

FILED
April 30, 2024
Data Center
Missouri Public
Service Commission

Exhibit No. 206

OPC – Exhibit 206
Robinett
Rebuttal
File No. EF-2024-0021

Exhibit No.: _____
Issue(s): Undepreciated Investment
Witness/Type of Exhibit: Robinett/Rebuttal
Sponsoring Party: Public Counsel
Case No.: EF-2024-0021

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

JOHN A. ROBINETT

Submitted on Behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY
D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI**

CASE NO. EF-2024-0021

** _____ **
Denotes Confidential Information that has been redacted.

February 23, 2024

PUBLIC

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY
OF
JOHN A. ROBINETT
AMEREN MISSOURI**

CASE NO. EF-2024-0021

1 **Q. What is your name and what is your business address?**

2 A. John A. Robinett, PO Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

3 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

4 A. I am employed by the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) as a Utility Engineering
5 Specialist.

6 **Q. Have you previously provided testimony before the Missouri Public Service
7 Commission?**

8 A. Yes. Both as a former member of Commission Staff and on behalf of the OPC.

9 **Q. What is your work and educational background?**

10 A. A copy of my work and educational experience is attached to this testimony as Schedule
11 JAR-R-1.

12 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

13 A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to Ameren Missouri witness Mitchell
14 J. Lansford on plant-in-service values, accumulated depreciation reserve values, setting up
15 a regulatory liability, and the undepreciated balances of the Rush Island Facility. Finally, I
16 will discuss Jim Williams’ direct testimony regarding studies related to the retirement,
17 dismantlement, reclamation of the Rush Island facility.

18 **Q. Are you aware of other funding that may be available as an option to Securitization?**

19 A. Potentially. I issued four data requests related to the United States Department of Energy
20 loan funds authorized by the Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”). The responses to those data
21 requests are attached as Schedule JAR-R-2. Based on Ameren Missouri’s response to OPC

1 data request numbers 8511 through 8514, Ameren Missouri has and is considering this
2 option and filed its application on January 26, 2024, for the United States Department of
3 Energy loan funds.

4 **Q. How did you calculate Ameren Missouri's undepreciated investment in Rush Island?**

5 A. I calculated it based on three different starting points and which I brought forward to four
6 potential retirement dates: August 31, 2024, September 15, 2024, September 30,2024, and
7 October 15,2024.

8 **Q. What starting points did you use?**

9 A. First, I started with the values in the Staff true-up rebuttal accounting schedules from
10 Ameren Missouri's last rate case, Case Number ER-2022-0337. Second, I started with the
11 depreciation study values Ameren Missouri presented in Case Number ER-2022-0337.
12 Finally, I started with the values in Mr. Lansford's Schedule MJL-D2 for June 30, 2023,
13 plant-in-service and accumulated depreciation reserve balances.

14 **Q. Did you make any assumptions when making your calculations of Ameren Missouri's
15 undepreciated investment in Rush Island?**

16 A. Yes. I assumed no additions or retirements happened at Rush Island until the ultimate final
17 retirement. Additionally, I utilized the balance transfers presented in Mr. Lansford's
18 Schedule MJL-D2, and removed the transfer amounts from plant-in-service and
19 accumulated depreciation reserves at the four retirement dates.

20 **Q. What methodologies did you use to calculate Ameren Missouri's undepreciated
21 investment in Rush Island?**

22 A. For each of the different starting points (Case Number ER-2022-0337 Staff True-up
23 Rebuttal Accounting Schedules, Case Number ER-2022-0337 Ameren Missouri

1 depreciation study values, and June 30, 2023, values from Schedule MJL-D2) I used the
2 same methodology. I used the Commission-ordered depreciation rates for Rush Island,
3 which are from Case Numbers ER-2019-0335, ER-2021-0240, and ER-2022-0337 to bring
4 the depreciation reserves for Rush Island up to projected values as of December 31, 2023.
5 Not all three starting points will utilize all three sets of ordered depreciation rates. I then
6 used the Commission-ordered depreciation rates to bring the depreciation reserves for Rush
7 Island up to projected values as of August 31, 2024, the earliest possible retirement date
8 discussed by Ameren Missouri, then I brought them forward every half month until the
9 latest stated retirement date of October 15, 2024. At each of the four retirement dates I
10 then made the balance transfers that are reflected in Schedule MJL-D2 to plant-in-service
11 and the accumulated depreciation reserves for each of the three starting points.

12 **Q. How much did Ameren Missouri's undepreciated investment in Rush Island vary due**
13 **to the differences in your starting points and ending dates?**

14 A. When starting from the Case Number ER-2022-0337 Staff true-up rebuttal accounting
15 schedule and Mr. Lansford's Schedule MJL-D2 in this case they ranged from
16 approximately \$465 million to \$471 million, depending on the retirement date. When
17 starting from Ameren Missouri's Case Number ER-2022-0337 depreciation study they
18 range from approximately \$443 million to \$447.4 million, depending on the retirement date
19 used. An Excel file of my calculations is attached as Schedule JAR-R-3.

1 **Q. At pages 23-24 of his direct testimony Ameren Missouri witness Lansford discusses**
2 **an Ameren Missouri deferral request related to Ameren Missouri double recovering**
3 **for Rush Island costs if those costs are securitized while Ameren Missouri is still**
4 **collecting for them in its base rates. Do you agree with him that the amounts shown**
5 **in Table MJL-5 are the relevant annual cost amounts?**

6 A. No. The amounts in this table appear to be from a point-in-time analysis. In fact, the only
7 annual numbers presented in this table are return on rate base, depreciation expense, non-
8 labor operations and maintenance expense, and a yet to be identified value for labor related
9 to operations and maintenance expense. At the time of this testimony, I have pending
10 discovery to confirm the annual values for non-labor operations and maintenance costs
11 currently built into customers rates for the Rush Island facility that will no longer need to
12 be expended once the facility is retired.

13 **Q. Does OPC agree with Schedule MJL-D1 attached to Mr. Lansford's direct testimony?**

14 A. No. Other OPC witnesses raise other issues with this schedule, but I am specifically
15 addressing line 10 Asset- Retirement Obligations – Ash Ponds and line 11 Water Treatment
16 and Monitoring.

17 **Q. What are your issues with lines 10 and 11 of Schedule MJL-D1?**

18 A. Ameren Missouri provided a revised response to OPC data Request number 8509. In its
19 revised response Ameren Missouri stated that it had inadvertently double counted a value
20 of \$2,454,802 in both lines 10 and 11 of Schedule MJL-D1. This OPC data request and
21 Ameren Missouri's revised response are attached as Schedule JAR-R-4.

1 **Q. Do you have any concerns with Schedule MJL-D2 attached to Mr. Lansford's direct**
2 **testimony?**

3 A. Yes. Specifically related to the reserve calculations of lines 23 and 24. On line 23 account
4 316.23 the pro forma balance does not equal the June 30, 2023, reserve balance plus the
5 increment to reserve increase that Mr. Lansford calculated. Additionally for line 24 account
6 392 the accumulated depreciation reserve less the balance transfer plus the incremental
7 increase to reserves out to the retirement date equal the original cost of the plant-in-service
8 pro forma balance. The issue with this is that the accumulated depreciation reserves
9 exceeded original cost as of June 30, 2023, and the adjustments made do not reduce the
10 reserve to the level of original cost; there should still be excess reserves in this account that
11 are associated with Rush Island. To explain this issue a different way the reserve balance
12 transfer amount exceeds the original cost balance transfer amount which means the assets
13 being transferred from account 392 are already fully depreciated and are in fact over
14 depreciated.

15 **Retirement Studies**

16 **Q. At page 3 and 4 of his direct testimony Mr. Williams testifies about a Midcontinent**
17 **Independent System Operator ("MISO") "Y-2" report and an associated**
18 **"Attachment Y" study. He testifies that the Attachment Y study is attached to his**
19 **testimony as Schedule JW-D1. Have you reviewed this Attachment Y study?**

20 A. No. I currently have data requests pending with Ameren Missouri about this study because
21 the Schedule JW-D1 attached to Mr. Williams' direct testimony is a table of safe closure
22 costs as opposed to a study from the regional transmission operator discussing the needed
23 upgrades to maintain system reliability after the retirement of the Rush Island facility.

1 **Q. Do you have any other concerns related to Mr. Williams' testimony?**

2 A. Yes. Specifically, I am concerned with the uncertainty related to the decommissioning
3 costs of the Rush Island facility. I currently have discovery pending to get a better
4 understanding of the different levels of study by AACE and the accuracy and detail
5 required by each level. Most concerning is the statement that this estimate of actual costs
6 could vary between plus or minus thirty percent.

7 **Q. What else concerns you about Ameren Missouri's Rush Island decommissioning**
8 **estimate?**

9 A. Review of Mr. William's schedule JW-D2, specifically page 10, states that ** _____
10 _____
11 _____
12 _____
13 _____
14 _____
15 _____
16 _____
17 _____
18 _____
19 _____
20 _____ **

21 **Q. Is there anything else significant about the Black & Veatch's study?**

22 A. Yes. ** _____
23 _____
24 _____

1 _____ ** An additional concern here is
2 whether the cost estimates account for the items to be reused and transferred to other
3 operating facilities. Additionally, items that may be transferred could be included in
4 salvage values estimated. I have pending discovery that will hopefully be able to provide
5 insights into all that Ameren Missouri included in the salvage and decommissioning
6 estimates related to items to be transferred.

7 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

8 A. Yes, it does.

