

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric)
Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, for Permission and)
Approval and Certificate of Public Convenience and)
Necessity Authorizing it to Construct a Simple Cycle)
Natural Gas Generation Facility.) File No. EA-2024-0237

**MOTION FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSED
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri (“Ameren Missouri” or “Company”), and for its *Motion for Prehearing Conference and Deadline to Submit Proposed Procedural Schedule* (“Motion”), states as follows:

1. The Company seeks a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) for the approximately 800-megawatt Castle Bluff combustion turbine generating (“CTG”) plant (“Castle Bluff” or the “Project”) slated to be placed in service in the fall of 2026 ahead of the winter of 2026-2027. Among other things, the Project is proposed to address concerns about reliability during extreme winter weather conditions in the absence of the Project.
2. As discussed in the direct testimony of Company witness Chris Stumpf, to meet contractual deadlines and maintain the Project’s schedule (so that it can provide service for the winter of 2026-2027), the Company requests a CCN by December 31 of this year.
3. While it is always possible that a CCN case such as this can be processed and resolved on the basis of a Staff recommendation without pre-filed testimony and an evidentiary hearing and briefing, given the need to resolve the case this year (in just under seven months), the Company respectfully suggest that the prudent course of action is to assume that pre-filed testimony, an evidentiary hearing, and briefs will be required to resolve the case.

4. Consequently, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission eliminate the June 25, 2024, deadline for Staff to file a pleading respecting when it could file a recommendation and that, in lieu thereof, the Commission schedule a Prehearing Conference to occur promptly after the intervention deadline of June 27, 2024. The purpose of the Prehearing Conference would be to address any preliminary procedural items and to afford the parties the opportunity to discuss developing a schedule. The Company contemplates, as is customary, working with the parties to develop a proposed procedural schedule with deadlines for pre-filed rebuttal and surrebuttal/cross-surrebuttal testimony, recommended evidentiary hearing dates, and parameters regarding discovery.¹

5. The Company recommends that such a Prehearing Conference be scheduled between June 28 and July 3, 2024, and that a deadline of one week later be set for the submission of either a jointly proposed procedural schedule or if agreement cannot not be reached on a jointly proposed schedule, of procedural schedule proposals from individual parties.² Staff's recommendation can therefore take the form of pre-filed rebuttal testimony and the other parties' positions on the CCN request can also be expressed in pre-filed rebuttal testimony. This will eliminate the risk of delays in processing the case which could otherwise occur if the Company or the other parties were to disagree with Staff's recommendation, which in turn could then require development of a procedural schedule at a much later time and, consequently, a later resolution of the case which could jeopardize the Project schedule, raise Project costs, or both.

6. The undersigned counsel has discussed this approach with counsel for Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel, the other two parties to this case, who have authorized the undersigned counsel to indicate that they have no objection to this approach.

¹ Such a schedule could also include a local public hearing in the area, if a party were to request one and if the Commission desired to hold one. The Company would not be opposed to such a request.

² While it is always possible the parties will not jointly agree on a proposed procedural schedule, in most cases the parties are able to reach such an agreement.

WHEREFORE, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission make and enter its order in lieu of Staff filing a pleading on June 25, 2024, respecting its recommendation: (a) setting a Prehearing Conference in this case to occur between June 28, 2024 and July 3, 2024, (b) setting a deadline of one week after the Prehearing Conference for the submission by the parties of a jointly proposed procedural schedule, if agreement on one can be reached, or individual party proposals for a procedural schedule for the case if not all parties agree on a procedural schedule proposal, and (c) granting such other or further relief as the Commission deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James B. Lowery

James B. Lowery, Mo. Bar #40503

Michael R. Tripp, Mo. Bar #41535

JBL LAW, LLC

9020 S. Barry Rd.

Columbia, MO 65201

Telephone: (573) 476-0050

E-mail: lowery@jbllawllc.com

E-mail: tripp@jbllawllc.com

Wendy K. Tatro, Mo Bar #60261

Director and Assistant General Counsel

Jennifer L. Hernandez, Mo Bar #59814

Corporate Counsel

Ameren Missouri

1901 Chouteau Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63103

Telephone: (314) 554-3484

Facsimile: (314) 554-4014

E-Mail: AmerenMOService@ameren.com

**ATTORNEYS FOR UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that true and correct copies of the foregoing was served on the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel via electronic mail (e-mail) on this 12th day of June, 2024.

/s/James B. Lowery
James B. Lowery