BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
DISCOVERY 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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Jefferson City, MO
via WebEx

VOLUME 2

RON PRIDGIN, Presiding
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

Transcribed by:

Maria Hawkes

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ron Pridgin. I'm being -- I'm Ron Pridgin. I'm the judge at the commission, and this conference is being held by WebEx on October 26, 2026, and it's 10:00 a.m. Could I get entries of appearance from counsel, beginning with the company, please?

MR. STEINER: My name is Roger Steiner. I am an attorney for Evergy. Mr. Steiner.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any entry on behalf of the Staff of the commission, please?

MR. GRAHAM: Yes, this is Paul Graham. I'm here for the Staff of the commission. My address is on file in this case.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Graham, thank you. Any other counsel wishing to enter an appearance? Okay. Hearing none, I guess I will turn it over to counsel to bring up any discovery concerns you might have.

MR. GRAHAM: Your Honor, this is Paul Graham speaking for staff. I'm not aware of any but the usual conversation that go back and forth between parties and counsel on these things. Putting it differently, nothing that has risen to the level that I think needs to or would require some kind of a commission order.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay, Mr. Graham, thank

you. Mr. Steiner, did you have anything to bring to my attention?

MR. STEINER: No. I'm not aware. Like Mr. Graham, I'm not aware of anything that needs this help in the discovery conference. So, thank you.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Steiner, thank you. What I think I might want to do in the future to save time, is I might issue some sort of order giving parties maybe like two or three business days before the next scheduled conference, and if nobody has brought a discovery matter to my attention, I may just cancel the conferences. Does anyone have any concerns or objections about me doing that?

MR. STEINER: I do not, that works -- go ahead.

MR. GRAHAM: No, Your Honor, that works. I'm sorry. I was going to say that works for staff. To be honest, I was a little uncertain as to what we were doing this morning in that regard from the way the procedural schedule. That will clarify it. The short answer to your question, that will clarify it, because I was a little confused as to how we were proceeding this morning so soon after the procedural schedule had been entered.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay.

MR. GRAHAM: So that will help a great deal if you just leave it to us to let you know.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Steiner, will that work for you?

MR. STEINER: Yeah, that process works good in the rate cases and other cases we've had, Judge. So that would be a good procedure I think, so. I was unclear too. I totally forgot. I saw this pop up. I was like, oh, I better get on. So, that works. Thank you.

MR. GRAHAM: Yeah.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: And I think we normally have provisions like that and procedural schedules. And I didn't see one here and I didn't notice it until I don't guess, Friday. And I thought, well, I'll just go ahead and hold the conference, and we'll see what happens.

Ms. Martin, I see has joined us from public counsel. Ms. Martin, did you want to enter an appearance?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah, I can enter an appearance. I am so sorry. I was having technical difficulties.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Quite all right. The record will show Ms. Martin from the Office of the

Public counsel has entered an appearance.

And Ms. Martin, I had just been talking with Mr. Graham and Mr. Steiner about perhaps issuing an order asking parties to bring discovery concerns to my attention, say, maybe three business days, two business days or so before the next scheduled conference. And if nobody has brought any discovery matters to my attention, I'll probably just simply cancel, you know, the following conference. Do you have any objections or concerns about doing that?

MS. MARTIN: No. I think that it's normally two days ahead of time, but I have no objection to such an order.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. I think I'll just issue an order then, giving parties, you know, time to state whether they have any discovery concerns. And if they don't, say within two business days of the next scheduled conference, I'll simply schedule -- excuse me, cancel the following conference. Is there anything else the parties need to bring to my attention before we close?

MR. GRAHAM: Not from Staff, Your Honor.

MR. STEINER: Nothing. Nothing, Your Honor?

MS. MARTIN: I don't believe so. I did

want to check and see, since we're talking about discovery procedures, I know that sometimes we waive the requirement to call if there's a discovery. Like, I think that the rule is generally that you are required to call the other party before there's a discovery dispute. Do we want to keep -- or like we've also talked about -- in other cases we've changed it to have it -- the requirement just being emailing. Do we want to keep it that way? I'm reading the procedural schedule now. I just -- I wasn't sure how we wanted to handle it.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: I don't think I have a preference, and I can leave that up to the parties. And if somebody wants to file a pleading saying, you know, we would like this procedure going forward, I'd be happy to entertain, you know, such a motion, especially if nobody objects.

MS. MARTIN: It's just something that I know has been something that we've considered in the past. So I didn't -- I wanted to bring it up as a possibility, but if nobody else is interested in that, that's fine as well.

MR. GRAHAM: This is Paul Graham. The spirit of the rule, I think, is to require the parties to at least try to resolve their differences before they

go full bore into motions, and I think the idea --

MS. MARTIN: Yeah, I didn't -- sorry, I meant, I just -- it wouldn't cancel that out, but it would be if you have a conversation over email, I think is what we've done in the past, not to just skip that entirely, because I understand that.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, no, I was actually, I think, beginning to agree with you that if the spirit of the rule is to get us to talk before we file motions, then I think that's accomplished and maybe a little bit more effectively with an exchange of email. I think the idea is to get us to try to work something out before we take it to the commission, and seems to me that we could do that just as well and maybe even better by email than by telephone calls.

I guess what I'm expressing for Staff here is that, is that I would agree with you Ms. Martin, if that's the way you would like to go with it, that email should suffice. Maybe Mr. Steiner's got a different view, but you know, and then you've got a documentation of it and you've kind of thought it through and so. Let me just register that I don't -- I wouldn't have any objection to that particular procedure.

MR. STEINER: Yeah, I think the judge was

saying that he -- if we're going to do that, he wants someone to file that, so he can approve it, and I think that's what he said, but that might be --

MR. GRAHAM: Well, that was my understanding as well. That was my understanding as well, but I just want to clarify the Staff is okay with that. Yeah.

MR. STEINER: So, I'll wait till somebody requests it -- yeah, I'll wait till somebody requests it and I'll think about it then, but --

MR. GRAHAM: Okay. Fair enough.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay.

MR. GRAHAM: I just kind of heard Ms. Martin get a little bit discouraged there that no one had responded, and I wanted to let her know that I felt her pain.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you.

MR. GRAHAM: All right.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Counsel. Anything else we need to discuss before we close? I'm not hearing anything, so if there is nothing further from counsel, that will wrap up today's procedural conference, and thank you very much. I hope you have a good day.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. You too.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Judge.

MR. STEINER: Thank you.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

(End of audio recording.)

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IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of October, 2026.

Maria Hawkes

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