

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by internet and audio conference on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

In the Matter of the Establishment of a Working Case Regarding the Membership of Missouri's Investor-Owned Electric Utilities in Regional Transmission Organizations )  
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**File No. EW-2021-0104**

**ORDER OPENING A WORKING CASE TO CONSIDER THE MEMBERSHIP OF MISSOURI'S INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES IN REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATIONS**

Issue Date: October 14, 2020

Effective Date: October 14, 2020

The Commission believes there are benefits resulting from Missouri's investor-owned electric utilities maintaining membership in a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). It is less clear that the long-term benefits of RTO membership exceed the long-term costs and commitments of RTO membership, especially given that the structure, services, and membership of both Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) continue to change significantly with the passage of time. To determine whether continued membership in an RTO is in the ratepayers' best interest, the Commission must inquire into the nature of the benefits of RTO membership, the monetized value of those benefits, and what time horizons should be employed to compare asset lives (costs) to the values of benefits streams. To undertake an examination of those factors, the Commission will order each Missouri investor-owned electric utility to take part in a workshop to determine 1) the kind of information needed to

respond to the Commission's current and previous orders on RTO membership; 2) whether such information is reasonably and economically available, and if not, what kind of information could be used as a proxy to control costs and expeditiously respond to the Commission; 3) the cost of gathering, analyzing, and interpreting such information; and 4) whether there are any identifiable "deal breaker" events or categories of events that would make it unreasonable for a Missouri investor-owned utility to remain in an RTO.

The Commission will direct its Staff to examine these questions and to prepare a report regarding its findings by June 30, 2021.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Staff shall undertake the investigation described in the body of this order and shall file a report regarding its findings by June 30, 2021.

2. Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri; Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro; Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West; and The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty are made parties to this case and are directed to cooperate with Staff in its investigation.

3. This order shall be effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

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

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge