

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Evergy)
Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy) Case No. ER-2026-0143
Missouri Metro's Request)
for Authority to Implement)
a General Rate Increase)
for Electric Service)

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING
VOLUME 1

JULY 14, 2026
6:00 P.M.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- PENN VALLEY
EDUCATION CENTER ROOM #019
3201 SOUTHWEST TRAFFICWAY
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111

JUDGE JOHN T. CLARK

COMMISSIONERS:

KAYLA HAHN, CHAIR
MAIDA COLEMAN
JOHN MITCHELL
GLENN KOLKMEYER

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* * * * *

(Starting time of the comments portion: 7:05 p.m.)

JUDGE CLARK: Okay, good evening. It is July 14th of 2026, and the current time is 7:05 p.m. Now, the question and answer portion of the public hearing has just ended. If you had questions about this rate case, I hope you were able to get answers to those.

The Missouri Public Service Commission has set this aside for a local public hearing in case number ER-2026-0143, a general rate case, which is captioned as In the Matter of Evergy Metro, Inc., Doing Business as Evergy Missouri Metro's Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Electric Service.

My name is John Clark. I'm a regulatory judge presiding over this hearing this evening. The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates charged by investor-owned utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and the safety of operations of investor-own utilities. Now, the Commission is made up of five commissioners, the chair of the

1 Commissioner -- the chair of the Commission,
2 Kayla Hahn, and commissioners, Maida Coleman,
3 Glenn Kolkmeyer and John Mitchell. The
4 commissioners are appointed by the governor to
5 fixed terms and are confirmed by the Senate.
6 The commissioners employ a staff of
7 engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial
8 analysts and other specialists in the area of
9 utility regulation.

10 With me tonight in person is Commissioner
11 John Mitchell, and present online and listening
12 to you are commissioners, Maida Coleman and the
13 chair of Commission Kayla Hahn. Commissioner
14 Mitchell, would you like to make an opening
15 remark?

16 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Sure, thank you,
17 Judge. Good evening, and welcome to tonight's
18 local public hearing. On behalf of all the
19 Commission, I would like to welcome you here.
20 My name is John Mitchell. I live here in
21 Kansas City, and like many of you, I am also an
22 Evergy customer. And as such, I am very
23 interested in your thoughts and opinions on
24 this matter. This is the first step in the
25 rate-making process, and it's a very important

1 step because it's the first time that we get to
2 hear directly from you. So, we are very
3 interested in your comments and thoughts, and
4 look forward to hearing your testimony.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
6 Mitchell. Now --

7 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge Clark, this
8 is Commissioner Kolkmeier. I'm --

9 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize, Commissioner
10 Kolkmeier.

11 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, I'm on here
12 as well.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. So all commissioners
14 listening tonight. As you may have heard, we
15 don't have a court reporter present. We had
16 some connection problems. Normally we would
17 have a court reporter for this, this is going
18 to be recorded, and it is going to be sent out
19 to be transcribed, so there will be a record of
20 this proceeding for the Commission to review.

21 I'm going to start by asking counsel for
22 the parties to enter their appearance for the
23 record, starting with Evergy Metro.

24 MR. BAILEY: Thank you, Judge. Cole
25 Bailey, counsel for Evergy, Metro. Kansas

1 City, MO, 64105.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Bailey. On
3 behalf of the staff of the Commission?

4 MR. CUNNEEN: Thank you, Judge. Ray
5 Cunneen, counsel for the staff of the
6 Commission. My address is 200 Madison Street,
7 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

8 JUDGE CLARK: On behavior of the Office of
9 the Public Counsel?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, chief
11 deputy public counsel. My information's in the
12 record.

13 JUDGE CLARK: And there a number of
14 intervenors. Are there any intervenors
15 present? I hear none and see no hands. Just to
16 point out, as we said, we have Public Counsel,
17 the Commission staff and the company, and just
18 so there's no confusion, these parties are
19 separate from the Commission, which is going to
20 be presiding over this.

21 Now, for those of you who would like to
22 provide comments today, I have, it looks like,
23 one, two, three, four, five people currently
24 signed up to offer comments to the Commission.
25 I will call your name in the order they appear.

1 When you come -- when I call your name, please
2 come up front to the microphone. At that
3 point, I will place you under oath, ask you to
4 state and spell your name for the record, and
5 then you can offer your comments to the
6 Commission.

7 Also, after you offered your comments,
8 please don't just turn on your heel and sit
9 down. Wait a few beats. If I have some
10 questions for you or if the commissioners have
11 questions for you or the attorneys have
12 question for you, those may be asked at that
13 time. Commissioners, feel free to ask your
14 questions at any time, and if any of the
15 attorneys from the parties have questions,
16 please raise your hand and I will call on you,
17 and we can see what question you're going to
18 ask.

19 The Commission -- the Commission will not
20 be able to answer your questions today. That's
21 what the question and answer portion was for,
22 it was for you to get answers from the parties
23 about this case. But the Commission can't
24 answer your question, and that's because they
25 have to remain impartial until after any

1 evidence is presented at an evidentiary
2 hearing. If you have questions about this case
3 that were not answered, please speak to
4 representatives of the company, the Commission
5 staff or the Office of the Public Counsel.

6 I'm also going to ask everybody to be
7 polite to each other. Don't cut each other off
8 and treat each other as you would like to be
9 treated. With that in mind, I'm going to call
10 the first name. Charlene Hansen?

11 (Charlene Hansen sworn.)

12 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and
13 spell your name?

14 MS. HANSEN: Charlene Hansen,
15 C-h-a-r-l-e-n-e, H-a-n-s-e-n.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, and what would
17 you like to tell the Commission this evening?

18 MS. HANSEN: Hi, my name is Charlene, and
19 I'm a life-long Kansas Cityian. I've been a
20 paying Evergy customer for eight years now. I
21 would start by thanking you commissioners for
22 holding this in person public hearing, and for
23 listening to how the rate increase will impact
24 our community members.

25 I'm a single mom to my

1 seven-and-a-half-year-old son, Josiah. I'm
2 also a full-time undergrad student at UMKC in
3 the School of Science and Engineering, and I
4 work about 30 hours a week at a winery in
5 Platte County. I am a former supporter
6 of Evergy. They had promised to retire the
7 Hawthorne Coal Plant, which omits dangerous air
8 pollution in our urban core. My son is
9 asthmatic, so putting an end to coal is a top
10 priority for me. The promise to retire Kansas
11 City's coal plant has been retracted in recent
12 years.

13 Evergy has also promised Kansas City a 500
14 megawatt solar array, that was supposed to be
15 near the Kansas City International Airport. It
16 would provide low cost electricity. This is
17 another promise that has not been fulfilled.
18 Investing in renewable energy should be a
19 priority for Evergy, instead they are here to
20 demand we pay even more for fossil fuels. I
21 personally believe that we have paid enough.
22 We pay medical bills for lung diseases caused
23 by burning fossil fuels. We pay large
24 insurance premiums to cover the risk of climate
25 change-fueled natural disasters caused by

1 fossil fuels. We pay higher food costs to
2 cover crop loss due to climate change, and we
3 are the lucky ones. There are coastal regions
4 that are losing their land due to climate
5 change. Extreme heat has become a top killer
6 worldwide due to climate change. And
7 hurricanes are becoming stronger, deadlier and
8 more frequent.

9 Society pays for all these damages caused
10 by the burning of fossil fuels, while the
11 polluters who cause them get richer. We were
12 told at the beginning of the evening that
13 Evergy is here to recover expenses that they
14 have covered. When did the people get to
15 recover expenses caused by climate change due
16 to the burning of fossil fuels?

17 Instead, we are being asked to pay even
18 more, so that polluters can continue to rake in
19 egregious profits. The Evergy CEO made 9 and a
20 half million dollars last year, while
21 Missourians struggled to make ends meet. I'm
22 sad to say that I'm one of those Missourians
23 struggling to make ends meet. I'm doing
24 everything in my power to build a good future
25 for my son. I work as much as possible while

1 going to school full time. And despite my
2 greatest efforts, we are always struggling.

3 I recognize that it is a privilege that I
4 am able to advocate for myself as well I am.
5 We receive nearly every social service
6 available. We have Medicaid to cover medical
7 costs. We receive food stamps that aren't
8 enough, but our local food pantry helps. I am
9 chronically behind on my Evergy bill, but I
10 have received a LIHEAP during the winter for
11 the last three years. And during the academic
12 year, I received a childcare subsidy to help
13 pay for my son's after-school program.

14 Despite receiving all these social
15 services, we are on the brink of homelessness a
16 couple of times a year. Simple things like
17 fluctuating scholarship amounts, getting into a
18 car accident, gas being \$4 a gallon for a
19 couple months there, a slow week or two at
20 work, all of these things have happened in the
21 last year and have threatened to send us onto
22 the streets. This is the reality as a single
23 mother trying to build a better life for her
24 son, yet Evergy is here asking us for more
25 money.

1 I am not unique in my inability to pay for
2 these rising costs. I know that I am
3 incredibly lucky. Nearly 34,000 Everygy
4 households have had electricity disconnected
5 last year, and I was not one of them.
6 Commissioners, you can help my electricity stay
7 on by denying the requested rate increase.
8 Thank you.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Hansen.

10 MS. HANSEN: Are there any questions?

11 JUDGE CLARK: Only one occurs to me. You
12 said 34,000 were disconnected last year?

13 MS. HANSEN: Yeah, it was something like
14 33,800 and some change.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Where did you get that
16 information from?

17 MS. HANSEN: I can pull it for you, yeah.

18 JUDGE CLARK: I was just curious if you
19 knew off the top of your head.

20 MS. HANSEN: Not off the top of my head,
21 but I can meet with you afterwards and share
22 the source for that. The disconnection rates
23 are made available online.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Okay.

25 MS. HANSEN: But, yeah, I can share that

1 with you if you'd like.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Hansen.

3 MS. HANSEN: Thank you.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Damien Muller. Would you
5 please raise your right hand to be sworn?

6 (Damien Muller sworn.)

7 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and
8 spell your name for the record?

9 MR. MULLER: It's Damien, D-a-m-i-e-n,
10 Muller, M-u-l-l-e-r.

11 JUDGE CLARK: What comments do you have
12 for the Commission this evening?

13 MR. MULLER: A couple of these items have
14 partly been addressed during the question,
15 answer session, but I'll do -- in the interest
16 of time, I'll just read my statement and be as
17 brief as possible. I scanned over some
18 documents, like case number ER-2024-0189,
19 tariff number JE-2024-0110, regarding the
20 Crossroads SPP project, which shows -- which
21 shows "proceeded" in September of 2025. The
22 timeline for the PSC decision by the end of
23 2025 and the PSC decision in January 2026 do
24 not challenge the SPP rate charges.

25 I also perused some public comments

1 reported regarding the rate increase, as well
2 as general stock analysis over the last several
3 years. Earnings per share and total
4 shareholder return have grown in the last
5 several years post-pandemic. Given that the
6 PSC is governed by Missouri FAC statute,
7 perhaps the PSC needs to request the FAC
8 statute be modified to allow a different split,
9 rather than the current 95/5 percent.

10 While the OPC recommendation of a 75/25
11 split could be punitive in nature and set a
12 problematic precedent the statute might be
13 modified with the provision for it to be
14 changed. There may be some additional
15 information that gives extra insight as to why
16 Evergy is requesting this increase of
17 15 percent, but with the exception of your 2009
18 increase listed on your rate-history website,
19 this request is the largest in your 25-year
20 history. I believe this much of an increase
21 would be problematic, especially for those
22 considered in a 2012 suggested low income rate
23 class file number GW-2013-0046, and file number
24 EW -- EW-2013-0045, from September 2012,
25 containing the then KCPL Response.

1 It is bad enough with all that has
2 happened in last several years with the Jackson
3 County property tax fiasco where thousands of
4 residents had their taxes doubled, and just a
5 couple months ago, where another increase in
6 KCMO water rates was close to 10 percent, with
7 an overall increase of over 200 percent since
8 2000, as discussed in the April '17 KCPT Water
9 Rates and Rivers' video.

10 While Evergy's request had nothing to do
11 with these other entities, nor can they control
12 external factors, they need to understand the
13 position a 15-percent increase would place on
14 residents already in financial jeopardy, places
15 an additional undue burden on large segments of
16 the customer base. It is possible some
17 increase may be required, but most likely, not
18 this sharp increase. As a main point of
19 interest, as referenced as to what a company
20 can do to stabilize their positions, I'll use
21 the example of Ford Motor Company.

22 In 2006, they did a smart thing: they
23 suspended dividends for at least a year or more
24 to help keep the company viable. They took no
25 federal bailout money, weathered the economic

1 volatility at the time, continuing that same
2 idea of corporate integrity I maintain Evergy
3 needs to follow Ford's example and suspend
4 dividends for a year, so -- which should
5 provide plenty money to accomplish any
6 necessarily capital transfer costs, reclaim
7 funds not covered by the charge and carry out
8 any other required provisions or changes
9 requested by the PSC.

10 If a bastion of American auto
11 manufacturing can do it, survive and come out
12 stronger, than there should be no reason,
13 unless not allowed by regulatory process,
14 cannot (sic) do the same thing and ease the
15 burden placed on customers.

16 The question is if the CEO, senior
17 management and the board of directors have the
18 fortitude do a reasonable thing. Since
19 Citizens United appears to consider a company
20 similar to an individual, Evergy should only
21 receive a COLA increase, similar to what any of
22 us here in the room would receive as part of
23 our Social Security and security payment of
24 2 percent. Thank you for your time.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Muller. I

1 appreciate your comments. Bear with me just a
2 moment, and I apologize if I butcher your name,
3 Kari VanMeveren. You are just fine, if you'll
4 just come up to the microphone, I will swear
5 you in and if you can -- then I'll have you
6 state and spell your name.

7 (Kerri VanMeveren sworn.)

8 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and
9 spell your name for the record?

10 MS. VANMEVEREN: Sure, it's Kerri
11 VanMeveren. K-e-r-r-i, VanMeveren, V, as in
12 Victory, a-n, as in Nancy, Capital M,
13 e-v-e-r-e-n.

14 JUDGE CLARK: And Ms. VanEveren? Meveren?

15 MS. VANMEVEREN: VanMeveren.

16 JUDGE CLARK: VanMeveran.

17 MS. VANMEVEREN: It's been mispronounced
18 my entire life, so you're good.

19 JUDGE CLARK: What comments do you have
20 for the Commission this even?

21 MS. VANMEVEREN: This will be brief,
22 because I think I've -- pretty much every one
23 knows my position. I think really what I want
24 to really emphasize, particularly in response
25 to -- to be fair, he probably didn't have

1 enough time to fully address my question at the
2 end there; but the fact that there is still a
3 focus on the coal and other things that are not
4 really renewable energy, you know. Yes,
5 there's the wind, but I really -- I didn't hear
6 really a commitment to renewable energies. And
7 thank you four for the research that you did,
8 because that was wonderful, and I did not know
9 that. I think there's more research to be
10 done, as citizens, to really become more aware.

11 I would really like to see more emphasis
12 on pushing -- pushing is the wrong word.
13 Emphasis for encouragement for renewable
14 resources, so that consumers have more control
15 over their energy costs, right? When we are
16 given incentives through Evergy, we are
17 constrained by who they will approve for us to
18 use as contractors, and I will tell you as
19 somebody who lives in a rural area, that is
20 extremely difficult for us, okay? Our options
21 are very limited, and especially the further
22 rural you get it, okay?

23 And then we are subject to, how should I
24 say this, contractors that we are not always
25 pleased with and were basically stuck with who

1 we're allowed to use in order to get the
2 intended benefits that Evergy is offering,
3 right? And I apologize for the sound earlier,
4 I was trying to pull up, because you asked for
5 sources, and I'm going to try to offer this,
6 because this is specific for Cass County, and I
7 can give you the source, specific to Cass
8 County. 30 percent of the citizens in Cass
9 County are 55-plus. 11.8 percent of the
10 citizens are veterans. 11.6 percent households
11 live 200 percent below the poverty -- the
12 federal poverty level. The 19.3 percent,
13 excuse me, trying to read this, of households
14 of having housing costs greater than 30 percent
15 of their income. Was trying to read this,
16 10.34 percent of households make less than
17 25,000, and an average income per individual is
18 38 -- 39,000.

19 This is actually data that I got in
20 conjunction working with the University of
21 Missouri Center for Applied Research,
22 specifically. Now, this data is a couple years
23 older, just to be fair, okay, but the
24 demographics have not changed drastically for
25 Cass County in those two years.

1 I, basically, my testimony here is I would
2 just like for you to really emphasize the
3 importance for consumers to have a little more
4 control over the costs that are incurred. The,
5 you know, I appreciate Dave's reaching out and
6 offering to, you know, try to be as transparent
7 as possible, you know. However, transparency
8 is key. Without transparency, we just -- we
9 have darkness in government, and we really need
10 to have -- ensure that there is checks
11 and balances, so that the citizens -- I think,
12 you know, I asked the question about why my
13 neighbor, who also wanted to come, Darvin here,
14 who lives near in my area, couldn't come
15 because she didn't feel healthwise she could.

16 I happened to see a random post on social
17 media, and the post did not have the Zoom link,
18 so I assume that, because it didn't have the
19 PSC, which I didn't know until today, that it
20 was an Evergy meeting, right? So, I went to
21 the Evergy website, and there was no link, no
22 reference to this meeting that I could find.
23 Now, I didn't spend, you know, an inordinate
24 amount of time, but so my neighbor, you know,
25 I'm hopeful that I can get the information,

1 share that with her, so she can participate at
2 least to see that on Zoom.

3 What I'm saying is I think that there is,
4 you know, the response I was given, well, this
5 is a PSC meeting. Well, this is also an Evergy
6 meeting, right, because this benefits Evergy as
7 well when there is a commission that approves
8 the rate increase. So, I would want to
9 think Evergy would want to be more transparent
10 in pushing that out there. I think the
11 evidence of the fact that we don't have a room
12 full of citizens here to talk about the
13 concerns is evident that not enough people know
14 what's happening, right?

15 Not everybody comes to meetings, I get
16 that, but I'd think there's just not enough
17 awareness, so I really like to encourage you to
18 push more transparency, and, again, control
19 for, again, renewable resources and things that
20 the consumers can have more over the costs they
21 are incurring in their homes. That's it.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I'll get to you
23 in just a second, Mr. Williams. Did you
24 receive notice of this meeting in -- with your
25 bill?

1 MS. VANMEVEREN: I went back and looked
2 after that, and, yes, I did. I did. And as I
3 mentioned, you know, we are in a time of
4 complete information overload right now. So, I
5 own that absolutely, but honestly, it -- I'm
6 struggling. My business has been failing for
7 the past two years because of the decision of
8 the current administration, and so I am
9 struggling as well. And, you know, I'm
10 frustrated by the fact that when we are trying
11 to maintain some sense of control over our
12 future, that we are continually met with policy
13 decisions that we basically have no ability to
14 affect change, right?

15 And we're expected to somehow figure it
16 out. And that's why we -- you know, we are --
17 we're, you know, seeing negative impacts that
18 our economy, and that's a conversation for
19 another day. But my point is that I really
20 would encourage the commissioners to look at
21 the fact that when we are offered incentives,
22 okay, it's kind of like I'll give you an
23 example: so living out in a rural area, when
24 internet providers get a tax credit to come out
25 to rural areas, okay, Cleveland, Missouri, a

1 town of 600 people, when Spectrum comes through
2 and they get to put -- go down Main Street, all
3 of Main Street, okay, post-office, a couple of
4 little shops and the Dollar Tree store, okay,
5 they get to put a pin on the map saying that
6 they're in Cleveland, Missouri, but you fail to
7 know that they didn't go down the streets of
8 those residents and none of them have access.
9 Not none, I shouldn't say none. Very few of
10 them have access to that internet carrier.

11 So, when we like to talk about being able
12 to provide service, it's not service just in
13 the dot that you put on the map. It's the
14 dot -- it's the coverage to everybody, making
15 it an equitable option for everybody, right?
16 The fact that when we're out in the rural
17 areas, and when we're trying to get service for
18 things, whether it be solar panels or access to
19 renewable energies and things like that, our
20 options, the further rural you get, are not
21 there. We should not be subject to the same
22 constrictions that people in the city, who can
23 call up a dozen different contractors for the
24 same service. We just don't get that. You
25 might get somebody but you don't want them,

1 right?

2 So, my point is that, you know, I get the
3 reason why they're trying to protect -- they
4 think they're trying to protect the consumer,
5 but there's a lot of small businesses out there
6 that can do the work. It's just no different
7 than when you have a car accident, and if you
8 don't go through their approved provider, then
9 you are subject to all these other conditions
10 in order to even to get your coverages covered,
11 you know, your damage covered, right?

12 So, all I'm saying is, at the end of the
13 day, allow the consumer to have more control,
14 right? And not be penalized for having that
15 control to maintain their own home and the cost
16 that it takes to maintain their home.
17 That's -- that's pretty much it. And, again, I
18 also would like to see a continued push for the
19 renewable energies. It's damaging to our
20 environment. I could probably overload you
21 with a whole bunch of statistics on that. I
22 don't think you guys need that. You can go and
23 find that out for yourself, but the data is
24 already out there. We know about it. So, I
25 would encourage that to be a direction you guys

1 continue to work with Evergy on.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Public Counsel has a
3 question?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I think not at this point.
5 I think what I was going to ask has been
6 addressed.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you,
8 Mr. Williams. And thank you for your comments.

9 MS. VANMEVEREN: Okay.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Therese?

11 MS. THENE: Thene.

12 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry, can you say that
13 again?

14 MS. THENE: Thene.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thene?

16 MS. THENE: Thene, yeah, with an N.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Thene?

18 MS. THENE: Yeah.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, I apologize.

20 MS. THENE: It's all right.

21 (Annie Thene sworn.)

22 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and
23 spell your name for the record?

24 MS. THENE: Annie Thene, A-n-n-i-e,
25 T-h-e-n-e.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.

2 MS. THENE: All right, good evening, you
3 guys. I wanted to thank you for your time as
4 commissioners here listening to the residents
5 that this increase will affect. I am a
6 full-time student and an employee, and I wanted
7 to share my opposition to the rate increase
8 proposed by Evergy. Housing is already
9 unaffordable for locals as it is, between a
10 rise in grocery prices, gas, rent, and now
11 further increase in utilities. It is nearly
12 impossible to make ends meet for many Kansas
13 City residents.

14 I currently live with a roommate, because
15 it is unfeasible to live alone, and it is still
16 difficult to make ends meet. I am currently
17 working two jobs with no benefits, along with
18 full-time school, and I find that this is a
19 shared struggling amongst many of my peers. My
20 roommate and my boyfriend work six days a week
21 and couldn't make it tonight due to their
22 inability to take time off of work.

23 People are tired, and many citizens will
24 not have the opportunity to speak in a setting
25 like this and have their voices heard, and yet,

1 they're still going to feel the backlash of
2 this increase. And like you said before, I
3 think, that it was kind of hard to find out
4 about. I had a friend tell me about this
5 meeting tonight, and that's the reason I'm
6 here. And with the rising costs and the lack
7 of raising wages, it is extremely difficult to
8 have enough money to pay bills on time.
9 Especially, for people that are struggling to
10 make ends meet -- make ends meet. The
11 services, I feel, from Evergy have not been
12 improving, and I haven't seen very renewable
13 resources be a priority. And I do not like the
14 idea of my hardworking money going directly
15 towards further pollution of our environment,
16 when there are sustainable options that we
17 could be funneling this money into.

18 And there are sustainable options proven
19 to reduce fuel costs in the long run, such as
20 solar and wind power. I would like to see more
21 money be funneled into those things. It seems
22 to be kind of a low priority for Evergy. And,
23 yeah, with that said, I appreciate your guy's
24 time and I hope we're able to convey just how
25 dire the situation is for the residents. And I

1 personally don't see why there is any valid
2 reason to continue to increase the rates for
3 citizens. Thank you.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments,
5 Ms. Thene. Hold on just a second. Public
6 Counsel has a question for you. Mr. Williams?

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Just one quick one: are you
8 an Evergy customer?

9 MS. THENE: Yes. Yes, I am.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Or use their electricity?

11 MS. THENE: Yes.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.
13 Lucy Corkenmeyer? Okay, you don't to want
14 speak? All right, those are all the names that
15 I had written down for comments to the
16 Commission. Hold on just a second. Are you
17 getting me that source, is -- okay. If you
18 want to go ahead and come back up, I'll go
19 ahead and take that down.

20 MS. HANSEN: So, you can find this online.
21 The Annual Residential Customer Disconnection
22 Report, which was published by the Public
23 Service Commission of the State of Missouri.
24 On page 15, you can find electricity
25 terminations, and they break it into the

1 different service providers, so.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I knew we put
3 that information out there. I wondered if you
4 had gotten it from there or some place else.

5 MS. HANSEN: Yes, that's where I found it,
6 and then I just tallied it up.

7 JUDGE CLARK: All right. Thank you.

8 MS. HANSEN: Thank you.

9 JUDGE CLARK: As I started to indicate,
10 those are -- that was the last name I had down
11 to speak. We've had a variety of issues
12 brought to the Commission's attention tonight.
13 If you haven't had an opportunity to offer
14 comments to the Commission, and you have an
15 issue that was not addressed tonight by another
16 speaker, if you would like to speak now, I'm
17 more than happy to take your comments. Is
18 there anybody with additional issues that have
19 not been addressed? Sir? If you would raise
20 your right hand to be sworn.

21 (John Rich sworn.)

22 JUDGE CLARK: And would you state and
23 spell your name for the record.

24 MR. RICH: My name is John Rich, J-o-h-n,
25 R-i-c-h. I am the CEO of Mid America

1 Assistance Coalition here in Kansas City.
2 We're a nonprofit. I am emphasize -- empathize
3 with the comments of folks trying to make ends
4 meet. I've been a CEO of Mid America
5 Assistance Coalition for 20 years now. I know
6 the difficulties that people are experiencing,
7 and it isn't getting any better. We
8 provide energy assistance services coordination
9 with over 100 agent -- nonprofit agencies in
10 Kansas City, and we also provide LIHEAP, the
11 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
12 services for Jackson, Clay and Platte. We're
13 the largest LIHEAP provider in the state of
14 Missouri.

15 I have to say that without our great
16 partnership with the company, we could not
17 provide that. We provide almost 20,000
18 households with energy assistance in -- in this
19 past year. Our agency also manages Evergy's
20 Dollar Aid Program, which is a private --
21 privately funded program by Evergy, and we have
22 about 41 agencies that have access to those
23 funds in our system that we provide to the
24 agencies. So, that is a provision that would
25 otherwise not be available if it weren't

1 for Evergy.

2 We work very closely with the folks at
3 the Evergy Connect center. Our LIHEAP outreach
4 person meets over there with them weekly, and
5 we have quarterly events that bring in over 500
6 applications per event at the Connect center.
7 So, we have a very, very good working
8 relationship with Evergy, and I just wanted to
9 make a record known that Evergy is doing things
10 in the community that -- that help a lot of
11 people. We help thousands of people every year
12 help make them ends meet, and we couldn't do it
13 without the help of Evergy.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you, Mr. Rich.
15 Thank you for your comments. Are you also
16 an Evergy customer?

17 MR. RICH: Yes, I am. I've been an Evergy
18 customer for over 30 years.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you very much.
20 Are there any other issues at this time that
21 anyone would like to make the Commission aware
22 of. That would be fine. Please come up to the
23 microphone.

24 (Kodi Baker-Wise sworn.)

25 JUDGE CLARK: And would you please state

1 and spell your name for the record?

2 MS. BAKER-WISE: My name is Kodi
3 Baker-Wise, K-o-d-i, and then Baker, hyphen,
4 Wise. B-a-k-e-r, hyphen, W-i-s-e.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Hyphen, w --

6 MS. BAKER-WISE: I-s-e.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. And what would you
8 like to tell the Commission this evening?

9 MS. BAKER-WISE: All right, so I wanted to
10 say that I am opposed to the rate increase. I
11 wanted to start by saying that I agree with
12 every other opposition to the rate increase
13 that was voiced tonight, emphasizing that this
14 is a shared sentiment among Missouri residents.

15 Evergy, according to themselves, already
16 provides reliable power. They brought up this
17 stat about 30,000 people's power being restored
18 in 24 hours. I've not heard one peer complain
19 about Evergy's efficiency, but I, myself, and
20 many others are struggling to keep up with
21 electricity bills, specifically Evergy. I'm an
22 Evergy customer.

23 In the hallway, there are Evergy reps
24 advertising energy assistance programs. They
25 know that we are struggling to pay these bills,

1 and they are still asking for more money.
2 Besides that, I also wanted to emphasize the
3 need for clean energy. I'm an environmental
4 science student at UMKC, so it's something I'm
5 very passionate about it. And as a KC
6 resident, I want the best for other KC
7 residents. They can continue to invest in
8 fossil fuels while lying to us. The Hawthorne
9 Coal Plant should have been shut down, and it
10 wasn't. I, myself, am asthmatic, and even if I
11 wasn't, everyone deserves clean air.

12 They mention having a mix of energy
13 earlier, making it sound like a balance mixed,
14 but I've actually gone and looked through,
15 like, investor portfolios for them in different
16 stuff; and if you look at their pie charts,
17 available through Evergy, fossil fuels are the
18 largest part of the pie. Even adding like all
19 their renewables together, it isn't even
20 comparable. And if you look at their plans for
21 the future, they actually plan on decreasing
22 the amount of certain renewable energy like
23 nuclear. They plan on decreasing that over
24 time, and that is the cleanest, most efficient
25 form of energy to my knowledge.

1 The last thing I wanted to add is they
2 mentioned data centers, and how in Missouri
3 they're going to be paying their fair share of
4 this, like, increased power need; but they
5 should be paying way more than that. They
6 shouldn't be here in the first place and
7 working class people should not be paying for
8 the power to go to them. Thank you.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.
10 Come on up, please.

11 (Shellie Rodgers sworn.)

12 JUDGE CLARK: And would you please state
13 and spell your name for the record.

14 MS. RODGERS: Shellie Rodgers,
15 S-h-e-l-l-i-e, R-o-d-g-e-r-s.

16 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to
17 tell the Commission?

18 MS. RODGERS: So, my biggest concern is,
19 aside from the data centers, and even if they
20 are paying for themselves, why are we as the
21 customer needing to pay for the upgrades and
22 such? That -- part of doing business and
23 upgrading, why is that falling onto us? I
24 don't know if you guys can answer or not, but
25 that's one of my questions. And then I -- we

1 have number four coming up ahead, and if that
2 passes, or actually if it's number five with
3 the taxes, I just -- to me, I feel like we're
4 already working class people, and people who
5 are on fixed incomes are already struggling and
6 services keep getting slashed year after year.
7 What guarantee is there that people are going
8 to be able to have the utilities coming into
9 their house without gettings shut offs?

10 And I just -- I don't know. It feels like
11 everything is going to the ridge and making the
12 poor people pay for. What's the profit
13 of Evergy, you know? Why are we as customers
14 paying when there is a profit? Shouldn't the
15 upgrades come from the profit instead of from
16 us? So, thank you.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Okay.

18 MS. RODGERS: Is there --

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.
20 You asked a lot of questions. As I indicated
21 earlier, the Commission can't answer
22 questions today, in they have to stay neutral
23 until after an evidentiary hearing. However,
24 the company, the commission staff, the Office
25 of the Public Counsel, they are available to

1 take your questions and you're welcome to ask
2 them questions if you have them. So, I would
3 try contacting them outside of this hearing to
4 ask that.

5 MS. RODGERS: Thank you.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.
7 Is there anybody with issues that were not
8 addressed by other speakers? Okay, I hear
9 none. I'd like to thank everyone who
10 came today and offered your testimony. If you
11 have additional comments or someone could not
12 be present who wanted to offer comments, I
13 believe one of you indicated that you had
14 friends that were unavailable to make it
15 tonight. That doesn't mean that they can't
16 offer comments to the commissioner. You can
17 offer written comments at the e-mail address
18 PSC Info at p-s-c, dot, mo, dot, gov. By
19 contacting the Office of the Public Counsel.
20 They've been very gracious about seeing that
21 comments get to the Commission. Or by going to
22 the PSC's webpage, which has a section that
23 explains how to offer public comments. If you
24 do, you do need to know the case number of the
25 case. In this case, it's ER-2026-0143.

1 Commissioner Mitchell, would you like to
2 make any closing remarks?

3 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Sure, thank you,
4 Judge. We -- the entire Commission would like
5 to thank you for taking time out of your busy
6 day to join the hearing this evening and to
7 share your testimony. I think hearing from the
8 public and hearing directly from you helps the
9 commissioners make the fairest decisions that
10 they possible can, so it's important that
11 you're here, and we appreciate that you are
12 here. If -- if you do know people who were
13 unable to attend, please convey to them that
14 there are additional hearings. There's one in
15 Marshal tomorrow. There's also two online
16 public hearings on Thursday, one at noontime
17 and one at 6:00 o'clock. And we can provide
18 the information in the links to those meetings
19 as well, and they're also published on the
20 Commissioner's website. So, if you do know
21 folks that were unable to attend that you
22 believe would have additional testimony,
23 please -- please let them know that those
24 options are available.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner

1 Mitchell. Thank you to the other commissioners
2 who listened in this evening. I'm going to
3 adjourn this hearing now and go off the record.
4 Thank you all for showing up tonight to offer
5 your comments and get home safely.

6 (Ending time of the hearing: 8:14 p.m.)
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1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of
2 Missouri do hereby certify that the witness
3 whose testimony appears in the foregoing
4 Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;
5 that the testimony of the said witness was
6 taken by me to the best of my ability and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
8 direction; that I am neither counsel for,
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties
10 to the action in which this examination was
11 taken, and further that I am not relative or
12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by
13 the parties thereto, nor financially or
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of the
15 action.

16 Colin Wallis

17 within and for the State of Missouri
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