

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

Anita Wessling,	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No: EC-2018-0089
	)	
Union Electric Company, d/b/a	)	
Ameren Missouri,	)	
Respondent.	)	

**Ameren Missouri’s Response to Staff Report**

COMES NOW Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri (“Ameren Missouri” or “the Company”) and for its Answer states as follows:

Procedural Background

1. On February 13, 2018, Staff filed its Staff Report in this Complaint.
2. On February 14, 2018, the Commission issued its Order Directing Filing of Responses, in which it ordered the Company to file a response to the Staff Report no later than February 28, 2018.

Response

3. In its Staff Report, Staff noted that in its investigation of this Complaint it found no violation by the Company of the Company’s tariffs, Commission Rules, or Missouri statute, and that the Company was not negligent in response to Complainant’s outages. Staff Report, ¶5, ¶8. These findings are consistent with the Company’s detailed Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Motion to Dismiss filed in this Complaint on January 23, 2018 (the “Answer”).
4. Staff recommended that the Commission dismiss the Complaint for failure to state a claim. In the alternative and notwithstanding its findings of no violations, Staff recommended that the Commission order the Company to take additional steps to reduce the number of outages including certain specific steps, namely: “a.) install cages around wires at risk for animal contact that have caused outages at Complainant’s residence in the past three years, and b.) conduct additional vegetation management measures around circuit 56[.]” Staff Report, closing ¶.

5. While the Company agrees that it is proper to dismiss the Complaint for failure to state a claim, the Company is not opposed to implementing Staff's recommendations a.) and b.), generally speaking.

6. In response to Staff's recommendation a.) specifically, the Company notes that while Staff's recommendation is to "install cages around *wires* at risk for animal contact," (emphasis added) the Company has determined that it is more likely animal contact with unguarded *transformers* that has caused animal-related outages. The Company recently performed an unmanned aerial patrol of the tap providing service to Complainant. The Company reviewed images from the patrol and determined that there were unguarded transformers along the tap. The Company agrees to install animal guards on these unguarded transformers, with such work to be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2018, weather permitting.

7. In response to Staff's recommendation b.) specifically, the Company notes that, as stated in its Answer, the Company has already accelerated the mid-cycle vegetation management patrol of Droste Substation Circuit 56 that was to be performed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018, completing the accelerated patrol in mid-January of 2018. In addition, the Company is willing to perform, and has scheduled, an additional mid-cycle vegetation management patrol on Circuit 56 to be performed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018, at the same time the Company performs the regularly-scheduled mid-cycle vegetation management patrol for the remainder of the circuits serving the Droste Substation.

8. Staff's alternative recommendation that the Complaint be dismissed for failure to state a claim is consistent with the Company's prayer for relief in its Answer, and therefore the Company supports Staff's alternative recommendation. The alternative recommendation of dismissal is also appropriate because the Company has taken actions responsive to Staff's suggested measures for improving Complainant's service.

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Ameren Missouri's Response to Staff Report was served on the following parties via electronic mail (e-mail) on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

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