

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
 Dwight D. Keen
 Annie Kuether

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., Evergy Kansas)
South, Inc., and Evergy Metro, Inc. for) Docket No. 23-EKCE-775-RTS
Approval to Make Certain Changes in their)
Charges for Electric Service.)

**ORDER ADOPTING STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVING
EVERGY’S APPLICATION TO UPDATE ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM
RIDER**

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed the pleadings and record, the Commission makes the following findings:

1. On April 25, 2023, Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., Evergy Kansas South, Inc., (collectively Evergy Central) and Evergy Metro, Inc. (Evergy Metro) filed a Joint Application to make certain changes in its charges for electric service.

2. After nine days of negotiation, on September 29, 2023, the Parties filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Unanimous Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement). Among the major elements of the settlement:

- Evergy Central will receive a base rate revenue requirement increase of \$148.8 million (11.75%), or net increase of \$74 million (3.54%), including rate case expense which can be amortized over three years;¹

¹ Unanimous Settlement Agreement, Sept. 29, 2023, ¶ 9.

- Evergy Metro will receive a base revenue requirement decrease of \$22 million (3.89%), or net overall reduction of \$32.9 million (4.53%), including rate case expense which can be amortized over three years;²
- Evergy Central is authorized to use 6.8923% as its overall rate of return for regulatory accounting purposes,³ and Evergy Metro is authorized to use 6.8881% as its overall rate of return for regulatory accounting purposes;⁴
- Persimmon Creek Wind Farm will be recovered by Evergy Central through a levelized revenue requirement approach;⁵
- The revenue requirement associated with Evergy Central's 8% interest in Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC) is included in Evergy Central's base rates;⁶
- Evergy Central will credit its customers \$96,530,380 after being grossed up for income taxes from the Company Owned Life Insurance (COLI). This credit will be paid to Evergy Central customers and amortized over three years, or \$32,176,793 per year;⁷
- For Evergy Metro, an average of 4 Coincident Peak (CP) and 12 CP demand allocators will be used for allocating capacity-related generation and transmission plant costs between Missouri and Kansas jurisdiction for everything but Wolf Creek and transmission, which will be based on a 12 CP demand allocator;⁸

² *Id.*, ¶ 58.

³ *Id.*, ¶ 21.

⁴ *Id.*, ¶ 60.

⁵ *Id.*, ¶ 11.

⁶ *Id.*, ¶ 16.

⁷ *Id.*, ¶ 18.

⁸ *Id.*, ¶ 62.

- Both Evergy Central and Evergy Metro are authorized a 9.4% ROE for use in their Transmission Delivery Charge (TDC);⁹
- The customer charge for all residential customer classes is \$14.25;¹⁰
- Evergy’s pilot Time of Use (TOU) rate will be converted into a permanent voluntary rate with other changes to make Central’s and Metro’s TOU rates consistent with each other;¹¹
- Every Central’s Residential Electric Vehicle Rate, Restricted Peak Management, and Residential Peak Efficiency Rate should be replaced by the new EKC Residential Demand Service Rate;¹²
- Evergy’s residential battery energy storage (RBES) pilot will be adopted;¹³ and
- Evergy Central may file an abbreviated rate case to update rates to include: (1) Panasonic Related Distribution Investment; (2) Wolf Creek Decommissioning Trust Adjustment; and (3) investment in a new renewable generating resource to address 2024-2026 resource requirements as supported by Evergy’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).¹⁴

3. HF Sinclair, Streetlights Coalition, Walmart, Atmos, and Kansas Gas Service are not signatories to the Settlement Agreement, but did not object to the Settlement.¹⁵ Therefore, pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-230a, the Settlement Agreement is considered a “unanimous settlement agreement.”

⁹ *Id.*, ¶¶ 21, 60.

¹⁰ *Id.*, ¶¶ 38, 77.

¹¹ *Id.*, ¶¶ 42, 78.

¹² *Id.*, ¶ 46.

¹³ *Id.*, ¶¶ 50, 86.

¹⁴ *Id.*, ¶ 55.

¹⁵ *Id.*, p. 2.

4. On October 9, 2023, the Commission held a hearing on the proposed Unanimous Settlement Agreement.

5. On November 21, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Approving Unanimous Settlement Agreement.

6. On November 4, 2024, Evergy filed an updated Renewable Energy Program Rider (RENEW) tariff, updating the Renewable Energy Charge pricing, and proposing two additional, minor changes to the tariff language.

7. On January 3, 2025, Commission Staff filed its Report and Recommendation recommending approval of Evergy Kansas Central's proposed changes to its RENEW tariff. Staff explains that the annual rates are decreasing from \$0.00378 per kWh to \$0.00255 per kWh for the renewable energy charge and that the administrative charge of \$0.00010 per kWh remains unchanged.¹⁶ Staff advises that it verified the data used by Evergy to determine the new rates and agrees that the data is reasonable and should be used to set the 2025 RENEW rates.¹⁷

8. Additionally, Staff supports the revised tariff language because it clarifies the current minimum usage and billing increments, and corrects a typographical error in the tariff.¹⁸ The first revision amends the written formula used to calculate the final billed amount to be consistent with another tariff provision specifying customers are restricted to selecting subscriptions in 10% increments.¹⁹ Staff believes that the first revision will not adversely affect customers.²⁰ The second revision involves the annual update and notification process. Currently, under the tariff customers are notified of pricing updates in November and December. The revised

¹⁶ Staff Report and Recommendation, Jan. 3, 2025, p. 1.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*, p. 2.

²⁰ *Id.*

language would replace the “and” with “or”. Staff agrees with Evergy that it is redundant and unnecessary to inform customers of pricing changes in two back-to-back months and that the original intent was always to inform customers of the changes in one month or the other.²¹

9. No responses to Staff’s Report and Recommendation were filed.

10. The Commission agrees with Staff’s recommendation. Accordingly, the Commission adopts Staff’s uncontested recommendation to approve Evergy’s proposed changes to the rates and tariff language in the RENEW tariff.

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. Staff’s recommendation to approve Evergy’s proposed changes to the rates and tariff language in the RENEW tariff is adopted.

B. The parties have 15 days from the date of electronic service of this Order to petition for reconsideration.²²

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 01/23/2025



Lynn M. Retz
Executive Director

BGF

²¹ *Id.*

²² K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-EKCE-775-RTS

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of electronic service on 01/23/2025.

JOSEPH R. ASTRAB, ATTORNEY
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
joseph.astrab@ks.gov

DAVID BANKS, CEM, CEP
FLINT HILLS ENERGY CONSULTANT
117 S PARKRIDGE
WICHITA, KS 67209
david@fheconsultants.net

DOROTHY BARNETT
CLIMATE & ENERGY PROJECT
PO BOX 1858
HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-1858
barnett@climateandenergy.org

SHELLY M BASS, SENIOR ATTORNEY
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
5430 LBJ FREEWAY
1800 THREE LINCOLN CENTRE
DALLAS, TX 75240
shelly.bass@atmosenergy.com

MELISSA M. BUHRIG, EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT, GEN.
COUNSEL & SECRETARY
CVR REFINING CVL, LLC
2277 Plaza Dr., Ste. 500
Sugar Land, TX 77479
mmbuhrig@cvrenergy.com

DANIEL J BULLER, ATTORNEY
FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP
7500 COLLEGE BOULEVARD, STE 1400
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66201-4041
dbuller@foulston.com

GLEND A CAFER, ATTORNEY
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY
800 SW JACKSON
SUITE 1310
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1216
gcafer@morrislaing.com

FRANK A. CARO, JR., ATTORNEY
POLSINELLI PC
900 W 48TH PLACE STE 900
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112
fcaro@polsinelli.com

DEREK S. CASEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON, LLC
2959 N. Rock Road, Suite 300
Wichita, KS 67226
dscasey@twgfirm.com

JOHN B. COFFMAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW
JOHN B. COFFMAN
871 Tuxedo Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63119
john@johncoffman.net

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-EKCE-775-RTS

PAUL T. DAVIS
PAUL DAVIS LAW FIRM, LLC
932 Massachusetts St.
Suite 301
Lawrence, KS 66044
pdavis@pauldavislawfirm.com

CATHRYN J. DINGES, SR DIRECTOR & REGULATORY
AFFAIRS COUNSEL
EVERGY KANSAS CENTRAL, INC
818 S KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
cathy.dinges@evergy.com

ABIGAIL EMERY, PARALEGAL & GRANT SPECIALIST
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
abigail.emery@ks.gov

BRIAN G. FEDOTIN, GENERAL COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
brian.fedotin@ks.gov

JAMES G. FLAHERTY, ATTORNEY
ANDERSON & BYRD, L.L.P.
216 S HICKORY
PO BOX 17
OTTAWA, KS 66067-0017
jflaherty@andersonbyrd.com

JUSTIN GRADY, CHIEF OF REVENUE REQUIREMENTS,
COST OF SERVICE & FINANCE
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
justin.grady@ks.gov

JASON T GRAY, ATTORNEY
DUNCAN & ALLEN
1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
jtg@duncanallen.com

ASHOK GUPTA, EXPERT
NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
20 N WACKER DRIVE SUITE 1600
CHICAGO, IL 60606
agupta@nrdc.org

ROBERT HORTON III
TITUS LAW FIRM, LLC
7304 W. 130th St.
Suite 190
Overland Park, KS 66213
trey@tituslawkc.com

DARRIN R. IVES, V.P. REGULATORY AFFAIRS
EVERGY METRO, INC
D/B/A EVERGY KANSAS METRO
One Kansas City Place
1200 Main St., 19th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105
darrin.ives@evergy.com

ANDRIA JACKSON, DEPUTY CHIEF OF REVENUE REQ.,
COST OF SERVICE & FINANCE
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
andria.jackson@ks.gov

JARED R. JEVONS, ATTORNEY
POL SINELLI PC
900 W 48TH PLACE STE 900
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112
jjevons@polsinelli.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-EKCE-775-RTS

RONALD A. KLOTE, DIRECTOR, REGULATORY AFFAIRS
EVERGY METRO, INC
D/B/A EVERGY KANSAS METRO
ONE KANSAS CITY PLACE
1200 MAIN, 19TH FLOOR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
ronald.klote@evergy.com

KEVIN K. LACHANCE, CONTRACT LAW ATTORNEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ADMIN & CIVIL LAW DIVISION
OFFICE OF STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE
FORT RILEY, KS 66442
kevin.k.lachance.civ@army.mil

AHSAN LATIF, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
ahsan.latif@ks.gov

TIMOTHY J LAUGHLIN, ATTORNEY
SCHOONOVER & MORIARTY, LLC
130 N. CHERRY STREET, STE 300
OLATHE, KS 66061
tlaughlin@schoonoverlawfirm.com

DAN LAWRENCE, GENERAL COUNSEL - USD 259
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 259
903 S EDGEMOOR RM 113
WICHITA, KS 67218
dlawrence@usd259.net

TODD E. LOVE, ATTORNEY
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
todd.love@ks.gov

RITA LOWE, PARALEGAL
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY CHTD
300 N MEAD STE 200
WICHITA, KS 67202-2745
rlowe@morrislaing.com

KRISTINA LUKE-FRY, MANAGING AUDITOR
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
kristina.luke-fry@ks.gov

CARLY MASENTHIN, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
carly.masenthin@ks.gov

KACEY S MAYES, ATTORNEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON, LLC
2959 N ROCK RD STE 300
WICHITA, KS 67226
ksmayes@twgfirm.com

TIMOTHY E. MCKEE, ATTORNEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON, LLC
2959 N ROCK RD STE 300
WICHITA, KS 67226
temckee@twgfirm.com

JOHN J. MCNUTT, GENERAL ATTORNEY
U.S. ARMY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY
REGULATORY LAW OFFICE
9275 GUNSTON RD., STE. 1300
FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060-5546
john.j.mcnutt.civ@army.mil

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-EKCE-775-RTS

TIM OPITZ
OPITZ LAW FIRM, LLC
308 E. HIGH STREET
SUITE B101
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
tim.opitz@opitzlawfirm.com

SARAH C. OTTO
FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP
7500 COLLEGE BOULEVARD, STE 1400
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66201-4041
sotto@foulston.com

SHONDA RABB
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
shonda.rabb@ks.gov

DELLA SMITH
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
della.smith@ks.gov

VALERIE SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY
800 SW JACKSON
SUITE 1310
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1216
vsmith@morrislaing.com

LEE M SMITHYMAN, ATTORNEY
FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP
7500 COLLEGE BOULEVARD, STE 1400
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66201-4041
lsmithyman@foulston.com

CONNOR A THOMPSON, ATTORNEY
FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP
7500 COLLEGE BOULEVARD, STE 1400
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66201-4041
cthompson@foulston.com

ROBERT R. TITUS
TITUS LAW FIRM, LLC
7304 W. 130th St.
Suite 190
Overland Park, KS 66213
rob@tituslawkc.com

ROBERT E. VINCENT, MANAGING ATTORNEY
KANSAS GAS SERVICE, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC.
7421 W. 129TH STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213
robert.vincent@onegas.com

C. EDWARD WATSON, ATTORNEY
FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP
1551 N. Waterfront Parkway
Suite 100
Wichita, KS 67206
cewatson@foulston.com

LESLIE R WINES, SR EXECUTIVE ADMIN ASSISTANT
EVERGY METRO, INC
D/B/A EVERGY KANSAS METRO
One Kansas City Place
1200 Main St., 19th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105
leslie.wines@evergy.com

TREVOR WOHLFORD, ATTORNEY
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY
800 SW JACKSON
SUITE 1310
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1216
twohlford@morrislaing.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-EKCE-775-RTS

WILL B. WOHLFORD, ATTORNEY
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY CHTD
300 N MEAD STE 200
WICHITA, KS 67202-2745
wwohlford@morrisolaing.com

JAMES P ZAKOURA, ATTORNEY
FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP
7500 COLLEGE BOULEVARD, STE 1400
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66201-4041
jzakoura@foulston.com

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