

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

In the Matter of Union Electric Company)	<u>Case No. GR-2019-0077</u>
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Increase)	Tracking Nos. YG-2019-112
Its Revenues for Natural Gas Service)	YG-2019-0113

**PUBLIC COUNSELS RECOMMENDATION
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS
IN ACCORD WITH THE COMMISSION'S INSTRUCTIONS**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and requests the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) set local public hearings (LPH) at the locations listed below. In support of its Motion, Public Counsel states:

1. 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.”
2. On January 3, Public Counsel filed *Suggestions for Discussion of Locations for Local Public Hearings* for this case. In its pleading Public Counsel noted that this is the first Ameren Gas rate case since GR-2010-0363, so there are no *recent* cases to which the parties to this case can refer for guidance as to attendance at local public hearings.
3. On January 4, Staff filed its response and counter-suggestions to Public Counsel, including statistics from the Ameren Gas 2010 LPHs. Staff recommended that one LPH be held in either Mexico or Jefferson City with a second LPH to be held in Cape Girardeau should the Commission wish to hold a second LPH. Staff stated that customers are experiencing lower natural gas prices and recently received a rate reduction on January 1st due to the Federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act.

4. On January 7, 2019, the Commission held a procedural conference in this case to, among other things, discuss locations for local public hearings.

5. At the hearing Judge Clark noted that he has “some concerns about potential[ly] leaving out any area of Ameren’s service area. . . . I [see] four essentially distinct service areas relevant to this. I don’t want to leave any of those out and it has been a substantial period of time since the last rate increase, I was thinking Rolla, Wentzville, Cape Girardeau, and either a hearing in Jefferson City or Columbia.” Tr. Vol. I, p. 10:9-24.

6. The parties have discussed the locations noted during the hearing and recommend the Commission schedule hearings in Wentzville and Columbia on the same day, with one hearing at noon and the other at 6 p.m., and that Rolla and Cape Girardeau be scheduled on individual days. According to MapQuest it is just over three hours between the two locations, no matter the route chosen. This creates a potential logistic challenge to holding these hearings on the same day.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel respectfully recommends the Commission schedule the local public hearing as discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY: /s/ Lera L. Shemwell

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record this 6th day of February, 2019.