BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
PREHEARING CONFERENCE

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Jefferson City, MO
via WebEx

VOLUME 1

RON PRIDGIN, Presiding
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL,
COMMISSIONERS

Transcribed by:
Ishu Bansal

THE COURT: Good morning. This is Judge Pridgin. Can everyone hear me?

MR. STACEY: Yes, Judge.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

MR. OWEN: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Very good. Thank you. Could -- I apologize for being a little bit late, having a little technical trouble, but I think we got it squared away. Could, could people identify themselves? I'm on my phone, and I can't see who's on.

MR. STACEY: Scott Stacey, with Staff Counsel's Office, for Paul Graham.

THE COURT: Good. Mr. Stacey, thank you.

MR. OWEN: This is James Owen. I am here on behalf of Nicole Mers, representing Renew Missouri Advocates.

MR. BAILEY: Okay. Yeah. Cole Bailey and Karl Zobrist, for the company, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I apologize. I was getting a WebEx message while you spoke. Mr. Owen, you're representing Renew Missouri today. Is that correct?

MR. OWEN: Yes, on behalf of Ms. Mers, who is in the Evergy Metro rate case currently.

THE COURT: Very good. Thank you. And I'm sorry. Someone entered an appearance for the

company?

MR. BAILEY: Yes. Cole Bailey, for the company, and Karl Zobrist is here as well.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bailey, thank you. Anyone here on behalf of Public Counsel?

MS. MARTIN: Anna Martin, with the staff -- with the Office of the Public Counsel?

THE COURT: Ms. Martin, thank you. Are we -- have I overlooked anyone, or are we waiting on anyone else? Okay. I'm not hearing anything, and I'm, I'm going to be rather brief and let you talk. If -- I'm sorry. Anything anybody needs to bring my -- to my attention before we get started? Okay. I'm not hearing anything. So let's begin.

This is the prehearing conference in case number EA-2026-0343. Good morning. I'm Ron Pridgin. I am a regulatory law judge with the commission. This prehearing conference is being held by WebEx on October 7th, 2026. The time is roughly 9:05 a.m. I would like to get entries of appearance from counsel, please. And let's begin with staff.

MR. STACEY: Scott Stacey, with Staff Counsel's Office or staff.

THE COURT: Mr. Stacey, thank you. For the, the company, please.

MR. BAILEY: Thank you, Your Honor. Cole Bailey and Karl Zobrist, for, for Evergy Metro.

THE COURT: Mr. Bailey, thank you. On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel, please.

MS. MARTIN: Yes. This is Anna Martin, with the Office of the Public Counsel.

THE COURT: Ms. Martin, thank you. On behalf of Renew Missouri, please.

MR. OWEN: Good morning. James Owen, on behalf of Renew Missouri Advocates. I believe Nicole Mers is our attorney of record. But I am also an attorney for the organization, so I'm making that appearance today.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Owen, thank you. Have I overlooked anyone? Okay. I'm going to let the parties talk here in just a moment. And I believe the company has already filed a proposed procedural schedule, and so I would simply ask if, if, unless you have any objections, to file a pleading roughly in the next week or so.

And it could be something as simple as confirming the same schedule or, or coming up with a different schedule, just, just some sort of idea of where you want the case to go. And if I recall correctly, that schedule contemplated a potential

November 16th local public hearing, and I believe we are working on trying to secure a location for that dates.

But, so obviously, if the parties want something different, please file a pleading letting me know as soon as you can. But I think other than that -- I think that's all I have. Does anyone have any questions or anything they need to bring to my attention?

MR. STACEY: Yes, Judge. This is Scott Stacey for staff. It looks like there's two -- there's two procedural schedules that Evergy's and staff's -- they somewhat mirror each other, but there's -- some of the dates are not the same. And we ask that we have till October 20 to submit a joint procedural schedule, if that is possible.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Stacey, thank you. Any, any responses or any objections to staff's requests?

MR. DORITY: We'd, we'd, we'd like to be able to have (indiscernible).

THE COURT: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: Hi, Judge. This is the Anna Martin, Office of the Public Counsel. The one concern I have is if we only have one public hearing and it's November 16th, and then we, like -- I know that there's

often an issue with the ability to get notice out for those -- for those local public hearings. I again do -- I mean, I, I say again.

I do believe that we should have multiple, given the amount of interest in this case. I think that it would be a mistake to just have one single local public hearing. But again, my one concern is the ability to give the company adequate notice if -- or adequate time to provide notice, if we wait until October 20th. If that's not a concern for the company, that's fine.

MR. BAILEY: You're right. Anna, you're right. We got -- we need direction from the commission by October 15th.

THE COURT: Okay. Would, would October 15th -- well, again, I think the commission's trying to secure a location for November 16th, and I -- and I hear Public Counsel's concern about perhaps having more than one local public hearing. Would staff be able to file something earlier than October 20th?

MR. STACEY: That is possible, Judge. This is Scott Stacey.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: And I, I do apologize, Scott. I know it's kind of hamstringing you guys. I

just worry about local public hearings. And given that we have 422 comments so far, and we had 18 people that I counted try -- well, and renew, so that's 19, you know, file to intervene in this case.

I do think that the amount of interest is high enough that that is going to be a very important situation. We could also -- I don't know, Judge, if you would be okay with possibly just determining local public hearings sooner and then, for the rest of the procedural schedule, do the 20th. No?

THE COURT: Excuse me. I, I, I would be fine with that. I'd like -- I'd like to hear from parties.

MR. BAILEY: Yeah. Hey, this is Cole Bailey for the company. You -- we would disagree with that. We're hoping we'd spend, you know, the next, you know, maybe hour and then couple days with the parties figuring out an agreed-upon schedule and not ask something of you on the spot right now, Judge, but we want -- we want a schedule order altogether. We don't want to piecemeal different dates at different times.

THE COURT: Okay. Why don't -- why don't we do this? I mean, I normally ask parties to file something in, in roughly a week, which would put some sort of pleading due October 14th. And so my thought is

to simply see what you come up with by October 14th and, and go from there. Does anyone have any concerns with that?

MR. STACEY: That's fine with me, Judge. This is Scott Stacey for staff.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Stacey, thank you. No? I'm, I'm not hearing any objections. So I will expect some sort of pleading from the parties no later than October 14th. Obviously, if you can do it sooner, that would be great.

Anything else from the parties or anything else I can do for you? Any questions? Okay. I'm not hearing anything. I will expect some sort of pleading by October 14th, and I'm going to jump off the WebEx.

I hope that technology doesn't fail again, and I hope you can continue to get on the WebEx and, and talk. But anyway, I, I appreciate your attendance by WebEx and wish everyone a good day. We'll look forward to hearing from you by the 14th. Thank you.

MR. STACEY: Thank you, Judge.

MR. OWEN: Thank you, Judge.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Judge.

(End of audio recording.)

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Ishu Bansal

1

14th 7:25 8:1, 9,14,20

15th 6:14,16

16th 5:1,25 6:17

18 7:2

19 7:3

2

20 5:14

2026 3:19

20th 6:10,20 7:10

4

422 7:2

7

7th 3:19

9

9:05 3:19

A

a.m. 3:19

ability 6:1,8

able 5:20 6:19

about 6:18 7:1

adequate 6:8, 9

Advocates 2:16 4:10

again 6:2,3,7, 16 8:17

agreed-upon 7:18

all 3:4 4:14 5:6 8:6

already 4:17

also 4:11 7:7

altogether 7:20

amount 6:5 7:5

Anna 3:6 4:5 5:22 6:12

any 4:19 5:6, 17 8:2,7,12

anybody 3:12

anyone 3:5,9, 10 4:15 5:6 8:2

anything 3:10,12,14 5:7 8:11,12, 13

anyway 8:18

apologize 2:7, 19 6:24

appearance 2:25 3:20 4:13

appreciate 8:18

as 3:3 4:21 5:5

ask 4:18 5:13 7:18,23

at 7:21

attendance 8:19

attention 3:13 5:8

attorney 4:11, 12

audio 8:25

away 2:9

B

Bailey 2:17 3:2,4 4:1,2,3 6:12 7:14,15

before 3:13

begin 3:14,21

behalf 2:15,22 3:5 4:4,8,10

believe 4:10, 16 5:1 6:4

bit 2:7

brief 3:11

bring 3:12 5:7

but 2:8 4:11 5:3,5,12 6:7 7:19 8:18

by 3:18 6:14 8:1,14,19,20

C

case 2:23 3:15 4:24 6:5 7:4

Cole 2:17 3:2 4:1 7:14

come 8:1

coming 4:22

comments 7:2

commission 3:17 6:13

commission's 6:16

company 2:18 3:1,3,25 4:17 6:8,10 7:15

concern 5:23 6:7,10,18

concerns 8:2

conference 3:15,18

confirming 4:22

contemplated 4:25

continue 8:17

correct 2:21

correctly 4:25

could 2:6,9 4:21 7:7

counsel 3:5,7, 20 4:4,6 5:23

Counsel's 2:12 3:23 6:18

counted 7:3

couple 7:17

COURT 2:1,6, 13,19,24 3:4, 8,24 4:3,7,14 5:16,21 6:15, 23 7:11,22 8:6

currently 2:23

D

dates 5:2,13 7:21

day 8:19

days 7:17

determining 7:8

different 4:23 5:4 7:21

direction 6:13

disagree 7:15

DORITY 5:19

due 7:25

E

EA-2026-0343 3:16

each 5:12

earlier 6:20

else 3:10 8:11,12

end 8:25

enough 7:6

entered 2:25

entries 3:20

Evergy 2:23

4:2
Evergy's 5:11
everyone 2:2 8:19
Excuse 7:11
expect 8:8,13

F

fail 8:16
far 7:2
figuring 7:18
file 4:19 5:4 6:19 7:4,23
filed 4:17
fine 6:11 7:12 8:4
for 2:7,12,18, 25 3:2,24 4:2, 12 5:2,10 6:1, 2,10,17 7:9, 15 8:5,12
forward 8:20
from 3:20 6:13 7:12 8:2, 8,11,20

G

get 3:13,20 6:1 8:17
getting 2:19
give 6:8
given 6:5 7:1
go 4:24 8:2
going 3:11
4:15 7:6 8:14
good 2:1,6, 13,24 3:16 4:9 8:19
got 2:8 6:13
Graham 2:12
great 8:10
guys 6:25

H

hamstringing 6:25
having 2:7 6:18
hear 2:2 6:17 7:12
hearing 3:10, 13 5:1,24 6:7, 19 8:7,13,20
hearings 6:2 7:1,9
held 3:18
here 2:14 3:3, 5 4:16
Hey 7:14
Hi 5:22
high 7:6
Honor 2:18 4:1
hope 8:16,17
hoping 7:16
hour 7:17

I

idea 4:23
identify 2:9
if 3:11 4:18,24 5:3,15,24 6:8, 9,10 7:7 8:9
important 7:6
in 2:23 3:15 4:16,19 6:5 7:4,24
indiscernible 5:20
interest 6:5 7:5
intervene 7:4
issue 6:1
it 2:8 4:21 5:10 6:6 8:9
it's 5:24 6:25

J

James 2:14 4:9
joint 5:14
judge 2:1,3,5 3:17 5:9,22 6:21 7:7,19 8:4,22,23,24
jump 8:14
just 4:16,23 6:6 7:1,8

K

Karl 2:18 3:3 4:2
kind 6:25
know 5:5,25 6:25 7:3,7,16, 17

L

late 2:7
later 8:9
law 3:17
let 3:11 4:15
let's 3:14,21
letting 5:4
like 3:19 5:10, 19,25 7:12
little 2:7,8
local 5:1 6:2, 7,19 7:1,8
location 5:2 6:17
look 8:20
looks 5:10

M

making 4:12
Martin 2:4 3:6,8 4:5,7 5:22,23 6:24 8:24
maybe 7:17
me 2:2 5:4 7:11 8:4
mean 6:3 7:23
Mers 2:15,22 4:11
message 2:20
Metro 2:23 4:2
mirror 5:12
Missouri 2:15,21 4:8, 10
mistake 6:6
moment 4:16
more 6:18
morning 2:1 3:16 4:9
Mr 2:3,5,11, 13,14,17,20, 22 3:2,4,22, 24 4:1,3,9,14 5:9,16,19 6:12,21 7:14 8:4,6,22,23
Ms 2:4,22 3:6, 8 4:5,7 5:22 6:24 8:24
multiple 6:5
my 2:10 3:12 5:7 6:7 7:25

N

need 5:7 6:13
needs 3:12
next 4:20 7:16
Nicole 2:15 4:10
no 7:10 8:7,8
normally 7:23

not 3:10,13 5:13 6:10 7:18 8:7,13

notice 6:1,8,9

November 5:1,25 6:17

now 7:19

number 3:16

O

objections 4:19 5:17 8:7

obviously 5:3 8:9

October 3:18 5:14 6:10,14, 15,20 7:25 8:1,9,14

of 2:15,22 3:5, 7,20 4:4,6,8, 10,11,23 5:12,23 6:5, 25 7:5,9,19, 25 8:8,13,25

off 8:14

Office 2:12 3:7,23 4:4,6 5:23

often 6:1

on 2:9,10,15, 22 3:5,9,18 4:3,7,9 5:2 7:19 8:17

one 5:23,24 6:6,7,19

only 5:24

order 7:20

organization 4:12

other 5:5,12

our 4:11

out 6:1 7:18

overlooked 3:9 4:15

Owen 2:5,14, 20,22 4:9,14 8:23

P

parties 4:16 5:3 7:13,17, 23 8:8,11

Paul 2:12

people 2:9 7:2

perhaps 6:18

phone 2:10

piecemeal 7:21

pleading 4:19 5:4 7:25 8:8, 14

please 3:20, 25 4:4,8 5:4

possible 5:15 6:21

possibly 7:8

potential 4:25

prehearing 3:15,18

Pridgin 2:2 3:16

procedural 4:17 5:11,14 7:10

proposed 4:17

provide 6:9

public 3:5,7 4:4,6 5:1,23, 24 6:2,7,18, 19 7:1,9

put 7:24

Q

questions 5:7 8:12

R

rate 2:23

rather 3:11

recall 4:24

record 4:11

recording 8:25

regulatory 3:17

renew 2:15,21 4:8,10 7:3

representing 2:15,21

requests 5:18

responses 5:17

rest 7:9

right 3:4 4:14 6:12,13 7:19 8:6

Ron 3:16

roughly 3:19 4:19 7:24

S

same 4:22 5:13

say 6:3

schedule 4:18,22,23,25 5:14 7:10,18, 20

schedules 5:11

Scott 2:11 3:22 5:9 6:22, 25 8:5

secure 5:2 6:17

see 2:10 8:1

should 6:4

simple 4:21

simply 4:18 8:1

single 6:6

situation 7:7

some 4:23 5:12 7:24 8:8, 13

Someone 2:25

something 4:21 5:4 6:20 7:19,24

somewhat 5:12

soon 5:5

sooner 7:9 8:10

sorry 2:25 3:12

sort 4:23 7:25 8:8,13

spend 7:16

spoke 2:20

spot 7:19

squared 2:8

Stacey 2:3,11, 13 3:22,24 5:9,10,16 6:21,22 8:4,5, 6,22

staff 2:11 3:6, 21,22,23 5:10 6:19 8:5

staff's 5:11,17

started 3:13

submit 5:14

T

talk 3:11 4:16 8:18

technical 2:8

technology 8:16

than 5:5 6:18, 20 8:9

thank 2:6,13, 24 3:4,8,24 4:1,3,7,14 5:16 8:6,20, 22,23,24

that's 5:6 6:10,11 7:3 8:4

themselves 2:9

then 5:25 7:9, 17

there's 5:10, 12,25

think 2:8 5:5,6 6:6,16 7:5

this 2:1,14 3:15,17 4:5 5:9,22 6:5,22 7:4,14,23 8:5

those 6:2

thought 7:25

till 5:14

time 3:19 6:9

times 7:21

to 3:11,12,20 4:15,19,24 5:2,7,14,17, 19,20 6:1,6,8, 9,16,19 7:4,6, 12,21,23 8:1, 14,17,20

today 2:21 4:13

trouble 2:8

try 7:3

trying 5:2 6:16

two 5:10,11

U

unless 4:18

until 6:9

up 4:22 8:1

V

very 2:6,24 7:6

W

wait 6:9

waiting 3:9

want 4:24 5:3 7:20,21

we 2:8 3:9,13 5:1,13,24,25 6:4,9,13 7:2, 7,15,19,20,23

we'd 5:19 7:16

We'll 8:19

We're 7:16

Webex 2:20 3:18 8:15,17, 19

week 4:20 7:24

well 3:3 6:16 7:3

what 8:1

where 4:24

which 7:24

while 2:20

who 2:23

who's 2:10

why 7:22

will 8:8,13

wish 8:19

with 2:11 3:6, 7,17,21,22 4:6,22 6:1 7:8,12,15,17 8:1,2,4

working 5:2

worry 7:1

would 3:19 4:18 6:6,15, 19 7:8,11,15, 24 8:10

Y

Yeah 2:17 7:14

Yes 2:3,4,5,22 3:2 4:5 5:9,21

Z

Zobrist 2:18 3:3 4:2