

BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of Evergy Kansas Central, Inc.'s)
and Evergy Metro, Inc.'s Request for Authority)
to Implement Proposed Forward Natural Gas)
and Power Hedging Policy and to Permit All) Docket No. 23-EKCE-846-TAR
Costs and Benefits to Flow Through Retail)
Energy Cost Adjustment Tariff)

**PETITION TO INTERVENE AND MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER,
DISCOVERY ORDER AND ORDER ASSESSING COST**

COMES NOW, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") and petitions the Corporation Commission of the State of the Kansas ("Commission") for intervention in the above-captioned case pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1223 and K.S.A. 77-521(a). In support of its petition and motion, CURB states and alleges as follows:

1. On May 26, 2023, Evergy Kansas Metro, Inc. ("Evergy Kansas Metro"), Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy Kansas South, Inc. (together as "Evergy Kansas Central") (collectively, "Evergy") filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission for an order approving Evergy's request for authority to implement its proposed Forward Natural Gas and Power Hedging Policy ("Hedge Program") and to permit all costs and benefits to flow through Evergy Kansas Central's Retail Energy Cost Adjustment ("RECA") tariff and Evergy Kansas Metro's Energy Cost Adjustment ("ECA") tariff to its retail customers.

2. CURB is composed of five volunteer board members.¹

3. CURB has specific statutory authority to "represent residential and small commercial

¹K.S.A. 66-1222(a).

ratepayers before the state corporation commission”² and to “function as an *official intervenor in cases* filed with the state corporation commission.”³ CURB’s authority and role as the official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission has been recognized by the Kansas Supreme Court.⁴ CURB also has specific statutory authority to seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers.⁵

4. CURB’s express statutory authority referenced above reflects the intent of the Legislature that CURB should participate in cases filed with the Commission. This fulfills the requirement under K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2) because CURB “qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law.”

5. The residential and small commercial ratepayers whose interests CURB represents will be bound by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding. The rates paid and the services received by residential and small commercial ratepayers may be substantially affected by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding with respect to Evergy’s proposed tariff changes related to the Hedge Program, as described in its application.

6. The representation of CURB’s interests in this proceeding by existing parties is inadequate. No other party to this proceeding is authorized to (a) specifically represent residential and small commercial ratepayers before the Commission, (b) function as the statutory official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission, or (c) seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers. While Commission Staff may

² K.S.A. 66-1223(a).

³ K.S.A. 66-1223(b).

⁴ K.S.A. 66-1223(b). See, *Citizens’ Utility Ratepayer Board v. Kansas Corporation Comm’n*, 24 Kan. App.2d 63, 68, rev. den. 262 Kan. 959 (1997) (“*CURB v. KCC*”). See also, *Farmland Industries, Inc. v. Kansas Corp. Comm’n*, 29 Kan.App.2d 1031, 1047-48, 37 P.3d 640 (2001) (“The bulk of current customers otherwise entitled to receive refunds are *statutorily represented* by CURB. See K.S.A. 66-1223(a)”)

⁵ K.S.A. 66-1223.

have authority to investigate, evaluate, testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public* pursuant to a definition contained in a Commission regulation,⁶ Staff does not specifically represent residential and small commercial ratepayers and is expressly denied the right to appeal Commission orders.⁷

7. Accordingly, CURB has a substantial and vital interest in the outcome of this proceeding which cannot be adequately represented by any other party. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2), CURB qualifies as an intervenor (a) under provision of law and (b) because the rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of residential and small commercial ratepayers may be substantially affected by this proceeding.⁸

8. CURB's requested intervention is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings.⁹

9. CURB therefore requests that the Commission grant CURB's Petition to Intervene and allow CURB to participate fully in this docket, including but not limited to the right to conduct discovery, file pleadings and testimony, present oral argument, and fully participate in any scheduled hearings.

10. In addition to undersigned counsel, please include the following CURB representatives with all electronic notices, pleadings, and correspondence regarding this Application as follows:

⁶ Staff's authority to represent the general public is not specifically authorized by statute, but merely referenced in the definition section of Commission regulations. K.A.R. 82-1-204(q) ("Technical staff may conduct investigations and otherwise evaluate issues raised, and may testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public*." (emphasis added).

⁷ K.A.R. 82-1-204(i)(3).

⁸ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2).

⁹ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(3).

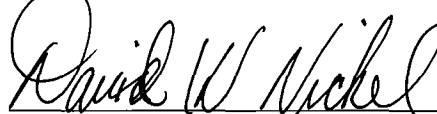
Shonda Rabb
Public Service Administrator
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Email: s.rabb@curb.kansas.gov

Della Smith
Senior Administrative Specialist
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Email: d.smith@curb.kansas.gov

11. Discovery responses may contain confidential information. CURB is requesting the Commission issue a Protective Order and Discovery Order in this docket to allow CURB and its consultant access to the full information contained in this filing. CURB is requesting an Order Assessing Cost in this docket.

WHEREFORE, CURB respectfully requests the Commission grant its Petition for Intervention and Motion for Protective Order, Discovery Order and Order Assessing Cost in this Docket.

Respectfully submitted,

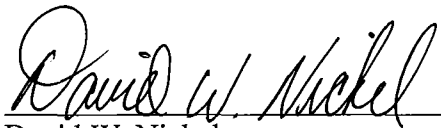


David W. Nickel, Consumer Counsel #11170
Todd E. Love, Attorney #13445
Joseph R. Astrab, Attorney #26414
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 271-3200
d.nickel@curb.kansas.gov
t.love@curb.kansas.gov
j.astrab@curb.kansas.gov

VERIFICATION

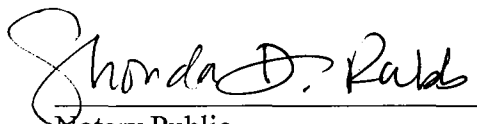
STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)

I, David W. Nickel, of lawful age and being first duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am an attorney for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board; that I have read and am familiar with the above and foregoing document and attest that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



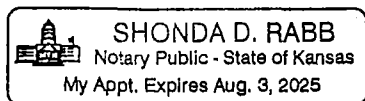
David W. Nickel

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 2nd day of June, 2023.



Notary Public

My Commission expires: 08-03-2025.



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

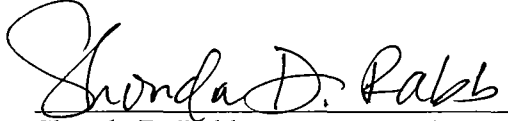
23-EKCE-846-TAR

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 2nd day of June, 2023, to the following:

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

WALKER HENDRIX
LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION
COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
w.hendrix@kcc.ks.gov

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


Shonda D. Rabb
Public Service Administrator