BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Evergy)	
Kansas Central, Inc. and Evergy Kansas South,)	Docket No. 25-EKCE-294-RTS
Inc. for Approval to Make Certain Changes in)	
their Charges for Electric Service.)	

THE WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

COMES NOW the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, Inc., a Kansas not for profit corporation ("Wichita Regional Chamber") and respectfully petitions the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("Commission" or "KCC") pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521 and K.A.R. 82-1-225 for an order permitting its intervention and full participation in the above captioned proceeding ("Petition"). In support of its Petition to Intervene, the Wichita Regional Chamber states as follows:

- 1. The Wichita Regional Chamber offices are located at 350 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Kansas 67202.
- 2. The Wichita Regional Chamber represents more than 1,200 businesses, along with their respective employees, in the Wichita region. These businesses are, for the most part, located in the electric service territory of Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. ("Evergy Central").
- 3. The Wichita Regional Chamber strives to create and maintain a competitive business environment to give its members a distinct advantage in achieving their business objectives. Furthermore, the Wichita Regional Chamber focuses on creating prosperity for the entire region. Finally, the Wichita Regional Chamber advocates for pro-business public policies that enable its member businesses to succeed. As part of its mission, the Wichita Regional

Chamber seeks to ensure that its business have access to reliable, continuous electric service, at competitive retail rates -- issues that are central to this instant KCC Docket.

- 4. On January 31, 2025, Evergy¹ filed an application for approval to make certain changes in their charges for electric service in Kansas.²
- 5. Evergy is requesting a net increase in its revenue requirement of \$196.4 million, after costs included in the property tax surcharge are netted out. a net increase of 8.64% in total retail revenues.³
- 6. Broadly speaking, this Docket will address: (i) reliable, continuous electric service, and (ii) competitive retail electric rates. These issues are foundational to the economic interests of every business and citizen in Kansas and to all members of the Wichita Regional Chamber. A reasonable and appropriate resolution of these issues by the KCC in this Docket will be critical to economic development in the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area, and will materially affect the Wichita Regional Chamber and its membership.
- 7. The business community throughout the Wichita region as well as every citizen of the Wichita regional community will benefit from good energy policy to be established in this KCC Docket, on the issues of reliable, continuous electric service, and competitive retail electric rates.
- 8. The Wichita Regional Chamber focuses on the economic growth of the region.

 Thus, the Wichita Regional Chamber is uniquely situated to represent the regional business

¹ Evergy is defined by Intervenor to include Evergy Central and Evergy Kansas South, Inc. ("Evergy South"). Together, unless otherwise indicated, Evergy Central and Evergy South are referred to as "Evergy" throughout the document.

² Evergy Joint Application, KCC Docket No. 25-EKCE-294-RTS, (Jan. 31, 2025).

 $^{^{3}}$ *Id.* at ¶ 2.

community on these energy policy issues. The Wichita Regional Chamber has existed in some form since 1917 and throughout this entire period the Wichita Regional Chamber has consistently advocated for the advancement and health of this unique business community where manufacturing, agriculture, education, and the service industry come together.

- 9. The experience of the Wichita Regional Chamber of addressing critical components of a positive economic climate for businesses in this specific region make the intervention of the Wichita Regional Chamber in this Docket "unique," and represents local business interests.
- 10. The "rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests) of the Wichita Regional Chamber and its membership, may be substantially affected by this proceeding" (K.A.R. 82-1-225) and intervention is appropriate under applicable Kansas law for the Wichita Regional Chamber.
- 11. On June 14, 2023, the Wichita Regional Chamber filed a petition to intervene in Evergy's most recent previous rate case, KCC Docket No. 23-EKCE-775-RTS.
- 12. In that case, the Commission granted the Wichita Regional Chamber's petition on July 6, 2023.
- 13. Furthermore, the Commission has a history and precedent of granting intervention to entities that represent distinct policy interests including, but not limited to the Sierra Club, the Climate and Energy Project, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Earth Justice, IBEW Local Union 304, The Council for the New Energy Economics, and the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.

Applicable Law

14. K.A.R. 82-1-225, provides in pertinent part:

- **82-1-225.** Intervention. This regulation shall apply to both KAPA and non-KAPA proceedings. (a) The presiding officer shall grant a petition for intervention if the following conditions are met:
- (1) The petition is submitted in writing to the presiding officer, with copies mailed to all parties named in the presiding officer's notice of the hearing, at least three days before the hearing.
- (2) The petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests may be substantially affected by the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law.

15. The KCC, in applying K.A.R. 82-1-225 has stated:

The Commission shall grant Intervention if the Petition:

- "(1) is submitted in writing to the presiding officer, with the service on all parties named in the Commission's notice of hearing, at least 3 business days before the hearing; (2) states facts demonstrating the petitioner's legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests may be substantially affected by the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law; and (3) the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention. The Commission has discretion to grant intervention at any time where intervention is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of proceedings. At any time during a proceeding, the Commission may impose limitations on the intervenor's participation, which may include: (1) limiting an intervenor's participation to designated issues in which the intervenor has a particular interest demonstrated by the petition; (2) limiting in the intervenor's discovery, cross-examination, and other procedures; and requiring intervenors to consolidate their participation the proceedings." in ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTIONS, KCC Docket No. 22-EKME-254-TAR, March 31, 2022, at para. 8.
- 16. The Wichita Regional Chamber has stated facts herein that support its participation as an Intervenor herein in that it has direct energy policy interests in the Commission's Order in this Docket.

Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE. The Wichita Regional Chamber requests that the Commission make the following findings:

The Wichita Regional Chamber has met all requirements for intervention under Kansas law, in that the Wichita Regional Chamber:

- (a) has submitted in writing this petition for intervention to the Commission, with service on all parties;
- (b) has stated facts in this petition for intervention demonstrating that the Intervenors' legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, and other legal interests may be substantially affected by this KCC Docket;
- (c) the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention;
- (d) therefore, the Commission issue an Order that this petition for intervention is granted to the Wichita Regional Chamber; and
- (e) that the Wichita Regional Chamber is granted by the Commission full rights of intervention under Kansas law in this Docket, and the Wichita Regional Chamber can participate fully as a Party under Kansas law in this Docket.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Molly E. Morgan

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VERIFICATION

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF SEDGWICK)

Molly E. Morgan, being duly sworn upon his oath, deposes and states that he is the Attorney for Wichita Regional Chamber that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing *Petition to Intervene*, and that the statements therein are true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Molly E Morgay

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 6th day of June 2025.

Morgy Rusbrug

Notary Public

My Appointment Expires:

8/18/26

MORGYN T., RASBURY
Notery Public - State of Kansas
My Appt. Expires 8/18/26

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 6th day of June 2025, the foregoing *Petition to Intervene*, was electronically filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission and that one copy was delivered electronically to all parties on the service list as follows:

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