

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 10th day of March, 2021.

In the Matter of the Application of Union )  
Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri )  
for an Accounting Authority Order to )  
Record and Preserve Net Costs and )  
Revenues Related to COVID-19 )

**File No. GU-2021-0112**

**ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT**

Issue Date: March 10, 2021

Effective Date: April 9, 2021

On October 16, 2020, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri applied for an accounting authority order (AAO), for its gas operations,<sup>1</sup> permitting it to track and defer into a regulatory asset all incremental costs and other financial impacts (including lost revenues) related to the COVID-19 pandemic, starting March 1, 2020. The Commission directed notice and established an intervention deadline. The Commission granted intervention to the Missouri School Board's Association and Renew Missouri Advocates d/b/a Renew Missouri.

On February 25, 2021, Ameren Missouri, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and Renew Missouri (collectively "Signatories") filed a stipulation and agreement (Agreement) purporting to resolve the issues between the parties. The Office of the Public Counsel and the Missouri School Board's Association were not signatories but authorized Ameren Missouri to represent that they do not oppose the Agreement. Where all parties are not signatories to a stipulation and agreement, Commission Rule

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<sup>1</sup> Ameren Missouri applied for a similar AAO for its electric operations in File No. EU-2021-0027.

20 CSR 4240-2.115(2) allows seven days to object to the stipulation and agreement. If no party files a timely objection to a stipulation and agreement, the Commission may treat it as a unanimous stipulation and agreement. More than seven days have passed since the Agreement was filed, and no party has objected. Therefore, the Commission will treat the Agreement as unanimous.

The terms of the Agreement are contained in the attached stipulation and agreement. By the terms of the Agreement, Ameren Missouri will use a deferral accounting mechanism to track and defer into a regulatory asset specific incremental costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, from March 1, 2020, until March 31, 2021 (with an extension or renewal upon the agreement of the Signatories and a subsequent Commission order).

The costs being deferred in the AAO include operating and maintenance expense related to protecting Ameren Missouri employees and customers, write offs of bad debt, COVID-19 related customer communications costs, expenses for COVID-19 related temporary operating centers, mileage or rental vehicle costs for employees who no longer share service vehicles due to COVID-19, and waived late payment and reconnection fees up to the amount included in the revenue requirement used to last set Ameren Missouri's base electric rates. Ameren Missouri agrees that it not seeking to defer, and will not defer into a regulatory asset any lost revenues from reduced customer usage (volumetric charges) due to the pandemic. The Signatories further agree that specific operating cost reductions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shall be tracked and netted against the deferred costs in the AAO. Rate treatment of this regulatory asset will be determined in Ameren Missouri's next rate cases.

After reviewing the Agreement, the Commission finds that it is a reasonable resolution of the issues contained therein and should be approved. The Commission will grant Ameren Missouri's request to use a deferral accounting mechanism to track and defer in into a regulatory asset all incremental costs and other financial impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as set forth in the Agreement.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The stipulation and agreement filed on February 25, 2021, is approved. The Signatories are ordered to comply with its terms. A copy of the Agreement is attached to this order and incorporated by reference.

2. The Commission grants Ameren Missouri's request to use a deferral accounting mechanism to track and defer in a regulatory asset incremental costs and other financial impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as set forth in the Agreement. Any rate treatment of that regulatory asset will be determined in Ameren Missouri's next rate case.

3. This order shall be effective on April 9, 2021.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

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

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

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

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge