

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Staff's Investigation of)
Matters Concerning the Rush Island Energy) File No. EO-2022-0215
Center Belonging to Union Electric Company)
d/b/a Ameren Missouri)

ORDER OPENING AN INVESTIGATION

Issue Date: February 15, 2022

Effective Date: February 15, 2022

On February 14, 2022, the Commission's Staff (Staff) filed a motion asking the Commission to open an investigation into matters regarding Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's plans to retire its Rush Island Generating Station (Rush Island).

Rush Island is a large coal-fired electric generating plant located in Jefferson County, Missouri. The plant is the subject of litigation in federal court in which the Court has determined that Ameren Missouri violated the Clean Air Act when it made certain upgrades to the power plant without first obtaining required federal permits. To remedy that violation, the Court ordered Ameren Missouri to apply for the permits and to install flue gas desulfurization technology (commonly known as a "scrubber") on the Rush Island plant. In December 2021, Ameren Missouri filed a motion with the Court indicating its intent to retire Rush Island and requesting early retirement as a substitute to the remedy of installing a scrubber. The motion also requested the Court address issues related to designating a retirement date.

Ameren Missouri has told the Court that the retirement of Rush Island is a complex undertaking because the plant is integral to the stability and reliability of the transmission network, and its retirement requires the approval of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO). Upgrades and modifications to the electric transmission grid may

be needed to avoid voltage support and grid reliability problems before Rush Island can safely be retired. The plaintiffs agree that retirement will obviate the need to install the scrubber, but argue retirement of the plant should be done promptly, and no later than 26 weeks, if ordered by the Court.

Staff asks the Commission to direct it to investigate: the impact of the retirement of Rush Island, including potential impacts on the reliability and adequacy of Ameren Missouri's service to its ratepayers; Ameren Missouri's plans to mitigate the effects of that retirement; and the prudence of Ameren Missouri's actions and decisions with respect to Rush Island. Staff also proposes to undertake an accounting of all expenses incurred by Ameren Missouri's ratepayers, or likely to be incurred by ratepayers, due to any imprudence by Ameren Missouri.

The Commission is concerned about potential impacts on the reliability and adequacy of Ameren Missouri's service to its ratepayers, including possible power outages, service disruptions, and excessive costs that could result from an accelerated retirement of Rush Island. Retirement of a generating plant providing power to the transmission grid must be planned appropriately to ensure that continued safe and reliable service is provided to captive customers, and the appropriate timing of a retirement must be evaluated to avoid service disruptions. Ameren Missouri's current Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) assumes that Rush Island will be operated for another fifteen years. Ameren Missouri is scheduled to update its preferred resource plan by July 15, 2022, to account for the closing of Rush Island,¹ but that evaluation is not yet complete and has not been reviewed by the Commission.

¹ Commission File No. EE-2022-0192.

The Commission will direct Staff to investigate and report to the Commission. In addition, the Commission will order Ameren Missouri to file periodic reports about the status of proceedings at the federal court, as well as the status of its planning for the retirement of Rush Island.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Staff shall undertake an investigation regarding Ameren Missouri's plans to retire Rush Island.
2. Staff shall file an initial report regarding its investigation no later than April 15, 2022.
3. Ameren Missouri shall periodically report on the status of proceedings at the federal court, as well as the status of its planning for the retirement of Rush Island. Ameren Missouri shall file such reports by the fifteenth day of each month, beginning on March 15, 2022, and continuing until further order of the Commission.
4. 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

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

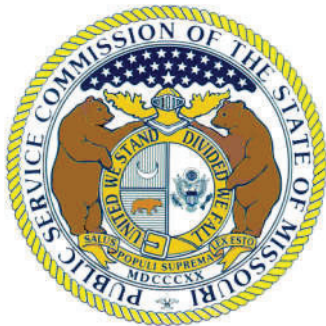
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri
on this 15th day of February, 2022.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 15th day of February, 2022.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 15, 2022

File/Case No. EO-2022-0215

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Commission**
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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.