Exhibit No.: Issue(s): Staff's Recommendation of Evergy Missouri West's Fuel Adjustment Rate Tariff Filing Brooke Mastrogiannis Witness: MoPSC Staff Sponsoring Party: Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony Case No.: ER-2023-0210 Date Testimony Prepared: April 14, 2023

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## **INDUSTRY ANALYSIS DIVISION**

### **ENERGY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

## **DIRECT TESTIMONY**

### OF

### **BROOKE MASTROGIANNIS**

EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC., d/b/a EVERGY MISSOURI WEST

# CASE NO. ER-2023-0210

Jefferson City, Missouri April 2023

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1		DIRECT TESTIMONY
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3		<b>BROOKE MASTROGIANNIS</b>
4 5		EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC., d/b/a EVERGY MISSOURI WEST
6		CASE NO. ER-2023-0210
7	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
8	А.	I am employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"
9	or "PSC") a	as an Utility Regulatory Audit Supervisor in the Energy Resources Department.
10	Q.	Please describe your educational background and work experience.
11	A.	Please refer to the attached Schedule BMM-d1.
12	Q.	Have you previously filed testimony before this Commission?
13	A.	Yes, I have. Please refer to the attached Schedule BMM-d2 for a list of cases in
14	which I hav	e previously filed testimony as well as the issues that I have addressed in testimony
15	and prudent	ce reviews.
16	Q.	Have you participated in the Commission Staff's review of Evergy Missouri
17	West, Inc.	d/b/a Evergy Missouri West's ("Evergy Missouri West") Fuel Adjustment
18	Rate ("FAR	") filing and the Staff's Recommendation in this proceeding?
19	А.	Yes, I have.
20	EXECUTI	VE SUMMARY
21	Q.	Please summarize your direct testimony in this proceeding.
22	A.	I am sponsoring the Staff Recommendation ("Staff Recommendation"), which
23	was origina	ally filed on January 30, 2023, in Case No. ER-2023-0210, a copy of which is
24	attached as	Schedule BMM-d3. Staff has conducted a review of all of the FAR components

Direct Testimony of Brooke Mastrogiannis

Q.

(fuel costs, purchased power costs, transmission costs, and off-system sales revenues) during
 the accumulation period<sup>1</sup> for Evergy Missouri West. My testimony provides an overview of
 Staff's Recommendation and will reiterate Staff's position.

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### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION OF THE FAR**

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Please describe Staff's review of the FAR.

6 A. Staff conducted a review of all of the FAR components (fuel costs, 7 purchased power costs, transmission costs, and off-system sales revenues) during the 8 accumulation period 31 ("AP 31") for Evergy Missouri West. The Staff Recommendation 9 provided a brief overview of the proposed tariff sheet, a Plant in Service Accounting ("PISA") 10 deferrals section, a calculation of the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment and the FAR, a 11 calculation after Voltage Adjustment Factors are applied, a Staff Review section, and Staff's 12 Recommendation based on its review of the components. In its Staff Recommendation, 13 Staff explains its reasons for the Commission to issue an order approving Evergy Missouri 14 West's proposed tariff sheet, which removes approximately \$47.9 million of recovery from 15 the Fuel Adjustment Clause ("FAC") and instead places it in a PISA regulatory asset for 16 consideration in a future general rate proceeding. Evergy Missouri West's proposed tariff sheet 17 also redistributes approximately \$1.4 million to the Non-Large Power customer classes for 18 recovery in this filing as further discussed in Company witness Ms. Lisa A. Starkebaum's direct testimony in this case.<sup>2</sup> 19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Accumulation Period 31 is June 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Direct Testimony of Lisa A. Starkebaum, pgs. 7 - 8.

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### **OVERVIEW OF STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TARIFF SHEET**

Q. In its review of the proposed tariff sheet for Evergy Missouri West, has Staff examined all of the components comprising the costs in the FAR?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Staff recommend approval of Evergy Missouri West's proposed tariff sheet,
as substituted on January 18, 2023, as a result of its review? If so, why?

7 A. Yes. The Company performed the PISA calculations to determine the impact on 8 the Average Overall Rate and Class Average Overall Rate for the Large Power customer class 9 as set forth in section 393.1655 RSMo, rate cap limitations. The compound annual growth rate 10 ("CAGR") cap provisions of section 393.1655 RSMo applied to this FAR filing are 13.3372% 11 for the average overall rate cap and 8.7474% for the class average overall rate cap for Large 12 Power customers. Based on Staff's review, the FAC charge proposed in this filing does exceed 13 the average overall rate of the CAGR cap provisions of section 393.1655 RSMo by more than 14 13.3372%. Therefore, per the PISA statute, the Company is allowed to defer \$47,898,201 for 15 recovery through the FAC and instead include it in a PISA regulatory asset for consideration in 16 a future general rate proceeding. In addition, the proposed FAC charge applicable to Large 17 Power customers also exceeds the 8.7474% of the class average overall rate cap, in accordance 18 with section 393.1655.6 RSMo. Therefore, the Company is also allowed to limit the increase in 19 the FAC charge applicable to Large Power customers to only \$13.7 million and redistribute 20 \$1,439,335 to Non-Large Power customer classes for recovery in this filing. Staff has verified 21 the calculations within its filing for the PISA rate cap limitations are correct, and supports 22 Evergy Missouri West's deferral of \$47.9 million to a PISA regulatory asset account for 23 consideration in a future general rate proceeding.

# Direct Testimony of Brooke Mastrogiannis

1	Q.	Has Staff's Recommendation changed since this Staff Recommendation
2	was filed?	
3	А.	No. However, when Staff filed its original Staff Recommendation, the scale of
4	Chart 1 was	limited to show no amounts over \$140,000,000 of actual net energy costs. Staff
5	has since adj	usted the scale of Chart 1 to give a better representation of actual net energy costs
6	for the last th	nree accumulation periods.
7	Q.	Does this conclude your prepared direct testimony in this proceeding?
8	А.	Yes, it does.

#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### **OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

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In the Matter of the Application of Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West for Authority to Implement Rate Adjustments Required by 20 CSR 4240-20.090(8) and the Company's Approved Fuel Purchased Power Cost Recovery Mechanism

<u>File No. ER-2023-0210</u> Tariff No. JE-2023-0117

### **AFFIDAVIT OF BROOKE MASTROGIANNIS**

STATE OF MISSOURI ) ) ss. COUNTY OF COLE )

**COMES NOW BROOKE MASTROGIANNIS** and on her oath declares that she is of sound mind and lawful age; that she contributed to the foregoing *Direct Testimony of Brooke Mastrogiannis;* and that the same is true and correct according to her best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.

#### JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 12 day of April, 2023.

Dianna L. Vaure Notary Public

#### **Brooke Mastrogiannis**

#### **Education and Employment Background**

I am a Utility Regulatory Audit Supervisor in the Energy Resources Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission. I have been employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission since May 2014. I previously was a Utility Regulatory Auditor in the Auditing Unit of the Utility Services Department, and a Utility Management Analyst in the Consumer and Management Analysis Unit. I have been in my current position since May 2020.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, MO in May of 2012. I then continued to further my education and received my Masters of Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting in December 2013. In earning these degree's I completed numerous core Accounting and Business classes.

Prior to joining the Commission, I was employed by the State of Missouri - Department of Natural Resources from June 2013 to May 2014 as an Accounting Specialist. My duties entailed: reviewing and monitoring expense account forms to ensure employees followed correct procedures, prepared and set up project and job codes so they could be coded correctly on employee's time sheets, analyzed and prepared necessary cash draws, and also prepared financial information or reports to facilitate budget information and execution.

## Brooke Mastrogiannis Case Participation Utility Regulatory Supervisor

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	
The Empire District	ER-2014-0351	January 2015	
Electric Company		Cost of Service Report- Plant in Service,	
		Depreciation Reserve, Prepayments, Materials and	
		Supplies, Customer Deposits, Customer Deposit	
		Interest, Customer Advances, Amortization of	
		Electric Plant, Amortization of PeopleSoft	
		Intangible Asset, Corporate Franchise Taxes,	
		Depreciation Expense, Amortization Expense, Dues	
		and Donations, EEI Dues, Advertising Expense,	
		Outside Services, and Postage.	
Seges Partners Mobile	SR-2015-0106	January 2015	
Home Park L.L.C.		Staff Report- Rate Base, Revenues, Purchased	
		Sewer Costs, Payroll and Payroll Taxes,	
		Management Fee, Postage, Telephone Expense,	
		Maintenance Expense, Insurance, Outside Services,	
		PSC Assessment, and Rate Case Expense	
The Empire District	ER-2014-0351	March 2015	
Electric Company		Surrebuttal Testimony- Advertising Expense,	
		Customer Advances, and EEI Dues.	
Ozark International, Inc.	WR-2015-0192	September 2015	
		Staff Report- Payroll, Telephone and Cell Phone	
		Expense, Auto Expense, Insurance Expense, Bank	
		Service Charges, Customer Deposits, Customer	
		Deposit Interest, PSC Assessment, Revenues,	
		Miscellaneous Income, Contract Labor, General	
		Maintenance Expense, Electric Expense, Returned	
		Check Fees, Outside Services, Dues and	
		Subscriptions, and Credit Card Fees	
Hillcrest Utility Operating	WR-2016-0064	March 2016	
Company, Inc.		Staff Report- Customer Service and Business	
1 .		Operations Review	
Cannon Home Association	SR-2016-0112	April 2016	
		Staff Report- Customer Service and Business	
		Operations Review	
Roy-L Utilities, Inc.	WR-2016-0109	May 2016	
		Staff Report- Customer Service and Business	
		Operations Review	
Raccoon Creek Utility	SR-2016-0202	August 2016	
Operating Company, Inc.		Staff Report- Customer Service and Business	
		Operations Review	
Raccoon Creek Utility	SR-2016-0202	October 2016	
Operating Company, Inc.		Rebuttal Testimony- Collection of Bad Debt	

# continued, Brooke Mastrogiannis

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	
Kansas City Power and	EO-2016-0124	January 2017	
Light Company		Management Audit Report- Employee Expense	
		Account Process and Internal Audit Activities	
Terre Du Lac Utilities	WR-2017-0110	April 2017	
Corporation		Staff Report- Customer Service and Business	
1		Operations Review	
Indian Hills Utility	WR-2017-0259	July 2017	
Operating Company, Inc.		Staff Report- Customer Service and Business	
		Operations Review	
Spire Missouri, Inc.	GR-2017-0215	December 2017	
1		Rebuttal Testimony- Performance Metrics	
		Incentive Proposal	
Ameren Missouri	EO-2018-0155	April 2018	
	2010 0100	Staff Report- First MEEIA Cycle 2 Prudence	
		Review	
Liberty Utilities LLC	WR-2018-0170	April 2018	
		Staff Report- Normalized and Annualized	
		Revenues, Miscellaneous Revenues, Bad Debt	
		Expense, Outside Services/Contract Maintenance,	
		DNR Fees, Meter Reading Expense, Transportation	
		Expense, and Property Taxes	
KCPL Greater Missouri	ER-2018-0146	June 2018	
Operations	LIC-2010-0140	Direct Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
operations		Rebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause and	
		Renewable Energy Rider	
		Surrebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
The Empire District	EO-2018-0244	September 2018	
Electric Company	LO-2010-0244	Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
Electric Company		Review	
KCPL	EO-2018-0363	November 2018	
KCIL	LO-2018-0303	Staff Report- First MEEIA Cycle 2 Prudence	
		Review	
KCPL Greater Missouri	EO-2018-0364	November 2018	
Operations	LO-2018-0304	Staff Report- First MEEIA Cycle 2 Prudence	
Operations		Review	
KCPL	EO-2019-0068	February 2019	
KUTL	EU-2019-0008	Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
		Review	
KCPL Greater Missouri	EO-2019-0067	February 2019	
	EU-2019-000/	5	
Operations		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence Review	
Amoron Missouri	EO 2010 0257		
Ameren Missouri	EO-2019-0257	August 2019 Stoff Banart, Fuel A divergent Clause Brudence	
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
	<u> </u>	Review	

# continued, Brooke Mastrogiannis

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	
Ameren Missouri	EO-2019-0376	October 2019	
		Staff Report- Second MEEIA Cycle 2 Prudence	
		Review	
The Empire District	EO-2020-0059	February 2020	
Electric Company		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
		Review	
The Empire District	ER-2019-0374	January 2020	
Electric Company		Direct Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
		Rebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
		Surrebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
Evergy Missouri Metro	EO-2020-0227	June 2020	
		Staff Report- Second MEEIA Cycle 2 Prudence	
		Review	
Evergy Missouri West	EO-2020-0228	June 2020	
		Staff Report- Second MEEIA Cycle 2 Prudence	
		Review	
Evergy Missouri West	EO-2020-0262	August 2020	
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
		Review	
Evergy Missouri Metro	EO-2020-0263	August 2020	
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
		Review	
Ameren Missouri	EO-2021-0060	February 2021	
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
		Review	
Ameren Missouri	EO-2021-0157	May 2021	
		Staff Report- First MEEIA Cycle 3 Prudence	
		Review	
The Empire District	EO-2021-0281	August 2021	
Electric Company	20 2021 0201	Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence	
		Review	
Ameren Missouri	ER-2021-0240	September 2021	
		Direct Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
		Rebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
		Surrebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
The Empire District	ER-2021-0312	October 2021	
Electric Company	LR 2021 0512	Direct Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
Electric Company		Rebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
		Surrebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause	
Evergy Missouri West	EO-2021-0416	October 2021	
	10 2021-0410	Staff Report- First MEEIA Cycle 3 Prudence	
		Review	
Evergy Missouri Metro	EO-2021-0417	October 2021	
Evergy withsour wiello	10-2021-041/	Staff Report- First MEEIA Cycle 3 Prudence	
		Review	
		<b>NUVIEW</b>	

# continued, Brooke Mastrogiannis

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues
Evergy Missouri Metro	EO-2022-0064	February 2022
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence
		Review
Evergy Missouri West	EO-2022-0065	February 2022
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence
		Review
Ameren Missouri	EO-2022-0236	August 2022
		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence
		Review
The Empire District	EO-2023-0087	February 2023
Electric Company		Staff Report- Fuel Adjustment Clause Prudence
		Review
Evergy Missouri West	ER-2023-0210	Rebuttal Testimony- Fuel Adjustment Clause; Fuel
		Adjustment Rate Filing

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#### MEMORANDUM

- TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File File No. ER-2023-0210, Tariff Tracking No. JE-2023-0117
- FROM: Brooke Mastrogiannis, Utility Regulatory Audit Supervisor
- DATE: <u>/s/ Brooke Mastrogiannis 01-30-2023</u> Energy Resources Department / Date <u>/s/ Casi Aslin 01-30-2023</u> Staff Counsel Department / Date
- SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for Approval of Tariff Sheet Filed to Change Rates Related to Evergy Missouri West, Inc.'s, d/b/a Evergy Missouri West Fuel Adjustment Clause Pursuant to the Commission's Report and Order in Case No. ER-2018-0146
- DATE: January 30, 2023

#### **Staff Recommendation**

On December 30, 2022, Evergy Missouri West, Inc., d/b/a Evergy Missouri West ("Evergy Missouri West") filed one (1) tariff sheet, 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, bearing a proposed effective date of March 1, 2023, to revise Evergy Missouri West's current annual Fuel Adjustment Rates ("FARs") (lines 16, 19, 22, and 25 on 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23) of its Fuel Adjustment Clause ("FAC"). Evergy Missouri West also filed the direct testimony of Lisa A. Starkebaum on December 30, 2022, and submitted to Staff work papers in support of the direct testimony and filed tariff sheet. Subsequently, Evergy Missouri West filed a substitute tariff sheet, for an interest correction. Staff identified during its review that additional interest was not applied to the ordered prudence adjustment from Case No. EO-2022-0065. The 2017 vintage RECs would have expired as of December 31, 2020; therefore, additional interest has been calculated from January 2021 through November 2022 in the amount of \$1,968.20.

As discussed in the Plant in Service Accounting ("PISA") deferrals section below, the FAC charge proposed in this filing does exceed the average overall rate of the compound annual growth rate ("CAGR") cap provisions of section 393.1655 RSMo by more than 13.3372%. Therefore, the Company has removed \$47,898,201 from recovery through the FAC and has included this amount in a PISA regulatory asset for consideration in a future general rate proceeding. In addition, the proposed FAC charge applicable to Large Power customers does exceed 8.7474% of the class average overall rate cap, in accordance with section 393.1655.6 RSMo. Therefore, the Company

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has limited the increase in the FAC charge applicable to Large Power customers to the 2% CAGR of the class average overall rate or \$13.7 million. The exceedance of the 2% CAGR cap results in \$1,439,335 being redistributed to Non-Large Power customer classes for recovery in this filing.

Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the 9th Revised Sheet No. 127. 23, as substituted on January 18, 2023, canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 127.23 of the FAC for Evergy Missouri West, to become effective on March 1, 2023.

### Accumulation Period 31 FARs

The testimony and work papers include information supporting Evergy Missouri West's calculation of the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment ("FPA") amount of \$104,175,279 line 11<sup>1</sup> of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, as substituted on January 18, 2023, for AP31 (June 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022) reflecting the sum of:

- The amount of \$101,492,930 on line 7 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, which is equal to 95% of the difference between: a) Evergy Missouri West's Missouri jurisdiction<sup>2</sup> Actual Net Energy Costs ("ANEC") (fuel costs plus net emission costs plus purchased power costs plus transmission costs less off-system sales revenue less renewable energy credit revenue), and b) Evergy Missouri West's Missouri jurisdiction Net Base Energy Cost;
- The true-up amount<sup>3</sup> reflected on line 8 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, of \$220,443;
- The interest amount reflected on line 9 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, of \$2,510,702; and,
- 4. The Prudence Adjustment Amount on line 10 of (\$48,796).

The proposed Current Period Evergy Missouri West FAR for large power customers of \$0.00573 per kWh (line 13 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23) is equal to Evergy Missouri West's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Line 11 is the FPA amount subject to prudence review, line 11.1 is the PISA amount deferred to a PISA regulatory asset account, and line 11.2 is the FPA amount subject to recover in true-up.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See line 4 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23 and definition of J on Original Sheet No. 127.21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The true-up amount was requested by Evergy Missouri West in its December 30, 2022 filing in File No. EO-2023-0206

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FPA amount of \$104,175,279, less the PISA deferral of \$(47,898,201), divided by the estimated Recovery Period 31 ("RP31")<sup>4</sup> Retail Net System Input ("RNSI") at the generator level<sup>5</sup> ("S<sub>RP</sub>") of 2,398,891,792 kWh (line 12 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23). The proposed Current Period Evergy Missouri West FAR for non-large power customers of \$0.00655 per kWh (line 13 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23) is equal to Evergy Missouri West's FPA amount of \$104,175,279, less the PISA deferral of (\$47,898,201), divided by the estimated RP31 RNSI at the generator level ("S<sub>RP</sub>") of 6,487,601,959 kWh (line 12 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23).

Because of differences in line losses for secondary, primary, substation, and transmission voltage service levels,<sup>6</sup> tariff sheet lines 14, 17, 20, and 23 reflect different current period FARs for service taken at secondary, primary, substation, and transmission voltage service levels.

The Accumulation Periods, Recovery Periods, and other specifications of Evergy Missouri West's FAC for AP31 are set out in its tariff sheets identified in the following table:

For Service Provided December 6, 2018 and				
Thereafter				
Original Sheet No. 127.13				
Original Sheet No. 127.14				
Original Sheet No. 127.15				
Original Sheet No. 127.16				
Original Sheet No. 127.17				
Original Sheet No. 127.18				
Original Sheet No. 127.19				
Original Sheet No. 127.20				
Original Sheet No. 127.21				
Original Sheet No. 127.22				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> RP31 includes March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See definition of  $S_{RP}$  on Original Sheet No. 127.22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The voltage adjustment factors (VAFs) for Evergy Missouri West for primary, secondary, substation and transmission voltage service levels are included on lines 26 through 29 of 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, as substituted on January 18, 2023.

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Listed below are Evergy Missouri West's proposed Current Annual FARs on 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, as substituted on January 18, 2023, and the Evergy Missouri West Current Annual FARs on 8th Revised Sheet No. 127.23 together with the changes between them for primary, secondary, substation, and transmission voltage service levels.

Evergy Missouri West Current Annual Fuel Adjustment Rate \$ per kWh			
Service	Proposed 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23	Now Effective 8th Revised Sheet No. 127.23	Difference
Secondary Large Power	0.00763	0.00739	0.00024 Increase
Secondary Non-Large Power	0.01348	0.01238	0.00110 Increase
Primary Large Power	0.00751	0.00728	0.00023 Increase
Primary Non-Large Power	0.01328	0.01220	0.00108 Increase
Substation Large Power	0.00742	0.00718	0.00024 Increase
Substation Non-Large Power	0.01310	0.01203	0.00107 Increase
Transmission Large Power	0.00740	0.00717	0.00023 Increase
Transmission Non-Large Power	0.01306	0.01200	0.00106 Increase

The proposed changes to FARs will result in an increase to the typical Evergy Missouri West residential customer's monthly bill (based on 1,000 kWh) before taxes of \$1.10, i.e. from \$12.38 to \$13.48.

In her direct testimony Ms. Starkebaum states:

Evergy Missouri West's Actual Net Energy Costs ("ANEC"), exceeds the base energy costs included in base rates by approximately \$107 million. When compared to the prior 30th accumulation period, the ANEC are \$70.7 million higher in the 31st accumulation period than the previous 30th accumulation period. This is due to a \$52.8 million, or 314%, increase in fuel costs and a \$49

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million, or 40%, increase in purchased power expense offset by a \$31 million increase in off-system sales revenue.

The 31st accumulation period of June through November typically has higher retail load requirements than the previous 30th accumulation period of December through May. Weather was 16% warmer than normal by 205 cooling degree days, resulting in a 10% increase in retail load demand over the 30th accumulation period. This contributed to more generation from peak units which were impacted by higher natural gas prices. For June through November 2022, the published NYMEX natural gas contract settlement price averaged \$7.59, which is 38% higher than the \$5.48 averaged in 30th accumulation period and 68% higher than the \$4.51 averaged for the same June through November time period in 2021, or the 29th accumulation period. Lastly, the higher natural gas prices contributed to the increase in off-system sales revenue.<sup>7</sup>

# **<u>PISA Deferrals Permitted Under Section 393.1400, RSMo, and Limitations On Rate</u>** <u>Modifications Permitted Under Section 393.1655, RSMo</u>

On December 31, 2018, Evergy Missouri West elected to make the deferrals set forth in

Section 393.1400.5 RSMo effective January 1, 2019 through, at least, December 31, 2023.

In her direct testimony Ms. Starkebaum states:

The Company performed the plant in service accounting ("PISA") calculations to determine the impact, if any, on the Average Overall Rate and Class Average Overall Rate for the Large Power customer class as set forth in section 393.1655 RSMo, rate cap limitations. Base revenues have been updated with the results from the Company's most recent 2022 general rate case (Case No. ER-2022-0130) as these amounts will be effective on March 1, 2023, with the effective date of the proposed FARs in this filing. The compound annual growth rate ("CAGR") cap provisions of section 393.1655 RSMo. applied to this FAR filing are 13.3372% for the average overall rate cap and 8.7474% for the class average overall rate cap for Large Power customers. The FAC charge proposed in this filing does exceed the average overall rate by more than 13.3372% allowed in the cap provisions. Therefore, the Company has removed \$47,898,201 from recovery through the FAC and has included this amount in a PISA regulatory asset for consideration in a future general rate proceeding.

In addition, the Company is using projected Large Power sales to calculate a Large Power FAC rate. In accordance with section 393.1655.6 RSMo., the proposed FAC charge applicable to large Power customers does exceed 8.7474% of the class average overall rate cap for this rate class. Therefore, the Company

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Evergy Missouri West witness Lisa A. Starkebaum, Direct Testimony, pg. 5 ln. 22 through pg. 6, ln. 16

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has limited the increase in the FAC charge applicable to Large Power customers to the 2 percent CAGR of the class average overall rate or \$13.7 million. The exceedance of the 2 percent CAGR cap results in \$1,439,335 being redistributed to the Non-Large Power customer classes for recovery in this filing.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Staff Review**

Staff reviewed Evergy Missouri West's proposed 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, as substituted on January 18, 2023, Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 127.23, the direct testimony of Evergy Missouri West witness Lisa A. Starkebaum and the work papers in this filing, in addition to Evergy Missouri West's monthly information reports filed in compliance with 20 CSR 4240-20.090(5) for AP31. Staff verified that the actual fuel and purchased power costs, less off-system sales revenues, match the fuel and purchased power costs, less off-system sales revenues, in Evergy Missouri West's proposed 9th Revised Tariff Sheet No. 127.23. Staff reviewed Evergy Missouri West's monthly interest rates that are applied to 95% of the jurisdictional monthly cumulative under-/over- recovery of base fuel and purchased power costs for AP31 and verified that the monthly interest rates and calculations of monthly interest amounts are correct.

The information filed with the proposed tariff sheet and work papers includes sufficient data to calculate Evergy Missouri West's FARs based on the actual fuel, purchased power, emission allowance and transmission costs net of off-system sales revenue and renewable energy credit revenue provided by Evergy Missouri West for AP31.

Attachment A includes three charts providing a summary of Evergy Missouri West's thirtyone (31) FAC rate adjustment filings. Chart 1 illustrates a) Evergy Missouri West's actual net energy cost, net base energy cost and under- (over-) recovery amounts for each accumulation period, and b) that there have been twenty-six (26) accumulation periods with under-recovered amounts and five (5) accumulation periods with over-recovered amounts (AP10, AP16, AP17, AP18, and AP26). Chart 2 illustrates Evergy Missouri West's FAC cumulative under-recovered amount at the end of each accumulation period with the cumulative under-recovered amount through AP31 of approximately \$525 million. Chart 3 illustrates Evergy Missouri West's FAC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Evergy Missouri West witness Lisa A. Starkebaum, Direct Testimony, pg. 7 ln. 4 through pg. 8, ln. 2

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cumulative under-recovered percentage at the end of each accumulation period with the cumulative under-recovered percentage through AP31 of approximately 15%.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff concludes that the tariff sheet, as substituted on January 18, 2023, complies with the Commission's *Report and Order* in Case No. ER-2018-0146, Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-20.090, Section 393.1400.5 RSMo, and Evergy Missouri West's FAC as embodied in its tariff.

Evergy Missouri West requested that the 9th Revised Tariff Sheet No. 127.23, as substituted on January 18, 2023, Canceling 8th Revised Tariff Sheet No. 127.23, become effective on March 1, 2023. Based on its examination and analysis of the information Evergy Missouri West filed and submitted in this case, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the following proposed revised tariff sheet take effect on March 1, 2023:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 1 9th Revised Sheet No. 127.23 Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 127.23

Staff has verified that Evergy Missouri West is not delinquent on any assessment and has filed its 2021 Annual Report. Evergy Missouri West is current on its submission of its Surveillance Monitoring reports as required in 20 CSR 4240-20.090(6) and its monthly reports as required by 20 CSR 4240-20.090(5). Except for Evergy Missouri West's RP28 true-up filing in File No. EO-2023-0206 (also filed on December 30, 2022), Staff is not aware of any other matter pending before the Commission that affects or is affected by this tariff filing. Staff's recommendation for the Current Period FARs is based solely on the accuracy of Evergy Missouri West's calculations, and is not indicative of the prudence of the fuel costs during AP31.





