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

In the Matter of Ameren Missouri's 2023	)	
Utility Resource Filing pursuant to 20 CSR	)	File No. EO-2024-0020
4240 – Chapter 22	)	

## AMEREN MISSOURI'S RESPONSE TO GRAIN BELT EXPRESS, LLC'S CROSS-ANSWERING RESPONSE TO INTERVENOR COMMENTS

COMES NOW Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren Missouri"), pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.080(13)<sup>1</sup>, and for its response to Grain Belt Express, LLC's Cross-Answering Response to Intervenor Comments, states as follows:

- 1. Ameren Missouri submitted its Chapter 22 triennial Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP")<sup>2</sup> filing on September 26, 2023.
- 2. On February 27 and 28, 2024, seven intervening stakeholders (the "Intervenors") filed comments in response to Ameren Missouri's IRP expressing concerns and asserting certain alleged deficiencies.
- 3. On June 11, 2024, Ameren Missouri, the Missouri Public Service Commission's Staff, and the Intervenors submitted a Joint Filing that (1) provided resolutions for some of the concerns and alleged deficiencies, and (2) identified the concerns and alleged deficiencies that remained unresolved. On that same date, Ameren Missouri also filed its Response to those unresolved concerns and alleged deficiencies.
- 4. Also on June 11, 2024, Grain Belt Express, LLC ("Grain Belt") filed its Cross-Answering Response to Intervenor Comments (Grain Belt's "Cross-Response").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Parties shall be allowed ten (10) days from the date of filling in which to respond to any pleading unless otherwise ordered by the Commission."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rule 20 CSR 4240-22.

- 5. Grain Belt's Cross-Response reiterates some of the same comments asserted in its Comments to Ameren Missouri's IRP, filed on February 28th. Grain Belt's Cross-Response also repeats certain comments of four of the Intervenors<sup>3</sup>, which echo Grain Belt's own comments.
- 6. These comments generally relate to the absence of any evaluation of the Grain Belt Express project or any evaluation of Kansas renewable generation resources in the IRP.
- 7. As discussed in Ameren Missouri's Response, Ameren Missouri has used generic cost and performance assumptions in its IRP as contemplated by 20 CSR 4240-22.040(1) and Ameren Missouri has not modeled specific projects in its IRP.<sup>4</sup> In Grain Belt's Cross-Response, Grain Belt asserts that this approach is hypocritical because Ameren Missouri modeled "other site-specific resources such as gas replacement at its Sioux and Labadie sites." While Ameren Missouri has included specific sites for these generation projects as it already owns the land and has existing transmission interconnections for these sites, Ameren Missouri's analysis of these generation resources nonetheless uses generic cost and performance information.
- 8. Grain Belt's Cross-Response also asserts that Ameren Missouri has chosen not to remedy the alleged deficiencies discussed in Grain Belt's Cross-Response. As explained further in Ameren Missouri's Response, however, these alleged deficiencies do not meet the definition of a "deficiency" in 20 CSR 4240-22.020(9). In other words, Ameren Missouri is confident that these alleged deficiencies are not actually deficiencies, and that Ameren Missouri need not develop a remedy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> These four Intervenors include the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, the Council for New Energy Economics, and Renew Missouri Advocates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "The utility shall collect generic cost and performance information sufficient to fairly analyze and compare each of these potential supply-side resource options . . . ."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Grain Belt's Cross-Response at para 5, *citing* NRDC Comments at p. 16.

9. With regard to the other criticisms asserted in Grain Belt's Cross-Response, which are repetitive of the comments filed on February 27-28th, Ameren Missouri has now responded to each of these comments in its Response filed on June 11th.

10. Grain Belt has expressed, both in its pleadings and in verbal discussions with Ameren Missouri, great confidence that the Grain Belt project can compete with other wind generation projects within the MISO territory. Accordingly, Grain Belt should be willing to take its chances that its project will be selected during Ameren Missouri's IRP implementation process.

WHEREFORE, Ameren Missouri requests the Commission conclude that its September 26, 2023 IRP complies with the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-22, and acknowledge that Ameren Missouri's Preferred Resource Plan is reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

Villiam D. Holthaus, Jr.
William D. Holthaus, Jr., #63888
Corporate Counsel
Wendy K. Tatro, #60261
Director & Assistant General Counsel
Ameren Missouri
1901 Chouteau Avenue, MC 1310
St. Louis, MO 63103
(314) 554-3533 (phone)
(314) 554-4014 (fax)
AmerenMOService@ameren.com

Attorneys for Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the parties listed on the official service list by e-mail on this 20th day of June, 2024.

<u>/s/ William D. Holthaus, Jr.</u>
William D. Holthaus, Jr.