STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 18th day of November, 2020.

In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri for an Accounting Authority Order to Record and Preserve Net Costs and Revenues Related to COVID-19

In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri for an Accounting Authority Order to Record and Preserve Net Costs and Revenues Related to COVID-19 File No. EU-2021-0027

File No. GU-2021-0112

ORDER DENYING MOTIONS FOR CONSOLIDATION

Issue Date: November 18, 2020

Effective Date: November 18, 2020

On October 16, 2020, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri filed separate applications for its electric and gas operations requesting accounting authority orders (AAO) permitting Ameren Missouri to track and defer in regulatory assets all incremental costs and other financial impacts including lost revenues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On October 26, 2020, Ameren Missouri filed motions to consolidate the above referenced files.

Ameren Missouri's motions to consolidate assert that the two applications are identical. Ameren Missouri additionally asserts that both cases involve related questions of law and fact and should be consolidated for reasons of administrative convenience and case management efficiency. Ameren Missouri does not support its motions with any examples of related facts, or other specific reasons why consolidation would be appropriate.

Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.110(3) permits the Commission to consolidate cases that involve related questions of law or fact. These applications have similar filings, and request the same relief. However, Ameren Missouri Electric and Ameren Missouri Gas are different utilities that provide different services to customers. Their costs are different, their customers are billed differently, and they do not share all customers. Each utility has separate Commission approved rates for service, and separate tariffs. Also, while all utilities share some rules, both electric and gas utilities are regulated under different chapters of the Commission's rules. Any of the above factors could result in different outcomes for Ameren Missouri's AAO requests.

The Commission finds that, while Ameren Missouri's AAO requests share some related law provisions, the two files are not sufficiently factually related such that the potential for disparate outcomes is outweighed by achievable administrative efficiencies. Since Ameren Missouri has failed to meet its burden of showing that consolidation is appropriate under the Commission's rules, the Commission will deny the motion for consolidation.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The motions for consolidation filed on October 26, 2020, by Ameren Missouri are denied.

2. This order shall be effective when issued.

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BY THE COMMISSION

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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and Holsman CC., concur.

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge