BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Triennial Compliance Docket for the Integrated Resource Plan of Evergy Central, Inc. & Evergy Kansas Metro, Inc. Pursuant to the Commission's Order in Docket No. 19-KCPE-096-CPL.	)))))	Docket No. 24-EKCE-387-CPL

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE NEW ENERGY ECONOMICS

COMES NOW, the Council for the New Energy Economics ("NEE") and respectfully submits the attached Comments regarding the 2025 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") Annual Update filing of Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., Evergy Kansas South, Inc., and Evergy Kansas Metro, Inc. (collectively, "Evergy") in the above-captioned proceeding.

1. NEE is a non-profit organization committed to helping utilities and energy decision-makers navigate rapidly evolving utility industry economics using neutral data and analysis. NEE's mission is to present stakeholders and decision-makers with complex utility system modeling analysis to assist in determining the most cost-effective path forward for the deployment of energy resources. NEE has consistently participated in Evergy's IRP proceedings since 2020, and pursuant to the Commission's Order Opening Docket, is a party to this proceeding.

2. Upon review of Evergy's Annual Update filing, NEE has identified the following deficiencies and proposed remedies:

Deficiency	Proposed Remedy
Capital Cost Assumptions – Cost Scenario Approach	Evergy should update the approach to capital cost scenario weighting to reflect the higher likelihood of base and high scenarios.

New Wind Resource Costs	Evergy should provide clarity around its approach to new wind build assumptions, and consider a broader use of submitted bids to include those with lower capacity factors and all COD submissions.
Consideration of Hybrid Resources	Evergy should utilize RFP bids to derive paired solar and storage resource options that will likely create lower cost portfolios.
Fuel Cost Forecasts	Evergy should update natural gas price forecasts and raise the risk weighting of high-case gas price scenarios.
Modeling of Thermal Ownership Options	Evergy should model a wider variety of ownership structures when considering new thermal plants.
Incorporation of Large Load in the IRP Process	a. Evergy's IRP should address fair fuel cost allocation that considers which customers' new loads may be causing increased fuel costs; b. The Commission should require Evergy to include specific information about new and existing large load in future IRP filings; c. The Commission should establish a quarterly large load reporting requirement within the IRP process to prove valuable and current information to the Commission, Evergy, and stakeholders.
Interconnection Study Process	The Commission and Evergy should clarify in facility interconnection requirements whether the outlined Transmission Protection Requirements apply to large loads and which other specific studies are required for large loads, such as whether harmonic distortion, voltage flicker, power factor, voltage fluctuation, and ferroresonance risk assessment are formally required for large load interconnection requests. In addition, the Commission should make modeling requirements explicit by specifying required types of modeling data.

3. Each of these deficiencies, as well as NEE's recommendations, are discussed in the attached Comments, which were prepared jointly by NEE and its consultant, Energy Futures Group ("EFG").

4. In accordance with Evergy's previous designations of confidential information, NEE provides a Confidential and Public version of the attached Comments. Confidential information is marked with asterisks and highlighting.

WHEREFORE, NEE respectfully requests that the Commission accept these Comments, and to grant it any other relief the Commission deems reasonable and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

By: */s/ Alissa Greenwald*
Alissa Greenwald, Kansas Bar No. 30510
Keyes & Fox LLP
1580 Lincoln St., Suite 1105
Denver, CO 80203
Telephone: (913) 302-5567
agreenwald@keyesfox.com

ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE NEW ENERGY ECONOMICS

A Review of Evergy Kansas Central and Evergy Metro's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan Annual Update

July 2nd, 2025

By: Nina Peluso, Energy Futures Group
Anna Sommer, Energy Futures Group
Carlos Peña Becerra, Energy Futures Group
Chelsea Hotaling, Energy Futures Group
Ivan Urlaub, The Council for the New Energy Economics
Nick Jones, The Council for the New Energy Economics

On behalf of The Council for the New Energy Economics

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Council for the New Energy Economics ("NEE") engaged Energy Futures Group ("EFG") to review and provide comments on Evergy's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") Annual Update. EFG is a clean energy consulting company that performs IRP modeling and critically reviews IRPs in over a dozen states, provinces, and territories. EFG's work in these jurisdictions involves conducting our own simulations and/or reviewing modeling conducted using a wide variety of electric system modeling platforms including the PLEXOS and SERVM software used by Evergy.

These comments were also drafted by Ivan Urlaub and Nick Jones of NEE.

The following sections briefly discuss our review of Evergy's 2025 IRP filing and how Evergy's IRP complies with the Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC") IRP process. Our recommendations throughout this report are intended to provide feedback on improvements Evergy could make in preparation for future IRP filings. The deficiencies identified herein, as well as our proposed remedies, are summarized as follows:

Deficiency	Proposed Remedy
Cost Scenario Approach	Evergy should update the approach to capital cost scenario weighting to reflect the higher likelihood of base and high scenarios.
New Wind Resource Costs	Evergy should provide clarity around its approach to new wind build assumptions, and consider a broader use of submitted bids to include those with lower capacity factors and all COD submissions.
Consideration of Hybrid Resources	Evergy should utilize RFP bids to derive paired solar and storage resource options that will likely create lower cost portfolios.
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Modeling of Thermal Ownership Options	Evergy should model a wider variety of ownership structures when considering new thermal plants.

Incorporation of Large Load in the IRP Process	a. Evergy's IRP should address fair fuel cost allocation that considers which customers' new loads may be causing increased fuel costs; b. The Commission should require Evergy to include specific information about new and existing large load in future IRP filings; c. The Commission should establish a quarterly large load reporting requirement within the IRP process to prove valuable and current information to the Commission, Evergy, and stakeholders.
Interconnection Study Process	The Commission and Evergy should clarify in facility interconnection requirements whether the outlined Transmission Protection Requirements apply to large loads and which other specific studies are required for large loads, such as whether harmonic distortion, voltage flicker, power factor, voltage fluctuation, and ferroresonance risk assessment are formally required for large load interconnection requests. In addition, the Commission should make modeling requirements explicit by specifying required types of modeling data.

2. CAPITAL COST ASSUMPTIONS

2.1 COST SCENARIO APPROACH

The low-end of Evergy's capital cost assumptions in this update are not representative of expected ranges for new construction and are disconnected with the current inflationary environment in the United States. Evergy applies a blanket uncertainty factor across all capital costs: a 25 percent increase or decrease for high and low cost scenarios respectively and a 25 percent weighting applied to those scenarios. While we agree that it's important to model cost uncertainty, it's also important to reevaluate whether Evergy's approach still captures the risk. This is demonstrated in Confidential Table 1, below, which shows the nominal installed cost for each of the low, medium, and high cost cases. The low cost scenario uses costs that are well below expected ranges. In EFG's work across multiple jurisdictions, we have seen rising demand for turbines and renewable resources alike and rising costs, especially for gas turbines. While we don't disagree that additional supply or an easing of demand, among other factors,

could reduce costs in the future, the current risk is much more heavily weighted to the high side. The even weighting of high and low does not reflect the current environment for new generation supply.

Confidential Table 1. New Resource Capital Costs, Low, Medium & High Scenarios

Resource Type	Technology	Low Nominal Installed Cost ($/kW)	Nominal Installed Cost ($/kW)	High Nominal Cost ($/kW)
Solar	Single Axis Tracking PV	[redacted]		
Wind	Wind Turbine			
Battery	Li-ion 4 Hour			
Combustion Turbine	Single Cycle H-Class			
Combined Cycle*	H-Class 1x1			

* All resources have a COD of 2028 except for thermal resources which have a COD of 2030.

For example, as Evergy noted in its testimony in Kansas Corporation Commission Docket No. 25-EKCE-207-PRE, it's 2024 IRP assumption for a CCGT coming online in 2029 was $1,271 per kW.[1] Part of the difference between that assumption and the mid case assumption provided in Confidential Table 1 is simply that Evergy was not modeling a cost aligned with the market at the time, but there was also additional escalation in price between the 2024 IRP Update and the filing of Evergy's pre-determination case for the Viola and McNew units related to the continued supply crunch for new turbines. This at least warrants weighting the high case more than the low case.

2.2 WIND CAPITAL COSTS

The cost assumption Evergy uses for new wind resources is substantially higher than costs we typically see for new wind. It appears that Evergy may continue to use an approach that relies on average project pricing received in past RFPs. We have several concerns about this approach as it relates to wind capital costs. First, it is not apparent whether the construction costs are inclusive of fixed operating costs or not, which may mean that Evergy is averaging apples and oranges costs. Second, Evergy appears to have excluded [redacted]

[1] *See* Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC") Docket No. 25-EKCE-207-PRE, *Direct Testimony of Cody VandeVelde, p. 23* (Nov. 6, 2025).

[redacted] Since Evergy is more likely to acquire the lowest cost project, the average of the bottom 50% of projects by cost or, conservatively, the median of project costs makes a more suitable midpoint. Finally, Evergy utilizes just [redacted] bids to base all forward cost assumptions off of, which fails to represent the full scope of projects that may be available based on the RFP.

While it is reasonable for Evergy to aggregate RFP bids to create generic resource assumptions, the method of aggregation is critical in determining whether those generic assumptions are reflective of the projects that are most likely to ultimately move forward. Notably, the "generic" assumptions for natural gas new builds are drawn from specific projects which have been brought forward for development rather than, for instance, taking an average of multiple options which were considered as potential natural gas projects. To fairly evaluate wind new builds therefore requires similarly crafting generic assumptions that reflect the profile of projects which are actually likely to be built. The methods outlined above, such as taking the average of the bottom 50% of projects by cost or the median of project costs, would better achieve this, provided that the following related recommendations are also employed.

We recommend that Evergy (1) clarify whether the costs used are overnight costs or inclusive of fixed operating costs, (2) include lower cost bids with marginally lower capacity factors, (3) use [redacted] RFP responses to develop cost assumptions.

2.3 HYBRID PLANT COSTS

Evergy does not include hybrid resource options, such as paired solar and battery energy storage. Evergy includes standalone renewable generators and standalone battery storage, but this fails to appreciate the cost efficiency achieved by hybrid projects submitted in recent RFPs. For instance, the average bid for solar plus storage hybrid projects was just [redacted] per kW,[2] compared to the [redacted] per kW assumed for standalone solar and the [redacted] per kW assumed for standalone storage resources in Evergy's capacity expansion modeling. Solar plus storage has the potential to provide more value than either resource alone, helping meet both energy and capacity needs while better utilizing interconnection and transmission resources. Given that these resources could be both lower cost and higher value than other resource options, Evergy could generate lower cost portfolios if it used these RFP bids to derive a paired solar and storage resource option.

[2] KCC Docket No. 24-EKCE-387-CPL, Evergy Workpapers "CONFIDENTIAL New Build Renewables 2025.xlsx".

3. FUEL COST FORECASTS

Evergy confirmed in the 2025 IRP Annual Update stakeholders' workshop that no changes were made to natural gas forecasts since the 2024 Triennial IRP. The stated rationale was that, although revisions had been considered, no significant market developments had emerged to prompt major revisions. NEE contests that the intervening period has yielded dramatic market developments. As a result, long-term forecasts and early indicators are beginning to reflect a higher natural gas price and more upside risk in the natural gas market.

The 2024 Triennial IRP was prepared before Evergy or the larger marketplace had begun fully appreciating the potential scale of load growth from AI and related data centers. The need to accommodate new large loads has since become an issue for utilities nationwide. The anticipation of this new load has led to a national surge of interest in new natural gas plants. More natural gas plants will result in more demand for natural gas, which means fuel prices will rise.

Also potentially contributing to increased demand, recent national regulatory and policy changes have encouraged greater development of natural gas power plants and Liquified Natural Gas ("LNG") export facilities while slowing the development of other energy resources like wind power. These changes are expected to increase national demand for natural gas. While there is uncertainty concerning the extent to which these factors will drive higher prices, the price outlook has certainly shifted upward, and upside risk has increased since the 2024 Triennial IRP was prepared.

Two recent publications support this view. The Energy Information Administration ("EIA") published the Annual Energy Outlook ("AEO") 2025, with natural gas prices significantly revised upward in the 2030s.[3] The AEO is a trusted resource and one of the forecasts that Evergy has previously used in building its IRP price forecasts. As can be seen in Figure 1 below, a sharp increase in prices is now expected in the early 2030s. Under a revised forecast, therefore, natural gas plants operating in the 2030s will be more expensive for ratepayers than previously thought. This would apply to the new natural gas capacity that Evergy is planning to add by 2039.[4] The new AEO forecast also reflects increased risk for natural gas prices. A 'Low Oil & Gas Supply' scenario, which has previously been used by Evergy to set a high-case natural gas price scenario,[5] now forecasts prices to surpass $10 per MMBtu by 2036.

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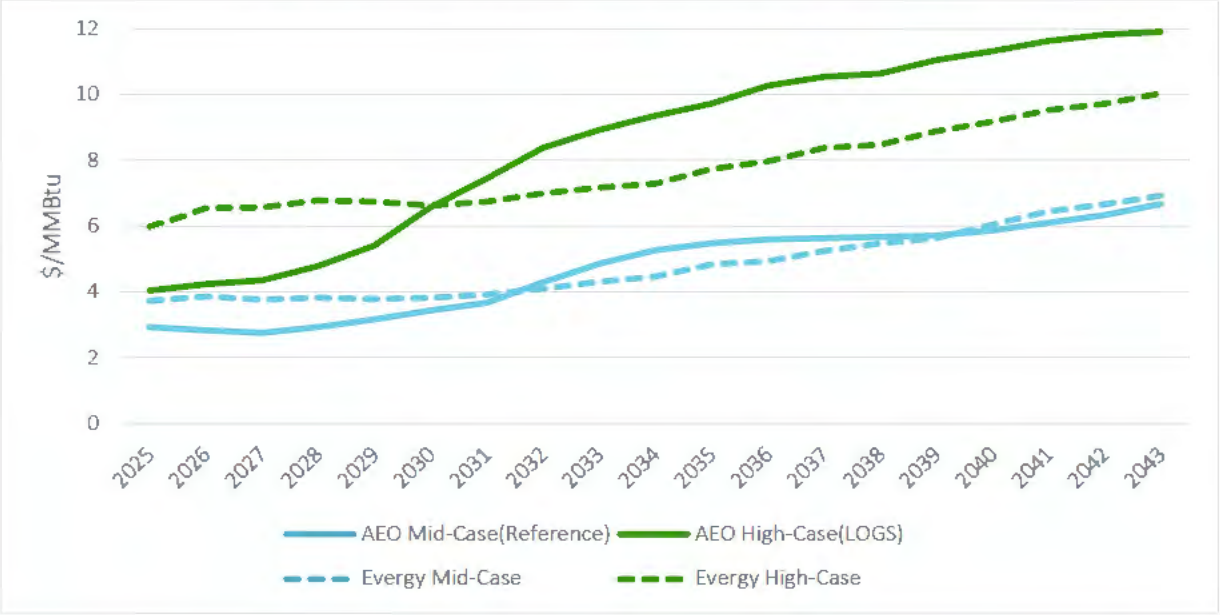
[3] Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2025, Accessible at: https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/.

[4] Evergy Kansas Central 2025 Integrated Resource Plan, Table 3, p. 5; Evergy Metro 2025 Integrated Resource Plan, Table 3, p. 4.

[5] Evergy Kansas Central 2025 Integrated Resource Plan, p.16; Evergy Metro 2025 Integrated Resource Plan, p. 14.

Figure 1: AEO 2025 vs. Evergy IRP Forecasts



Further, the Kansas City Federal Reserve recently published its quarterly survey of oil & gas executives in the Midcontinent region. In that survey, executives were asked what natural gas price they anticipated five years from today. The average response was $4.78 per MMBtu,[6] roughly $1 per MMBtu higher than Evergy's mid-case forecast for 2030. At least one respondent answered that natural gas would be $10 per MMBtu in 2030. When asked what price would allow their companies to expand production – with a substantial increase in production likely necessary to meet the demand growth described above – responses averaged $5.10 per MMBtu. Like the 2025 AEO, the survey provides compelling support for our view that Evergy's mid-case forecast is too low relative to market developments.

4. THERMAL OWNERSHIP OPTIONS

Evergy has not considered diverse ownership structures for new power plants. This has limited the Company's ability to "right-size" its planned thermal additions under its current preferred portfolio. By limiting their potential ownership in natural gas plants to 50% or 100% shares, Evergy has squeezed out other potential resources which may otherwise meet a portion of capacity or energy needs at a lower cost.

Capacity expansion models, such as PLEXOS, select from discrete resource options input by the user. In other words, the model can only build resources which Evergy allows. The

[6] Kansas City Federal Reserve, *Tenth District Energy Survey* (Apr. 11, 2025), Accessible at: https://www.kansascityfed.org/documents/10801/Q125.pdf.

Company offered the model three new thermal resource options: a 100% ownership share in a 440 MW natural gas combustion turbine (CT) plant, a 100% ownership share in a 710 MW combined cycle gas turbine plant (CCGT), or a 50% ownership share in a 710 MW CCGT (also expressed as 355 MW net-owned capacity in a CCGT).

The Company's inclusion of this last option acknowledges that partial ownership is often preferable to full ownership for utilities the size of Evergy's subsidiaries. There are at least three reasons why this might be the case. First, joint ownership allows each utility to more closely match its owned capacity to its needs. As a corollary, this allows for incremental resource additions which are well-suited to match gradual load additions and offset unit-level retirements. Second, whereas owning a single large thermal plant might concentrate risk as that plant is built and operated, owning a fraction of multiple plants spreads out risks. Third, joint ownership allows all the above goals to be accomplished without down-scaling the physical plant to a level which would sacrifice capital and operational efficiencies. Some of these advantages likely contributed to Evergy Kansas Central's 2025 preferred portfolio including two half-shares of CCGT plants and Evergy Metro's 2025 preferred portfolio including five half-shares of CCGT plants.[7]

Power plants and other large energy infrastructure assets are frequently held as joint ventures by multiple owners outside of full ownership or 50/50 split ownership. As illustration, Evergy itself acquired a 22.2% share of the Dogwood Energy Center CCGT in 2024.[8] The Crystal River CCGT in Florida is co-owned by Duke Energy Florida with three other smaller regional utilities at ownership stakes ranging as low as 1.6%.[9] The West Riverside CCGT in Wisconsin is shared by a total of six utilities with ownership percentages ranging from 0.8% to 73.8%.[10] CT plants also can be and often are held by multiple owners at widely varying ownership percentages. Given current load growth, limited gas turbine and transformer supply, and other market conditions at this moment, NEE anticipates that Evergy could readily find joint venture partners for new thermal capacity.

NEE recently provided testimony showing that by divesting a portion of its net-ownership in CCGT plants Evergy could better diversify the utility's future capacity stack and more effectively mitigate against fuel market risks and wholesale power market risks while lowering

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[7] *Evergy Kansas Central 2025 Integrated Resource Plan,* Table 3, p. 5; *Evergy Metro 2025 Integrated Resource Plan,* Table 3, p. 4.

[8] Missouri Public Service Commission ("PSC") Docket No. EA-2023-0291, *Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement and Granting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity* (Mar. 3, 2024).

[9] Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-860 M Detailed Data Schedule 4 'Generator Ownership.' Accessible at: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860/.

[10] *Id.*

capital and operational costs.[11] While that testimony only focused on the plants included in that CCN proceeding, similar results could be possible for the other thermal additions in Evergy's current preferred portfolios.

NEE recommends that Evergy diversify the resource options available to include more potential ownership structures. We acknowledge that it may not be possible within the model framework to test for every possible percentage of ownership – nor would such a practice lead to implementable portfolios as the final terms of a joint ownership agreement will depend on negotiation with other parties. We recommend a sensible approach of breaking out thermal resource ownership by 25% increments, *i.e.*, capacity expansion models would have the choice of adding CCGT or CT resources at 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% ownership (see Table 2 below). Such a change would merely require that five additional resource types be input into the capacity expansion model and represent a drastic increase in the amount of flexibility the model would have to optimize resource size.

Table 2: Recommended Resource Changes in Capacity Expansion Model

	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT)	Combustion Turbine (CT)
Ownership Options in Current Model	50%, 100%	100%
NEE Recommendation	25%, 50%, 75%, 100%	25%, 50%, 75%, 100%

As mentioned, when a specific plant is built under a joint venture, the actual percentage of ownership is subject to negotiation with partners and will likely vary from the exact percentage selected by the model. This is analogous to the physical capacity of an addition varying from the IRP due to plant designs once a specific project is developed. If the model selects a 25% ownership in a new capacity build, for instance, that demonstrates an approximate guideline of what percentage would be justified under Evergy's IRP process. Actual ownership would ultimately fall in a band near the model-selected percentage, for instance between 20-30%. However, even if the IRP process is not able to definitively determine an optimal percentage of ownership, allowing for the model to have more flexibility will lead to resource additions which are closer to being optimal.

[11] KCC Docket No. 25-EKCE-207-PRE, *Direct Testimony of William "Nick" Jones* (Mar. 14, 2025).

We believe this recommended revision to the Company's modeling practice would yield lower-cost portfolio options. Lower costs would be achieved first through "right-sizing" thermal additions and second through allowing better-optimized investment in other resources for meeting energy and capacity needs. Even if Evergy believes that additional capacity is necessary, beyond that required to meet SPP-mandated reserve margins, that additional increment should be stated explicitly and justified on its own merits. Crude modeling assumptions which limit the range of potential ownership should not be used as a means to influence models toward over-selecting capacity for this end. In fact, if Evergy specifically identifies its need for capacity beyond SPP-mandated minimums, a "right-sized" approach would better ensure that capital is available to reliably meet this additional capacity need in the most cost-effective manner possible with all resource options considered.

5. INCORPORATING LARGE LOAD

The emergence of large loads presents a unique challenge requiring careful attention to where resource planning, ratemaking, transmission planning, and prudence intersect. Of particular interest for Evergy's planning purposes are several key issues related to large load: operational and resource adequacy risks associated with electricity supply, the dynamic nature of large loads, stranded asset risk associated with transmission, generation and other system upgrades, and appropriate allocation of system costs. Given the substantial change in Evergy's forecast of large load between the 2024 and 2025 IRP updates, we highlight three focus areas below.

5.1 RATE SETTING

Large load additions have material impacts on both grid operations and service costs that influence rates. We understand that Evergy has filed a Large Load Power Service Rate Plan application ("LLPS Rate Plan") in Kansas intended to create a new rate class for large loads.[12]

As load increases, market power prices increase, and the average fuel costs may rise as well. Typically, such costs are recovered through a fuel adjustment clause that averages those costs across all rate classes. Important risks that influence large load requests and have the potential for unfair cost causation to the detriment of ratepayers are not addressed in Evergy's Triennial IRP compliance filing nor here in the Company's 2025 IRP Update.

5.2 LOAD FORECASTING & RESERVE MARGIN ISSUES

The IRP provides an opportunity for Evergy to furnish critical detail about the nature of its large load pipeline. We've seen utilities across the country struggle to forecast large load additions

[12] *See* KCC Docket No. 25-EKME-315-TAR.

accurately. There are a wide variety of approaches used, but a commonality among these approaches is that relatively little information about these loads is being requested. Utilities may ask for as little information as the peak demand of potential customers, which can leave the door open to numerous inquiries that have little probability of becoming realized customers. In its 2025 IRP update, Evergy increased its large load forecast substantially. This additional large load forecast, which is added to the base load forecast in 2026, represents customers who anticipate submitting an Attachment AQ study, with the expectation of fully executed agreements in the second quarter of 2025.[13]

Following discovery, we were able to better understand Evergy's approach to determining this load. The peak load in Figures 6 and 7 in the Evergy Metro update represents the additional load anticipated from one committed large load customer [redacted]. For Kansas Central, Evergy stated that it included an economic development "buffer" that ramps up to 150 MW of new forecasted peak demand in 2027. However, that buffer does not represent the full addition shown in Figures 6 and 7 for Kansas Central.[14] It is not clear what assumptions were made in regard to that additional large load. Without clear insight into the amount of forecasted large load, it is difficult to assess whether the selected portfolio is appropriate. Additionally, Evergy stated that it is utilizing a 100 percent load factor for modeling data center load factors.[15] This assumption is not in line with historic operational patterns seen at traditional data centers nor is it in line with industry understanding of AI data center operation, which is expected to be highly variable. As presented, this load requires substantial supply-side additions, which Evergy proposed in its preferred scenario (see Table 3), requiring increased wind, combined cycle, and combustion turbine buildout, in addition to the conversion of the existing Jeffrey 2 coal unit to natural gas.

Expanding on the information provided in Figures 6 and 7, we recommend that future IRP filings provide and incorporate the following LLPS Rate Plan information, if that Plan is approved in some form by the Commission, into IRP stakeholder presentations and each stage of the resource planning process. The implementation of the LLPS Rate Plan will have meaningful impacts that should be considered during each IRP. For instance, certain proposed riders under that plan offer opportunities for large customers to offset some of their own energy and capacity needs. The IRP process must consider the effect of these offsets to determine the amount of energy supply and capacity additions which Evergy should prudently plan to execute. Specifically, if the LLPS rate plan is approved, we recommend that future IRPs include the following items for each rider and tariff in the approved LLPS Rate Plan:

[13] Evergy Metro 2025 Integrated Resource Plan Update, p. 12.
[14] Evergy Kansas Central 2025 Integrated Resource Plan Update, pp. 13, 14.
[15] 24-EKCE-387-CPL, Discovery Response NEE-3-5.

- Information on current subscriptions to each new LLPS tariff, including number of subscribers, total MWs and MWhs by year for each tariff and rider in the LLPS Rate Plan;
- A breakdown of the large load forecast, in charts, indicating how much of the forecasted large load is committed or likely to participate in each of the proposed large load tariffs and riders; and
- A narrative describing the quantified impact on each step of the planning process of the committed or likely participation in MWs and MWhs of new large loads in each large load tariff and rider.

In its 2025 Update, Evergy transitions to the use of Accredited Capacity (ACAP) rather than Installed Capacity (ICAP) for its Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) calculation. This aligns with SPP's planned implementation of Performance Based Accreditation which calculates the reserve margin to reflect actual unit performance and reliability. In the IRP, Evergy states that "by shifting to an ACAP PRM, performance risk moves from the overall system to individual units, accrediting them based on demonstrated performance… [T]he overall PRM is reduced, because the buffer that was previously included in the ICAP PRM to cover outage and performance variation is now distributed across individual units."[16] While this approach may be appropriate, this is different than the assumption used for the pre-determination proceedings.

[16] Evergy Metro 2025 Integrated Resource Plan Update, p. 26.

Table 3. Evergy Kansas Central and Metro Combined Preferred Plan Comparison[17]

Type	2024 Triennial IRP	2025 IRP Annual Update
Retirements	Lawrence 4 in 2028 LaCygne 1 in 2032 LaCygne 2 in 2039 Jeffrey 2 in 2030 Jeffrey 3 in 2030 Iatan 1 in 2039 Jeffrey 1 in 2039	Lawrence 4 in 2032 Lawrence 5 in 2032 LaCygne 1 in 2032 LaCygne 2 in 2039 Jeffrey 3 in 2030 Iatan 1 in 2039 Jeffrey 1 in 2039
Conversions	Lawrence 5 to NG in 2029	Jeffrey 2 to NG in 2030
Total Wind	1050 MW 2024-2035 450 MW 2036-42	900 MW 2025-2035 150 MW 2036-44
Total Solar Additions	2100 MW 2024-2035 450 MW 2036-2040	1800 MW 2025-2035 3150 MW 2036-44
Battery Additions	None	150 MW in 2030 150 MW in 2043
Thermal Additions	325 MW CC in 2029 325 CC in 2030 650 MW CC in 2031 415 MW CT in 2036 415 MW CT in 2038 650 MW CC in 2039 650 MW CC in 2040	355 MW CC in 2029 355 MW CC in 2030 440 MW CT in 2031 710 MW CC in 2031 355 MW CC in 2032 1065 MW CC in 2033 355 MW CC in 2037 1065 MW CC in 2039 1065 MW CC in 2040 440 MW CT 2044

5.3 LARGE LOAD PIPELINE REPORTING

The volume and makeup of large load pipelines can change rapidly. While Evergy currently files annual IRP updates, relying solely upon annual updates can delay the transmission of consistent and complete large load information to Commissions. In the evolving new large load growth environment, the Commission will need consistent, complete and up to date large load information for numerous types of proceedings, such as but not limited to IRPs, predetermination requests predicated on new large load(s), interconnection, any adoption of and/or modification to large load customer rate plans and tariffs, and rate cases. For these same reasons, Evergy's proposal as part of its Large Load Power Service Rate Plan application

[17] Evergy Kansas Central 2025 Annual Update Integrated Resource Plan, Table 3, p. 5; Evergy Metro 2025 Annual Update Integrated Resource Plan, Table 3, p. 4.

"to file an annual compliance report filing with the Commission" is minimally necessary but not sufficient.[18]

We recommend that the Commission establish a quarterly large load reporting requirement within the IRP process. A similar requirement applies to Georgia Power and is required by the Georgia Public Service Commission. Its quarterly report provides both public and confidential information about large loads including, but not limited to, specific company details, load, load ramp, and any changes to project status. We recommend that this reporting requirement be adopted and supplemented with additional information, including classification of the commercial activity of the potential load, e.g., by NAICS code or similar, and the reason for the project dropping out of the pipeline, if applicable.[19] This can provide valuable information to the Commission and to the Company about the volume of large load requests, their progression towards interconnection, and the reasons loads might drop out.

Further, we believe that the current increase in large loads driven primarily by AI, but also driven by electrification, manufacturing and industrial growth, and other more nascent loads is not a temporary phenomenon. Instead, this is the beginning of an expansion and likely multiplication in new large load growth drivers to come. This feasible low-cost reporting recommendation will be indispensable for the Commission to stay attuned to the large load demands as those demands change and their drivers change whether from electrification, manufacturing, or other more nascent loads.

6. INTERCONNECTION STUDY PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Evergy's facility interconnection requirements, which would apply to many large loads, require interconnecting customers to complete a set of engineering studies prior to establishing an interconnection.[20] However, the applicability of some requirements, especially in the context of large load interconnections, would benefit from further clarification. It is not explicitly stated whether the Transmission Protection Requirements outlined in the document apply to large loads, and additional clarity is needed regarding which other specific studies are required in such cases.

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[18] KCC Docket No. 25-EKME-315-TAR, *Application*, pp. 5-6 (Feb. 11, 2025).
[19] Georgia Public Service Commission, Order Adopting Stipulated Agreement, Attachment A. Accessible at: https://psc.ga.gov/search/facts-document/?documentId=218484.
[20] Evergy, Inc. (2024, May 10). Facility Interconnection Requirements. Accessible at: https://www.evergy.com/-/media/media/evergy-web/footer/partner-with-us/new-construction-transmission-facility-connection.pdf.

The document mentions that engineering studies should include system impact analysis, breaker/fault duty studies, protection coordination, metering and telecommunication requirements, and facility rating assessments (for connections at 60 kV or higher in accordance with SPP Planning Criteria). It also references Phasor Measurement Unit (PMU) requirements. However, from the Power Quality Impacts section, it is unclear whether studies related to harmonic distortion, voltage flicker, power factor, voltage fluctuation, and ferroresonance risk assessment are formally required for large load interconnection requests.

While the document does state that customers are responsible for submitting the necessary studies, it should also clearly indicate that Evergy and Transource (the Companies) will review and validate all submitted documentation and may request additional analysis as needed.

Additionally, modeling requirements are only implied and should be made explicit. The document should clearly specify the required types of modeling data such as dynamic models, short-circuit models, and load flow files as well as acceptable formats. Other types of studies such as a load ramping impact study, inertia study and frequency response study should be requested.

The current document clearly assigns primary interconnection responsibilities to different entities: generators and transmission interconnections are primarily under the jurisdiction of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) through its Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) and planning criteria, while end-user interconnections fall under the Companies' responsibility, including conducting system adequacy evaluations and necessary studies. However, there is ambiguity regarding operational accountability and design approval. This dual responsibility is understandable but would benefit from more explicit guidance on how conflicts are resolved and who holds final authority. Furthermore, the document references the possibility of allowing facility operation before required system upgrades are completed through a "Limited Operation Interconnection Agreement," but it does not clearly define whether approval authority lies with the SPP, the Companies, or both, nor does it describe the reliability safeguards required for such temporary operation.

This issue is particularly critical in light of recent large-scale grid disturbances that underscore the risks associated with inadequate planning and ambiguous interconnection standards. For example, in July 2024, a 230 kV transmission line fault in the Eastern Interconnection led to the unexpected disconnection of approximately 1,500 MW of voltage-sensitive data center loads.[21]

[21] North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). (Jan. 8, 2025). Incident Review: Considering Simultaneous Voltage-Sensitive Load Reductions [PDF]. NERC. Accessible at: https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Documents/Incident_Review_Large_Load_Loss.pdf.

These loads were not shed by utility equipment but were disconnected by customer-side protection systems responding to voltage disturbances. This event highlighted how such unanticipated load losses can cause frequency and voltage fluctuations, posing significant challenges to grid stability. And as ERCOT has stated,[22]

> *Several incidents have shown that newly connected Large Loads may struggle to stay connected during voltage disturbances. One of the most significant events took place near Odessa on December 7, 2022, at 3:50 AM, when over 1,600 MW of demand—including from data centers, oil and gas operations, and other industrial users—unexpectedly dropped off the grid following a low-voltage event. This caused the system frequency to spike to 60.235 Hz, taking more than 10 minutes to stabilize. Such disconnections illustrate how Large Loads can turn a simple voltage dip into a frequency management challenge.*

These incidents illustrate the necessity for comprehensive and transparent interconnection requirements, especially for large, voltage-sensitive loads. Clear guidelines on necessary engineering studies, protection coordination, and modeling requirements are essential to ensure that such loads do not compromise grid reliability during disturbances. Establishing such standards may well have impacts on the shape, size, and timing of the loads that are ultimately interconnected, which has important ramifications for integrated resource planning.

It is not enough to simply point to compliance with existing NERC standards for facilities interconnection. The interconnection requirements for large loads will change in the future. For example, NERC intends to issue a large load interconnection standard in early 2026.[23]

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[22] Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). (Aug. 16, 2023). *Overview of Large Load Revision Requests for 8-16-23 Workshop* [PowerPoint slides]. ERCOT. Accessible at: https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/11/08/PUBLIC-Overview-of-Large-Load-Revision-Requests-for-8-16-23-Workshop.pptx.

[23] North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). (Oct. 8, 2024). Large Loads Task Force (LLTF) Kickoff Meeting. NERC. Accessible at: https://www.nerc.com/comm/RSTC/LLTF/LLTF_Kickoff_Presentations.pdf.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served via email on July 2, 2025, upon the following:

JOSEPH R. ASTRAB, CONSUMER COUNSEL
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
Joseph.Astrab@ks.gov

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

DAVID W. NICKEL, CONSUMER COUNSEL
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
David.Nickel@ks.gov

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

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

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

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

SARAH RUBENSTEIN, ATTORNEY
GREAT RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER
319 N FOURTH STREET, SUITE 800
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63102
srubenstein@greatriverslaw.org

TERRY M. JARRETT, Attorney at Law
HEALY LAW OFFICES, LLC
306 MONROE STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
terry@healylawoffices.com

HEATHER H. STARNES
HEALY LAW OFFICES, LLC
12 Perdido Circle
Little Rock, AR 72211
heather@healylawoffices.com

KIMBERLY B FRANK, Partner
K & L GATES, LLP
1601 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
Kimberly.Frank@klgates.com

NATHAN HOWE, Partner
K & L GATES, LLP
One Newark Center
1085 Raymond Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
Nathan.howe@klgates.com

TERESA A. WOODY
KANSAS APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE, INC.
211 E. 8th Street
Suite D
Lawrence, KS 66044
twoody@kansasappleseed.org

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

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

SUSAN B. CUNNINGHAM, SVP, Regulatory and Government Affairs, General Counsel
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER CO-OP, INC.
600 SW CORPORATE VIEW
PO BOX 4877
TOPEKA, KS 66604-0877
scunningham@kepco.org

REBECCA FOWLER, MANAGER, REGULATORY AFFAIRS
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER CO-OP, INC.
600 SW CORPORATE VIEW
PO BOX 4877
TOPEKA, KS 66604-0877
rfowler@kepco.org

BRAD HUTTON, FINANCIAL/REGULATORY SPECIALIST
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER CO-OP, INC.
600 SW CORPORATE VIEW
PO BOX 4877
TOPEKA, KS 66604-0877
bhutton@kepco.org

PAUL MAHLBERG, GENERAL MANAGER
KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY
6300 W 95TH ST
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212-1431
mahlberg@kmea.com

TERRI J PEMBERTON, GENERAL COUNSEL
KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY
6300 W 95TH ST
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212-1431
pemberton@kmea.com

DARREN PRINCE, MANAGER, REGULATORY & RATES
KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY
6300 W 95TH ST
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212-1431
prince@kmea.com

JAMES GING, DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES
KANSAS POWER POOL
2229S WEST STREET
WICHITA, KS 67213
jging@kpp.agency

COLIN HANSEN, CEO/GENERAL MANAGER
KANSAS POWER POOL
2229S WEST STREET
WICHITA, KS 67213
chansen@kpp.agency

LARRY HOLLOWAY, ASST GEN MGR OPERATIONS
KANSAS POWER POOL
2229S WEST STREET
WICHITA, KS 67213
lholloway@kpp.agency

ALISSA GREENWALD, ATTORNEY
KEYES & FOX LLP
1580 LINCOLN STREET STE 1105
DENVER, CO 80203
AGREENWALD@KEYESFOX.COM

JOSHUA D. BEDEL, GENERAL MANAGER
MCPHERSON BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
401 W KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 768
MCPHERSON, KS 67460
JOSHB@MCPHERSONPOWER.COM

DUSTIN RINGER
MCPHERSON BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
401 W KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 768
MCPHERSON, KS 67460
dustinr@mcphersonpower.com

AARON ROME, VP OF ENERGY SUPPLY
MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
1330 CANTERBURY DRIVE
PO BOX 898
HAYS, KS 67601-0898
arome@mwenergy.com

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

SUNIL BECTOR, ATTORNEY
SIERRA CLUB
2101 WEBSTER, SUITE 1300
OAKLAND, CA 94312-3011
sunil.bector@sierraclub.org

TONY MENDOZA
SIERRA CLUB
2101 WEBSTER, SUITE 1300
OAKLAND, CA 94312-3011
tony.mendoza@sierraclub.org

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

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

J.T. KLAUS, ATTORNEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON, LLC
2959 N ROCK RD STE 300
WICHITA, KS 67226
jtklaus@twgfirm.com

TIMOTHY E. MCKEE, ATTORNEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON, LLC
2959 N ROCK RD STE 300
WICHITA, KS 67226
TEMCKEE@TWGFIRM.COM

/s/ Alicia Zaloga
Alicia Zaloga