

Exhibit No.:  
Issue(s): Renewables – Role of  
Economic Development  
Witness: Robert B. Dixon  
Type of Exhibit: Surrebuttal Testimony  
Sponsoring Party: Union Electric Company  
File No.: EA-2023-0286  
Date Testimony Prepared: December 15, 2023

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**FILE NO. EA-2023-0286**

**SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**ROBERT B. DIXON**

**ON**

**BEHALF OF**

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI**

**St. Louis, Missouri  
December, 2023**

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**SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**ROBERT B. DIXON**

**FILE NO. EA-2023-0286**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1

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

2

3 A. Robert B. Dixon, 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. Did you file Direct Testimony in this proceeding?**

7

A. No, I did not.

8

**Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?**

9 A. I am employed by Ameren Missouri as Senior Director, Economic,  
10 Community and Business Development.

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

13 A. For approximately the last 15 years, my career has focused on driving  
14 economic growth in Missouri by advancing efforts in economic, community, workforce,  
15 and infrastructure development. In October 2021, I joined Ameren Missouri, and I lead our  
16 economic, community, and business development efforts.

17 Prior to joining Ameren Missouri, I served as the Director of the Missouri  
18 Department of Economic Development ("DED") from July 2017 until October 2021. As a

1 Senate-confirmed member of the Governor's cabinet, I was responsible for leading the state  
2 agency that oversaw economic and community development, portions of the state's  
3 workforce development, and tourism, among other areas. During the Covid-19 pandemic,  
4 I helped lead the state's economic recovery efforts and other initiatives.

5         During my time as DED Director, I helped lead one of the largest reorganizations  
6 in Missouri state government history to bring renewed focus on Missouri's economic  
7 development efforts in support of the Governor's economic development priorities. During  
8 this period, DED helped bring approximately 3,000 economic, community, and workforce  
9 development projects to fruition, securing approximately \$5 billion in major investments  
10 and the creation or retention of more than 26,000 jobs in Missouri. Three of the most  
11 prominent projects that were initiated and announced during my tenure include the General  
12 Motors plant expansion in Wentzville, the Nucor Steel mill in Sedalia, and the U.S.  
13 Department of Agriculture agency relocations to Kansas City.

14         Prior to joining the DED, I served as the President and CEO of the Missouri  
15 Community College Association, a professional association of Missouri's 12 community  
16 colleges, and in various leadership roles at the Springfield and Hollister, Missouri  
17 chambers of commerce. I am a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, who served in Afghanistan  
18 immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. I was honorably discharged as a Sergeant after  
19 five years of service in 2003. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the  
20 University of Missouri – St. Louis and a master's degree in public administration from  
21 Missouri State University.



1 interest "because Boomtown was approved" and because of "public policy support" for  
2 renewables.<sup>3</sup>

3 **Q. Is the Staff correct that the Company did not claim the projects were**  
4 **needed other than on the basis of an energy need?**

5 A. No. Company witness Steven M. Wills' Direct Testimony specifically  
6 pointed to the Commission's own reliance in the *Tartan* case on economic development  
7 benefits to establish need in that case, and specifically indicated that economic  
8 development benefits were one factor supporting a need for the projects at issue in *this*  
9 case.<sup>4</sup> Staff completely ignored this testimony.

10 **Q. Is Staff correct that the Company did not claim that the projects at**  
11 **issue in this case promote the public interest because of their economic development**  
12 **benefits?**

13 A. No. Company witness Mr. Wills' Direct Testimony also specifically  
14 discusses the fact that economic development-type benefits support a conclusion that it is  
15 in the public interest for the Commission to approve the CCNs sought in this case,  
16 including for reasons the Commission itself cited to in its decision in the Boomtown case.

17 **Q. Why do economic development benefits support the need for the**  
18 **projects at issue in this case and support a conclusion that approving CCNs for those**  
19 **projects will promote the public interest?**

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<sup>3</sup> James A. Busch Rebuttal Testimony, p. 22.

<sup>4</sup> Steven M. Wills Direct Testimony, pp. 7-8, 24.

1           A.     There is a critical connection that exists between Missouri's economic  
2 development and business retention efforts, the need to approve Ameren Missouri's  
3 renewable generation project CCNs, and the overall public interest. Specifically,

4                   1. Economic development is in the public interest of the state of Missouri,  
5                   and

6                   2. Economic development prospects are increasingly seeking energy from  
7                   renewable sources.

8 This means that Ameren Missouri's CCNs for four renewable energy projects will help  
9 make Missouri a more attractive location for economic development.

10           **Q.     Is it the Company's position that the public interest is promoted by**  
11 **approving the projects at issue in this docket simply because Boomtown was**  
12 **approved, or because customers like renewables?**

13           A.     No. The public interest is promoted by the economic development benefits  
14 renewable generation projects produce. Adding renewable generation will help produce  
15 those economic development benefits.

16           **Q.     In general terms, why is economic development beneficial?**

17           A.     Economic development is clearly in the public interest of the state of  
18 Missouri, and it is in the interest of individual Missouri citizens and families. It is through  
19 the process of economic development that Missouri competes with other states around the  
20 country for a limited number of jobs and investments in our communities. These jobs give  
21 Missourians the opportunity to make a living and provide for their families, and they  
22 provide additional resources for state and local governments to operate without the need to  
23 raise taxes. Economic development ensures that our state's economy continues to thrive.

1           **Q.     How does renewable generation fit into achieving those benefits?**

2           A.     Missouri has been most successful when we have focused on the  
3 fundamental building blocks of economic development – workforce development,  
4 infrastructure, and ensuring a business-friendly environment that attracts jobs and capital.  
5 In today's economy, providing clean, reliable, and affordable energy is included within  
6 those building blocks. Providing energy from renewable generation sources is part of those  
7 building blocks. Increasingly, employers are making investment decisions – decisions on  
8 where to locate the next factory that will provide Missouri jobs for another generation –  
9 based on which locations can provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy. The  
10 Commission, in its statement of facts in the Boomtown case, agreed. "Access to renewable  
11 energy generation is increasingly vital to a region's competitive economic development."<sup>5</sup>  
12 Our state must have a clear plan to deliver that energy to support load and economic  
13 growth.

14           **Q.     Are there specific examples of active economic development projects**  
15 **that demonstrate the customer preference for supply from renewable energy**  
16 **resources that states must be able to meet in order to attract jobs and investment?**

17           A.     I can provide several.

- 18           •     \*\* \_\_\_\_\_  
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20                    \_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>5</sup> File No. EA-2022-0245, Report & Order, p. 16, issued April 12, 2023.



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- Boeing is planning "Project Voyager," an expansion of their facilities in St. Louis, which could bring approximately 500 jobs and \$2 billion in capital investment and support the company's operation in Missouri for another generation.<sup>6</sup> \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

- \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

20 While Missouri may not be able to win all of these economic development projects  
21 and their specific requirements may be beyond the scope of the proposed CCNs, they  
22 illustrate the evolving preference for greater supply from renewable energy. If we are not  
23 able to provide reliable energy from the sources they demand, employers simply will look  
24 elsewhere.

25 **Q. Is there a need for more renewable energy resources now as Missouri**  
26 **competes for these kind of economic development opportunities?**

27 A. Absolutely. There is an old saying that the best time to plant a tree is twenty  
28 years ago and the second-best time to plant one is today. The same is true about the

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/business/boeing-wants-to-build-new-aerospace-programs-in-st-louis-county-add-500-jobs/article\\_2cde8d44-27d4-11ee-9123-a3decef75e1a.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/business/boeing-wants-to-build-new-aerospace-programs-in-st-louis-county-add-500-jobs/article_2cde8d44-27d4-11ee-9123-a3decef75e1a.html)



<b>Table 1: Major Customers with Renewable Energy Goals</b>		
<b>Customer<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Renewable Energy Goals</b>	<b>St. Louis Metro Area Employees</b>
** _____	100% by 2030	4,000
_____	100% by 2030	
_____	50% by 2030	600
_____	100% by 2030	15,796
_____	100% by 2030	1,340
_____	100% by 2025	4,124
_____	Net Zero by 2040	3,815
_____	100% by 2025	2,500
_____	50% by 2030	14,226
_____**	50% by 2025, 100% by 2035	17,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>63,901</b>
Employment Data Source: Alliance STL, an initiative of Greater St. Louis Inc.		

1 These customers are some of the largest employers in our state. They provide jobs for  
 2 nearly 64,000 people in the St. Louis metro alone and indirectly jobs for hundreds of  
 3 thousands of other Missourians. They bring billions of dollars of capital investment to our  
 4 communities. Still, the customers indicated in Table 1 are only a sampling of those that  
 5 have renewable energy goals.

6 Many of our customers have established corporate goals to pursue clean energy and  
 7 other sustainability initiatives. We know that access to clean, reliable, and affordable  
 8 energy is a driving factor in where they will make future investments of capital and create

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<sup>7</sup> These customers are Ameren Missouri Renewable Solutions Program subscribers.

1 jobs. Approving Ameren Missouri's requests in this case helps to bring those jobs and  
2 investment to our communities here in Missouri.

3 **Q. Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony?**

4 **A. Yes.**

