

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MIKE KELLY

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

In the Matter of the Petition of Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., Evergy Kansas South, Inc., and Evergy Metro, Inc. for Determination of the Ratemaking Principles and Treatment that Will Apply to the Recovery in Rates of the Cost to be Incurred for Certain Electric Generation Facilities under K.S.A. 66-1239

Docket No. 25-EKCE-207-PRE

March 13, 2025

I. INTRODUCTION:

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Q: Please state your name and business address.

A: My name is Mike Kelly. My business address is Johnson County Government, 111 S. Cherry Street, Suite 3100, Olathe, Kansas 66061.

Q: By whom and in what capacity are you employed?

A: I am the elected chairman at large of the Board of County Commissioners. I am the official spokesperson and representative of the Board of Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas.

Q: On whose behalf are you testifying?

A: I am testifying on behalf of the Board of Commissioners for Johnson County, Kansas.

Q: What are your responsibilities?

A: Under the Johnson County Home Rule charter, my responsibilities include leading the Commission in developing its long-range plans, and policies, establishing annual priorities, and planning for economic growth and stability of Johnson County Government.

Q: Please describe your education, experience and employment history.

A: I hold a juris doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Political Science. I was elected to the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas in November of 2022 and my term is four (4) years from January 13, 2023 through December 31, 2026. I am also Senior Counsel at Hush Blackwell focusing on real estate, design, and construction litigation and licensed to practice law in the State of Kansas and Missouri.

Q: Have you previously testified in any proceedings before the Kansas Corporation Commission (“Commission” or “KCC”) or before any other utility regulatory agency?

1 A: No.

2 Q: Please describe the purpose of your testimony?

3 A: The purpose of my testimony is to support Evergy Kansas Central and Evergy Kansas
4 Metro's petition for determination of ratemaking principles and treatment related to the
5 proposed construction and acquisition of:

- 6 • 50% interest in the 710 MW Viola Generating Station (combined cycle gas turbine)
- 7 • 50% interest in the 710 MW McNew Generating Station (combined cycle gas
8 turbine)
- 9 • 200 MWDC (159 MWAC) Kansas Sky solar generation facility.

10 As Kansas's most populous county and a major economic engine for the region, the County
11 seeks specific commitments from Evergy to ensure these investments align with county
12 priorities for economic growth, competitive prices, energy reliability, and sustainability.

13 **II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

14 Q: Please summarize the key points of your testimony.

15 A: The County is requesting Evergy's specific commitments to the following:

16 1. Carbon-Free Electricity Tariff Development

17 a) Develop and obtain Kansas Corporation Commission approval for a 24/7 carbon-
18 free electricity tariff that:

- 19 • Incorporates renewable energy sources
- 20 • Includes battery storage components
- 21 • Considers carbon free generation sources
- 22 • Complements existing programs like the Renewables Direct tariff

23 b) Design the tariff to:

- 1 • Support economic development initiatives
- 2 • Meet existing customer sustainability goals
- 3 • Attract high skilled technology manufacturing and data centers
- 4 • Enhance competitiveness for business attraction

5 2. Community Solar, Energy Storage, and Energy Efficiency Investments

6 a) Commit to investing in 100MW of community solar + storage and 50 MW of
7 energy efficiency through:

- 8 • Community solar projects
- 9 • Energy storage solutions
- 10 • Energy efficiency investments

11 b) Develop programs that serve:

- 12 • Commercial customers
- 13 • Residential customers
- 14 • Public facilities
- 15 • Educational institutions

16 3. Transmission Infrastructure Investments

17 a) Network Planning:

- 18 • Ensure transmission planning considers future load growth in Johnson
19 County
- 20 • Coordinate transmission upgrades with local development plans
- 21 • Prioritize grid reliability for critical facilities and growth areas

22 b) Infrastructure Development:

- 23 • Minimize community impacts during transmission construction

- 1 • Consider underground transmission where feasible
- 2 • Coordinate with County planning for rights-of-way and easements
- 3 • Integrate with planned transportation corridors where possible

4 c) Cost Allocation:

- 5 • Support Base Plan funding through SPP processes to spread costs regionally
- 6 • Ensure equitable allocation of network upgrade costs
- 7 • Consider impacts on local economic development

8 d) Grid Resilience:

- 9 • Enhance transmission capacity for renewable integration
- 10 • Improve interconnection with regional grid
- 11 • Support redundancy for critical infrastructure areas

12 **III. CONCLUSION**

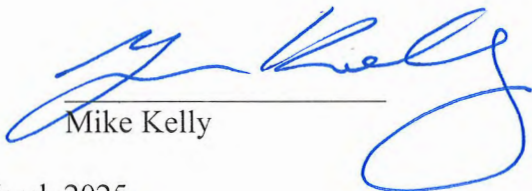
13 Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

14 A: Yes.

STATE OF KANSAS)
)ss:
COUNTY OF JOHNSON)

VERIFICATION

Mike Kelly, being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and state that he is the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas, that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing Testimony, and attests that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.



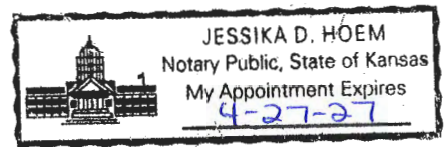
Mike Kelly

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of March 2025.



Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: 4-27-27



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-EKCE-207-PRE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that on March 14, 2025, the above and foregoing Direct Testimony was served via electronic service to the following:

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