

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **2019 Q2 Community Solar PSC report**

**File No. EA-2016-0207**

#### **Program Enrollment**

The Community Solar program was open for enrollment on October 15, 2018 via an on-line application process.

The marketing campaign was very successful and fully subscribed the program in 55 days, on December 10, 2018. After December 10, 2018, the website was updated to inform customers the program was fully subscribed, however customers continue to enroll in the program and be placed on a wait list. As of April 30, 2019, 193 customers and an associated 954 blocks are on the wait list, which is 73% of a future second 1MW solar facility.

#### **Lambert Community Solar Center Construction**

The construction started in March, 2019 with a planned in-service date in July 2019.

The Community Solar website was updated to include a time lapse video which reflects current updates of the solar construction activity.

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## Community Solar

Take part in solar energy generation without installing a single solar panel.

Community Solar Construction | Ameren Missouri Watch later Share

Latest Construction Update: Construction has begun, and racking is now being set up. See our progress in the video above!

### Customer Billing

Participating customers will receive their first energy statement reflecting the new energy charges after the solar center construction is completed and placed in-service.

### Future Considerations

Appendix D to the *Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement* submitted in this proceeding on September 23, 2016 ("*Stipulation*") identifies topics for **Learning Opportunities, Key Questions to Explore** and **Planned Activities to Gain Insight**. Information from this analysis will assist Ameren Missouri in determining first-hand how best to structure supply options related to distributive solar generation. The intent is to engage customers, solicit their feedback and provide a

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basis to continually adjust the program offering in order to meet their expectations. The lessons learned through this pilot program should provide insights into the advantages and challenges associated with distributed generation resources on the Ameren Missouri grid. Testing the deployment, this small-scale pilot project may be helpful in developing real time solutions for distributed generation.

As stated in the Q1 2019 report, these Learning Opportunities will be further investigated in the second quarter of 2019.

### **Learning Opportunities**

- Q: How did customers react to the various pricing opportunities presented?**
- Q: Did the offering of the community solar program provide customers who didn't have access to Net Energy Metering an opportunity to participate in adding solar to the grid?**
- Q: What value or benefits do customers perceive from adding solar at the distribution level, compared to adding large-scale solar at the transmission level?**
- Q: What were customer's reactions and sensitivity to other program design aspects? (e.g. Timing, Fees, Quantities, Length, Commitments, Transferability, Caps, and potential for pricing to increase though facilities charge)**

### **Future Key Questions to Explore and Planned Activities to Gain Insights**

In accordance with Appendix D, Ameren Missouri will conduct a survey of the program participants after the first 18 months of program operation. At this time, the project is in the construction phase. A participant survey will be conducted in the second quarter of 2019 and a follow up survey after 18 months of program operation to gather customer feedback on the following list of topics:

- What were customer's expectations coming into the program?
- Is the program meeting customer expectations?
- What areas of the program need improvement?
- What aspects of the program do the customers like and dislike?
- Do participants find the timing, level, and refund limitation of the up-front reservation fee reasonable?
- Are current and potential subscribers willing to commit to a two-year subscription?
- Would a shorter mandatory subscription period (or no period at all) be more appropriate?
- Would current or potential subscribers be interested in the ability to transfer subscriptions to other customers without penalty?
- Is the block size appropriate?
- Do current or potential subscribers want to be able to subscribe to more than 50% of their usage? Should the limitation be relaxed or eliminated for customers exhibiting high load factors?
- Are customers aware of the potential for part of the subscription fee to increase with rate cases? With this knowledge, are they still willing to participate?
- Are there any aspects of the program that provide the customer with a greater understanding of solar energy generation?
- What is the impact of the program on non-participating ratepayers?

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A similar survey will then be conducted after three years to determine if the program has provided enough value to be extended and/or what changes would be necessary to gain a higher level or a continued level of participation. In addition to surveying program participants, Ameren Missouri will solicit input from non-participants to determine reasons for nonparticipation and alternative program design provisions which might encourage participation. This survey shall be conducted every six years thereafter over the life of the solar resource.

### **Lessons Learned and Recommendations**

Initial customer demand and no customer concerns are indicating that this will be a successful program. Participant and non-participant surveys will be conducted in the second quarter of 2019. Based upon these results, a plan will be developed for the development of second phase Community Solar program to be launched later in 2019.