

1 JUDGE CLARK: All right. Let's go on the
2 record.

3 Good evening. It's July 16th of 2026 and
4 the current time is 6:25 p.m.

5 Now, the question-and-answer portion of
6 the hearing just ended. If you had questions
7 about this rate case, I hope you were able to get
8 some answers.

9 What we are going to start now is the
10 more formal portion of the hearing where comments
11 are offered to the Commission.

12 And as I indicated before going on the
13 record, there is a court reporter here and that's
14 to preserve the comments for the Commission to
15 review.

16 Now, Missouri Public Commission --
17 Missouri Public Service Commission has set aside
18 this time today for a virtual public hearing in
19 Case Number ER-2026-0143, which is a general rate
20 case captioned as In the Matter of Evergy Metro
21 Incorporated, doing business as Evergy Missouri
22 Metro's Request for Authority to Implement a
23 General Rate Increase for Electric Service.

24 My name is John Clark, and I am the
25 regulatory judge presiding over this hearing this

1 evening.

2 Now, the Missouri Public Service
3 Commission regulates the rates charged by
4 investor-owned utility companies in Missouri to
5 assure -- ensure that those rates are just and
6 reasonable.

7 The Commission also regulates the quality
8 of service and the safety of operations of
9 investor-owned utilities.

10 Now, the Commission is made up of five
11 commissioners. The Chair of the Commission Kayla
12 Hahn, and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glen
13 Kolkmeier, and John Mitchell. One Commission seat
14 is currently vacant.

15 The commissioners are appointed by the
16 Governor to fixed terms and can run by the Senate.

17 Now, the commissioners employ a staff of
18 engineers, attorney, financial analysts, and other
19 specialists in the area of utility regulation.

20 Now, with me today I believe are the
21 Chair of the Commission Kayla Hahn, and
22 Commissioners Maida Kolkmeier -- Maida Coleman,
23 Glen Kolkmeier, and I don't know if Commissioner
24 Mitchell is present at this time.

25 Chair Hahn --

1 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I am present.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Commissioner
3 Mitchell is here as well. Thank you, Commissioner
4 Mitchell.

5 Chair Hahn, would you like to make any
6 opening remarks?

7 CHAIR HAHN: Of course. Thank you, Judge.

8 I just want to welcome everyone here
9 tonight on behalf of the entire Commission. We
10 are thankful that you are giving of your time this
11 evening to help inform us of your thoughts about
12 this case. We look forward to hearing your
13 testimony.

14 Thank you.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chair Hahn.

16 As I indicated before, we have a court
17 reporter present taking down everything that's
18 being said so the Commission can review that
19 later.

20 I am going to ask counsel for the parties
21 that are present to enter their appearance for the
22 record at this time, starting with Evergy Missouri
23 Metro.

24 MR. BAILEY: Thank you, Judge. Can you hear
25 me?

1 JUDGE CLARK: I can.

2 MR. BAILEY: Thanks.

3 Cole Bailey for Evergy Missouri Metro,
4 1200 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64105.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Bailey.

6 On behalf of Commission staff.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge Clark.

8 This is Tracy Johnson representing staff
9 of the Commission. My information is in the
10 record and also in a direct chat to the court
11 reporter.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Miss Johnson.

13 On behalf of the Office of Public
14 Counsel.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy
16 Public Counsel, appearing on behalf of the Office
17 of Public Counsel. My information is already in
18 the record.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Williams.

20 There are a number of intervenors in this
21 case. Are there any intervenors present this
22 evening?

23 I hear none.

24 Now, for those who would like to provide
25 comments today, and I am just going to say I have

1 not received, usually there's a sign-up sheet, at
2 this point there's nobody who has signed up to
3 offer comments to the Commission, but if you do
4 want to offer comments to the Commission, I am
5 going to give you an opportunity to do so at that
6 time.

7 If you are participating via telephone,
8 you want to unmute by pressing star 6. And if you
9 are participating via computer or tablet, you
10 should have a button to unmute you.

11 Also, if you give comments to the
12 Commission, when you are finished, before muting
13 yourself, hold on just a second, because myself,
14 the commissioners, or the attorneys may have a
15 question for you.

16 If the commissioners have a question,
17 please chime in at anytime. If any of the
18 attorneys have questions, please get my attention
19 by digitally raising your hand and I will call on
20 you.

21 Now, the Commission will not be able to
22 answer any of your questions today and that's
23 because they have to remain impartial until after
24 evidence is presented at any evidentiary hearing.

25 If you have questions about this case

1 that were not answered in the Q and A, speak to
2 the representatives of the company, the Commission
3 staff, or the Office of the Public Counsel.

4 Also, be polite and courteous to everyone
5 speaking here today, and treat others as you wish
6 to be treated.

7 Now, there is some -- there is some
8 customer service information for Evergy Metro that
9 is going to be available in the chat. I will also
10 refer that at the end.

11 I am going to ask at this time, is there
12 anybody present who would like to offer comments
13 to the Commission about this rate case?

14 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Judge, if I would be
15 permitted to do so.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Is it Mr. Patterson?

17 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
19 to be sworn.

20 (Mr. Morgan Patterson was duly sworn.)

21 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell
22 your name for the record.

23 MR. PATTERSON: Morgan Patterson.

24 M-O-R-G-A-N. Last name P-A-T-T-E-R-S-O-N.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Patterson.

1 Now, what would you like to tell the
2 Commission this evening?

3 MR. PATTERSON: Would it be possible to hold
4 for comments?

5 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry, I'm am not sure I
6 understand you.

7 MR. PATTERSON: Sorry. I was under the
8 impression that there would be a time for
9 testimony, so I was hoping to participate in that.

10 JUDGE CLARK: This is that time. By
11 "testimony," I mean offer comments about this rate
12 case to the Commission. That's what we are
13 referring to as testimony.

14 So if you have comments you would like to
15 offer to the Commission, all of the commissioners
16 are here listening and I am sure they would like
17 to hear your comments. But if that's not what you
18 had in mind, let me know.

19 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Will this be the only
20 opportunity to speak going forward in this case?

21 JUDGE CLARK: This is the last local public
22 hearing that is going to be held in this case
23 either virtually or in person. There's still an
24 opportunity to offer comments to the Commission,
25 written comments, and as far as I know, there's no

1 closing date for that, so any time up until the
2 evidentiary hearing. But this is the only
3 opportunity that you'll have at a local public
4 hearing to directly verbally address the
5 Commission.

6 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. If I can get a moment
7 to look at the documents I have, just a few
8 seconds.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, that's absolutely fine.
10 Just remember, this is a comment hearing and not
11 an evidentiary hearing.

12 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Thank you, Judge.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Let me know when you are ready,
14 Mr. Patterson.

15 And while Mr. Patterson is preparing, is
16 there anybody else at this time who knows they
17 would like to offer comments to the commissioners?

18 I hear none at this time.

19 And I am going to tell you,
20 Mr. Patterson, this is more of an informal thing.

21 MR. PATTERSON: Understood.

22 Thank you, Judge. I will begin now.

23 Understanding this is more of an informal
24 thing, I will just speak my mind on the issue and
25 leave it at that.

1 So, I want to start with the number that
2 the OPC put in front of you tonight. So, Evergy
3 is asking for 140.4 million, or a 15.19 percent
4 increase with an average bill going up about 17.70
5 a month.

6 That's not the same thing Evergy led with
7 in February. This case has already grown.

8 And the return Evergy is asking for, 7.65
9 percent overall is meaningfully above the 6.68
10 percent the Office of Public Counsel says is fair.

11 I got to rounding here, it's the
12 difference between what keeps the lights on and
13 what type of profit margin. I'd ask you to sit
14 with why Evergy needs more than its own rate payor
15 advocate says is reasonable.

16 I also want to flag something specific in
17 the OPC's handout. They are opposing 51.2 million
18 of Evergy's transmission and distribution spending
19 because Evergy hasn't shown it was cost effective.
20 That's not an environmental group or an
21 out-of-state critic saying that. That's the state
22 agency whose entire job is representing me,
23 telling you Evergy hasn't done its homework on
24 half the infrastructure asked. I'd ask you to
25 weigh that heavily.

1 On the human side, the Kansas City Metro
2 logged more utility assistance calls to 211 than
3 any other region in Missouri.

4 And Evergy itself reported over 35,000
5 disconnections in a single recent year, with close
6 to 1 in 5 customers in this exact service
7 territory behind on their bill.

8 Evergy's own materials tonight tell you
9 they secured \$25 million in payment assistance
10 last year and worked face-to-face with 66,000
11 struggling customers. I don't doubt that's true,
12 but needing to run that scale of emergency
13 assistance program is itself the evidence, it's an
14 admission that a lot of your neighbors already
15 can't keep up with what they are being charged
16 before this increase is even approved.

17 So here's what I am saying specifically
18 asking you to do:

19 First, adopt the OPC's recommended 6.68
20 percent rate of return instead of what Evergy is
21 asking and hold Evergy to actually group into
22 \$51.2 million in grid spending was cost effective
23 before any of us pay for it.

24 Second, use this case to start the low
25 income rate class which Missouri's own Office of

1 Public Counsel has stated is urgently needed. The
2 law opened that door last year and nobody has
3 walked through it yet.

4 Third, make sure any political or trade
5 association dues bearing this request, the kind
6 the Commission staff found in 2015 primarily
7 benefit the company, not customers, are pulled out
8 before customers pay a dime of it.

9 Evergy will tell you their rates dropped
10 2.2 percent since 2017 and that they are not
11 asking data centers to be subsidized by
12 residential customers.

13 I take that claim seriously and I would
14 ask that it be verified, not just accepted,
15 because the customers on the other end of the 211
16 call don't experience a slower rate of increase as
17 relief. They experience whatever this bill
18 actually is next month.

19 Thank you for your time and thank you,
20 your Honor.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments,
22 Mr. Patterson. Those were very well organized and
23 well said.

24 Is there anybody else who would like to
25 offer comments to the Commission this evening?

1 Okay. I hear no one.

2 You get one other opportunity. Is there
3 anyone who would like to offer comments to the
4 Commission?

5 With that in mind, Commissioner
6 Kolkmeier, would you like to offer any closing
7 remarks this evening?

8 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, thank you,
9 Judge.

10 Mr. Patterson, thank you for your
11 comments this evening. They were very
12 enlightening. We will definitely take those under
13 advisement.

14 So with that, have a good evening.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Kolkmeier.

17 I would like to thank everybody who
18 showed up today, even if you didn't offer
19 testimony, to take an interest in this rate case.

20 If you have additional comments,
21 Mr. Patterson, or if any of you have comments that
22 you realize later that you would have liked to
23 have made but did not get to make or you're
24 talking to friends and they say, hey, I have some
25 comments about this case, you can still make

1 those.

2 As I indicated earlier, you can make
3 written comments by contacting the e-mail address
4 pscinfo@psc.mo.gov, by contacting the Office of
5 the Public Counsel, they've been very gracious
6 about getting comments to us, or going to the
7 PSC's web page, and on that web page you will find
8 a link to comment on cases.

9 If you are going to comment on this rate
10 case, you will need to know the case number, which
11 is ER-2026-0143.

12 If you have questions -- as I indicated
13 earlier, if you have questions that have not been
14 answered, you can reach out to Evergy Metro
15 customer service and there is a number for Evergy
16 Metro customer service in the chat.

17 Again, thank you all. I will now adjourn
18 this hearing and we will go off the record.

19 (The hearing concluded at 6:42 p.m.)
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1 I, PAMELA S. MORGAN, Certified Shorthand
2 Reporter in the State of Illinois, do hereby
3 certify the above Missouri Public Service
4 Commission hearing was recorded stenographically
5 by me and was reduced to typewritten form by means
6 of Computer-Aided Transcription.

7 I further certify that the foregoing
8 transcript is a true, correct, and complete record
9 of the testimony given and of all proceedings had
10 before me.

11 I further certify that I am not a
12 relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of
13 the parties, nor financially interested directly
14 or indirectly in this action.

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18 PAMELA S. MORGAN, C.S.R. 084-001687
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