

In the matter of the application of)
Barrel 53) Case No. _____
for change of electric supplier.)

Barrel 53 Cooperage, LLC (“Applicant”) submits the following Application for Change of Electric Service Provider (“Application”) at its 7239 Highway A, Higbee, Missouri location (the “Premises”):

2. A portion of the Premises currently receives electrical power from Howard Electric Cooperative ("Howard Electric").

4. Another portion of the Premises receives electrical power from Union Electric Company, d/b/a/ Ameren Missouri ("Ameren"). Applicant also operates a portion of its mill and cooperage directly across State Highway A from the Premises, which also receives electrical power from Ameren. The majority of Applicant's business facilities currently receive electrical power from Ameren.

5. Ameren is a regulated electrical utility, and is a corporation in good standing with the Missouri Secretary of State with a principal place of business at 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103. Ameren's registered agent is CT Corporation System, 120 S. Central Ave., Clayton, Missouri, 63105.

6. Pursuant to Section 394.315.2, RSMo, Applicant requests the Missouri Public Service Commission to order a change of electric supplier to the Premises indicated above from Howard Electric to Ameren.

7. Applicant requests the Missouri Public Service Commission to order a change of electric provider for the following reasons:

a. **Public Safety Needs.** Public safety needs and concerns would be better served by a single electrical power supplier providing electrical power to the entirety of Applicant's business facilities. Although the entirety of Applicant's operations are located on or very near the Premises, Applicant currently receives electrical power from two different electric providers. The nature of Applicant's operations are industrial, and include the operation of electric-powered heavy machinery. Although Applicant takes myriad safety precautions, the nature of its operations are such that catastrophic accidents or fires are possible. Currently, if an accident or fire on the Premises necessitates that emergency responders communicate with the electrical provider quickly, the emergency responders would first need to determine whether Ameren or Howard Electric was the appropriate party to contact. The requested change in electrical provider would ensure that all of Applicant's facilities in and around the Premises are served by a single electrical provider. This would eliminate any confusion for emergency responders that may arise as to the identity of the electric provider to the business or any portion thereof

should circumstances require emergency services related to the electrical supply on the Premises. The risk of confusion and resulting time lost in an emergency situation is particularly acute because only one building on the Premises receives electrical power from Howard Electric, while all other buildings on the Premises, the Applicant's business facilities, and, to the best of Applicant's knowledge, the immediately surrounding properties all receive electrical service from Ameren. If a single entity provides electric service to the entirety of the Premises and Applicant's facilities, there would be no doubt for emergency responders that they should communicate with Ameren in the event communication with the provider is necessary.

b. **Elimination of Duplicative Services.** Ameren and Howard Electric both currently provide service to the Premises and to Applicant's facilities. Most of Applicant's facilities, including those on the Premises, receive electrical power from Ameren, while a single building receives power from Howard Electric. Such duplication of service would cease if Ameren provides electric service to the entire Premises and all of Applicant's facilities. Applicant currently receives two monthly bills for electric services. If Applicant was to receive electric service only from Ameren, it would receive only one bill. No duplication of facilities will be necessary in order for Ameren to provide service to the entire Premises and Applicant's facilities, as Ameren already provides electric power to a portion of the Premises and to additional facilities of Applicant across the road from the Premises.

- i. There would be no need to procure private property easements because service is already provided to Applicant's property by Ameren.

- ii. There would be little or no burden on the customer because the associated costs would be zero or minimal. Ameren has estimated that the cost to Applicant would be zero due to the proximity of Ameren's existing service to Applicant's facilities.
- iii. Ameren has stated that it does not anticipate any additional infrastructure or construction will be necessary to provide electrical power to the Premises.

c. **Positive Economic Development Impact.** The change in electrical provider will have a positive impact on economic development in the area. As a customer of Howard Electric, Applicant must pay a "demand charge" in addition to its rates for electrical usage of approximately \$1,200 per month that would not be imposed by Ameren for providing electrical service to the remaining portion of Applicant's facilities not already served by Ameren. Applicant's business operations have been severely impacted by the unprecedented global pandemic of COVID-19. Due to the pandemic, orders to Applicant are down dramatically. This has resulted in significant revenue reductions, which makes reducing operational costs all the more critical in order for Applicant to continue to provide family-supporting manufacturing jobs in rural Randolph County. Indeed, due to COVID-19, Applicant has already had to lay off eight (8) of its fourteen (14) employees. Nonetheless, while reduced production during the pandemic has resulted in less electricity demand that should result in lower operating costs, Applicant is unable to realize any savings on its electric bills with Howard Electric because the demand charge remains constant from month-to-month regardless of Applicant's usage. Significantly, at times during the pandemic, the demand charge has

been higher than the charge for Applicant's actual electric usage. Continuing to receive electric for a portion of Applicant's facilities from Howard Electric may require additional reductions in Applicant's workforce and impede Applicant's ability to expand its operations to provide additional manufacturing jobs.

d. There would be no effect on any territorial agreements. To the best of Applicant's knowledge, Ameren and Howard Electric have not entered into a territorial agreement.

8. Applicant has been unsuccessful in its attempts to work out electric service issues with Howard Electric. Since at least 2019, Applicant has discussed elimination or reduction of Howard Electric's demand fee or other options to reduce the cost of service. Although Howard Electric provides electric service to other businesses near the Premises without charging a demand fee, Howard Electric has refused to modify the demand fee charged to Applicant or otherwise assist Applicant in resolving its concerns.

9. For the reasons stated above, a change in electric service provider from Howard Electric Cooperative to Ameren is in the public interest for reasons other than a rate differential.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests the Missouri Public Service Commission issue an Order to grant its Application to change electric service provider set forth herein, and for all other further order and relief as necessary or convenient to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

BLITZ, BARDGETT & DEUTSCH, LC

/s/ Christopher Pieper

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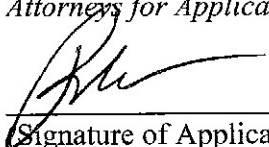
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Attorneys for Applicant

3-18-21
(Date)




(Signature of Applicant)

573 - 424 - 8999
(Phone Number)

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
COUNTY OF Randolph) ss.

VERIFICATION

I, Robert Berendzen, on oath, state that I have read the foregoing application and am familiar with its contents and the matters set forth therein are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public on this
the 18th day of March, 2021.

My Commission expires: 9-22-2022

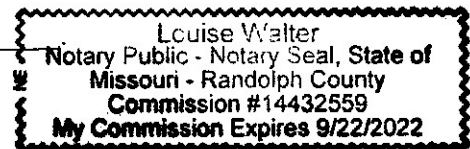


EXHIBIT A

Certificate of Good Standing

STATE OF MISSOURI



John R. Ashcroft
Secretary of State

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of the STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby certify that the records in my office and in my care and custody reveal that

Barrel 53 Cooperage, LLC
LC001412531

A Missouri entity was created under the laws of this State on 7/15/2014, and is Active, having fully complied with all the requirements of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the GREAT SEAL of the State of Missouri.
Done at the City of Jefferson, the 18th day of February, 2021.


Secretary of State

Certification Number: CERT-IN59819

