To whom it may concern –

I'd like to provide assurance that Evergy expects to continue operating our existing 700 MW Emporia Energy Center for many years to come. The natural gas peaking plant opened in 2008 and serves Evergy Kansas Central customers. Our proposed addition of approximately 135 MW of solar surrounding the site complements the existing Emporia Energy Center and will serve as an additional generation resource.
The Emporia Energy Center is Evergy's newest peaking plant. Peaking plants serve an important reliability role by being available when customer demand is highest or when the energy system needs additional generation support.

Peaking plants in Evergy's generating fleet historically have had long useful lives, including units that remain in service today from the 1970s. That history is relevant when considering the expected role of the Emporia Energy Center and the continued value of existing energy infrastructure at the plant.

Most importantly, the Emporia Energy Center is not forecast to retire in Evergy's current 20-year integrated resource plan filed with the State of Kansas. Based on that planning information, the facility is expected to remain part of Evergy's resource portfolio for many years to come. The proposed solar project is a natural pairing, not a replacement, for the electrical infrastructure at the site.

Thank you and have a wonderful day.

Jason Humphrey

Vice President, Generation Development for Evergy

Public