

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

Craig Mershon,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. EC-2013-0521</u>
)	
Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

**STAFF RESPONSE TO AMEREN MISSOURI'S
THIRD PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and for its Response to Ameren Missouri's Third Proposed Procedural Schedule, respectfully states as follows:

1. In the *Staff Response to November 13 Order Directing Filing* filed herein on November 15, 2013, in which Staff concurred with Ameren Missouri's proposed evidentiary hearing date of December 16, 2013, Staff set forth certain conflict dates in early January 2014 and noted that "later in the month of January, Staff counsel will be involved with the preparation and filing of direct testimony in the Missouri Gas Energy rate case."

2. Similar to the last half of January, during the month of February Staff counsel will be involved with the preparation and filing of supplemental testimony, rebuttal testimony, and possibly additional filings, as well as settlement conferences and potentially local public hearings in the Missouri Gas Energy rate case. Therefore, the **only** dates in February that the necessary Staff members (technical Staff and

Staff counsel) in this complaint case are currently available for an evidentiary hearing (presumably in the St. Louis metro area) are February 3, 4, 27 and 28, as set forth in Ameren Missouri's Third Proposed Procedural Schedule.

3. Staff also agrees with Ameren Missouri that the case should be processed in the timeliest manner possible, consistent with the Commission's rule governing small formal complaint cases, and notes that between this case and Complainant's earlier complaint (which was dismissed by the Commission due to Complainant's failure to take action) this matter has been pending since May 7, 2012, in one form or another, except for the period of time from April 17, 2013 to June 13, 2013.

4. Staff concurs with the request to start the hearing at 10:30 a.m. to permit travel by Staff and others from mid-Missouri to the St. Louis metro area. An earlier start time would necessitate getting hotel rooms in St. Louis, as well as taking at least a portion of an additional day out of an already tight schedule.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests the Commission issue an order adopting the procedural schedule submitted in Ameren Missouri's Third Proposed Procedural Schedule¹ and that the hearing begin at 10:30 a.m. on the scheduled date.

¹ It is Staff's understanding that although Ameren Missouri's Third Proposed Procedural Schedule contains four potential evidentiary hearing dates, the proposal is that only one of those dates be selected for an evidentiary hearing. Staff does not believe that more than one date is necessary for the evidentiary hearing in this case, even if the hearing does not begin until 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

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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 all parties of record this 14th day of January, 2014.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil