# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Decrease Its Revenues for Electric Service.

) ) File No. ER-2019-0355

## JOINT MOTION TO FURTHER MODIFY REQUIREMENTS OF SECOND STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

COME NOW Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren Missouri") and the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"), and for their joint motion to further modify the Second Stipulation and Agreement ("Stipulation") among them, which was filed in this docket on March 9, 2020 and approved by the Commission in its March 18, 2020 *Order Approving Stipulation and Agreements* ("Order"), state as follows:

1. The Stipulation provided for payment by Ameren Missouri of \$7 million to consumer action agencies to be used for "low-income weatherization or for assistance to low-income customers for such customers' participation in Ameren Missouri's energy efficiency programs." Stipulation  $\P$  3.b.<sup>1</sup> The Stipulation was approved by the Order and the Commission ordered the parties to comply with its terms.

2. As the Commission is well aware, the state (and nation as a whole) began experiencing extraordinary social and economic circumstances almost immediately after the Joint Movants filed the Stipulation and after the Commission approved it because of the impacts of the novel coronavirus ("Covid-19"). The impacts of Covid-19 on Ameren Missouri's low-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> An additional \$500,000 was to be contributed to the headquarters of the consumer action agencies that administer low income weatherization assistance programs in Ameren Missouri's service territory to cover administrative and training costs.

income customers is particularly acute in terms of those customers' ability to pay their utility bills.

3. In addition, while low-income customers would ultimately benefit from the implementation of weatherization measures at the residences, weatherization activity in the state has all but stopped due to the Covid-19 crisis.

4. In recognition of these considerations, on May 4, 2020, Ameren Missouri and the OPC filed a joint motion to modify the requirements of the Stipulation to re-direct \$3.5 million of the \$7 million that had been earmarked for weatherization to low-income energy assistance for Ameren Missouri's electric customers needing assistance with paying their electric bills.

Based on their agreement, Ameren Missouri and OPC asked that the Commission approve a modification of  $\P$  3.b of the Stipulation so that it would read as follows:<sup>2</sup>

b. Ameren Missouri shall donate \$3.57.0 million to the fourteen consumer action agencies that administer low-income weatherization assistance programs ("LIWAP") in its service territory and \$500,000 (provided concurrently with the effective date of new base rates set in this proceeding) to the consumer action agency headquarters for a total of \$4.07.5 million, to be spent on low-income weatherization or for assistance to low-income customers for such customers' participation in Ameren Missouri's energy efficiency programs. With respect to the foregoing \$4.07.0 million donation, it is agreed that Ameren Missouri and OPC will collaborate together to decide on the appropriate allocation

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of the **\$4.07.0** million in funds among the 14 agencies and on the appropriate timing for the use of the funds (which Ameren Missouri and OPC agree are to be exhausted by December 31, 2022). In this regard, Ameren Missouri and OPC agree that the goal of the collaboration and the decisions arising from it is to maximize the effectiveness of the funds for assisting low-income customers; provided, that if Ameren Missouri and OPC cannot agree on these matters, they agree to take the matters to the Commission for resolution by December 31, 2021. In addition, Ameren Missouri shall donate **\$3.5 million for low-income energy assistance in calendar year 2020**; and

5. On May 21, 2020, the Commission approved the joint motion to modify the Stipulation as referenced above.

6. The challenges customers face due to the Covid-19 pandemic have continued. As a consequence, Ameren Missouri and OPC propose to further amend the Stipulation to re-direct the remaining \$3.5 million that had previously been earmarked for weatherization. Specifically, Ameren Missouri and OPC agree that \$1.3 million should be used to fund a low-income energy efficiency program, the terms of which are set forth in Attachment A attached hereto; \$1.2 million should be used to fund additional low-income energy assistance in 2021, including but not limited to Ameren Missouri's Clean Slate program; and the remaining \$1 million should be used to fund administrative costs for the agencies charged with administering the distribution of energy assistance funding to low-income customers.

7. Ameren Missouri and the OPC therefore ask that the Commission approve a further modification of paragraph 3.b of the Stipulation, so that it would read as follows:

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b. Ameren Missouri shall donate \$500,000 (provided concurrently with the effective date of new base rates set in this proceeding) to the headquarters of the fourteen consumer action agencies that administer low income weatherization assistance programs ("LIWAP") in its service territory. In addition, Ameren Missouri shall donate \$3.5 million for low-income energy assistance in calendar year 2020; \$1.2 million for low-income energy assistance in calendar year 2021, including but not limited to the Company's Clean Slate program; \$1.3 million to fund a low-income energy efficiency program to be launched in 2021, the terms of which are generally described in Attachment A to the Joint Motion to Further Modify Requirements of Second Stipulation and Agreement filed in this proceeding on March 23, 2021; and \$1 million to fund a dministrative costs for the agencies that administer energy assistance funding in Ameren Missouri's service territory

8. Ameren Missouri and OPC agree to collaborate to implement the terms of the modified Stipulation, and if they cannot agree on any implementation matter they agree to take such matter to the Commission for resolution.

WHEREFORE, Ameren Missouri and OPC respectfully request the Commission to make

and enter its order approving the terms of this Joint Motion to Further Modify Requirements of

Second Stipulation and Agreement and the modify the Stipulation accordingly.

/s/ James B. Lowery James B. Lowery, MO Bar #40503 JBL Law, LLC 3406 Whitney Ct. Columbia, MO 65203 Telephone: (573) 476-0050 Iowery@jbllawllc.com

Wendy K. Tatro, Bar #60261 Associate General Counsel Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri P.O. Box 66149 (MC 1310) 1901 Chouteau Avenue St. Louis, MO 63166-6149 (T) 314-554-3484 (F) 314-554-4014 AmerenMOService@ameren.com

Attorneys for Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri

## **OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL**

#### By: /s/ Marc D. Poston

Marc D. Poston (#45722) Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65203 (573) 751-5318 (573) 751 5562 FAX marc.poston@opc.mo.gov

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all parties of record via electronic mail (e-mail) on this 24th day of March, 2021.

# /s/James B. Lowery

James B. Lowery

### Attachment A

### DIY – "Do It Yourself"

## Description of Special Energy Efficiency Pandemic Program for Income Eligible Customers

**Qualifying Customers.** Ameren will target up to 2,100 customers for participation based on a one or more of the following indicators:

- At least one bill paid with energy assistance in past year
- At least one record of an arrears reduction program in past year
- Premises is within an opportunity zone that qualifies customers for low income programs
- Currently in any stage of the collection process
- Designated low income in Ameren Missouri's CSS
- Identified in high COVID-impacted communities according to community-based organization leads

Program Description. The program will provide:

• A DIY kit which includes the following energy efficient measures (kit cost estimated at ~\$250):

LEDsAerators

• Foam weather stripping

o Door corner pads

- o Smart Thermostat
- o Advance Power Strip
- o Pipe insulation

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- Window Insulation Kit
- One-time bill credit of \$150 for verified installations
- Customers will be provided virtual support for installation of the measures contained in the kits. Customers will also verify installations via virtual means. No Ameren representative or trade ally will have in-person contact with the customer.

Customers installing the Smart Thermostat will also be eligible to enroll in the Peak Time Savings Program, which includes a \$50 sign-up bonus and \$25 in incentives annually thereafter.

**Estimated Savings.** Ameren Missouri estimates the average approximate savings for customers will be \$12.77 per month, or \$153.20 annually.

**Budget.** Ameren Missouri will fund the program at approximately \$1.3 million, of which no more than 33% will be used to administer the program; at least 67% of the budget shall be used for the \$150 customer bill credits and the cost of the kits. Ameren Missouri anticipates a budget as follows, but may make adjustments as needed that align with the previously stated parameters:

Anticipated Budget	
Item	Budget
Administrative costs (administration, virtual support, marketing, etc.)	\$452,965
Kits	\$532,035
Verification Incentives(\$150) Ameren bill credit	\$315,000
Total	\$1,300,000