*, Utility Dive, (Dec. 6, 2024).

1 decades.”³ NERC further notes in its assessment:

2 “Compound annual growth rates (CAGR) for summer and winter peak demand are the
3 highest since NERC’s tracking started in 1995.”⁴

4 Increased power demand driven by large customers (including data centers,
5 advanced manufacturing, and other forms of industrial load) is a national trend.⁵

6 According to the Electric Power Research Institute, data centers will “consume 9% to 17%
7 of U.S. electricity by 2030, up from 4% to 5% today,” a 2-4x increase in annual electricity
8 consumption. These “revised projections are about 60% higher than” what EPRI projected
9 in 2024.⁶ According to a May 2026 International Energy Agency (“IEA”) report, in 2025
10 “[d]ata centers accounted for around 50% of total electricity demand growth in the United
11 States, with additional growth coming from the residential, industry and transport
12 sectors.”⁷

13 As demonstrated in the Applicants’ 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) Annual
14 Updates, as well as EMW’s August 2026 IRP Revised Resource Plan, data centers continue
15 to drive load growth across the country and Missouri.⁸ Recent projections estimate an

³ NERC Long-Term Reliability Assessment at 9 (Jan. 2026).

⁴ Id. at 25.

⁵ See, e.g., Duke Energy, *Chapter NC Supplement*, at 2-3 (2024); Duke Energy, *Chapter SC Supplement* at 35-38 (2024); Georgia Power, *2023 IRP Update*, at 8-10 (Oct. 2023); Arizona Public Service Company, *2023 IRP*, at 18-19 (Nov. 2023); NV Energy, *Joint 2025-2044 IRP, 2025-2027 Action Plan, and 2025-2027 Energy Supply Plan*, Vol. 6, at 3-6 (May 2024); Tennessee Valley Authority (“TVA”), *TVA Plans to Invest \$15 Billion Over the Next Three Years to Meet Region’s Growth* (Aug. 24, 2023); TVA, *Integrated Resource Plan 2025*, Volume 1 Draft Resource Plan, 1-5 (Sept. 2024).

⁶ See “Powering Intelligence 2026: Updated Scenarios of U.S. Data Center Electricity Use and Power Strategies” at 3, EPRI 2026 White Paper (Feb. 2026).

⁷ See “Global Energy Review 2026” at 9, Int’l Energy Agency (May 2026).

⁸ See *Data Center Grid-Power Demand to Rise 22% in 2025, Nearly Triple by 2030*, S&P Global (Oct. 14, 2025); EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10, In re Evergy Missouri Metro’s 2026 Integrated Resource Plan Annual Update Filing, No. EO-2026-0188 (May 7, 2026), (“EMM IRP Annual Update”); EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10, In re Evergy Missouri West’s 2026 Integrated Resource Plan Annual Update Filing, No. EO-2026-0189 (May 7, 2026), (“EMW IRP Annual Update”); EMW IRP Revised Resource Plan, No. EO-2026-0189 (Aug. 31, 2026).

1 increase in peak data center demand from 60 GW in 2026 to 167 GW by 2030.⁹ On an
2 industry expenditure level, Microsoft, Meta, Alphabet (Google), and Amazon announced
3 in early 2026 a combined total of approximately \$650 billion in expected capital
4 expenditures for 2026 — a 60 percent increase over 2025 — with Google and Meta further
5 increasing their 2026 capital expenditure estimates in late April.¹⁰ Consistent with this
6 trend, the federal government has directed an action plan for the United States to achieve
7 global dominance in artificial intelligence, including goals to streamline the permitting of
8 data centers and adapt the electric grid to meet the resulting increase in demand for power.¹¹
9 Overall, forecasts of peak demand in the United States for 2030 have increased
10 approximately 20 percent between 2022 and 2025, and SPP’s own forecast has increased
11 almost 42 percent over that same period.¹²

12 In light of this new reality, utilities across the country are working to quickly
13 accommodate new large loads, while maintaining reliability, affordability, and other
14 regulatory and policy objectives.

15 **Q: Is it Missouri state policy to attract large load customers?**

16 A: Yes. Missouri governors have recognized the benefits that these large load customers bring
17 to our state. Former Governor Mike Parson, when he was a member of the Missouri Senate,
18 sponsored Missouri’s Data Center Sales Exemption program in 2015, now codified as
19 Section 144.810,¹³ when it was signed into law by then Governor Jay Nixon. Thereafter,

⁹ EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10; EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10.

¹⁰ See Matt Day, *Big Tech to Spend \$650 Billion This Year as AI Race Intensifies*, Bloomberg (Feb. 6, 2026); EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10; EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10.

¹¹ “Winning the Race America’s AI Action Plan,” The White House (July 2025); EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10; EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10.

¹² See *Power Demand Forecasts Revised Up for Third Year Running, Led by Data Centers*, Grid Strategies, at Slide 22 (Nov. 2025); EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10; EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 10.

¹³ All citations are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri (2016), as amended, unless otherwise noted.

1 Governor Mike Kehoe signed Senate Bill 4 (“S.B. 4”), “ensuring safe, reliable, and
2 affordable power is generated right here in Missouri and supporting long-term economic
3 development efforts.”¹⁴ Governor Kehoe further outlined the importance of S.B. 4 upon
4 signing the bill into law: “With this legislation, Missouri is well-positioned to attract new
5 industry, support job growth, and maintain affordable, reliable energy for our citizens. ...
6 This is about powering Missouri for Missourians and not relying on other states and
7 countries to produce our power. This legislation strengthens our economic development
8 opportunities, helps secure our energy independence, and provides consumer protections
9 to build a resilient energy future for generations to come.”¹⁵ Governor Kehoe’s office
10 stated: “The legislation is designed to respond to skyrocketing energy demand and outdated
11 energy policy, introducing vital reforms to ensure Missouri can meet its growing electricity
12 needs and includes some of the strongest consumer protections in the nation.”¹⁶

13 **Q: Are these economic development goals in S.B. 4 codified in Missouri statutes?**

14 A: Yes. The particularly relevant sections pertaining to the Applicants’ CCN requests here
15 are Sections 393.135.2, regarding construction work in progress (“CWIP”), and 393.130.7
16 regarding Evergy’s development of large load rate tariffs.

17 **Q: What does Section 393.135.2 regarding CWIP provide?**

18 A: As discussed by Ronald Klote (Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs), Section 393.135.2
19 states that electrical corporations “may be permitted by the Commission to include
20 construction work in progress for any new natural gas-generating unit in rate base.” Id.

¹⁴ See *Marked by Decisive Action and Meaningful Progress: Governor Kehoe’s First 100 Days*, Media Release (Apr. 22, 2025).

¹⁵ See *Governor Kehoe signs SB4 into Law, Securing Missouri’s Energy Future and Economic Growth*, Media Release (Apr. 9, 2025).

¹⁶ Id.

1 The inclusion of CWIP “shall be in lieu of any otherwise applicable allowance for funds
2 used during construction that would have accrued from and after the effective date of new
3 base rates.” When evaluating CWIP, the Commission “shall determine” in a CCN
4 proceeding pursuant to Section 393.170 the amount of CWIP “that may be included in rate
5 base.” This “amount shall be limited by: (a) The estimated cost of such project; and (b)
6 Project expenditures made within the estimated construction period for such project.” As
7 discussed by Governor Kehoe, CWIP “[i]ncentivizes new power generation facilities and
8 reduces financing costs, saving Missourians money in the long run and expanding
9 Missouri's electrical grid capacity.”¹⁷ The Missouri legislature and Governor Kehoe
10 recognized the need for gas generation like Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 to
11 support the onset of increased demand from large load customers.

12 **Q: Why is new Section 393.130.7 important?**

13 A: Section 393.130.7 supports these new large load customers by directing electrical
14 corporations to develop and submit tariffs to ensure that such customers’ rates reflect their
15 representative share of incremental costs to serve their demand while preventing unjust and
16 unreasonable rates to other customers. The development of the tariffs gives large load
17 customers transparent, predictable, and consistent consumer protections to evaluate when
18 determining the load’s site selection. Overall, Section 393.130.7 signals Missouri’s
19 readiness to serve transformational loads on non-discriminatory, standardized terms that
20 mitigate cross-subsidy and stranded-cost risks.

¹⁷ Id.

1 **Q: Did Evergy develop tariffs to comply with Section 393.130.7?**

2 A: Yes. The Commission approved Evergy’s Large Load Rate Plan and Schedule Large Load
3 Power Service (“LLPS”) tariff, as modified by the Non-Unanimous Stipulation and
4 Agreement, in No. EO-2025-0154, because it “establishes reasonable protections and
5 safeguards for Evergy’s existing customers” while “ensur[ing] that new large load
6 customers will pay their share of system costs associated with serving new large loads, and
7 provides a competitive rate program that will help drive economic development in
8 Missouri.”¹⁸ Evergy’s Large Load Rate Plan establishes a transparent framework
9 consistent with emerging national trends for large load customers with clear eligibility,
10 pricing, commitments, safeguards, and optional clean-energy riders, enabling data centers
11 and other large loads to meet sustainability goals without shifting costs. These consumer
12 protections will provide a competitive rate program that will help drive economic
13 development in Missouri.

14 As the Commission noted, Evergy “has an obligation to service any customer who
15 requests service within their territory.”¹⁹ Given this, Evergy’s need for the Projects
16 increases as new large load customers request service in Evergy Missouri Metro’s or
17 Evergy Missouri West’s service territories. This, in turn, incentivizes Evergy to build new
18 generation facilities pursuant to Section 393.130.7 and Section 393.135.2.

19 **Q: What opportunities do these new large loads present for the State of Missouri?**

20 A: According to the global real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield, in 2024 Kansas City was
21 listed first among the top ten global emerging data center markets which included Milan

¹⁸ See Report & Order at 16, 28, In re App. of Evergy for Approval of New and Modified Tariffs for Service to Large Load Customers, No. EO-2025-0154 (Nov. 13, 2025) (“Evergy Large Load Order”).

¹⁹ Id., Report & Order at 24.

1 (Italy), Nashville, Minneapolis, and Austin.²⁰ Cushman & Wakefield’s 2026 Global Data
2 Center Market Comparison report listed Kansas City as a leader in the global tertiary
3 markets (which included West Texas, Iowa, and Tulsa²¹ Large manufacturing customers
4 are also likely to find Missouri to be an attractive market in which to locate. Thus, Evergy
5 has a unique opportunity to leverage this unprecedented demand growth for its customers
6 and the State of Missouri.²²

7 Notably, these new large load customers will drive job creation and increased tax
8 revenues, which fund important services like schools and roads. Large data centers can
9 create many permanent, high-paying, and diverse jobs once operational. Employment
10 ranges from management to maintenance and security which provides positive impact on
11 local labor and supply companies. Additional positive impact occurs in the local
12 community as construction takes place. During the multi-year construction phase, each
13 new large data center will employ hundreds of construction workers and trade groups. This
14 influx of employment creates ancillary benefits such as business creation and stability to
15 these communities in retail, food service, housing, and entertainment. New large customer
16 growth will also strengthen the resilience of Missouri’s economy by helping to diversify
17 its industrial base.

18 **Q: Do large load customers provide benefits to Evergy’s electrical system and existing**
19 **customers?**

²⁰ *Global Data Center Market Comparison* at 8, Cushman & Wakefield Data Center Advisory Group (2024).

²¹ *Americas Data Center: H2 2025 Update* at 1, 32, Cushman & Wakefield (Feb. 24, 2026).

²² See *Governor Kehoe Signs SB 4 Into Law, Securing Missouri’s Energy Future and Economic Growth*, Media Release (Apr. 9, 2025).

1 A: Yes. Large load customers can provide important operational advantages to electric
2 utilities and their customers. Data centers are consistent and predictable consumers of
3 energy which supports more efficient operation and planning of the electric utility grid.
4 They also enable utility system planners and grid operators to optimize existing generation
5 and transmission infrastructure, improving overall system efficiency. Moreover, these
6 large load customers provide economic advantages to all of Evergy Missouri Metro's and
7 Evergy Missouri West's customers because "their consistent energy usage helps distribute
8 fixed costs across a larger energy volume, which contributes to a lower average cost per
9 kilowatt-hour for all customers."²³

10 **III. LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS IN THE APPLICANTS' SERVICE TERRITORIES**

11 **Q: Please describe the pipeline of large load customers interested in locating in the**
12 **service territories of Evergy's utilities.**

13 A: Evergy's large load customer growth is increasing at an immense rate. On August 6, 2026,
14 Evergy announced that it had signed electric service agreements ("ESA") for five data
15 center projects under its LLPS tariffs, which provide strong protections for current
16 customers. These five ESAs represent an aggregate steady-state peak load of
17 approximately 2.5 gigawatts. When the 500 megawatts of steady-state peak load from non-
18 LLPS large customers, such as Panasonic and smaller data centers are included, the total
19 reaches approximately 3.0 gigawatts."²⁴

20 **Q: Is the large load customer growth reflected in Evergy Missouri Metro's 2026 IRP**
21 **Annual Update?**

²³ See Evergy Large Load Order at 10, No. EO-2025-0154.

²⁴ Evergy, Inc., Second Quarter 2026 Earnings Call Presentation at 6-7, 14 (Aug. 6, 2026). See also Evergy, Inc., Annual Report Form 10-K at 40 (Feb. 18, 2026).

1 A: Yes. Evergy Missouri Metro’s 2026 IRP Annual Update “shows increasing needs for Metro
2 inclusive of higher large load customer growth, beginning in 2026 and exceeding 300 MW
3 by 2031.”²⁵ A large load customer which was included in Evergy Missouri Metro’s 2025
4 IRP Annual Update has signed an ESA, thereby increasing the certainty of large load
5 committed in EMM’s forecast.²⁶

6 To be included in Evergy Missouri Metro’s base load IRP planning, a large load
7 customer project must have met at least one of the following criteria: (a) the customer has
8 recently commenced electric service; (b) the customer has an executed ESA under the
9 LLPS tariff; or (c) the customer has a finalized SPP load addition study (typically
10 Attachment AQ) and is expected to have an executed LLPS ESA within the next three to
11 six months.²⁷

12 **Q: Does Evergy Missouri Metro have large load customers that meet the established**
13 **criteria?**

14 A: Yes. Currently, Evergy Missouri Metro has two large load customers that meet the criteria
15 for base load planning, which have been incorporated into all load forecast scenarios (low,
16 mid, and high) for EMM’s 2026 IRP Annual Update.²⁸ The total combined peak load of
17 these large load customers is projected to be approximately 810 MW.²⁹ Additionally, a
18 large load customer that was previously included in EMM’s 2025 IRP Annual Update has
19 signed an LLPS ESA and is actively receiving electric service for its site construction.³⁰

²⁵ See EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 3.

²⁶ Id.

²⁷ Id. at 23.

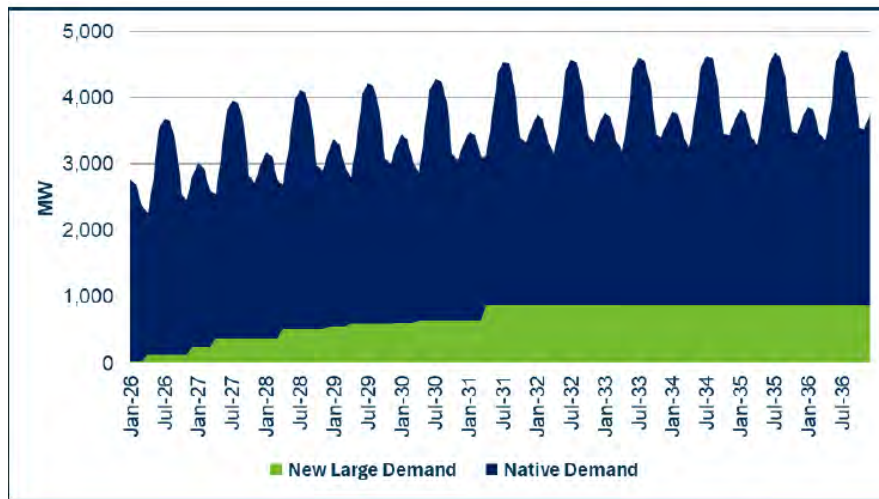
²⁸ Id. at 23-24.

²⁹ Id.

³⁰ See EMM 2026 IRP Annual Update at 23.

1 Figure 1³¹ and Figure 2³² below demonstrate the peak MW and MW per hour (“MWh”) impact over the next decade of adding new large load customers to Evergy Metro Inc.’s
2 service territory.
3

4 **Figure 1 – Evergy Metro, Inc.’s Peak MW Load Forecast Including New Large Load**

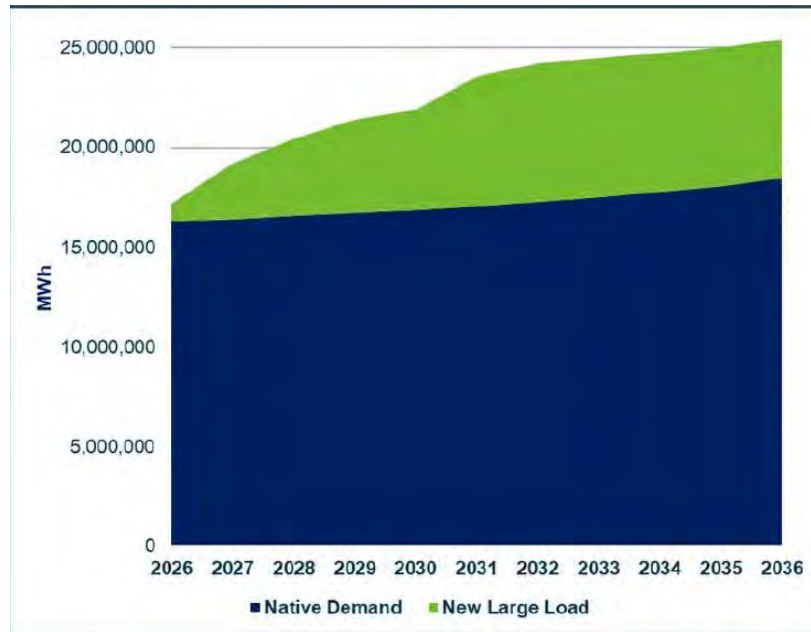


5

6 **Figure 2 – Evergy Metro, Inc.’s Peak MWh Load Forecast Including New Large Load**

³¹ Id. at 25. Figure 1 includes Evergy Metro, Inc.’s (EMM and EKM) forecasted MW load growth for large load customers.

³² Id. at 26. Figure 2 includes Evergy Metro, Inc.’s (EMM and EKM) forecasted MWh load growth for large load customers.



Q: Are there additional large load customers in Evergy Missouri Metro’s pipeline?

A: Yes. There is significant interest from large load customers in the EMM jurisdiction in Evergy’s pipeline, but these projects have not achieved a sufficient level of maturity to include them in the Integrated Resource Plan modeling.

Q: What is the status of large load customer growth reflected in Evergy Missouri West’s 2026 IRP Annual Update and its August 2026 Revised Resource Plan?

A: As discussed by Evergy witness Cody VandeVelde (Senior Director, Strategy and Long-Term Planning), Evergy Missouri West’s 2026 IRP Annual Update likewise “shows increasing needs for Missouri West inclusive of higher large load customer growth, beginning in 2026 and nearing 350 MW by 2032.”³³ Currently, Evergy Missouri West has five large load customers that meet the criteria for base load planning, as discussed above, which were incorporated into all load forecast scenarios (low, mid, and high).³⁴ These five

³³ See EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 3.

³⁴ Id. 23-24.

1 customers have a total combined peak of approximately 800 MW.³⁵ Three of these
2 customers have executed ESAs under the LLPS tariff, two of which have been included in
3 EMW’s base load planning assumptions in prior IRPs.³⁶ Figure 3³⁷ and Figure 4³⁸ below
4 demonstrate the peak MW and MWh per hour (“MWh”) impact over the next decade of
5 adding new large load customers to Evergy Missouri West’s service territory.

6 As Evergy witness Cody VandeVelde states in his direct testimony, because EMW
7 agreed to an amended load forecast for a large-load customer with an energy service
8 agreement, the updated load forecast increased the customer’s peak load by 75 MW
9 beginning in the winter of 2028-29. This required a Revised Resource Plan to be filed with
10 the Commission in August 2026 (“August 2026 Revised Resource Plan”) which added 150
11 MW of storage in 2029, and changes the timing of future additions, as Mr. VandeVelde
12 explains.

13 **Figure 3 – Evergy Metro, Inc.’s Peak MW Load Forecast Including New Large Load**



14

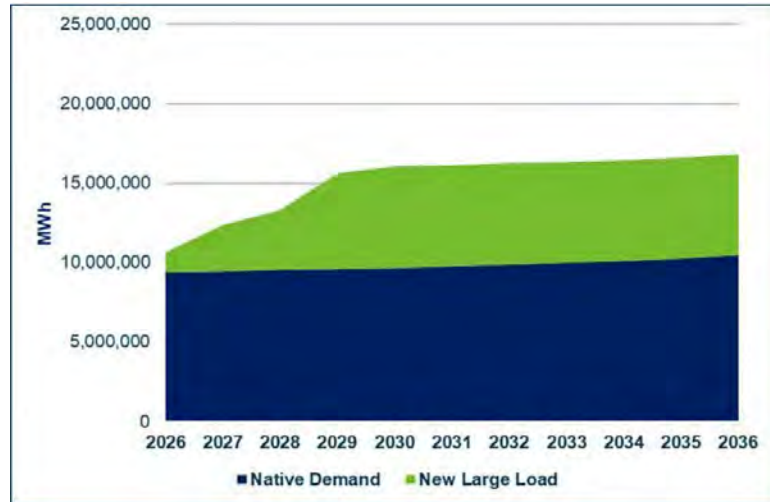
15 **Figure 4 – Evergy Metro, Inc.’s Peak MWh Load Forecast Including New Large Load**

³⁵ Id.

³⁶ Id.

³⁷ Id. at 24.

³⁸ Id. at 25.



Q: Are there additional large load customers in Evergy Missouri West’s pipeline?

A: Yes. Evergy Missouri West is evaluating a broader pipeline of large load customer requests within its service territory, including four additional customer projects which were reflected in EMW’s 2026 IRP Annual Update.³⁹ Figure 5 below describes the attributes of these four large load customers in EMW’s pipeline by: customer type, the status of their internal transmission interconnection study, the status of whether the project has completed SPP’s transmission study for load additions, and the customer’s requested ramp in the years 2028 to 2033.⁴⁰

Figure 5 – Evergy Missouri West Large Load Customer Pipeline

Customer	Jurisdiction	Customer Type	Interconnection Studies		2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
			Evergy Complete?	SPP Complete?						
Company A	EMW	Data Center	No	No	225	375	500	500	500	500
Company B	EMW	Data Center	No	No	100	150	250	250	250	250
Company C	EMW	Data Center	No	No	200	400	400	400	400	400
Company D	EMW	Data Center	No	No	600	600	600	600	600	600
*Load request information based on most recent customer engagement and subject to change.					1,125	1,525	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750

³⁹ See EMW 2026 IRP Annual Update at 133.

⁴⁰ Id.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 **Q: Please summarize your testimony.**

3 A: Missouri, along with the nation, is experiencing unprecedented growth initially driven by
4 data centers that can unlock future commercial, residential, and industrial prosperity for
5 the state in the form of tax revenues, downward rate pressure, job creation, and increased
6 economic activity. Evergy has been successful in attracting new loads while protecting
7 existing customers by the Large Load Power Service tariff, which charges data center
8 customers a premium over existing customers in the same class, as well as collecting
9 additional financial security to ensure that investments made to serve these customers are
10 protected.

11 The Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 facility and the Foxtrot BESS Project
12 will support the executed ESAs from data center customers that have agreed to these same
13 protections. In addition to serving such loads, these new resources will provide broader
14 system benefits and ensure continued reliability from Evergy's generation fleet.

15 **Q: Does that conclude your testimony?**

16 A: Yes, it does.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of Evergy Metro,)
Inc., d/b/a/ Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy)
Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West) Case No. EA-2026-0343
For Permission and Approval of Certificates of)
Convenience and Necessity Authorizing them to)
Construct, Install, Own, Operate, Manage,)
Maintain, and Control Natural Gas and Solar)
Electrical Production Facilities and a Battery)
Energy Storage System)

AFFIDAVIT OF ZACHARY GLADHILL

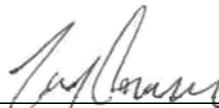
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF JACKSON)

Zachary Gladhill, being first duly sworn on his oath, states:

1. My name is Zachary Gladhill. I work in Kansas City, Missouri and I am employed by Evergy Metro, Inc. as Vice President – Strategy and Long-Term Planning.

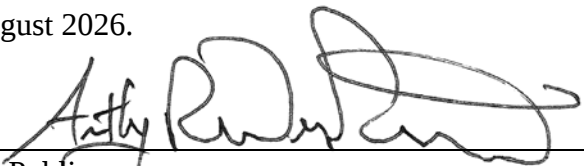
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Direct Testimony on behalf of Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West consisting of seventeen (17) pages, having been prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in the above-captioned docket.

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.



Zachary Gladhill

Subscribed and sworn before me this 31st day of August 2026.



Notary Public

My commission expires: April 26, 2029

