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              BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMISSION
 2
                    OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
 3
     In the Matter of the Petition of
     Union Electric Company d/b/a
     Ameren Missouri for a Financing
 4
                                        )File No. EF-2024-0021
     Order Authorizing the Issue of
     Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds
 5
     for Energy Transition Costs
 6
     Related to Rush Island Energy
     Center.
 7
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 9
                          *****
10
                              VOLUME 2
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                VIDEOCONFERENCE EVIDENTIARY HEARING
12
                        TAKEN APRIL 12, 2024
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     PRESIDING JUDGE:
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     JOHN CLARK
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     COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
24
     KAYLA HAHN, Chair
     JASON HOLSMAN, Commissioner
25
     MAIDA COLEMAN, Commissioner
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1	JUDGE CLARK: Good morning. Today is
2	April 12, 2024, and the current time is 9:03 a.m.
3	This proceeding is being held electronically via
4	Webex as the Commission is taking one witness out of
5	order today due to the witness being unavailable
6	during the rest of the hearing, which is April 15th
7	through the 19th.
8	Now, the Commission has set aside this time
9	today of an evidentiary hearing In the Matter of the
10	Petition of Union Electric Company D/B/A Ameren
11	Missouri For A Financing Order Authorizing The Issue
12	Of Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds For Energy
13	Transition Costs Related To The Rush Island Energy
14	Center. And that is File No. EF-2024-0021.
15	My name is John Clark. I am the Regulatory
16	Law Judge overseeing this proceeding today. Chair
17	Hahn, would you like to make any opening remarks
18	before I ask for the introduction of the parties?
19	CHAIR HAHN: Good morning. And thank you
20	all for being here. I really appreciate everyone's
21	attendance this morning. I know this is going to be a
22	series of days for us and I look forward to learning
23	more on the case. Thank you, Judge. Appreciate it.
24	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Hahn.

At this time I'm going to ask counsel for the parties to

25

- 1 enter their appearance for the record, starting with
- 2 Union Electric, doing business as Ameren Missouri, whom
- 3 | I will refer to from this point on as Ameren or Ameren
- 4 Missouri.
- 5 MR. LOWERY: Good morning, Judge. My name
- 6 | is Jim Lowery. I represent Ameren Missouri along with
- 7 | cocounsel Nash Long. I'll let him make his own
- 8 appearance.
- 9 MADAM REPORTER: I'm having difficulty
- 10 hearing Mr. Lowery. He sounds like he's in a tunnel or
- 11 | something.
- 12 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lowery, could you enter
- 13 | your appearance again, one more time.
- 14 MR. LOWERY: Yes. I'll try to speak a
- 15 | little more loudly. This is Jim Lowery, 9020 South
- 16 | Berry Road, Columbia, Missouri 65201, here on behalf of
- 17 | Ameren Missouri.
- 18 MR. LONG: Good morning everyone. My name
- 19 | is Nash Long. I'm also here on behalf of Ameren
- 20 Missouri today.
- JUDGE CLARK: What's your last name again?
- MR. LONG: Long. L-O-N-G.
- JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Long.
- 24 On behalf of the Staff of the Commission.
- MS. MERS: On behalf of Staff, Nicole Mers,

- 200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 316, Jefferson City,
- 2 | Missouri 65102.
- 3 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Mers. On
- 4 | behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel.
- 5 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy
- 6 | Public Counsel, appearing on behalf of the Office of the
- 7 | Public Counsel and the public. Our address is P.O. Box
- 8 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
- 9 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams, any objections
- 10 to me referring to the Office of the Public Counsel as
- 11 | either Public Counsel or OPC?
- 12 MR. WILLIAMS: No.
- JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. On behalf of
- 14 | Midwest Energy Consumers Group?
- MR. OPTIZ: Good morning, Your Honor. Tim
- 16 Opitz on behalf of Midwest Energy Consumers Group, or
- 17 MECG.
- 18 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Opitz. On
- 19 behalf of Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers? Anyone
- 20 here from Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers, or MIEC?
- 21 Okay. Well, they may show up later. On behalf of Renew
- 22 | Missouri?
- MR. LINHARES: Yes. Good morning, Judge.
- 24 This is Andrew Linhares entering an appearance for Renew
- 25 | Missouri. My address is 3115 South Grand Boulevard,



- 1 | Suite 600, St. Louis, Missouri. Sorry?
- 2 | JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Mr. Linhares. I was
- 3 | interrupting you.
- 4 MR. LINHARES: St. Louis, Missouri 63118.
- 5 | Thank you.
- 6 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize for the
- 7 | interruption. Thank you, Mr. Linhares. The Natural
- 8 Resources Defense Council will not be here today. They
- 9 | filed a motion to be excused from this hearing and that
- 10 motion was granted. They indicated that they had
- 11 neither witnesses to present nor cross examination that
- 12 | they wanted to do. On behalf of AARP?
- MR. COFFMAN: Good morning, Your Honor.
- 14 John B. Coffman. I'm appearing today on behalf of AARP
- 15 as well as on behalf of the Consumers Council of
- 16 | Missouri.
- 17 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Thank you,
- 18 Mr. Coffman. I will say finally we have the Sierra
- 19 Club. And Sierra Club also filed a motion to be
- 20 excused, similarly stating that they had neither cross
- 21 | examination nor witness testimony that they wished to
- 22 | present. So that request to be excused was granted.
- 23 | Have I missed any parties? Are there any preliminary
- 24 | matters that I need to take up at this time.
- MR. WILLIAMS: This is Nathan Williams for

- 1 | Public Counsel.
- JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Mr. Williams.
- MR. WILLIAMS: We've got pending a couple of
- 4 | motions for leave to correct some schedules. I don't
- 5 know if you want to take those up now or later.
- 6 JUDGE CLARK: It is my intention to grant
- 7 | those motions to correct your schedule. So I don't know
- 8 | if that's sufficient. I will grant that motion.
- 9 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. There are two,
- 10 actually, one for Mr. Riley and then some schedules for
- 11 Mr. Murray.
- 12 JUDGE CLARK: Well, let me ask. Are there
- any objections to granting the correction of those
- 14 | schedules? I hear no objections. Both of those motions
- 15 | will be granted.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
- 17 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any other
- 18 | preliminary matters at this time?
- 19 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Judge, this is
- 20 | Commissioner Holsman. I've joined.
- JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
- 22 | Holsman.
- MR. LOWERY: Judge, this is Jim Lowery.
- 24 Mr. Long will be delivering a mini opening statement on
- 25 | this issue this morning. He does have a powerpoint



presentation and I was wondering if I could send that to
you and you could provide it to the Commissioners, and
I'll also send it to the parties, if that's okay? I can
do that now by email.
JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second. We're
going to go off the record for just a second so that I
can speak to Mr. Lamons and see if we need to make any

(Off the record.)

accommodations for that. I was unaware that we were

going to have any powerpoints this morning.

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(Back on the record.)

JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to go ahead. Chair Hahn has made some opening remarks, but I'm going to go ahead and introduce the rest of the Commission now. The Commission is composed of five commissioners with the Chair being Chair Kayla Hahn.

And the other Commissioners, right now we have Commissioner Scott Rupp. Commissioner Rupp, are you on? Did I hear somebody? Commissioner Rupp may be joining us later. We've also got Commissioner Maida Coleman. Commissioner Coleman, are you present at this time?

COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I am. Good morning.

JUDGE CLARK: Good morning. Thank you,

- Commissioner Coleman. Commissioner Jason Holsman has already indicated he's on. Good morning, Commissioner Holsman.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Good morning, Judge.

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JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Commissioner Glen Kolkmeyer, are you on at this time? And Commissioner Kolkmeyer will most likely join us in a little bit.

With that, I'm going to move on.

Confidential information. There's a lot of confidential information in this case and I am not, off the top of my head, going to remember what information is confidential. So I am relying on the parties to let me know if we need to go in camera. If it occurs to me that we may need to go in camera, I'll ask questions and do so.

But if you hear something coming up that sounds like it's going to be confidential, I would appreciate it if somebody would let me know so that we don't inadvertently put something out there that is confidential in nature and not intended for public consumption.

At the same time, there's some numbers in here that I'm not sure why are confidential, so we may also have a discussion in regards to that. Now, I received an email, as I believe you all did, from



Page 11 1 Mr. Lowery asking if the parties could do a mini opening 2 statement to set the stage for this issue, since we are 3 taking an issue and a -- we're taking a witness out of 4 Not an entire issue, but this witness just order. 5 pertains to issue three, which is the prudence of the 6 retirement, and I believe just to Section A of that. 7 that correct, Mr. Lowery? 8 MR. LOWERY: That is correct, Judge. 9 Should I direct my questions JUDGE CLARK: 10 on this to Mr. Nash? 11 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Long is actually handling 12 this issue. 13 I'm sorry, Mr. Long. JUDGE CLARK: 14 MR. LOWERY: Yes. Thank you. 15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. And as far as the 16 order for any opening statements, I'm going to just go 17 with the order that was put forth for opening statements 18 by the parties, unless I hear something else, and that 19 would be Ameren Missouri followed with the Staff of the 20 Commission, MIEC, who does not have an attorney here, 21 AARP, MECG, Renew, and Public Counsel. So with that, 2.2 are there any -- I know I heard from a few people. Are 23 there any other preliminary matters I need to take up 24 beyond what we've covered already? 25 All right, let's proceed with Ameren



24 is the reasonableness of the Company's permitting 25 decisions for New Source Review. And that relies upon

The first issue that we'd like to introduce



23

the following evidence which will be presented at trial.

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First, the Company, in making these decisions, relied upon Missouri law and the opinions of Missouri regulators, that is, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. They also relied upon statements from the EPA program office in charge of New Source Review regulations. They relied upon the advice of national New Source Review experts. And they made decisions that were consistent with the rest of the utility industry, which did similar work without seeking permits over the course of decades.

And, finally, their decisions at the Company on not seeking permits were consistent with most court decisions that were being entered at that time. What is New Source Review? New Source Review has been part of the Clear Air Act for nearly 50 years now.

Under this program and the Clean Air Act, a new source of emissions will require a permit before it can be constructed. It does not apply to existing sources unless that existing source undergoes a modification.

The Clean Air Act defines modification as a change that would cause emissions to increase, but the act did not specify how to measure emissions. Missouri law, which has been approved by EPA as implementing the

Clear Air	Act, define modification as an increase in	
potential	emissions, that is, the maximum amount of	
emissions	that could be emitted under the design of the	ž
unit.		

Federal regulations in addition, those found at 40 Code of Federal Regulation 52.21, required a significant increase in actual annual emissions for a major modification. And this is how it works under the Missouri SIP at the relevant time.

A series of questions and answers which tell one whether permitting is required under the federally approved State Implementation Plan, S-I-P, or SIP, for short.

First question: Does the project cause any increase in potential emissions? That is the definition of modification. If no, then the permitting rule under the approved SIP is not applicable. A permit is not required, no permit of any type.

On the other hand, if the project would cause an increase in potential emissions, that is, be a modification, the next question is, what is the size of this potential emissions increase. And depending upon the answer to that question, the size of the increase, different types of permits might apply.

If the potential emissions increase is under

40	) tons	per	year,	the 1	Missouri	SIP,	under	the		
CC	nstru	ction	permi	tting	g rules,	spec	ifies	what	is	called
a	de mir	nimis	permi	t to	be obtain	ined.				

If, on the other hand, the size of the potential emissions increase is 40 tons per year or greater, then the Missouri SIP invokes the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration, or New Source Review rules.

And those rules require that a project must also cause a significant increase in actual emissions.

And that is an element for the definition of major modification.

If the project would not cause actual emissions to increase significantly, then no PSD, or New Source Review permit, is required. If, on the other hand, the project would cause actual emissions to increase by that significant amount, that is, over 40 tons per year, then the New Source Review permit, the PSD permit, is required.

Many times you will hear throughout the course of the presentation of evidence on this issue folks refer to PSD, Prevention of Significant Deterioration, and New Source Review interchangeably. They are functionally the equivalent.

It depends upon whether the area at issue is

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in attainment of the standards or ambient air or	not.
But the fundamental program has been titled and	referred
to as New Source Review over the years. And so	I and
many witnesses will refer to PSD as part of and	included
within New Source Review.	

But the first question and the fundamental question under the Missouri SIP, before you get to any of those questions, is whether the project causes any increase in potential emissions. And if no, under the established interpretation and application of the Missouri law that had been approved by EPA as implementing the Clean Air Act, no permit is required.

You'll hear from Ameren Missouri witnesses about the process they used at the relevant timeframe, that is 2005 to 2010, on making the determinations of whether projects require permits under the Missouri SIP.

At the company at the time, the

Environmental Services Department, in particular, it's

air quality group, conducted the pre-project reviews

necessary for compliance for all existing units. They

did so both for Ameren Missouri, the state of Missouri,

as well as the sister utilities located in Illinois.

If the Department found that a project would trigger New Source Review, then the Department would initiate permitting. One example of that, which you

will hear about, is the Duck Creek facility in Illinois where a project was going to increase the potential emissions.

That project, because it would increase potentially emissions, underwent the review, the Company found it require a permit, the Company sought the New Source Review permit and obtained it.

But here, if projects were you found not to trigger New Source Review, then the Department would give the "go ahead" and the project would commence.

There was no documentation required of those decisions at the time under the existing rules, nor was it needed because the rules simply require the Company to use its basic engineering judgment in making the determination of whether emissions would increase. No requirement existed at the time to document it, and as a matter of basic engineering, there was no calculation that was required to make this judgment.

Specifically with respect to the decisions at issue, these were the decisions leading up to the Unit 1 work in 2007 and the Unit 2 work in 2010. New Source Review is a pre-project permitting program. The decisions are to be made by the source, the Company, before one actually begins work.

And it was in that timeframe, in the years



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leading up to 2007 and in the years leading up to 2010,				
that the Company actually made the decision these				
projects would not trigger the New Source Review				
requirements under the SIP. I did so through the				
Environmental Services Department, which you will hear				
followed its normal process for making those				
determinations.				

That Department also applied the same criteria that had been applied in Missouri for years. The Department concluded that for this specific work, for these these units, no permit was required under the Missouri State Implementation Plan for the reasons that we will talk about.

First, there was no increase in potential emissions for any of the work involved, therefore it did not meet the definition of modification. And under the established interpretation of the Missouri Construction Permitting Rule adopted into the State Implementation Plan and approved by EPA, no permits were required.

The second reason that the Environmental Services Department found New Source Review would not apply is they did not expect projects to cause annual emissions to go up, and therefore it would not meet the definition of a major modification either.

The third reason that the Company, through

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the Environmental Services Department, was because the work involved was just the routine replacement of parts and components on existing units, so it did not meet the requirement or the definition of a change.

The Company could have stopped with reason number one, no potential emissions, therefore not a modification, relying only on the SIP, that is, the Missouri State Implementation Plan.

However, it also evaluated and considered the other two reasons and found them to confirm and strengthen the Company's conclusions that no permit was required. Is there a question?

JUDGE CLARK: I don't believe so. I believe that was just some background noise. Again, I'm going to remind you, if you're not currently speaking, please mute your microphone. If you're attending by phone, if you can mute your phone, I would appreciate it. If you'll go ahead, Mr. Long.

MR. LONG: Thank you, Judge. You will also hear from the witnesses how the permitting decisions were made and what they were based upon. They were based upon the knowledge and experience of the professional staff in the Environmental Services

Department, relying upon the text of the Missouri State

Implementation Plan, which I've already outlined and

walked through.

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They relied upon guidance given by the State through its Department of Natural Resources, and by EPA through it's program office. They relied upon the shared knowledge and experience of the utility industry, not just within Missouri, but nationwide. And they also relied upon the input of lawyers with recognized experience in New Source Review.

The conclusion from all of the evidence presented will be that the permitting decisions were reasonable. The Company held the same positions as Missouri Department of Natural Resources at the time. The Company held the same positions as the EPA program office at the time.

The Company made the same decisions as the rest of the industry on similar projects, all concluding that they did not require permits at the time. And the Company made the same decisions as most courts at the time and even since.

All of these facts, which will be presented through the witnesses by Ameren Missouri, we submit will support the reasonableness of the decisions the Company made at the time, in that period, '05 to 2010, that no permits were required.

There's been much talk about the subsequent



case decided years later, seven to 10 years later after these decisions were made, and whether that somehow makes the reasonable decisions the Company reached in its compliance process somehow unreasonable. That is not the case.

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The Clean Air Act, as you will hear, has a strict liability standard. It does not turn on negligence, reasonableness, exercise of due care, or prudence.

In addition, you will hear from the witnesses pointing out how the district court in its later decisions relied upon facts, data, and case law that was developed after the fact; in other words, it was not conducting a prudence inquiry, could not have made a prudence inquiry because of the incorporation of those decisions, facts, case law, et cetera, which came after the fact.

Certainly the District Court disagreed with Ameren Missouri on the law, but it did not find -- never found that Ameren Missouri had an unreasonable understanding of what the law was.

And, finally, Ameren Missouri's decisions were well-supported and reasonable based upon what was known or available at the time. That will be presented through the following witnesses.

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First, Mr. Mark Birk. He was an electrical engineer by training. He's now the President of Ameren Missouri. But at the relevant time, '05 to 2010, he was the Vice President of Power Operations.

And he will explain the Company's operations, it's desire to maintain system reliability, its obligation to maintain unit availability, the practices of component replacements designed to do such, and how that was all constant with routine industry practice.

He'll describe the compliance process that existed at the time at Ameren Missouri and the role of the Environmental Services Department, and he'll touch on the decisions concerning Rush Island that were made by the Environmental Services Department and supported by the rest of the Company.

The next witness is Mr. Steven Whitworth, who retired fairly recently. At the relevant time, 2005 to 2010, he was the head of the Air Quality Group and then became the manager/director of the Environmental Services Department in which the Air Quality Group sets.

He will explain the process that was applied by the Company in order to ensure compliance, the criteria that it used in general and with respect to Rush Island. He'll explain where those criteria came

from; in other words, the due diligence performed by the Company in developing its understanding of the law.

He'll describe in detail the decisions the Department made on Rush Island and why he concluded that under the established criteria, no permits of any kind, including New Source Review permits, would have been required. And he'll also describe how these decisions were subsequently confirmed by the actions and statements of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Next is Mr. Holmstead, whom we'll be taking out of order and you'll hear from today. He is ranked as one of the country's leading Clean Air Act lawyers. Significantly, he was the former Assistant Administrator for EPA for the Air and Radiation Office, which is the office that had responsibility for the New Source Review program at EPA.

Since he left EPA in 2005, he's been working on these and other issues as head of an environmental group at his law firm. He's been working with utilities on New Source Review throughout this relevant timeframe.

And his topics will include explaining how the Clean Air Act works, with the states in the lead, subject to EPA oversight. He'll explain the implementation and application of the law through the

State Implementation Plans approved by EPA.

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He will explain the application by EPA at the relevant period of time, 2005 to 2010, and how utilities complied with the law then and now. And based on this, he will offer the opinion that the Company made reasonable decisions based upon the known and knowable facts available at the time.

The final witness that you'll hear from, from the Company on this issue, is Mr. Karl Moor, who is also an expert in environmental law, recently retired from EPA, where he too served in the air program office, the same office as Mr. Holmstead in an earlier timeframe, that same office that had responsibility for New Source Review at the EPA level.

But at the relevant time, 2005 to 2010, he worked at Southern Company, a large electric utility, where he focused on New Source Review and provided advice and counsel on New Source Review to his client, Southern Company, throughout this relevant timeframe.

He will explain also the application of the Clean Air Act through the State Implementation Plan, the role of the State Implementation Plan as a state regulator, New Source Review, industry knowledge of New Source Review, and the case law that was developing on New Source Review at the time. And he concludes, based

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on all of those facts, that the Company made reasonable decisions based on what was known and knowable at the time.

Let me also talk about the other witnesses who touch on these issues. The first, a Staff witness, Claire Eubanks, who is an environmental engineer. Her testimony does not contend that the Company was imprudent. The issue she raises is lack of a documentation.

However, we point out through our witnesses that the Company followed its standard practice, did not require documentation of these positions at the time. It did not require anything more than the simple engineering judgment that if you're not changing the design of the facility and its maximum achievable design rate, you're not going to change potential emissions.

You'll hear how nobody disputes that simple engineering judgment can be reached without doing documentation or calculations. And nothing more was required under the law that existed at the time.

The other staff witness is an accountant, Mr. Keith Majors. He does say that the Company was imprudent, but he rests that opinion solely on three court opinions, two by the District Court, one by the Eighth Circuit.

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The problem, which Mr. Majors acknowledges, is that these courts were not applying the test for prudence. The courts looked through the project data and incorporated analyses that were developed after the project and relied upon case law that was developed after the project. None of these opinions can possibly represent a prudence determination because each incorporated and relied upon those items which are hindsight.

Now, yes, the District Court did write in that remedy opinion in 2019 that it had found in the earlier opinion in 2017 that the decisions made not to seek permits were not reasonable, but if you actually go back to the liability decision and read that, which you should, you'll conclude that that is not what the liability opinion actually says.

What that liability opinion actually says is that the emissions case presented by Ameren Missouri at trial did not follow the requirements of the New Source Review rules as the District Court had laid them out in 2016.

The District Court there says that the emissions analysis that Ameren Missouri provided to the court did not follow the law, as the District Court found in its 2016 determination, and therefore were not

Page 27

reasonable emission analyses under the law. That's what the opinion says.

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Nowhere does the opinion say that Ameren Missouri failed to consider permitting requirements.

Nowhere does an opinion say that Ameren Missouri acted in bad faith or tried to skirt its obligations under the law.

What it actually says is that the Company acted based upon a misunderstanding of the law, but it nowhere says, either in the 2017, 2019, or even in the 2021 opinion, that Ameren had some unreasonable understanding of the law.

The final witness you'll hear from is from the Office of Public Counsel, Mr. Seaver. He has not testified on prudence before. He does not rely on any of the District Court opinions, instead he relies on one case from 1988 regarding WEPCo. I'm using the acronym WEPCo, or Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

That one case relied upon by Mr. Seaver is an instance where potential emissions were increasing and therefore permitting was required. The problem that Mr. Seaver has is that he did not know the particulars of that 1988 determination and, at his deposition, was forced to admit that it was reasonably distinguishable from Rush Island.

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The other problem Mr. Seaver has is that the WEPCo case actually supported Ameren Missouri's permitting decisions because of what EPA said about it in the years between 1988 and the Rush Island projects.

In courts across the country, including this Alabama Power court in 2008, have rejected Mr. Seaver's attempt to use this one isolated WEPCo decision as somehow meaning all projects required permitting. In fact, that court in 2008 said the same approach that Mr. Seaver's was using in his testimony here was simply superficial and sufficient.

In summary, the Company made reasonable permitting decisions. This is illustrated by the fact that the state, through the Department of Natural Resources, held the same position. EPA's program office held the same position. The rest of industry made the same decisions on very similar projects. Most courts across the country were making the same decisions as the Company made here.

None of these facts are disputed or will be disputed and hindsight and second guessing cannot overcome this evidence. Therefore, the conclusion at the end of the day will be, we submit, that the Company made reasonable permitting decisions. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Long. Are





National Ambient Air Ouality Standards.

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One of those types of New Source Review is the nonattainment New Source Review, sometimes referred to by the acronym NSR. What that means is New Source Review for the nonattainment areas, that is, where the air is dirtier than that which would be allowed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set by EPA. There are a set of New Source Review regulations that apply to those areas, the nonattainment New Source Review Regulations.

Now, on the other hand, what about areas that are in attainment of the Ambient Air Quality Standards. Those attainment areas, the New Source Review Program, is called Prevention of Significant Deterioration.

And as the acronym or the title implies, you don't want the overall quality of the air, the ambient standards to degrade into nonattainment. And so that type of New Source Review applies to the area where the -- the geographic area where the ambient standards are being met.

The applicability, whether something is a project that requires permitting under either of those two programs, it's the same. And so it's generally referred together under the heading of New Source Review. And this is explained in direct testimony of

Page 31

Mr. Holmstead that he has prefiled in this case.

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It's generally how practitioners in the area refer to the program, the New Source Review Program, as a whole, rather than speaking individually about attainment areas or nonattainment areas. I hope that helps.

JUDGE CLARK: It does. Thank you for clarifying that for me. One of your early slides said that this was a common practice across the utility industry and indicated that other utilities did similar work without seeking permits. Is Mr. Holmstead going to be able to elaborate on what utilities with particularity?

MR. LONG: Yes, he can talk about utilities that he has experience with that did similar work. He can talk about the utilities that he's aware of, without necessarily working directly with them, that did similar work. And you can also ask that question, too, of Mr. Moor. And you can also feel free to ask that question of Mr. Birk and Mr. Whitworth at the appropriate time. I think all the witnesses could provide you information on that. And Mr. Holmstead would be prepared to start that process today.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. Now, this issue, just to recap the issue real quick, is it



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reasonable and prudent for Ameren Missouri to retire or
abandon Rush Island September 1st through October 15th
of 2024, and then Sub A of that, which we're addressing
today, at least in regard to Mr. Holmstead is, did
Ameren Missouri make reasonable and prudent decisions
respecting whether to obtain New Source Review, NSR
permits, prior to either or both of the 2007 and 2010
Rush Island planned outage projects and afterwards
including its conduct of NSR litigation. If any of its
decisions in this regard were unreasonable and
imprudent, did such imprudent decisions harm customers
and, if so, what amount.

That's interesting to me because I'm kind of wondering why exactly we're talking about the New Source Review. So what I want to ask you is, what decisions do you believe that the Commission needs to make in this case regarding reasonableness and prudence?

MR. LONG: The first decision is whether the retirement decision is reasonable and prudent, but questions have also been raised about the factual predicate, the underpinning of those -- that retirement decision, which does get back to the permitting decisions made many, many years ago.

I believe at least one party has raised the issue of whether those decisions were prudent. So we



**Evidentiary Hearing** Page 33 1 are here to present the evidence that we think would 2 show that the Company made reasonable and prudent 3 decisions at the time. 4 And there would also be a witness -- not 5 Mr. Holmstead -- but later to present the issue of how 6 even if there was -- even if the Company had obtained 7 permits at the time and applied scrubbers, that would 8 have put the customers, the consumers, in a worse 9 position. 10 So we're prepared to address all of these 11 issues and answer all of those questions from the 12 Commission and yourself and from any party in the case 13 should they desire. 14 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. And I appreciate that 15 answer and I appreciate that you're here to answer all 16 What I'm asking is, what reasonable those questions. 17 and prudence decision does Ameren believe the Commission needs to make in this case? 18 Not what are the issues 19 that the parties have put forth, what decisions 20 concerning reasonableness and prudence does Ameren 21 believe the Commission needs to make in this case? 2.2

MR. LOWERY: Judge, Jim Lowery.

JUDGE CLARK: Hold on a second. Mr. Lowery, did you want to field that?

> Maybe I can help answer that MR. LOWERY:



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question. So as Mr. Long addressed, at least one party in the case -- and the party I think he's referring to is OPC -- has specifically indicated that the Company, based on the WEPCo decision that Mr. Long referred to, which was a pre-NSR permitting, you know, decision that the Company was aware of, and I'm sure OPC will say the Company should have been aware of if it wasn't, but by failing -- what OPC's contention is, is that the Company knew about the WEPCo decision.

The Company knew WEPCo didn't get permits, but should have, and they contend that the Rush Island projects were similar, the circumstances were similar, and that therefore told the Company it should have got NSR permits. In other words, the Company was unreasonable for not getting NSR permits because of the WEPCo decision.

And then based on that, OPC proposes a \$34 million disallowance in this case. Well, I think to rule on OPC's contention that we were unreasonable for not getting the permits because of WEPCo and that \$34 million should be disallowed, you've got to make the decision about whether we were reasonable in our permitting decisions made in 2007 and 2010.

The other thing you obviously have to do, I think, as well is, you have to find that the retirement



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decision that was made in December of 2021 was
reasonable, that it was reasonable for us not to scrub
the plant and to retire it instead when faced with the
court's decision that had been upheld by the Court of
Appeals that we had to install scrubbers, and our
conclusion it was not in the best interest of our
customers to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on
scrubbers and it was better for customers to retire it
instead. So I think those are the two prudence-related
decisions that the Commission needs to make in this
case.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Lowery, I'm going to expound on that for just a second. In regard to the NSR decision, or the decision to not seek New Source Review, is that a decision in regard to whether to securitize or is that a decision in regard to whether there should be a disallowance?

MR. LOWERY: OPC is asking that you deny securitization of \$34 million based upon alleged unreasonableness or imprudence around this NSR permit decision. So OPC is making it an issue around the securitization. They are saying do not securitize that \$34 million because the Company acted unreasonably and imprudently 12, 15 years ago. So that disallowance proposal and the basis of it has made that an issue in

1	the securitization case. I don't really see any way
2	around that.
3	JUDGE CLARK: Are those the only two points
4	at which you believe the Commission needs to make a
5	reasonable and prudence decision?
6	MR. LOWERY: Those are the only two that
7	come to mind, yes, Your Honor.
8	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I see these words
9	lumped together both in testimony and in the statute.
10	It says let me just read directly from the statute.
11	Where such early retirement or abandonment and this
12	is in regards to energy transition costs, which is 1 sub
13	(7) under 393.1700 RSMo.
14	And it says in regard to energy transition
15	costs that you can apply for pretax cost for abandoned
16	or retired facilities where such early retirement or
17	abandonment is deemed reasonable and prudent. Is there
18	a difference between reasonableness and prudent? Why
19	are both of those together?
20	MR. LOWERY: That's a very good question. I
21	don't think there is a difference. If you look at the
22	Commission's jurisprudence on prudence and you look at

the Court of Appeals -- I don't think the Supreme Court

has addressed it, but the Court of Appeals has addressed

the standard many times -- the terms that they are using

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are interchangeably.

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The definition -- and I think if you look at your Liberty order where you most recently sort of laid out the prudence standard, I think the sum and substance of it is that you act prudently if you acted reasonably under the circumstances, given what you knew or should have known, or conversely you act imprudently if you act unreasonably under the circumstances.

So I think they are really, you know, two sides of the same coin and I think the language in the statute just reflects that that's how the prudent standard has been applied for, I think, many decades.

JUDGE CLARK: Bear with me just one moment. What would you say is the biggest difference between Ameren's position and, say, Staff's or Public Counsel?

MR. LOWERY: On these prudence questions, Judge?

JUDGE CLARK: Yes, on this issue.

MR. LOWERY: I think with respect to Staff, as Mr. Long indicated, Mr. Majors does actually indicate that he believes that the Company acted imprudently back in 2007 and 2010, but his sole basis for that is simply an opinion that if you're found to have violated the law, that's sort of per se imprudence. Of course we disagree with that. I don't think that fits the

Page 38

prudence standard at all. He even calls it on the basis of what we knew or should have known as imprudent.

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Staff witness Eubanks doesn't reach the decision or opinion that the Company acted imprudently back then, but the reason I believe that she doesn't is that she doesn't believe that any harm has been shown at this point. She collapses the prudence inquiry -- the prudence question into both the question of the reasonableness of the action and whether there was harm.

And if you don't have both, I believe, based on the questions I asked her in deposition, I believe what she would say is, if you don't have both, you really don't have imprudence at all. You haven't gotten there yet.

Our view of prudence, and I think if you look at the law surrounding it is, there are two inquiries. You can have acted imprudently, but not hurt anybody. You can imprudently run a red light, but not actually hit any car and hurt anybody, so there's no damages. That doesn't mean you were reasonable when you ran the red light. So I think they're two different questions.

In terms of the question of the retirement versus retrofit, I don't think that Staff is of the opinion or has not expressed the opinion or I don't



Page 39

believe they are prepared to express the opinion that the Company's decision was imprudent.

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I think staff has raised questions about the completeness of the analysis that the Company did around that retirement versus retrofit decision, but I don't believe Staff is contending that the Company's decision was incorrect or retirement should not have happened.

OPC's position on that I think is less clear to me. But, you know, as our evidence indicates, both analysis done at the time and analysis done since then in response to claims that I think have been made, at least implied in this case, that the Company perhaps didn't make the right decision.

The evidence is undisputed, I think, that customers are far better off not investing hundreds of millions of dollars or a billion dollars, or whatever it would be, in scrubbers and retiring the plant than they would have been to invest that money and keep the plant open.

So I think there is -- certainly I think there's a difference of opinion about it or at least a lack of surety about it, but I think it's not entirely clear exactly where the other parties are on that at times.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Lowery. The



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last thing I have at this point in time is not a
question, but Mr. Long had indicated in regards to the
2017, 2019, and 2021 District Court decisions, that the
Commission ought to take a look at those. I believe
somewhere in testimony I saw the '21 decision. I'm not
100 percent sure.
What I want to know at this time is, are

there any party objections to the Commission taking the 2017, 2019 and 2021 District Court decisions as Commission exhibits in this case and admitting those on to the record for the Commission's consideration? Are there any objections from any of the parties?

MR. LOWERY: I believe that at least two of them are included in pre-filed testimony. Mr. Long probably knows that for sure. Maybe one of them is not, Mr. Long?

MR. LONG: I believe they are all part of the record already.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I know I remember seeing the '21 decision, I thought. I'm not sure on the 2017. I will hold on that for now. I'll take a look at the record and see if those are in there and watch to see if those are admitted and I may come back to this question on a future witness. I have no further questions.

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Based upon my questions, are there any
questions the Commission would like to ask at this time?
I hear none. The next mini opening that I have is from
the Staff of the Commission. Ms. Mers, are you ready?
ODENING STATEMENT

MS. MERS: Good morning, my name is Nicole Mers and I represent the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission. The parties believed it would be helpful to give a brief primer of this issue before taking Ameren Missouri's witness Holmstead today.

My understanding is that Mr. Holmstead is solely testifying on prudence issues, which are stated as follows: Is it reasonable and prudent for Ameren Missouri to abandon or retire Rush Island during September 1st through October 15th of 2024, and did Ameren Missouri make reasonable and prudent decisions respecting whether to obtain New Source Review, also known as NSR, permits prior to either or both of the 2007 and 2010 Rush Island planned outage projects.

And afterwards, including its conduct of the NSR litigation, if any of its decisions in this regard were unreasonable and imprudent, did any such imprudent decisions harm customers and, if so, in what amount.

That being so, I will primarily address this issue and I reserve addressing the other subpart on the allocated

day for it.

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So Staff does believe that Ameren Missouri's decision to comply with the District Court's modified remedy order to retire Rush Island's plant no later than October 15th in 2024 is reasonable and prudent, however, Staff does not believe it was prudent or reasonable to make decisions that led to the violations of federal law.

Throughout the District Court opinion, as upheld on appeal, the District Court found Ameren Missouri knew or should have known the improvements at Rush Island would trigger NSR. This conclusion is not based on a hindsight analysis.

Furthermore, as evidenced in the transcript filed by Ameren Missouri on April 8th, 2024, beginning on Page 25, Line 17, through Page 26, Line 6, Mr. Quinn, on behalf of the United States stated: I think it's evident from the filings that Ameren has struggled to accurately -- is there a question? -- struggled to accurately convey these proceedings to the MPSC and has now also struggled to fully wrestle with that failure before this Court.

I believe the examples I just provided to the court speak for themselves, but I think -- suffice it to say, contradictions abound between what's been

said to the MPSC and what this Court has said. As you'll see, Ameren has sort of painted itself into a corner to the MPSC.

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The Company is committed to maintaining its position that it's never done anything wrong. But in these proceedings, of course, we know that this Court and the Eight Circuit has said Ameren did make a big mistake, and one that cost people their lives.

The Court then responded on Page 31, Line 22, through Page 33, Line 8 of that same transcript: I mean, it is what I said in my opinion; that a decision was not reasonable. And that's not mentioned anywhere to the PSC. In fact, Ameren continues to take the position that despite this Court's findings and its findings be affirmed in all respects by the U.S. Court of Appeals, the decision was not reasonable. You went to the PSC and you told them that it was. That's fine.

What I'm going to ask you to do is to order a copy of today's transcript and send that to the PSC for them to evaluate it, however they see fit, based on their standards, and they'll make their own decision on this basis.

So the Court is adamant that Ameren Missouri made mistakes and took unreasonable actions. As outlined in the rebuttal and surrebuttal testimonies of

Staff witnesses Keith Majors and Claire Eubanks, the Court findings were thorough and well-supported in coming to this decision.

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However, the harm is not fully known to customers and that's not known for us to provide to the Commission because the Court is considering additional remedies, which was also discussed in the transcript from the status hearing that was conducted a few weeks ago on March 28, 2024.

It is Staff's position that any additional remedies related to Ameren Missouri's litigation on Rush Island be borne by Ameren Missouri and not its customers. The proper place for those prudence adjustments would be in subsequent rate cases where Ameren Missouri proposes to collect costs related to those additional remedies.

Staff raises the issue now to preserve it for those future hearings. This issue was heightened by a statement in the transcript Ameren Missouri filed in this case on April 8, 2024. The United States posits a potential \$275 million in remedies for the damage done by Ameren Missouri. This amount is highly concerning to Staff.

On top of transmission upgrades, which are discussed by Staff witnesses Shawn Lange and Claire



1	Eubanks, this also does not include the potential
2	short-term capacity shortfall that may occur before
3	replacement of Rush Island's capacity.
4	Staff witness Claire Eubanks can explain in
5	more detail how these recent facts further support our
6	recommendation to hold Ameren Missouri's customers
7	harmless for those additional remedies due to the Court
8	determined unreasonable action in regards to the
9	permitting process.
10	Thank you. I'm happy to answer any
11	questions you have. Otherwise, I urge you to ask Claire
12	Eubanks, Shawn Lange, Brad Fortson and Keith Majors
13	questions when it is their turn on the stand.
14	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Mers. Are
15	there any Commission questions for this attorney? I've
16	got a few. I'm going to start with the thing that kind
17	of stuck out to me immediately, Ms. Mers. And you
18	indicated that Staff is bringing up this issue. You
19	said that any harm would be addressed in a future rate
20	case; is that correct?
21	MS. MERS: Yes.
22	JUDGE CLARK: And that Staff is bringing
23	this issue up at this time to preserve it. What do you
24	mean by that?

Well, I think we even heard it in

MS. MERS:

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the opening this morning, that often we're accused of using hindsight if we would wait to that rate case to explain our issues with the decisionmaking process. So we wanted to document thoroughly why we believe that those remedies should not be borne by the customers and put Ameren on notice that that was a position that we were going to take.

Isn't that always the case, JUDGE CLARK: When you're looking at prudency evaluations, though? aren't you always -- you're looking at the decision at the time and what was known, but from the perspective of the Commission, nobody is asking the Commission to issue an advisory opinion, which the Commission could not do, but nobody is asking this decision we're about to make, is it prudent. We're always looking back on these We're always dissecting them in the past and decisions. asking ourselves what was known at the time. does it make a difference whether it's here or in a rate case?

MS. MERS: Well, when we know the final harm figure, that's the only time that we can actually make that disallowance then, without -- from a factual number. We can't do it until those subsequent rate cases. And we often get hearings derailed by accusations of using hindsight or Monday morning





thing, whether it be a disallowance or otherwise, are we

1	Page 48 stepping on the District Court's feet, especially if
2	you're going to be evaluating this in a future rate case
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	when, if there's harm, that harm might be more known?
4	MS. MERS: I don't believe we'll be stepping
5	on the District Court's jurisdiction or their decisions
6	on what remedies to order. It's clear through those
7	three cases that the Court was very unhappy with how
8	Ameren approached the permitting process and the
9	decisions that they made and that they believed it to be
10	very unreasonable and that, frankly, they need to take
11	responsibility for those actions. So holding customers
12	harmless is a way to do so and still effectuate the
13	District Court's orders.
14	JUDGE CLARK: I believe we'll get into the
15	hold harmless proposal with Ms. Eubanks, correct?
16	MS. MERS: Correct.
17	JUDGE CLARK: Bear with me for just a
18	moment. I guess I'm trying I'm going to ask you the
19	same question that I asked Ameren's attorney. I think
20	what I set up so far is an appropriate lead-in for that
21	question. And that is, what reasonable and prudence
22	decision does the Staff of the Commission believe the
23	Commission needs to make in this case?
24	MS. MERS: If the Commission were to find
25	that the decisionmaking process of Ameren Missouri was



1	not reasonable or prudent, then they could approve or
2	suggest the hold harmless be implemented in the future.
3	And that Ameren is on notice that whatever cost those
4	are, when those are known, just won't be borne by
5	customers.
6	JUDGE CLARK: Is this a fair assessment of
7	Staff's position? I heard you say that Staff is of the
8	opinion that at the time and I assume it's 2021
9	when Ameren made the decision to seek leave of or
10	seek a modification of the District Court order to
11	retire the plant as opposed to putting on what I'm going
12	to call the pollution scrubbers, I heard Staff say that
13	they were of the opinion that that was a reasonable and
14	prudent decision to retire that plant, correct?
15	MS. MERS: Correct. Staff believes that
16	Ameren is kind of in a mess of its own making, but now
17	that we're in the situation that we're in, what is best
18	for customers is retirement and securitization of the
19	plant.
20	JUDGE CLARK: Those are all the questions
21	that I have. Based upon questions that I've asked, are
22	there any additional Commission questions?
23	CHAIR HAHN: Yes, Judge, I have one.

And

I'll just say, any time Commissioners have a question,

Thank you, Chair Hahan.

JUDGE CLARK:

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1	please feel free to interrupt me.
2	CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. Good morning.
3	MS. MERS: Good morning.
4	CHAIR HAHN: Thank you for being here today.
5	I do have a question based upon Judge Clark's questions.
6	Just to clarify with regard to issue 3(A), does Staff
7	believe under the statute that the Commission has to
8	determine the reasonableness and prudency of obtaining
9	the NSR permits in this case, or is that only in this
10	record because you're trying to preserve it for a future
11	case?
12	MS. MERS: Trying to preserve it for a
13	future case. We because the remedies would not be
14	securitized cost, that you know, a hold harmless
15	provision on that wouldn't impact Staff's recommendation
16	on the total amount to be securitized in this case.
17	CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. I appreciate that
18	clarification.
19	MS. MERS: No problem.
20	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chair Hahn. Are
21	there any other Commission questions at this time?
22	Hearing none, thank you Ms. Mers. Thank you for your
23	mini opening.
24	MS. MERS: Judge Clark, it strikes me that

the filing that Ameren Missouri made on April 8th, the

Page 51 1 transcript that I referenced, is in EFIS, but not in the Could I request that that have official notice 2 3 be taken of those transcripts that Ameren submitted? 4 JUDGE CLARK: You said official notice of 5 another Court's transcript, correct? 6 MS. MERS: Correct. 7 I'm a little puzzled because JUDGE CLARK: 8 I'm not sure whether we can do that or if it's 9 appropriate in regard to another Court. 10 MR. LOWERY: Judge, this is Jim Lowery. 11 mean, I don't know what out position might be on that. 12 I share your question about whether an official notice 13 is appropriate. If the Commission wants to entertain 14 that motion, I would, I guess, ask for us to have the 15 opportunity to perhaps take the issue up Monday, but us 16 have the opportunity to at least consider whether or not 17 we think that's appropriate or not. 18 JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to agree with you, 19 Mr. Lowery. I'm not opposed to Staff's request. 20 honestly just don't know the answer to the question off 21 the top of my head. So I would like an opportunity to 2.2 look at it too. So why don't -- I will make a note to 23 take this up Monday as a preliminary matter. 24 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Judge. I don't know

that the Company is opposed either, it's just not

something we contemplated.

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JUDGE CLARK: Yeah. And I'm debating in my head whether this is something that would be more appropriate to take notice of or to have as an exhibit or whether it even matters. Like I said, I made a note and we will discuss it as a preliminary matter on Monday. Thank you, Ms. Mers.

MS. MERS: Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Next up for a mini opening, I believe I had MIEC, Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers Group. Let me see that that's right. At the time there was no attorney here. At the time there was no attorney here from MIEC. Is there an attorney from Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers Group now? I hear none. Next mini opening is from AARP.

MR. COFFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. We'll reserve the bulk of our comments for Monday with the general opening, but I did want to make one comment in response to what I heard from Ameren counsel, Jim Lowery, on the standard, the prudent and reasonable standard.

I have a slightly different legal take on the standard. I believe that the Courts have treated each of those as somewhat separate in cases in certain situations, noted that an action could be prudent and

1	Page 53 yet deemed unreasonable in a particular case under the
2	facts of those cases.
3	So I think that there's a reason that just
4	or rather just and reasonable are also separate, but
5	also prudent and reasonable are sometimes separate
6	substandards that are reviewed by the Commission. We
7	can brief that. I just wanted to state that for the
8	record and we'll defer any other comment until the case
9	begins on Monday. Thanks.
10	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Coffman. Are
11	there any questions for Mr. Coffman? For AARP? I have
12	one. Listening to what you said, we heard previously
13	somebody said that they're the same or similar or
14	related. And what you're saying is, giving a literal
15	reading of the statute, it's both, reasonable and
16	prudent, and it must be both of those as individual
17	standards; is that correct?
18	MR. COFFMAN: Sometimes they're mentioned
19	together and sometimes they're not, but I don't think
20	that they're collapsable. I think they can mean
21	different things in certain situations.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you AARP. Any mini opening from Midwest Energy Consumers Group, or MECG?

MR. OPITZ: No mini opening for this issue,



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	Ċ	JUDGE	CLARK:	Thank	you	MECG.	Any	mini
opening	from	Renew	Missou	ri?				

MR. LINHARES: Thank you, Judge. I will reserve our opening and reflect our positions in this case for Monday. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you Renew Missouri. Any mini opening from the Office of the Public Counsel?

OPENING STATEMENT

MR. WILLIAMS: Originally, I did not plan to give a mini opening at this point, but after listening to Ameren Missouri, I think it's appropriate to do so. The first thing I want to point out is that the EPA has started enforcement initiative with things like the Prevention of Significant Deterioration in air quality back in 1999, which you may note is towards the end of the Clinton presidency. And then G.W. Bush became President in 2001 and I'm expecting the record will reflect that the enforcement activity slacked off a bit.

And in 2005, the EPA actually set out a proposed rule, my understanding, that would conform to what the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' State Implementation Plan has in terms of measuring emissions, actual emissions for an hour, and then using -- historical and then using that as the standard by which

you would measure what would happen afterwards.

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Much of what Mr. Nash related about the Missouri State Implementation Plan was, as you said, MDR's interpretation and certainly Ameren Missouri's interpretation, but it was not the law, as Judge Sippel found it was not.

It is a plain reading of that regulation in a certain fashion that I think, given in light of the enforcement activities of the EPA, it was in the history of the industry, the utility industry trying to minimize the impacts of EPA actions and effects of their regulations and the Clean Air Act. And that goes back to when the Clean Air Act was first put into law back in the late '70s.

And the federal interpretations are done with effect -- to the intent of the effect, not just the literal language of the law or the regulation. I think it's kind of a forced reading, so to speak, but it's not untenable, wholly untenable.

Our position is that basically Ameren
Missouri should have gone to the EPA enforcement
division and asked for an applicability determination,
which would be legally binding on the EPA afterward is
my understanding.

So that if the EPA says, no, the Missouri

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SIP doesn't get you out by the way you're reading it,
the utility would have known that. It still would have
had a choice about whether it wanted to comply with the
EPA's determination or if it would have decided to go
forward basically in the 2005 timeframe.

Well, by the time we got to 2005, Ameren Missouri knew that Rush Island was having a lot of pluggage issues and was requiring a lot of outages in order to clear those and that's when it made the decision to replace a number of components to address those pluggage issues.

Given that knowledge and the -- I don't think it's pure coincidence that the EPA enforcement action against Ameren Missouri at Rush Island did not start until the Obama Administration, after 2009.

But given the history, it's our position that Ameren Missouri was not prudent in its actions about its decisions going forward.

And it really had two or three options at the time. It could have shut down Rush Island. It could have kept operating it with what the EPA would accept as routine maintenance and repair. Or it could have gone ahead and made the upgrades it did, plus added the emissions requirements that it did not do, that Judge Sippel ended up deciding it was required to seek

permits for.

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As to the prudency issues, the statute gives an alternative to traditional ratemaking approaches for potential cost recovery of Ameren Missouri's investment in Rush Island and its cost associated with retiring and shutting down the plant.

Prudence is a gateway to getting securitization. When prudence has been evaluated in the context of a rate case, the reason for requiring harm is because it was a meaningless determination otherwise.

In other words, if the Commission found it was imprudency, but no harm, there was no relief, so there's no point in determining prudency to begin with.

So we believe it's a gateway. Harm is not necessarily a component of it. However, it's our position that Ameren Missouri shouldn't be recovering through securitization -- if it's given any more than it would have in a rate case, it should not be more costly to customers. So the traditional prudency analysis does apply for purposes of what amounts of energy transition costs should be securitized.

I'm working off the fly here, but I think that covers the points I wanted to get across in response to what I heard in the other openings and I reserve the opportunity to expand more when this issue

1	is taken up again Monday, or whenever it is. And I'm
2	happy to try to answer any questions.
3	JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission
4	questions for this attorney at this time?
5	CHAIR HAHN: Yes. Thank you, Judge. Good
6	morning, Mr. Williams.
7	MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chair Hahn.
8	CHAIR HAHN: I'm going to also ask you the
9	same question that I asked Staff Counsel Mers. Staff
10	Counsel Mers mentioned that she did not believe we
11	had the Commission had to make a determination on
12	issue 3(A), on prudency determinations on whether to
13	obtain the permits. I think I heard you say you think
14	that the Commission does have to make that determination
15	because it goes to the amount that could be securitized.
16	Is that your position, or is it something else?
17	MR. WILLIAMS: That, in fact, is my
18	position. The Commission I think could consider it in
19	the context of even potentially whether it is
20	appropriate for Ameren Missouri to be shutting down Rush
21	Island in the future.
22	And the rationale behind that is if Ameren
23	Missouri was imprudent in the past and should have put
24	on scrubbers then, then we view that it is unlikely that

it would be appropriate for it to be shutting the plant

1	with scrubbers down now. But I'm not sure we're not
2	sure there's going to be enough evidence in the record
3	to make that prudency determination.
4	CHAIR HAHN: That is helpful. Thank you so
5	much.
6	MR. WILLIAMS: You're welcome.
7	JUDGE CLARK: Are there any other Commission
8	questions for this attorney? I hear none. Can you
9	clarify that for me, when you say you're not sure
10	there's enough evidence in the record? I'm not
11	following you. Does this get back to the harm
12	determination or is this something else?
13	MR. WILLIAMS: What I was getting at is
14	determining what avenue would have been prudent for the
15	utility to have taken back in the 2007 well,
16	actually, it's the 2000's timeframe.
17	I mean, the original go-ahead, I think, was
18	2005, but they had known they were having pluggage
19	issues at Rush Island long before then. It goes back to
20	the '90s, whenever they switched from high sulfur coal
21	to the low sulfur, dirtier, Powder River Basin coal.
22	But the issue is, you have to determine the
23	prudency of which route to go and, let's say, make a

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determination -- I don't know that you can decide which

one was the appropriate route in terms of shutting down

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Rush Island then, running it for a bit longer until it
became so uneconomic that you just shut down the plant,
or if you would make the upgrades they did make, plus
add scrubbers, or go the route that Ameren Missouri
chose to go.

I don't know that the record is going to be sufficient to decide which of those was prudent or imprudent. And those -- depending on which one was the -- which avenues were not imprudent would lead to different circumstances in the present.

Because if the appropriate thing to have done back in the early 2000's was to have added scrubbers as well as do the upgrades that Ameren Missouri did put in place, that's a much different plant in 2024 than the plant we have now because the scrubbers would already be there, and of course you would have avoided all the federal litigation as well. But I'm not sure there's going to be enough evidence in this record for the Commission to make that determination.

JUDGE CLARK: Given that the District Court is still determining remedies, is it even appropriate for the Commission to make a disallowance that might be considered punitive in nature?

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't see any issue with it. The remedies is for failure to -- my understanding

1	of the remedies at the federal court are failure to							
2	comply with the EPA regulations, federal law, EPA							
3	requirement.							
4	JUDGE CLARK: Now, I heard it tossed around							
5	before in one of the openings that the term \$34							
6	million. Is that the value of this issue to OPC?							
7	MR. WILLIAMS: That is a quantification we							
8	put out there through a witness.							
9	JUDGE CLARK: And OPC doesn't believe							
LO	granting that disallowance would step into the bounds of							
L1	the federal court in their remedy determination?							
L2	MR. WILLIAMS: I believe they're							
L3	independent. And let me elaborate a bit. The federal							
L4	court's looking at a remedy for the harm that was caused							
L5	by the emissions from the plant in the past. What the							
L6	Commission is looking at is what is their recovery for							
L7	the utility after the plant's no longer being used to							
L8	provide service to customers.							
L9	JUDGE CLARK: Does OPC have an opinion as to							
20	whether it was prudent to retire the plant in 2021 or to							
21	make that decision in 2021?							
22	MR. WILLIAMS: Not at this time.							
23	JUDGE CLARK: It doesn't have an opinion; is							
24	that correct?							

MR. WILLIAMS:

You saw our position

1	statements. We think we need to look at all the							
2	evidence before we can opine on that.							
3	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Just asking. All							
4	right. Thank you, Mr. Williams.							
5	MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.							
6	JUDGE CLARK: That is all I have down for							
7	mini openings for parties that are here. Are there any							
8	parties that I have missed that wanted to make a mini							
9	opening on this issue? I hear none. It is 10:38. It							
10	was my intention to take a break around 10:30 for about							
11	10 minutes to give everybody a chance to use the							
12	bathroom or whatever else during a 10 minute break.							
13	Is 10 minutes going to be sufficient for							
14	everybody? I don't hear any objections. It is 10:38.							
15	I'm going to treat that as 10:40. Why don't we come							
16	back at 10:50. We will go off the record now and recess							
17	for roughly 10 or 11 minutes.							
18	(Break.)							
19	JUDGE CLARK: We are back from a short							
20	recess. At this time, Ameren, if you'd like to go ahead							
21	and call Witness Holmstead.							
22	MR. LONG: Thank you, Your Honor. And							
23	Mr. Holmstead is right here in the conference room with							
24	me and we'll just change places and then he can be sworn							

in for his testimony.

1	Page 6 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Holmstead, good morning.							
2	Would you raise your right hand to be sworn, please? Do							
3	you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are							
4	about to give at this evidentiary hearing is the truth?							
5	THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.							
6	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ameren. Go ahead.							
7	JEFFREY HOLMSTEAD,							
8	being first duly sworn, produced and examined,							
9	testified as follows:							
LO	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LONG:							
L1	Q. Can you please state your name for the record?							
L2	A. Jeffrey R. Holmstead.							
L3	Q. And are you the same Jeffrey R. Holmstead who							
L4	prepared for filing in this docket both direct and							
L5	surrebuttal testimony							
L6	A. Yes.							
L7	Q marked for identification as Exhibits 10 and							
L8	11?							
L9	A. I didn't, I am.							
20	Q. And do you have any corrections to either Exhibit							
21	10 or 11 in your testimony?							
22	A. No.							
23	Q. And if I posed the same questions to you today,							
24	would your answers be the same as reflected in your							

direct and surrebuttal testimony?

1	Α.	Yes.
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Q. Are those answers true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

## A. Yes.

MR. LONG: Your Honor, at this time, Ameren Missouri would move Exhibits 10 and 11 into the record.

JUDGE CLARK: Are there any objections to admitting the testimony of Jeffrey Holmstead, Exhibit 10, his direct testimony, and Exhibit 11, his surrebuttal testimony on to the hearing record? I hear no objections. Exhibit 10, the direct testimony, and Exhibit 11, the surrebuttal testimony of Jeffrey Holmstead will be admitted on to the hearing record. And you may continue your direct examination, Mr. Long.

MR. LONG: Your Honor, at this time, Ameren Missouri tenders Mr. Holmstead for cross.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Long. Because this is an Ameren witness and going by the order of cross examination submitted by the parties, are there any questions for this witness by Renew Missouri?

MR. LINHARES: No questions. Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Linhares. Are there any questions from MECG?

MR. OPITZ: No questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any questions							
from not the Sierra Club. They've been excused. Any							
questions from MIEC? Do they have an attorney here yet?							
Any questions from AARP?							
MR. COFFMAN: No questions, Your Honor.							
JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Coffman. Any							
questions from Consumer Council?							
MR. COFFMAN: No questions.							
JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Coffman. Any							
cross examination from the Commission Staff?							
MS. MERS: No, thank you.							
JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the							
Office of the Public Counsel.							
MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I do have some							
questions.							
CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:							
Q. Good morning, Mr. Holmstead. How are you?							
A. I'm fine, thanks.							
Q. Isn't it true that the EPA's division of							
enforcement ramped up enforcement activities against							
utility emissions on or about 1999?							
A. Yes, that is that is correct.							
Q. And in your direct testimony you talk about							
in the early part of it, you talk about what the law							



is in Missouri under the Missouri Standard

- 1 | Implementation Plan as set out in the DNR
- 2 | regulations; do you not?

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- A. Yes. Yes, I do.
- 4 Q. And that starts on Page 11?
- 5 A. I don't recall, but that sounds about right.
- Q. And in your testimony there you stated as if that is or was the law. Was it, in fact, the law back in the early 2000s?
  - A. So as I think you've said in your opening statement, what I provided there is the plain reading of the Missouri regulations. And the reading that I provided, I acknowledged that many years after the fact, in 2017, the District Court Judge had a different interpretation.

But certainly at the time of the projects, the interpretation that I layout there, as you say the plain reading of the interpretation, is what MDNR believed the regulation said, it's what everybody in the state, all the industry.

In fact, it's been interesting to me that no one in this case has provided any evidence that anyone had a different reading of the regulations before 2017, or I guess whenever the enforcement action started. But certainly in the 2005 to 2010 --



	MF	R. WILLIA	MS:	Judg	ge, I	think	he	's a	already
answered	the c	question	and	he's	just	going	on	nov	<b>√</b> .

- A. No, I'm sorry. I'm finished. I'm just trying to make sure I give you a complete answer.
- Q. Thank you. I appreciate that. But you agree that what Judge Stippel said the law was is what the law was?

## A. Yes.

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- Q. And aren't judicial interpretations of the law binding on this Commission.
- A. I'm not quite sure what you mean by that. I don't think this Commission has any jurisdiction to declare what the Clean Air Act requires. My understanding the issue before this Commission is whether the decisions that Ameren made were reasonable based on what it knew or could have known at the time. I don't understand why this Commission would make any decisions about what the Clean Air Act requires.
- Q. Well, Ameren Missouri is asking this
  Commission to, I believe, determine that its
  understanding of the Missouri SIP and the Clean Air
  Act requirements was reasonable at the time it held
  that understanding back in 2005, correct?
  - A. My understanding is the issue whether Ameren



- had a reasonable basis for believing that it did not need to get MSR permits. So I guess in my view what
- 3 | the Court said in 2017 couldn't have been known or
- 4 knowable. So what Ameren had to do was base its
- 5 decisions on what was known at the time. And the
- 6 reading that I've given, as you say the plain
- 7 reading of the statute, is what they knew or could
- 8 have known.
- 9 Q. Is there anything faulty in Judge Stippel's analysis of the law.
- A. No -- the thing that I -- so the answer is no.

  He's declared what the law is. The Circuit Court
- did overrule a big chunk of the remedy that he had
- ordered, but in terms of whether Ameren was required
- to get permits, no, what he said in 2017 is the law.
- 16 Q. And it was 2005, right?
- 17 A. Nobody knew that in 2005.
- Q. Well, when he said that Ameren Missouri should have gotten a permit in 2005, wasn't he declaring
- 20 what the law was in 2005?
- 21 A. Yes, but --
- 22 MADAM REPORTER: I didn't get your
- question, Mr. Williams, because you guys were
- 24 talking over each other a bit.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Sorry about that.



- Q. What I asked him, wasn't Judge Stippel
  declaring the law as it was in 2005 in his opinions
  in the Ameren Missouri Clean Air Act litigation
  that's dealing with Rush Island?
  - A. Yes. Yes. That's what he decided in 2017, but that was not knowable by anyone at the time.
  - Q. And haven't utilities such as Ameren Missouri consistently brought litigation with regard to emissions requirements since the Clean Air Act first became law?
- A. You know, there's -- there's been hundreds of
  EPA regulatory actions and other actions. Certainly
  some of those have been challenged by the utility
  industry. Like every other regulated industry, they
  have a right to challenge if they think EPA is
  outside of the bounds of the law.
  - Q. Don't they have decades of history of doing that? I'll point out the Utility Air Regulatory Group, for instance.
  - A. Yes. Certainly.

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- Q. And the litigation they were bringing was for more expansive interpretations of the law and regulations than the EPA, correct?
- A. No. I mean, each case is sort of different.

  In some cases they may have held a more expansive



- 1 view and others -- you know, it -- so I think every
- 2 case they brought, many of which they prevailed
- 3 upon, they challenged EPA -- some action that EPA
- 4 has taken as either being unreasonable -- I'm sorry,
- 5 either being arbitrary and precious or outside the
- 6 bounds of the law.
- Q. Have you ever represented anyone other than utilities in the federal government on Clean Air Act
- 9 | matters?
- 10 A. Sure. Sure. I've done -- over the course of
- 11 | my career, I've represented companies and trade
- 12 associations and nonprofit groups in a number of
- 13 cases.
- 14 Q. What compensation are you receiving for your
- 15 | time and work for Ameren Missouri in this case?
- 16 A. I believe it's in my direct testimony. It's
- 17 my standard hourly rate with sort of a discount. So
- 18 I don't recall what the number is, but I know that
- 19 | that's -- I know that that's in my direct testimony.
- 20 | O. Do you know how much you've billed to this
- 21 | point?
- 22 A. I do not.
- 23 | Q. Not even ballpark?
- 24 A. You know -- so, no, I truly don't. I haven't
- 25 paid attention. Again, that's certainly something

- 1 that's knowable. It's a significant amount, there's
- 2 no question about it. I've spent a lot of
- 3 | time making sure that I -- I do my best to explain
- 4 these issues in a way that everyone can understand.
- 5 So there's no doubt it's a significant amount.
  - Q. Does the EPA have jurisdiction to enforce provisions of the Clean Air Act and its regulations regardless of what position the state may have taken on compliance with the act or those rules?
  - A. Yes. I will say it's unusual -- I will say it's very unusual, but occasionally you have a case like this one where EPA disagrees with the state's interpretation of the state's own law and the EPA does have the authority under the Clean Air Act.
  - Q. Didn't that happen in the WEPCo case, WEPCo?
- A. No. Actually, in that case the state agency
  said it didn't know whether NSR applied and asked
  EPA to opine on the issue. It was not -- it was not
  a case -- in that case the petitioner was the power
  company. It was not the state.
- Q. On Pages 8 to 10 of your direct testimony, you talk about a potential to potential test.
- 23 A. Correct.

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- Q. What is the potential to potential test?
- 25 A. So, you know, it sounds kind of deceptively

simple. The question is whether there is a physical change at a plant that will cause an increase in emissions, but figuring out exactly what that means. Does that mean, you know, in the prior day compared to, you know, the day before, the day after, the

week before, the week after.

And the easiest way to do that emissions increase test is what would be called the potential to potential test. You basically say if the unit is running at its maximum capacity, what would the emissions be -- those are the potential emissions -- and you can compare that before and after a physical change.

And the idea is, if you're not changing the unit in a way that will increase its capacity to emit, then it doesn't cause an emissions increase. That's basically the potential to potential test.

- Q. Did the EPA ever adopt that potential to potential test?
- A. So in a related program -- the Clean Air Act is very complicated. There's the NSR program.

  There's another program called the NSPS program and it -- it has the same definition of modification.

  It says a physical change or change in the method of operation that results in an emissions increase.



1	So that same that exact same language is
2	used in both the NSR program and the NSPS program.
3	In the NSPS program, it's a potential to potential
4	test. And that's the test that under the plain
5	reading of the Missouri SIP would have been sort of
6	the initial question to ask.
7	JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Holmstead, I feel like
8	Mr. Williams asked you a question there and you said
9	this is where it also is at the EPA, but I don't feel it
10	answered the question. Would you ask your question
11	again, Mr. Williams?
12	MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.
13	Q. Did EPA ever adopt the potential to potential
14	test you just described?
15	A. Well, my answer is, yes, they did in the NSPS
16	program. But if your question is, did they ever
17	adopt that in the NSR program, they did not.
18	Q. Well, you've anticipated my next question
19	given your response to the prior one. Did it ever
20	consider adopting it for the NSR program?
21	A. Yes, it did. I don't remember the year, but
22	at one point they did they did propose that and
23	that rule was never was never finalized. I will
24	say that issue has been around for a long time and

there were some courts who held that that was

- 1 | legally required, to use the same -- the same -- the
- 2 NSPS program created the NSR program and since they
- 3 | had used the potential to potential test in the NSPS
- 4 program, there was a lot of litigation over whether
- 5 EPA could have a different emissions increase test
- 6 in the different programs. And ultimately the
- 7 Supreme Court decided that they could.
- 8 Q. Well, is the, I think, proposed rule that you
- 9 referenced, might it have been Prevention of New
- 10 | Source Deterioration, Nonattainment New Source
- 11 | Review, and New Source Performance Standards:
- 12 | Emissions test for electric generating units that
- 13 | was published at 70 Federal Register 61081 on
- 14 | October 20th of 2005?
- 15 A. That sounds right, yes.
- 16 Q. That would have been shortly after you left
- 17 | the EPA, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 | 0. Did you have any involvement in the
- 20 | development of that proposed rule?
- 21 A. I was certainly involved in conversations
- 22 | about -- about that issue. I was in conversations
- 23 about a number of things related to NSR, but I
- 24 | didn't really have a hand -- so certainly I was
- 25 aware of that issue and the interest in proposing

- that rule, but I was not really involved in the development of it.
- Q. Was the electric utility industry interested in that proposed rule?
  - A. I'm sorry, I didn't catch the question.
- Q. Was the electric utility industry interested
  in that proposed rule?
  - A. Oh, of course they were, yes. Yeah.
- 9 Q. Were they pushing for it?

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- A. Yes, I'm sure they were. The potential to potential test is a much more objective test to apply than what we currently have.
- 13 Turning to Page 32 to 33 of your direct Ο. 14 testimony, there's a bullet point there that 15 includes how other utilities were interpreting the 16 In fact, Ameren received a NSR regulations. 17 detailed memorandum from UARG showing that other 18 power companies had collectively made more than 100 19 component replacements the same as or similar to the
- 20 component replacement in the Rush Island projects -
- 21 and that no one had sought an NSR permit for any of
- 22 these projects. And you said see Schedule SCW-D6.
- 23 Do you recall that?
- A. I don't have that schedule in front of me, but
- 25 I certainly recall that -- I certainly recall making



1	that point in my testimony.
2	Q. Can you get that schedule in front of you?
3	MR. LONG: Which one?
4	MR. WILLIAMS: SCW-D6. I think it's Steve
5	Whitworth's direct.
6	A. D6?
7	Q. Yes.
8	A. Okay. Yes. Actually, I do have that right
9	here.
10	Q. That is a confidential schedule according to
11	Ameren Missouri, correct?
12	A. Correct. That's what it's marked.
13	Q. We probably need to go in camera for his
14	response, but not for the question. Would you
15	identify the projects on Schedule SCW-D6 that you
16	say comprised more than 100 component replacements
17	were the same as or similar to the component
18	replacements in the Rush Island projects?
19	A. So what I will say is this lists 21 companies
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21	JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Holmstead?
22	THE WITNESS: Yes.
23	JUDGE CLARK: Are we in any danger here to
24	going into confidential information?

I don't

THE WITNESS:

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I don't think so.

- Q. (By Mr. Williams) Well, I'm asking for the specific projects in that schedule that you are identifying as being similar -- the same as or similar to the component replacements in the Rush Island projects. And we're talking about the 2007 and 2010 projects.
- A. So everyone of these cases, everyone of these plants involves the replacement of major components. That's what all of these -- this is what all -- that's what this is designed to do. So I don't -- there's heater replacements. There's economizer replacements. There's boiler tube replacements. There's preheater replacements.

I don't -- so I don't have listed here precisely what the components were, but every one of these involved the replacement of major components. And there are -- there are 21 companies. I will note that the federal government's own utility, the Tennessee Valley Authority, had nine plants where they had replaced major components without getting a permit. Altogether there's over 100 on this list.



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1	Page Q. Well, on Page 56 of your direct testimony, you
2	testified that the District Court did not find that
3	Ameren Missouri did not have a reasonable basis for
4	believing that the Rush Island projects were the
5	type projects routinely done in the industry. Is
6	that not correct?
7	A. No, what I said was correct.
8	Q. Well, have I is what I said a correct
9	statement of what you said?
10	A. I'm sorry, you'll have to you'll have to
11	read it to me again.
12	Q. Sure. On Page 56 of your direct testimony,
13	you testified that the District Court did not find
14	that Ameren Missouri did not have a reasonable basis
15	for believing that the Rush Island projects were the
16	type of projects routinely done in the industry.
17	A. That statement is absolutely correct.
18	Q. Are you familiar with the courts
19	JUDGE CLARK: Madam Court Reporter, would
20	you read the question?
21	MADAM REPORTER: Sure. It says: On Page

56 of your direct testimony, you testified that the District Court did not find that Ameren Missouri did not have a reasonable basis for believing that the Rush Island projects were the type of projects



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1 routinely done in the industry. 2 Answer: That statement is absolutely 3 correct. 4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. 5 Williams. 6 (By Mr. Williams) Mr. Holmstead, you're 7 familiar with Judge Sippel's 2017 liability opinion that is referenced as Ameren 3 in the Eighth Circuit 8 9 opinion on appeal? 10 Yes, I'm familiar with those decisions. Α. 11 Are you familiar with the findings of fact 12 that appear on -- well, let me get the finding of 13 fact numbers instead -- findings of fact 174, 175 14 and 176 in that opinion? 15 Not off the top of my head. I don't know if 16 that's something you could show on the screen, or I 17 could try to find it here. 18 I'm not sure which will be quicker because Ο. 19 they are rather lengthy if I try to read it. 20 don't know about screen sharing. 21 Α. Let me see if I can --2.2 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams, what findings of 23 fact? 24 174, 175 and 176. MR. WILLIAMS:

170 -- okay, I've got it.

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Α.

Okay.

Q. Didn't the Court make some specific findings with regard to the projects and how typical they were in the -- the Ameren Missouri projects in 2007 and 2010 and how frequent they were in the industry?

A. So what he found -- I think -- he actually makes a finding here at 174 that projects such as the economizer, reheater, air preheater and lower slope replacements are not performed frequently during the life of a particular plant.

so it is true that if you look at a particular unit, that unit doesn't replace them very often. A particular unit will only replace those, you know, every 20 years or something like that. Within the industry there are hundreds of those replacements that have been done. And that's the point that I'm making. And, actually, I do remember this finding of fact number 16 -- I'm sorry, 170 -- I'm sorry, this is 175.

He says the expert was not able to identify any coal fired unit in the electric utility industry that has replaced the economizer, the reheater, the lower slope and the air preheater together.

So what he says there is, well, utilities may have replaced these components many times, but that particular combination that the -- that the expert,



you know, couldn't identify one that replaced those exact things all together at the same time.

But he doesn't -- he doesn't refute the fact or disagree with the fact that these types of -- these types of projects were done routinely more than 100 times throughout the industry. And that's the point that I make in my direct testimony. There's nothing in this finding of fact that refutes that.

- Q. So you're drawing a distinction between, I guess, the subparts of the projects as opposed to the entirety of the projects that Ameren did in 2007 and 2010?
- A. Yes. But certainly other utilities had done collections of projects at the same time. They may not have done the exact same combination as what Ameren did. But it's not just that they replaced one at a time. Utilities frequently replace more than one at a time when they're in an outage because that's an effective way to do it.
- Q. Well, let me just read finding 175. Even looking exclusively to how common work is performed across the utility industry, Mr. Golden was able to identify few, if any, projects that rival the 2007 and 2010 major boiler outages at other Ameren plants

or elsewhere in the utility industry. Mr. Golden has worked on 14 NSR cases since 2000 on behalf of electric utilities. Then there's a cite to his testimony.

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During that time he has collected a list of 18,300 projects undertaken at coal fired power plants that he says are both capital projects that cost more than \$100,000. Again, there's a cite to his testimony.

However, Mr. Golden was not able to identify any coal fired unit in the electric utility industry that has replaced the economizer, the reheater, the lower slopes, and the air preheater together. And then there's a reference to someone's deposition, B-A-S-E-L, (Unable to recall any other outage at Ameren when all components were replaced. Have I accurately read finding 175?

A. Yeah. I think that's what I was just explaining. So the point is -- and I don't -- in terms of companies that had done those specific projects all together, Mr. Golden was not able to identify those. Again, I don't think anybody disputes that hundreds of these projects have been done throughout the industry and no one has ever sought an NSR permit for them, for these component



Page 83

replacements, even when they're doing several at a time.

Now, I think the point that you're making is, he did say that he didn't find that many where during one outage they had replaced -- you know, they had replaced, you know, an equal number of components, but there's certainly examples of those.

There's a couple even in Missouri where the state looked at a big project -- and there was one that Mr. Whitworth mentions in his testimony where the state specifically found that even though they were spending \$70 million to replace a bunch of components in one outage, that they didn't need an NSR permit.

Q. Well, let me read his finding 176. Similarly, even for the relatively few air preheater replacements that Mr. Golden did identify (35 out of approximately 1,200 coal fired generating units operating in 2007), Mr. Golden was unable to testify that all were complete replacements or were comparable to those at Rush Island.

Have I read that correctly?

A. Yes. Yes, you have. So there were 35 other units where the preheaters -- the air duct and preheater replacements were done.



1	MR. WILLIAMS:	Judge, I ask	
2	JUDGE CLARK:	Yes, Mr. Williams.	

MR. WILLIAMS: I ask that that part of his answer be stricken. He answered the question when he said I read it correctly and he's just repeating what I said, essentially.

JUDGE CLARK: I'll grant that. You can go ahead and strike the portion.

- Q. So on Schedule SEW-D6, how many of those involve air preheater replacements?
- A. I don't know. I don't know.

- Q. Did you create Schedule SEW-D6?
- A. No, I think it was included in Mr. Whitworth's testimony to demonstrate that they were aware -- so this was, I think, dated 2007 and I think he was using it to demonstrate that Ameren was aware that hundreds of these similar component projects had been -- had been undertaken without permits. I didn't create it. It was a document from UARG, which is what we call the Utility Air Regulatory Group. So it was a confidential memo from UARG to the UARG member companies.
- Q. Go to Page 61 of your direct testimony. There you state -- and I'm quoting right here -- "I have had the chance to review numerous documents related



- 1 to Ameren Missouri's environmental compliance
  2 planning process." Is that correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. What are those numerous documents?
- 5 I have a binder here that -- I think if you Α. look at the schedules to Mr. Whitworth's direct 6 7 testimony, there's hundreds of pages of documents 8 that were provided to Ameren that ESD reviewed to 9 understand exactly what was going on with the NSR 10 regulations, what was going on with all these cases. 11 You know, there are scorecards showing, by and 12 large, in the EPA NSR enforcement cases, the Agency 13 was losing more than it was winning. So there's --14 if you look at those schedules, there's hundreds of 15 pages worth.
  - Q. So you're referring to the schedules that are attached to Mr. Whitworth's testimony? Is that what you're saying?
- 19 A. Yes.

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- Q. Who was the president of that EPA's enforcement activities?
- 22 A. I'm sorry, ask again.
- Q. Well, let me limit it in time, because I did
  not do that. In the 2000 to 2015 timeframe, does
  who's the president affect EPA's enforcement



- 1 activities? And let me limit it to New Source
- 2 | Review enforcements.
- A. Yes. Yeah. I mean, that initiative went on during all administrations, but there was a time in
- 5 2006, maybe, or 2005, shortly after I left, where
- 6 EPA announced that it would not bring enforcement
- 7 cases unless someone had an emissions increase based
- 8 on the potential to potential test that I talked
- 9 about. So there was a time -- so the answer is,
- 10 yes, it has varied a little bit from administration
- 11 to administration.
- 12 Q. Was that change that you're talking about in
- 13 | 2005 at or about the time that EPA put out its
- 14 | proposed rule to change to the potential to
- 15 | potential test for New Source Review?
- 16 A. Yes. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did EPA's enforcement activities vary
- 18 depending on who was president?
- 19 A. So I think I've answered that. So at least in
- 20 that type period, during the George W. Bush
- 21 Administration, they only brought new cases where
- 22 there was an increase based on the potential to
- 23 | potential test. So that was -- that was unique I
- 24 think to that administration.
- 25 Q. When did George W. Bush become president?

- A. George W. Bush became president in 2001 and he remained president until President Obama took office in 2009.
- Q. Did EPA's enforcement activities for New Source Review change earlier than the 2005 timeframe you've indicated?
  - A. I don't think so. I mean, certainly when I was at EPA, there continued to be NSR enforcement cases.
- 10 O. Were there new ones?

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- A. I'm sure there were at least a couple of new ones. I only remember one in particular, but I was not really involved in the enforcement activities.

  I was just generally kind of aware of what was going on.
  - Q. Are you familiar with applicability determinations? Well, let's limit it to the EPA.
  - A. Yes, I am. Applicability determinations, that's quite a mouthful.
  - Q. Okay. What is the impact of an applicability determination?
- A. It's the formal way by which a company can
  seek kind of a ruling from the Agency on whether a
  certain regulation applies to a certain project. So
  that is something that is occasionally --



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- 1 occasionally done. Yes, it's an applicability --
- 2 it's similar to what the State of Missouri calls no
- 3 action -- no permit required letters.

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- Q. Are you familiar with private letter rulings in the income tax field?
- A. Only -- well, I'm aware they exist. I'm not

  sure I fully understand kind of their legal import,

  but I've heard of them before.
- Q. Okay. What is the effect on the EPA on an applicability determination? For example, if it says you don't have to get a New Source Review permit or apply for one, is that binding on the EPA?
  - mean, I don't know legally if EPA later changed its mind, if they would be prevented from doing that.

    But I'm sure that there's never been like an enforcement action, you know, based on a different interpretation. So if your point is, is it binding?

    As a practical matter, yes, it would be.

You know, as a practical matter, it is.

Ameren Missouri project at Rush Island Unit 1.

Would it have been prudent for Ameren Missouri to
seek an applicability determination from the EPA for
that project before it began that project?

Well, let's go to the -- I'll pick one -- 2005

25 A. No, it would not have been reasonable. And



I'm not aware of any utility that has ever sought an applicability determination where it believed that its understanding of the law was so clear.

The other thing I would say about that is, because Missouri has an EPA-approved program, it's actually MDNR that has -- that can do applicability determinations. So because it's a SIP approved state, you would not go to EPA, you would go to MDNR.

But again, you know, companies do projects, even major projects fairly frequently. And what they do is, they look at their understanding of the law and the regulations and the conversations they've had with regulators and with others in the industry and they make a decision. So it's highly, highly unusual for someone to actually go to seek an applicability determination.

- Q. Well, you answered it wouldn't be reasonable.

  I asked whether it would be prudent. I think

  there's a difference. Do you?
- A. I'm -- I'm not sure. So -- I mean, the other thing I can say is, to get such a determination can sometimes take a couple of years. I mean, I know that for a fact. And so, you know, people don't have time to do those. So, you know, if there are

- 1 projects that needed doing, seeking an applicability
- 2 determination -- and I don't know how long -- I
- 3 suspect that MDNR moves more quickly than that, but
- 4 EPA sometimes takes -- because sometimes they're
- 5 controversial within the Agency.
- Q. Well, didn't Ameren Missouri know they were having pluggage issues at Rush Island Unit 1 long before 2005?
  - A. Based on my recollection of the testimony of Mr. Whitworth, I think that's correct. I honestly don't know, but I believe that's correct.
- Q. Well, you understand that Rush Island was originally designed in the 1970s to -- let's limit it to Unit 1 -- to burn high sulfur coal, correct?
  - A. Correct.

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- Q. And then in the 1990s, Ameren Missouri started burning Powder River Basin coal because it had a lower sulfur content in order to meet emissions requirements? Is that not correct?
  - A. Yes. I know many utilities did that. So that doesn't surprise me that that's why they did it.
- Q. And didn't they have a lot more pluggage
  issues and maybe started having pluggage issues in
  the 1990s after it started using Powder River Basin
  coal at Unit 1?



A.	So	I	honestly	 I'm	not	disputing	that.	Ι
just	don'	t	know.					

- Q. That's fine. I don't want you to say you know something you don't know. Didn't Ameren Missouri put itself at risk without knowing for sure -- well, let's put it this way. Doesn't a prudent utility want to know what its risks are?
  - A. Sure. Sure. I'm sure that's the case.
- Q. Was not an applicability determination for the planned outages -- let's limit it to Unit 1 -- for the planned outage at Unit 1 in 2005, wouldn't it have reduced Ameren Missouri's uncertainty about its risk if it had sought an applicability determination as to that outage and had sought it from the EPA?
- A. So as I said before -- and I know I say this in my -- in my surrebuttal -- I don't think Ameren Missouri thought there was a meaningful risk. And I'm happy to tell you more about why that was.

So if your point -- you know, if they thought the risk was exceedingly low, would it have been even lower had they gone to MDNR. And as I said before, they wouldn't go to EPA, they would go to MDNR. Because MDNR, they have an approved EPA program, which means that MDNR is the permitting authority. They're the ones that implement the NSR

program.

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So, yeah, they could have further reduced an extremely small risk by going to MDNR, but they already knew what MDNR would say because there's -- you know, as we have in the record, there's a number of permitting decisions made by MDNR that say if you undertake a project that doesn't increase potential emissions, you don't need a permit at all. We know exactly what MDNR would have said.

Q. The question is about EPA --

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams, hold on a second. It gets muddy for the court reporter and it gets muddy for me when the attorney and witness talk over each other, so we're going to take a couple steps back. And, Mr. Holmstead, if you would finish answering your question and then Mr. Williams you can go ahead and --

THE WITNESS: I think I'm finished. I'm sorry if I've gone on too long.

JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, would you please direct Mr. Holmstead to answer the question asked, which was about seeking an EPA applicability determination, not one from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Ask the question again.

MR. WILLIAMS: Could I have the court

reporter repeat the question?

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MADAM REPORTER: Was not an applicability determination for the planned outages -- let's limit it to Unit 1 -- for the planned outage at Unit 1 in 2005, wouldn't it have reduced Ameren Missouri's uncertainty about its risk if it had sought an applicability determination as to that outage and had sought it from the EPA?

A. So my answer is, there's no example anywhere of any utility going and seeking an applicability determination for a project like this from EPA when the state permitting authority was the authorized NSR permitting authority.

So you're asking me if it did something that no other utility has ever done, would that further reduce their risk? I guess the answer is yes, but I'm not even sure the EPA would give an applicability determination. They would say you need to go talk to your permitting authority.

Q. Are you aware in the Ameren pre-liability opinion there's a reference to -- hold on a moment -- a memorandum from Don Clay, Acting EPA Assistant Administrator, dated September 9 of 1988?

1 The reference is to 3-4 and it says DTE

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- 2 Applicability Determination Detailed Analysis.
  - A. I am familiar with the DTE applicability determination, yes.
  - Q. There was one done in May of 2000 that was requested by Detroit Edison Company of EPA; is there not?
- 8 Yeah, that was not for a component replacement 9 It was nothing like this one. project. And I 10 think -- I'm not even sure the state had an approved 11 That involved something called a Dense program. 12 Pack that was a more efficient turbine and there was 13 a question about whether -- they weren't just making 14 a like-kind replacement.

They were not replacing a component with a functionally equivalent component. They were replacing a component with a newly designed component called a Dense Pack that would increase the efficiency of a plant. And because it was changing the sort of physical design capacity, that was a highly unusual situation. Again, I don't know if they went to EPA because the state didn't have a delegated program, I'm not sure, but it was highly unusual.

And as you may remember, I think that

- 1 applicability determination took a couple of years.
- 2 And when EPA came back, it still didn't solve the
- 3 question. It said, well, this isn't a routine
- 4 replacement because you're not -- you know, you're
- 5 | not replacing something with a functionally
- 6 equivalent component. You're replacing it with a
- 7 | new and improved version that actually changes the
- 8 output of the plant.
- 9 So it was very different from this. And as I
- 10 | say, it took -- we can look and see, but I think it
- 11 | was close to a couple of years and they still didn't
- 12 -- they still didn't resolve the NSR question. They
- only resolved the RM and R&R (phonetic on letters.)
- 14 Question.
- Q. Well, let me read from portions of it and see
- 16 | if this refreshes your recollection at all.
- 17 A. Okay. Yes.
- 18 Q. It's dated May 23rd of 2000. And it says:
- 19 I'm responding to your request on behalf of the
- 20 | Detroit Edison Company for an applicability
- 21 determination regarding the proposed replacement and
- 22 | reconfiguration of the high pressure section of two
- 23 | steam turbines at the Company's Monroe power plant,
- 24 referred to as the Dense Pack Project.
- 25 | Specifically you requested that the United

States Environmental Protection Agency, EPA,
determine whether the Dense Pack Project at the
Monroe Power Plant would be considered a major
modification that would subject the project to
pollution control requirements under the Prevention
of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program.

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We have reviewed your original request, dated
June 8 of 1999 and the supplemental information you
submitted on December 10, 1999 and March 16th of
2000. We provisionally conclude that the Dense Pack
Project would not be a major modification. I'll
skip a line.

Although the Dense Pack Project would constitute a nonroutine physical change to the facility that might well result in a significant increase in air pollution, Detroit Edison asserts that emissions will not, in fact, increase due to the construction activity and EPA has no information to dispute that assertion.

Does that all sound correct?

MR. LONG: I'm going to object to his question, Judge. I had a hard time following it just listening and the document hasn't been made available to Mr. Holmstead. I don't think it's fair to just read a large portion of the document that he doesn't have and

1 | ask him if it's a correct statement.

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MR. WILLIAMS: I can email the document to the parties and the Commission if that would help.

- A. Can I just ask, who was the letter sent to?
- Q. Henry Nickel, Counsel for the Detroit Edison Company, Hunton & Williams.
- A. Okay. I would actually like to read it. I guess my -- my recollection was mostly correct. It involved the Dense Pack and EPA found it was not a routine replacement and EPA said it had no information stating that it would cause an emissions increase and would therefore not be a major modification. So that's my recollection.

JUDGE CLARK: I guess here's my question.

We're getting into this. There's been an objection

that's made and now I've got a witness that appears to

be answering the question. I've got -- the

attorney does not -- who objected does not seem to be

stopping his witness from answering question. So my

question at this point is, Mr. Holmstead, are you

answering Mr. Williams' question? Or what are you doing

here?

THE WITNESS: I guess I'm not answering since there's been an objection.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Long, if you were



Let's give Mr. Holmstead another couple minutes.

- sorry, Mr. Long had an opportunity to review it, but

  Mr. Holmstead has not.
  - A. Okay. Having read this type of documents before, I went to the conclusion at the end, and so I certainly understand what EPA's ultimate conclusion was. So I -- if I need to look at other parts -- or if you want me to look at the first six pages, I'm happy to look at that, too.
  - O. Please do.
- 10 A. All right. I'm sorry, I'm not very good at navigating with this.
- JUDGE CLARK: And for my reference,

  Mr. Williams, the part you were reading earlier to

  question him about, what page was that on?
- MR. WILLIAMS: I believe it was all on Page
- 16 | 1.

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- 17 A. All right. I've scanned all that.
- 18 | 0. Did I accurately quote or --
- A. I don't remember exactly what you quoted, but this is basically consistent with, I think, what I had explained.
- Q. Well, this is an instance where the utility
  sought an EPA determination as to whether or not it
  was subject to PSD permit requirements, correct?
- 25 A. Correct.



Q. And the EPA said it was not, although it concluded that the project was not routine, correct?

A. So, again, this was not anything like the component replacements that I was talking about. You asked me about the 100 or so projects that were listed on that schedule and those were all projects where you were replacing a component with a functionally equivalent component. This was about something different from that. It fundamentally changes the design of the facility.

So, you know, I still stand by my assertion that I'm not aware of any utility that has asked for an applicability determination for replacing a component with a like-kind component. They didn't -- they didn't conclude that this was not for a major NSR, they said that it wasn't nonroutine and as long as the company took actions to make sure that its post-change emissions were not any higher than its applicable baseline, then it could avoid triggering NSR.

But this is not like a -- this is not a determination that the project doesn't trigger NSR. It says you can avoid NSR -- even though it's not routine, you can avoid NSR if you maintain your emissions below what they called the baseline. So I

think	Ι	was	remembering	it	pretty	well.
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- Q. I agree, especially coming in cold. My point, though, is that the utility sought EPA determination before it engaged in the project to find out what the EPA thought. Do you understand that?
- A. So, yes. But it's not the same kind of project. As I said, this is the one example I can think of where a utility actually sought an applicability determination. I don't know why they went to the EPA instead of the state. It could be that the state doesn't have an approved program. I don't know that. But this is not a like-kind replacement.

The Dense Pack was an upgrade and I think that's why they -- that's why they went to the EPA. But you are correct, here's the one example I know of where a utility sought an applicability determination from EPA. And EPA said here is what you need to do if you want to avoid NSR.

MR. WILLIAMS: I'll go ahead and offer the document as an exhibit in the case.

JUDGE CLARK: Do you already have exhibits numbered, Mr. Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: I do not.

JUDGE CLARK: Will this be your Exhibit 1?

- 1 MR. WILLIAMS: That would be 200, I believe.
- 2 You gave out numbers. I think we start with 200. Staff
- 3 | is 100s. And Company is 1 to 99.
- 4 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Are there any
- 5 | objections to admitting? And what do you want to call
- 6 this, Mr. Williams? Exhibit 200, I guess.
- 7 MR. WILLIAMS: It will be Exhibit 200. It's
- 8 | a letter -- EPA letter to Detroit Edison.
- 9 JUDGE CLARK: Any objections to admitting
- 10 | Public Counsel Exhibit 200, the EPA letter to Detroit
- 11 | Edison, on to the hearing record?
- 12 MR. LONG: No objection from Ameren
- 13 Missouri.
- 14 JUDGE CLARK: I hear no further objections.
- 15 Exhibit 200 will be admitted on to the hearing record.
- 16 Go on, Mr. Williams.
- 17 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
- Q. (By Mr. Williams) Mr. Holmstead, do you know
- where the Monroe Power Plant that's referenced in
- 20 | this Exhibit 200 is located?
- 21 A. Where the plant is located? I believe it --
- 22 if it's DTE, it's probably Michigan, but I'm not
- 23 completely sure of that.
- Q. Could it be some other state than Michigan?
- 25 A. I don't know where DTE has other plants. So



## the answer is, I don't know.

- 2 Q. Okay. I think I'm down to my last question.
- 3 | On Page 19 of your surrebuttal testimony, you state
- 4 | with emphasis that Ameren Missouri had no way of
- 5 knowing that EPA disagreed with its interpretation.
- 6 And when you say interpretation, you're referring to
- 7 | MDNR's longstanding interpretation of the "Missouri
- 8 | State Implementation Plan" until EPA initiated the
- 9 enforcement action?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 | 0. Is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes.

- Q. Didn't Ameren Missouri have a way of finding out that EPA disagreed with MDNR's interpretation?
- 15 A. So I guess theoretically, but as you yourself
- 16 | said, the plain meaning of the Missouri SIP is
- 17 exactly what MDNR had been saying for years. And
- 18 when you are aware of the regulations and how
- 19 they've been interpreted for many years by the
- 20 agency in charge of implementing them, the idea that
- 21 you would then go to EPA and say, well, on the off
- 22 | chance that you read this in a way that nobody else
- 23 does, can you just assure me that you won't do that,
- 24 I don't think any reasonable -- I don't think any
- 25 reasonable person would do that.



Q. Wasn't it EPA that was doing the enforcement actions?

- A. Yeah, but that didn't happen -- that didn't happen until long after the project was taken. The enforcement action was initiated, like, in 2016 and the Company had to decide in 2005 to 2010 whether it needed -- whether it needed permits.
- Q. Hadn't the EPA taken enforcement actions long before then?
  - A. Not based on the Missouri SIP, nothing like this. My point in that sentence is, the regulations on their face are pretty clear. The MDNR interpretation of those regulations is longstanding and the Company was completely reasonable to rely on that and the idea that they would somehow intuit almost a decade later EPA's enforcement office would disagree, nobody -- nobody would go to EPA based on that kind of -- that kind of likelihood.

Anyway, maybe I'm going on too long, but you're suggesting that they should have done something that no reasonable company would have done under the circumstances, given what they knew at the time.

Q. That's your opinion as to whether it would have been reasonable, correct?



A. Tha	t's	correct.	That	is	mУ	opinion.
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- Q. What about, would it have been prudent to go to the EPA? Because you're talking about the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars of emissions control equipment.
- A. I'm sorry, wouldn't it have been -- I don't -- so I'm not sure I understand the difference between reasonable and prudent.

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Holmstead, would you wait?

I'm actually going to get that issue.

## THE WITNESS: Okay.

JUDGE CLARK: If you're going to ask him that question, Mr. Williams, how are -- just so that I know, how are you defining prudent as opposed to reasonable? If you're making a distinction, I want to know what that distinction is.

MR. WILLIAMS: Reasonably prudent, I would use a negligence standard. I mean, what would a utility who's facing --

You're separating the two.

What's the difference between reasonable and prudent?

MR. WILLIAMS: I think something -- for something to be prudent requires more action than reasonable may require. It's not to say that somebody would be so cautious in their actions to not do anything

JUDGE CLARK:

- that they ought to do, but they should be minimizing their risk and maximizing their knowledge about the consequences of their choices.
  - JUDGE CLARK: Would it be fair to say that for you the difference between reasonable and prudent is that prudent is more cautious.
- 7 MR. WILLIAMS: I think that's fair.

- JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Holmstead, do you remember the question, or do you need Mr. Williams to ask it again?
  - THE WITNESS: No, I think I understand the question.
    - A. It certainly wouldn't have been reasonable. I don't even think it would have been prudent. I mean, you have an outage coming up. You have -- I mean, I think at the time there was no way to know that there was any reason whatsoever. I just don't see -- that goes beyond -- it's kind of like saying, well, are you prudent if you never drive anywhere in a car because there's always a risk that you might get in an accident. I don't -- I don't think that's what prudent means.
  - Again, I come back to the fact that I have this list here of 100 projects and they didn't involve the exact same combination, but none of



those companies sought an applicability
determination before they did those. None of those
companies applied for an NSR permit because they
didn't think they needed to.

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- 5 So, no, I'm not saying it would have been prudent for the Company to do something. 6 It didn't 7 make any sense. And the stakes were the same for 8 all those companies, right? I mean, if -- if, in 9 fact, you triggered NSR and you knew that -- you 10 know, if you were going to spend \$15 million to 11 maintain your plant and you might trigger a 12 requirement to install \$500 million of pollution 13 controls, I mean, they all made the very same 14 As I said, none of them seemed to think decision. 15 it was prudent, certainly not reasonable to seek an 16 applicability determination.
  - Q. Did any of those companies that are listed in SEW-D6, were any of them subject to the Missouri State Implementation Plan?
  - A. No. No. Well, I shouldn't say that. I -- I think the answer is no. I'd have to go one at a time and see, but I think the answer is probably no. I could look at this, but I think -- I think the answer is probably not.
    - Q. Well, how would we know if Missouri's SIP



1	Page 108 would have applied from looking at that exhibit?
2	Can you tell the really what I'm trying to get at
3	is, do you need to go through and identify that none
4	of them are in Missouri, or can somebody look at
5	that and tell without the need for you to do it?
6	A. Somebody's who's aware of so what I have is
7	a list of companies. I don't know if any of them
8	so I have a list of companies and then below each
9	company it lists the names of the units. So, you
10	know, Duke Energy has 12 units where it did
11	component replacements. TVA has nine. ADP has 12.
12	These are the names of the unites, but I don't know
13	where the units are located.
14	JUDGE CLARK: We are going too far afield
15	into the weeds here. Is the answer, Mr. Holmstead, that
16	looking at that list, you do not know whether any of
17	those utilities are in Missouri or not?
18	THE WITNESS: That's correct.
19	JUDGE CLARK: Does that answer your
20	question, Mr. Williams?
21	MR. WILLIAMS: Maybe.
22	Q. Do you know if any of those utilities on that
23	list are in Missouri?
24	A. I'm not aware of any of those utilities that

are in Missouri, no.

	Evidentiary Hearing April 12, 20
1	Page 109 MR. WILLIAMS: I think that's the end of my
2	questioning at this point in time. Thank you.
3	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Williams. Are
4	there any questions from the Commission at this time?
5	Hearing none, I've got a few questions for you and some
6	of them may dead-end out and that's fine.
7	CROSS EXAMINATION BY JUDGE CLARK:
8	Q. Mr. Holmstead, are you involved at all in
9	Ameren's litigation before the District Court?
LO	A. No, I'm not. No.
L1	Q. How familiar are you with Ameren's District
L2	Court litigation?
L3	A. I've read I've read the opinions and I
L <b>4</b>	don't anyway, there's 300 and something pages of
L5	opinions. I can't say I've read everything that was
L6	written, but I'm somewhat I guess I'm pretty
L <b>7</b>	familiar with the case, certainly.
L8	Q. Okay. And that's kind of what I wanted to
L9	establish first. How long on average and I

- understand this can be all different lengths of times -- is seeking an NSR review going to take? mean, is that a lengthy process?
- It varies so much. There's no standard As I said, the one I was familiar with, I answer. know it took a couple of years. That's the DTE one



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- 1 that we were just discussing. That's the only one I
- 2 can think of that involved a utility. It doesn't
- 3 happen very often, at least at EPA, that you ask for
- 4 an NSR applicability determination. I can't think
- of any that have been -- someone has asked for, even
- 6 for a nonutility permit, for many years.
- 7 Q. Now, that SCW-D6 schedule attached to
- 8 | Whitworth's testimony that you had cited in your
- 9 direct testimony, that is -- if I were to ask you --
- 10 I had asked the attorney beforehand -- about
- 11 | actions, about utilities that had made similar plant
- 12 | alterations without seeking permit approval, is that
- 13 | the list?
- 14 A. This is one list. There's another report that
- 15 I reference in my direct testimony by someone named
- 16 Golden, and he was actually mentioned in the
- 17 | findings that Mr. Williams had me read. That's a
- 18 | separate list. There may be some overlap, but I
- 19 | wouldn't say the list that's in this memo is
- 20 comprehensive.
- 21 | O. Now, you just talked about the pre-findings of
- 22 | fact, I believe, Mr. Williams went over. In
- 23 Mr. Whitworth's direct testimony, he says ESD
- 24 emphasized the replacement of economizers,
- 25 | superheaters, reheaters and waterfalls needed to be

reviewed by ESD because we were aware that such
component replacements had been targeted by the EPA
in its ongoing NSR enforcement initiative. How does
that square with how you had portrayed Judge
Sippel's finding of fact earlier, where you said,
well, all these things hadn't been done together?

- A. I'm sorry, you'll have to ask the question again.
- Q. I'm sorry, it's rather lengthy. But basically what it says is that Ameren's -- I guess ESD is their internal review.

# A. Right.

- Q. Is that they were aware that replacement of economizers, superheaters, reheaters and waterfalls needed to be reviewed by them because they were aware that the EPA was targeting those replacements. How does that square with your portrayal of Finding of Fact 74 where you indicated, well, yeah, these things by themselves are routine, but they never have been done together like that?
- A. So what I -- what I hoped I said was that precise combination had -- at least Ameren weren't able to identify a case where those four or five things had all been done at the same time.

  Certainly different combinations of those things and



other components had been done at the same time.

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So -- so that's the distinction -- you know, the Judge says, well, you can't find another example where all these exact components were replaced at the same time in a plant.

So it was -- it was certainly known at the time that EPA had targeted some of these projects in its NSR enforcement initiative, but, for the most part, the Courts found that they were routine. So there were Courts who went the other way, but if you -- and I know this is in Mr. Moor's testimony -- if you look at the decisions kind of leading up from, you know, the beginning of the NSR enforcement initiative to 2010, you know, more than half of the Courts who had looked at those types of projects had said they were routine.

Q. I knew you had said earlier that the Commission doesn't determine violations of the Clean Air Act. That's absolutely true. We don't do that. It appears that the District Court has made that determination. And that's nothing that we're going to be doing in this case. We're certainly not relitigating that issue in any way, shape or form. But that kind of leaves me -- I'm not 100 percent sure -- and maybe you can explain to me -- why is

the Commission looking at this issue?

A. So my understanding is that at least OPC and maybe the Staff believe that because Ameren lost in the enforcement case, that that makes its decision not to get NSR permits automatically imprudent and unreasonable. So I believe -- that's certainly the opinion of Mr. Majors. He's pretty clear about that.

And so I think that's why -- I think that's why we're looking at all at this District Court case that came, you know, many years after the fact. As I explained in my testimony, the Judge in that case did not consider -- so under the Clean Air Act, the strict liability statute, it doesn't mean that you were negligent even if you were -- you know, the decision that you made was prudent and reasonable, if a court found it was wrong, then you're liable.

- Q. Yeah, it's like speeding. You're either speeding or you're not speeding, we're not looking at why?
- A. Right. And if your speedometer was broken and you had no way of knowing, that's a good example.

  You're speeding and -- you know, even if you had a reasonable explanation for why you were speeding, it doesn't matter.

You know, I've talked about sort of the three different reasons why Ameren Missouri concluded that it didn't need a permit. The Judge went through those and he ultimately concluded that -- in fact he says that they were -- the problem is, they started with the incorrect understanding of the law, and based on the correct reading of the law, which was declared by him, they violated the Clean Air Act.

But he never said that their understanding of the law was unreasonable. He didn't say that for --

So the issues before the District Court were very different from the issues that are now before this Commission. District Court doesn't even have jurisdiction to determine whether their decisions were reasonable. As I say, that's outside of his lane, outside of his jurisdiction.

And so, to my mind, you know, I don't want to say the District Court decision is irrelevant because it establishes there was a violation of the law, but nowhere does the District Court say that on those specific issues, that Ameren was -- its understanding of the law was unreasonable.

In a couple of places, the Court criticizes the emission calculations they had done, but he's criticizing -- and he says those were not



reasonable, but they were not reasonable given his
understanding of the law. And Ameren believed, as
most other utilities did, that you didn't need to do
an actual calculation if you determined as a matter
of engineering judgment that you weren't going to
cause an emissions increase.

So I don't want to say he never used the word reasonable, but he didn't use it in the same sense that I think the Commission, you know, treats that. So that may be a long explanation, but I think that's why some people are saying -- pointing to the District Court's decision. But as I say, that's -- you know, that's hindsight. That came many years after Ameren made its decisions that it didn't need to get permits.

- Q. Would it be a fair statement to say that
  Ameren's position is that it was wrong about the
  law, as the District Court has informed it, but that
  its decisions based upon its faulty interpretation
  of the law were reasonable. Is that Ameren's
  position?
- A. So I think that's -- yes, that's Ameren's position. And that's, I guess, my opinion as well. But I would take one further step and say their understanding of the law was -- was entirely



reasonable. And so it wasn't just that -- so I think you would have -- if they had an unreasonable interpretation of the law, then you could say, you know, that they should have known differently.

But I think their understanding of the law was reasonable, even though it turned out to be incorrect. And that's what the -- that's what the Judge said. He didn't say that their interpretation was unreasonable, just that they had been wrong as a matter of law.

- Q. But the Court in the 2019 decision did determine -- well, in analyzing their 2017 decision, as I believe you alluded to at the very beginning, it did determine that the decision to not seek permitting was an unreasonable decision?
- A. I don't think that's a fair reading of the case. You probably know this in your -- in your position, but not everything that a Judge says or writes is legally relevant. And the word that lawyers use -- there's a Latin word called dicta.

And it's a pretty commonly understood term that even in a written opinion, if the Judge says something that is not relevant to the underlying holding, that it -- so he did use the word reasonable. He never used that -- he never said



that -- they were unreasonable when he looked at their reasons for concluding they didn't need a permit. If you look at the 2017 liability decision, he doesn't say that anywhere.

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In the remedy opinion, where he had already made that determination, he says, yes, they weren't -- they weren't reasonable in not getting PSD permits, but he doesn't explain that.

That sentence is entirely dicta because it has no legal relevance to the holding. There was no way for -- I don't know that Ameren thought that that -- that that use of that word in one place in that 300 and something pages of opinions would come back to bite it, but even if it had, it had no way of challenging that because it wasn't relevant to the holding.

So what you can challenge to an Appeals Court is not dicta. What you can challenge is the Court's holding. What the Court's holding was, is that Ameren violated the law by not getting permits.

Q. I remember reading that section of your testimony and I was kind of taken aback momentarily in reading that, because I will agree with you as to the 2017 opinion, there's nothing flagged in there that says, you know, we find this unreasonable or we

find that, the findings language you would normally see in findings of fact. But I think it's quite clear in the 2019 decision where it says, having previously concluded that it was unreasonable of Ameren -- I mean, when you say concluded, that doesn't strike me as dicta language.

A. But he's characterizing his earlier -- to my reading of that, it's kind of shorthand for saying I found that they violated the law. Having concluded that it was unreasonable for them not to get permits, then he goes on to the remedy. But as a lawyer, what I would say is, if you're going to make that kind of conclusion that has legal meaning, you need to explain it. And the only place that that would have been relevant was in the liability opinion.

You know, you look through that 2017 and there's nowhere where he says that Ameren's -- that it was unreasonable for Ameren to interpret the Missouri SIP the same way that MDNR did. I don't think any Court would ever say that. And he certainly doesn't.

He disagreed with their understanding of the RM&R (phonetic on letters) exclusion, but he never says that it's unreasonable. He does -- the one



place where he does say that they are unreasonable in the liability only has to do with these emission calculations.

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But Ameren's view was, it didn't need to do
the calculations because it knew as a matter of
engineering judgment that it wouldn't cause an
increase in potential or actual emissions. After
they started the project, they had someone do an
emissions analysis that the Judge found fault with.
He said it was unreasonable. I don't disagree with
that.

But that -- but that -- but that wasn't the basis of Ameren's conclusion that it wouldn't cause an emissions increase. As I tried to explain in my testimony, what he was so unhappy with was a calculation that Ameren had not actually relied upon in making its decision that no permit was necessary.

Q. Thank you. I don't remember in any of your testimony, I don't remember -- certainly I don't remember it in your direct testimony -- you don't address potential harm from Ameren's decisions, do you?

### A. That's correct, I don't.

JUDGE CLARK: Those are all the questions
I have for you, Mr. Holmstead. Thank you. Is there



_	Page 1
1	any recross based upon my questions?
2	MS. MERS: I have just a few, Your Honor.
3	JUDGE CLARK: Go right ahead, Ms. Mers.
4	RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
5	Q. Do you recall discussing with the Judge how
6	long the NSR process takes?
7	A. Yes, I do.
8	Q. Were you aware that Ameren had delayed both of
9	its outages?
10	A. I was not aware of that, no.
11	Q. Okay. Would it be reasonable to assume that
12	if Ameren was able to postpone the outages, that the
13	projects were not critical for functioning?
14	A. So I I don't know enough about the projects
15	and the timing, but you're saying they could have
16	delayed them even more because they were not
17	critical for functioning. I don't know that that's
18	I don't disagree with that, but I just don't
19	know.
20	Q. So wouldn't you agree, then, that Ameren could
21	have waited for the NSR process to complete based on
22	that information?
23	A. I assume they could. I mean, I don't know
24	what the downside with the cost would be I'm sure

there was a reason they did them when they did.

don't know. I know I repeat myself, but no reasonable utility would ever do that when the law seemed to be so clear.

And to me if you're looking at what's reasonable and what's prudent, unless you say everybody in the utility industry was unreasonable and imprudent, I don't know how you can say, well, everybody should just wait until they get an applicability determination. You know, that's not required under the law. That's not required under MDNR.

So the suggestion that somehow that's what they should have done, when no one else does that, when their understanding of the law was pretty clear, I would have actually found that to be quite unreasonable.

- O. Would any harm have resulted to Ameren?
- A. So, you know, usually my impression is, when they're doing a big maintenance or repair project, they're doing it at a certain time for a reason. So when you say if we put that off for a year, what harm there would be? I'm assume you would have plants that are less reliable and maybe less efficient, but I don't know.
  - Q. But they did postpone and put off the outages?

1	A. Right. So I don't know how long they did
2	that. I don't know how that would have messed up
3	with the need to get an applicability determination,
4	if that would have caused them to postpone them even
5	more, I don't know.
6	MS. MERS: Thank you. No further
7	questions.
8	JUDGE CLARK: Any further recross? I hear
9	none. Any redirect from Ameren?
LO	MR. LONG: Your Honor, there will be
L1	redirect, but can I take up a matter just briefly off
L2	the record to talk about the schedule?
L3	JUDGE CLARK: Does it affect answering my
L4	question?
L5	MR. LONG: Yes, there will be redirect, but
L6	
L7	JUDGE CLARK: Let's go off the record.
L8	(Off the record.)
L9	
20	(Back on the record.)
21	MR. CLARK: Are there any objections to
22	taking a one-hour lunch break? And we are back on the
23	record, Ms. Richardson? Is that what I heard you say?
24	MADAM REPORTER: Yes, Judge.
25	CHAIR HAHN: Judge, would it be possible to

L	shorten	the	lunch	break	period.

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JUDGE CLARK: Of course, Chair. What would you like me to shorten it to?

CHAIR HAHN: 30 minutes to 45 minutes.

JUDGE CLARK: I am fine with that. I believe everybody can get everything done during that time. Why don't we take a 30-minute recess and I will recess until 1:10.

9 (Lunch.)

JUDGE CLARK: Let's go back on the record.

I'll take care of a few housekeeping matters. I have
been asking all morning whether Missouri Industrial

Energy Consumers, MIEC's attorney, who I thought was
going to be participating was here.

I received an email from MIEC's attorney indicating that they are out of the country and while they have tried to attend, have been unable to log in, and that is maybe a difficulty of the geographic location that that attorney is at.

However, this attorney says that they did not have any testimony or position on this morning's issues and would have waved opening statement and cross had they been here. So, for the record, that is what happened MIEC's attorney.

MECG's attorney has asked to be excused for



1	the remainder of the hearing today and I'm going to
2	grant that request. So Mr. Opitz, on behalf of MECG,
3	will not be back today. With that in mind, we left off
4	and we were just about to begin the redirect from Ameren
5	Missouri of witness Jeffrey Holmstead, who we are taking
6	out of order today.
7	So with that in mind, Mr. Long, if you want
8	to go ahead and redirect, you are welcome to do so.
9	MR. KEEVIL: Judge, this is Jeff Keevil.
10	Let me ask one question. Since this is the first
11	witness of hearing, I just wanted to clarify. Redirect
12	is limited to anything in particular or any questions or
13	any party's questions?
14	JUDGE CLARK: Cross examination is generally
15	unlimited. Redirect is usually limited to subjects that
16	have already been covered.
17	MR. KEEVIL: Thank you.
18	FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LONG:
19	Q. All right. Mr. Holmstead, are you ready?
20	A. Yes, I am.
21	Q. I want to go back to a subject that has been
22	covered. I think you discussed this subject with
23	Judge Clark. And he asked you some questions about
24	the 2017 opinion by the District Court and the

reference in that opinion to the finding that the

Judge made. Do you recall that?

## A. Yes, I do.

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- Q. And he was referring back into the -- from the remedy opinion in 2019, he was referring back to the 2017 opinion, just to orient you?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And I think it was in the 2019 remedy opinion you had this discussion with Judge Clark.
- 9 If I said 2017 liability, I apologize. In the 2019
- 10 remedy opinion there was a reference to a conclusion
- 11 | that had been made in the 2017 opinion that a
- 12 | failure to obtain permits was not reasonable. Do
- 13 you recall that discussion with Judge Clark?
- 14 A. Yes, I do.
  - Q. And in the 2017 liability opinion, was there a conclusion that the Company had an unreasonable understanding of the law?
- 18 A. No. Nowhere.
- Q. Was there a conclusion in the 2017 liability opinion that the emission calculations offered by
- 21 the Company at trial were unreasonable under the
- 22 | law?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And how do you address the issue -- I think
- 25 Mr. -- I think Judge Clark raised this up. How do

you reconcile the use of the word concluded in the
2019 remedy opinion with respect to unreasonableness
and your position that that was dicta in the 2019
opinion? How do you reconcile the two?

A. So as I tried to explain in my testimony, there were three reasons why the Company concluded that it didn't need to obtain an NSR permit. One of those was, they didn't expect that it would cause --we're talking about two different emissions increase tests. One is the potential, no increase in potential emissions, and that's the standard that people understood under the Missouri SIP. That was -- that's not what we're talking about here.

Ameren also concluded, being aware of sort of the next step in the Missouri regulations, that simply for engineering reasons their understanding of the plans and the fact that it had significant unused capacity, they concluded that the projects would not cause an increase in actual annual emissions. They made that conclusion without doing any calculations because that was their understanding of the Missouri SIP.

I was interested to note that under the

Illinois -- remember, ESD covers both Missouri and

Illinois. In Illinois they did do emission



calculations because that's what they understood the SIP to require there, but in Missouri their understanding was that was not required. So it was not as though they were against doing emission calculations, but they concluded that they didn't need to do those.

At the trial, however, after they had received the NOV from EPA and after they had already started the 2010 project, there was an employee there who was tasked with trying to do emissions calculations. And those calculations were never relied upon by Ameren. And as I said, they were made after the fact and they were -- they really were kind of done for another purpose.

But it was those calculations that the Judge said was unreasonable. So when he was talking about -- I know this seems very convoluted, but it was -- that was not the determination on which the Company had decided that the projects would not cause an increase in annual emissions.

They provided no calculations because that was their understanding the law. After they started, they had a fellow -- I don't remember his name -- who tried to do some emissions calculations that the Judge found to be unreasonable.

- Q. So all of this was in the context of the remedy decision referring back to the liability decision of 2017?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. What was the issue as you understood it for the remedy decision to decide?
- A. I think the remedy decision was only -- at that point the violations had been established and the question is, well, what do you need to do to remedy those violations? And the remedy decision was all about what steps EPA -- I'm sorry, what steps Ameren would now need to take to provide a remedy for its violation of the Clean Air Act.
- Q. So in deciding that issue for the remedy decision in 2019, what relevance did it have to whether or not the permitting decisions were reasonable?
- A. At that point it was legally irrelevant. As I said before, I read that one sentence as being sort of a shorthand way of saying he found they should have gotten permits. But the whole question of reasonableness, it was never an issue in the 2017 liability decision and it really wasn't relevant to the remedy decision at all. Again, that was only about what was he going to order them to do. That's



when he ordered them to install scrubbers for both Rush Island and the Labadie plant.

Q. And did the Judge make that remedy order immediately effective against Ameren, Missouri?

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A. No, actually, he didn't. The Company asked the Judge to stay that order, arguing that there was significant legal questions about some of his decisions and that they would face irreparable harm if they were forced to go ahead immediately in making those investments.

And the Judge actually granted the stay. He said he recognized that -- especially the issue involving the Missouri SIP, was an issue of first impression, and that there was a chance that he could be overturned by the Eighth Circuit. So he certainly -- he certainly didn't think that the Company's position on -- I think on any of those questions was unreasonable.

- Q. So to make sure the timeline is unmistakably clear to everybody, after he makes a reference in the 2019 remedy opinion to the permitting decision as having been an unreasonable one, he then later stayed the implementation of that remedy decision?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And what does that tell you about whether the

Company's permitting decisions were reasonable, the fact that the Judge, even after having said all of this, stayed the implementation?

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A. Had he thought that they were unreasonable, it wouldn't have met the standard for a stay. There's a formula that the Courts have to use deciding whether there's a stay. So if it was unreasonable, they would have had no likelihood of success on the merits. I guess the point is, if he really thought that their decisions were unreasonable as a legal matter, he couldn't have issued a stay of the opinion because that would be sort of contrary to the judicial standards for granting stays.

MR. LONG: Thank you. That's all I have.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Long. Thank you, Mr. Holmstead, for clarifying that for me. We normally end with redirect. Oftentimes if there's one or two questions that people are dying to ask, I will allow those. Since we have this witness for a limited time, I'm going to do that. Does anybody have one or two questions they want to ask? If not, I will excuse this witness.

CHAIR HAHN: Judge, I do have a question.

JUDGE CLARK: Yes. Go ahead, Chair Hahn.

OUESTIONS BY CHAIR HAHN:



Q. Hi. Thank you for being here today. I really
appreciate the testimony you've provided. But one
of the things you recently said in your response
drew a question. You said the Courts use a formula,
you know, when determining whether or not to issue a
stay. And I thought the word formula is an
interesting one because it's not something
associated with a court. Usually it's a test. Can
you expand on that and tell me why or what is
involved in that formula or test so that I can
better understand what the requirements are for
meeting that for a stay?

A. Yes. Well, thank you for correcting my nomenclature. It's probably better described as a test than a formula. So if a court is asked for a stay, it's very similar to the test for a preliminary injunction. The person who is seeking the stay has to show that they are raising a legal issue that is meritorious, that they have a likelihood of success on the merits.

So they have to show that their appeal is meritorious. And that's what the courts say, you have to show you have a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits. And you have to show that if you don't get a stay, there will be irreparable

harm.

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And then the courts also consider sort of the balancing of the harm. Like, what's the harm to the movement of granting -- if they don't get a stay and what's the harm to the public interest if the stay is granted.

And using that test, he had to have considered -- in fact he did say they had raised -- I think he said serious issues of first impression and that they would -- that they would be forced to spend a lot of money before an appeal could be -- could be completed if he didn't grant the stay. So that's the test.

CHAIR HAHN: Thank you for the clarification. Much appreciated.

JUDGE CLARK: Any recross on the limited subject of that stay?

MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I don't have any recross, but I want to thank Mr. Holmstead for his testimony here today. I appreciate it. And I was impressed by his memory.

### THE WITNESS: Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Holmstead does seem to have quite a good memory and good grasp of this subject.

All right. I believe, as indicated before at the

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beginning of this hearing, this is one witness we are
taking out of order. This does not conclude this issue,
which has further witnesses to be questioned. Some of
the parties have indicated they have reserved the right
to offer additional mini opening based upon that.
Mr. Holmstead, again, thank you for your testimony today
and you are excused.

THE WITNESS: Thank you for accommodating my schedule.

Thank you, again. JUDGE CLARK: I have I will look this weekend to see if I nothing further. can find those District Court opinions that I am interested in. And I will also do some research in regard to -- hold on just a moment. I had it written down somewhere -- in regards to getting the transcript that the District Court asked be filed with the Commission and I will deal with that with preliminary matters on Monday and also field any objections to that request by Staff. With that in mind, I'm going to adjourn this proceeding today and I will see you all on Have a good weekend. And we are off the record.

[Hearing adjourned.]

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### CERTIFICATE

I, Joann Renee Richardson, Certified Court
Reporter, do hereby certify that pursuant to Notice
there came before me on April 12, 2024, Public
Service Commission Evidentiary Hearing, via Zoom,
and was written in machine shorthand by me and
afterwards transcribed and is fully and correctly
set forth in the foregoing pages; and this hearing
is herewith returned

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this conference is taken; and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, or financially interested in this action.

Given at my office in the City of St. James, County of Phelps, State of Missouri, this 22nd day of April, 2024.

Joann Renee Richardson, CCR 583



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