

**Ameren Rate Hike Public Meeting**  
**Comments to the Public Service Commission**  
**Mollie Freebairn - January 14, 2015**

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Warren Wood of Ameren Missouri has outlined four areas of utility investment that explain the need for a rate hike:

- \$38 million for upgrading substation and electrical transmission

Witness Exhibit No. A  
Date 1-14-15 Reporter msm  
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-Great! Better than ISRS.

- \$158 million for carbon-free energy as represented in a new reactor vessel head for the nuclear plant at Callaway.

-- Installing a new nuclear reactor vessel seems premature, since they've applied to the NRC for an extension of their operating license, which last I heard the NRC is deferring for now!

- \$142 million for solar installations, including a new solar energy center in O'Fallon.

-It is more cost effective for Ameren to install distributed solar, sharing the cost of the installation with the solar system owner. Plus Ameren gets the benefit of the Solar RECs towards meeting its Renewable Energy targets.

- \$185 million in new equipment at the Labadie Energy Center to comply with stricter environmental laws.

-Installing air pollution control equipment I do believe they get a tax break + only after fighting for how many years?

<http://www.websterkirkwoodtimes.com/Articles-News-i-2015-01-09-194244.114137-Ameren-Missouri-Rate-Hike-Meeting-Draws-Crowd.html#ixzz3OodTWthm>

### **Utilities & State Government Shut Down Exponential Growth in Solar**

Missouri was on its way to becoming a leader in solar power, thanks to the Renewable Energy Standards (RES) Law, passed by an overwhelming two-thirds of Missouri voters as Proposition C in 2008. With the newly available rebates in 2010, the solar industry became an exponential growth sector, installing 120 MW of solar power, adding over \$400 million to the state's economy, and launching 45 new businesses. Thousands of new jobs have been created. Despite tapping less than one percent of the market, at the start of 2014, the solar industry employed more

workers than the coal-burning power plants where 80 percent of Missouri's electricity is currently generated.

Despite overwhelming public support that has grown to 77% according to the most recent poll, the Renewable Energy Standards are not supported by Missouri state government. On the contrary, under pressure by Ameren and KCP&L, in May of 2013, the legislature passed HB 142, phasing out solar rebates according to compromise conditions negotiated between the utilities and the Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association (MOSEIA). Not content with this win, Ameren and KCP&L petitioned the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) who agreed to the termination of the solar rebate program entirely at the end of 2013. In the 2014 legislative session, proposed legislation to reinstate the solar rebates subject to the phase out compromise conditions never made it out of committee for a vote.

The present state of affairs leaves the fate of all the new solar businesses and jobs in free fall, and the hopes of prospective solar system owners hanging in the balance, while the abrupt cessation of the solar rebates are being challenged in court. A suit has been filed by the Missouri Coalition for the environment and a consortium of fledgling solar businesses known as Save Our Lawfully Authorized Rebates (S.O.L.A.R.), currently awaiting a determination by Judge Dan Green.

PSC Hearings on the Grain Belt Transmission Line As reported in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, In effect in this hearing the PSC staff position is opposed to wind energy because it is too cheap. It would undercut Ameren's ability to make money selling its excess electricity!

The manifold benefits to the people, and economic development, of Missouri from access to clean low cost energy, hundreds of jobs created, increased tax revenue for education in underfunded counties, increased income to landowners along the Grain Belt Line, reduced pollution & CO2 emissions, have no value in the PSC assessment.

[http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/psc-hearings-on-grain-belt-transmission-line-begin/article\\_438a7288-7324-5669-af9a-4fe61eada37f.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/psc-hearings-on-grain-belt-transmission-line-begin/article_438a7288-7324-5669-af9a-4fe61eada37f.html)

In Illinois the Illinois commission voted unanimously in granting a certificate to the Rock Island transmission lines: "The line's impact on the supply-demand balance in electricity markets could cut "the annual cost of wholesale electricity used to serve Illinois customers by an estimated \$320 million in its first year of operation," according to CLEP. It will also bring Illinois an estimated \$600 million in direct investment and hundreds of temporary construction jobs and longer-lasting transmission and wind sector manufacturing and operations-and-maintenance jobs."

~ <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/midwest-renewables-take-a-big-step-closer-to-eastern-markets/338021/>