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Inaction; Misc.  
Conditions; Project Cost  
Witness: Ajay K. Arora  
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Sponsoring Party: Union Electric Company  
File No.: EA-2022-0245  
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**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**FILE NO. EA-2022-0245**

**SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**AJAY K. ARORA**

**ON**

**BEHALF OF**

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**d/b/a Ameren Missouri**

**St. Louis, Missouri  
January, 2023**

**P**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY .....	1
II. THE NEED TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLY, AND TO HEDGE AGAINST OVERRELIANCE ON THE MARKET .....	6
III. PRUDENCE OF AMEREN MISSOURI'S PLANNED TRANSITION APPROACH – THE NEED TO ENSURE RELIABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTATION .....	16
<b>A. Ensuring Reliability</b> .....	16
<b>B. Ensuring Feasibility</b> .....	22
IV. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RAISED IN REBUTTAL TESTIMONY .....	26
V. PROJECT COST UPDATE.....	35
VI. CONCLUSION.....	35

**SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**AJAY K. ARORA**

**FILE NO. EA-2022-0245**

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

2           A.     Ajay K. Arora, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren  
3 Missouri" or "Company"), One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

4           **Q.     Are you the same Ajay K. Arora who filed Direct Testimony in this**  
5 **proceeding?**

6           A.     Yes, I am.

7                           **I.    PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

8           **Q.     What is the purpose of your Surrebuttal Testimony in this proceeding?**

9           A.     The purpose of my Surrebuttal Testimony is to provide the Company's overall  
10 response to Staff's recommendation to deny Ameren Missouri a certificate of convenience and  
11 necessity ("CCN") for the Boomtown Solar Project (the "Project"). Other Company witnesses, as  
12 outlined below, will also respond to certain aspects of the Staff's recommendation. I will also  
13 update the Commission on the expected Project cost and respond to certain miscellaneous  
14 conditions and concerns about the Project raised by Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel  
15 ("OPC").

16          **Q.     Please summarize your overall response to Staff's recommendation.**

17          A.     I am deeply concerned that Staff's continued adherence to an inappropriately  
18 narrow viewpoint of when new generation resources are needed will expose our customers to  
19 unnecessary risk, given changes that have already occurred and are continuing to occur to both

1 Ameren Missouri's resource mix and equally important, to the resource mix in MISO.<sup>1</sup> Ameren  
2 Missouri is retiring three of four aging coal plants in a staggered manner by 2030, including two  
3 of those plants by 2024-2025. These coal plants have provided baseload around-the-clock energy  
4 to Ameren Missouri customers for decades, and the energy from these plants needs to be replaced  
5 in order to ensure reliability. Renewable energy resources are the least cost means of replacing this  
6 energy.

7 Staff's position reflects a failure to acknowledge that circumstances in the industry  
8 generally, and for Ameren Missouri specifically, have changed in such a way that there is in fact  
9 a need for new renewable generation resources now. This need will grow in the years to come.  
10 Indeed, contrary to Staff's viewpoint, the responsible, prudent course of action for the Company  
11 is to proceed with the Company's planned transition from its old generating fleet – which apart  
12 from the Callaway Energy Center is almost entirely made up of aging fossil-fuel resources – to a  
13 new generating fleet that relies much more heavily on renewable sources of energy. The Company  
14 needs to ensure that projects needed to replace the energy from the retiring plants can be feasibly  
15 implemented, and that the reliability and resiliency of the system are not at risk as the transition  
16 occurs. At bottom, the Company is asking the Commission to support our transition from the old  
17 fleet to the new fleet by approving a CCN for the Boomtown Project, which is the first non-RES<sup>2</sup>-  
18 compliance renewable facility that the Company needs to build. The key points in my Surrebuttal  
19 Testimony can be summarized as follows:

20 1. Contrary to Staff's overly narrow viewpoint of what "need" means, Ameren Missouri  
21 has a clear, present, and ongoing need to add energy resources to its generation  
22 portfolio to address the dramatic shift in the Company's energy position that will occur

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<sup>1</sup> Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Renewable Energy Standard, Revised Statutes of Missouri Sections 393.1025, 1030.

1 over the next several years. Ameren Missouri expects to experience an energy shortage  
2 as early as 2028 assuming normal loads and generation, a dramatic change from the  
3 15-20% energy buffer from which customers have historically benefited. Such a shift  
4 could expose our customers to reliability challenges and high market price risk if the  
5 Company does not take proactive steps – now – to start adding new energy resources.  
6 The Boomtown Solar Project is the first of several resources that will be needed to  
7 address this energy shortfall and therefore is a "no regrets" addition to the Company's  
8 resource portfolio.

9 2. In order to ensure continued reliability for our customers, Ameren Missouri needs to  
10 overlap new resources – such as the Boomtown Solar Project – with existing coal-fired  
11 resources as the Company completes its planned transition to a new, cleaner generating  
12 fleet. In no way is the Company's planned transition "unprecedented," as Staff has  
13 suggested.<sup>3</sup> As Roland Berger industry expert Mike Granowski discusses in detail, that  
14 the transition is happening across the country, with the approval of other state  
15 regulatory commissions, is beyond dispute. This Commission should similarly  
16 recognize and support the Company's need to transition now and over the coming  
17 years. The sustained transition plan laid out in the Company's Preferred Resource Plan  
18 is the prudent way to do just that

19 3. Implementation of the new generating fleet, requiring the construction of up to 30 new  
20 solar and wind projects over the next twenty years, about half of which need to be  
21 implemented by 2030, faces numerous risks and challenges that Staff's rebuttal  
22 testimony chose to completely ignore. Although on the surface doing nothing may seem

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<sup>3</sup> Brad Fortson Rebuttal Testimony, p. 4, l. 18.

1           like an appealing, low-risk approach, when it comes to the implementation of a new  
2           resources fleet the risk of inaction is very high, and waiting to execute the transition  
3           heightens both real reliability risks and costs for our customers. The best way to manage  
4           these risks and challenges is to execute a sustained transition over time, starting now.

5           **Q.     How have your organized your Surrebuttal Testimony?**

6           A.     First, I will discuss the Company's need for renewable generation resources due to  
7           the ongoing retirement of the majority of our coal-fired generation capacity by 2030. I will  
8           highlight how this enormous change is swinging Ameren Missouri's energy position from  
9           having an approximately 15-20% energy buffer to having an energy shortage within  
10          approximately five years, which could occur sooner depending on actual generation and loads.  
11          Myriad planning uncertainties, alongside a highly constrained MISO market, require the  
12          Company to act proactively to ensure it has the resources needed to reliably and affordably  
13          meet customer energy needs over the next few years, and ultimately over the next two decades.

14          Second, I will discuss the Company's need to transition in a way that preserves reliability  
15          and resiliency, and in a manner that can actually be implemented to meet our customers' needs.  
16          I will reiterate how the Company's planned approach to that transition is a prudent path to  
17          ensure our customers are adequately protected from risk during the transition itself.

18          Lastly, I address certain miscellaneous points related to the Boomtown Project raised in  
19          rebuttal testimony, including some of the conditions proposed by Staff or OPC, and provide  
20          an updated estimate on the Project cost driven by changing circumstances since the case was  
21          filed.

22          **Q.     Do you have any schedules supporting your Surrebuttal Testimony?**

23          A.     No.

1           **Q.     Are other Company witnesses filing Surrebuttal Testimony?**

2           A.     Yes, five other Company witnesses are filing Surrebuttal Testimony to address  
3 various aspects of Staff's, OPC's, Wal-Mart's and the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers'  
4 rebuttal testimonies, as follows:

- 5           • Steve Wills addresses Staff's opposition to the CCN specifically in the context of the  
6           *Tartan* factors. He also addresses certain issues raised by Staff, Wal-Mart and OPC  
7           about the Renewable Solutions Program. Company witness Wills will address how  
8           Project cost changes may mean that utilization of the Investment Tax Credit ("ITC")  
9           instead of the Production Tax Credit ("PTC") may be in the best interest of our  
10          customers, although as witness Wills indicates, no action is needed from the  
11          Commission on that issue in this docket.
- 12          • Matt Michels details the Company's energy and capacity positions, risks posed by those  
13          positions, and how the Company's positions and positions in MISO generally interact.  
14          He also reiterates that the Company's Preferred Resource Plan is the least cost and  
15          addresses Staff's surprising claims that resource planning is nothing more than a mere  
16          "modeling exercise." As Company witness Michel's explains, it isn't; to the contrary, it  
17          is a critical component of planning and then implementing resources needed to reliably  
18          serve our customers.
- 19          • Lindsey Forsberg provides testimony addressing changes in the Project economics.
- 20          • Robert Dixon highlights the importance to the state as a whole of developing a  
21          generation fleet that relies much more heavily on renewables, given the associated  
22          economic development that it brings and the positive impact of such development not  
23          just on the state, but on our customers as well.

1           • Mike Granowski provides testimony that underscores why the Staff should not ignore  
2           the many risks his firm, Roland Berger, identified and in many cases quantified, in  
3           connection with the Company's June 2022 Notice of Change in Preferred Plan.  
4           Company witness Granowski also demonstrates that Staff's claim that its Preferred  
5           Resource Plan is "unprecedented" is simply incorrect, in that numerous similarly  
6           situated utilities, and their regulatory Commissions, recognize the need to transition  
7           their fleets for the same or similar reasons that Ameren Missouri needs to transition its  
8           fleet, starting now.

9           **II. THE NEED TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLY, AND TO HEDGE**  
10           **AGAINST OVERRELIANCE ON THE MARKET**

11           **Q. Please discuss the Company's need for energy resources and how the**  
12           **Boomtown Solar facility helps fulfill that need.**

13           A. Ameren Missouri's coal facilities are reaching end of life, and three of the  
14           Company's four coal facilities will retire no later than 2030: the Meramec Energy Center in 2022,  
15           the Rush Island Energy Center by 2025 and the Sioux Energy Center by 2030. As illustrated in  
16           Company witness Michels' Surrebuttal Testimony, these retirements are triggering a dramatic  
17           swing in the Company's energy position over the next few years, from its current abundantly long  
18           position to having a shortage of energy starting in 2028 assuming normal generation and load. The  
19           shortage grows steadily thereafter. Staff has failed to grasp that this significant shift in the  
20           Company's energy position is already underway with the retirement of the Meramec Energy  
21           Center, and will continue to shift when the Rush Island Energy Center is retired.



1 More specifically, even under normalized planning conditions, Ameren Missouri becomes  
2 short by approximately 1 million megawatt-hours ("MWhs")<sup>4</sup> as early as 2028, increasing to  
3 approximately 2 million MWhs by 2029, approximately 6 million by 2031 and to approximately  
4 14 million MWhs by 2037, if no new generation resources are added.<sup>5</sup> Shortages in 2028 and 2029  
5 could be increased by an additional 3 million MWhs with recognition of a high price on carbon  
6 emissions, which would also mean there is no excess energy at all by 2026.<sup>6</sup> Boomtown, along  
7 with the other renewable energy resources we need to add, helps reduce this shortage.

8 **Q. Historically, Ameren Missouri has benefited from an energy position**  
9 **approximately 15-20% above our retail customers' needs, shielding customers from adverse**  
10 **MISO market conditions and price spikes (price risk), and generating meaningful excess**  
11 **market revenues for the benefit of customers. Should the Company continue to maintain an**  
12 **energy buffer?**

13 Yes, in my opinion it should do so to address those same reliability and price risks. Under  
14 normal conditions, the Preferred Resource Plan is expected to provide an energy buffer of at least  
15 3 million MWhs annually (approximately 10%) to address uncertainties under various market  
16 conditions – for example under high carbon and high load scenarios.<sup>7</sup> Another benefit of the  
17 Preferred Resource Plan is that it mitigates the risk of energy shortfalls in the case of unexpected  
18 extended outages at Labadie, or the earlier retirement of the two units at Labadie currently slated  
19 for retirement in 2036.

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<sup>4</sup> 1 TWh.

<sup>5</sup> See Matt Michels' Surrebuttal Testimony, Figure 1 Energy Position: No New Non-RES Resources.

<sup>6</sup> See Matt Michels' Surrebuttal Testimony, Figure 3 Energy Position: RES Only Plus CC in 2031 (High Carbon Prices).

<sup>7</sup> See Matt Michels Surrebuttal Testimony Figure 6, Renewable Transition – High Carbon Prices, and Figure 7, Renewable Transition – High Carbon Prices, High Load]

1           The point is that without adding energy resources now and into the future, the Company is  
2 in a very tight energy position and is expected to be short energy within the next 5 years. And the  
3 Boomtown Solar Project is only one of several renewable resources that will be needed to fill the  
4 gap given that, alone, it only covers a relatively small portion of the energy shortage.<sup>8</sup> The  
5 Company will need several more solar and wind projects by 2031 to provide the reliability and  
6 affordability that our customers have enjoyed historically.

7           **Q.     If Ameren Missouri has a need for energy in 2028 why can't the Company wait**  
8 **until 2028 to build new energy resources?**

9           A.     For a variety of reasons, simply waiting until the last minute to add energy resources  
10 is not a prudent approach. First, our planning positions are based on normal conditions, but reality  
11 will of course play out differently. If, due to operational or environmental risks that impact the  
12 dispatch of our fossil generation or other conditions that affect our loads, the Company's energy  
13 shortage occurs even sooner than 2028, the Boomtown Project will already be in a position to start  
14 providing much needed energy for our customers throughout the year.

15           Second, even if operational or environmental risks do not accelerate the energy need prior  
16 to 2028, the energy shortage in 2028 could be much higher than in the Company's base planning  
17 case. Under just one planning scenario the Company assessed – a high carbon price<sup>9</sup> – the expected  
18 energy shortage in 2028 increases by over 3 million megawatt-hours, which equates to an  
19 additional eight solar projects the size of the Boomtown Project. But numerous other system  
20 conditions could trigger a similar increase – for example, increased load due to economic activity

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<sup>8</sup> Boomtown's expected annual average production is approximately 350,000 MWhs.

<sup>9</sup> See Matt Michels' Surrebuttal Testimony, Figure 3, Energy Position: RES Only Plus CC In 2031 (High Carbon Prices)..

1 in the region, or constraints on the Company's ability to achieve cost-effective energy efficiency  
2 savings.<sup>10</sup>

3 Thirdly, as I discussed in my Direct Testimony, there are numerous challenges to the  
4 development and construction of renewable energy projects, with good projects becoming  
5 increasingly difficult to find. Since we need numerous – possibly up to 14 – projects by 2031, it is  
6 vitally important to acquire advanced-stage renewable projects like the Boomtown Solar Project  
7 when they become available.

8 All of these uncertainties – the potential for an energy shortage sooner, a larger shortage in  
9 2028, and the numerous implementation risks facing renewable project development – drive the  
10 need for a feasible, staggered implementation plan as the Company executes its transition to  
11 renewable energy resources. We firmly believe, as I will discuss at length below, that this is the  
12 only prudent approach to protect the reliability and affordability that our customers expect.

13 **Q. Is that the only prudent approach, or could Ameren Missouri just lean on the**  
14 **MISO market more heavily to meet its near-term energy needs?**

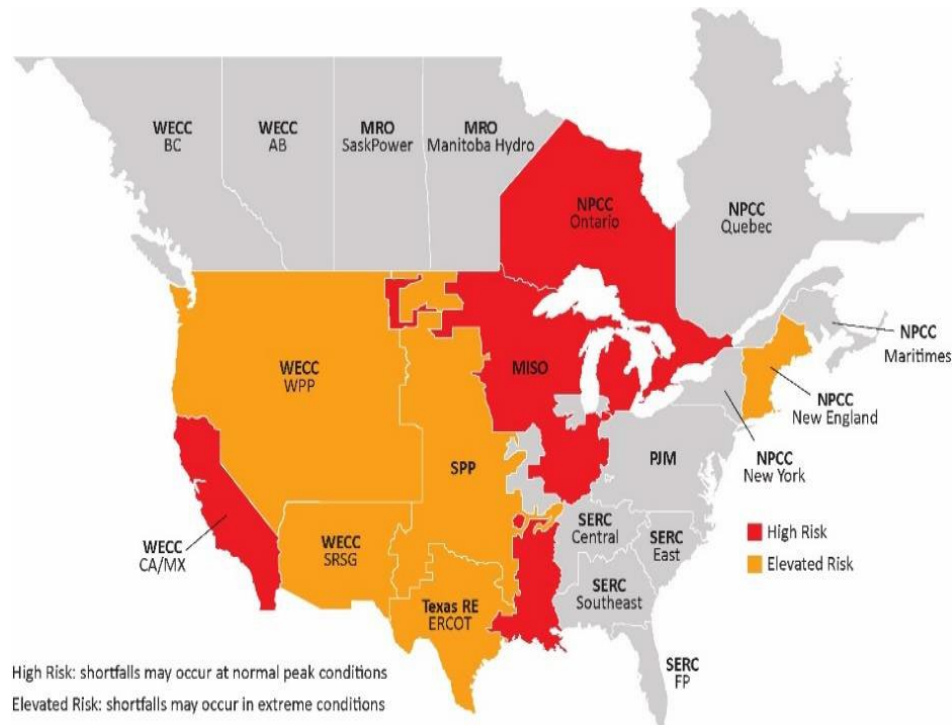
15 A. It would not be prudent to rely on the MISO market more heavily for near-term  
16 energy needs. Just like Ameren Missouri, the entire MISO footprint is undergoing a transition from  
17 dispatchable fossil resources to a much greater reliance on renewable resources. Therefore, it has  
18 become more risky to rely on the MISO market in moments of system stress than it has been in  
19 the past. As detailed in the North American Reliability Corporation's ("NERC's") 2022 Long-  
20 Term Reliability Assessment, published just weeks ago, MISO's anticipated capacity reserves are  
21 alarmingly low and could fall below an acceptable level as early as this coming summer – the  
22 summer of 2023 – and energy risks are expected to increase starting in 2024, especially in June

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<sup>10</sup> Historically the Company has only achieved 80% of the realistic achievable potential ("RAP") for these programs, but the Company's base energy and capacity positions assume 100% of RAP is achieved.

1 through August when MISO's demand peaks.<sup>11</sup> The NERC report lists MISO as a "high risk"  
2 region of the country in terms of resource adequacy, defined as an area that does not meet resource  
3 adequacy criteria, such as the 1-day-in-10 year load loss metric, during periods of the assessment  
4 horizon. Figure 1, below, highlights the regions considered high or elevated risk.

5 **Figure 1**



6  
7 *Figure 1. NERC Risk Area Summary, 2023-2027<sup>12</sup>*

8 MISO's "high risk" status indicates that without a concerted effort to begin and sustain our  
9 plan to add replacement energy resources, Ameren Missouri and MISO will both be "skating on  
10 the edge" from an energy and capacity perspective, putting customer reliability and affordability  
11 at risk. Keep in mind that MISO's short position is based on normal conditions, but the risks of

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<sup>11</sup> See page 9 of the NERC report attached to Matt Michels' Surrebuttal Testimony as Schedule MM-S2.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*, p. 6

1 MISO being even more short grows under extreme weather conditions, which are increasing in  
2 frequency and intensity across all seasons. As NERC explains:

3 The impact of wide-area and long-duration extreme weather events, such as the  
4 February 2021 South Central U.S. cold weather event and the August 2020 Western  
5 U.S. wide-area heat event, have underscored the need to consider extreme scenarios  
6 in resource planning.... Regulatory and policy-setting organizations should use  
7 their full suite of tools to manage the pace of retirements and ensure replacement  
8 infrastructure can be timely developed and placed in service.<sup>13</sup>

9 As Company witness Matt Michels points out, our Integrated Resource Planning process  
10 is a tremendous tool to develop a plan that ensures reliability and affordability for our customers.  
11 The successful implementation of our Preferred Resource Plan is therefore a critical element of  
12 ensuring reliability for our customers.

13 **Q. Is there other pertinent information in the NERC report you reference above**  
14 **that should guide the Commission's thinking on Ameren Missouri's planned transition?**

15 A. Yes. There are several items of serious consideration in the NERC report that factor  
16 into Ameren Missouri's transition planning and that the Commission should consider. For example,  
17 the reports says:

18 **"Managing the Pace of Generation Retirements:** As new resources are  
19 introduced and older traditional generators retire, careful attention must be paid to  
20 power system and resource mix reliability attributes. Within the 10-year horizon,  
21 over 88 GW of generating capacity is confirmed for retirement through regional  
22 transmission planning and integrated processes. Effective regional transmission  
23 and integrated resource planning processes are the key to managing the retirement  
24 of older nuclear, coal-fired, and natural gas generators in a manner that prevents  
25 energy risks or the loss of necessary sources of system inertia and frequency  
26 stabilization that are essential for a reliable grid."<sup>14</sup>

27 This section of the report gets to the very essence of Ameren Missouri's planned transition  
28 approach from the "old fleet" to a "new fleet," which I will discuss more later, highlighting that it

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.*, p. 13

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*, p. 7

1 is absolutely vital to have existing and/or future dispatchable resources to "wrap around" and  
2 provide the reliability services needed as we transition to a much greater reliance on renewable  
3 resources. Ameren Missouri's staged, thoughtful and flexible transition to renewable energy,  
4 implemented while some of its existing coal-fired generation is still operational, reflects prudent  
5 implementation of the precise concept highlighted in the NERC report.

6 The report also goes on to suggest that: "planning and operating the grid must increasingly  
7 account for different characteristics and performance in electricity resources as the energy  
8 transition continues," and indicates that resource adequacy evaluations must necessarily expand  
9 beyond simply assessing reserve margins at peak times – as considered by traditional assessments  
10 of capacity need at peak times.<sup>15</sup> This outdated "traditional assessment" is the approach Staff is  
11 still taking to assess need, but the Company's more holistic approach to resource planning and  
12 implementation is more aligned with NERC's recommendations.

13 **Q. You noted that if the market is tight capacity or energy there could be**  
14 **reliability risks, but you also mentioned price risk. Please explain.**

15 A. The Commission is well-aware of the impact on utility costs of extreme weather  
16 events from its experience with two of the other three electric utilities in the state,<sup>16</sup> who incurred  
17 huge purchased power costs when they were forced to buy large quantities of energy from the  
18 market at astronomically high prices when the market shot up during Winter Storm Uri. Ameren  
19 Missouri didn't see impacts of that magnitude on its purchased power costs during Winter Storm  
20 Uri because of the considerable length we had at that time, with both Meramec and Rush Island

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<sup>15</sup> *Id.*, p. 7.

<sup>16</sup> The Empire District Electric Company and Evergy Missouri – West.

1 available at their full capacities.<sup>17</sup> However, if an event like that repeats itself, in either the winter  
2 or the summer, and certainly post the retirement of Rush Island, we could find ourselves in a very  
3 similar position – assuming the market, under its constrained resource adequacy conditions, can  
4 even supply all of the energy.

5 As the Commission knows from the reports filed each month in File No. EO-2022-0215,  
6 and from testimony filed in the Company’s pending rate review, the two Rush Island Units are  
7 now System Support Resources (“SSR”) in the MISO market. This means they are only dispatched  
8 for reliability reasons under an “operating guide” issued by MISO. Consequently, these units run  
9 far less than they would if they were dispatched economically, and this means they provide far less  
10 energy. So, while it is true that for the next year or two those two units will be fully available to  
11 backstop reliability, we are, even today, exposed to greater market price risk when our energy  
12 needs spike given Rush Island’s status as an SSR. We saw some of the impacts of this right before  
13 Christmas a few weeks ago, when over the four day period from Dec 22 – Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Ameren  
14 Missouri was in fact short energy and purchased 15 gigawatt-hours ("GWhs") resulting in  
15 purchased power costs of \$1.8 million for just a four-day period. Had Rush Island been completely  
16 unavailable, Ameren Missouri would have purchased 61 GWhs at a cost of approximately \$7.1  
17 million over just those four days.

18 **Q. Are you suggesting that the Boomtown Project would have mitigated the**  
19 **impact of such an event?**

20 A. Boomtown by itself would only mitigate that particular event, or a similar event  
21 that may occur in the summer, to a relatively small degree due to its relatively small size, but it is

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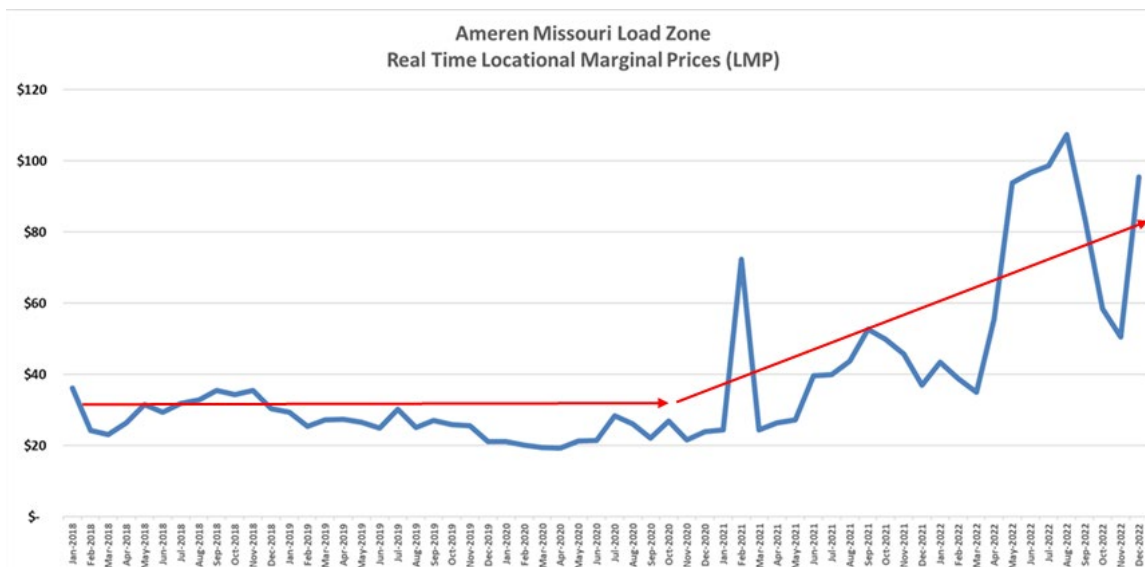
<sup>17</sup> But we did experience some of those effects due to the forced outage of the Callaway Energy Center that was ongoing at that time. Fortunately, customers were largely insulated from the cost increases those impacts would have otherwise caused due to the existence of Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited's insurance that covered a significant portion of the higher purchased power costs.

1 a part of the overall needed addition of energy resources, wind and solar, that taken together would  
2 provide significant risk mitigation. The point is that when we had the entire old fleet in place, and  
3 were quite long energy and capacity, these kinds of events posed far less risk to reliability and far  
4 less exposure to large cost increases. But that old fleet has already changed significantly– and will  
5 continue to change – thus greatly increasing those reliability and price risks. We need to get started  
6 now to mitigate those risks.

7 **Q. How do renewable resources help mitigate the risks related to price volatility?**

8 A. As Staff pointed out, the addition of new renewable resources in the MISO market  
9 could increase price volatility over time. A look back at real-time on-peak monthly averages of  
10 locational marginal prices ("LMPs") in the Ameren Missouri load zone shows that that trend is  
11 already occurring, as depicted in Figure 2 below.

12 **Figure 2**



13  
14 *Figure 2. AMO Real Time LMPs 2018-2022*

15 By adding energy resources to its fleet, Ameren Missouri can help mitigate the risk that  
16 customers will be exposed to extreme energy costs in moments of system stress. Solar resources  
17 can serve as an effective hedge against price spikes by producing energy that can offset the need



1 for purchases or create additional off-system sales, especially in the summer months when MISO  
2 is particularly tight energy and capacity, both of which benefit customers in the form of lower net  
3 energy costs. And despite not being generally thought of as a winter resource, solar may also  
4 provide some energy hedge even in the winter. Company witness Michels' Table 2 and his  
5 discussion of it reflects an example of exactly how these savings could materialize for Ameren  
6 Missouri customers. In fact, from Dec 22 – Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, when Ameren Missouri was short  
7 energy, our recently constructed Montgomery Community Solar Energy Center was generating at  
8 over 50% of its maximum capacity during several daytime hours when market prices were in the  
9 hundreds of dollars per MWh. While solar facilities generate more in the summer, including at the  
10 times loads peak, they can also provide needed energy in the winter.

11 Renewable resources are also inherently insulated from fuel price volatility risks because  
12 they do not require any fuel to operate. Once installed, these resources rely on free solar or wind  
13 resources to produce electricity.

14 **Q. It is Staff's position that Ameren Missouri does not have a current energy or**  
15 **capacity need for the Boomtown Solar Project. Do you agree with this assessment?**

16 A. No. Staff's position reflects a narrow view of need that focuses on capacity only,  
17 and added just in time. As I read Staff's testimony it does not appear to have considered the  
18 Company's near-term energy needs that are outlined in detail in Company witness Michels'  
19 Surrebuttal Testimony. Given the uncertainties and risks inherent in the system right now – from  
20 MISO's "high risk" status to possible generator outages due to the age of our existing coal-fired  
21 generation to increasingly extreme weather events – and the expectation that such risks are more  
22 likely to intensify than subside, the most prudent approach to address the Company's impending

1 energy shortage is to execute a sustained transition to cleaner resources as outlined in the  
2 Company's Preferred Resource Plan.

3 **III. PRUDENCE OF AMEREN MISSOURI'S PLANNED TRANSITION APPROACH**  
4 **– THE NEED TO ENSURE RELIABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF**  
5 **IMPLEMENTATION**

6 **A. Ensuring Reliability**

7 **Q. You've used the phrases "old fleet" and "new fleet" in your earlier responses.**  
8 **Would you please explain in greater detail what those phrases mean, as you are using them?**

9 A. When I use the phrase "old fleet" I am primarily referring to Ameren Missouri's  
10 existing (and legacy) coal-fired generation resources. These resources have served as the backbone  
11 of Ameren Missouri's generation fleet for several decades but are now aging, with increasing  
12 maintenance challenges for key equipment (such as energy piping, boilers, and turbines). The  
13 Meramec Energy Center has already retired and, as noted, two other large units are retiring soon.  
14 When I use the phrase "new fleet" I am referring to our planned future resource portfolio, which  
15 includes a diverse mix of zero or low-carbon resources, primarily renewable resources like solar,  
16 wind and hydroelectric, supported by dispatchable energy storage, natural gas or hydrogen, and  
17 nuclear.

18 **Q. Would you please summarize what transitioning the fleet needs to look like**  
19 **over the next several years, and what the end state of the new fleet looks like?**

20 A. Yes. Let's look ahead to what is planned through 2030. First, we need to steadily  
21 add renewables that, over time and as we gain experience operating them, will fulfill our near-term  
22 energy shortage. These new renewable resources will work in tandem with existing generation  
23 resources (Callaway, Osage, Keokuk, Taum Sauk, Sioux, and Labadie) in a manner that ensures

1 reliable system operations at the lowest cost reasonably possible. In parallel, we need to work  
2 towards the addition of a combined cycle gas plant by the end of 2030 –in effect to replace the  
3 Sioux Energy Center – and incorporate additional energy storage resources into the fleet. As we  
4 execute this transition towards replacement energy and capacity resources, our operations will  
5 include leaning on the market as needed, as we have always done, but not to such a degree that we  
6 are exposed to significant risks of extreme costs or the risk that we simply cannot get the energy  
7 we need to serve our customers when we need it. As discussed above, the fact that the MISO  
8 market does not have the resource excess it once did is clearly an important factor in us  
9 implementing a Preferred Resource Plan that ensures that we can shield our customers and  
10 maintain reliability during tight system conditions.

11 In the end, the new fleet will consist of a diverse (technologically and geographically),  
12 resilient resource portfolio featuring different renewable and low-carbon resources that  
13 complement each other and perform well under varied system conditions. A diverse portfolio of  
14 generating resources should deliver the most resilient and reliable energy for our customers over  
15 time. In fact, one could point to the lack of resource diversity in Ameren Missouri's existing  
16 resources portfolio, which has a majority of coal-fired resources that are aging, as a key factor  
17 heightening the urgency of our need to transition to the new fleet. Adding new resources in parallel  
18 with retiring the old coal plants starts to build that resource diversity gradually over time, while  
19 mitigating the risks increasingly facing coal-fired generating resources.

1           **Q.     The Company's plan to transition to the new fleet, featuring renewable and**  
2 **low-carbon resources, reflects some meaningful operating overlap with the old fleet**  
3 **resources. Why is that important to ensure reliability?**

4           A.     To put it simply, there are reliability risks during the transition period between the  
5 old fleet coming offline, and the new fleet being fully implemented. These risks are driven by  
6 myriad planning uncertainties, such as:

- 7           • Uncertainty in system load, including as industry and transportation electrify, and also  
8           driven by more frequent and intense severe weather, as I discussed earlier;
- 9           • Uncertainty in the energy or demand savings, or both, from planned energy efficiency  
10           and demand-response programs, which could meaningfully change both our capacity  
11           and energy positions;
- 12           • Uncertainty in whether and to what extent Ameren Missouri can expect to (or should)  
13           rely on the MISO market;
- 14           • Uncertainty in the reliability contribution of new renewable resources;
- 15           • Unplanned generation outages or other unanticipated events; and
- 16           • Material variances between our optimized generation forecasts or weather-normalized  
17           loads used for planning purposes and what happens in reality.

18 I will elaborate on several of these uncertainties below but taken as a whole, it is imprudent,  
19 unwise, and in my opinion reckless to wait until some predetermined amount of capacity of coal-  
20 fired generation retires to add corresponding capacity of renewables to plug the capacity gap, or  
21 to wait until that coal capacity can no longer provide any energy. Ameren Missouri needs to  
22 preserve system reliability while executing the transition to the new fleet, and transitioning in a

1 sustained manner over time – starting now – as the Company has proposed is the prudent way to  
2 do just that.

3 **Q. Are there any concrete examples you can provide of the reliability risk of**  
4 **relying on an RTO/ISO market too much during the transition?**

5 A. Two utilities that Ameren Missouri would consider peers, Duke Energy Corp. and  
6 the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), had to systematically shed load during the winter storm  
7 preceding the 2022 Christmas holiday for the first time in their histories. The short-term rolling  
8 blackouts were deemed necessary to prevent more widespread system failures. For Duke Energy  
9 specifically, the shortages were initially triggered by unexpected outages at several of their  
10 combined cycle and coal facilities.<sup>18</sup> In this moment of system stress, Duke's grid operators looked  
11 to the market as a backstop, but came up short. As Duke Energy North Carolina State President  
12 Kendal Bowman explained to the North Carolina regulators: "As we have for decades during times  
13 of high peak demand and as industry practice, we looked to purchase power from out-of-state  
14 entities, but in this case, the power that we purchased did not show up."<sup>19</sup>

15 Ameren Missouri has always had an operational and planning philosophy to not have  
16 energy shortages even in periods of extreme system stress because of the very real life impacts it  
17 can have on our customers during periods of extreme heat or extreme cold. The experiences of  
18 both Duke and TVA indicate that assuming market purchases will be available to backstop Ameren  
19 Missouri's own resources during extreme weather events is a high risk proposition.

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<sup>18</sup> S&P Capital I.Q. Article, *Duke execs tell NC regulators rolling blackouts prevented broader grid failures*, dated January 3, 2023.

<sup>19</sup> Id, at page 1.

1           **Q.     Please elaborate on why transitioning over time can minimize risks associated**  
2 **with uncertainties in the reliability contribution of new renewable resources.**

3           A.     As I discussed in my Direct Testimony, Ameren Missouri needs to gain operational  
4 experience with renewable resources. As with all generation resources, whether they are coal,  
5 nuclear, natural gas, hydro, wind or solar, the first several years after construction and  
6 commissioning are spent learning about the intricacies of each particular resource. This learning  
7 includes potential maintenance needs, dispatch optimization solutions, and strong and weak points,  
8 in order to ensure a thorough understanding of how the resource will perform and what its  
9 contribution to reliability can be expected to be. We are in the process of doing just that at the High  
10 Prairie and Atchison Renewable Energy Centers, as well as at the small Montgomery Community  
11 Solar Energy Center. Unlike coal energy centers that generate significant amounts of energy from  
12 one location, renewable energy resources produce varied amounts of energy based on geographic  
13 location and weather conditions. Only by operating large renewable energy plants that are  
14 geographically and technologically diverse can Ameren Missouri gain the critical experience to  
15 know if, when, and where to add renewable energy resources over the intermediate- to long-term,  
16 and how to capitalize on and optimize investments in energy storage like batteries, to ensure  
17 reliability.

18           **Q.     What sort of unplanned outages or unexpected system events could have the**  
19 **greatest impact on reliability during the transition?**

20           A.     Many unplanned events could impact the existing old fleet, further shrinking an  
21 already low margin for error for both energy and capacity. The Sioux or Labadie Energy Centers  
22 could be forced to retire sooner than expected if a forced outage became too expensive to fix, or if  
23 federal or other environmental policy made coal-fired plant operations too expensive or infeasible.

1 Even if still online, the output from any existing facility could be restricted due to fuel supply  
2 challenges or a forced outage. While we have a long track record of running a high-quality  
3 baseload fleet, events can happen and circumstances can arise that are beyond our control. As our  
4 capacity and energy positions continue to tighten, the risks created by such events increase.

5 **Q. Are such events or circumstances theoretical?**

6 A. No, they are not. One need look no further than the extended 7-month forced  
7 Callaway outage in 2021, seasonal river water intake restrictions impacting both the Labadie and  
8 Callaway Energy Centers due to ice packs and extreme heat, the operating restrictions we have  
9 seen this winter at Osage due to low water conditions caused by increasingly common and severe  
10 droughts, and the coal conservation measures we were forced to take just this past summer.<sup>20</sup> As  
11 we've seen in the press, the railroads have not necessarily fixed their staffing challenges, which  
12 contributed heavily to their poor performance and led to coal conservation. And while the Missouri  
13 River is not currently in as extreme of a drought condition as it was last year, much of the state  
14 overall remains in a drought condition, a circumstance that has been more common in recent years.  
15 There have been other times when the state is not in a drought, but water restrictions in the northern  
16 United States have impacted water levels in the Missouri River. There is no guarantee that these  
17 kinds of events – or others – will not happen again.

18 **Q. Are there other future events or circumstances that you worry about that also**  
19 **necessitate that the old fleet and new fleet overlap to preserve reliability?**

20 A. In addition to the possibility that baseload generation like Sioux might not “live”  
21 as long as currently planned, there is a meaningful risk that the Company could be delayed in the  
22 planned combined cycle plant online by 2031. While we believe that plant is necessary for long-

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<sup>20</sup> Due to the inability of the railroads to timely transport the coal our plants needed to dispatch as expected.

1 term reliability, the Company obviously needs the Commission's permission as well as  
2 construction and environmental permits to build it at all. We don't take for granted that such  
3 permission will be forthcoming. The point is that the future is uncertain, and if we don't overlap  
4 the old and the new fleets we are taking on unnecessary reliability risks for our customers,  
5 including those I have discussed above.

6 **B. Ensuring Feasibility**

7 **Q. Why is feasibility an important consideration in planning the Company's**  
8 **prudent transition to a new generating fleet?**

9 A. Simply put, because a plan that cannot be implemented in a timely manner in the  
10 real world does not ensure the reliability our customers expect and that I have little doubt the  
11 Commission expects as well. Staff recommends rejecting the Boomtown Project CCN and  
12 dismisses the Company's Preferred Resource Plan, but provides no alternative implementation plan  
13 beyond a vague suggestion that resources should be added at most optimal times. The acquisition,  
14 development, and construction of up to thirty new solar and wind resources is no small feat. In my  
15 Direct Testimony, I outlined seven key project implementation risks, listed below for reference:

- 16 • Land (i.e., renewable site) availability
- 17 • Project permitting and construction
- 18 • Supply chain constraints
- 19 • Transmission interconnection
- 20 • Technology costs
- 21 • Financing costs
- 22 • Financing constraints



1 Renewable project development requires finding a good site, gaining local community  
2 support, addressing environmental challenges, ensuring reliable and affordable transmission  
3 access, completing financial diligence to obtain federal tax credits for customers, and ensuring a  
4 good renewable energy resource like solar or wind. It should come as no surprise that good projects  
5 are challenging to find and execute on. Ameren Missouri's Preferred Resource Plan outlines the  
6 sustained construction of new renewable energy projects over time, to manage the risks and  
7 challenges of project development and acquire the best projects as they become available. Simply  
8 hoping that low risk projects are available and can be implemented just when we literally reach a  
9 planning reserve margin shortfall would reflect poor and risky planning on the Company's part.

10 Staff's recommendation chose to completely ignore these seven implementation risks.  
11 Unfortunately, ignoring risks will not make them go away, just as ignoring a leaking roof on one's  
12 house won't cause the roof to repair itself. The reality is that waiting to add renewable energy  
13 projects until a capacity shortfall exists ("just in time") or until a theoretical "perfect project"  
14 appears could easily lead to reliability issues, shortage of energy, lack of operational experience,  
15 and exposure to extremely high market prices. There is a high risk of inaction from an  
16 implementation perspective alone. Standing still, as Staff recommends, increases the risk that the  
17 Company's necessary transition becomes infeasible to implement, or comes at an extremely high  
18 cost and risk to customers. Several of the risks of a delayed transition were assessed and quantified  
19 by consultant Roland Berger, as discussed in the Surrebuttal Testimony of Mike Granowski.

20 **Q. Can you provide some "real world" illustrations or experiences with how**  
21 **those risks and challenges manifest themselves?**

22 A. Yes, in fact many of the renewable projects Ameren Missouri has recently constructed  
23 – along with others that have been pursued or considered through the request for proposal ("RFP")

1 process – have experienced delays or full cancelation due to supply chain challenges, transmission  
2 interconnection, competition, and land risks.

3 As discussed in my Direct Testimony, supply chain constraints can occur due to labor  
4 shortages, political disruption, commodity supply and price changes, and transportation  
5 challenges, all of which can lead to significant project delays. For example, Ameren Missouri's  
6 recently constructed wind facilities, the Atchison and High Prairie Renewable Energy Centers,  
7 experienced months of delay due to railroad, labor, turbine blade, and other equipment shortages.  
8 In addition, Ameren Missouri experienced both manufacturing and shipping delays for racking  
9 equipment and solar panels from a multitude of vendors and countries, causing 50% more time to  
10 be added to the construction schedule to complete the much smaller Montgomery Community  
11 Solar Center project successfully. These real supply chain challenges and delays should alarm all  
12 parties when considering the significant delays that could impact larger projects. Supply chain risk  
13 for solar may only grow greater as the demand for solar equipment and labor continues to grow.

14 Ameren Missouri also has first-hand experience with transmission interconnection risk.  
15 The Brickyard Hills Wind Project, for which the Commission granted Ameren Missouri a CCN in  
16 2019 and which had been under development for nearly a decade, ultimately had to be terminated  
17 due to unacceptably high transmission interconnection costs. This is just one example of many in  
18 which the Company – or a developer – has spent years or even a decade pursuing a project that is  
19 ultimately canceled, causing the parties to lose years of effort. Such interconnection risks have and  
20 continue to grow as more renewable projects enter the MISO queue process, delaying  
21 interconnection results and projects by up to 4 years.

22 Finally, the Company continues to experience the loss of good projects due to project  
23 constructability issues, or competition for renewable projects with large technology firms from

1 outside its service territory that are eager to find the best available projects. As discussed in the  
2 Direct Testimony of Company witness Scott Wibbenmeyer, the Company conducted an RFP for  
3 renewable projects in 2020, which identified 51 projects. However, after screening the projects for  
4 technical, commercial, and economic criteria, only nine projects were available for further  
5 consideration and diligence. The other 42 projects were considered unacceptably risky – due to  
6 unknown or high interconnection costs, constructability or environmental issues – or were  
7 purchased by competing companies and became unavailable. As those nine projects were pursued  
8 by the Company, two additional solar projects were pulled off the market and placed under contract  
9 with others, two were rejected by the Company as there was a significant risk they would not  
10 qualify for available tax credits, and one was pulled off the market many months later after the  
11 developer discovered constructability risk related to the underground mines located under part of  
12 the project. In the end, after more than two years and a review of 51 total projects proposed only  
13 four were considered viable candidates, one of which is the Boomtown Solar Project.

14 **Q. Speaking of feasibility, how will resource planning and implementation**  
15 **interact as Ameren Missouri seeks to build out its new fleet of generating resources?**

16 A. Staff witness Fortson suggests that a resource plan that changes over time is an  
17 indication that it is meaningless and should be dismissed as a "modeling exercise"<sup>21</sup>. In fact, the  
18 opposite is true. In a transition of this magnitude, a changing resource plan is an indication of  
19 learning and improvement over time as we implement. We plan, thoughtfully implement, learn,  
20 adjust our plans, and implement again. We fully expect the market and general real-world  
21 conditions to continue to change – it's essentially certain that they will – which is precisely why  
22 we are not asking for approval to just go build 5,400 MWhs of renewable capacity that our current

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<sup>21</sup> Brad Fortson Rebuttal Testimony, p. 10, l. 9.

1 planning processes indicate are warranted to meet all of our needs long-term. We could need more,  
2 or less, over the next couple of decades and as we continue to learn and plan, we will adjust. But  
3 we know we will need significant solar resources, and more wind resources, and eventually energy  
4 storage systems (i.e., batteries). And, for the reasons discussed above, we know we need some of  
5 those resources now and in the near- to intermediate-term. This case is about getting started with  
6 a high-quality solar project from an experienced, reputable developer, so we can begin learning in  
7 earnest and tackling implementation challenges one at a time while beginning to build up the new  
8 fleet.

9 Staff witness Fortson also suggests that as Ameren Missouri's resource plan evolves and  
10 changes over time, the Company's stated need for approximately 30 new solar and wind projects  
11 could change over time, leading to projects in rate base that are not needed.<sup>22</sup> He suggests this is a  
12 reason for the Commission to deny a CCN for the very first project. However, a projected need for  
13 nearly 30 projects should instead give the Commission comfort that the addition of this single  
14 Project, the first of thirty, is a no-regrets move. The Company's IRP will evolve and change over  
15 time as we implement, operate, and learn, but the likelihood that our renewable resource needs  
16 could somehow go from a projected need for 30 projects to a need for zero projects is negligible.

#### 17 **IV. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RAISED IN REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

18 **Q. Staff suggests that adding a wind resource, instead of a solar resources, would**  
19 **be more optimal to address Ameren Missouri's current needs. Do you disagree?**

20 A. I do not disagree that a wind resource could possibly more optimally address the  
21 Company's peak winter capacity needs. However, as should be clear by this point, it is imperative  
22 for the Company to begin building the new fleet – and this new fleet needs a diverse set of resources

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<sup>22</sup> Brad Fortson Rebuttal Testimony p. 8

1 (technologically and geographically) to meet energy needs in all hours across all seasons. We  
2 should always pick the best available projects, such as Boomtown Solar, when we can access them  
3 if they fit into the overall needs of the new fleet. Through the 2020 RFP, and a subsequent  
4 "refreshed" RFP issued in 2022, the Company found that the availability of suitable wind projects  
5 in the MISO region is challenged from numerous development perspectives – including  
6 transmission constraints and possible environmental issues. As a result, we focused on acquiring  
7 available, high-quality regional solar projects – like Boomtown Solar – because we need such  
8 projects too. We are, however, digging deeper into options to acquire or develop future wind  
9 resources and will continue to do so. Over time, we do intend to add a balanced mix of solar and  
10 wind resources to build out a diverse, resilient new generating fleet.

11 **Q. Should the "liabilities" as they are characterized in the rebuttal testimony of**  
12 **OPC witness Geoff Marke<sup>23</sup> prevent Ameren Missouri from receiving a CCN?**

13 A. No. The issues he raises related to vegetation, habitat, storm water management,  
14 Uyghur forced labor, and end of life management have all been addressed by the Company and  
15 are being managed as the Project progresses to completion. I will discuss each in more detail  
16 below.

17 **Q. What actions has Ameren Missouri taken to ensure proper vegetation and**  
18 **habitat management for the Boomtown Solar Farm?**

19 A. Ameren Missouri has worked closely with the project developer, Invenergy,  
20 resulting in an enhanced Scope of Work for this project to ensure proper vegetation and habitat  
21 management.<sup>24</sup> The Scope of Work includes \*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>23</sup> Geoff Marke, Ph.D. Rebuttal Testimony, pp. 4-8.

<sup>24</sup> See Exhibit A to Build Transfer Agreement (Scope of Work), attached as Schedule SW-D2 to the Direct Testimony of Company witness Scott Wibbenmeyer.

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6 <sup>25</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
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9 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>\*\*\*26</sup> Consequently, there is little risk of "liability" arising from improper habitat or  
10 vegetation management.

11 **Q. What actions have been taken to minimize the impact on local and migratory**  
12 **birds from the Boomtown Solar Project?**

13 A. During the initial site review process, project developer Invenergy contracted with  
14 outside consultants to perform a review of the proposed site regarding threatened and endangered  
15 ("T&E") species, general wildlife, and birds. Subsequently, Invenergy utilized the consultant's  
16 Site Characterization Study to design the solar facility as to not materially affect local and  
17 migratory bird populations. The purpose of the Site Characterization Study was to perform a Tier  
18 1 Preliminary Site Evaluation and Tier 2 Site Characterization Survey ("SCS") of the proposed  
19 project areas. The objective of the SCS was to identify biological resources present within the  
20 Area, which included a field reconnaissance effort for land cover verification, eagle and non-eagle  
21 raptor nest locations, habitat suitability assessments for state and federally listed species, and

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<sup>25</sup> *Id.*  
<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

1 wetlands and waterbodies review; associated reports; and consultation with applicable regulatory  
2 agencies. Approximately 53,117 acres were reviewed as part of this SCS Report.

3 The Illinois Department of Natural Resources ("ILDNR") developed the Ecological  
4 Compliance Assessment Tool ("EcoCAT"), which was used to obtain both an informal and a  
5 formal query of threatened or endangered plant and animal species within the Study Area. The  
6 informal query was submitted on November 9, 2020 which indicated that an Illinois Natural Area  
7 Inventory ("INAI") site, Little Wabash River INAI, is within the vicinity of the Project. The formal  
8 EcoCAT consultation was submitted on January 21, 2021 and also indicated that the Little Wabash  
9 River INAI is within the vicinity of the Project. The ILDNR responded to the Boomtown Project  
10 on January 25, 2021 indicating that as long as Boomtown implements erosion and sediment control  
11 practices during construction, impacts would not be expected. No other resources such as state  
12 listed species or INAI sites were identified by IDNR staff, therefore, the EcoCAT consultation is  
13 considered complete.

14 Through these efforts, there is little risk of adverse impacts from the facility, or any  
15 "liabilities" arising from it.

16 **Q. What actions have been taken to ensure proper storm water run-off**  
17 **management of its Boomtown Solar Project?**

18 A. Project developer Invenenergy hired Westwood, a third party consultant, to complete  
19 a preliminary hydrology study for the Project, which supported the conclusion that the site is  
20 suitable for the planned development. In addition, the Scope of Work included in the Build  
21 Transfer Agreement ("BTA") for the Boomtown acquisition requires the Project \*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_  
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6 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>\*\*\*27</sup> These efforts properly address any risk of liability that could arise from  
7 stormwater-related issues.

8 **Q. What actions, have been taken to ensure that the solar panels that are being**  
9 **utilized for the Boomtown Solar Project were not sourced (in whole or in part) from the work**  
10 **of forced Uyghur labor camps in China?**

11 A. The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act ("UFLPA") was signed into law by  
12 President Biden on December 23, 2021 and took effect on June 21, 2022. The purpose of the Act  
13 is to ban imports of solar modules produced through forced labor practices in the Xinjiang Uyghur  
14 Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

15 The UFLPA establishes a rebuttable presumption that all goods mined, produced, or  
16 manufactured "wholly or in part" in Xinjiang or by entities listed on the U.S. Department of  
17 Homelands Security's entity list are made using forced labor. Such goods are therefore denied entry  
18 into the U.S. unless an importer can "clearly and convincingly" prove that its imports are outside  
19 the scope of the UFLPA, or within the scope but eligible for an exception.

20 With the implementation of the UFLPA, Ameren Missouri does not anticipate receiving  
21 solar panels from an importer that does not meet the UFLPA. Furthermore, it is not reasonable to

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<sup>27</sup> *Id.*



1 expect that the Boomtown Project site would be able to receive delivery of modules that do not  
2 meet the UFLPA requirements as they would not be allowed through customs.

3 **Q. What actions have been taken regarding the planned end-of-life**  
4 **decommissioning of the solar panels at its planned Boomtown Solar Project?**

5 A. Ameren Missouri will meet the requirements of the local county for  
6 decommissioning. Project developer Invenergy utilized a third party to develop and file a  
7 decommissioning plan with White County for the Project. Ameren Missouri expects the  
8 decommissioning plan to be updated as the Project progresses and will work with the county to  
9 follow the local county requirements per the plan and would work to meet any additional  
10 requirements (local/state/federal) that might be imposed between now and decommissioning.

11 Ameren Missouri participates in specific programs through the Electric Power Research  
12 Institute ("EPRI") regarding end-of-life decommissioning of solar facilities. EPRI continues to  
13 work in this area to ensure future decommissioning activities will include the potential for panel  
14 recycling, repurposing, etc. They are also researching disposal methods and the potential for  
15 hazardous material handling, if applicable. Ameren Missouri will continue to participate in the  
16 research within this field and utilize the knowledge gained as end-of-life gets closer and a detailed  
17 plan is developed for decommissioning.

18 **Q. Does Ameren Missouri anticipate impacts from other projects affecting the**  
19 **generator interconnection cost as discussed by Staff witness Shawn Lange's Rebuttal?**

20 A. No. One advantage of the Boomtown Project is that it has a completed Large  
21 Generator Interconnection Agreement ("LGIA") to interconnect the project to the MISO  
22 transmission system. The LGIA sets forth the requirements for the interconnection, and defines  
23 the transmission upgrades and estimated cost necessary to interconnect the Project. These

1 upgrades, once complete, provide the Project with transmission rights for both capacity (NRIS)  
2 and energy (ERIS) as described in Staff's rebuttal testimony. Staff witness Lange provides  
3 reference to Exhibit A10 of the Boomtown LGIA with the following quote "Higher queue and/or  
4 same Definite Planning (DPP) group study Interconnection Requests may create contingencies  
5 pursuant to Article 11.3.1." Although this statement is true, a closer look at the LGIA, Table 10-1  
6 of Exhibit A10 reveals there were no transmission assumptions modeled in the studies that were  
7 deemed necessary to allow for the interconnection of the Boomtown Project. While this does not  
8 absolutely ensure the Project cannot ever be impacted by earlier queue or similar queue projects,  
9 it does demonstrate that the transmission upgrades required for the Boomtown Project are not  
10 materially dependent on other projects. Furthermore, if a higher or similar queue project  
11 assumption were to be modified by MISO, MISO would be required to follow its own requirements  
12 and complete an impact study, which could place the cost on the changing project without  
13 impacting others – including Boomtown. One can also conclude there is a low risk of impacts from  
14 other projects by evaluating the upgrades necessary for the Project itself. If we look at the  
15 Boomtown LGIA, the network upgrades required to interconnect the Boomtown Project are  
16 exclusively related to interconnecting the Project itself, which includes upgrades to the Crossville  
17 West substation to accommodate the physical connection of the Project.

18 **Q. Staff witness Lange recommends an economic analysis be completed and**  
19 **listed as a condition of the CCN if the upgrade cost exceeds those outlined in the GIA more**  
20 **than 15%. Should such a condition be placed on the Boomtown CCN?**

21 A. No, because it is not necessary. As described earlier, the chance of a higher or  
22 similar queue project impacting the Boomtown Project is negligible, and the LGIA clearly shows  
23 there were no transmission additions deemed necessary to allow for the interconnection of the

1 Boomtown Project. In fact, the necessary Network Upgrades required to be installed by the  
2 transmission owner pursuant the terms of the LGIA have already been completed. On December  
3 20, 2022 Ameren Illinois Company completed the necessary network upgrades and  
4 interconnection facilities required under the LGIA at the Crossville West substation, except for  
5 final terminations, testing and commissioning. The actual cost of the work as of December 31,  
6 2022 was approximately \$542,000 and \$346,000 as compared to the LGIA estimates of \$730,000  
7 and \$736,000 for the network and interconnection upgrades respectively.

8 **Q. Staff witness Lange recommends the Boomtown CCN be conditioned on**  
9 **Ameren Missouri meeting the IEEE standard P2800.<sup>28</sup> What is the Company's position on**  
10 **this recommendation?**

11 A. The Company does not object to the Staff's recommended condition because the  
12 condition recognizes that neither Ameren Missouri nor anyone else can, at this time, guarantee a  
13 project like the Boomtown Project will meet the requirements of IEEE 2800 because the standard  
14 remains under development.

15 **Q. If the Commission grants the CCN, does Ameren Missouri agree with Staff's**  
16 **recommendation to require as-built drawings for the Project no later than 60 days after the**  
17 **site is commercially operational?**

18 A. No. A 60-day timeline for as-builts after a facility reaches commercial operation is  
19 not practical for a project of this magnitude. For example, the Boomtown Project is expected to be  
20 completed in late fall of 2024, but final seeding and other site restoration may not occur until the  
21 spring of 2025 – well after commercial operation – to allow for the appropriate weather conditions  
22 for seed to grow. This final site restoration work could prevent certain final as-builts from being

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<sup>28</sup> Shawn Lange Rebuttal Testimony, at p. 20, ll. 12 – 16.

1 completed. For a project of this magnitude, Ameren Missouri recommends as-built drawings for  
2 the Project to be supplied within 100 days of "Final Completion." Specifically, Ameren Missouri  
3 would recommend the following conditional language, which is the same condition recommended  
4 by Ameren Missouri and the Staff in File No. EA-2022-0244:

5 "Ameren Missouri shall file with the Commission as-built drawings for the Project  
6 within 100 days after "Final Completion," as provided for in the BTA, provided,  
7 that if Invenergy is excused under the terms of the BTA from providing certain as-  
8 built drawings within said 90-day period Ameren Missouri will file such as-built  
9 drawings within 10 days after receipt thereof from Invenergy. Ameren Missouri  
10 will notify the Staff within 10-days after expiration of the 90-day period if there are  
11 any as-built drawings for which Invenergy was excused from delivering within the  
12 90-day period."

13 **Q. Does Ameren Missouri support the recommended conditions that the in-**  
14 **service criteria, as referenced by Staff as confidential attachment SEL-3 and confidential**  
15 **attachment SEL-4, are appropriate for use in a future case to determine whether the**  
16 **Boomtown Project is in-service?**

17 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri agrees the in-service criteria provided in the confidential  
18 attachments are reasonable and consistent with past practice.

19 **Q. If the Commission were to grant a CCN for the Boomtown Project, are there**  
20 **other conditions proposed by Staff that should be addressed?**

21 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri is agreeable to the following conditions reflected in Staff's  
22 Rebuttal Testimony:

- 23 • Ameren Missouri shall file with the Commission the final version of the plans for  
24 restoration of safe and adequate service no later than 60 days after the site is  
25 commercially operational.



