

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its Office in Jefferson City on the 13th day of April, 2017.

In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric)
Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri for an Order)
Granting a Variance from 4 CSR 240-10.030(19) to)
Revise its Sample Meter Testing Plan)

File No. GE-2017-0164

ORDER GRANTING VARIANCE

Issue Date: April 13, 2017

Effective Date: April 23, 2017

Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri filed an application on December 1, 2016, asking the Commission to modify Ameren Missouri's existing variance from Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-10.030(19), which requires that every gas service meter be removed, inspected and tested for accuracy at least once every 120 months. In 1998, the Commission approved Ameren Missouri's request for a variance from that requirement to allow the company to utilize a Sample Meter Testing Plan to determine which meters should be tested. The company has used that Sample Meter Testing Plan since that time. Ameren Missouri's application asks the Commission to modify the Sample Meter Testing Plan to change the definitions of "Lot" and "Meter" to allow for more efficient use of resources, and to eliminate the requirement that the maximum permissible sampling period be limited to thirty years.

The Commission directed its Staff to review Ameren Missouri's application and to file its recommendation regarding that application. On March 22, 2017, Staff filed its recommendation, advising the Commission to approve the requested variance with some conditions. Staff expressed concern that elimination of the 30-year maximum testing interval could raise concerns about consumer safety.

Staff's concern is that when a utility tests its meter, it also inspects and tests the customer's portion of the fuel line and connected appliances, and may uncover safety problems apart from any problems with the meter. If the utility does not test its meter, it will not be in a position to find those other safety problems. To address this safety concern, Staff proposes that Ameren Missouri be required to contact customers whose meters have not been tested in the previous 30 years and offer to conduct a courtesy safety inspection of their gas line.

Ameren Missouri filed a response to Staff's recommendation on March 30, indicating its acceptance of Staff's proposed conditions. On April 6, the Office of the Public Counsel indicated it does not object to Ameren Missouri's requested variance.

After considering Ameren Missouri's request for a variance, along with Staff's recommendation and proposed conditions, the Commission finds that Ameren Missouri has shown good cause for the requested variance and that granting the variance is in the public interest, subject to the conditions proposed by Staff and accepted by Ameren Missouri.

Because Ameren Missouri's request for variance is unopposed and in the public interest, the Commission will make this order effective in less than 30 days.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Application and Request for Variance is granted, subject to the following conditions:

A. Ameren Missouri shall notify Staff once the processes for customer offers and courtesy safety inspections outlined in Conditions B and C below are developed;

B. For gas meters in a sample meter testing plan, if a meter location has had neither a turn-on nor a turn-off meter test performed in the previous 30 years, Ameren

Missouri shall send the customer an offer of a courtesy safety inspection as described in Condition C.

C. If the customer accepts the offer made under Condition B, Ameren Missouri shall perform a visual inspection under 4 CSR 240-40.030(12)(S)1.B and a gas leak check of the accessible fuel line using gas detection equipment; and

D. Ameren Missouri shall revise P.S.C. MO. No. 23rd Revised Sheet No. 54, VII, F. Meter Testing to add “as amended by File No. GE-2017-0164” directly following Case No. GO-98-25 as stated in its approved tariff sheet.

2. This order shall become effective on April 23, 2017.
3. This file shall be closed on April 24, 2017.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, Rupp, and
Coleman, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission,
at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 13th day of April 2017.**




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 13, 2017

File/Case No. GE-2017-0164

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Union Electric Company

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.