

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its Office in Jefferson City, Missouri on the 26th day of May, 2021.

In the Matter of Union Electric Company)	
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Adjust)	<u>File No. GR-2021-0241</u>
its Revenues for Natural Gas Service)	Tracking No. YG-2021-0176

ORDER REGARDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND TEST YEAR

Issue Date: May 26, 2021

Effective Date: May 26, 2021

On March 31, 2021, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri Inc. submitted a tariff revision intended to increase its revenues for natural gas service. The Commission has suspended that tariff revision until February 28, 2022. In its order suspending the tariff, the Commission scheduled a hearing for October 12 through 22, 2021, but also invited the parties to submit a proposed procedural schedule.

On May 13, 2021, all parties submitted a jointly proposed procedural schedule.¹ The proposed procedural schedule would move the evidentiary hearing into December, with reply briefs to be filed on January 14, 2022. The motion explains that this schedule is appropriate to allow for the use of the agreed upon test year ending December 31, 2020, with a true-up cut-off date of September 30, 2021.

The hearing schedule proposed by the parties is problematic in that it unduly limits the amount of time available to the Commission to deliberate and prepare a report and order and deal with compliance tariffs by the February 28, 2022 operation of law date. If

¹ The parties that submitted the proposed procedural schedule are Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri; Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission; The Office of the Public Counsel; the Consumers Council of Missouri; Missouri School Boards' Association; the Midwest Energy Consumers Group; and Renew Missouri Advocates d/b/a Renew Missouri.

reply briefs are submitted on Friday, January 14, 2022, the first agenda at which the Commission could begin deliberations would be on January 19, just one business day after reply briefs are filed.² That would allow for just one additional agenda for deliberation on January 26, before a report and order would need to be issued on February 2. Because of those problems, the Commission will modify the proposed schedule by moving the proposed start of the hearing and adjusting the proposed briefing schedule.

The Commission recognizes that moving the hearing dates will affect the portion of the procedural schedule leading up to the start of the hearing. Rather than attempt to modify that portion of the schedule, the Commission will direct the parties to file an updated procedural schedule to accommodate the new hearing and briefing dates, and to identify any effect on the proposed test year and true-up cut-off date..³

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The following hearing dates and briefing schedule are established:

Evidentiary Hearing	-	November 17-19, 22-23, 29-30, December 1-3, and 6-10, 2021
Initial Post-Hearing Briefs	-	December 28, 2021
Reply/True-up Briefs	-	January 7, 2022

² Despite the suggestion offered by the parties in footnote 9 of their jointly proposed procedural schedule, the Commission cannot begin meaningful deliberations before reply briefs are filed.

³ The identified hearing dates are acceptable to the Commission, but if the parties wish to propose alternative hearing dates that will still allow for the submission of reply/true-up briefs by January 7, 2022 they may do so.

2. No later than June 2, 2021, the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule that incorporates the ordered hearing dates and briefing schedule, or otherwise provides for the submission of reply/true-up briefs by no later than January 7, 2022.

3. The hearing shall be held at the Commission's office at the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. This building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in this hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

4. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

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

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman, and
Kolkmeier CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge