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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILE NO. ER-2022-0337

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

MITCHELL LANSFORD

ON

BEHALF OF

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

**St. Louis, Missouri
February, 2023**

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REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

MITCHELL LANSFORD

FILE NO. ER-2022-0337

I. INTRODUCTION

1

Q. Please state your name and business address.

2

3 A. My name is Mitchell Lansford. My business address is One Ameren Plaza,
4 1901 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, Missouri.

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4

**Q. Are you the same Mitchell Lansford that submitted direct testimony in
6 this case?**

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6

7 A. Yes, I am.

7

Q. Are you sponsoring any schedules in connection with your testimony?

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9 A. Yes, I am sponsoring, and have attached to my rebuttal testimony, Schedule
10 MJL-R1 – *Income Tax Illustrative Example*.

9

10

Q. To what testimony or issues are you responding?

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12 A. My rebuttal testimony responds to the following issues: (1) Meramec
13 Investment (Staff witness Majors); (2) Allowance for funds used during construction (OPC
14 witness Dave Murray); (3) Continuing Plant Inventory Record (Staff witness Cunigan); (4)
15 Meramec insurance expense (Staff witness Nieto); (5) Non-labor power plant maintenance
16 (Staff witness Nieto); (6) Non-qualified pension expense (Staff witness Giacone); (7)
17 Vegetation management & infrastructure inspection (Staff witness Majors); (8)
18 Communications expenses (Staff witness Nieto and OPC witness Marke); (9) Lease expense
19 (Staff witness Giacone); (10) Call center costs (Staff witness Nieto); (11) Nuclear waste disposal

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1 (Staff witness Young); (12) Electric vehicle employee incentive (Staff witness Lyons); (13)
2 Short-term incentive compensation (Staff witness Young); (14) Rate case expense (Staff
3 witness Giacone); (15) Renewable Energy Standard ("RES") tracker base (Staff witness Lyons);
4 (16) Legal expenses (Staff witness Majors); (17) Other amortization amounts (Staff witnesses
5 Giacone and Young); (18) Property taxes (Staff witness Lyons); (19) Inflation Reduction Act
6 (Staff witness Young); (20) Income Taxes (Staff witness Young); (21) Equity issuance costs
7 (Staff witness Lyons); and (22) Other Items (various Staff witnesses).

8 **II. MERAMEC INVESTMENT**

9 **Q. Please summarize Staff's position in this case related to unrecovered**
10 **Meramec investment arising from the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement in File**
11 **No. ER-2021-0240.**

12 A. Staff simply states no carrying costs should be allowed on this outstanding
13 balance because the Commission ordered as such in a recent Evergy West rate case relating
14 to unrecovered investment in Evergy West's Sibley plant. In line with its stated position,
15 Staff excluded the remaining unrecovered balance from rate base in its revenue
16 requirement.

17 **Q. Did Staff express an opinion on the inclusion of these Meramec costs in**
18 **rate base in any prior case?**

19 A. Yes. In File No. ER-2021-0240 Staff witness Lisa Ferguson said, "Staff is
20 also not opposed to the proposal regarding carrying costs."¹ The Company's proposal to
21 which Staff witness Ferguson referred in making that statement was "Any difference
22 between the rate base component of the base amount included in this revenue requirement and

¹ File No. ER-2021-0240, Lisa Ferguson Rebuttal Testimony, page 4 line 23, page 5 line 1 (emphasis added).

1 related future actual costs should be deferred and *included in rate base* in the Company's future
2 rate cases, until fully recovered or refunded" and "Carrying costs equal to the Company's
3 weighted-average-cost-of-capital should be applied to deferrals *included in rate base*."²

4 **Q. Are the pertinent facts for the Meramec plant the same as for Evergy**
5 **West's Sibley plant?**

6 A. Not at all. In File No. ER-2021-0240, the Company recognized that, despite
7 the fact that the then-current depreciation rates were sufficient to recover the remaining
8 plant balance during the time when the plant was still providing service, including the full
9 remaining costs of the Meramec plant in base rates in that case would fully recover the
10 remaining costs over the 10 months of remaining operations of the plant (between the
11 expected effective date of new rates in that case and December 31, 2022, the retirement
12 date), but customer rates would remain elevated as a result of these costs until new rates
13 could take effect in a future case (i.e., as here, through June of this year). Rather than have
14 rates stay in effect that were too high during that period and potentially track them for
15 future return to customers, the Company proposed, and parties ultimately agreed, to simply
16 spread the recovery of the remaining costs over a 5-year period instead of 10 months. As a
17 result of this agreed-upon treatment, the costs at issue associated with Meramec are not an
18 unrecovered balance of plant costs in the way one would normally think about that term –
19 like something to potentially apply securitization to. They are rather costs of providing
20 service during the plant's life, but which are deferred in order to spread the rate impact on
21 customers over multiple years. These costs absolutely relate to costs of providing service
22 during the plant's life.

² File No. ER-2021-0240, Lansford Direct, page 10, ll 4-15, March 31, 2021.

1 This deferral treatment was, however, a great outcome for customers, as base rates
2 are approximately \$50 million lower today than they otherwise would have been.
3 Obviously, this outcome had a smoothing effect on customer rates as well. No part of this
4 balance would remain unrecovered at this point in time if the Company had not voluntarily
5 made this customer-focused proposal in File No. ER-2021-0240, a proposal that was
6 ultimately approved by the Commission.

7 The facts surrounding Evergy West's Sibley plant are different in that the plant
8 closed earlier than anticipated at a time when all investment and costs were included in the
9 revenue requirement used to set customer rates. No element of the Sibley facts included a
10 proactive, customer-focused proposal to lower rates as compared to more traditional
11 recovery methods.

12 **Q. Why is it good regulatory policy for Staff and the Commission to**
13 **support the Company's and Ms. Ferguson's prior recommendation to include the**
14 **remaining balance in rate base?**

15 A. The primary reason is so that the Company and other electric utilities could
16 repeat this customer-rate-reducing arrangement, without significant financial detriment, for
17 at least some of the numerous coal-fired generating facilities that will retire over the
18 coming decades. If the Commission were to agree with Staff in this case and determine,
19 effectively, that no good deed should go unpunished, the approximately \$4 million of
20 financing costs (annually) that the Company is incurring on the remaining balance today
21 would never be recovered.

1 **Q. Are there other Meramec capital investments at issue in this case?**

2 A. Yes. The Company has made unavoidable investments at the Meramec site
3 to enable plant closure and in accordance with other environmental laws and regulations.
4 Most notably, the Company was required to construct a wastewater basin so storm water
5 would be controlled after the plant was retired and the Company continues to cap and close
6 ash ponds at the site, as required by and in accordance with applicable federal law. These
7 investments are currently in place and performing as expected. The investments are
8 protecting customers from risks that arose from the operation of the Meramec plant,
9 including but not limited to risk of non-compliance with applicable laws. As a result, these
10 investments should also be included in rate base in this case.

11 **III. ALLOWANCE FOR FUNDS USED DURING CONSTRUCTION**

12 **Q. Please summarize Office of Public Counsel ("OPC") witness Dave**
13 **Murray's recommendation on Allowance for Funds Used During Construction**
14 **("AFUDC").**

15 A. OPC witness Murray recommends the Commission order the Company to
16 apply its short-term debt rate as AFUDC to all Construction Work in Progress ("CWIP")
17 instead of following the rules as prescribed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
18 ("FERC") Uniform System of Accounts ("USoA"), which the Commission has adopted
19 and with which the Company must comply under 20 CSR 4240-20.030.

20 **Q. What are the rules for AFUDC, as prescribed by the USoA?**

21 A. The USoA rules are as follows:³

³ 18 CFR Part 101, Electric Plant Instructions 3(17).

(17) Allowance for funds used during construction (Major and Nonmajor Utilities) includes the net cost for the period of construction of borrowed funds used for construction purposes and a reasonable rate on other funds when so used, not to exceed, without prior approval of the Commission, allowances computed in accordance with the formula prescribed in paragraph (a) of this subparagraph. No allowance for funds used during construction charges shall be included in these accounts upon expenditures for construction projects which have been abandoned.

(a) The formula and elements for the computation of the allowance for funds used during construction shall be:

$$A_i = s(S/W) + d(D/D + P + C)(1-S/W)$$

$$A_e = [1-S/W][p(P/D+P+C)+c(C/D+P+C)]$$

A_i = Gross allowance for borrowed funds used during construction rate.

A_e = Allowance for other funds used during construction rate.

S = Average short-term debt.

s = Short-term debt interest rate.

D = Long-term debt.

d = Long-term debt interest rate.

P = Preferred stock.

p = Preferred stock cost rate.

C = Common equity.

c = Common equity cost rate.

W = Average balance in construction work in progress plus nuclear fuel in process of refinement, conversion, enrichment and fabrication, less asset retirement costs (See General Instruction 25) related to plant under construction.

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2 **Q. What proportion of CWIP accrues AFUDC at the Company's short-**
3 **term debt rate?**

4 A. As indicated above, the short-term debt interest rate ("s") is multiplied by
5 the ratio of average short-term debt (S) and average adjusted CWIP (W). Practically
6 speaking, the Company's short-term debt interest rate is applied to CWIP balances up to
7 but not exceeding average short-term debt balances. During December 2022, 35.71% of
8 the Company's CWIP balances accrued AFUDC at the Company's short-term debt rate.

9 **Q. What companies are required to follow the USoA rules for**
10 **AFUDC?**

11 A. Every regulated investor-owned electric utility is required to follow the
12 USoA rules for AFUDC. Given this requirement, if the Commission were to order the
13 Company to deviate from these rules it would require the Company to prepare and maintain

1 a completely separate set of accounting records and financial statements. Not only would
2 this come at a great cost to customers, but there is no principled basis for departing from
3 the USoA's requirements. While the Commission has required the use of the short-term
4 debt rate in circumstances when an affiliated loan was involved, to my knowledge, it has
5 never required a departure from the requirements of the USoA simply because a party
6 claims it should as a means to lower a utility's rate base and, in fact, recently confirmed
7 that following the USoA is appropriate.⁴

8 **Q. Please summarize the Company's response to OPC's recommendation**
9 **on AFUDC.**

10 A. The Company fully complies with the USoA rules for AFUDC. These rules
11 are rational, have been consistently applied in this jurisdiction, and found to be appropriate
12 by many other regulators. The Commission should reject Mr. Murray's recommendation
13 and continue to rely on the USoA rules for AFUDC.

14 **IV. CONTINUING PLANT INVENTORY RECORD**

15 **Q. Staff witness Cunigan expresses concerns over the Company's**
16 **Continuing Plant Inventory Record ("CPR") and specifically as it relates to**
17 **categories of mass property. How do you respond?**

18 A. It is a recurring theme that several Staff witnesses misunderstand the nature
19 of how mass property assets are reflected within the CPR. The Company fully complies
20 with the requirements of the USoA with respect to its CPR, including for categories of

⁴ Cf. Amended Report and Order, File No. ER-2019-0374 (July 23, 2020) (Where Empire included as long-term debt a loan it had taken out from its affiliate). The affiliate's cost of those funds was just 2.53% but by loaning it to Empire and then Empire including it in Empire's long-term debt, effectively Empire rates would reflect a cost of debt higher than the source of the funds, to the detriment of customers. To that extent, i.e., as for this loan only, the Commission required use of a short-term debt to determine AFUDC. However, the Commission specifically rejected what OPC proposes here, stating that the "overall formula and method for calculating AFUDC will still be as directed by the USOA."

1 mass property. Mass property assets simply have less detailed requirements under the
2 USoA than retirement unit ("location") property.

3 **Q. What are the requirements for location property under the USoA?**

4 A. The recordkeeping requirements for location property are as follows:⁵

A. For each retirement unit:

(1) The name or description of the unit, or both;

(2) The location of the unit;

(3) The date the unit was placed in service;

(4) The cost of the unit as set forth in Plant Instructions 2 and 3 of this part; and

(5) The plant control account to which the cost of the unit is charged; and

5

6 **Q. What are the requirements for categories of mass property under the USoA?**

7 A. The recordkeeping requirements for mass property are as follows:⁶

B. For each category of mass property:

(1) A general description of the property and quantity;

(2) The quantity placed in service by vintage year;

(3) The average cost as set forth in Plant Instructions 2 and 3 of this part; and

(4) The plant control account to which the costs are charged.

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⁵ 18 CFR Part 101, Section 8: Continuing Plant Inventory Record, part A.

⁶ 18 CFR Part 101, Section 8: Continuing Plant Inventory Record, part B.

1 **Q. How are the requirements for location property different from those**
2 **for categories of mass property?**

3 A. The key difference is there is no requirement relating to *location* for mass
4 property assets and obviously then there is no requirement to be able to select a single mass
5 property asset from the CPR and be able to identify that asset in the field. This requirement
6 exists for location property but is simply not practical for the vast majority of the
7 Company's distribution assets, an example of which is the Company's approximately
8 900,000 utility poles. It is precisely for this reason that the USoA provides for different
9 accounting treatment for mass property.

10 **Q. Please respond to Mr. Cunigan's specific concerns related to the**
11 **Company's CPR.**

12 A. Mr. Cunigan's complaint can be summarized as, upon retirement of an asset
13 accounted for as a category of mass property, the Company must remove from its CPR the
14 exact record that relates to that specific asset, i.e., witness Cunigan is criticizing the
15 Company's CPR because it doesn't treat mass property like location property when, in fact,
16 it isn't required to do so. As I outlined above, there is no parameter to determine the location
17 of a mass property asset so this is clearly not possible or required, and if it were, there
18 would be no reason for the USoA to provide different rules for mass property and location
19 property.

20 Mr. Cunigan may further argue that upon retirement, a record from the CPR must
21 be removed that has the exact same vintage as the asset removed from the system. This is
22 similarly illogical and undermines the obvious purpose of the rules for mass property
23 assets. Practically speaking, if an accountant were to agree with Mr. Cunigan, a

1 recordkeeping system would be necessary where each of the Company's approximately
2 900,000 poles (for example) would have to be identified by location, vintage year, and
3 perhaps other parameters. Then a service worker would have to consult that recordkeeping
4 system when a pole is removed and definitively know the exact vintage year of the pole
5 removed from that location and update the CPR accordingly. Imagine the time, expense,
6 and complexity of needing to take these steps for the Company's 900,000 poles and millions
7 of units of other mass property assets, such as overhead conductors (by linear foot) and
8 devices, underground conductors, conduit, towers, fixtures, line transformers, etc. It is
9 obvious that the impracticality of such a recordkeeping system is the exact reason that
10 different mass property rules exist. As is common in the accounting profession, reasonable
11 judgments are required in the application of these rules and the Company utilizes expert
12 statistical analysis to ensure that retirements of mass property assets are reasonable and
13 accurate, including the distribution of vintage year data. This statistical analysis is deployed
14 through the Company's PowerPlan asset accounting system in a systematic and rational
15 way. Company witness John Spanos, who has deep familiarity with utility practices
16 relating to mass property accounting and CPRs, discusses how the Company's accounting
17 in this area is consistent with the accounting in this area across the industry. The
18 Commission should reject in full Mr. Cunigan's recommendation.

19 **V. MERAMEC INSURANCE EXPENSE**

20 **Q. Staff proposed an adjustment to remove O&M expenses associated**
21 **with the Meramec Energy Center insurance costs. Does the Company agree with this**
22 **adjustment?**

23 **A. Yes.**

1 **VI. NON-LABOR POWER PLANT MAINTENANCE**

2 **Q. Has Staff proposed an adjustment for non-labor power plant**
3 **maintenance costs?**

4 A. Yes. Staff has proposed to normalize non-labor power plant maintenance
5 costs using a six-year average of costs at the Labadie and Sioux Energy Centers, a three-
6 year average at the Rush Island Energy Center, and remove all costs at the Meramec Energy
7 Center.

8 **Q. Does the Company agree with Staff's proposed adjustment?**

9 A. In part. The Company has the same method for and agrees with Staff on
10 cost levels for the Labadie and Sioux Energy Centers. The Company does not endorse
11 Staff's method for the Rush Island Energy Center because historical cost levels over the
12 prior three years do not have a clear relationship to the expense levels needed while it will
13 operate as a System Support Resource. However, the result of Staff's proposal is roughly
14 in line with the Company's output, so we do not oppose Staff's result. The Company fully
15 disagrees with Staff's proposal for removal of all non-labor costs related to the Meramec
16 Energy Center. Staff's only argument for removal of these costs is because the facility was
17 retired in December of 2022. While Meramec was retired from operation in December of
18 2022, there are on-going activities required at the site that result in the incurrence of
19 ongoing non-labor costs. Most notably, the physical security of the site must continue for
20 the foreseeable future. The physical security costs at the site were \$395,040 during 2022.
21 These costs existed when the plant was serving its customers for decades and are of course
22 necessary post-closure until the plant can be fully decommissioned. Consequently,
23 \$395,040 should be included in the revenue requirement.

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VII. NON-QUALIFIED PENSION EXPENSE

Q. Please describe Staff's adjustment for non-qualified pension expense in this rate review and the past three Ameren Missouri rate reviews?

A. In this case, Staff is proposing to utilize a three-year average of both annuity and lump sum payments as the level of costs to include in the Company's revenue requirement. In File No. ER-2021-0240, Staff proposed to use calendar year 2020 levels for annuity payments and a five-year average of lump sum payments. In File No. ER-2019-0335, Staff proposed a three-year average of annuity payments and a two-year average of lump sum payments. In File No. ER-2016-0179, Staff proposed calendar year 2015 levels for annuity payments and calendar year 2015 levels divided by a conversion factor of 15 for lump sum payments. Staff has proposed a different method for this cost in each of the past three Ameren Missouri rate reviews.

Q. Why can it be difficult to determine the appropriate cost level?

A. The annuity and lump sum payments under the plan are dependent on the retirement dates of participating employees. Also, it is the participating employee's decision as to whether he or she receives annuity payments (5-year, 10-year, 15-year, or lifetime options) or a single lump sum payment. The lump sum payment option was added within the past 10 years and, increasingly, participants have elected this option. In other words, the cost levels of the plan are dependent on factors outside of the control of the Company.

1 **Q. Please describe the Company's method and why it is the appropriate**
2 **method to use to set rates in this case.**

3 A. The Company uses Willis Towers Watson to value the net benefits and
4 determine the amount to accrue monthly to meet the obligations of the pension plan. Willis
5 Towers Watson are subject matter area experts and actuaries that review the plan
6 experience to determine the appropriate level of expense. They apply the same consistent
7 actuarial methods year after year to determine the appropriate level of non-qualified
8 pension costs and utilize those same methods to determine *qualified* pension costs. Staff
9 has no issue with the use of this method for the *qualified* pension costs. Qualified and non-
10 qualified costs are but two components of a *single pension plan*. The benefits at question
11 under the *non-qualified* portion of the plan are the exact same benefits as those of the
12 *qualified* portion of the plan. The only reason a non-qualified portion of the plan exists is
13 to provide the benefits of the single pension plan to employees whose compensation
14 exceeds an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") limit for tax advantages relating to those costs
15 that qualify. Considering the entirety of the plan, cash payouts from the plan will equal the
16 expense levels per the Company's proposal. In the interim, any disparity between the date
17 the expense is incurred and the date the payment is made is compensated for in the
18 Company's cash working capital study and results in a reduction to rate base in this case.
19 In contrast, Staff's approach offers no relationship between recovery of costs through
20 customer rates and future payouts of the plan because; 1) Staff's method changes every
21 case, and 2) prior payouts over arbitrary time periods have no bearing on future payouts of
22 the plan (particularly for lump-sum payouts). Because of the complexity and volatility of
23 non-qualified pension costs, it is most appropriate to use the Company's consistently-

1 applied, actuarial method to determine the appropriate level of non-qualified and qualified
2 costs to include in its revenue requirement.

3 **Q. What differences exist between qualified pension costs and non-qualified**
4 **pension costs?**

5 A. The Company's qualified pension costs have associated funding
6 requirements under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act. Qualified pension
7 costs, as determined by the Company's actuaries, are used to determine whether and to
8 what extent contributions are required while also factoring in existing assets and asset
9 performance. No such funding requirement exists for non-qualified pension costs.

10 **Q. Do these differences impact how qualified and non-qualified benefit**
11 **costs are determined?**

12 A. No. The starting point in the Company's actuarial analysis is to determine
13 the cost of the benefits being provided, whether that cost is qualified or non-qualified.
14 Again, there is no difference in the benefits provided whether the cost is qualified or non-
15 qualified.

16 **Q. If the Commission were to reject the Company's method, would you**
17 **offer an alternative?**

18 A. The best alternative to the Company's method is not Staff's method of
19 haphazardly selecting payment periods and simple averages each case going forward. If the
20 Commission were to reject the Company's method, the best alternative is to include these
21 costs in the existing pension tracker. Both qualified and non-qualified costs are volatile,
22 uncertain, and are the costs of the exact same benefits. The difference in funding
23 requirements between qualified and non-qualified costs is not a meaningful reason to

1 necessitate the exclusion of non-qualified costs from the pension tracker given non-
2 qualified service costs represent less than 2.5% of combined service costs under the single
3 pension plan and the funding disparity between these costs is compensated for in the
4 Company's cash working capital study.

5 **VIII. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTION**

6 **COSTS**

7 **Q. Staff proposes to adjust these costs to levels present in the 12-month period**
8 **ended June 30, 2022. Does the Company agree with this adjustment?**

9 A. Yes, with the expectation this item will be trued up to reflect the remainder of
10 2022 expenses. Through continued efforts to find ways to reduce costs in this area, additional
11 cost reductions did occur during the twelve months ended December 31, 2022. The Company
12 agrees that Staff's position to true-up these costs is appropriate for use in setting the revenue
13 requirement in this case in order to provide the benefits of the cost reductions that have been
14 achieved for customers.

15 **IX. COMMUNICATIONS EXPENSES**

16 **Q. Staff proposed an adjustment to remove communications expenses**
17 **associated with institutional and promotional advertising. How does the Company**
18 **respond?**

19 A. Although the Company disagrees with Staff's analysis and methodology, it
20 accepts Staff's resulting adjustment for purposes of this case. Staff's workpapers detailed
21 an adjustment of \$502,319, while the accumulated adjustments in its filed accounting
22 schedules totaled \$504,131. The Company believes the amount entered into Staff's

1 accounting schedules to be an error and presumes Staff will correct this amount in its true-
2 up direct testimony.

3 **Q. OPC proposed an adjustment to exclude communications and**
4 **sponsorship costs relating to the Company's St. Louis Blues Power Play Goals for**
5 **Kids campaign from its revenue requirement. How does the Company respond?**

6 A. Staff's proposed adjustment contains these same costs, and the Company
7 accepts Staff's adjustment. It is inappropriate to apply both Staff's and OPC's adjustments
8 as a result because it would remove the same costs twice.

9 **X. LEASE EXPENSE**

10 **Q. Staff proposed an adjustment to remove O&M expenses related to an**
11 **expiring lease. Does the Company agree with this adjustment?**

12 A. No. Although Staff states it would consider additional lease costs during the
13 true-up period, the Company had not provided that data for Staff's consideration in its direct
14 filing. This data was provided by the Company as part of true-up data. This data indicates
15 test year lease costs (excluding lease costs tracked under the RESRAM) were \$270,573.
16 These same costs were \$284,869 during 2022. The Company's lease costs (excluding lease
17 costs tracked under the RESRAM) have increased since the test year and, therefore, Staff's
18 proposed adjustment to reduce lease costs should be rejected.

19 **XI. CALL CENTER COSTS**

20 **Q. Staff proposed an adjustment to O&M expenses related to the**
21 **Company's call center costs. Does the Company agree with this adjustment?**

22 A. The Company understands Staff intends to true these costs up through
23 December 31, 2022, and, if that is the case, then the Company agrees with this adjustment.

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XII. NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

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Q. Staff proposed an adjustment to O&M expenses by utilizing a three-year average of nuclear waste-disposal costs related to the Company's Callaway power plant. Does the company agree with this adjustment?

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A. Yes.

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XIII. ELECTRIC VEHICLE EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE

7

Q. Staff has proposed to disallow electric vehicle incentives paid to Company employees. Does the Company agree with this adjustment?

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A. No. The payment of a small (\$1,500 to \$2,500) incentive to Company employees to adopt electric vehicle technology is beneficial to customers. Adoption of electric vehicle technology increases electric revenue volumes, allowing customer rates to decline (holding all other factors constant). Additionally, this incentive improves employee engagement, attraction, retention, and helps employees set a good example for Company customers. Staff's proposed disallowance has not been supported and fails to consider the above factors. Therefore, Staff's disallowance should be rejected.

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XIV. SHORT TERM INCENTIVE COMPENSATION

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Q. Staff proposed an adjustment to O&M expenses related to the Company's short term incentive compensation to account for lobbying. Does the Company agree with this adjustment?

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A. Staff updated its position in supplemental direct testimony on certain revenue requirement issues, including its position on short-term incentive compensation. The Company agrees with Staff's adjustment as quantified in its supplemental direct testimony.

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XV. RATE CASE EXPENSE

Q. What is Staff recommending with regard to rate case expense to be included in the revenue requirement in this case?

A. Staff developed a normalized level of rate case expense by averaging the rate case expense for the Company's last three rate cases. That resulted in a normal level of rate case expense of \$829,060 for each rate case. In contrast, the Company developed a normalized level of rate case expense by averaging the expense levels from its last five rate cases, resulting in an amount of \$1,332,949. Both Staff and the Company further normalized these averages over two years—in other words, both parties presumed that the Company would file rate cases every two years and so 50% of the normal level of rate case expense should be included in the annual revenue requirement. Staff then further diverged from the Company's approach in that it is recommending sharing of rate case expense 50/50 between customers and shareholders, so Staff is recommending that half the costs of a rate case are disallowed from the Company's revenue requirement.

Q. Is a three-case average of rate case expenses appropriate in this case?

A. No, it is not. The previous four cases have been settled before evidentiary hearings. There is additional expense involved in evidentiary hearings such as costs relating to the participation of external expert witnesses and outside legal counsel. Although costs relating to evidentiary hearings do not always occur, they often do, and any normalization should reflect both settled and non-settled cases.

1 **Q. Is Staff's disallowance of 50% of rate case expenses appropriate in this**
2 **case?**

3 A. No, it is not. Staff provided no justification for this position. In File No. ER-
4 2021-0240, Staff did note that case-specific facts should be considered and that a 50/50 sharing
5 recommendation is not a matter of general policy.⁷ Yet, no case-specific facts or analyses were
6 provided in Staff's direct filing, nor was any other justification. I am advised by legal counsel
7 that absent testimony that creates a serious doubt as to the prudence of an expenditure, it is
8 not appropriate to disallow costs. Staff's direct case contains no such explanation, meaning
9 this adjustment should not be adopted by the Commission.

10 **XVI. RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD TRACKER**

11 **Q. Please summarize the differences between Staff and the Company's**
12 **position as it relates to the Renewable Energy Standard ("RES") tracker base**
13 **amount.**

14 A. To establish the test year expense amount, Staff presumed the RES tracker
15 base amounts established in prior cases were applied on a straight-line basis resulting in
16 expense levels of equal increments each month for the period each base amount was
17 effective. The Company has simply queried its general ledger to output the expense levels
18 that were recorded during the period. Staff produces a different amount because it uses a
19 straight-line amortization approach, whereas the Company amortizes to match its load
20 shape. In either case, the same annual amounts are used, but there are differences in how
21 those amounts are spread across individual months. If one were to analyze an annual period
22 where the ordered RES tracker base amount was in effect for the full period, either method

⁷ File No. ER-2021-0240, Mark L Oligschlaeger Rebuttal Testimony, p 1 l 21-23 and p 2 lines 1-2.

1 would produce the same annual expense levels. It is only in this case, where the test year
2 contains tracking under agreed upon terms from File No. ER-2019-0335 for April 2021
3 through February 2022 and tracking under the terms of File No. ER-2021-0240 for March
4 2022, that causes the Company's and Staff's methods to produce a difference. Also, Staff
5 has calculated the Maryland Heights Landfill Gas Energy Center fuel cost, using the most
6 recent contractual gas price (\$2.9405/MMBtu effective June 15, 2022, through June 14,
7 2023) multiplied by the actual gas volumes purchased by the Company in the true-up
8 period. The Company, alternatively, has calculated the Maryland Heights Landfill Gas
9 Energy Center fuel costs using the actual costs recorded in its general ledger in the true-up
10 period.

11 **Q. Does the Company agree with Staff's calculation of test year expense**
12 **relating to this mechanism?**

13 A. No. There is no need for any calculation to determine the value of the related
14 transactions recorded in the test year. That amount is known and easily identifiable in the
15 Company's accounting records, exactly as the Company has provided Staff. The
16 Company's methods I described previously and the difference with Staff's presumption
17 does not have meaningful implications in any other way. That being said, the reasons the
18 Company's load-shaped method is superior to a straight-line method include that the load-
19 shaped method best matches with the expense recognition pattern of the underlying costs
20 (primarily renewable energy credit costs) and the revenue recognition pattern where
21 revenues are increased in months of higher usage by customers.

1 **Q. Does the Company dispute Staff's position as it relates to the Maryland**
2 **Heights Landfill Gas Energy Center fuel costs?**

3 A. No.

4 **XVII. LEGAL EXPENSES**

5 **Q. Staff recommends removal of costs related to the Rush Island New**
6 **Source Review ("NSR") litigation from the cost of service because they are non-**
7 **recurring. Does the Company agree?**

8 A. No. First, the existence of litigation costs incurred by the Company is a
9 recurring matter. The Company has and will continue to have litigation costs now and in
10 the future. As one specific case like the Rush Island NSR case concludes there will be
11 another future case to take its place. That said, the Rush Island NSR case is not over. The
12 Company incurred costs related to this case in every month of the test year and continued
13 to incur those costs through the true-up date. The Company expects this will continue at
14 least until a plant closure date is approved by the judge, which will likely not occur until
15 well into 2024 or even 2025. Since litigation is always ongoing, and since the Rush Island
16 costs will be recurring for the foreseeable future, the Commission should reject Staff's
17 adjustment.

18 **Q. Staff recommends removal of costs related to the FERC Return on**
19 **Equity ("ROE") litigation from the cost of service claiming those costs purely benefit**
20 **shareholders. Does the Company agree?**

21 A. Not at all. Staff's only argument for disallowance was that the level of ROE
22 associated with Ameren Missouri's FERC jurisdictional transmission assets only benefits
23 shareholders. This is not true. The difference between Ameren Missouri's retail ROE and

1 ROEs used to set FERC-regulated transmission rates is reflected in retail revenue
2 requirements as a reduction or increase in revenue requirement. Over the last several years,
3 retail customers *have benefited* from the higher ROE paid by transmission customers
4 because revenues associated with those higher ROEs have resulted in a direct offset to the
5 retail revenue requirement. Since transmission ROE directly impacts retail customer rates
6 and has provided offsets that lower what the revenue requirement would otherwise have
7 been, the cost to litigate the FERC ROE complaint cases should be included in the
8 Company's revenue requirement. These expenses were prudently incurred and benefit
9 ratepayers. There is no basis to disallow them.

10 **XVIII. OTHER AMORTIZATION AMOUNTS**

11 **Q. Staff does not intend to recognize amortization that will occur from the**
12 **true-up date to the operation of law date⁸ in this case when calculating amortization**
13 **positions for pension, other post-employment benefits ("OPEB"), accumulations**
14 **under the RES tracker, amortization relating to the Mark Twain Project, and**
15 **extended amortizations. How does the Company Respond?**

16 A. Past practice of both the Staff and the Company has been to project amortization
17 amounts and the related refunds or recovery through the operation of law date in a case.
18 Although the implementation date of new customer rates has differed from the operation
19 of law date in some past cases, all parties were able to compensate for those facts when
20 they arose to ensure that over time the exact amount of proper recoveries and refunds
21 occurred. If Staff's new method is applied correctly and consistently over time, the same
22 outcome of appropriate refund or recovery is achievable. As long as the Company

⁸ Young Direct, File No. ER-2022-0337, page 6 lines 10-16.

1 continues to track over-amortizations in a manner consistent with past practice and as
2 recommended by Staff and the Company in this case, the Company does not object to
3 Staff's method for purposes of this rate review.

4 **XIX. PROPERTY TAXES**

5 **Q. Please summarize Staff's position as it relates to new property tax**
6 **legislation?**

7 A. The legislation institutes a property tax tracker effective August 28, 2022.
8 Staff's position appears to be that the Company cannot begin tracking costs under this new
9 mechanism on the date the law became effective, but instead must wait until new rates
10 become effective in this case.

11 **Q. Do you agree with Staff's position?**

12 A. No. The tracking requirement became law last August and requires that the
13 tracking start then. If the legislature intended for tracking to start after the conclusion of
14 the first rate review immediately following the bill being signed into law, that's exactly
15 what the law would say.

16 **Q. Why is Staff taking this position?**

17 A. It's Staff's belief that it is unknown or unclear what the tracker base amount
18 is until the Commission orders a specified amount. Since the Company's black box
19 settlement in File No. ER-2021-0240 contained no specific property tax amount, Staff
20 appears to claim the tracker cannot be applied.

1 **Q. Is it true that property tax expense levels used to set rates in the**
2 **Company's last case are unknown?**

3 A. No. Analysis of the stipulation and agreement and record evidence from
4 File No. ER-2021-0240 allows one to determine the property tax expense underlying the
5 rates set in that case. Only Staff and the Company put forth positions on property taxes in
6 that case and the only difference in these positions was whether or not property taxes
7 relating to the Company's Meramec plant would be reduced to recover those costs over five
8 years as part of a broader proposal related to certain remaining costs of the plant.
9 Ultimately, parties agreed to an OPC proposal relating to Meramec and that proposal
10 contained no adjustment for Meramec property taxes. As a result, the record is clear that
11 Staff's adjustment, which if it had been adopted would have spread out recovery of property
12 taxes relating to Meramec over a five-year period, was not adopted. As a result, the
13 Company's recommended property tax amount (consistent with OPC's Meramec position)
14 was used in the revenue requirement used to set rates in that case. The Commission
15 approved the stipulation and agreement memorializing OPC's proposal and the parties'
16 agreement. The resulting property tax expense on which the revenue requirement used to
17 set rates in the Company's most recently completed rate case is \$157,052,863.⁹ It is
18 undisputed that \$12,944 of that figure is tracked within the Company's RESRAM and,
19 therefore, should be excluded from total property tax expense to arrive at an applicable
20 property tax base amount of \$157,039,919. This is the base against which the legislatively
21 mandated tracker should be applied.

⁹ File No. ER-2021-0240, Mitchell Lansford Surrebuttal, Schedule MJL-S13-1 | 16, March 31, 2021.

1 **Q. Are there other related considerations about which the Commission**
2 **should be aware?**

3 A. Yes. Identifying the tracker base amount as I have proposed is more
4 conservative (i.e., will result in less property tax expense reflected in customer rates) than
5 if Staff's position from the prior case were determined to be the base amount. If Staff were
6 to argue its position from the prior case should be used as the base amount, the Company
7 would accept that outcome. In other words, the Company would accept either of the two
8 positions set forth in the prior case as the base amount. Finally, it is quite normal in
9 Accounting Authority Order ("AAO") proceedings to identify amounts for various cost of
10 service items that are assumed to underlie current rates. There is no good reason to impede
11 the use of the tracker required by the new statute over an issue that is overcome in virtually
12 every AAO proceeding and is easily resolvable, as described above.

13 **Q. When did the Company begin tracking costs under this mechanism?**

14 A. It was not practical for the Company to begin tracking on August 28 of last
15 year, given the Company's calendar month accounting processes. Therefore, the Company
16 began tracking under this mechanism a few days later on September 1, 2022. The effects
17 of deferrals from September 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, will be included in the
18 Company's true-up revenue requirement.

19 **XX. INFLATION REDUCTION ACT**

20 **Q. Please summarize Staff's tracker recommendation for the Inflation**
21 **Reduction Act ("IRA").**

22 A. Staff recommends that the Commission approve a tracker for any wind,
23 solar, or nuclear Production Tax Credits ("PTCs") and any consideration received from the

1 sale of those tax benefits if not otherwise used to offset the Company's tax liabilities.¹⁰
2 While Staff has recommended tracking of the vast majority of the benefits expected from
3 the IRA, it has misunderstood or selectively ignored that the IRA also imposes incremental
4 costs. Staff recommends excluding Investment Tax Credits ("ITCs") from its tracker
5 proposal based on its understanding of IRS normalization rules.

6 **Q. What is Staff's basis for excluding costs arising from the Corporate**
7 **Minimum Tax ("CMT") implemented by the IRA from its tracker proposal?**

8 A. Staff's position is that any CMT payment creates a deferred tax asset
9 ("DTA"), and since that future economic benefit can be used to reduce future tax liabilities,
10 Staff claims that no cost exists.

11 **Q. How does the Company's perspective differ?**

12 A. Although it is true that a DTA will be recognized relating to CMT payments
13 and that DTA can be used to offset future tax liabilities, it is not true that there is no cost
14 associated with making advanced tax payments under the CMT "today" given that it is
15 likely that the DTA cannot be used to reduce future tax liabilities for many years into the
16 future. Although subject to considerable volatility based on many complex factors, the
17 Company currently estimates it will not be able to use CMT-generated DTAs to offset
18 future tax liabilities until sometime after 2032.¹¹ Like other long-term sources and uses of
19 cash, including capital investments, prepayments, and Deferred Tax Liabilities ("DTLs"),
20 DTAs arising from advanced payments made as required by the CMT should be included
21 in the Company's rate base.

¹⁰ Except for any transactions that would otherwise be included in the Company's Renewable Energy Standard Rate Adjustment Mechanism.

¹¹ No analysis beyond 2032 has been performed and, therefore, it may very well be many years beyond 2032 before the Company is able to utilize CMT DTAs to reduce future tax liabilities.

1 **Q. How are DTLs typically treated for ratemaking purposes?**

2 A. DTLs generally arise when tax deductions are greater than the related costs
3 recorded in the Company's income statement and amortized over time as the financial
4 statement book value and tax basis converge. For example, tax deductions for depreciation
5 are generally accelerated as compared to financial statement depreciation expense and this
6 results in a DTL, which represents a tax liability that accrued "today" but is not required to
7 be paid to the IRS until a future period. DTLs, like those arising from accelerated
8 depreciation, reduce the Company's rate base when it collects amounts from customers
9 related to those costs in advance of the related future tax payment. The lower rate base
10 obviously benefits customers by lowering their rates.

11 **Q. How do you respond to Staff's assertion that DTAs reverse over time,**
12 **providing a future benefit to the Company, and, therefore, there is no cost?**

13 A. Since DTLs – which are the opposite of DTAs (just as a regulatory liability
14 is the opposite of a regulatory asset) –are a reduction to rate base that lowers rates¹², the
15 Commission must symmetrically include the DTAs as an increase to rate base¹³. Put
16 another way, if one were to apply Staff's position on CMT DTAs to the Company's DTLs,
17 that same logic indicates there is no benefit to provide customers from DTLs because they
18 eventually reverse, and the Company eventually makes tax payments equal to those
19 liabilities. If that were the only fact to consider, then those DTLs should not be a reduction
20 to rate base. Whether or not there is a future cost or benefit to the Company does not
21 determine whether or not a DTA or DTL should be included in the Company's rate base.

¹² When the tax deduction is not otherwise included in the revenue requirement, as is the case for most of the Company's DTLs.

¹³ When incremental tax payments are not otherwise included in the revenue requirement.

1 Instead, it is whether or not tax payments are reflective of the tax expense included in the
2 Company's revenue requirement that determine whether DTAs or DTLs should be included
3 in the Company's rate base. Unless incremental CMT payments are added to tax expense
4 in the Company's revenue requirement, DTAs arising from the CMT should be included in
5 rate base return just like DTLs arising from accelerated depreciation reflect a reduction in
6 rate base.

7 **Q. Please provide an illustrative example of the appropriate income tax**
8 **impacts on a utility's revenue requirement, detailing specifically income tax expense,**
9 **DTLs, and DTAs arising from the CMT.**

10 A. Schedule MJL-R1 provides an example. In this simplified example, the
11 utility has income tax expense of \$100, is required to make payments to the IRS of \$20 in
12 the current year before considering the CMT, owes an additional \$10 to the IRS under the
13 CMT, has recorded DTLs of \$80 (income tax expense of \$100 less payments of \$20 equals
14 \$80), has recorded CMT DTAs of \$10, and has a return on rate base of 10%. In preparing
15 a revenue requirement, the utility first includes \$100 of tax expense. If the utility were to
16 stop there and recover this \$100 from its customers, the utility would effectively be
17 receiving an interest free loan from customers until it is required in the future to make the
18 related payments to the IRS. So, the utility provides "credit" to its customers for being able
19 to collect this \$100 while only being required to remit \$20 in current income tax payments
20 by reducing its revenue requirement by \$8 (DTLs of \$80 multiplied by 10% return on rate
21 base equals \$8); i.e., the DTL is included in rate base as a reduction to rate base. At this
22 point and before considering the CMT, the utility's revenue requirement is \$92. It will have
23 collected \$100 from its customers, paid the IRS \$20, and is providing a "credit" to its

1 customers for an \$80 "loan" in the form of \$8 of "interest" per year until the DTLs become
2 due to the IRS (the DTLs will later reverse out of the accounting records and are removed
3 from rate base when the obligation to the IRS is satisfied). The final step in this example
4 is to apply the CMT payment to the revenue requirement and it is as simple as increasing
5 the current amount paid to the IRS from \$20 to \$30 and reducing the "loan" from customers
6 from \$80 to \$70 ("interest" reduces from \$8 to \$7). The result is a revenue requirement that
7 totals \$93 (\$100 of tax expense less \$7 of "interest" on the \$70 "loan" from customers) and
8 the \$1 increase reflects the true cost to the Company and customers of making advanced
9 tax payments under the CMT (the CMT DTAs will later reverse out of the accounting
10 records and are removed from rate base when used to reduce future tax obligations).

11 **Q. Is it appropriate to treat CMT payments as "flow-through"¹⁴ items for**
12 **ratemaking purposes?**

13 A. Although this method could be applied appropriately, it absolutely should
14 not be. Practically speaking, the magnitude of CMT payments utilities are likely to be
15 required to pay over the next 10 years would result in massive increases to customer rates
16 over that same period, only to result in reductions to customer rates in some unknown
17 future period. Beyond the compelling impact on customers, the primary reason for a
18 Company to be required to make CMT payments is having such substantial temporary tax
19 deductions that a Company's tax payments (before consideration of the CMT) dip below
20 payment levels required by the CMT. The Company expects it will be required to make tax
21 payments resulting from the application of the CMT because it will have those substantial
22 temporary tax deductions and the largest of the deductions are those resulting from

¹⁴ Young Direct, File No. ER-2022-0337, page 21 lines 24-28.

1 accelerated tax depreciation. Treating depreciation deductions as "flow-through" would
2 constitute a normalization violation, to the significant detriment of customers. All this said,
3 expected CMT payments are inextricably linked to the Company's depreciation deductions
4 and the ratemaking methods applied should, therefore, be the same.

5 **Q. Staff recommends DTAs arising from tax credit carryforwards are**
6 **excluded from a tracker and should not be included in rate base. How does the**
7 **Company respond?**

8 A. PTCs offset tax expense when generated even though those PTCs may not
9 be utilized to offset current tax liabilities. Part of Staff's recommendation is to adjust PTC
10 amounts that offset tax expense to exclude the value of credits that must be carried forward
11 to offset tax liabilities in future periods. Generally, this results in an appropriate regulatory
12 outcome since the benefits provided to the Customers are in line with the benefits the
13 Company receives from the IRS. However, in this instance, Staff's proposal misses the
14 view of the forest because of the focus on a single tree. As I explained previously,
15 depreciation DTLs and CMT DTAs are inextricably linked to one another, and PTCs are
16 no different. The PTCs only exist because of the presence of the underlying generating
17 facility. The same generating facility gives rise to depreciation DTLs and contributes to
18 CMT DTAs. Carrying forward concepts from my prior simplified example on DTLs and
19 CMT DTAs, the inclusion of unutilized (carried forward) PTCs in the revenue requirement
20 is simply a reduction to the amount "loaned" to the Company by its customers (DTLs) and
21 the inclusion of a credit carryforward DTA in rate base reflects the related and reduced
22 "interest" accruing to customers. The same regulatory methods should be applied to each
23 of these interrelated deferred tax balances and, as a result, PTC credit carryforward DTAs

1 should be included in rate base and treated as described in the Company's IRA tracking
2 proposal.

3 **Q. Are there examples of IRA benefits customers would not receive under**
4 **Staff's proposals?**

5 A. Yes. As I mentioned previously, Staff is recommending that ITCs are
6 excluded from any tracker. If the Company were to construct a renewable energy center
7 and elect the ITC, no benefits relating to that ITC would be provided to customers unless
8 or until the Company filed a rate review and even the normalized ITC value could result in
9 customers failing to receive millions of dollars of benefits. The IRA contains a provision
10 where the Company can "opt out" of normalization requirements relating to an ITC for
11 storage assets. Staff's proposal would entirely miss the mark in ensuring the benefits of the
12 IRA are fairly provided to customers. Finally, Staff's proposal appears silent on any
13 tracking of proceeds from the transfer (i.e., sale) of ITCs. While we await further guidance
14 from the IRS on whether normalization requirements apply to the proceeds of a transferred
15 ITC, if normalization requirements were not to apply, none of the benefits relating to an
16 ITC transfer would be provided to customers if the transfer did not occur during the test
17 year in a general rate review.

18 **Q. Please summarize the Company's response to Staff's positions on the**
19 **IRA.**

20 A. The only fair and reasonable outcome relating to the IRA is a tracker that is
21 principled on ensuring that all the benefits, and all the costs, directly resulting from the
22 IRA are provided to and/or recovered from customers. The Company's proposal reflected
23 in my supplemental direct testimony will accomplish this outcome, including respecting

1 the interplay between ratemaking practices for DTLs, CMT DTAs, and any tax credits that
2 must be carried forward and capturing all the significant benefits that could arise from the
3 IRA.

4 **XXI. INCOME TAXES**

5 **Q. Please explain Staff's recommendations relating to miscellaneous federal,**
6 **state, and local income tax credits.**

7 A. Staff recommends that the most recent historical amounts earned by the
8 Company relating to the research credit, empowerment zone credit, alternative fuel tax
9 credit, qualified plug-in electric vehicle credit, and St. Louis City earnings tax credit should
10 be applied as an offset to federal income tax expense within its revenue requirement¹⁵. Staff
11 further recommends that if these same tax credits cannot be utilized to reduce tax liabilities
12 in a current period, and therefore must be carried forward as a DTA, that those credit
13 carryforward DTAs should be excluded from rate base.

14 **Q. How does the Company respond?**

15 A. Staff provides testimony in this same case stating the following:
16 "When the utility's rates and tax returns both reflect a cash basis, the inclusion of a ...
17 timing difference in income tax expense is not applicable to ratemaking¹⁶" and "As PTC
18 (other tax credits) benefits are accrued to Ameren Missouri's income statement, Staff
19 recommends comparing the accrued expense to the actual tax credit claimed on the tax
20 return after it is filed and including the difference in the tracker. This second comparison
21 will ensure that actual tax benefits are reflected in the tracked amount."¹⁷

¹⁵ Staff also applies the St. Louis City earnings tax credit as an offset to State of Missouri income tax liabilities.

¹⁶ Matthew Young Direct, File No. ER-2022-0337, p 20, ll 9-11, January 10, 2023.

¹⁷ Matthew Young Direct, File No. ER-2022-0337, p 28, ll 10-15, January 10, 2023.

1 In both instances, Staff obviously explains it is appropriate to have symmetry
2 between amounts included in the Company's revenue requirement and the costs or benefits
3 that are required or claimed on the Company's tax returns. The Company agrees with this
4 concept, but Staff has clearly violated it in this instance. With respect to tax credits, if the
5 Company cannot utilize certain tax credits to offset current tax liabilities (on its tax return)
6 then the Company has received no benefit. If the Company has received no benefit, then
7 no benefit should be provided to customers (reflected in the Company's revenue
8 requirement), unless a related credit carryforward DTA is included in rate base. The
9 Company must be compensated for providing a benefit to customers well before that
10 benefit is obtained by the Company to reduce income tax liabilities. The Company could
11 not utilize the research credit, empowerment zone credit, alternative fuel tax credit, or
12 qualified plug-in electric vehicle credit to reduce tax liabilities on its 2021 tax return and
13 instead these credits were carried forward, resulting in the recognition of a DTA. These
14 credits should either be removed from the Company's revenue requirement or the
15 associated DTAs must be included in rate base. Staff further reflects the St. Louis City
16 earnings tax credit as applicable to federal, state, and local income taxes. This is simply
17 not true. The St. Louis City earnings tax is only applicable to local (St. Louis City) income
18 taxes.

19 **Q. Staff excluded DTA balances from rate base related to inventory**
20 **reserves and contingent liabilities. Does the Company agree with Staff's adjustments?**

21 A. No. Staff's adjustments are based on a presumption that the related
22 underlying costs are not included in the Company's revenue requirement and that is not
23 accurate. The related underlying costs *are* included in the Company's revenue requirement

1 and, therefore, these DTAs should also be included in rate base. Staff further explains it
2 may reverse its recommendation upon reviewing the Company's response to Staff Data
3 Request No. 168.2. The Company's response has been provided and is consistent with this
4 testimony. As a result, the Company expects Staff will reverse its position in future
5 testimony.

6 **XXII. EQUITY ISSUANCE COSTS**

7 **Q. Please describe Staff's recommendation related to the amortization of**
8 **equity issuance costs.**

9 A. Staff recommends the continued amortization of these costs at \$255,447 per
10 year, as set out in File No. ER-2021-0240. The resulting implied recovery period relating
11 to these costs is approximately 30 years. Staff further recommends that the unrecovered
12 balance be excluded from rate base.

13 **Q. Does the Company agree with Staff's recommendation?**

14 A. No. A recovery period of approximately 30 years is entirely too long if the
15 Company receives no compensation for its financing costs, as has been recommended by
16 Staff. This disagreement truly stems from File No. ER-2021-0240, where the Company
17 proposed recovery of this cost over the approximate thirty-year term in question, but with
18 the remaining unrecovered costs included in the Company's rate base. Staff's position was
19 for the Company to recover these costs over five years, but no costs were recommended to
20 be included in the Company's rate base. The Stipulation and Agreement reflected the
21 Company's proposed amortization amount, but it was unspecified as to whether the
22 remaining unrecovered costs were included in the Company's rate base or not. In filing this
23 case, the Company fully conceded to Staff's recommendation from File No. ER-2021-0240

1 by excluding unrecovered costs from rate base and amortizing costs over 5 years. I believe
2 Staff missed this context when making its recommendation in this case. The Commission
3 should either accept the Company's recommendation in this case, which again is the same
4 recommendation from Staff in File No. ER-2021-0240, or accept Staff's recommended
5 amortization amount from this case while including \$6,790,634 of unrecovered costs in the
6 Company's rate base in this case.

7 **XXIII. OTHER ITEMS**

8 **Q. The Company and Staff have the same methods for certain**
9 **adjustments, but the adjustment amounts differ because the Company's adjustments**
10 **are based on projections, while Staff relies on actual results through June 30, 2022.**
11 **How does the Company respond to these differences?**

12 A. The Company intends to true up adjustments utilizing actual results through
13 December 31, 2022, and believes it is Staff's position to do the same. As a result, the
14 Company and Staff should have no differences in these areas upon filing true-up direct
15 testimony. If Staff does in fact true up the following adjustments, no differences are
16 expected to remain relating to the following adjustments: (1) Employee benefits expense
17 (Amenthor); (2) Insurance expense (Nieto); (3) Depreciation of power operated and
18 transportation equipment (Young); (4) Non-labor cybersecurity expense (Nieto); (5)
19 Software rental revenue and expense (Nieto); (6) Customer deposit interest expense
20 (Majors); (7) AMR read fee expense (Majors); (8) Bad debt expense (Majors); (9)
21 Customer convenience fees (Nieto); (10) NRC fees (Young); (11) Non-labor software
22 maintenance expense (Nieto); (12) PSC assessment expense (Majors); (13) RES tracker
23 amortization (Lyons); (14) RESRAM revenues and expenses (Lyons); (15) NBEC

1 revenues and expenses (Lyons); (16) Pension and OPEB tracker amortization (Giacone);
2 (17) PAYS amortization (Lyons); (18) Payroll expense (Amenthor); (19) Payroll taxes
3 (Amenthor); (20) Transmission revenues and expenses (Lyons); (21) Excess deferred
4 income tax tracker amortization (Young); (22) Charge Ahead amortization (Lyons); (23)
5 PISA deferrals (Nieto); (24) Late fee revenues (Majors); (25) PAYS revenues (Lyons);
6 (26) Customer Advances (Majors); (27) Customer Deposits (Majors); (28) Pension and
7 OPEB costs and deferrals (Giacone); (29) PAYS deferrals balance (Lyons); (30) Fuel
8 inventory (Young); (31) Materials & Supplies (Majors); (32) Prepayments (Majors); (33)
9 Property taxes (Lyons); and (34) Income taxes (Young).

10 **Q. Has the Company identified any errors or miscalculations in its or**
11 **Staff's revenue requirements or supporting workpapers?**

12 A. Yes. The Company has conferred with Staff and both parties have
13 acknowledged errors and miscalculations that each party intends to correct in true-up direct
14 testimony.

15 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

16 A. Yes, it does.

Ameren Missouri
ER-2022-0337
Schedule MJL-R1

INCOME TAX ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

PRE-CMT	Year 1 ("today")
Tax Expense	100
Tax Payment (excluding CMT)	20
DTL ("loan" to Utility from Customers)	(80)
Return on Rate Base	10%
"interest" on "loan"	(8)
Revenue Requirement (excluding CMT)	92
POST-CMT	Year 1 ("today")
Tax Expense	100
Tax Payment (excluding CMT)	20
CMT Tax Payment	10
Total Tax Payments	30
DTL	(80)
CMT DTA	10
Total DTL, net ("loan" to Utility from Customers)	(70)
Return on Rate Base	10%
"interest" on "loan"	(7)
Revenue Requirement (including CMT)	93

**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 Adjust)
Its Revenues for Electric Service.)

Case No. ER-2022-0337

AFFIDAVIT OF MITCHELL LANSFORD

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)**ss**
CITY OF ST. LOUIS)

Mitchell Lansford, being first duly sworn states:

My name is Mitchell Lansford, and on my oath declare that I am of sound mind and lawful age; that I have prepared the foregoing *Rebuttal Testimony*; and further, under the penalty of perjury, that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Mitchell Lansford
Mitchell Lansford

Sworn to me this 15th day of February, 2023.