

Exhibit No.:
Issue(s): CCN
Witness: Scott J. Wibbenmeyer
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Sponsoring Party: Union Electric Company
File No.: EA-2024-0212
Date Testimony Prepared: May 24, 2024

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILE NO. EA-2024-0212

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

SCOTT J. WIBBENMEYER

ON

BEHALF OF

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

d/b/a Ameren Missouri

St. Louis, Missouri

May, 2024

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DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
SCOTT WIBBENMEYER
FILE NO. EA-2020-0371

I. INTRODUCTION

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Scott J. Wibbenmeyer, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren Missouri" or "Company"), One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

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

A. I am employed by Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri (“Ameren Missouri” or “Company”) as Sr. Director, Renewable Business Development & Acquisitions.

Q. Please describe your educational background and employment experience.

A. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri – Columbia. I also hold a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. I joined Ameren Missouri in 1999. In my roles at Ameren, I have served as a design engineer at the Callaway Energy Center managing projects to improve efficiency and reliability at the nuclear facility. Following Callaway, my roles included engineering management responsibilities for maintenance, production and turbine operations for Ameren Missouri’s fossil generation fleet. I was then promoted to General Executive of Coal Operations where I managed the coal and rail supply contracts

1 for Ameren. In 2007, I transferred to the renewable development organization; where I led
2 the development of biomass, wind and solar projects including the design and construction
3 of Ameren Missouri's Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center, which converts
4 landfill gas to energy, and O'Fallon Renewable Energy Center, which is a 5.7 mega-watt
5 photovoltaic solar facility. In 2015, I transitioned to Insurance Risk Management where I
6 was responsible for managing Ameren's financial risk and insurance portfolios. In 2019, I
7 returned to renewables to lead the Ameren Missouri renewables development and
8 acquisitions organization.

9 **Q. What are your responsibilities in your current position?**

10 A. I am currently responsible for leading the development of renewable
11 generation projects in support of three primary goals: (a) to comply with the Missouri
12 Renewable Energy Standard; (b) to accomplish a reliable, resilient, and affordable
13 transition of Ameren Missouri's generation portfolio to rely more on clean generation,
14 while also using existing and planned dispatchable resources where appropriate; and (c) to
15 support the development of customer renewable energy solutions such as the Company's
16 Community Solar Program and the Renewable Solutions Program.

17 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

18 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony in this proceeding?**

19 A. The purpose of my direct testimony is to support the approval of Ameren
20 Missouri's application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") in order to
21 construct, own, operate and maintain a solar generation plant and associated facilities (the
22 "Project") to fulfill the customer demand for the expansion of the Community Solar
23 program (the "Program"). My direct testimony addresses the technical details of the

1 Project. Ameren Missouri witness Greg Lovett is filing direct testimony outlining the
2 customer demand for the Program and need for the Project.

3 **Q. Are you including any schedules with your testimony?**

4 A. Yes, I am including the following schedules:

- 5 • Schedule SJW-D1 – Approval of the Conditional Use Permit
- 6 • Highly Confidential Schedule SJW-D2 – Engineering, Procurement, and
7 Construction Contract

8 **III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

9 **Q. Please provide an overview of the proposed Project and estimated costs.**

10 A. A CCN is being requested to construct a ground-mounted, single-axis
11 tracking photovoltaic solar generation plant and associated facilities (together the
12 "Project") of approximately 7.0 megawatts (MW-AC) producing approximately 15,000
13 mega-watt hours (MWh) annually. The Project will interconnect to Ameren Missouri's
14 34.5 kilovolt ("kV") distribution system presently located at the site. The Project will be
15 constructed in accordance with a final version of the specification attached to the CCN
16 application as Schedule D. The total cost of the Project is expected to be approximately
17 *** _____ ***.

18 **Q. Where will the Project be located?**

19 A. The Project will be located on approximately 33 acres of agriculture land
20 presently owned by Ameren Missouri in Montgomery County, Missouri, adjacent to
21 Ameren Missouri's Montgomery County Community Solar Center which came online in
22 2022. The site address will be the same as that of the Montgomery County Community
23 Solar Center at 651 Booneslick Road, New Florence, Missouri 63363.

1 The site was selected based on the analysis completed for the existing Montgomery
2 County Community Solar Center previously approved in case EA-2020-0371. The site has
3 many benefits for community solar including: being located adjacent to an existing
4 community solar project on land already owned by Ameren Missouri, eligibility for
5 additional tax incentives, favorable topography (e.g., flat, clear, unobstructed agriculture
6 land), favorable distribution interconnection (e.g., proximity to point of interconnection,
7 completed interconnection study with sufficient interconnection capacity), visibility to the
8 public, and strong community support that includes the approval of a conditional use permit
9 from Montgomery County.

10 **Q. When is the projected date for start of construction, and what is the**
11 **anticipated date the Project will be operational and used for service?**

12 A. Construction is anticipated to begin in January of 2025 or sooner, pending
13 the approval of the requested CCN, and the Project is expected to be fully operational by
14 December 2025.

15 **Q. What federal tax incentives is the project expected to be eligible for?**

16 A. Ameren Missouri's current expectation is that the New Florence solar
17 project will be eligible for the 100% production tax credit ("PTC") or the 30%
18 investment tax credit ("ITC") provided in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The
19 New Florence project is also expected to qualify for an additional 10% energy
20 community tax credit bonus since the project directly adjoins a census tract with a
21 qualifying coal-fired electric generating unit retirement. These tax credit incentives
22 can be stacked with the 30% ITC or 100% PTC resulting in a total potential 40% ITC
23 or 100% PTC rate times 1.1.

1 **Q. Are any permits required for this Project?**

2 A. Yes. The Project requires a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") from
3 Montgomery County, Missouri Planning and Zoning, a land disturbance permit from the
4 Missouri Department of Natural Resources and may require a driveway entrance permit
5 from the Missouri Department of Transportation.

6 On December 18, 2014, Ameren Missouri received the CUP, which remains valid
7 for this project and is attached as Schedule SW-D1. Ameren Missouri expects to apply for
8 a land disturbance permit with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources prior to the
9 start of construction. A land disturbance permit is typical of a construction project of this
10 scale, and normally applied for just prior to the commencement of construction.
11 Furthermore, if a new driveway entrance to the site is required upon completion of the
12 project design and prior to the start of construction, the Engineering, Procurement and
13 Construction ("EPC") contractor will obtain the applicable driveway entrance permit with
14 the Missouri Department of Transportation ("MoDOT").

15 **Q. Are there any utilities the Project expects to cross during the course of**
16 **construction?**

17 A. The project is expected to cross a fiber telecommunication line within Booneslick
18 road right-of-way along the south side of the property. The construction over the fiber line
19 is expected to be limited to a gravel or hard surface driveway from Booneslick Road to the
20 solar facility entrance, similar to what was used to cross the same utility during the
21 construction of the Montgomery County Community Solar Project. Ameren Missouri will
22 utilize Missouri One-Call to provide appropriate notifications and locations prior to start
23 of construction. Additional details of the utility location can be seen on the ALTA survey

1 attached to the Application as Schedule C-2 and Schedule C-1, which provides the list of
2 utilities.

3 **Q. Please describe how Ameren Missouri expects to execute the design,**
4 **procurement and construction of the Project.**

5 A. Ameren Missouri expects a majority of all work required for the Project to be
6 performed under a single Engineering, Procurement and Construction ("EPC") contract.
7 A project procurement plan detailing the EPC framework, procurement timeline, RFP
8 contractor selection and decision criteria is attached as Schedule F to the CCN Application.
9 Beyond the EPC contract, final meter installation and distribution interconnection is
10 expected to be self-performed by Ameren Missouri. On November 28, 2023, a request for
11 proposal was issued seeking competitive bids for the EPC contractors. Ameren Missouri
12 received **_** proposals on January 19, 2024. Each bid was evaluated, and the final EPC
13 contractor was selected based on key criteria including but not limited to price, schedule,
14 safety records, project plans, compliance with specifications, design, equipment, diversity
15 plans, and commercial terms. The negotiated but unexecuted EPC contract is attached as
16 Highly Confidential SW-D2. Ameren expects to have the attached contract fully executed
17 before the end of May 2024.

18 **IV. Q. TARTAN FACTORS**

19 **Q. What standards has the Commission traditionally employed in**
20 **evaluating CCN applications?**

21 A. It is my understanding the Commission has traditionally analyzed CCN
22 applications using the Tartan Factors announced in a 1994 decision. *In Re Tartan Energy*,
23 GA-94-127, 3 Mo.P.S.C.3d 173, 177 (1994). The *Tartan* Factors are as follows:

Direct Testimony of
Scott J. Wibbenmeyer

- 1 1. Need for the Project;
- 2 2. Economic Feasibility of the Project;
- 3 3. Ability of the Applicant to Finance the Project;
- 4 4. Qualifications of the Applicant to Construct the Project; and
- 5 5. Whether the Project is in the Public Interest.

6 **Q. Please explain how the Project is economically feasible.**

7 A. As described by my colleague Greg Lovett's direct testimony, the Project is
8 needed to meet customers' desire for renewable energy options through the Community
9 Solar Program. It is economically feasible because the Project is being built to support the
10 voluntary customer program and is primarily funded by the participants of the Program.

11 **Q. How did Ameren Missouri determine the size of the solar resource to**
12 **support for the Community Solar Program?**

13 A. As discussed in the testimony of Greg Lovett, customer demand for the
14 program has continuously grown, and as of March 1, 2024, has a waitlist sufficient to meet
15 85% of the Project's planned capacity of 7 MW. The proposed 7 MW solar facility was
16 sized based on the following:

- 17 1. Sufficient capacity to meet the immediate demand of customers presently
18 on the waitlist for the Community Solar program.
- 19 2. Allows Ameren Missouri to start construction on the Project with at least
20 70% of the capacity being committed.
- 21 3. Allows the Project to accommodate a small portion of the ongoing customer
22 demand between now and when the Project goes into operation.

From: [Donna Viehmann](#)
To: [Raley, Chad](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] montgomery county conditional use
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:45:57 PM
Attachments: [214066 Ameren.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER STOP.THINK.QUESTION.

Verify unexpected requests before opening links or attachments.

Chad-

Thanks for the call this afternoon regarding Ameren's Conditional Use hearing held in 2014. As per our conversation, the hearing still stands as it was. It has been "grandfathered in". I have attached the final paperwork that was sent to the applicant back in 2014. Please note the one condition on the "Resolution of Decision of the Montgomery County Commission Application for Conditional Use" – 1. Design of facility drainage and run-off stay at same amount or less to adjoining property owners. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Donna Viehmann
Planning and Zoning Administrator
EOC Administrative Assistant
911 Mapping and Addressing Coordinator
310 Salisbury St., Ste D
Montgomery City, Mo 63361
573-564-2142

P&Z

Montgomery County Planning and Zoning

310 Salisbury St., Ste. D
Montgomery City, Mo 63361
573-564-2142
planningzoning@mcmo.us

December 18, 2014

Ameren Missouri
%Scott E. Huber
P.O. Box 66149
1901 Chouteau Ave
St. Louis Mo 63166

Re: Conditional Use Hearing

Dear Mr. Huber:

Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri, to construct a solar farm (ground mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility) at 651 Booneslick Rd., New Florence, Missouri has been approved. Congratulations and good luck on your new venture!

Enclosed you will find the "Decision of the Montgomery County Planning & Zoning Commission", "Resolution of Decision of the Montgomery County Commissioners" and a copy of the public hearing minutes. These copies are for your records. The County Commission approved the application with **one** condition and/or restriction. Also enclosed please find a receipt for postage and publication costs.

If you have any questions regarding Planning & Zoning in Montgomery County, please do not hesitate to call the office. It was a pleasure working with you!

Sincerely,



Donna Viehmann
Zoning Administrator

cc: file
Scott Wibbenmeyer, via e-mail

enclosures

DECISION OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

APPLICATION DATE: 11-13-14

P&Z PERMIT # 214066

APPLICANT NAME: Scott Wibbenmeyer, with Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri

OWNER OF SUBJECT PROPERTY: owned by Robert P. Upchurch and Sallaine S. Upchurch, trustees, or their successors in trust, under the Upchurch Living Trust, dated December 2, 1996

ADDRESS OF SUBJECT PROPERTY: 651 Booneslick Rd., New Florence, Missouri

ZONING DISTRICT: Agriculture

LAND/BUILDING USE: to construct a solar farm (ground mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility),

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: December 16,2014

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Commission does find and determine that the subject property, owned by Robert P. Upchurch and Sallaine S. Upchurch, trustees, or their successors in trust, under the Upchurch Living Trust, dated December 2, 1996, located at 651 Booneslick Rd., New Florence, Missouri is located in the unincorporated portion of Montgomery County in Zoning District Classification Agriculture and is hereby subject to the rules and regulations of the Montgomery County Zoning Order, and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, Scott Wibbenmeyer, with Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri, has applied for a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose and intent to construct a solar farm (ground mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility), and has presented evidence before the Planning & Zoning Commission at a Public Hearing on this matter,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning & Zoning Commission does hereby make the following recommendation of action to the Montgomery County Commission:

Approve the Application pursuant to the information provided on the Application with no further Conditions or Restrictions.

Approve the Application subject to the following Conditions or Restrictions and/or after the following Conditions or Restrictions or Required Actions have been proven to have been accomplished:

Deny the Application - Based upon the following Findings of Law:

DATE OF ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION : 12-16-14

NAME OF PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSIONER PRESIDING AT PUBLIC HEARING AND ACCEPTING THIS RESOLUTION:

ROBERT COMBS
PRINTED NAME

Robert Combs
SIGNATURE

DATE RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION 12-18-14

Minutes of Public Hearing
Scott Wibbenmeyer, with Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri, to construct a
solar farm (ground mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility)
Meeting Date: 12-16-14

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Chair, Bob Combs.

Members present: Bob Combs, Pat Merz, Russell Devlin, Ray Heldt, Roy Cope and Mark Bruckerhoff.

Members NOT present: Jeff Moore.

Chair, Bob Combs, read #1-8 from the Public Hearing Format Form.

Donna Viehmann, Zoning Administrator, presented Exhibits A-O.

Chair, Bob Combs, ask Scott E. Huber, Corporate Counsel of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri, to present their plans to the board.

Mr. Huber addressed the board members introduced Michael Harding and Scott Wibbenmeyer.

Chair, Bob Combs, continued to read from the Public Hearing Format #9 and ask for public comment.

Mr. Hilbert Steiner, a 1000' landowner expressed his concerns of water run-off with the project.

Mr. Wibbenmeyer addressed these concerns and asked for Mr. Steiner's information, and indicated Ameren is willing to work with the neighbors on the issue. Mr. Wibbenmeyer also stated a water run-off study will be conducted, the plans are for Ameren to have the same run-off or less after the grading and instillation is finished.

James Meiners, a 1000' landowner also expressed his concerns of the water run-off with the project.

Chair, Bob Combs, then read from the Public Hearing Format #10 ending public comment and opening discussion by the P&Z Board Members.

After discussion by the P&Z Board, Ray Heldt moved to accept the application as presented. Pat Merz seconded motion. A roll call vote was cast. Bob Combs -yes, Ray Heldt- yes, Roy Cope- yes, Pat Merz- yes, Russell Devlin-yes, Jeff Moore- absent and Mark Bruckerhoff-absent. Motion passed 6-0.

Mark Bruckerhoff moved to close the Public Hearing. Roy Cope seconded motion. A voice vote was cast. Motion passed. Hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION

Rich Daniels
1st District Commissioner

Ryan D. Poston
Presiding Commissioner

John W. Noltensmeyer
2nd District Commissioner

RESOLUTION OF DECISION OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

WHEREAS, in regards to PLANNING & ZONING PERMIT #214066, and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Commission has reviewed the Application for Conditional Use and the evidence presented at the Public Hearing to construct a solar farm (ground mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility) at 651 Booneslick Rd., New Florence, Missouri owned by Robert P. Upchurch and Sallaine S. Upchurch, trustees, or their successors in trust, under the Upchurch Living Trust, dated December 2, 1996, and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Commission has reviewed the attached RESOLUTION OF DECISION of the Montgomery County Planning & Zoning Commission regarding this matter,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Commission does hereby make the following DETERMINATION:

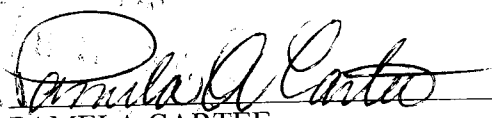
- _____ Approve the Application, with no further Conditions or Restrictions
- _____ Approve the Application subject to the specified Conditions or Restrictions which the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended:
- X _____ Approve the Application subject to specific Conditions or Restrictions listed below: *as attached*
- _____ Deny the Application

Signed this 18th day of December 2014.



RYAN D. POSTON, PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

Attest:



PAMELA CARTEE
COUNTY CLERK

211 East Third Street,
Montgomery City, MO 63361
Office 573-564-3357 Fax 573-564-8091

Scott Wibbenmeyer. With Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri, to construct a
Solar farm (ground mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility)

#214066 restrictions and conditions:

1. Design of facility drainage and run-off stay at same amount or less to adjoining property owners.

EA-2024-0212

**Schedule SJW-D2
is Highly Confidential
in it's Entirety**

P