

3. Staff requested no further information from Evergy regarding this matter. The information referred to by Staff in Footnote 29 of its R&R (NERC FAC-003-03) was obtained from NERC's website at: <https://www.nerc.com/files/FAC-003-3.pdf>. The copy of Complainant's Easement Conveyance was obtained from the Complainant's June 18, 2010, Complaint in Docket No. 10-KCPE-809-COM.

4. Staff also notes that the responses to Data Request 10 were labeled by Evergy as “Confidential” on the basis of trade secret. Therefore, Staff is providing the request itself but redacting the response.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits the requested information.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Michael Neeley

Michael Neeley, KS Bar #25027
Senior Litigation Counsel
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd.
Topeka, KS 66604
Ph: 785-271-3173
Fax: 785-271-3167
m.neeley@kcc.ks.gov

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:1

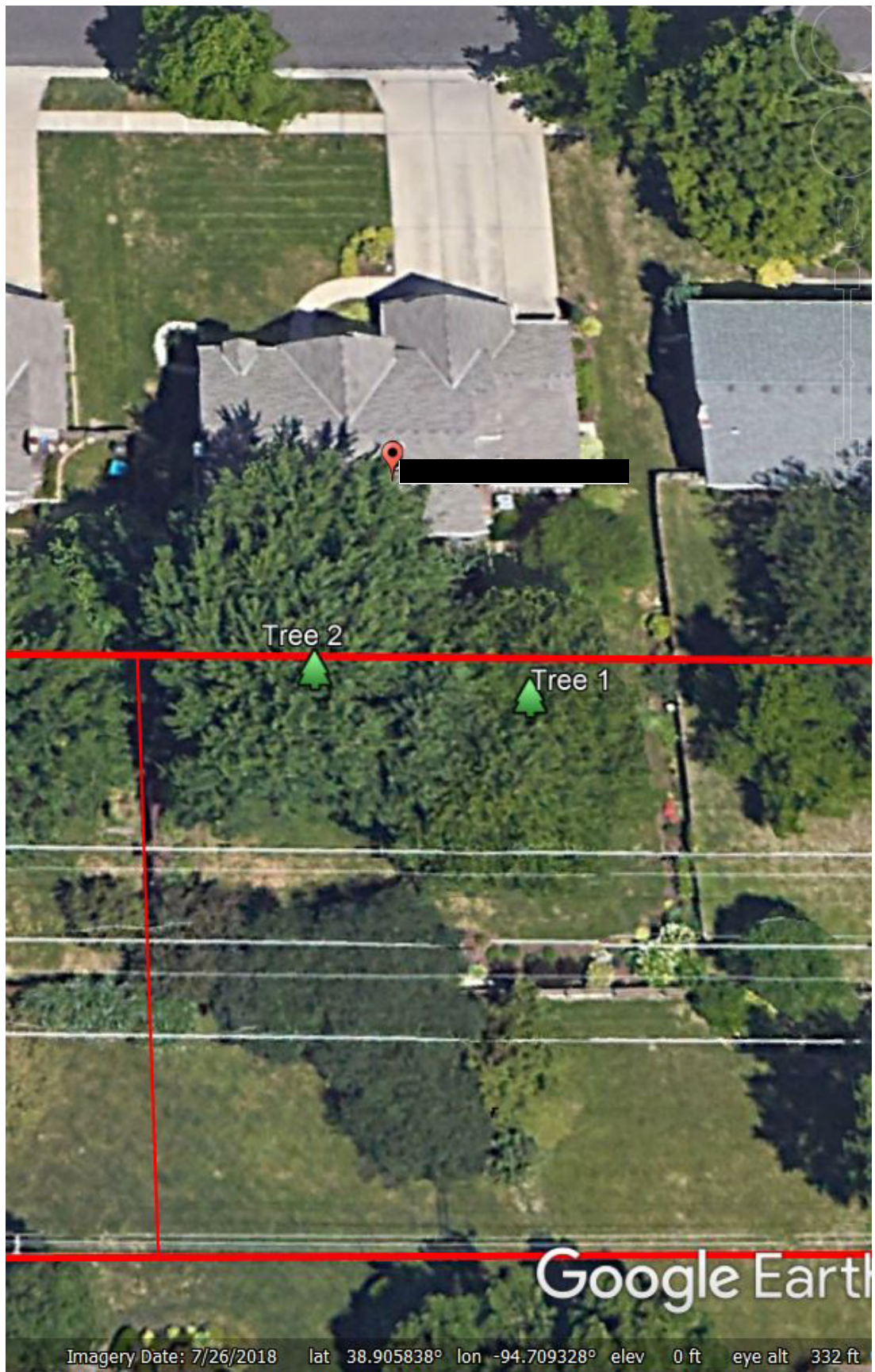
Please provide an aerial picture of the residence at [REDACTED] Overland Park, KS. Overlay on the picture the 161 kV transmission line, the limits of the Right of Way, and the location of the two trees in the backyard.

Response:

See photo below.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q1_Verification.pdf



Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
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Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:2

Please provide any pics (electronic format, please) showing before and after the tree trimming in September 2019 at [REDACTED] Overland Park, KS.

Response:

Evergy does not have before pictures of the two trees trimmed at this site.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q2_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:3

What distance does Evergy Kansas Metro trim vegetation from 161 kV transmission lines?

Response:

Generally, trimming and/or removing trees near a 161kV line is performed based on the rights granted by an easement and involve completely removing incompatible vegetation from that easement. However, Evergy Kansas Metro understands that in some situations, shade trees located on the easement in residential areas are important to property owners/customers for various reasons, so complete removal of such trees is performed on a case by case basis. When such a tree is not to be cut to the ground, it will be trimmed to achieve such a clearance that it will not broach a distance from the line that is deemed dangerous to those climbing and/or working in the tree before the next time Evergy decides to trim that tree again. In a residential situation, Evergy plans to trim a given tree once every four years. To achieve that requirement, 25 feet to the side of the line for trees to the side of the wire and at least 20 feet below the wire where the tree is under the wire is minimum. Evergy also prefers that VM contractors make proper cuts when trimming a tree therefore, instances occur where the tree structure and growth pattern require trimming to a distance inside or outside of those minimums.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q3_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:4

- a. Does Evergy Kansas Metro remove trees that are in the right of way?
- b. What is the criteria to determine if a tree is removed or trimmed?

Response:

- a. Yes. Most of Evergy Kansas Metro's transmission system is erected on easements that grant the right to remove vegetation at any time
- b. No two situations are the same so various criteria is used to determine whether a tree is removed or trimmed. That criteria includes but is not limited to land use, proximity to the wire, structures, and/or guy wires, location on the easement, cost comparison between trimming and removing, budgetary considerations, property owner consent/refusal and accessibility.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q4_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:5

According to the easement provided in 10-KCPE-809-COM, the ROW is 100 feet wide. Is this correct, and has the easement width ever changed?

Response:

Evergy agrees that the easement states the ROW is 100 feet wide. The easement width has not changed.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q5_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:6

When was the 161 kV transmission line constructed?

Response:

This section of Evergy's 161kV system connects the Olathe Substation to the Switzer Substation and was originally constructed in the early 1960s.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q6_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:7

When a tree trimming door hanger is placed on a customer's door, is the doorbell normally rang?

Response:

When a doorhanger is placed on a property owner's door, the doorbell may or may not be rung. Evergy does not have a specific requirement to ring the doorbell.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q7_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:8

In the Complaint, the property owner states that Thorne Tree used expletives in response to a question to provide a copy of their arborist certification. Has Evergy verified this account, and what was the resolution?

Response:

Evergy does not condone the use of foul or inappropriate language by contractors while performing tasks for the company, especially during conversation with property owners.

Evergy cannot confirm that an employee of Thorne Tree Service used expletives when responding to the property owner's question.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q8_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200612
Date of Response: 6/23/2020

Question:9

Is the Vegetation Management Manual made available to the general public?

Response:

Because Evergy relies on easement language to perform work on the ROW as necessary, a guideline document does not exist for vegetation management on the transmission system; therefore, one is not available for the general public.

Response provided by: Geoffrey Vossen, Distribution Vegetation

Attachment: Q9_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: 2020 Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200811
Date of Response: 8/19/2020

Question:10

- A. Please provide a copy of Evergy's vegetation management policy and guidelines as referenced in Evergy's Motion to Dismiss paragraph 3.
- B. Please provide a copy of the Transmission Maintenance Procedures (or strategies) as required by NERC standard FAC-003-3 paragraph B-R3.

Response:

Please consider this response as **CONFIDENTIAL** as it contains information concerning trade secrets, as well as private, technical, financial and business information.

- A. Attached file is an internal document that contains Evergy Transmission Vegetation Management information and guidance- EVERGY_MA_FAC003_P.01-Trans_Veg_Mgmt_Program_2020-01-01 CONFIDENTIAL
- B. Attached file contains Transmission Maintenance Procedures (or strategies)- EVERGY_MA_FAC003_P.01-Trans_Veg_Mgmt_Program_2020-01-01 CONFIDENTIAL

Attachments:

Q10_CONFIDENTIAL_EVERGY_MA_FAC003_P.01-Trans_Veg_Mgmt_Program_2020-01-01.pdf
Q10_Verification.pdf

Evergy Kansas Metro
Case Name: 2020 Flohrs Complaint
Case Number: 20-EKME-397-COM

Response to Stringer Tim Interrogatories - KCC_20200811
Date of Response: 8/19/2020

Question:11

A. How many times has Mr. Flohrs trees' been trimmed or inspected since the line was built?

Response:

- A. Prior to 2008, knowledge of events, inspection or trimming, cannot be found. Since 2008, the entire transmission system in Kansas Metro, which is where Mr. Flohrs' trees are found, has been inspected at least once annually. The span that Mr. Flohrs' property is located, has been targeted for trimming as result of annual inspection each year from 2018-2020, therefore, at least one of his two large mature trees has been identified to be trimmed each of those years.

Attachment: Q11_Verification.pdf

From: [Tim Stringer](#)
To: [Michael Neeley](#)
Subject: FW: Tree trimming question per 8-5-2020 voice message
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 11:47:00 AM

Tim Stringer
Energy Engineer
Phone (785) 271-3135

From: James Ferneau <james.ferneau@evergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Tim Stringer <t.stringer@kcc.ks.gov>
Subject: RE: Tree trimming question per 8-5-2020 voice message

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. Think before clicking a link or opening attachments.

Internal Use Only

Tim,
I wanted to let you know that our Vegetation Management Manager did not have any adds to the response below from your question on Transmission tree trimming.
Jim

From: James Ferneau
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:30 AM
To: Tim Stringer <t.stringer@kcc.ks.gov>
Subject: Tree trimming question per 8-5-2020 voice message

Internal Use Only

Tim,
This is what I learned regarding your question about notification to customers when there is trimming around Company Transmission Lines in someone's backyard. Our Vegetation Management Manager is out this week, but I will verify these facts with him that I have gathered and then and see if there is a written procedure in place to cover the scenarios as well.

Communicating our work along transmission lines can happen in a variety of different ways. There is no single procedure that applies to all situations. In some instances our inspector visits each site and attempts to personally contact property owners. If that isn't possible a door hanger is generally left. In other instances, we expect the vendor awarded the work to perform customer/landowner notifications. This could take the form of a letter, door hanger, or in person visits, or a combination of any of the above.

Regards,
Jim

Jim Ferneau
Evergy
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
(816) 556-2532
James.ferneau@evergy.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

20-EKME-397-COM

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Staff's Redacted Response to Complainant's Request for Documents was served via electronic service this 14th day of September, 2020, to the following:

CATHY DINGES, ATTORNEY
EVERGY METRO, INC
D/B/A EVERGY KANSAS METRO
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST
19TH FLOOR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
Fax: 816-556-2110
cathy.dinges@evergy.com

LAUREN LAUSHMAN, OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
ATTORNEY
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
Fax: 785-271-3354
l.laushman@kcc.ks.gov

WILLIAM J FLOHRS
WILLIAM J. FLOHRS
10633 W 123RD STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213
bflohrs@yahoo.com

ROBERT J. HACK, LEAD REGULATORY COUNSEL
EVERGY METRO, INC
D/B/A EVERGY KANSAS METRO
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST
19TH FLOOR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
Fax: 816-556-2787
rob.hack@evergy.com

MICHAEL NEELEY, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
Fax: 785-271-3167
m.neeley@kcc.ks.gov



Ann Murphy