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**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**FILE NO. EA-2020-0371**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**ANNEMARIE NAUERT**

**ON**

**BEHALF OF**

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**d/b/a Ameren Missouri**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**ANNEMARIE NAUERT**

**FILE NO. EA-2020-0371**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. Annemarie Nauert, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri  
4 ("Ameren Missouri" or "Company"), One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St.  
5 Louis, Missouri 63103.

6 **Q. What is your position with Ameren Missouri?**

7 A. My position/title is Program Supervisor, Renewable Energy. In this role, I  
8 am responsible for internal processes and external customer management for renewable  
9 energy programs, like Community Solar.

10 **Q. Please describe your educational background and employment**  
11 **experience.**

12 A. I graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 2010 with a  
13 degree in Biological Engineering. I have passed the National Council of Examiners for  
14 Engineering and Surveying Fundamentals of Engineering ("FE") Exam in Missouri.

15 For five years, I served as a process engineer, project manager, and corporate  
16 sustainability team leader at MilliporeSigma (formerly, Sigma-Aldrich). In 2013, I gained

1 certification as a Project Management Professional ("PMP") through the Project  
2 Management Institute.

3 In 2016, I joined Ameren as a Project Auditor in Ameren Services' Internal Audit  
4 department, with responsibility for company-wide oversight of project management  
5 practices and internal controls. In 2017, I was promoted and assumed team leadership  
6 responsibilities in addition to auditing responsibilities. Throughout this time, I planned,  
7 conducted, and/or supervised audits of generation, energy delivery, and transmission  
8 projects as well as environmental services strategy, among other areas. In 2019, I accepted  
9 my current role and transitioned to my current responsibilities.

10 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

11 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony in this proceeding?**

12 A. The purpose of my direct testimony is to support the approval of Ameren  
13 Missouri's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") Application for the  
14 expansion of the Community Solar program via a second solar generation plant and  
15 associated facilities (the "Project"). Specifically, I will explain the need/customer demand  
16 for the Project.

17 **III. THE NEED FOR A SECOND COMMUNITY SOLAR RESOURCE**

18 **Q. Please briefly describe the purpose and history of Ameren Missouri's**  
19 **Community Solar Program ("the Program").**

20 A. The original purpose of the Program was to pilot a voluntary subscription-  
21 based program for residential and small business (general service) customers as an  
22 alternative to customer-owned solar for customers unwilling or unable to install or lease  
23 their own solar panels. Customers may subscribe for up to 50% of their average annual

1 usage in monthly blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours. The Program tariff was originally approved  
2 through a settlement between Ameren Missouri, Renew Missouri, the Missouri Public  
3 Service Commission Staff, and the Office of Public Counsel in 2018, File No. EA-2016-  
4 0207. Customer response to the Program was enthusiastic. The Program's first resource, a  
5 1,302-block photovoltaic ("PV") array on undeveloped land owned by the City of St. Louis  
6 at Lambert International Airport, was fully subscribed by December 10, 2018, just under  
7 two months after the tariff effective date of October 13, 2018. The first resource, which is  
8 known as the "Lambert Airport Renewable Energy Center," was built and put into service  
9 in August 2019.

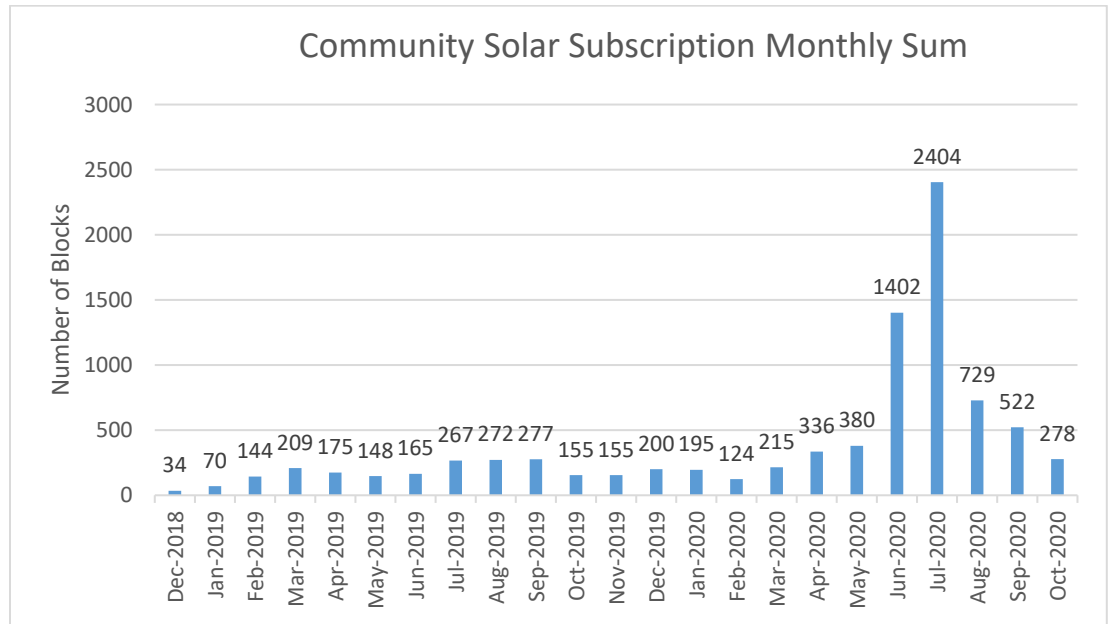
10 **Q. Please describe the level of customer demand for the Program since the**  
11 **Lambert Resource's full enrollment.**

12 A. Even without any active marketing or promotion to customers, as shown in  
13 Figure 1 below, the Program continued to accumulate customers on a waitlist indicating  
14 further demand for the Program's renewable energy option. In order to address that demand  
15 and commence active marketing to assess further demand, on November 25, 2019, Ameren  
16 Missouri filed an *Application For Approval To Expand Community Solar Pilot Program*  
17 *And Associated Tariff* ("Application"), which included a modified Program Tariff  
18 (Tracking No. YE-2020-0091), File No. ET-2020-0022. In the Application, Ameren  
19 Missouri proposed to extend its commitments from the settlement in the original pilot  
20 approval case, and noted that in order to expand the Program, Ameren Missouri will  
21 construct new solar generation resource(s).

22 The Commission approved a unanimous stipulation among parties to File No. ET-  
23 2020-0022 to expand the Program in May 2020 (effective date of the order was June 27,

1 2020). Upon the effective date of tariff changes allowing expansion of the Program beyond  
2 the first resource, Ameren Missouri resumed active marketing and conducted a marketing  
3 campaign primarily in July and August of 2020. Again, customer response was impressive.  
4 As illustrated by Figure 1 below, when customers were made aware of additional solar  
5 blocks to become available through a press release and marketing materials, there was a  
6 large uptick in subscription of blocks at a second resource. Through these block requests,  
7 customers have demonstrated a robust level of demand for an expanded program and a  
8 desire for a second resource to meet this demand. As of October 19, 2020, with 8,856  
9 blocks on the waitlist, approximately ninety-three percent (93%) of the Project's planned  
10 capacity of 9,500 blocks is accounted for.

11 **Figure 1**



12

13 *Figure 1: The Program's monthly addition of subscribed blocks after the first*  
14 *resource's full enrollment.*

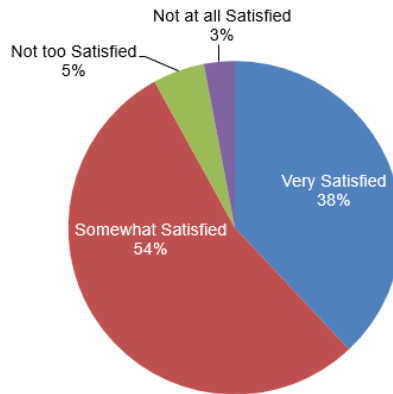
15 **Q. Have you or the Company received any direct customer feedback on**  
16 **the Program?**

1           A.     Yes. Through two participant surveys (conducted in July 2019 and July  
2 2020), we have learned that participating customers are overall satisfied with the Program,  
3 as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Furthermore, 70% of enrolled customers in 2019 and 84% in  
4 2020 reported that the Program gives them an opportunity to participate in renewable  
5 energy that they would not otherwise have (see Figures 4 and 5 below). The 2020 break-  
6 out of results between enrolled and waitlisted participating customers underscores how  
7 important it is to customers that the Program expands to make more blocks available:  
8 customer satisfaction is higher for those who have moved from the waitlist to subscribed  
9 status (i.e., assigned to an in-service facility and being actively billed for Community Solar  
10 subscription each month).

11 **Figure 2**

**Overall satisfaction with the Community Solar program**

n=80, those who indicated they are currently enrolled/wait listed



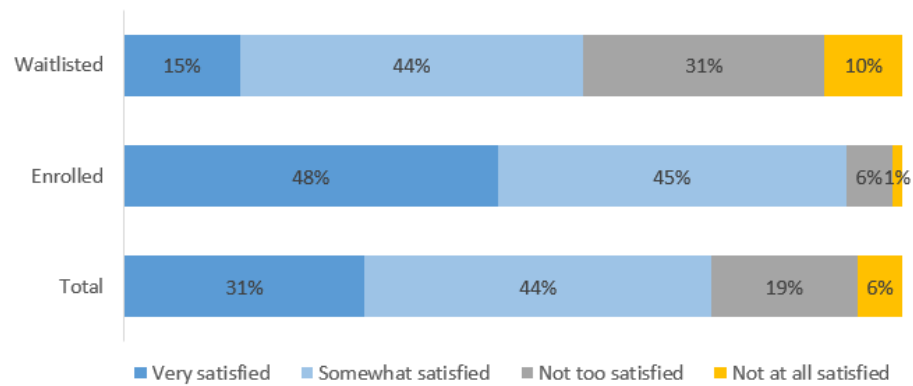
12

13 *Figure 2: The Program's overall customer satisfaction rating from July 2019*  
14 *participant survey data.*

1

**Figure 3**

**Overall Satisfaction with the Community Solar Program**



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*Figure 3: The Program's overall customer satisfaction rating from July 2020 participant survey data.*

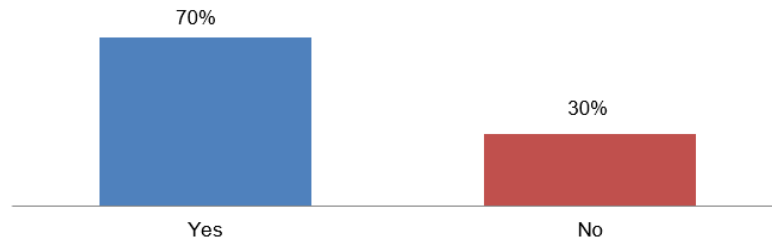
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**Figure 4**

**Most feel Ameren Missouri's Community Solar program provides a solar option**

n=80, those who indicated they are currently enrolled/wait listed



6

Did Ameren Missouri's community solar program provide a solar option that otherwise was not possible for your household?

7

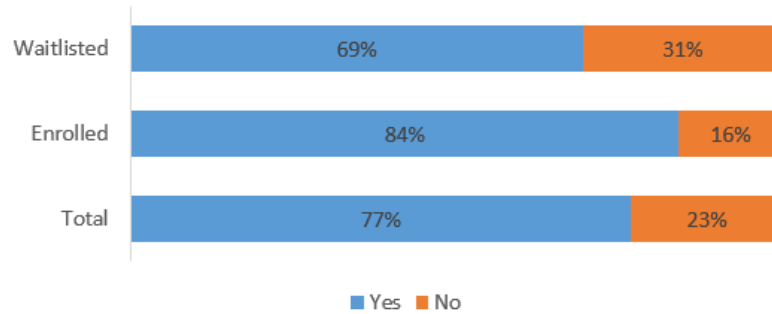
*Figure 4: Participant response on renewable energy opportunity of the Program from July 2019 participant survey data.*

8



**Figure 5**

**Community Solar provides a solar option that would not be possible**



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*Figure 5: Participant response on renewable energy opportunity of the Program from July 2020 participant survey data.*

3

4

As Program Supervisor, I also have the opportunity to receive and respond to direct feedback from customers. A theme I have heard in many interactions is enthusiasm for the Program and adding renewable energy to the Company's generation portfolio. Especially as other renewable programs previously available to customers end (i.e., Pure Power), I expect customers will increasingly look to the Program to meet their renewable energy needs and goals.

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**Q. What action do you recommend the Commission take in this case?**

11

A. I recommend that the Commission grant the Company's request for a CCN for the construction of the Project to meet the demonstrated need for expansion of the Program.

12

13

14

**IV. CONCLUSION**

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**Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

16

A. Yes, it does.

