

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Union Electric Company	)	
d/b/a Ameren Missouri for a Variance from	)	
Portions of Its Tariffs Related to	)	File No. GE-2020-0291
Reconnection and Late Payment Fees.	)	

**NOTICE**

**COMES NOW** Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren Missouri" or "the Company"), and provides notice to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") that it intends to continue its waiver of late fees and reconnection fees through at least July 1, 2020.

In support of its position, Ameren Missouri states as follows:

1. On March 17, 2020, Ameren Missouri submitted its request for a waiver of selected tariffs related to reconnection and late payment fees. As it noted in Paragraph 1 of its application:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ameren Missouri has been working to both maintain reliable service for its customers, and to develop accommodations for its customers who may be facing financial difficulties as a result of lost work and wages, illness, and other virus impacts. As part of its response, the Company is forgoing the collection of fees related to late payments and reconnections for the duration of the pandemic. Allowing customers these financial accommodations is only part of the actions Ameren Missouri is taking, but is still an important action. However, these fees are provided for by the Company's tariffs; therefore, Ameren Missouri is submitting this *Amended Notice and Request* for permission to waive certain portions of its tariffs until the pandemic is waning.

2. On March 25 2020, the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") issued in this case its *Order Granting Variances* ("Order"). Since the Commission's approval of this variance, Ameren Missouri has continued to not only monitor pandemic conditions, but has taken additional actions to provide aid to its customers. For example, the Company requested, and was granted, a waiver from its similar tariff provisions for electric customers.<sup>1</sup> About the same

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<sup>1</sup> File No. EE-2020-0290.

time it requested these waivers, Ameren Missouri announced it was allocating \$1 million in energy assistance funding for its customers impacted by the pandemic, with \$500,000 available through the United Way of Greater St. Louis and another \$500,000 available through [heatupmissouri.org](http://heatupmissouri.org) and [heatupstlouis.org](http://heatupstlouis.org).<sup>2</sup> Before March ended, Ameren Missouri allocated another \$250,000 to the United Way for COVID-19 assistance through its 2-1-1 program.<sup>3</sup> In April, the Company requested, and was granted, a waiver from its tariff provisions requiring customers to remain current on their bills in order to remain in the Keeping Current program.<sup>4</sup> Finally, in May, Ameren Missouri entered into an agreement with the Office of the Public Counsel to shift \$3.5 million to low income energy assistance in the calendar year 2020.<sup>5</sup> Through this pandemic, Ameren Missouri has kept its customers front of mind, and has worked diligently to ensure they continue to have the safe and reliable service they need.

3. As time has progressed, federal, state, and local governments are exploring the lightening of stay-at-home orders in order to spur economic regrowth. With specific relevance to Ameren Missouri, Governor Parsons announced the first phase of re-opening the state's economy, beginning May 4, 2020.<sup>6</sup> The City of St. Louis announced a gradual re-opening beginning May 18, 2020,<sup>7</sup> and St. Louis County adopted the same gradual re-opening date.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ameren.mediaroom.com/2020-03-18-Ameren-Missouri-to-provide-1-Million-in-energy-assistance-funds-for-customers-amid-Coronavirus-pandemic>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://ameren.mediaroom.com/2020-03-30-AmerenCares-donates-500-000-for-COVID-19-assistance-in-Illinois-and-Missouri>.

<sup>4</sup> File No. EE-2020-0314.

<sup>5</sup> File No. ER-2019-0335, Joint Motion to Modify Requirement of Second Stipulation and Agreement, filed May 4, 2020, decision pending.

<sup>6</sup> <https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parson-announces-first-phase-show-me-strong-recovery-plan-begin-may>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/mayor/news/city-of-st-louis-to-begin-gradually-reopening-on-may-18.cfm>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://stlcorona.com/news/media-advisory-552020/>

4. In order to continue its monitoring of multiple factors related to the pandemic, including the financial impacts on its customers, the Company will continue its moratorium on late payment fees through at least July 1, 2020.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, Ameren Missouri has determined that it will extend these waivers through at least July 1, 2020, and will continue to monitor pandemic conditions in the meantime to determine if that date should be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY  
D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI**

*/s/ Paula N. Johnson*

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was sent by electronic transmission, facsimile, or email to counsel for parties in this case on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

/s/ Paula N. Johnson