### BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

### DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

### **JARED R. ROBERTSON**

### ON BEHALF OF THE KROGER CO.

### IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF EVERGY KANSAS CENTRAL, INC. AND EVERGY KANSAS SOUTH, INC. FOR APPROVAL TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THEIR CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 66-117.

DOCKET NO. 25-EKCE-294-RTS

JUNE 6, 2025

1		<b>Introduction</b>
2	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
3	A.	My name is Jared R. Robertson. My business address is 111 East Broadway,
4		Suite 1200, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.
5	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
6	A.	I am a Senior Consultant at Energy Strategies, LLC. Energy Strategies is a
7		private consulting firm specializing in economic and policy analysis applicable to
8		energy production, transportation, and consumption.
9	Q.	On whose behalf are you testifying in this proceeding?
10	A.	I am testifying on behalf of The Kroger Co. ("Kroger"). Kroger is one of
11		the largest grocery retailers in the United States and operates approximately forty-
12		seven grocery stores in the Evergy Kansas Central ("EKC" or "the Company")
13		service territory. Kroger's facilities purchase more than 130 million kWh of
14		electricity from EKC annually, primarily under rate schedule Medium General
15		Service ("MGS").
16	Q.	Please describe your professional experience and qualifications.
17	A.	I hold a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Brigham Young University
18		- Idaho and have completed the majority of the coursework for a Master of Arts in
19		Economics with a concentration in public utility policy and regulation from New
20		Mexico State University. Prior to my employment with Energy Strategies, I was a
21		member of the Regulatory Accounting Department for Dominion Energy Services,
22		LLC ("DES"). I was employed by DES as a Regulatory Specialist and developed
23		revenue requirement models for generation riders, provided expert witness

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1		testimony regarding the calculation of the models, and contributed to various
2		projects and analyses related to the generation fleet.
3		I joined Energy Strategies in 2024 as a Senior Consultant. In this role, I
4		analyze and provide expert witness testimony on various regulatory and ratemaking
5		matters, including revenue requirements, cost of service, and rate design. I also
6		provide regulatory and technical support on a range of electric industry issues.
7	Q.	Have you ever testified before this Commission?
8	А.	No, this is my first opportunity.
9	Q.	Have you testified before any other State Utility Regulatory Commissions?
10	A.	Yes. I have testified in regulatory proceedings on the subjects of utility rates and
11		regulatory policy before state utility commissions in Virginia, and Indiana.
12		<b>Overview and Conclusions</b>
12 13	Q.	<u>Overview and Conclusions</u> What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?
12 13 14	<b>Q.</b> A.	Overview and Conclusions What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding? My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.
12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q.	Overview and Conclusions What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding? My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class. What recommendations do you present in your testimony?
12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q. A.	Overview and Conclusions         What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?         My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.         What recommendations do you present in your testimony?         I recommend modifications to the energy and demand components of the
12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A.	Overview and Conclusions         What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?         My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.         What recommendations do you present in your testimony?         I recommend modifications to the energy and demand components of the         MGS rate design to better align these charges with the underlying cost causation.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A.	Overview and ConclusionsWhat is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.What recommendations do you present in your testimony?I recommend modifications to the energy and demand components of theMGS rate design to better align these charges with the underlying cost causation.Specifically, EKC's proposed rate design underestimates demand-related charges
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q. A.	Overview and ConclusionsWhat is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.What recommendations do you present in your testimony?I recommend modifications to the energy and demand components of theMGS rate design to better align these charges with the underlying cost causation.Specifically, EKC's proposed rate design underestimates demand-related chargeswhile overstating energy-related charges, relative to the underlying costs as
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A.	Overview and Conclusions         What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?         My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.         What recommendations do you present in your testimony?         I recommend modifications to the energy and demand components of the         MGS rate design to better align these charges with the underlying cost causation.         Specifically, EKC's proposed rate design underestimates demand-related charges         while overstating energy-related charges, relative to the underlying costs as         provided in the COSS. Improving the alignment between rate components and the
<ol> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> </ol>	Q. A. Q. A.	Overview and Conclusions         What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?         My testimony addresses EKC's proposed rate design for the MGS rate class.         What recommendations do you present in your testimony?         I recommend modifications to the energy and demand components of the         MGS rate design to better align these charges with the underlying cost causation.         Specifically, EKC's proposed rate design underestimates demand-related charges         while overstating energy-related charges, relative to the underlying costs as         provided in the COSS. Improving the alignment between rate components and the         underlying costs will improve price signals, encourage more efficient grid usage,

1		At this time, I am not taking a position on the Company's proposed cost of
2		service study methodologies or revenue allocation. However, to the extent that
3		other parties propose changes to the proposed cost of service or revenue allocation,
4		I reserve the right to address those proposals.
5		MGS Rate Design
6	Q.	Please describe EKC's MGS rate schedule.
7	A.	The MGS rate schedule is available to customers with loads between 200
8		kW and 1,500 kW who take service from existing distribution facilities. This rate
9		schedule includes a customer charge, demand charge, and summer and winter
10		energy charges.
11	Q.	Does the Company propose changes to class revenues that are reflective of an
12		equalized rate of return?
13	A.	No. According to the Company's witness Marisole Miller, the results of the
14		COSS broadly inform the proposed class increases. However, while revenue shifts
15		are positively correlated with the resulting relative rates of return, they are not
16		applied directly. <sup>1</sup> As a result, the Company's rate design assigns a range of class
17		rate increases from 14.96% to 11.96% relative to the system average rate increase
18		of 13.59%. <sup>2</sup>
19	Q.	How does the proposed rate increase for the MGS class compare to the
20		Company's COSS results?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Direct Testimony of Marisole E. Miller, pg. 17. <sup>2</sup> *Id.* pg. 18.

1 A. According to the Company's COSS, the MGS rate class would require an 18.4% rate *decrease* to achieve an equalized rate of return.<sup>3</sup> The Company is 2 proposing a rate increase for the MGS class of 11.96%, which is approximately 3 88% of the proposed system average rate increase.<sup>4</sup> This proposal would result in 4 revenues that are significantly above the cost to serve the MGS class. 5

#### 6 Q. Please describe EKC's proposed MGS rate design.

- 7 EKC's proposed MGS rate design is summarized in Table JRR-1 below. A.
- 8

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### Table JRR-1 **EKC Proposed MGS Rates**

		Current		Proposed	
Description	Units	Rate		Rate	
Customer Charge	month	\$	131.77	\$	147.53
Demand	kW	\$	17.970	\$	20.119
Energy					
Summer	kWh	\$	0.01610	\$	0.01803
Winter	kWh	\$	0.01223	\$	0.01369

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#### Have you performed an assessment to compare the proposed Schedule MGS **Q**. 11

#### rate design to the underlying cost components? 12

Yes. I have conducted an analysis comparing the proposed revenues by A. 13 classification to the corresponding cost of service components — specifically, 14 15 customer-related, demand-related, and energy-related costs.

**Q**. In your rate design analysis, please explain how you account for the differences 16

- between the class revenue allocation and the cost of service study results? 17
- A. As I explain above, the class cost of service results are not aligned with the 18
- underlying cost components. This misalignment is primarily due to the fact that 19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id.* pg. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Id.* pg. 18.

1		the proposed revenues for the MGS class are approximately 125% greater than the
2		cost to serve the class. Therefore, my analysis compares each component as a
3		percentage of the respective total, i.e. the energy related costs as a percentage of the
4		total costs and the energy-related revenues as a percentage of the total revenues.
5	Q.	What is your assessment of the proposed Schedule MGS rate design?
6	A.	EKC's proposed rate design for Schedule MGS understates the demand-
7		related charges for this rate schedule, while overstating the energy-related charges.
8		This results in a misalignment between the rates and the underlying cost of service.
9		Table JRR-2 illustrates the proportional classification of revenues compared to the
10		underlying cost of service for EKC's proposed rate design.
11		Table IDD 7

# 11Table JRR-212EKC Proposed MGS Charges Relative to Costs by Classification13At EKC's Proposed Revenue Requirement

	<b>Cost of Service</b>	EKC Proposed %
Classification	% of Total	of Total
Customer	0.7%	1.4%
Demand	82.2%	77.7%
Energy	17.2%	20.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

As can be seen in Table JRR-2 above, EKC's proposed MGS rate design

14

15

understates the demand revenues while overstating the energy revenues relative tothe underlying cost causation.

## Q. From a customer's perspective, why does it matter if EKC proposes demand charges that do not fully recover its demand-related costs?

A. When a utility sets demand charges below the actual cost of providing demand-related services, it typically compensates by increasing recovery through other rate components, most often by setting energy charges above the cost of

22	Q.	What do you recommend regarding the MGS rate design?
21		subsidy that is fundamentally inequitable.
20		demand-related costs of lower-load-factor customers. This amounts to a cross-
19		relatively efficiently through relatively constant energy usage) are forced to pay the
18		rates. When this happens, higher-load-factor customers (who use fixed assets
17		understated in utility rates, the costs are made up elsewhere — typically in energy
16		minimizes cross-subsidies among customers. As I stated above, if demand costs are
15		ensuring equity among customers, because properly aligning charges with costs
14		At the same time, aligning rate design with cost causation is important for
13		in fixed assets than is economically desirable.
12		in turn distorts consumption decisions, and calls forth a greater level of investment
11		the cost of demand understates the economic cost of demand-related assets, which
10		because it sends proper price signals. For example, setting a demand charge below
9	A.	Aligning rate design with underlying cost causation improves efficiency
8		causation?
7	Q.	Why is it important for rate design to be representative of underlying cost
6		load factors are greater than the average for the rate schedule.
5	A.	For purposes of this discussion, I use this term to refer to customers whose
4	Q.	How do you define higher load factor customers?
3		usage) end up subsidizing those with lower load factors (i.e., more variable usage).
2		class subsidies, where customers with higher load factors (i.e., more consistent
1		energy. For a given rate schedule, such as MGS, this mismatch can result in intra-

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1	A.	Ideally, the demand-related charges, energy-related charges, and customer-
2		related charges would be aligned with the underlying costs. However, in some
3		cases, full movement towards cost-based rates in a single step should be tempered
4		in order to mitigate potential intra-class rate impacts and take into consideration the
5		well-accepted rate making principle of gradualism. Therefore, I propose a moderate
6		increase to the demand charge and a corresponding, revenue-neutral decrease to
7		the energy charge. This change will make some progress towards aligning the rate
8		design with the underlying cost causation while also mitigating the intra-class rate
9		impacts that would result from a more significant movement towards cost-based
10		rates at this time.

The revenue verification for my proposed rate design is presented in Exhibit
 JRR-1 and summarized in Table JRR-3 below.

# 13 Table JRR-3 14 Kroger's Proposed MGS Rates 15 At EKC's Proposed Revenue Requirement and Revenue Allocation

			EKC	Kroger
		Current	Proposed	Proposed
Description	Units	Rate	Rate	Rate
Customer Charge	month	\$ 131.77	\$ 147.53	\$ 147.53
Demand	kW	\$ 17.970	\$ 20.119	\$ 21.077
Energy				
Summer	kWh	\$0.01610	\$ 0.01803	\$ 0.01484
Winter	kWh	\$0.01223	\$ 0.01369	\$ 0.01127

16

- 17 Q. How does your recommended rate design improve the alignment between
- 18 charges and the underlying cost components?
- 19A.My proposed rate design improves the alignment between the demand and20energy revenues and costs by increasing the proportion of Schedule MGS revenues

10	At EKC's Proposed Revenue Requirement
9	Kroger and EKC Schedule MGS Charges Relative to Costs by Classification
8	Table JRR-4
7	design compared to EKC's proposed rate design is shown in Table JRR-4.
6	The alignment between charges and costs for my recommended MGS rate
5	underlying costs for the MGS rate schedule.
4	direction towards improving the relative alignment between the charges and
3	modifications do not result in cost-based rates, but they make a step in the right
2	energy charges, relative to the Company's proposal. My recommended
1	recovered through demand charges, and decreasing the revenues recovered through

	Cost of Service	EKC Proposed	Kroger Proposed
Classification	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total
Customer	0.7%	1.4%	1.4%
Demand	82.2%	77.7%	81.4%
Energy	17.2%	20.9%	17.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

11

#### 12 Q. Have you prepared a bill impact analysis for your recommended changes to

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### the Schedule MGS rate design?

Yes, I have. My bill impact analysis is presented in Exhibit JRR-2 and is 14 A. summarized below in Table JRR-5. My bill impact analysis demonstrates that my 15 proposed modifications would result in a reasonable range of bill impacts for MGS 16 customers with differing load profiles, with a range of approximately 4.8%, or 2.4% 17 18 in either direction for the various load profiles that I have analyzed. These bill 19 impacts represent the change in base rates at the Company's proposed revenue 20 requirement. To the extent that the Commission approves a lower or higher revenue 21 requirement, the actual bill impacts would be lower or higher.

1		Table	JRR-5			
2	Summarized MGS Bill Impacts					
3	Kroger's Proposed Rate De	sign at EF	KC's Prop	osed Reve	nue Requirement	
			Summer	Winter		
	kW Load	l kWh	Change	Change		
	200	30,000	14.2%	14.9%		
	200	70,000	11.3%	12.4%		
	200	110,000	9.1%	10.5%		
	300	45,000	14.3%	14.9%		
	300	100,000	11.5%	12.6%		
	300	150,000	9.5%	10.9%		
	500	100,000	13.4%	14.2%		
	500	175,000	11.3%	12.4%		
	500	275,000	9.0%	10.5%		
	700	175,000	12.7%	13.6%		
	700	250,000	11.2%	12.4%		
	700	350,000	9.5%	10.9%		

1,000	220,000	13.1%	14.0%
1,000	350,000	11.3%	12.4%
1,000	500,000	9.5%	10.9%

4

### 5

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## Q. Your proposed rate design results in differing bill impacts for customers with different load profiles. Is this a reasonable result?

A. Yes, it is a reasonable result. My proposed rate design reflects a cost-based 7 difference while providing gradual movement towards cost-based rates. EKC's 8 9 proposed rate design has a misalignment between the costs and charges based on its own cost of service study, which results in an intra-class subsidy from higher 10 load factor customers to lower load factor customers. It is important to note that I 11 am not proposing full movement towards cost-based rates in this case. Instead, my 12 proposed rate design makes gradual movement towards aligning rates with cost 13 causation and reduces the existing intra-class subsidy. This is a reasonable result 14

1		because it strikes a balance between two important rate-making principles -
2		improving the alignment between rates and the underlying cost causation while also
3		employing gradualism.
4	Q.	Your proposed Schedule MGS rate design was calculated using EKC's
5		proposed revenue requirement. How should your proposed rate design be
6		implemented if the Commission adopts a base rate revenue requirement that
7		is different than EKC's request?
8	A.	To the extent that the Commission approves a revenue target for Schedule
9		MGS that is less than the revenue target EKC is seeking, I recommend that all
10		Schedule MGS rate components should be reduced proportionately to recover the
11		final approved revenue requirement.
12	Q.	Does this conclude your direct testimony?
13	A.	Yes, it does.

### **BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF KANSAS**

THE MATTER OF THE IN ) **APPLICATION OF EVERGY KANSAS** ) **CENTRAL, INC. AND EVERGY KANSAS** ) SOUTH, INC. FOR APPROVAL TO MAKE **CERTAIN CHANGES** IN THEIR **CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 66-117.** 

DOCKET NO. 25-EKCE-294-RTS

 Texas
 MT

 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
 )

 Fort Bend
 MT
 )

 CHESTERFIELD COUNTY
 )

Jared Robertson, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that:

- 1. He is a Senior Consultant with Energy Strategies. L.L.C., in Salt Lake City, Utah;
- 2. He is the witness who sponsors the accompanying testimony entitled "Direct Testimony of Jared Robertson;"
- 3. Said testimony was prepared by him and under his direction and supervision;
- 4. If inquiries were made as to the facts and schedules in said testimony he would respond as therein set forth; and
- 5. The aforesaid testimony and schedules are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Sared Robertson

Jared Robertson

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025, by Jared Robertson.

Notary Public

Electronically signed and notarized online using the Proof platform.

Nandi Turner

ID NUMBER 13246911-2 COMMISSION EXPIRES May 7, 2028

## **EXHIBITS**

### Kroger Exhibit JRR-1 Kroger Proposed Schedule MGS Revenue Verification At EKC Proposed Revenue Requirement and Revenue Allocation

_		Present			Evergy Proposed				Kroger Proposed			
-	Units	Price		Revenue	Price		Revenue		Price		Revenue	
C-L-L-MCC												
Schedule MGS												
Customer Charge	16,604	\$ 131.77	\$	2,187,940	\$ 147.53	\$	2,449,563	\$	147.53	\$	2,449,563	
All kW	6,653,127	\$ 17.970		119,556,695	\$ 20.119		133,852,734	\$	21.077	\$	140,225,734	
Summer kWh	876,134,343	\$ 0.01610		14,105,763	\$ 0.01803		15,792,465	\$	0.01484	\$	12,997,603	
Winter kWh	1,476,613,911	\$ 0.01223		18,058,988	\$ 0.01369		20,218,399	\$	0.01127	\$	16,640,260	
Total			\$	153,909,386		\$	172,313,161			\$	172,313,161	

### Kroger Exhibit JRR-2 Typical Bill Impact Analysis At Kroger Proposed Base Rates for MGS Class

			Summe	er		Winter						
kW		Monthly	v Billing	Char	nge	Monthl	y Billing	Change				
Load Size	kWh	Present	Proposed	\$	%	Present	Proposed	\$	%			
200	30,000	\$4,209	\$4,808	\$599	14.2%	\$4,093	\$4,701	\$608	14.9%			
	70,000	\$4,853	\$5,401	\$549	11.3%	\$4,582	\$5,152	\$570	12.4%			
	110,000	\$5,497	\$5,995	\$498	9.1%	\$5,071	\$5,602	\$531	10.5%			
300	45,000	\$6,247	\$7,138	\$891	14.3%	\$6,073	\$6,978	\$905	14.9%			
	100,000	\$7,133	\$7,954	\$821	11.5%	\$6,746	\$7,597	\$852	12.6%			
	150,000	\$7,938	\$8,696	\$758	9.5%	\$7,357	\$8,161	\$804	10.9%			
500	100,000	\$10,727	\$12,169	\$1,443	13.4%	\$10,340	\$11,813	\$1,473	14.2%			
	175,000	\$11,934	\$13,282	\$1,348	11.3%	\$11,257	\$12,658	\$1,401	12.4%			
	275,000	\$13,544	\$14,766	\$1,221	9.0%	\$12,480	\$13,785	\$1,305	10.5%			
700	175,000	\$15,528	\$17,497	\$1,969	12.7%	\$14,851	\$16,873	\$2,022	13.6%			
	250,000	\$16,736	\$18,610	\$1,874	11.2%	\$15,768	\$17,718	\$1,950	12.4%			
	350,000	\$18,346	\$20,094	\$1,748	9.5%	\$16,991	\$18,845	\$1,854	10.9%			
1,000	220,000	\$21,644	\$24,488	\$2,844	13.1%	\$20,792	\$23,703	\$2,911	14.0%			
	350,000	\$23,737	\$26,417	\$2,680	11.3%	\$22,382	\$25,168	\$2,786	12.4%			
	500,000	\$26,152	\$28,642	\$2,490	9.5%	\$24,217	\$26,859	\$2,642	10.9%			

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025, to the following:

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