## 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 Increase Its	)	File No. GR-2019-0077
Revenues for Natural Gas Service	)	

## PUBLIC COUNSEL'S SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OF LOCATIONS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

**COMES NOW** the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC or Public Counsel), by and through counsel, and for its Recommendations for Local Public Hearings in this case states as follows:

- In this case, on December 6, 2018, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice, Setting Intervention Deadline, directing Filing and Suspending Tariff* (Order) setting certain procedural dates.
- 2. Pertinent to this pleading Public Counsel notes the following paragraphs from the December 6 Order:
  - 4. An early prehearing conference shall be held on **January 7**, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.
  - 6. The parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule by **January 4**, 2019. The Staff of the Commission shall be responsible for filing this schedule. (Emphasis added)
- 3. In its December 13, 2018 *Staff Motion to Change Filing Date* (Staff Motion), Staff noted that a discussion concerning a proposed procedural schedule is: "normally one of the primary matters of discussion, and often contention, among the parties at an early prehearing conference . . . ." Staff Motion p. 1, footnote deleted).

- 4. Staff further requested it be allowed to file a proposed procedural schedule after," the January 7, 2019 early-prehearing conference the Commission scheduled. Staff Motion pp 1-2.
- 5. In its December 6 Order the Commission "also direct[ed] the parties to file recommendations regarding local public hearings. The Office of the Public Counsel will be responsible for filing these suggestions.
- 6. Public Counsel hereby files the following suggestions for locations of local public hearings in accord with that Order. (Order p. 2).
- 7. Ameren Gas' last general rate case was GR-2010-0363. Public Counsel is not aware of any significant changes in Ameren Gas' service territory and subsequently recommends the following locations for consideration:

Wentzville Columbia Jefferson City Mexico Cape Girardeau Rolla

8. Below signed Public Counsel recalls significant attendance at several of the above listed hearings, but with the passage of time and lower natural gas prices, Public Counsel has no way of predicting which of these might have more or less attendance.

**WHEREFORE,** in accord with the Commission's December 6 Order, Public Counsel files its suggestions regarding locations for Local Public Hearings, for the Parties consideration at the January 7, 2019 pre-hearing conference scheduled in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY: /s/ Lera L. Shemwell Lera L. Shemwell Senior Counsel (Bar #43792) P. O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-5565 (Telephone) (573) 751-5562 (Fax) lera.shemwell@ded.mo.gov

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this  $3^{rd}$  day of January 2019.

/s/Lera L. Shemwell
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