2021 Q2 Community Solar

Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) report

File Nos. EA-2016-0207 & ET-2020-0022

Report Summary

- In Q2, Lambert Community Solar Facility customers received notice of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) retired on their behalf for 2020 production at the facility. These customers also benefited from a billing update in how the solar and non-solar usage charges are displayed on their account statements.
- In response to Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) approval by the Commission of the pilot's second facility in Montgomery County, enrollment and participation fee billing of second facility customers began May 17, 2021, with facility commitment on July 1, 2021, at a facility enrollment level of 100%.
- Ameren Missouri is moving forward with construction in accordance with PSC guidance and requirements. Third quarter activities will include receiving materials, additional site preparation, electrical trenching, underground cable and pile installation, and interconnection equipment installation.

Background

In 2018, Ameren Missouri received PSC approval for a Community Solar pilot program.

An overall goal of this program is to provide access to solar generation to Ameren Missouri residential and small business customers who are interested in solar generation but may not have the ability or desire to install and maintain their own solar panels.

Program participants enroll and agree to pay for solar blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) each that will replace an equivalent kWh amount of electricity they receive from their standard class of service. Customers can replace up to fifty percent of their average annual electric energy usage.

Program Enrollment

The Community Solar program has been open for enrollment since October 15, 2018, via an online application process.

The first facility marketing campaign was very successful and fully subscribed the program in 55 days, on December 10, 2018. After December 10, 2018, first facility marketing concluded; however customers were still able to enroll and be placed on the waitlist through the Community Solar website. Between December 10, 2018 and June 8, 2020, customers continued to be very interested in participating in the Community Solar program, with 3,600 blocks joining the waitlist in the absence of marketing.

Ameren Missouri launched 2nd facility active marketing upon approval of the tariff to allow expansion of the program on June 8, 2020. During the 2 months of active marketing, from June to August 2020, over 4,500 blocks joined. Active marketing ended in August. As of July 12, 2021, customer enrollment stands at 104% of the planned capacity for the second facility.

Lambert Community Solar Facility

The first Community Solar facility is located on St. Louis Lambert International Airport property, which is an ideal location for solar panels with an abundance of open land that would otherwise go unused. Panel layout is designed to be positioned away from runways and out of the line-of-sight of pilots taking off or coming in for a landing.

The construction of this site started in February 2019, and the site was placed in-service on August 9, 2019. Participating customers received their first energy statement that reflected the new energy charges in August 2019 and have continued to be billed monthly. In April 2021, customers received a report of RECs retired on their behalf from facility operation in 2020.

In response to customer feedback on the Community Solar billing experience, Ameren Missouri undertook a billing format update to make account statements easier to understand for pilot customers. Starting in the May/June 2021 billing cycle, all actively billed Community Solar customers began receiving energy statements with more detail about each charge, as shown in the test example below. No charges were changed or added as a result of this new format.

Total kWh	416.0000 Solar kWh		kWh		200.0000
Rate 1M Res-Basic Elec Svc					
Community Solar					
DESCRIPTION	USAGE	UNIT		RATE	CHARGE
Winter Elec Energy Chg 0-750	216.00	kWh	0	\$ 0.08040000	\$17.37
Community Solar Energy Charge	200.00	kWh	0	\$ 0.13910000	\$27.82
Customer Charge					\$9.06
Fuel Adjustment Charge	416.00	kWh	0	\$ 0.00026000	\$0.11
Energy Efficiency Investment Charge	416.00	kWh	0	\$ 0.00531800	\$2.21
Renewable Energy Adjustment	416.00	kWh	0	\$ 0.00017000	\$0.07
			Total	Service Amount	\$56.64
DESCRIPTION	USAGE	UNIT		RATE	CHARGE
Overland Municipal Charge - Service	\$56.64		0	\$ 0.06383000	\$3.62
			Total Tax	Related Charges	\$3.62
			Total E	Total Electric Charges	

Montgomery Community Solar Facility

Ameren Missouri is moving forward with construction in accordance with PSC guidance and requirements, with expected completion in late 2021. Third quarter activities will include receiving materials, clearing and grading, removal of field drains, fence installation, seeding, electrical trenching, underground cable and pile installation, and interconnection equipment installation.

Please see below for a selection of site overview pictures Ameren Missouri captured by drone on June 8, 2021:







