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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2026-0343

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JP MEITNER

ON BEHALF OF

EVERGY MISSOURI METRO and EVERGY MISSOURI WEST

Kansas City, Missouri

August 2026

Table of Contents

I.	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
II.	<u>NATURAL GAS MARKET</u>	3
III.	<u>THE PROJECT AND INTERACTION WITH THE NATURAL GAS MARKET</u>	7
IV.	<u>EVERGY’S NATURAL GAS FUEL SUPPLY PLAN</u>	10
V.	<u>CONCLUSION</u>	14

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JP MEITNER

Case No. EA-2026-0343

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

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

3 A: My name is JP Meitner. My business address is 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka,
4 Kansas 66612.

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

6 A: I am employed by Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and serve as the Director of Market
7 Operations for Evergy Metro, Inc. (“Evergy Metro”) d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro
8 (“Evergy Missouri Metro” or “EMM”), Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri
9 West (“Evergy Missouri West” or “EMW”), Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Kansas
10 Metro (“Evergy Kansas Metro”), and Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy Kansas
11 South, Inc., collectively d/b/a as Evergy Kansas Central (“Evergy Kansas Central” or
12 “EKC”), 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 (collectively
15 the “Applicants” or the “Companies”).

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

17 A: My responsibilities include the oversight of market operations for the Evergy jurisdictions.
18 This includes generation system operations, real time trading, day ahead planning, fuel
19 purchasing (natural gas, coal, and fuel oil), and analytics.

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

2 A: I graduated from Washburn University in 2004 with a BBA in Finance and Economics. I
3 graduated from Baker University in 2009 with a Masters in Business Administration. I
4 began my utility career with Westar Energy, Inc. in 2004. I have held several positions at
5 Westar Energy, Inc. and Evergy, Inc., in power marketing including Trading, TCR
6 Manager, and Manager of Real-Time Operations.

7 **Q: Have you previously testified in a proceeding at the Missouri Public Service**
8 **Commission (“Commission” or “PSC”) or before any other utility regulatory agency?**

9 A: Yes. I have offered testimony before the PSC and the Kansas Corporation Commission
10 (“KCC”).

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

12 A: The purpose of my direct testimony is to provide a high-level overview of the United
13 States’ natural gas industry and market, as well as explain Evergy’s natural gas fuel supply
14 plan, both as it exists today and as it pertains to the future natural gas generation portfolio,
15 including the Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2, an approximately 710-megawatt
16 (“MW”) combined—cycle gas turbine (“CCGT”) unit.

17 **Q: Please provide a summary of your testimony.**

18 A: The natural gas supply outlook for the United States is positive with ample domestic supply
19 available. A prudent approach to ensuring reliable access to firm fuel for the new
20 generation is to focus on a robust fuel supply plan that considers both the deliverability and
21 price of natural gas molecules. Evergy has made great strides in the development of this
22 plan with preparation for the Chisholm Trail (formerly Viola) CCGT in Sumner County,
23 Kansas; the McNew CCGT in Reno County, Kansas; and the Mullin Creek #1 and Mullin

1 Creek #2 simple-cycle units in Nodaway County, Missouri.¹ Implementing the same
2 strategy and plan for this new generation will help ensure reliable capacity and energy
3 while lowering price volatility for Evergy customers.

4 **II. NATURAL GAS MARKET**

5 **Q: Please describe how the United States' natural gas industry operates, from upstream**
6 **production to transportation and then downstream consumption.**

7 A: Production companies find and extract natural gas from underground reservoirs in places
8 like the Permian Basin, Marcellus, Anadarko, Rockies, and SCOOP & STACK. From
9 there, the natural gas is gathered and processed to clean, store, and ultimately market the
10 natural gas. Finally, the natural gas is moved across both interstate and intrastate pipeline
11 systems to end users like LDCs, electric power generation and/or LNG export.

12 **Q: What are the critical drivers of the United States natural gas supply and demand?**

13 A: Natural gas supply is influenced by several key factors, including forward price signals,
14 structural load growth, drilling economics, takeaway capacity, and crude oil pricing.
15 Supply growth reflects a combination of forward pricing, drilling costs, technological
16 innovation, and regional economics.

17 **Q: What drives natural gas production in the major U.S. supply basins?**

18 A: Dry gas regions such as the Marcellus and Haynesville are highly dependent on the natural
19 gas price curve and regional pipeline takeaway capacity. In contrast, production in areas
20 like the Permian, SCOOP/STACK, Rockies, and Bakken is driven largely by associated
21 gas economics. In these regions, natural gas is often a byproduct of crude oil drilling,

¹ The Commission granted CCNs for the Chisholm Trail, McNew, and Mullin Creek #1 units in No. EA-2025-0075 on July 31, 2025. Evergy Missouri Metro's CCN application to construct Mullin Creek #2 is pending before the Commission in No. EA-2026-0154.

1 making supply more sensitive to oil prices and infrastructure constraints than to natural gas
2 prices alone. Advancements in drilling technology continue to improve economics.
3 Multilateral drilling, longer laterals, and enhanced hydraulic fracturing techniques have
4 significantly increased efficiency and reduced costs.

5 **Q: What are the primary drivers of domestic natural gas demand, and how do they affect**
6 **price?**

7 A: Domestic natural gas demand is driven primarily by weather. Seasonal patterns heavily
8 influence residential and commercial consumption, as well as power generation demand,
9 during winter months, while weather also affects power generation demand in the summer
10 across the U.S. Price plays a role in fuel-switching decisions, particularly in the power
11 sector. In addition, structural demand is growing through LNG exports, industrial
12 consumption, and exports to Mexico. This demand tends to be less sensitive to weather
13 and short-term price fluctuations than power demand. However, expanding LNG exports
14 are increasing U.S. exposure to global natural gas markets.

15 **Q: Please describe the macro-economic forecasts for the expected natural gas supply and**
16 **demand.**

17 A: There are numerous and varied U.S. natural gas production estimates. Everygy is not able
18 to predict what will occur with natural gas supply and demand. However, generally natural
19 gas supply is expected to continue growing and reach levels in 2031 around 143 bcf/d².
20 By 2035, natural gas supply levels are expected to reach levels over 160 bcf/d³. These
21 estimates can be impacted significantly by factors like drilling activity and LNG exports.

² East Daley, Tallgrass Customer Event, Page 8 (August 5, 2026).

³Kinder Morgan, 3Q 2026 Investor Presentation, Page 12 (August 10, 2026).

1 As stated above, some of the largest drivers of supply are the continued shale development
2 and associated natural gas coming from oil drilling, drilling economics, pipeline and
3 processing infrastructure build outs, and policy and regulatory environments. Similarly,
4 natural gas demand estimates are varied and numerous. However, natural gas demand is
5 expected to grow, led by an increase in LNG export capabilities (17.4 bcf/d increase by
6 2031⁴ & 22.9 bcf/d increase by 2035 from 2025 numbers⁵) as well as industrial, commercial,
7 and residential growth.

8 **Q: How do the critical drivers of the natural gas supply and demand, along with the**
9 **increase in extreme weather, natural gas exports, storage levels, and supply trends,**
10 **influence price formation, and volatility?**

11 A: As natural gas usage increases through baseload LNG exports and power generation,
12 production must grow to meet this rising demand. However, this baseload demand growth
13 is largely independent of underlying storage levels and peak system capacity. With the
14 expansion of renewable generation, natural gas has less flexibility to increase baseload
15 consumption during shoulder seasons. In an oversupplied market, curtailing production
16 becomes the option of last resort. Conversely, during periods of extreme demand, peak
17 consumption has increased. LNG demand is also less sensitive to price increases due to its
18 long-term, contract-driven nature. As a result, during peak demand events the market has
19 fewer mechanisms to reduce consumption than in the past. While natural gas storage
20 capacity is expected to expand, that growth is likely to be regionally concentrated rather
21 than broadly distributed.

⁴East Daley, Tallgrass Customer Event, Page 8 (August 5, 2026).

⁵Kinder Morgan, 3Q 2026 Investor Presentation, Page 12 (August 10, 2026).

1 **Q: How do these national market conditions affect Evergy’s long-term natural gas**
2 **procurement risk for Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2?**

3 A: Evergy believes that access to natural gas will remain available as long as investments in
4 the infrastructure are made to ensure that deliverability and storage capabilities are present.
5 “U.S. reserves are vast and low cost, given continued upstream efficiency gains. New
6 supply can be accessed with minimal upward pressure on market price.”⁶ Evergy is
7 recommending a more forward looking, robust natural gas fuel supply plan for the new
8 natural gas generation being developed, most notably, the single fuel CCGT technology
9 (including Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2), which helps increase fuel firming.
10 Conversations on the forward strategy have already begun with PSC Staff and the Office
11 of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) (last one occurred on August 24, 2026). This Natural Gas
12 Fuel Supply Plan is the name of the new comprehensive plan going forward that is being
13 developed and will be used by all Evergy utilities. This plan, in its entirety, will include
14 sections that incorporates information from the following: 1) the information included in
15 the existing BPM 020 Policy – Forward Physical Natural Gas Fuel Supply Plan for Evergy
16 Missouri West; 2) the information included in the existing BPM 021 Policy – Forward
17 Physical Natural Gas Fuel Supply / Power Supply Policy for Evergy Kansas Metro and
18 Evergy Kansas Central; 3) the information included in the existing BPM 022 Policy –
19 Forward Physical Natural Gas Fuel Supply / Power Supply Policy for Evergy Missouri
20 Metro; and 4) details regarding the natural gas fuel supply plan for new CCGTs. The same
21 strategy can be employed as more generation is added to the fleet. The new natural gas

⁶ Kinder Morgan, 3Q 2026 Investor Presentation, Page 18 (August 10, 2026).

1 fuel supply plan should both increase reliability of gas supply and decrease customer
2 exposure to the volatility of natural gas pricing.

3 **III. THE PROJECT AND INTERACTION WITH THE NATURAL GAS MARKET**

4 **Q: What are the natural gas supply sources, transportation pipelines, interconnection,**
5 **and receipt points for Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2?**

6 A: The Applicants will utilize a robust competitive process to choose a provider of the service.
7 Once a provider for transportation service is selected, the Applicants will be able to
8 determine the natural gas supply sources, transportation pipelines, interconnection, and
9 receipt points for Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2.

10 **Q: What is the timeline for the robust competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process**
11 **for Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2?**

12 A: The schedule for the RFP is represented in the table below.

Milestone	Completed by COB Date (By 17:00 CT)
Notice of Intent for RFP (Eversource Activity)	August 3, 2026
Executed CA	August 14, 2026
RFP Issued (Eversource Activity)	August 19, 2026
Notice of Intent to Bid	September 9, 2026
High-Level Estimate Proposals Due	October 9, 2026
Finalist Selection (Eversource Activity)	October 30, 2026
Final Proposals Due	December 18, 2026

13 *Note: Eversource reserves the right to adjust this schedule as necessary.*

1 **Q: Is Evergy required to award a contract from the RFP process?**

2 A: No. Evergy reserves the right to reject any or all proposals; waive procedures, formalities,
3 or informalities; accept or reject any items; and award the contract in whole, in part, or not
4 at all, if deemed in Evergy's best interest. Evergy may negotiate after proposals are opened
5 and may negotiate terms and conditions, including indemnification and additional insured
6 requirements, if deemed in Evergy's best interest. Bidders are responsible for all costs
7 associated with participation in this solicitation. See **Confidential Schedule JP-1** for full
8 details of the RFP.

9 **Q: Does this RFP only consider the needs of the Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2?**

10 A: No. One of the many benefits of co-locating two units at the same location is the cost
11 efficiency that comes from one lateral project and firm transportation upgrade to serve both
12 sites. Therefore, the RFP considers the collective needs of both the Buchanan Bluffs
13 Energy Center Unit 1 and the Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2. All costs associated
14 with the project would be split equally between the two units.

15 **Q: How much natural gas will the Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 require and**
16 **at what pressure?**

17 A: Like other CCGT technologies already announced by Evergy, Buchanan Bluffs Energy
18 Center Unit 2 will require roughly 116,000 dekatherms per day as a max daily quantity of
19 natural gas and at a pressure of 850 psig.

20 **Q: Please explain the difference between firm transportation service and interruptible**
21 **service.**

22 A: Both firm service and interruptible service are sold by the interstate natural gas pipelines.
23 Firm service guarantees access to pipeline capacity up to a contracted volume and ratable

1 volume per the firm service agreement offered by the pipeline, except in rare force majeure
2 events. Economic firm transportation generally requires parties to commit reservation fees
3 for longer periods of time on capacity that is available to serve specific delivery points.
4 Interruptible service is capacity that is available only when the pipeline has excess space
5 after serving firm shippers or under-utilized segments of the system. Interruptible service
6 works on a case-by-case basis and is generally at a higher variable rate versus existing firm
7 transportation. It is highly dependent on price economics in multiple markets and
8 operational conditions of the pipeline(s). It is generally not a viable option to source long-
9 term supply, particularly in periods of volatility.

10 **Q: Why is fuel firming critical for generation, system reliability, and resource planning?**

11 A: Fuel firming is critical because it provides higher confidence that generation will be able
12 to produce when in demand. It can be accomplished by procuring firm natural gas
13 transportation service at CCGT sites like Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2. Firm
14 service gives the shipper the highest priority on the pipeline as the capacity is designated
15 for that shipper and is available even during the peak demand periods. This ensures that
16 the generation unit can produce electricity when it is needed most, which helps support
17 reliability. The SPP resource adequacy rules place significant weighting of accredited
18 capacity on resources that minimize outages due to fuel unavailability. These rules are
19 more impactful in the winter season when pipeline and natural gas restrictions are typically
20 at their highest. This approach to fuel firming will position the resource well to increase
21 system reliability.

1 **Q: Please discuss current natural gas pricing trends in Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”)**
2 **and at the interconnection points that correspond to the Project, and how the fuel**
3 **supply plan plays into those trends.**

4 A: Natural gas pricing in the SPP has followed a pattern in recent years when compared to the
5 pricing at the Henry Hub. Both forward and spot natural gas pricing in the summer months
6 tends to be a discount when compared to Henry Hub. Conversely, for the winter months,
7 forward natural gas pricing tends to be a premium to Henry Hub pricing until more detailed
8 weather forecasts come in to focus for the cold weather season. If temperatures are closer
9 to the normal range, then SPP natural gas pricing tends to be a discount to Henry Hub. If
10 more extreme cold temperatures are forecasted, then SPP natural gas pricing tends to be a
11 premium to Henry Hub. Spot pricing in the winter is very much dependent on the weather.
12 However, all of this can be impacted by occurrences in other regions domestically and
13 internationally which can impact pricing both upward or downward. Given the significant
14 number of variables that are at play, it is important to diversify the reliability and pricing
15 exposures to the natural gas market. Evergy’s natural gas fuel supply plan is designed to
16 provide that diversity by relying on several pipeline systems, receipt points, and, in some
17 cases, dual fuel or forward pricing opportunities to soften the volatility for the customers.

18 **IV. EVERGY’S NATURAL GAS FUEL SUPPLY PLAN**

19 **Q: What is Evergy’s existing natural gas fuel supply plan, including transportation,**
20 **storage, and molecule procurement components?**

21 A: Today’s natural gas fuel supply plan relies mostly on short term natural gas purchasing, no
22 storage, and some firm transportation service. This is mostly driven by the portfolio of
23 generation today and its low reliance on natural gas generation, both from a capacity factor

1 and an accredited capacity perspective. Additionally, the Companies have an existing
2 forward natural gas fuel supply policy. Evergy Missouri Metro's policy (BPM 022)
3 calculates net position to determine if a forward fuel and power purchase needs to occur.
4 To date, since 2022, Evergy Missouri Metro has had only one very small transaction under
5 this policy due to the "long" generation position when compared to normalized load.
6 Evergy Missouri West's policy (BPM 020) uses ProMod forecasted physical natural gas
7 needs to determine if a forward natural gas purchase needs to occur. The policy instructs
8 Evergy Missouri West to procure up to 25% of forecasted needs 1-4 months ahead of time
9 for the months of January, February, June, July, August, and December. Grouped together,
10 these months are better referred to as the two peak seasons of winter and summer.
11 However, given the change to the generation portfolio and the anticipated increase in load
12 growth over time for both jurisdictions, the need for a more robust transportation, storage,
13 and molecule procurement plan is necessary. I will discuss those items below.

14 **Q: What transportation arrangements do the Applicants anticipate for Buchanan**
15 **Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2?**

16 A: For the Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 location, Evergy will use the results from a
17 competitive request for proposal ("RFP") process to choose a transportation arrangement.

18 **Q: Please describe the pipeline diversity considerations for the Buchanan Bluffs Energy**
19 **Center Unit 2.**

20 A: The Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 will be co-located with a virtually identical
21 facility. The Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 1, which is the subject of a companion

1 proceeding before the Kansas Corporation Commission (“KCC”)⁷. The specific pipeline
2 arrangements will be determined through the competitive RFP process described above;
3 however, value will be given to interconnect opportunities that are with pipelines that
4 Evergy does not have direct exposure to today to enhance the diversity of supply for
5 Evergy’s natural gas generation fleet.

6 **Q: Do the Applicants have a natural gas storage plan for Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center**
7 **Unit 2?**

8 A: Yes. The plan is to evaluate existing and/or future storage projects that exist on the system
9 that is utilized for transportation service. It is important to first determine the transportation
10 provider so that the same transportation service can be used to move any storage gas to the
11 Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2.

12 **Q: What changes, if any, would need to be made to the existing natural gas fuel supply**
13 **plan to provide reliable supply and reduced-price volatility of natural gas for the**
14 **Companies’ customers?**

15 A: On August 24, 2026, Evergy shared plans with MPSC Staff and OPC to move to a
16 comprehensive Natural Gas Fuel Supply Plan that incorporates both the strategy today with
17 increased activity related to the fuel needs of the new CCGTs. Evergy expects to maintain
18 the existing plan for the existing natural gas fleet, which includes the existing forward
19 natural gas fuel & power supply policy for Evergy Metro (BPM 022), and the existing
20 forward natural gas fuel supply plan for Evergy Missouri West (BPM 020). Additionally,
21 the company would be implementing a new natural gas fuel supply plan that focuses on

⁷ Companion proceeding was filed concurrently today, August 31, 2026, with the KCC; a docket number has not yet been assigned.

1 transportation, fuel firming, storage, and molecule procurement for the new CCGTs. The
2 new combined cycle generation fuel supply plan includes firm transportation contracts,
3 possible storage contracts, and mid-term (~18 months ahead) and in molecule procurement
4 for a portion of forecasted needs based on probabilistic modeling. The need for a new plan
5 was outlined in No. EA-2025-0075 and continues to be developed with Commission Staff
6 and OPC, as agreed to in that case. The comprehensive Natural Gas Fuel Supply Plan is
7 anticipated to be filed with the Commission before the end of 2026.

8 **Q: How does the fuel procurement and laddering strategy promote price predictability**
9 **for Evergy’s customers?**

10 A: As discussed above, when Evergy diversifies the purchasing of expected baseload levels
11 of natural gas over different periods to support the operations of the new combined cycle
12 resources, it will act as a reducer of price volatility of the natural gas fuel when compared
13 to purchasing all volumes needed for the SPP day ahead and real time wholesale energy
14 markets. When portions of the fuel input costs are procured in increments ahead of time,
15 the action acts to diversify the pricing points and results in less price volatility for the
16 Evergy customer. By this, Buchanan Bluffs Energy Center Unit 2 increases the Companies’
17 ability to protect against the volatility of the SPP power market, thereby putting downward
18 pressure on fuel and purchase power price volatility. See Report & Order at 11, In re
19 Evergy App. for CCNs to Construct Natural Gas Facilities, No. EA-2025-0075 (July 31,
20 2025) (Evergy’s “ownership of the Projects will act as a hedge against market energy
21 prices.”).

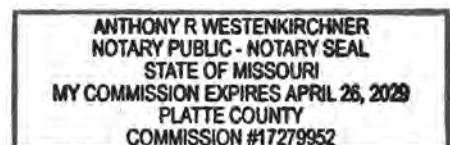
1 **V. CONCLUSION**

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

3 A: As Evergy transitions the generation portfolio to rely more on natural gas generation, it is
4 imperative that the strategy for positioning these resources in the market for the customer
5 transitions as well. The domestic supply of natural gas is forecasted to remain robust. By
6 focusing on the natural gas transportation, fuel firming, storage, and molecule procurement
7 for the new resources, Evergy is ensuring that the customers have reliable capacity and
8 energy while lowering the price volatility of the fuel.

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

10 A: Yes, it does.



**SCHEDULE JP-1
CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION
NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.**

ORIGINAL FILED UNDER SEAL.

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

Docket No.: EA-2026-0343

Date: August 31, 2026

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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

Document/Page	Reason for Confidentiality from List Below
Confidential Schedule JP-1	3, 4, and 6

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
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