1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	
4	In the Matter of the)
5	Application of Union Electric) Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri)
6	for Permission and Approval and) File No. EA-2019-0021 a Certificate of Convenience)
7	and Necessity Authorizing it to) Construct a Wind Generation)
8	Facility)
9	
10	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
11	LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING
12	JANUARY 14, 2019
13	ROCK PORT, MISSOURI
14	VOLUME II
15	
16	
17	JUDGE MORRIS WOODRUFF, Presiding CHIEF REGULATOR LAW JUDGE
18	CHIEF REGULATOR DAW CODGE
19	
20	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: MR. RYAN SILVEY, Chairman
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	REPORTED BY: Mackenzie M. Smith, CCR-MO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 1/14/2019

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1 PROCEEDINGS * 2 * 3 (Proceedings commenced at 12:59 p.m.) 4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Once again, my name is 5 Morris Woodruff. I'm the Chief Judge for the Public 6 Service Commission. I'll be the presiding officer here 7 today. I'll start off by introducing the gentleman I'm 8 be Presiding Officer here. This is Chairman Ryan 9 Silvey. 10 CHAIRMAN SILVEY: Thank you. I just want to 11 thank you all for coming today. This is an important 12 part of our process. This is the only time that the 13 Commission gets to hear directly from the people that 14 are directly affected by our decisions so the things that you say here today and the testimony that you give 15 16 will become part of the record and something that is 17 considered by my colleagues and I when it comes time to 18 make a decision. So thank you for participating in our 19 process. 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 21 During the formal part of the process here we'll be 22 taking testimony from members of the public. When I 23 call your name, if I could have you come on up here to 24 the podium. There's a little microphone up there. Ιf you just pick that up and hold it. It's one of those 25

1	little clip microphones. You don't have to clip it on,
2	just hold it so everyone in the room can hear you. We
3	will be having a transcript made of the hearing and so
4	that all the other commissioners will have a chance to
5	review the testimony that's offered here today as well.
6	The commission will be having a formal evidentiary
7	hearing in a few months where we'll take testimony from
8	the expert witnesses and some of the people here are
9	also going to be fighting testimony at that hearing.
10	We'll begin the day by taking entries of
11	appearance from the attorneys who are here. We'll begin
12	with the attorney for Ameren Missouri.
13	MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Your Honor. James
14	B. Lowry, Smith Lewis, LLP, PO Box 918, Columbia,
15	Missouri 65205 on behalf of Ameren Missouri.
16	JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for the staffing
17	commission.
18	MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Your Honor. Travis
19	Pringle, staff counsel, Public Service Commission. I've
20	handed my information to the court reporter.
21	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Office of
22	Public Counsel.
23	MR. SMITH: Ryan Smith, Senior Counsel,
24	Office of Public Counsel. The court reporter has my
25	contact info. Thank you, Judge.

JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for the various county offices. MR. SCHRAEDER: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you very much. Ivan Schraeder, Schraeder Law. We have our contact information on file as official intervener. We represent Atchison County and Dekalb County as interveners in this process and they will be making presentations today. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And any other attorneys representing any parties here? I don't see anyone else. We're going to start today by taking testimony from several public officials so I'll ask you to come forward when I call your name. Come up to the podium and I'll swear you in to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I ask that we limit our testimony today to five minutes. You'll see I actually have a counter on my computer here. I'll press the button when you start and it'll turn green at four minutes and it'll beep. We do that just so everyone has a chance to speak here today otherwise sometimes somebody wants to come in and speak for an hour and a half and it kind of upsets everybody. We'll start off with the first name on the

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 1/14/2019

1 Atchison County. 2 SUSETTE TAYLOR, 3 having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as 4 follows: TESTIMONY OF SUSETTE TAYLOR 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell 6 7 us? 8 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. Your Honor and 9 Commission, my name is Susette Taylor and I'm the 10 Atchison County Clerk just beginning my fifth term. In my duties as the clerk, I work closely with the 11 commission and all the political subdivisions in the 12 13 county, many of which you will hear from today. I have 14 often referred to the wind farms as our super Walmart. As a sales tax benefits they provide during construction 15 have been essential to our small businesses and the 16 17 property tax benefits that remain after construction are 18 critical to our small rural county of 5,900. 19 We all come before you today in an effort to 20 protect that economic wind fall. I would just like to 21 reflect on the history and how we've attracted wind. As 22 I feel it is important for each of you as former 23 representatives and senators to understand how we took 24 the economic tools that one or all of you have been a part of passing and made that economic tool work for 25

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2	The Atchison County Commission was
3	approached as early as 2003 and 2004 about potential
4	wind industry and development. At that time, they
5	wanted tax breaks to bring the taxation cost for the
6	developer down to a line with Kansas and Iowa, our
7	neighbor states. The commission stated very firmly they
8	would not just write off tax dollars without having the
9	proper tax tools to do so. Our economic director at the
10	time worked tirelessly on meeting the requirements to
11	establish the enhanced enterprise on tax benefit
12	program. Under new law that had just been passed. The
13	zone was completed in September of 2005. Atchison
14	County now had the tools in place to attract wind energy
15	and be competitive in the bidding process.
16	We were able to compete in Atchison County
17	became the first county in the state of Missouri to
18	welcome wind energy as a form of economic development
19	and revenue source for our counties services.
20	Fast forward to 2017, 2018, Atchison County
21	welcomed the largest wind farm constructed in the state
22	of Missouri with Enel Green Power, completing a
23	300-megawatt project and going on the tax roles in 2018.
24	Fast forward again to the reason we are all here before
25	you today In 2014 2015 possibly even earlier the

25 you today. In 2014, 2015 possibly even earlier, the

1	county began working with EDF or the Brickyard Hill
2	Project. I am sure they work with many land owners,
3	even earlier than the commission was approached. We
4	were all told this would be yet another economic benefit
5	to our land owners and citizens. The commission entered
6	into the same agreements that we have with prior
7	companies to protect the roads and right-of-ways on the
8	presumption it was would be an investor owned utility
9	and bring another economic boost to the citizens of
10	Atchison County. We had no reason to expect otherwise
11	because they told the land owners that this would
12	benefit the services of the county.
13	And that brings us to our testimony today.
14	As you all know, when a developer owned utility
15	transferred ownership to a public owned utility, the tax
16	structure is totally different and we get that. But the
17	only way you can have a productive wind farm is if you
18	have all the resources needed in one place. You must
19	have willing land owners that want to support their
20	local communities by leasing a section of their land for
21	investment, which Atchison County has. You must have a
22	good supply of wind, which Atchison County has. You
23	must have transmission, which Atchison County has.
24	These are not variables that you can find in every
25	county in Missouri.

1	We would like to have an additional first to
2	Atchison County and say we have the first public owned
3	utility, but we are not willing to be the first if it
4	strips the tax dollars from Atchison County and moves
5	them to the eastern side of the state. We can only
6	support the project with Ameren's support of new
7	legislation that business has been introduced by
8	representative Allen Andrews and Senator O'Laughlin.
9	This would allow the tax dollars to remain in the local
10	community where the wind farm is located and allow the
11	public utility to be assessed in the same depreciation
12	manner they currently have. We have all served and
13	continue to serve in positions where citizens rely on
14	your leadership to set standards and protect their
15	values.
16	We, the elected officials and citizens of
17	Atchison County are now relying on your leadership to
18	set the standards on how wind will be regulated for
19	taxation purposes when owned by a public utility,
20	whether it is Ameren or any other public utility. I ask
21	the commission to deny Ameren's request for certificate
22	of necessity and need unless a condition of local
23	taxation is met. Thank you.
24	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Have any questions for this
25	witness. Okay. Thank you.
1	

1	Next name on the list is Monica Bailey,
2	which is the Atchison County Development Director.
3	Please raise your right hand.
4	MONICA BAILEY,
5	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
6	follows:
7	TESTIMONY OF MONICA BAILEY
8	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
9	us?
10	I'm Monica Bailey, the executive director of
11	Atchison County Development Corporation, our county-wide
12	economic development office. At ACDC we focus strongly
13	on growing existing businesses connection young people
14	with careers in their county and creating an environment
15	that fosters start-ups. It's important to understand
16	that the reason we focus so much of our activity on
17	growth from within is because economic development
18	through traditional recruitment does not work in many
19	rural counties. For example, in the nearly eight years
20	I've been the director of ACDC, we've submitted requests
21	for proposal twice in response to project leads received
22	from state level partners. We simply lack the empty
23	buildings and human resources often required by
24	companies looking to locate in our state.
25	Wind energy is the best economic development

1	tool currently available to our county. Wind projects
2	create quality jobs that enable bright, talented young
3	people to live here. These multimillion-dollar
4	investments benefit our schools, libraries, hospitals,
5	911 services, senior services, fire districts, road
6	districts, and county improvements and operations.
7	Locally assessed wind energy projects have provided
8	Atchison County with unparalleled economic opportunity.
9	Our most recent wind project, Rock Creek
10	Wind Farm, was completed in November of 2017. During
11	the 13-month construction period we hosted 150 to 200
12	workers per day on average who shopped in our stores,
13	ate at our restaurants, utilized our service stations
14	and part stores, and stayed in our motels, campgrounds,
15	RV parks and rentals.
16	The lasting economic community impact of
17	Rock Creek is huge. 20 new jobs created at a salary of
18	\$40,000 to \$110,000. The median household income of
19	Atchison County by the way is \$43,000. A vacant main
20	street building was purchased by the wind company,
21	playground equipment donated to a city park in support
22	of our much support of other local projects. And the
23	kicker here, and why we're all here, is over \$2 million
24	in new property taxes collected each year from that wind
25	project alone.
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1	The annual average economic impact of all
2	the wind projects in our county, new permit jobs over
3	25, annual new payroll 1.5 million, land owner royalties
4	3.15 million, property tax 3.224 million with a 20-year
5	economic impact of 64.8 million. Atchison County has
6	more wind projects and active development which would
7	bring additional career level jobs to our county and
8	much needed income to our schools, fire departments, and
9	the other services I mentioned previously. Locally
10	assessed wind projects are a way for us to continue to
11	grow our economy and create opportunities for young
12	people and a better life for our citizens.
13	We urge you to deny the certificate of
14	request under discussion today because it interferes
15	with the concept of economic development as a benefit to
16	our entire community. Atchison County, the physical
17	location of this wind project has limited economic
18	development opportunities. With an approved CCN, this
19	project eliminates local resources from our citizens and
20	provides the primary benefit to Ameren, not to our
21	county where the turbines will be constructed and
22	housed I'm sorry, to Ameren customers. Unless a
23	condition of location taxation is met, we are to deny
24	this certificate of request because the power needed by
25	Ameren can be purchased without it without sacrificing
20	Ameren can be purchased without it without sacrificing

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions? 3 All right. Next name on the list is Lori 4 Jones. 5 If you'd please raise your right hand. 6 LORI JONES, 7 having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as 8 follows: 9 TESTIMONY OF LORI JONES 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell 11 us? 12 As the assessor for the county, I am the 13 primary elected official whose duties include valuations 14 of real and personal property located within the 15 political subdivisions of our county. After determining 16 the value of real and personal property located within 17 the political boundaries of Atchison County, I am 18 responsible for the proper classification of total 19 property values against, which the real and personal 20 Real property is assessed at the rate of 32 21 Real property is assessed at the rate of 32 22 percent commercial, 19 percent residential, and 12 23 percent agricultural. That is of the valuation that I 24	1	our local resources.
4 Jones. 5 If you'd please raise your right hand. 6 LORI JONES, 7 having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as 8 follows: 9 TESTIMONY OF LORI JONES 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell 11 us? 12 As the assessor for the county, I am the 13 primary elected official whose duties include valuations 14 of real and personal property located within the 15 political subdivisions of our county. After determining 16 the value of real and personal property located within 17 the political boundaries of Atchison County, I am 18 responsible for the proper classification of total 19 property values against, which the real and personal 20 Real property is assessed at the rate of 32 21 Real property is assessed at the rate of 32 22 percent commercial, 19 percent residential, and 12 23 percent agricultural. That is of the valuation that I 24 placed on the real property. That number is then	2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
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6LORI JONES,7having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as8follows:9TESTIMONY OF LORI JONES10JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell11us?12As the assessor for the county, I am the13primary elected official whose duties include valuations14of real and personal property located within the15political subdivisions of our county. After determining16the value of real and personal property located within17the political boundaries of Atchison County, I am18responsible for the proper classification of total19property taxes are to be determined.21Real property is assessed at the rate of 3222percent commercial, 19 percent residential, and 1223percent agricultural. That is of the valuation that I24placed on the real property. That number is then	4	Jones.
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24 placed on the real property. That number is then	22	percent commercial, 19 percent residential, and 12
	23	percent agricultural. That is of the valuation that I
25 referred to as the assessed valuation which is then	24	placed on the real property. That number is then
25 referred to as the assessed variation, whitch is then	25	referred to as the assessed valuation, which is then

multiplied by the tax rate per \$100 of assessed value 1 2 provided to the county for each taxing district in the 3 county that assesses the property tax. 4 Personal property is assessed at 33 and a third percent of trade-in value for all vehicles. 5 6 Business equipment is assessed at 33 and a third percent 7 based on cost, less depreciation using IRS MACRS. Farm 8 machinery and livestock are assessed at 12 percent of 9 the market value as of January 1 of each year and grain is assessed at one half of 1 percent of market value on 10 January 1 of each tax year. 11 12 The assessed values are then multiplied by 13 tax break provided to the county for each taxing 14 district per \$100 of the assessed value. I also determine whether certain properties are eligible for 15 16 tax exempt status. 17 I also serve as a member of the Atchison 18 County body that hears challenges to the values that I 19 determine. In any appeal beyond the county concerning 20 the value to be applied, I am one of the 21 defendants/respondents in such matter. 22 The purpose of my testimony is to oppose 23 Ameren's application for certificate of convenience and 24 necessity for a wind generation project that is located 25 in Atchison County, Missouri in support of preserving

1 the taxes assessed and collected from the company who 2 currently owns the wind turbine project, the subject of 3 this proceeding. 4 I am also opposing the merger of the non-public service commission regulated wind tower 5 6 project owner with Ameren, which is a regulated entity 7 under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. 8 My direct testimony addresses the real and personal 9 property tax assessments to be made by me and carrying 10 out my statutory duties to property assess properties in Atchison County. 11 12 Each wind tower that is assessed in Atchison 13 County by me is valued using the constructed cost. That 14 cost is then adjusted by a 60 percent obsolescence for the first two years, 63 percent obsolescence for the 15 next two years, and then 65 percent obsolescence from 16 17 that time on. That value is then multiplied by the commercial assessment percentage of 32 percent to 18 19 determine the assessed value of which tax rates are 20 applied for \$100 of assessed valuation. 21 In addition, typically a one-acre site is 22 valued at \$5,000, which encompasses the foot print of 23 the wind tower on which the wind tower is located. The 24 value is then multiplied by the commercial assessment 25 break of 32 percent to determine the assessed value of

ALARIS LITIGATION SERVICES Phone: 1.800.280.3376 1 which the tax rates of various taxing districts in which 2 the wind tower is located is applied at \$100 of assessed 3 valuation.

4 In Atchison County, we have calculated that the wind tower project developer will pay an estimated 5 6 \$958,846 per year in the aggregate and paid out to each 7 taxing district according to the districts tax rate. 8 The formula applied to each tower is subject to a level 9 of obsolescence for the first six years of operation and 10 then the taxable value is no longer subject to obsolescence. I have calculated the tax amounts and the 11 12 reported tax rates for the wind tower project as 13 constructed with allowable obsolescence. I prepared the 14 document provided as attached ATC Exhibit 1 showing the tax calculations for the wind project that has already 15 been submitted. The only assumption for the purpose of 16 17 the Exhibit that was made is that the tax rates will 18 stay in constant over the period of 20 years. As 19 calculated, the current project owner will pay 20 approximately \$958,846 per year in taxes to be collected 21 in Atchison County. 22 If the Public Service Commission allows 23 Ameren to prevail in its application, the taxing

25 tax revenues that support all of the governmental

district in Atchison County will lose all of the local

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services provided in the county, including road and 1 2 bridge construction and maintenance, educational 3 programs of the school districts, the providing of 4 emergency services such as those provided by ambulance and fire districts and health care services to the 5 6 citizens of Atchison County. If Ameren prevails in its 7 application, there will be no perishable local taxes 8 collected and used Atchison County and the taxes 9 applicable to Ameren assessed through state tax 10 commission will be distributed throughout all of the other counties in Missouri. 11 12 From the information that I have from the

13 information provided to this commission by Ameren and 14 the data that I have as an Atchison County Assessor, the only advantage of the approval of the application is to 15 16 reduce Ameren's yearly tax amount. This advantage of 17 the approval of the application is to deprive the citizens in taxing entities of Atchison County of the 18 19 tax revenues that will be paid by the developer of the 20 wind tower project that will be avoided if Ameren's 21 application is granted and the wind tower project is 22 transferred to Ameren. There will be no more electric 23 power generated if the application is granted than if it 24 is denied. There will be no more wind towers built. 25 From this testimony and the record provided by Ameren,

1	it can be concluded that great harm will be inflicted on
2	the citizens of Atchison County if the application is
3	granted. No harm will be placed on Ameren and certainly
4	there is no necessity to gain the desire of electric
5	power of Ameren because Ameren can just as easily
6	purchase the power generated by the wind towers and
7	apply the non-regulated owner as it can generate the
8	power as if it owned the tower. The difference is in
9	taxation, not availability of power to help Ameren meet
10	its energy needs in compliance with the law and meet its
11	customers energy needs.
12	The Public Service Commission should deny
13	Ameren's application for certificate of necessity and
14	need because Ameren has not proven there's need for
15	Ameren to own the wind tower project in order to obtain
16	electric power that it asserts it needs to serve its
17	customers. When balancing the public good produced by
18	the local taxation by local taxing districts against the
19	lack of benefit to the public by Ameren's application
20	and the losses to the citizens of Atchison County, it is
21	clear that the application must be denied.
22	In approximately 2004, 2005, Tom Carnahan,
23	developer and John Deere as owner approached myself as
24	well as Sheryl Coburn, who is the Gentry County
25	Assessor, to ask what the taxes would be if they built a
1	

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wind farm. How would it be taxed?
 1
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ms. Jones, time is up.
 2
                                                           Ιf
 3
      you want to submit your written remarks we can take
 4
      those.
 5
                  MS. JONES: Okay. I read my testimony.
 6
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: Did you have additional
7
      written remarks you want to submit?
8
                  MS. JONES: No.
9
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
10
                  I do have a question. The developer of the
     project, have they paid any taxes at this point yet?
11
12
                  MS. JONES: Ameren?
13
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: No, I mean the developer of
14
     the project that Ameren will be buying from?
15
                  MS. JONES: EDF?
16
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: EDF. Have they paid any
17
     taxes yet?
                  MS. JONES: No.
18
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: Nothing's actually been
19
20
     built yet at this point?
21
                  MS. JONES: No, nothing at all. No ground's
22
     been broke.
23
                  JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you very much.
24
                  Next name on the list is Ethan Sickels.
25
                  Good afternoon.
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1	ETHAN SICKELS,
2	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
3	follows:
4	TESTIMONY OF ETHAN SICKELS
5	MR. SICKELS: Once again, my name is Ethan
6	Sickels. I'm a superintendent here at Rock Port R-1
7	School District. I think the county did a nice job of
8	summing up how it effects the county. I just want to
9	talk about or school district in general.
10	We would look to receive around \$416,000
11	annually from this project. If this become a state
12	assessed utility, I don't know that specific number, but
13	I'm afraid we would be around \$16,000 annual, so that's
14	a different of \$400,000 a year to our school district.
15	It's hard for me to look out in the crowd and see a lot
16	of parents and grandparents. You have to realize we
17	have kids that wake up every morning and look out their
18	window and can see windmills from where they sleep or
19	drive a few blocks and you'll sew a windmill on your way
20	to school. It's tough for me to justify the tax money
21	going somewhere else when those kids can see those
22	windmills as they come to school every day.
23	We're in a tough spot educationally as you
24	guy knows, the State, they're doing a great job of
25	funding us, but we are trying to prepare students for

jobs that we don't even know about yet. Three to five 1 2 years down the road it's hard to build a budget when you 3 don't know what you even have to be teaching your kids. 4 An example, Tarkio College is trying to get going again. They're actually going to have a wind farm technology 5 6 project or wind farm training. We would have never 7 quessed three years ago we might be sending kids there 8 for their education in wind farm. It's amazing where 9 So that money is vital to us as we try to that goes. 10 stay up and keep up with technology and with what our students need and what our school buildings need to do 11 12 that. I also want to talk a little bit about 13 14 trying to recruit teachers to Atchison County, Missouri. Nobody knows how good we have it up here. We compete 15 16 for teachers from Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri and right 17 now our salaries are a challenge when you look at those 18 other states. Currently, just in our county Tarkio is 19 able to pay a little bit more than us because they have 20 some wind farm income that they are able to use for 21 that. Craig to the south, they have an ethanol plant you may have driven by as you came up the road so we're 22 23 looking at about a \$3,500 difference just in base 24 salaries between those district and ourselves. If vou 25 go across the border we have two schools within 20

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1	minutes of Rock Port: Auburn, Nebraska and Hamburg,
2	Iowa. Iowa's minimum salary is \$35,000. That's more
3	than \$4,000 more than we pay. Nebraska is \$35,050 and
4	not only that, Auburn can offer family insurance so
5	you're adding another seven or eight thousand dollars on
6	there. So when we want to be competitive for those
7	people coming out of schools, we've got to have this
8	money stay local so we can do our best to keep what's
9	for our kids.
10	Last year we had two math openings, which
11	is you just cringe when you hear that. Thankfully,
12	we had one hometown boy who wanted to come back and
13	teach for us so that wasn't too hard to impress him. We
14	had one other applicant and she happened to be from
15	Saint Louis of all places. So you always wonder when
16	you're getting somebody that's going to drive across the
17	state six hours to come apply for your job what you're
18	getting. She was fantastic. We would have hired her in
19	a second. In fact, I believe by the time she was done,
20	in an hour we had a landlord found that would rent her a
21	house, keep her dog, and she wanted a big shoe closet.
22	Those were the things she requested. We had people
23	lined up to help her move in. We had everything going
24	for us. And I'm not going to say the distance wasn't a
25	factor, but we just couldn't pay what schools around the

1	Saint Louis area were going to pay. It's a challenge
2	for us. We appreciate what Ameren is trying to do.
3	Knowing that they only have maybe eight miles of lines
4	that would be in our county, that doesn't generate a lot
5	of money for the county, nonetheless, Rock Port R-1
6	School District and it's hard to think there's other
7	counties in the state of Missouri that have more of an
8	Ameren presence that will receive more money than my
9	kids that can look out the window and see those
10	windmills every day. I appreciate your time. Thank
11	you.
12	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Any questions?
13	I have a question.
14	MR. SICKELS: Yes.
15	JUDGE WOODRUFF: You mentioned Auburn can
16	offer more in their school district?
17	MR. SICKELS: Sure.
18	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Are they included in the
19	nuclear plant in Nebraska?
20	MR. SICKELS: That is correct. It's just
21	across the river so that's where that comes from, yes,
22	sir.
23	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you know if Nebraska has
24	a similar tax plans as Missouri as far as spreading the
25	tax revenue around?

1	MR. SICKELS: I cannot speak to that.
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you.
3	The next name on the list is Dr. Jeremy
4	Burright.
5	Good afternoon. I'll swear you in.
6	DR. JEREMY BURRIGHT,
7	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
8	follows:
9	TESTIMONY OF DR. JEREMY BURRIGHT
10	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
11	DR. BURRIGHT: The purpose of my testimony
12	today is to oppose Ameren's application for certificate
13	of convenience and necessity for a wind general project
14	that is located in Atchison County, Missouri and in
15	support of preserving the taxes assessed and collected
16	from the company who currently owns the wind tower
17	project that is the subject of this proceeding.
18	I'm also opposing the merger of the
19	non-public service commission regulated wind power with
20	Ameren, which is a regulated entity under the
21	jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. I
22	testify the following impact will occur if Ameren is
23	allowed to continue with the current PSC regulated wind
24	farm development plant for Atchison County, Missouri.
25	If Ameren is allowed to continue the

1	development under tax regulations governing public
2	utilities, the Fairfax R-3 School District will be
3	deprived of over \$600,000 in local tax revenue. I also
4	testify that according to correspondence with the county
5	clerk that the amount of tax revenue lost is equal
6	\$638,085. This predicted revenue is important to the
7	district because it will ensure that our district will
8	be able to operate normally without the need to return
9	to tax payers for an increased tax levy in years to
10	come.
11	In 2018, the district voters approved a
12	75-cent levy increase for the Fairfax R-3 School
13	District for the first time in 14 years. This money is
14	being used to remedy deferred maintenance in our
15	building structure, update our transportation fleet,
16	improve general maintenance, and pay teachers a more
17	competitive pay rate.
18	Future income of the amounts specified by
19	the clerk's office would allow us to begin projects that
20	were otherwise tabled due to cost, allow us to continue
21	instructional initiatives such as Project Lead the Way,
22	and continue to strive towards a competitive pay rate
23	for our staff, because, like Rock Port, we compete with
24	all those same entities.
25	From the information that I have from the

Atchison County Clerk, the only advantage of the 1 2 approval of the application is to reduce Ameren's tax 3 In return, the local public entities primarily rate. 4 concerned with the economic and esthetic impact of the construction of the wind farm development gain less to 5 zero benefit from their construction. 6 7 Loss of this predicted revenue will prevent 8 the Fairfax R-3 School District from being as 9 competitive a staff pay rates, prevent the remodeling of 10 our cafeteria, prevent the replacement of exterior windows in our elementary and high schools, prevent the 11 installation of HVAC in our gym and cafeteria, and 12 13 definitely defer the resurfacing of our track and 14 parking lots, delay the updating of our football field, and definitely delay the increase of professional 15 development curriculum funds, and also delay the 16 17 refurbishments of classrooms along with many other 18 items. 19 The public service should deny Ameren's

application for certificate of necessity and need because Ameren has not proven that there is a need for Ameren to own the wind Power project in order to obtain the electric power that it asserts it needs to serve its customers. When balancing the public good produced by local taxation, by local taxing districts against the

lack of benefit to the public by Ameren's application 1 and the losses to the citizens of Atchison County, it is 2 3 clear that the application must be denied. 4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any 5 questions? 6 CHAIRMAN SILVEY: I have a question. So 7 your testimony was about predicted future revenue. 8 DR. BURRIGHT: Correct. 9 CHAIRMAN SILVEY: And if we approve the wind 10 farm under the current statute that that revenue would not exist. 11 12 DR. BURRIGHT: Correct. CHAIRMAN SILVEY: Wouldn't it also be true 13 14 that that revenue doesn't exist if we deny the application. 15 16 DR. BURRIGHT: Correct. 17 CHAIRMAN SILVEY: So either way, under 18 current statute, that revenue will not exist. 19 DR. BURRIGHT: It's predicted revenue, 20 correct. 21 CHAIRMAN SILVEY: But regardless of our 22 decision, either way under current statute it 23 wouldn't -- that revenue would not come in. 24 DR. BURRIGHT: No, that's not necessarily 25 true. If the windmill development was owned by private

1	entity, if EDF maintained ownership of that and was not
2	a subsidiary of Ameren and Ameren entered into a power
3	purchasing agreement with them, then that local revenue
4	would stay local. The taxation of those windmills as I
5	understand would stay local and that money would stay in
6	our county.
7	CHAIRMAN SILVEY: Okay. Thank you.
8	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is
9	Karma Coleman.
10	Please raise your right hand.
11	KARMA COLEMAN,
12	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
13	follows:
14	TESTIMONY OF KARMA COLEMAN
15	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
16	MS. COLEMAN: First of all, I'd like to
17	thank you for your time today. I'm here in support of
18	the county and the three county schools. My name is
19	Karma Coleman and I'm superintendent of Tarkio R-1. As
20	superintendent, I have seen first-hand the significant
21	economic benefits that wind energy has brought to this
22	county. The county has made a lot of sacrifices in
23	order to receive those economic benefits, which includes
24	tax revenue that supports the county infrastructure and
25	certainly our schools. If the certificate is issued to

1	Ameren, it's likely the county sacrifices to bring wind
2	energy to the area won't be repaid with the expected
3	economic benefit because the counties tax revenue will
4	be reduced a great deal. That money will be distributed
5	throughout the state. Tarkio R-1 School District
6	receives tax revenue from the project that is the
7	subject of this case, although not nearly as significant
8	of an amount as Rock Port and Fairfax at this time. The
9	district uses this revenue to provide education for our
10	students. For this reason, the Tarkio R-1 School
11	District opposes the commission issuing a certification
12	of necessity unless tax revenue that the county
13	currently receives would not be reduced once the
14	certificate is issued.
15	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Any questions?
16	Thank you for testifying.
17	Next name on the list is Clay Vogler.
18	Please raise your right hand.
19	CLAY VOGLER,
20	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
21	follows:
22	TESTIMONY OF CLAY VOGLER
23	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
24	us?
25	MR. VOGLER: I come to you today as both a

land owner in the county and a board member of R-II 1 2 School. As a land owner, first, I do not have -- we 3 have little into this project being spoken of. We have 4 two poles for transmission lines that are being talked 5 about so we do not have wind towers being on our 6 property. However, we do have properties from the first 7 wind tower project what was here and all I can speak 8 about is my experience with the former wind tower 9 When it was presented to us it was very project. 10 straight forward. The lease was simple, written by a 11 local attorney and it was something very new to our 12 community and we knew that it would have a huge economic 13 impact to our county and our schools. Therefore, we 14 decided to sign up for it. In that lease they told us there would be able a quarter acre of our land being 15 16 used for each wind turbine and that was true, but they 17 didn't tell you about the other things that came along with wind towers. Which, as a land owner, has become 18 19 quite a bit of an inconvenience over the years. For 20 example, that quarter acre does not include the roadways 21 that lead to each of the towers, the roadways of then 22 create ditches, which is at our expenses every year to 23 repair those. They came in and replaced blades last 24 year I believe which created ruts in our field, which as a farmer nobody like ruts so at our expense we had to go 25

out and repair those. When I tried to contact the 1 2 company, which I believe is the third company that owns 3 these wind towers, nobody responded. We also had to 4 have concrete replaced, which was buried into our field, 5 which caused damage to our equipment so at our expense 6 again we had to have a lot of that removed. And then 7 the other I quess inconvenience that you'd said is there 8 have been several times where blades from the turbines 9 had to be replaced or generators and so the companies would come in usually during summer. They have to bring 10 in cranes, they knock down our crops, which we do get 11 12 compensated for; however, as a farmer you see your crops 13 laying over and you see the compaction that all that 14 heavy equipment does. And doesn't just take one disc going over to cure. Compaction takes years and years to 15 16 replace. So even though we agreed to it, I would think 17 now if that was offered to us again we would highly 18 reconsider allowing any of that even though there is 19 yearly compensation per tower, the inconveniences that 20 we deal with probably outweigh that for us. Not a lone 21 and also the roads, it was mentioned earlier, if you 22 look at State Highway J, which I know is completely poor 23 condition. 24 As far as the school board, I just want to say that we were in a very unique situation 25

1	logistically. As some others have said earlier,
2	recruiting teachers to this area proves to be very, very
3	difficult and also with what other schools that have
4	these assets in their counties are able to provide as
5	compensation, it's tough to compete that.
6	Even though we don't have some of these
7	advantages, all of our schools here in the county are
8	very proud and we've been all been very successful as
9	you can look at in all of our scores. Each of the
10	schools is a little bit different in its own way, but
11	yet we've all succeeded and done that job very well.
12	It's concerning to me as a take payer in
13	this county that you may have a company that will come
14	in that is willing to take profits, that is willing to
15	effect infrastructure, to do different things to
16	possibly effect farmers and take that money out of the
17	community when we as community members are invested in
18	to our county into our kids and we would ask that any
19	company that wants to come in and take their profits
20	come in and support our community and our children with
21	that. Thank you.
22	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sir, we have a question.
23	MR. LOWERY: Just have one question, Mr.
24	Vogler. What company has the wind turbine gone under on
25	your property? Which wind farm is it?

MR. VOGLER: Honestly, I can't tell you, but 1 2 John Deere was --3 MR. LOWERY: John Deere was the original? 4 MR. VOGLER: Cow Branch. They within a year 5 or two they changed ownership and after that they 6 changed ownership again and we had to go back and title. 7 They wanted to redo all the titles, redo all the leases, which again, was time out of -- time that we had to 8 9 take. They didn't do it. 10 MR. LOWERY: I appreciate it. I was trying to figure out which one it was. 11 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. 13 Next name on the list is Janet Griffin. 14 Good Afternoon. Please raise your right 15 hand. 16 JANET GRIFFIN, 17 having been first duly sworn and examined testified as follows: 18 19 TESTIMONY OF JANET GRIFFIN MS. GRIFFIN: I'm here on behalf of two 20 21 boards that I serve on in Atchison County. They are 22 both funded by taxes. The Senior Citizens Tax Board and 23 the Atchison County Library. We have three branches in 24 our county. We have a county of about -- a population of 5,335 and of that number 48 percent are over 50 years 25

1	old. And of that 50 percent, 48 percent, 10 percent of
2	our seniors are under the poverty level. So this money
3	for or senior citizens tax board is very, very vital to
4	implement and help our seniors to stay in their homes
5	and to receive nutritional meals. As far as the
6	library, we receive this year we received \$65,000
7	from our tax to continue to keep the libraries up and I
8	think that money would be depleted greatly if this
9	proposal to allow Ameren to receive their application
10	for a certification for necessity and need be granted so
11	we are opposed to that.
12	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
13	Thank you.
14	Next name on the list is Kyle White.
15	Good afternoon.
16	KYLE WHITE,
17	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
18	follows:
19	TESTIMONY OF KYLE WHITE
20	MR. WHITE: My name is Kyle White. As you
21	said, I'm an Associate Commissioner for Dekalb County
22	and our concern or what we're asking you to consider is
23	the Court to deny the certificate, but the reason being
24	we currently have 197 wind towers in Dekalb County.
25	They're currently privately owned and being such means

1 they're subject to being purchased by another company, 2 possibly in the future, so whatever ruling you make 3 could have a great impact on the revenues in Dekalb 4 County. As an example, we take in about \$4.6 to \$5 5 million dollars a year in revenue divided between fire, 6 ambulance, school, I'm sure you know the breakdown of 7 that. One of the schools in particular could lose 8 \$100,050,000 should a company like Ameren, KCP&L come in 9 and be able to buy those farms out. You picture that 10 revenue loss, that's dramatic in the rural community. One of the fire districts could lose over a third of 11 12 their operating budget in a rural community. So the 13 decision that you make could have quite a precedent in 14 the future about rural growth, about rural taxation. This has really helped lift the burden off of the 15 16 average taxpayer by having a company come in and bring 17 this property value up. That \$4.6 million of this divided out, I'm really thankful this is divided out on 18 19 the locally assessed level. The state assess level as 20 has been discussed here, I'm not seeing any number nor 21 would I know where they would come up with their number 22 to assess that from. It's not done in Missouri and I 23 believe one of you or somebody mentioned Missouri is the 24 only state that does local assess for wind turbine, 25 well, go Missouri. Because that keeps the funding local
1	so the schools, the fire districts, the ambulance can
2	exist. The power companies also have power plants and
3	in those power plants they often have fire service
4	there. They have security there, they EMS services
5	there. But what we're looking at here is a structure
6	where scattered upon all kinds of farms and properties.
7	Who then provides the fire service, the ambulance
8	service, the security service? Well it's your local
9	districts, your local sheriff. So if a decision to is
10	made to support them in that, you're taking away from
11	the local community because now something as spread out
12	over hundreds of acres instead of being on a few acres
13	of a power generation plant. I think that's all that I
14	have to say.
15	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
16	Thank you very much.
17	Next name on my list is Rex Wallace.
18	REX WALLACE,
19	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
20	follows:
21	TESTIMONY OF REX WALLACE
22	MR. WALLACE: I'm Rex Wallace, Nodaway
23	County assessor and what I'd like to say is, like the
24	gentlemen just said, it would be very detrimental to
25	Nodaway County. Also, I have 24, going to have 320 wind

1	turbines coming and the saddest thing that I see is the
2	thee counties, Gentry, Atchison, and Nodaway came
3	together in 2006 and met with a turbine companies, met
4	with commissioners, met with Senator then Brad Lager and
5	Tom Carnahan and said we don't want to value these wind
6	turbines. We don't want anything to do with them, you
7	do it. Because we had no idea. At that time people
8	were scared of them and didn't want them and I don't
9	blame them. Who wants to really look at that thing,
10	honestly? But if you know the money is staying locally,
11	you can kind of sacrifice things. Nodaway is kind of
12	unique. I have 83 different taxing levies because we're
13	a township former government, these things are taxed at
14	commercial rate, which in Nodaway County we have an
15	additional \$1.14 sir tax and a levy of \$9.44. You add
16	those together, it's quite expensive. That's why my two
17	little school districts, they share \$400,000 right now.
18	We had to create an EEZ in Nodaway County with expense
19	to Nodaway County because couldn't be competitive with
20	other counties because we're a township former
21	government. I honestly believe that not one citizen in
22	Nodaway County would have said yes if they had any idea
23	that this money would leave Nodaway County. And to give
24	the Public Service Commission an idea on what happens to
25	utilities, two years ago KCP&L built a substation south

1	of Maryville. The value was \$589 million dollars. The
2	first year I got it as new construction. School
3	districts were just unbelievably happy. The next year
4	it went state assessed, I lost \$10,000. It went down.
5	\$589 just disappeared and now it's valued at \$10,000
6	less than it was. Superintendents called, where did
7	that money go, Rex? I don't know. So please, please,
8	please, if you could keep it locally assessed, that's
9	what I recommend.
10	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.
11	MR. LOWERY: The 320 turbines.
12	MR. WALLACE: 320 turbines, 230 megawatts is
13	the first one.
14	MR. LOWERY: Is that a cooperative-owned
15	facility? Is that the one that's Associated Electric or
16	its member of co-ops building?
17	MR. WALLACE: One of them, yes. Well, no.
18	Well, Trade Winds and Tenaska from Omaha.
19	MR. LOWERY: Have the cooperatives in
20	Missouri though contracted by the power from those
21	facilities or do you know?
22	MR. WALLACE: Yes, both of them.
23	MR. LOWERY: On a long-term basis?
24	MR. WALLACE: Yes, 20 years.
25	MR. LOWERY: Thank you.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 1/14/2019

1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is
2	Curtis Livengood.
3	CURTIS LIVENGOOD,
4	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
5	follows:
6	TESTIMONY OF CURTIS LIVENGOOD
7	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
8	us?
9	MR. LIVENGOOD: I'm here today to testify on
10	behalf of the citizens of Atchison County as the
11	residing commissioner. I'd like to say a couple things
12	first. I want to say that we have 250 towers, wind
13	turbines, currently here in the county so we do support
14	wind. We're happy with the wind companies, the,
15	bringing jobs to the county, the taxation that we've
16	received from them. We also are not against Ameren. It
17	all goes back to us wanting to make sure we keep the
18	dollars local.
19	A couple things I want to make sure I point
20	out is as the commissioner from Dekalb County stated,
21	you're setting a precedent here that we could lose the
22	dollars that we are getting. It's one thing when if
23	this EDF goes forward and sells the Ameren, it's one
24	thing for us to lose those potential revenues, but when
25	we're looking at it from the fact that for the last

1	decade we've be receiving tax dollars and by going
2	forward with this project right now at this time, it
3	would set a precedent that could potentially take all
4	those tax dollars we've been getting away. That's a
5	whole 'nother thing. It's one thing to not to get
6	moneys that you thought were coming to you, but when you
7	take away the revenues that we've had already, that
8	could be devastating to all of our taxing entities as
9	many of the people who have testified have already said.
10	Also, I would like to point out that you
11	heard from a land owner that said he wouldn't sign up
12	again if the new project was coming through, that he
13	probably wouldn't sign up again. I personally feel like
14	our owners, if they knew these dollars, I understand
15	that the land owners are getting significant amounts of
16	money in a rent payment, but I truly believe that if
17	they knew that these dollars weren't coming to their
18	taxing entities local taxing entities, their schools,
19	their fire departments, they wouldn't sign up for them.
20	They just wouldn't.
21	So in closing, I would like to say that on
22	behalf of the citizens of Atchison County, I ask that
23	you not grant the certificate of convenience and
24	necessity until we have a solution to making sure that
25	the tax dollars are received here locally and not taken

1	away from our county.
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
3	Next name on the list is Lesa McCartney.
4	Please raise your right hand.
5	LESA MCCARTNEY,
6	having been first duly sworn and examined, testified as
7	follows:
8	TESTIMONY OF LESA MCCARTNEY
9	MS. MCCARTNEY: I've been aware of the
10	interest in this project for almost ten years and I've
11	attended several annual meetings to learn the project
12	progress as well as receiving pertinent information. My
13	family has farmed in this community for over 100 years
14	and I've grown up in this community. I own land that's
15	being considered for this project. I've had increased
16	communication from EDF in the last year as the interest
17	and the progress report has increased. The primary
18	contact person has been Jonathan Eckert, who was up
19	front earlier. He has been informative, very accessible
20	by phone and text, has shown a real interest and
21	ensuring land preservation while implementing and
22	maintaining this project. I have found him overall good
23	to work with.
24	Ensuring the land is cared for is very
25	important to me. We cherish this land. Additional

1	revenue would be helpful maintaining and improving the
2	farm land. I strongly support efficient, alternative
3	methods as in wind farms for renewable energy purposes
4	and I've been supportive of this project in this
5	community.
6	I'd really like to see the money stay in
7	this county and I would like to see it as a financial
8	benefit to this county. I cherish this town and want to
9	see it prosper. I know everyone has seen how Tarkio has
10	prospered. I'd like to see this project completed
11	somehow rather than that not all but would really like
12	additional financial support identified and provided to
13	this county to better insure benefits.
14	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much. Any
15	questions?
16	Next name on my list is Shane Bredensteiner.
17	CITIZEN: Shane had to leave.
18	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. That's all the names
19	on my list. Is there anyone else here that would like
20	to come up here to testify? Okay. I don't see anybody
21	stepping forward so once again I'll thank you all for
22	coming and for that we are adjourned.
23	(Proceedings concluded at 1:54 p.m.)
24	
25	

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 1/14/2019

1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	I, Mackenzie M. Smith, Missouri Certified Court
4	Reporter #1437(T), do hereby certify that the witness
5	whose testimony appears in the foregoing proceedings was
6	duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was
7	taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter
8	reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am
9	neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of
10	the parties to the action in which this proceedings was
11	taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee
12	of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties
13	thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the
14	outcome of the action.
15	
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17	Macunzismith
18	
19	Mackenzie M. Smith CCR-MO #1437(T)
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