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            BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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                      STATE OF MISSOURI
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                  TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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 5
                     EVIDENTIARY HEARING
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 7
    In the Matter of Union
    Electric Company d/b/a Ameren)
    Missouri's 4th Filing to
 8
    Implement Regulatory Changes ) File No. E0-2023-0136
 9
    in Furtherance of Energy
    Efficiency as Allowed by
    MEEIA
10
11
                  WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024
12
                         10:00 a.m.
13
                  Governor Office Building
14
                     200 Madison Street
15
               Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
16
                          VOLUME 5
17
                        RON PRIDGIN, Presiding
                        DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
18
19
                        KAYLA HAHN, Chair
                        MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
2.0
                        GLEN KOLKMEYER,
                        JOHN MITCHELL,
21
                             COMMISSIONERS
2.2
    Reported By:
23
    Shelley L. Bartels, RPR, CCR
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    Job No.: 169666
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| 1        | APPEARANCES CONTINUED   | Page 3 |
|----------|---|--------|
| 2        | MS. SARAH RUBENSTEIN srubenstein@greatriverslaw.org                   |        |
| 3        | Great Rivers Environmental Law Center 319 N. Fourth Street, Suite 800 |        |
| 4        | St. Louis, Missouri 63102<br>314.231.4181                             |        |
| 5        | For: Natural Resources Defense Council                                |        |
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**Evidentiary Hearing** 



| 1  | Proceedings began at 10:00 a.m.:                      |
|----|---|
| 2  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good morning. We                       |
| 3  | are back on the record in the evidentiary hearing     |
| 4  | in EO-2023-0136. As I understand it, we are on        |
| 5  | Earnings Opportunity and Mr. Michels will be taking   |
| 6  | the stand. If that is incorrect, somebody please      |
| 7  | correct me. Kind of seeing some nods. Is there        |
| 8  | anything further before Mr. Michels takes the stand?  |
| 9  | All right. Hearing nothing, Mr. Michels, if you'll    |
| 10 | come forward please.                                  |
| 11 | (Witness previously sworn.)                           |
| 12 | MATT MICHELS  |
| 13 | the witness, having been first duly sworn,            |
| 14 | testified as follows:                                 |
| 15 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: And, Mr. Michels, you are              |
| 16 | still under oath from earlier in the hearing. And     |
| 17 | so, counsel for Ameren, whenever you're ready.        |
| 18 | MR. HOLTHAUS: Judge, this is the second               |
| 19 | time that Mr. Michels has taken the stand and will be |
| 20 | the last time for this hearing as well. We already    |
| 21 | went through the direct on his first appearance, so   |
| 22 | at this time we tender Mr. Michels for cross.         |
| 23 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.                  |
| 24 | See if we have any cross-examination. I don't         |
| 25 | believe Renew Missouri's here, but just in case,      |

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Page 5
 1
     Renew Missouri?
                      NRDC?
 2
                MS. RUBENSTEIN:
                                  Your Honor, we're here
 3
     this morning, but we don't have any questions.
 4
     you.
 5
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Thank you.
                                              Consumers
 6
     Council?
               Staff?
 7
                               Nothing from Staff, thank
                MS. JOHNSON:
 8
     you.
 9
                                 Thank you.
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                              Public
     Counsel?
10
                                 Nothing from OPC.
11
                MS. VANGERPEN:
                                                     Thank
12
     you.
13
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 All right.
                                              Thank you.
14
     Let me see have any bench questions.
                                             Chair Hahn,
15
     questions?
16
                COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:
                                          Not for me,
17
     Judae.
                                 Commissioner Coleman?
18
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                                          Τ
19
     think, if there are no other bench questions, I think
2.0
     I will have a few.
21
                        QUESTIONS
2.2
     BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:
23
                Mr. Michels, is -- I'm trying to think of
         0.
     a way to articulate this.
24
                                 Is there -- is there any
25
     consideration to adjust the earnings opportunity
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charge if new large capacity and energy result in canceling out any supply-side cost avoidance?

- A. Can you repeat question for me please?
- Q. I can. Or let me see if I can rephrase it. Is there any way to insulate customers paying for the MEEIA plan from future events that impact the viability of the plan?
- A. I don't know if there is. I -- I will say that we tend to see that a lot of risks to resource need are in one direction: Large-load additions, accelerated generation retirements. So I think it's more likely that we would need more resources rather than less.
- Q. I believe Staff Witness Fortson stated that the Company did not model an 800-megawatt single-cycle gas plant in any of its 2023 IRP plans. Could you explain why did the Company did not do this?
- A. So let me clarify this because I think there's a little bit of confusion on it. So in our integrated resource planning, we do capacity positions. We do them for all seasons, but we key our resource additions off of summer and winter. Winter tends to be controlling these days because there's more of a need for resources during that

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season.

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We have also updated our planning standard as we described in our 2023 IRP to include making sure that we have resources to meet customer needs during extreme weather events, so things like Winter Storm Uri, Winter Storm Elliott. And what we found in the winter is that we can see peak demands during those kinds of events that are about 600 megawatts higher than a normal winter peak load. And so we added 800 megawatts of simple-cycle gas into our plan to cover not only that 600 megawatts, but also the 25 percent reserve margin that we have to have in the winter which brings the total need to about 750. So we're adding 800 megawatts to -- to balance out that 750 of additional need during the winter.

And so when we show capacity positions for normal weather, we exclude that capacity. If we showed them with extreme weather, we would include that capacity because we also need resources to meet our normal weather needs. And so that's what we've done.

You'll see in Mr. Luebbert's testimony
that they added in that resource, but left the
weather as normal weather, which creates a mismatch.
And so in my testimony, I corrected that, added --

|    | Evidentiary Floating Odly 24, 202                    |
|----|--|
| 1  | took the 800 out. You can either have both the 800   |
| 2  | megawatts and extreme weather load or normal weather |
| 3  | load and without the 800 megawatts. And so that's    |
| 4  | that's the way we handled that.                      |
| 5  | Q. I have a few more questions. You may have         |
| 6  | already answered them. If so, just please let me     |
| 7  | know that you  |
| 8  | A. Sure.   |
| 9  | Q that you've already addressed it.                  |
| 10 | If the 800 megawatts single-cycle plant              |
| 11 | were in the Company's IRP, what impact would it have |
| 12 | on this MEEIA application?                           |
| 13 | A. It wouldn't have any as long as you were          |
| 14 | including both the resource to meet the extreme      |
| 15 | weather and the additional load related to extreme   |
| 16 | weather.   |
| 17 | Q. Is it my understanding that this 800              |
| 18 | megawatt gas plant is being planned for extreme      |
| 19 | weather especially in the winter?                    |
| 20 | A. That's correct.                                   |
| 21 | Q. Will this plant be dispatched only in the         |
| 22 | winter?  |

- winter:
- It will not. It will not. 23 But it is Α. 24 needed for that higher peak demand.

All right. Mr. Michels, JUDGE PRIDGIN:



Page 9

thank you. I think those are all the questions I have. Chair Hahn.

CHAIR HAHN: Thank you.

QUESTIONS

## BY CHAIR HAHN:

- Q. It brought -- what he was asking brought up something. You had mentioned that the plant is needed during winter to meet peak. But I think in the application maybe the demand-side programs, like, are only in the summer. And maybe NRDC's position is they would -- were hoping to see something for demand side or in the wintertime like the thermo -- basically we've already based for the thermostats but we're only offering the programs in the summertime. Can you speak to that, or would that be someone else?
- A. So there are load impacts of our programs in the winter, and that's reflected in our winter capacity position. If you bear with me a second, I can tell you about how much that is. So now, this is the RAP portfolio; it doesn't exactly match what's in the application because the application is implementation, more detailed based on working with -- with our partners. But we showed energy efficiency savings from the RAP portfolio in the winter, winter peak, of 110 megawatts in 2025; 166



| _  | in 2026; and 222 in 2027. That's energy efficiency.   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Demand response is relatively small,                  |
| 3  | although we are looking at opportunities to deploy    |
| 4  | more demand response in the winter. And so that's     |
| 5  | only six megawatts, seven megawatts, eight megawatts. |
| 6  | But, you know, we're getting to about 230 megawatts   |
| 7  | of load reduction in the winter, and I believe our    |
| 8  | load reduction from the programs in the application   |
| 9  | amounts to a little over 300 megawatts during that    |
| LO | time. So we're getting a significant load reduction   |
| L1 | still in the winter.                                  |
| L2 | CHAIR HAHN: Thank you.                                |
| L3 | THE WITNESS: Sure.                                    |
| L4 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: And, Mr. Michels, I think              |
| L5 | I might have just maybe one or two more questions.    |
| L6 | QUESTIONS   |
| L7 | BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:                                     |
| L8 | Q. Whether the gas plant is modeled in the            |
| L9 | IRP or not, the Company plans on building this plant  |
| 20 | anyway. Is that correct?                              |
| 21 | A. That's correct.                                    |
| 22 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.                  |
| 23 | Any further bench questions? Let me see if we have    |
| 24 | any recross based on these bench questions. I don't   |
| 25 | believe Renew Missouri is here. NRDC?                 |

**Evidentiary Hearing** July 24, 2024 Page 11 1 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No questions, thank you. 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Counsel. 3 Staff, any -- any cross? 4 Yeah, just briefly, Judge, MS. JOHNSON: 5 thank you. 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION 7 BY MS. JOHNSON: 8 0. Good morning. 9 Good morning. Α. 10 Q. Mr. Michels, my question for you is do 11 your capacity balance sheets exclude any other 12 resources from the capacity position? 13 No. Α. 14 What about the winter capacity Q. Okay. 15 position? 16 Α. No. 17 Nothing MS. JOHNSON: Okay. That's all. 18 further. 19 Counsel, thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 20 redirect? Excuse me, recross. Public Counsel? 21 No, thank you. MS. VANGERPEN: 2.2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any redirect 23 from Ameren?



Thank you.

MR. HOLTHAUS:

JUDGE PRIDGIN:

None, Judge.

All right.

24

| 1  | Mr. Michels   |
|----|---|
| 2  | MR. HOLTHAUS: Judge, at this time                     |
| 3  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry.                             |
| 4  | MR. HOLTHAUS: if there are no further                 |
| 5  | questions for Mr. Michels, we would move to admit     |
| 6  | into evidence his rebuttal testimony marked as        |
| 7  | Exhibit 100 and surrebuttal testimony marked as       |
| 8  | Exhibit 101.  |
| 9  | And additionally, Judge, we would also                |
| 10 | move for judicial notice of the 2023 IRP case and the |
| 11 | records therein that are currently before this        |
| 12 | Commission, File No. EO-2024-0020 for the reason that |
| 13 | there have been several references by witnesses to    |
| 14 | the 2023 IRP and the 2023 IRP will support the        |
| 15 | testimony of the witnesses this week.                 |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Counsel,                    |
| 17 | thank you. And I'm sorry, could you identify          |
| 18 | Exhibits 100 and 101 again for me please?             |
| 19 | MR. HOLTHAUS: Yes. Yes, your Honor.                   |
| 20 | Exhibit 100 is the rebuttal testimony of Matt         |
| 21 | Michels, and Exhibit 101 is the surrebuttal testimony |
| 22 | of Matt Michels.                                      |
| 23 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Counsel,                    |
| 24 | thank you. Exhibit 100 and 101 have been offered      |
| 25 | into evidence. Any objections? Hearing none,          |

| 1  | Exhibits 100 and 101 are admitted into evidence.     |
|----|--|
| 2  | (Company Exhibits 100 and 101 were                   |
| 3  | admitted and made a part of this record.)            |
| 4  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: And then I believe                    |
| 5  | Ameren's also asked the Commission to take judicial  |
| 6  | notice of File No. EO-2024-0020. Any objections?     |
| 7  | MS. VANGERPEN: Judge, I just have a                  |
| 8  | question.  |
| 9  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure.                                 |
| 10 | MS. VANGERPEN: Could Ameren identify                 |
| 11 | what parts of the IRP docket they're wanting to take |
| 12 | judicial notice of, or is it the entire docket       |
| 13 | itself?  |
| 14 | MR. HOLTHAUS: We're the entire                       |
| 15 | docket.  |
| 16 | MS. VANGERPEN: If possible, could OPC                |
| 17 | have some time to look at that docket later today to |
| 18 | see if we would have an objection that to the        |
| 19 | entire docket being judicial notice of? I'm just not |
| 20 | familiar with the entirety of the docket.            |
| 21 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: That works for me. We'll              |
| 22 | just need to readdress it later in the hearing.      |
| 23 | MS. VANGERPEN: Okay. Thank you.                      |
| 24 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.                 |
| 25 | All right. I believe let me go back and find my      |





Thank you.

JUDGE PRIDGIN:

All right.

| 1  | Any questions from Staff?                             |
|----|---|
| 2  | MS. JOHNSON: Nothing further.                         |
| 3  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Public                      |
| 4  | Counsel?  |
| 5  | MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.                         |
| 6  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. I                |
| 7  | don't believe I have any questions. Let me see if     |
| 8  | anybody else on the bench has any questions. Chair    |
| 9  | Hahn? If you'll bear with me, Mr. Lozano, I might     |
| 10 | have a couple questions. Chair Hahn, whenever you're  |
| 11 | ready.  |
| 12 | QUESTIONS   |
| 13 | BY CHAIR HAHN:  |
| 14 | Q. I was just going through my notes and I            |
| 15 | know you've been up a few times and I seem to miss    |
| 16 | you. And since I was told by your counsel to ask you  |
| 17 | potentially on demand response                        |
| 18 | A. Yeah.  |
| 19 | Q talk to me about the demand response                |
| 20 | programs that are in the application now and perhaps  |
| 21 | maybe why a demand response wasn't expanded to winter |
| 22 | seasons maybe as suggested by NRDC.                   |
| 23 | A. Absolutely. So there are two buckets for           |
| 24 | demand response. We have residential demand           |



response, and sometimes that's referred to as

| 1  | peak-time savings that focused on the smart          |
|----|--|
| 2  | thermostat, and then business demand response.       |
| 3  | Residential demand response, we actually recently    |
| 4  | filed a tariff change, and I believe it was January  |
| 5  | of this year, maybe January 13th, but I might have   |
| 6  | that date wrong, which starts to give us that        |
| 7  | flexibility. We have a team researching that right   |
| 8  | now to how we can operate in the winter. Mr. Michels |
| 9  | started alluding to that. So we are working towards  |
| 10 | that. And I believe we mention that a little bit in  |
| 11 | the application how we're working towards that,      |
| 12 | flushing out those details.                          |

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On the business side the -- the main reason that we have not been able to get there yet are the one-year applications. Because the applications are working on a calendar year, so they cut off on December 31st of each other year. In the winter season, and the MISO capacity auction goes from December through February, and that is -- that is in conflict with each other. That -- that is one of the reasons, not the only reason, but one of the reasons why we think a multi-year plan is very important.

Q. What about the seasons in MISO where you're short on cap -- you know, MISO's zone five is

short on capacity. Have you looked at expanding demand response during those seasons or how are you thinking about that?

A. We are. So the -- the short answer is that the team that's doing the work right now is looking at the assets that we have, those two programs, as well as looking at other options for how -- how those can continue to provide additional benefit outside of where they provide today.

And I should have -- I should have also mentioned, on the business side, we do one event each year in December to ensure that we understand what capability we have going into next year, but that's only one event; it's a short test event. So we're absolutely working towards that.

- Q. What are -- what's the timeline for working, you know, working towards it?
- A. In terms of what we know is capable or being able to execute on that?
  - Q. Being able to execute.
- A. Part of that's going to be dependent on hopefully getting a multi-year plan. That certainly has an impact to it. But in this fall we will have a pretty good idea of what we are able to do with these assets, certainly, hopefully in conjunction with what

Page 18

we may be able to get here with a plan along with that research. Then we will begin executing on that from there.

results growth in those assets coming for the following capacity years from there. So maybe said in a simpler way, the 2025-2026 MISO capacity year, you see submissions for that coming in early 2025. If we have some certainty on what we're able to do with this plan, then we can start at least some near-term actions to start building towards that there. And then certainly throughout 2025 we'll continue to build on that for the next MISO capacity year afterwards.

- Q. Okay. You're going to have to help me out with a little bit of logistics because I'm still new.
  - A. Yes, ma'am.

2.2

- Q. But even if the Commission does -- okay.

  Let's play out some hypotheticals. If the Commission approves the demand response programs in this current application, would that still give you the flexibility to go ahead and expand the current demand response programs that you have that we're just contemplating?
  - A. Potentially. There is -- there is the --



| there  | is some  | aspects | of growt  | th in th | is plan  | tor      |
|--------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| demand | respons  | se. Wha | t we're 1 | research | ing righ | t now is |
| what w | e can do | in add  | ition to  | that.    | So so    | there    |
| is som | e, ves.  |         |           |          |          |          |

- Q. Okay. So there could be some even if we just go with the demand response programs. If we approve some of the energy efficiency programs, and we can get into Programs later and not others, I guess I'm not -- I'm trying to better understand how the energy efficiency programs have to do with your idea of expanding demand response. So help me tie that together.
- A. Maybe it would be helpful to understand how the energy efficiency programs impact demand savings?
- Q. Yeah. I mean, I understand that they're missed out programs, you know, that your current -- you know, the Nest thermostat rebates and things like that. But you don't necessarily need those to expand demand -- you don't necessarily need a MEEIA energy efficiency program to expand demand response. So I'm trying -- when you say we need a three-year plan, I'm trying to understand --
- A. Yeah.

2.2

Q. -- why you need a three-year plan to



expand demand response.

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- I think it might be helpful to Α. Yeah. understand that one of the reasons why demand response is helpful is because it impacts reliability. And energy efficiency savings or energy savings is one thing that we get from energy efficiency. We also get demand savings from energy efficiency which also happens impact reliability. The numbers I didn't have for Commissioner Holsman the other day, but I do have now, I've looked them up since, are what are the -- what are the demand savings we get from energy efficiency programs. Those are -- I have them here in front of me, but they're roughly 83 for 2025; 80 -- 86 for 2026 and 88 for 2027.
- Q. Megawatts?
- 17 A. Megawatts, yes, ma'am.
- 18 | O. Okay.
- A. And those all positively impact that
  broader reliability picture as well. Those combined
  with demand response assets that we have all help
  this broader reliability picture that we've been
  discussing.
- 24 CHAIR HAHN: Okay. Thank you.
- 25 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.



| 1  | CHAIR HAHN: Appreciate it.                            |
|----|---|
| 2  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.                  |
| 3  | Any further bench questions?                          |
| 4  | COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I do, Judge.                   |
| 5  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. When you're                  |
| 6  | ready.  |
| 7  | QUESTIONS   |
| 8  | BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:                             |
| 9  | Q. Forgive me if I'm backtracking a bit here,         |
| 10 | but I think in our mini openings here I heard from    |
| 11 | OPC that, you know, their view was that that the      |
| 12 | Company bears no risk in not meeting the energy       |
| 13 | efficiency targets. And then I think we heard from    |
| 14 | the Company's position that that the Company bears    |
| 15 | substantial risk in not meeting the energy savings    |
| 16 | targets. So kind of help me understand from your      |
| 17 | perspective, what does this risk profile look like to |
| 18 | Ameren and what kind of led into your calculus        |
| 19 | A. Yeah.  |
| 20 | Q of risk?  |
| 21 | A. Yeah. There are there are certainly a              |
| 22 | lot of risks as we talk about this. A couple that     |
| 23 | come to mind right away is we as a company have       |
| 24 | foregone other investment opportunities to be able to |

deliver on this. And if we are not working to

specifically deliver on this, the opportunity for benefits are not there. To the extent that the benefits are not there for customers, the earnings opportunity is not going to be there. I think that's something to consider.

And from a customer's perspective, the -if not this, then the revenue requirement that
you've heard Mr. Michels and others talk about, that
roughly \$4 billion, that is a -- that is a material
and serious risk for customers as well. Those are -those are probably the two that come to mind right
away.

- Q. I guess I understand that those are a risk to the customer, but how does that translate into risk to the Company? Because I think at the end of the day all the costs are flowing through to the customer the way I understand this to work.
- A. The -- the risk to the Company of not investing elsewhere which then ties to the plan that we're trying to offer, the int -- preferred resource plan, the integrated resource plan. To the extent that -- and again, I'm not -- I'm not the Company's expert on preferred resource plan, but part of that is us being able to reliably meet the needs of our customers. And I think there is a risk of being able



| 1  | A.         | Yes, ma'am.                                |
|----|------------|--|
| 2  |            | CHAIR HAHN: Okay. Thank you.               |
| 3  |            | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any further      |
| 4  | bench ques | tions? Seeing none, any recross based on   |
| 5  | bench ques | tions? NRDC?                               |
| 6  |            | MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you.             |
| 7  |            | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Staff?                      |
| 8  |            | MS. JOHNSON: Yes, please. One second,      |
| 9  | Judge.     |  |
| 10 |            | JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready. Thank    |
| 11 | you.       |  |
| 12 |            | MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge, we're       |
| 13 | ready.     |  |
| 14 |            | RECROSS-EXAMINATION                        |
| 15 | BY MS. JOH | NSON:                                      |
| 16 | Q.         | Just a few quick questions, Mr. Lozano.    |
| 17 | Would the  | earnings opportunity matrix treat demand   |
| 18 | response e | vents or megawatt reductions for winter    |
| 19 | versus sum | mer differently, and if so, how?           |
| 20 | A.         | I don't believe it does.                   |
| 21 | Q.         | So there's so no distinction of            |
| 22 | seasonalit | y in calculating of the EO in your matrix? |
| 23 | A.         | I do not believe there is.                 |
| 24 | Q.         | Okay. And then just to follow up on what   |
| 25 | Commission | er Mitchell was asking, how many           |



| 1  | snareholder dollars have been invested in MEEIA?      |
|----|---|
| 2  | MS. MOORE: I'm going to object to the                 |
| 3  | relevance of the question. I mean, the statute        |
| 4  | itself is designed I mean, we can get into a legal    |
| 5  | argument about what is shareholder property and by    |
| 6  | virtue of a customer paying a rate. They do not have  |
| 7  | an interest in and we can get into the legal          |
| 8  | arguments on that. So to the extent it cause it       |
| 9  | calls for a legal question or a philosophical         |
| 10 | question, you know, I think it's open ended and broad |
| 11 | and it's not relevant to the bench questions.         |
| 12 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson?                           |
| 13 | MS. JOHNSON: Really just trying to                    |
| 14 | clarify here. Mr. Lozano stated in his answer to      |
| 15 | Commissioner Mitchell that they are not able to       |
| 16 | invest in other areas because they're investing here, |
| 17 | and I'm just wondering how much.                      |
| 18 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. I'll overrule               |
| 19 | the objection.  |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: I didn't say we weren't                  |
| 21 | able. I said we have foregone other other             |
| 22 | investment opportunities. But in terms of how         |
| 23 | much, I think we've identified that. We talked about  |
| 24 | Plan C versus Plan I. But you asked how many          |

shareholder dollars have been invested for MEEIA?

|    | D 0  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
| 1  | Page 26 BY MS. JOHNSON:                            |  |  |
| 2  | Q. Yes.  |  |  |
| 3  | A. I don't believe any.                            |  |  |
| 4  | MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Nothing further.           |  |  |
| 5  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you.             |  |  |
| 6  | Public Counsel?                                    |  |  |
| 7  | MS. VANGERPEN: Yes, Judge, just very               |  |  |
| 8  | briefly.   |  |  |
| 9  | RECROSS-EXAMINATION                                |  |  |
| 10 | BY MS. VANGERPEN:                                  |  |  |
| 11 | Q. Good morning, Mr. Lozano.                       |  |  |
| 12 | A. Morning.  |  |  |
| 13 | Q. You have testified that the demand              |  |  |
| 14 | response program is broken down into two different |  |  |
| 15 | sectors: The residential demand response and       |  |  |
| 16 | business demand response. Is that correct?         |  |  |
| 17 | A. Yes.  |  |  |
| 18 | Q. And of those two, which is the program          |  |  |
| 19 | that's more certain to result in demand savings?   |  |  |
| 20 | A. Can you help me what you understand by          |  |  |
| 21 | more certain?                                      |  |  |
| 22 | Q. To hit the targets that the Company has         |  |  |
| 23 | set out for itself, just based on program design.  |  |  |
| 24 | And I might be able to break that down a little    |  |  |
| 25 | easier.  |  |  |



| 1  | A. Yeah. I'm I'm just trying to think                |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | through in my head here. I think what you're asking, |  |  |  |
| 3  | and I'm going to throw a phrase out, are you asking  |  |  |  |
| 4  | what is the reliability of the of the assets?        |  |  |  |
| 5  | Q. Maybe not of the assets, but of the               |  |  |  |
| 6  | programs themselves. Let me try to                   |  |  |  |
| 7  | A. Yeah. I I would need to check the                 |  |  |  |
| 8  | performance to confirm that. I the way I hear the    |  |  |  |
| 9  | question, what I think you're asking is is what is   |  |  |  |
| 10 | the what is the potential we have under contract     |  |  |  |
| 11 | versus what is the potential that responds in an     |  |  |  |
| 12 | event. Is that is that the question that you're      |  |  |  |
| 13 | asking?  |  |  |  |
| 14 | Q. That that is a good a good                        |  |  |  |
| 15 | another good way to put it. Let's                    |  |  |  |
| 16 | A. I would need to confirm that. I don't             |  |  |  |
| 17 | have those numbers. I'd rather not guess that.       |  |  |  |
| 18 | MS. VANGERPEN: Okay. That's all I have               |  |  |  |
| 19 | for now. Thank you, Judge.                           |  |  |  |
| 20 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you.             |  |  |  |
| 21 | Any redirect?  |  |  |  |
| 22 | MS. MOORE: Yes, your Honor.                          |  |  |  |
| 23 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION                                 |  |  |  |
| 24 | BY MS. MOORE:  |  |  |  |
| 25 | Q. I have one follow up questions on Chair           |  |  |  |

- Hahn's question about the demand-side programs. Can you please walk through the MISO registration process necessary to register a demand-side load?
  - A. For the capacity auction?
- 5 Q. Correct.

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- A. The general timing of it, I can.
- 7 O. Correct.
  - A. I think when you're talking about each capacity year -- and I'm going to -- I'm going to skip over most of the details, but usually kind of that late February of each year is -- is when you need to start committing to numbers. I believe in the March-ish -- and sorry for the general time frame -- but in March of each year is when you're going to need to say what the capability of that asset is. And then in April, sometime in early April is when the results of those auctions come out for June through May of the following year.
    - Q. For winter capacity demand-side programs, how does that timeline work?
    - A. It is the exact same timeline. So that -that timeline effectively at the end of February to
      early March, you need to understand what your
      capability is for summer, fall, winter, and spring
      all the way through spring of the following year.



| 1                                | Q.   | Page 2<br>And how does that impact the contract? So  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2                                | if you're  | going to contract with an industrial   |  |
| 3                                | customer s   | say for two megawatts of curtailment and you   |  |
| 4                                | want to re   | egister that for the winter auction as well,   |  |
| 5                                | walk throu   | ıgh  |  |
| 6                                | A.   | Yeah.  |  |
| 7                                | Q.   | I think you mentioned there was a mismatch   |  |
| 8                                | between the calendar year                          |  |  |
| 9                                | A.   | That's right.  |  |
| 10                               | Q.   | and the program year that you would be   |  |
| 11                               | doing that.  |  |  |
| 12                               |  | So could you please explain that a little  |  |
| 13                               | bit further?                                       |  |  |
| 14                               | A.   | Absolutely. So in that February-March  |  |
|                                  |  | when we're committing, if we do not have   |  |
| 15                               | time frame   | when we're committeling, if we do not have   |  |
|                                  |  | of programs beyond December of that year,  |  |
| 16                               | continuity   |  |  |
| 16<br>17                         | continuity   | of programs beyond December of that year,  |  |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18             | continuity   | of programs beyond December of that year, make a commitment to MISO for winter or  |  |
| 16<br>17<br>18                   | continuity we cannot spring of                     | of programs beyond December of that year, make a commitment to MISO for winter or that year.   |  |
| 16<br>17<br>18                   | continuity we cannot spring of                     | of programs beyond December of that year, make a commitment to MISO for winter or that year.  And that commitment, how what is the                                   |  |
| 16<br>17<br>18<br>19             | continuity we cannot spring of Q. time frame       | of programs beyond December of that year, make a commitment to MISO for winter or that year.  And that commitment, how what is the e for the commitment? So if I     |  |
| 16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21 | continuity we cannot spring of Q. time frame A. Q. | of programs beyond December of that year, make a commitment to MISO for winter or that year.  And that commitment, how what is the for the commitment? So if I Yeah. |  |

The commitment to MISO?

25

A.

| 1  | Q. Correct.  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 2  | A. The commitment to MISO                            |  |
| 3  | Q. So when yes. When are they wanting you            |  |
| 4  | to call the events? What is the time frame for that? |  |
| 5  | If you could put it in perspective                   |  |
| 6  | A. Yeah.   |  |
| 7  | Q so that the timing issue is better                 |  |
| 8  | understood.  |  |
| 9  | A. The time frame for the whole year is              |  |
| 10 | June 1st of the current year to May 31st of the      |  |
| 11 | following year. The time frame for winter is         |  |
| 12 | December 1st of that year through February 28th of   |  |
| 13 | the following year.                                  |  |
| 14 | MS. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. I don't                  |  |
| 15 | know if that helps. I have no further questions.     |  |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Moore, thank you. I               |  |
| 17 | think I might have one more question.                |  |
| 18 | QUESTIONS  |  |
| 19 | BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:                                    |  |
| 20 | Q. Will the 800 megawatt gas plant that we've        |  |
| 21 | been discussing, will that be put into MISO only for |  |
| 22 | winter capacity?                                     |  |
| 23 | A. I do not know the answer to that.                 |  |
| 24 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any other                  |  |
| 25 | bench questions? Any recross or redirect based on    |  |

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- 18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. I'm sorry.
- 19 Public Counsel? I went out of order; I apologize.
- 2.0 Public Counsel, any cross?
- 21 MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.
- 2.2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri?
- 23 MS. HERNANDEZ: None, thank you.
- 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
- 25 Any bench questions for Mr. Fortson? I will have a



| few. | All | right. |
|------|-----|--------|
|      |     |        |

2 QUESTIONS

## BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:

- Q. Mr. Fortson, thank you. I think I will have a few questions, and the bench may have a few other questions as well.
- Mr. Fortson, were you here when Mr. Wills testified about the Company's most recent IRP and how the process works?

## A. I was.

- Q. Okay. I believe in your prefiled testimony you identified what you consider to be flaws in the Company's IRP analysis and especially comparing Plan C and I. Based on Mr. Wills and Mr. Michels' testimony, can you explain your concerns specifically regarding Plans C and I?
- A. Yes. So there is a few -- a number of concerns. One initially being what was just previously discussed with Mr. Michels and the 800 megawatts, the simple cycle in 2028 and in looking at those capacity balance sheets and the exclusion of the 800 megawatts. And, you know, as Mr. Michels explained, you know, they -- they excluded the 800 because they also excluded the, what they consider the corresponding load that comes with an extreme

winter weather event.

staff had concerns and confusion really around that in giving what we view the capacity balance sheets as in the capacity position to exclude any supply side, especially an 800 megawatt gas plant that is going to be a part of the generation fleet. It -- if you think about comparing apples to apples, I mean, I guess on the surface what Mr. Michels says, you know, at least gives the perception that it makes sense. But to exclude something that we know is going to be there, I mean, there's an application in front of the Commission right now, I mean, that -- that -- given Commission approval, it will in the near term be a part of that generation fleet.

of the 600 megawatts. And the 600 megawatts now is -- the 600 megawatts is considered because of the potential of recent history and winter storm events. So we don't know that that's going to happen. It could and it has, but even if it does happen for those few days or I think the 600 megawatts was based off of Storm Gerri, one of the storms, which I think lasted five days, we know that, you know, outside of those five days, that plant is still going to be there, it's still going to be a part of the fleet,

it's still going to be called on or capable to be called on. So to exclude it didn't make sense to us.

So I sort of preface all that because then once you add that 800 megawatts in, it changes the dynamics of Plan C and Plan I dramatically, and specifically for the DSM, you know, especially outside of those say five days that the 600 megawatts, the potential for the 600 megawatt load is there and you've got the 800 megawatts to cover that for the reliability, but the other 300 days, we've still got that 800 megawatt plant which really just diminishes the need for the DSM and the extreme cost of the DSM. That was sort of the main flaw.

I was trying to find in my testimony -well, and to build off of that, that then -- once you
change the dynamics of, you know, the framework of
those plans and you now see based off, you know, our
analysis that those plans that were being determined
by the Company to -- to being deferred, those plants
in the future that are being deferred or avoided
aren't there anymore, the need for those plants
aren't there anymore. So that then gets to, you
know, the issue at hand currently with the earnings
opportunity. And with no foregone earnings, no
earnings opportunity exists. So those were the two



main -- main considerations of flaws.

- Q. Mr. Fortson, thank you. I believe in your surrebuttal you stated that the Company didn't model the 800 megawatt gas plant in its 2023 IRP plans. Can you explain why the Company did that?
- A. So I guess to be clear, and I think
  Mr. Michels explained or attempted to explain, I
  think to be clear, I -- I don't want to say they
  didn't model it, but when we look at these capacity
  balance sheets that I was just referring to, you
  know, the main illustration of those are to show, you
  know, the expected load and peak load and the
  expected capacity to be able to cover that load and
  the additional capacity that will be needed to cover
  current and future load. So I think the main
  consideration here is not including the 800 megawatt
  in the illustration, the overall demonstration of the
  need for that 800.

so I think the way Mr. Michels tried to -was explaining it was they illustrated it based off
of normal weather, normal conditions. But even
when there's normal conditions, we're going to have
the 800 megawatts. So I think Mr. Michels was trying
to attempt, you know, you know, show an applesto-apples sort of comparison when I just don't



|    | believe that's that's the reality when the 800        |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|
| 2  | megawatts is going to be there.                       |  |  |
| 3  | So I think they've they've modeled for                |  |  |
| 4  | it and shown the need for it in the case of an        |  |  |
| 5  | extreme weather event, but then not including that    |  |  |
| 6  | into the Company's position and to sort of an         |  |  |
| 7  | illustration of reality is where I there's a          |  |  |
| 8  | disconnect.   |  |  |
| 9  | Q. And I think you already answered the               |  |  |
| 10 | question, but just in case, is it your understanding  |  |  |
| 11 | that plant would be dispatched only in the winter, or |  |  |
| 12 | would it be available year-round?                     |  |  |
| 13 | A. I will believe it would be available               |  |  |
| 14 | year-round. I don't know why it would just be         |  |  |
| 15 | specific to a season.                                 |  |  |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: I think those are all the              |  |  |
| 17 | questions I have. Chair Hahn, any questions?          |  |  |
| 18 | CHAIR HAHN: Thank you.                                |  |  |
| 19 | QUESTIONS   |  |  |
| 20 | BY CHAIR HAHN:  |  |  |
| 21 | Q. Are you familiar with the MISO zone five           |  |  |
| 22 | capacity auction?                                     |  |  |
| 23 | A. I have limited knowledge. I would                  |  |  |
| 24 | actually defer that to Mr. Luebbert to have probably  |  |  |
| 25 | more knowledge on that.                               |  |  |

| Q. Sounds good. I think on a different                |
|---|
| issue, issue one, you basic I think we've             |
| discussed this before potentially and tell me if my   |
| summary of your testimony prior was right or how it   |
| needs corrected. But my notes say that basically,     |
| you know, if they would have included the 800         |
| megawatts, we wouldn't be avoiding any capacity costs |
| under this plan and if there are no avoided capacity  |
| costs, there wouldn't be any missed earnings          |
| opportunities. Did I say that right, or is that       |
| tell me tell that to me in the right way.             |

A. Mostly right. Based off the analysis that Staff did, if you delay implementation of DSM or of MEEIA for a substantial amount of time, potentially out to 2034, there is a potential for deferring what I think was a plant potentially needed for -- in 2037 or defer the plant for a few years. So -- so nothing in the near term or even relatively mid term, but.

And for purposes of MEEIA Cycle 4, I would say absolutely is it is not a loan deferring anything. If you take Cycle 4 coupled with a Cycle 5 and a 6 and 7, you may defer something out that far, but I think our analysis was more you don't need 4, 5, 6. Maybe -- well, a 4 several years out could do something maybe to a deferral, but.

This plant, if approved, will be in rate base and 23 customers will be paying for it year-round, so it should be available for customer benefit or for 24 25 reliability to customers year-round.



Page 39

| 1  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Fortson, thank you.   |
|--|--|
| 2  | Let me see if we have any recross based on bench   |
| 3  | questions. Public Counsel?   |
| 4  | MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.  |
| 5  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: NRDC, any questions?  |
| 6  | Hearing nothing, Ameren Missouri?  |
| 7  | MS. HERNANDEZ: A few, thank you.   |
| 8  | RECROSS-EXAMINATION  |
| 9  | BY MS. HERNANDEZ:  |
| 10   | Q. Would you agree with me, Mr. Fortson, that  |
| 11   | the cost of the proposed simple-cycle plant is   |
| 12   | estimated at about \$1 billion?  |
|  |  |
| 13   | A. That sounds right, subject to check.  |
| <b>13</b><br>14                                | A. That sounds right, subject to check.  Q. And if you believe that the DSM program  |
|  |  |
| 14   | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program   |
| 14<br>15                                       | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you   |
| 14<br>15<br>16                                 | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you propose excluding DSM that's cheaper versus a one   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17                           | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you propose excluding DSM that's cheaper versus a one billion plant?  |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17                           | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you propose excluding DSM that's cheaper versus a one billion plant?  A. So I think simply put, the \$1 billion   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br><b>18</b>              | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you propose excluding DSM that's cheaper versus a one billion plant?  A. So I think simply put, the \$1 billion plant is an absolute and we know that's going to be a   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br><b>18</b><br><b>19</b> | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you propose excluding DSM that's cheaper versus a one billion plant?  A. So I think simply put, the \$1 billion plant is an absolute and we know that's going to be a part of Ameren's fleet in the near future with the  |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20         | Q. And if you believe that the DSM program should be excluded from our plan, why would you propose excluding DSM that's cheaper versus a one billion plant?  A. So I think simply put, the \$1 billion plant is an absolute and we know that's going to be a part of Ameren's fleet in the near future with the application in front of the Commission right now. If |

I kind of see the two as separate inside

| 1  | because th | he the DSM the MEEIA application is,         |
|----|------------|--|
| 2  | you know,  | talking about deferring plants in the        |
| 3  | future wh  | ich, again, we disagree with those deferrals |
| 4  | or avoida  | nce. So if if the hundreds of thousands      |
| 5  | of dollar  | s of MEEIA application isn't going to defer  |
| 6  | anything a | and bring benefits to customers, then        |
| 7  | there's -  | - I mean, it it doesn't make sense to        |
| 8  | support a  | n application like that.                     |
| 9  | Q.         | But the simple cycle hasn't been built       |
| 10 | yet. Cor   | rect?  |
| 11 | Α.         | That's correct, but it's anticipated to.     |
| 12 | Q.         | And nor has it been approved by the          |
| 13 | Commission | n?   |
| 14 | Α.         | That's right.                                |
| 15 | Q.         | And if Ameren Missouri needs to commit the   |
| 16 | simple cy  | cle for extreme weather capacity needs,      |
| 17 | would you  | agree that we do need another resource to    |
| 18 | meet norm  | al load capacity needs?                      |
| 19 | A.         | Can you help me understand that or           |
| 20 | rephrase   | it?  |
| 21 | Q.         | Well, if we're using committing the simple   |
| 22 | cycle to   | meet extreme weather needs and we're short   |

normal weather needs.

on capacity, we would need another resource to meet

A. Above and beyond the 800 megawatt simple



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| CYC | le | ? |
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- 2 O. Yes.
  - A. I don't believe so.
  - Q. So let me ask -- maybe try to clarify my question a little bit. So if we use the simple cycle to meet normal load and we have an extreme weather event, we would need another resource to meet that extreme need. Would you agree with that?
  - A. So the 800 megawatt simple cycle is what's being used to meet the extreme winter weather event.

    Is that what we're talking about?
  - Q. Correct. But if we committed that to use for normal weather, we would still need a resource to meet an extreme weather event.
  - A. I'm -- I'm really confused. So the 800 megawatts is being considered to cover reliability for an extreme weather event. Absent that, you would be looking at normal weather. Are you asking if during an extreme weather event, something else is still needed to cover everything else? Yeah, I'm --
- 21 O. Correct.
- 22 A. -- struggling --
  - Q. Because you're -- you're proposing that the Commission not approve our demand-side management program, so those would be excluded as a future



resource.

#### A. Correct.

- Q. So if we're using the simple cycle to now meet normal weather needs, we still need another resource to meet an extreme weather event.
- A. But you're not using the 800 megawatt simple cycle to -- it's not intended to meet normal load. It's intended to meet extreme load.
- Q. Just one moment. Thank you. Okay. Let me -- I think we're kind of talking past one another.

#### A. Okay.

- Q. And so I'm just going to try to ask this again in another way. You're saying that the 800 megawatt simple-cycle plant can be used for normal weather loads. But if we have an extreme weather event and DSM programs are removed, we're using the 800 megawatt to meet what was the normal weather load, but we don't have another resource to meet the gap in that extreme weather event.
- A. I'm not trying to be difficult; I'm really trying to understand the question so I can give you, you know, an appropriate answer. So when your question -- you're saying that I or Staff is saying that you're using the 800 megawatts to cover normal weather -- maybe this goes back to including the 800

| _  | but not including the ooo. But I m still not sure  |
|----|--|
| 2  | that it makes sense for those for those few days   |
| 3  | that there might be extreme weather in the winter, |
| 4  | you've got the 800 megawatts for reliability. I    |
| 5  | guess I'm just struggling, still struggling.       |
| 6  | MS. HERNANDEZ: Could I have an exhibit             |
| 7  | marked please, your Honor?                         |
| 8  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly.                          |
| 9  | MS. HERNANDEZ: We're trying to determine           |
| 10 | if this is confidential, and we'll have to go in   |
| 11 | camera. May I approach?                            |
| 12 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: You may.                            |
| 13 | MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.                          |
| 14 | Should this be the one the witness uses?           |
| 15 | COURT REPORTER: That's fine.                       |
| 16 | MS. HERNANDEZ: Bill, do we have any more           |
| 17 | of these? Sorry. We're trying to see if we have    |
| 18 | more copies. Sorry. We didn't expect to use this   |
| 19 | and we didn't print enough copies, but this is our |
| 20 | slide deck that we provided.                       |
| 21 | MS. JOHNSON: We're going to need a few             |
| 22 | minutes to look at it.                             |
| 23 | MS. HERNANDEZ: Sure.                               |
| 24 | MS. JOHNSON: Judge, Staff is going to              |
| 25 | need a few minutes to review this.                 |

```
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 1
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Sure.
 2
                                 It's September 14, 2023.
                MS. HERNANDEZ:
 3
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 If it helps, I can
 4
     volunteer my copy if anybody else needs to review it.
 5
                                 If you don't mind, Judge.
                MS. HERNANDEZ:
 6
     I apologize again for are not having enough copies.
 7
     May I approach please?
 8
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Certainly.
 9
                                 I'll just have OPC look
                MS. HERNANDEZ:
10
     at that and give that back to you.
11
                DR. MARKE:
                             What page?
12
                                 Twenty-three in
                MS. HERNANDEZ:
13
     particular.
14
                COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:
                                         Judge, what pages
15
     are important here?
                                 I'm afraid I don't know.
16
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
     Ms. Hernandez, can you answer Commissioner Mitchell's
17
18
     question?
19
                                 Page 23 in particular.
                MS. HERNANDEZ:
20
                COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:
                                         Thank you.
21
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Counsel, I'm not trying
2.2
     to rush you, do we need to take a break for counsel
23
     to look over this exhibit?
                                  I do want to give you the
24
     time that you want.
25
                               Judge, Staff's of the
                MS. JOHNSON:
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1 opinion that if they're going to enter the entire 2 slide deck, we do need more time please. 3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Let's go ahead and 4 take a break then. Will ten minutes suffice? 5 MS. JOHNSON: We can try to read 36 6 slides in 10 minutes. 7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. How about 15 8 minutes? 9 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 10 We'll go back on the 11 record -- I show it's roughly five after 11:00. 12 We'll go back on the record at 11:20. Thank you. 13 We're off the record. 14 (Off the record.) 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good morning. We are 16 back on the record. We've had a 15-minute break to 17 allow counsel to review an exhibit, and I believe, 18 Ms. Hernandez, you were still questioning 19 Mr. Fortson. 20 Yes, thank you. MS. HERNANDEZ: 21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Whenever you're ready. 2.2 And I'm sorry. Has Counsel -- maybe I should ask 23 this: Has Counsel had enough time to review that 24 exhibit?

Thank

MS. JOHNSON: Staff is satisfied.

1 you.

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- 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
- 3 | I'm sorry, Ms. -- Ms. Hernandez, when you're ready.
- 4 | Thank you.
- 5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.
- 6 BY MS. HERNANDEZ:
- 7 Q. You would agree with me that DSM is in our 8 preferred plan right now. Correct?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. And if you assume that peak normal load is approximately 6,000 megawatts and we forego the plan resources in the current plan, that being DSM, we have to use the proposed simple cycle to meet that 6,000 megawatt need. Correct?
  - A. Can we take a step back and kind of slow that down and break it out?
    - Q. Sure. Let's just go back to where we started. So energy efficiency demand-side management is in our preferred resource plan today. Correct?
      - A. At the RAP level, yes.
  - Q. Okay. Now, if you were to assume that the peak normal load is 6,000 megawatts.
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. And we have to forego the DSM resources that are in the current plan.



- **Evidentiary Hearing** July 24, 2024 Page 47 1 Okay. Α. 2 We would need to use the simple cycle, Ο. 3 proposed simple cycle to meet that 6,000 megawatt 4 need. Correct? 5 Just based off this discussion, I'm not Α. 6 visualizing this. I'm not -- I'm not sure. 7 Well, let's -- you have a copy of the --0. 8 Α. I do. 9 -- Exhibit in front of you. Right? 0.
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 Turn to page 23. 0.
- 12 I'm there. Α. Okay.
- 13 And in your testimony on, let's see, Ο. 14 rebuttal testimony, page 20, line 4, you speak about 15 a meeting that you had September 14th, 2023. 16 apologize. So, in -- it's still September 2023, but 17 you met with Ameren Missouri to discuss the -- our IRP filing. 18
- 19 Are you still saying that's in my Α. 20 testimony?
- 21 Ο. I think you're -- I apologize. I think 2.2 you're referencing a different meeting in your 23 testimony.
- 24 Okay. Α.
- 25 So my question to you is you did meet with Q.



- meet an extreme weather event?
- I apologize. This is going to go back to Α. my confusion earlier. I don't know how to directly



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### connect the two based off your question.

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- Q. Okay. So if you could assume that we have a peak normal load of 6,000 megawatts and we have to forego the DSM and use the simple cycle to meet the 6,000 megawatts of the normal load, we would need another resource if our -- we would need another resource to meet an extreme weather event because the need would now be above 6,000 megawatts?
- A. Now I'm trying to connect the question to the illustration. What -- where can I -- where's the 6,000 come into play? We're just assuming that? Is that --
  - O. That's about --
  - A. -- something I can see here visually?
- Q. The 6,000 megawatts is Ameren Missouri's peak normal load.
- 17 A. Okay. So we assume 6,000. Okay.
  - Q. All right. And we're using demand-side management in the preferred plan to meet that 6,000 megawatt load in normal weather conditions.
  - A. I think we established DSM is a part of the preferred plan.
- Q. Okay. And we're using that DSM to meet normal peak load conditions.
  - A. I don't know if I can say that



- confidently. I mean, DSM is part of the preferred plan.
- Q. Well, let's -- can you -- can we just walk through the hypothetical then. So assuming our peak normal load is 6,000 megawatts.

### A. Okay.

Q. Demand-side management is in our current preferred plan.

## A. Okay.

- Q. And we can no longer use DSM to meet that peak normal load, so we have to use the simple cycle to meet the 6,000 megawatts. All right? And at the moment assume that that the resources are just enough, Ameren Missouri's resources are just enough to meet that 6,000 megawatt need. Would you agree with me that Ameren Missouri would need another resource to meet an extreme weather event?
- A. I don't -- I don't even know if in this type hypothetical I can go so far as to play along.

  DSM's a part of the preferred plan. Is it being used to meet normal load. It's a part of the plan, and there is a load. Are you using the 800 megawatt simple cycle -- 800 megawatt simple cycle, if approved by the Commission, will be a part of the Ameren Missouri capacity fleet. I don't -- I



MS. HERNANDEZ:

JUDGE PRIDGIN:

Okay.

Thank you.

Ms. Hernandez, thank you.

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|    | Page 5  |
|----|---|
| 1  | I do think I have a few more questions and I'll       |
| 2  | certainly allow time for more bench questions and     |
| 3  | recross and redirect.                                 |
| 4  | QUESTIONS   |
| 5  | BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:                                     |
| 6  | Q. Mr. Fortson, if you know, what would be            |
| 7  | the expected life of this 800 megawatt gas plant that |
| 8  | we've been discussing this morning?                   |
| 9  | A. That may very well be on the record in a           |
| 10 | docket somewhere. I want to say I want to say 50      |
| 11 | years. I don't know if how accurate that is,          |
| 12 | but it would I think I can confidently say more       |
| 13 | than 30 years.  |
| 14 | Q. Okay. If putting that 800 megawatt gas             |
| 15 | plant into service were deferred by four to five      |
| 16 | years, what would be the value of that deferral?      |
| 17 | A. I don't know for sure. That would take             |
| 18 | certain calculations and assumptions or and I         |
| 19 | don't know if parties could agree on what that would  |
| 20 | be, but I can't sit here and tell you exactly what    |
| 21 | value that would have.                                |
| 22 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: I appreciate it. Thank                 |
| 23 | you. Further bench questions? Hearing none, any       |
| 24 | recross based on my questions? Public Counsel?        |

No, thank you.

MS. VANGERPEN:

Page 53 1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: NRDC? 2 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you. 3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri? 4 MS. HERNANDEZ: No, thank you. 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hernandez, thank you. 6 Redirect? 7 Yes, please, Judge. MS. JOHNSON: 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready. 9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 10 BY MS. JOHNSON: 11 Mr. Fortson, thank you for your answers Ο. 12 I want to start with something simple just thus far. 13 to clarify. Is it Staff's opinion that this MEEIA Cycle 4 application will defer the simple-cycle plant 14 15 that we've been talking about? 16 No, it will not defer it. Α. 17 And the cost impacts of that plant on Ο. 18 rates? 19 Are going to be what we discussed earlier, Α. 20 say the 800 million to a billion dollars. 21 0. Okay. All right. 2.2 Just one second, Judge. 23 I'm going to try to make this Okay. 24 clear, Mr. Fortson, so bear with me. If you need any



details, please ask me for them.

|    |         |             | Evidentiary Hearing          | July 24, 20 |
|----|---------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1  | Α.      | Okay.       |                              | Page 5      |
| 2  | Q.      | So we'      | 're talking about the exclus | sion of     |
| 3  | the sim | mple cycle  | in 2028 regarding capacity   | balance.    |
| 4  | A.      | Okay.       |                              |             |
| 5  | Q.      | As far      | r as you know, does that cor | ntradict    |
| 6  | the tre | eatment of  | all other plants in the Ame  | eren        |
| 7  | fleet?  |             |                              |             |
| 8  | A.      | Absolu      | utely.                       |             |
| 9  | Q.      | How so      | 0?                           |             |
| 10 | A.      | If I u      | understood the question, exc | cluding a   |
| 11 | plant t | hat is ant  | ticipated to be online in a  | part of     |
| 12 | the fle | et treats   | it differently than the oth  | ner         |
| 13 | current | and antic   | cipated plants that are incl | luded in    |
| 14 | the cap | pacity posi | ition of Ameren Missouri.    |             |
| 15 | Q.      | Okay.       | And that fleet of Ameren,    | all of      |
| 16 | those p | lants, tha  | at includes several other pl | lants that  |
| 17 | have pe | eak times.  | Correct?                     |             |
| 18 | A.      | Yes.        |                              |             |
| 19 | Q.      | Okay.       | I have some follow up abou   | at if DSM   |
| 20 | is not  | approved f  | for Ameren.                  |             |
| 21 | A.      | Okay.       |                              |             |
| 22 | Q.      | Okay.       | So will load be higher wit   | thout DSM?  |
| 23 | A.      | No.         |                              |             |



Staff's concerns with Ameren's projections and

Okay. So whenever you were referring to

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Q.

assumptions in Cycle 4, can you clarify the concerns you have with the DSM impacts and whether it would or would not impact load?

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- A. Help me with that. Can you do that one more time?
- 6 So I want to clarify that Ο. Yeah. Okay. 7 when you discussed your concern with Ms. Hernandez 8 about demand-side impacts, you said you weren't sure 9 if you could agree that, to her guestion, it did 10 increase load if there were no DSM plans approved. Ι 11 want to go over Staff's concern with Ameren's 12 projections and assumptions for Cycle 4 regarding 13 that DSM impact.
  - A. Sure. So -- well, I guess initially I would say, you know, the -- the concern -- when we were talking about the winter capacity position and kind of mixing and matching this MEEIA application and the IRP, in the preferred plan, and the assumptions used in the IRP for that winter capacity position, as far as I'm aware, to my knowledge with the application and what was supplied or, you know, provided to Staff based on assumptions, a lot of the focus when we talk about MEEIA is summer impacts.

    And we don't -- the focus isn't on winter or spring or fall, so the seasonality really is called into



questions as to, you know, is DSM, any level of DSM going to impact the IRP and the capacity -- capacity position presented in the IRP based off a separate filing that likely does not use the same or even similar assumptions and, in fact, assumptions that are more focused and based on summer impacts than winter impacts.

So we start getting more than apples to oranges sort of discussion as to can we use what we've been provided and what Ameren has presented in the MEEIA case to accurately represent anything as far as what was filed in the IRP as far as the winter capacity goes and trying to somehow connect, you know, the assumptions used in the MEEIA application to the assumptions used in the IRP, in the preferred plan.

So there is a disconnect. It may be sort of subjective as to what that disconnect is, but it's hard to determine what, if any, DSM impacts are going to have -- or DSM is going to have an impact on that winter capacity position.

And then we get further -- further along with concerns of the timing of additions and removals of supply side, the magnitude of -- of the additions and subtractions and the -- you know, we've talked

- through or at least, you know, Staff has presented concerns over assumptions in the IRP, but we've got the same sort of concerns with the MEEIA application and some of those concerns are the same, but then some of them, you know, some of them overlap and some of them are completely different when looking at certain assumptions for what MEEIA is actually being modeled for as what the IRP would show that it was likely intended for. I'm sorry if I got off track there, but.
- Q. No. I appreciate you going into the details. Thank you. I just have one more clarification. So there's been a lot of discussion regarding the 2028 simple-cycle 800 megawatt. I want to clarify. To your knowledge, that's an open docket and Staff are still reviewing that application and have not put forward a recommendation on that.

  Right?
  - A. No. That's a good clarification to make, and I think Ms. Hernandez was trying to make that clarification earlier. Some of my responses were sort of based off the -- were based off that being approved and being a part of the fleet. So for clarifying purposes, that is an open docket in front of the Commission that Staff has not taken a position

| 1  | on and the Commission obviously has not ordered on.  |
|----|--|
| 2  | MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for the                       |
| 3  | clarification. Nothing further.                      |
| 4  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you.               |
| 5  | I think we have a few more bench questions. Chair    |
| 6  | Hahn.  |
| 7  | QUESTIONS  |
| 8  | BY CHAIR HAHN:                                       |
| 9  | Q. To pick up on where Ms. Johnson left off,         |
| 10 | when was that application for that CCN made roughly? |
| 11 | A. If you give me a moment, I think I have           |
| 12 | that in testimony. And you're talking specifically   |
| 13 | about the 800 megawatt simple cycle?                 |
| 14 | Q. Yes.  |
| 15 | A. I have a footnote on page 8 of my direct          |
| 16 | that says on February 27th, 2024, Ameren filed its   |
| 17 | notice of case filing.                               |
| 18 | Q. So then   |
| 19 | A. That was at least giving notice.                  |
| 20 | Q. That was the notice.                              |
| 21 | A. That was the notice.                              |
| 22 | Q. But the actual application with the               |
| 23 | testimony, when was that?                            |
| 24 | A. Since this was a 60-day notice, I'm I             |
| 25 | assume it was roughly 6 or 60 days or shortly        |



| 1  | thereafter, sometime late April, early May. I could   |
|----|---|
| 2  | be off on that. Others other witnesses following      |
| 3  | me may know specifically.                             |
| 4  | Q. How long does it typically take to go              |
| 5  | through the CCN process for a plant like that?        |
| 6  | A. Recent cases, recent history would show, I         |
| 7  | don't know that we've completed one in less than      |
| 8  | several months and up to, from beginning to end, I    |
| 9  | think there's a likelihood it could be several months |
| 10 | to some amount over a year.                           |
| 11 | CHAIR HAHN: Okay. Thank you.                          |
| 12 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn, thank you.                 |
| 13 | Any further bench questions?                          |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yeah, just one                 |
| 15 | for me, Judge.  |
| 16 | QUESTIONS   |
| 17 | BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:                             |
| 18 | Q. So just in a big, big picture, do you              |
| 19 | believe the utility's position is long or short with  |
| 20 | or without the MEEIA program?                         |
| 21 | A. Well, depending on, you know, which                |
| 22 | what assumptions and, you know, what analysis you     |
| 23 | rely on, but based off the analysis that we have done |
| 24 | and including in the 800 megawatt simple cycle again  |

that is anticipated to be online in 2028 and

| 1  | especially absent any extreme weather event         |
|----|---|
| 2  | definitely of the, you know, depending on the       |
| 3  | magnitude, but if you again, the unknowns really    |
| 4  | play into that and, you know, the magn if an        |
| 5  | extreme weather event were to happen and what       |
| 6  | magnitude it is, I believe with, you know, as       |
| 7  | analyzed by Staff in this case, I don't believe     |
| 8  | Ameren to be short or to be or for there to be any  |
| 9  | reliability concerns absent DSM.                    |
| LO | COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Okay. Thank you.             |
| L1 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Mitchell,               |
| L2 | thank you. Further bench questions? I think I might |
| L3 | have a couple.                                      |
| L4 | QUESTIONS   |
| L5 | BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:                                   |
| L6 | Q. Mr. Fortson, does the Company's proposed         |
| L7 | MEEIA portfolio affect its winter peak?             |
| L8 | A. I would say no. I can't sit here and say         |
| L9 | absolutely no, but the way it's been modeled, the   |
| 20 | assumptions used, it has historically and I believe |
| 21 | continues to be more of a summer focused or just    |

25 If Ameren Missouri's service territory had Q.

modeled or structured to impact the winter season or

I don't believe it's been

the shoulder seasons for that matter.

more of a summer focus.

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| Evidentiary Hearing July 24, 20                       |
|---|
| Page 6 an extreme weather event that required Ameren  |
| Missouri to use this 800 megawatt plant that we've    |
| been discussing, would its proposed demand-side       |
| investments cover other load during that storm?       |
| A. I think I'd answer it very similar to the          |
| previous my previous answer. I can't say that I       |
| know for sure, but again, based off the way it's      |
| modeled and the the underlying assumptions, I have    |
| concerns and hesitate to think that it would be       |
| covering any additional load. It also, as we've       |
| discussed, brings in, you know, to question the level |
| of savings that are anticipated in this application   |
| anyway that Staff and other parties have I should     |
| say Staff and OPC have questioned.                    |
| I think just in general we have concerns              |
| with the level of savings that are achievable, the    |
| savings that are being accounted for, you know,       |
| through EM&V for numerous reasons, and again, just    |
| the way it's it's been modeled and presented, I       |
|   |

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Fortson, thank you. Any further bench questions? Any recross based on the recent bench questions? Public Counsel?

I struggle to see much, if any, of an impact on a

MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.

winter extreme event.





Page 63

| Τ  | Ms. Johnson: Nothing further, thank you.             |
|----|--|
| 2  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.                 |
| 3  | Mr. Fortson, thank you very much. You may step down. |
| 4  | And I believe we would back to Mr. Luebbert to take  |
| 5  | the stand again.                                     |
| 6  | MS. JOHNSON: Can we have a quick five                |
| 7  | minutes? Mr. Luebbert was reviewing the slide deck   |
| 8  | and requests a break.                                |
| 9  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure. We'll take                      |
| 10 | MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.                        |
| 11 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: We'll take about five                 |
| 12 | minutes. Thank you. We'll go off the record.         |
| 13 | (Off the record.)                                    |
| 14 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Good morning.              |
| 15 | We're back on the record. Mr. Luebbert has taken the |
| 16 | stand.   |
| 17 | Before he begins his testimony, I want to            |
| 18 | let you know I'm looking to take a lunch break       |
| 19 | somewhere around 12:30. I'm going to look for a      |
| 20 | natural break. I don't want to necessarily stop a    |
| 21 | witness in the middle of testimony, but that is my   |
| 22 | plan to try to find a natural break somewhere        |
| 23 | around 12:30 for a lunch break. So Mr. Luebbert's at |
| 24 | the stand and, sir, you're still under oath.         |
| 25 | (Witness previously sworn.)                          |





1 yesterday to friendly cross. I will disclaim that 2 Judge Dippell had overruled our objections, but we 3 just wanted to renew. 4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen? 5 Your Honor, Staff does MS. VANGERPEN: 6 have a different position on this issue from the OPC 7 and the -- the question was a closed question, so I 8 believe that is a cross question. 9 All right. JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'11 10 overrule. I'm sorry, could you 11 THE WITNESS: 12 repeat? 13 BY MS. VANGERPEN: 14 Staff's position on the earnings Ο. Sure. 15 opportunity is that it's not warranted. Is that 16 correct? 17 In this case it is not warranted by the Α. 18 application before us today. 19 And, in fact, Staff didn't recommend a Ο. 20 value for an earnings opportunity as like an 21 alternative position. Is that correct? 22 Α. I don't believe -- well, I believe Staff's 23 position is that -- that there wouldn't be -- that 24 there isn't an earnings opportunity that's warranted

given kind of the historic cost recovery that's

| occurred under MEEIA to date. I do think that we     |
|--|
| we offered that there could be some alternative cost |
| recovery mechanisms. And that's outlined more        |
| thoroughly in Ms. Lange's testimony.                 |

- Q. Okay. But you're aware that Dr. Marke from the OPC has put forth a proposal for the value of an earnings opportunity?
  - A. I am aware of his testimony, yes.
- Q. Okay. And, in fact, he -- he -- I guess putting that aside, if the Commission approves the Company's amended application, including an earnings opportunity, has Staff -- does Staff agree with Dr. Marke's proposal for that value of the earnings opportunity?
- A. We don't. There -- there are a few reasons that are important to consider. I laid out in my direct testimony kind of the importance of how to -- to value what an earnings opportunity is. And the first step in that is identifying an investment that can be foregone or a foregone earnings opportunity from the shareholder perspective. We don't have that in this case.
- But a -- kind of the next, that there -even if you were to value what an earnings
  opportunity might be, there's also another step which



| 1 | is to design the recovery of that earnings            |
|---|---|
| 2 | opportunity in a way that would meaningfully benefit  |
| 3 | ratepayers. And as I talked about in in my            |
| 4 | testimony, it's it's tantamount for a MEEIA           |
| 5 | application to not only benefit participating         |
| 6 | ratepayers, but ratepayers in the class regardless of |
| 7 | participation.  |
| 8 | And so targeting well, I guess kind of                |

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And so targeting -- well, I guess kind of the next step that is important to consider is timing when you're -- when you're trying to design that EO.

I don't know that Dr. Marke kind of takes that next step and describes how you -- you would design the recovery of that earnings opportunity in a manner that would result in or should be expected to result in those ratepayer benefits from a foregone investment.

And so that's -- those are areas that I think are kind of key considerations when -- when we're looking at whether or not that proposal might be reasonable.

MS. VANGERPEN: One moment, Judge, please.

BY MS. VANGERPEN:

Q. And I think just one more question here,
Mr. Luebbert. You would agree with me though that
Dr. Marke's proposal attempts to value demand side on

an equivalent basis with supply side in accordance with the MEEIA statute. Right?

A. I'd have to say that -- I can't confirm that, that that is the case. And there are a few reasons that I feel that's kind of appropriate for everybody to understand. In the case of a supply-side investment, the utility is putting up -- the shareholders are putting up money. They're -- and in return they have an expectation of recovery of those funds over time as well as a return on that investment.

We're really looking at something different with kind of what's been proposed to date through -- through MEEIA which is ratepayer funding and a kind of contemporaneous ratepayer funding. So they're -- they're funding through the DSIM or the EEIC in this case, they're funding what the costs are projected to be over the next recovery period and then truing up at the follow. And so there isn't a shareholder investment to actually earn a return. And that's -- that's why it's so important to -- to quantify what the earnings opportunity is based on what that fore -- foregone earnings opportunity is for the utility and then design it and structure it in a way that recovery of that earnings opportunity

# is actually tied to that resulting ratepayer benefit.

- Q. Thank you, Mr. Luebbert. And I -- so in addition to Dr. Marke's proposal for the valuation of the EO, the Company has also put forth a recommendation to value that EO. Does Staff agree with the Company's proposal for the valuation?
- 7 Absolutely not. What Dr. Marke has Α. 8 proposed is a value that's much lower, but, like I 9 said, we -- we still don't think that it's warranted 10 in this case. Obviously that -- that same premise 11 holds true for Ameren except what they're proposing 12 is a much higher dollar value and not much -- not 13 much that's going to hold them to kind of achieving 14 ratepayer benefit.
- MS. VANGERPEN: Thank you, Mr. Luebbert.

  Nothing further, your Honor.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you.
- 18 | Any cross from Renew Missouri?
- MR. LINHARES: No cross, thank you.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any cross
- 21 | from NRDC?

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- MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: Cross from Ameren
- 24 | Missouri?
- MR. HOLTHAUS: None, thank you.



| 1          | Page 7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any bench questions?            |
|------------|---|
| 2          | Chair Hahn, when you're ready.                        |
| 3          | QUESTIONS   |
| 4          | BY CHAIR HAHN:  |
| 5          | Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Luebbert.                      |
| 6          | A. Good afternoon. I had to check the clock           |
| 7          | to see if it was.                                     |
| 8          | Q. I'd asked earlier Mr. Fortson if he was            |
| 9          | familiar with the MIS the most recent MISO            |
| LO         | resource cap the capacity auction. And he said        |
| L1         | that he would better defer those questions to you.    |
| L2         | So are you familiar with that auction?                |
| L3         | A. I am familiar. I won't be able to list             |
| L <b>4</b> | what the results are by dollar value by season by any |
| L5         | means, but I am familiar with with the most           |
| L6         | recent.   |
| L7         | Q. Okay. I think you have the general you             |
| L8         | probably have the general picture, but for zone five, |
| L9         | the capacity auction prices for fall and spring were  |
| 20         | notably higher than the other seasons and the other   |
| 21         | zones. Does this MEEIA plan address capacity or       |
| 22         | energy efficiency meaningfully in the fall and in the |
| 23         | spring?   |
| 24         | A. Yeah. That's that's a point of                     |



emphasis that I've been trying to make in this case.

When you're looking at capacity reductions and you're looking at the potential for capacity additions or requirements from the RTO to serve ratepayers, the timing is so crucial. Accounting for that timing, making sure that the assumptions support what -- what you're estimating.

In this case what Ameren proposes, what they -- what they include as their megawatt reductions is reliant on a single, what they call a CP factor for every single measure. And so it's only looking at one time period during the year. Now, presumptively that's summer. In the past that was -- that was more likely to be kind of the -- the peak period. But as we move forward, especially with the -- the MISO seasonality capacity construct and especially with the -- the zone five position, those time periods become that much more important.

Now, I think I talked about on Monday
the -- the demand response being much, much lower in
capacity during the winter. That gets -- I -- my
assumption is that that would be even less in spring
and fall, but frankly, you just, you have to design
the program from the beginning with the outcome in
mind, right. So there are -- there are possibilities
that there could be a program designed to have a

| 1  | winter impact, but you have to be thinking about that |
|----|---|
| 2  | from the onset. And then I think the other aspect     |
| 3  | that you have to think about is the longevity of      |
| 4  | those impacts, especially when we're we're trying     |
| 5  | to make comparisons to a supply-side resource that    |
| 6  | may be out kind of further off in the future.         |
| 7  | CHAIR HAHN: Thank you.                                |
| 8  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn, thank you.                 |
| 9  | Any further bench questions? All right. Hearing       |
| 10 | none, I don't I don't believe I have any              |
| 11 | questions. Any recross based on bench questions?      |
| 12 | Public Counsel?                                       |
| 13 | MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.                         |
| 14 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Renew Missouri?                        |
| 15 | MR. LINHARES: No, thank you.                          |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: NRDC?                                  |
| 17 | MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you.                        |
| 18 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri?                       |
| 19 | MR. HOLTHAUS: None, thank you.                        |
| 20 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any redirect?                          |
| 21 | MS. JOHNSON: Yes, please, judge.                      |
| 22 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION                                  |
| 23 | BY MS. JOHNSON:                                       |
| 24 | Q. I have some redirect related to EO                 |
| 25 | calculations. So. Mr. Luebbert. I'd like for vou to   |

| 1 | offer | а | little | clarity | to | the | record. | We've | heard |
|---|-------|---|--------|---------|----|-----|---------|-------|-------|
| _ |       |   |        | , T     |    | ,   |         |       |       |

- 2 Mr. Wills and Mr. Lozano speak in response to
- 3 | Commission questions yesterday and today about EO
- 4 | calculations being tied to benefits for ratepayers.
- 5 Do you feel that the EO in this application has been
- 6 | shown to be tied to ratepayer benefits?

## A. No.

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- Q. Okay. If you were going to design an EO that was tied to ratepayer benefit, can you walk us through how that should happen?
- A. Sure. I talked a bit in my -- my direct testimony about quantifying what that EO amount would be, and specifically I included a schedule to that direct that kind of walks through what -- how you'd quantify the deferral of a resource and what that foregone earnings would look like from that. Now, it includes some kind of generic assumptions, but it is kind of a framework that you could utilize to look at what that -- what that foregone earnings would be.

And so that's -- that would be the first step is can you identify the -- a supply-side resource that you can defer or ideally avoid. And then you also have to identify the timing of when that resource would be added otherwise and the timing that it would be added if you move forward with a

Page 74

demand-side program. That -- that kind of -- those are the pieces of information that you'd need amongst some others to quantify what that foregone earnings would be.

Then the next step would be designing metrics that can achieve that desired outcome, right. If your desired outcome is to defer an investment with kind of the goal of benefiting all the ratepayers within the class including those that don't participate, the timing, again, we've talked about this over and over, but the timing matters. And so if that supply-side resource isn't going to happen for 12 years or more, then after you've quantified what the earnings opportunity would be for that deferral, now you need to tie the recovery of that earnings opportunity to savings that can actually defer that resource.

And so if you think about -- we've talked about differences in energy efficiency measures. There are some measures that might last two years or are expected to last two years, and so that -- that energy reduction might happen for a very short time period. And then there are others that may last a much longer time period. Well, if you're trying to design an earnings opportunity with the intent of



benefiting ratepayers, right, then the metrics that you set up have to be considering when those savings occur.

And then -- and then the last piece of that is not only the timing, but also the magnitude of what those savings are in that future time period, right. If -- if you need 300 megawatts in the year 2033 in order to defer a resource, then that -- you've created your goal, right. So that's -- that's why when I talk about in my testimony that that identification of that avoided investment is the first step, it's because that is -- that is what's driving you toward a goal that gets you that ratepayer benefit of avoiding that investment or at least deferring that investment and the recovery of that investment through rates.

That isn't how Ameren's done their earnings opportunity in this case. They've done it backwards. So they -- they have designed -- I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

The reason that is important for you to -for you to design the earnings opportunity in that
way, so you're looking at when that ratepayer
benefit's going to incur, is that it ensures that
you're aligning the utility financial incentive with

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the ratepayer benefit. We know that the earnings opportunity is what the utility's going to strive for. That's their shareholder profit if they achieve it. If it gets approved and they have an earnings opportunity, whatever metrics are included in order to achieve that is what they're going to be striving for. That's -- I'm -- it shouldn't come as a surprise, right. If they have an incentive to do so, that's what they should be striving for.

So if you -- we've talked about designing or evaluating what that foregone earnings is. potentially designing for kind of achieving the end If you try to find that within Ameren's goal. application, what is the end goal. The end goal is -- is -- it isn't resulting in that ratepayer benefit, especially when you're -- when you're trying to consider whether or not it benefits nonparticipants. Because we don't see that deferral of a resource. We don't see that they've accounted for the interactions of the other mechanisms that we've talked about. The end goal is included with -with what's in their -- their earnings opportunity and that's that shareholder profit.

Q. I'd like still just a little bit more clarity if you would please. So the end goal, the EO



| 1 | in | Ameren's | application, | how | is | it | organized? |
|---|----|----------|--------------|-----|----|----|------------|
|---|----|----------|--------------|-----|----|----|------------|

- A. Yeah. So I think this is -- this is -- in order to kind of explain this, it's important to have their earnings -- I think they call it their earnings opportunity. It's Appendix N. Sorry, Appendix N of their application. And that -- it provides kind of four performance metrics that the Company will be striving for over the -- over the cycle. One of them is the number of megawatts that they have --
  - Q. Can I interrupt you just one second --
- 11 A. Yeah.

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- 12 Q. -- Mr. Luebbert?
- We have the demonstrative from Ameren's application for everyone to follow along with if you like.
- 16 A. It would be really helpful, yeah.
- MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Would that be
  appropriate if we entered an exhibit for
  demonstrative purposes only? It's Ameren's
  application exactly as they submitted it for Appendix
  A and Appendix N.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: That is certainly fine
  with me. We'll need a number.
- MS. JOHNSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm not sure what --



| Τ  | MS. MOORE: Your Honor, I hate to                     |
|----|--|
| 2  | interrupt. So at the end of the hearing we were      |
| 3  | going to move to admit all of the appendices as      |
| 4  | our 115. If we want to make it administratively more |
| 5  | efficient, we could refer if you want to use it as   |
| 6  | a cross I'm sorry. It's going to be our 114.         |
| 7  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: So what I'm hearing is                |
| 8  | or what I think I'm hearing is that Ameren Missouri  |
| 9  | might want to offer that exhibit now. I think if     |
| 10 | it's admitted into evidence, then we can work from   |
| 11 | there. Is that what I'm understanding?               |
| 12 | MS. MOORE: Yes. We could offer them as               |
| 13 | our Exhibit 114 which would include all our          |
| 14 | appendices, revised Appendix A through O.            |
| 15 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: And, Ms. Moore, is                    |
| 16 | that is that what you're offering is Exhibit 114?    |
| 17 | MS. MOORE: That is correct.                          |
| 18 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Any                        |
| 19 | objections?  |
| 20 | MS. JOHNSON: Staff has no objection to               |
| 21 | the entirety of Ameren's application coming in so    |
| 22 | long as Appendix A and N are able to be used for     |
| 23 | demonstrative purposes right now.                    |
| 24 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Any objections or               |
| 25 | comments? I'm hearing no objections. Exhibit 114 is  |

- 1 | admitted into evidence.
- 2 (Company's Exhibit 114 was admitted and
- 3 | made a part of this record.)
- 4 BY MS. JOHNSON:
- Q. Mr. Luebbert, you have a copy of that in
- 6 | front of you. Right?
- 7 A. I do.

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- Q. Okay. While Ms. Lange is handing that out, would you walk us through what that is?
- 10 Α. Yeah. So Appendix N is the -- the 11 document that's in landscape format. That is the 12 earnings opportunity, either calculator or -- oh, 13 here, they've got it named Earnings Opportunity 14 And then Appendix A I have page 8 and Summary. 15 page 10. And what that includes is incremental net 16 megawatt hour savings as projected by the Company, 17 and then incremental net megawatt savings as 18 projected by the Company is page 10.

If you look at performance metric -- let's look at the performance metrics for Appendix N; that's their earnings opportunity calculator. And we're going to start with metric number three which is, it's labeled as Energy Efficiency or EE Megawatt Hours. Criteria will be the evaluated first year incremental megawatt hour savings, includes



residential, business, and income-eligible programs and excludes DR programs.

I'll have you kind of look over to the column that says -- sorry -- Pl Target Max. And you're going to see a value that says 269,942. So if you look at page 8 of Appendix A and you look under Portfolio Total for 2025, you're going to see that same value, 269,942. As you move to the right on Appendix N, you can match up that same value from 2026 and 2027 in that same metric. So on the P2 target pay out or target max, 275,357, that matches Appendix A; 2027, 277,042, again, that matches Appendix A. So that is the portfolio total as they've included within their application.

So the next thing we're going to look at will be comparing metric number one, and that's the demand response. So that -- that criteria will be the cumulative evaluated megawatts enrolled. And it says it includes residential and business DR programs.

Now, if you look here, the P1 target max for that is 246. And if you look at page 10 for 2025, the demand response total is 246 and a quarter. It's -- it's the same for both. Move to the right, look at P2 target max. Same

thing, 252. 55. Move to the right for 2027 it's 258.66. They align.

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- Q. Mr. Luebbert, can you explain why it matters that their portfolio calculations for the programs and the target goals listed in the four buckets that they have in their earnings opportunity calculator are exactly the same?
- Α. Sure. I talked earlier about the importance of driving that ratepayer benefit through the earnings opportunity, and I think I mentioned that Ameren's kind of reversed how this -- this process should work. What Ameren's provided to you in this application and they've provided to us for us to review is an application that's premised on very specific programs with very specific numbers of measures assumed to occur to come up with these incremental savings in Appendix A. Now, what they've also recommended is a great deal of latitude to pivot how those programs are actually implemented and which measures they actually incentivize. Some of them are going to be better at reducing -- reducing demand, some are going to be better at reducing megawatt hours, and some of them are going to cost less to implement.

So they've set their own target based on



| this very specific kind of portfolio of programs, set |
|---|
| their own benchmark, with the ability for them to     |
| pivot off of all of those assumptions from Day One.   |
| They're asking for your approval to do that. But      |
| they're also asking for their maximum earnings        |
| opportunity to be boiled down from those 20-plus      |
| programs with very specific details into these four   |
| categories in Appendix N. Those four categories are   |
| really broad and they don't account for the timing of |
| when those reductions occur. We're looking at first   |
| year megawatt hours and megawatts saved during the    |
| evaluation year. So first year megawatt reductions.   |

The third criteria -- so they -- they split megawatts into demand response and nondemand response. I think if you looked at metric two, that EE coincident megawatts, that's going to coincide exactly with that page 10 if you removed the demand response impact.

So they've -- they've offered up this what they're calling their plan, but their plan can change and it's up to them whether or not they decide to change and how they change it. Because once they have approval, they have that ability based on their plan. Now, what that -- that results in is they can change which -- which programs they focus on or, more

| importantly, which measures that they focus on. So |
|--|
| long as they hit their self-imposed target broken  |
| down into four buckets of megawatt reductions,     |
| megawatt hour reductions in the first year and     |
| income-eligible spend.                             |

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That flexibility is something that we talked about in our testimony. And it's something that if you don't start off with an end goal in mind, and that end goal for MEEIA should be benefiting ratepayers over the long term and aligning the utility's incentives of doing so. The earnings opportunity is that chance to align the utility's actions with its financial incentives and ratepayer The Company's earnings opportunity isn't benefits. going do that. It's going to ensure that they get -they hit their self-imposed target and they do it as they see fit. But it won't ensure ratepayer benefits, especially for those that don't participate.

Q. Thank you for that explanation and walk through. One point of clarification. We've talked about the targets and the four buckets. Would the difference between the program targets laid out for the 20-plus programs and the summation of the 4 buckets be an explanation in your opinion for why



| 1  | there could be wildly underperforming programs and    |
|----|---|
| 2  | still full EO earned in the application that's been   |
| 3  | submitted?  |
| 4  | A. Yes.   |
| 5  | Q. So no matter how the programs perform,             |
| 6  | there are thousands of calculations for Ameren to     |
| 7  | gain those four buckets and hit full EO?              |
| 8  | MR. HOLTHAUS: Objection, Judge. We're                 |
| 9  | beyond the scope of cross-examination of the          |
| 10 | Commission questions.                                 |
| 11 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson.                           |
| 12 | MS. JOHNSON: Judge, we're talking about               |
| 13 | the buckets and calculations of earnings opportunity. |
| 14 | Ameren created this plan.                             |
| 15 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. I'll                        |
| 16 | overrule.   |
| 17 | BY MS. JOHNSON:                                       |
| 18 | Q. My question was there are thousands of             |
| 19 | calculations based on program measurements under      |
| 20 | which Ameren could hit full EO even with wildly       |
| 21 | underperforming programs. Right?                      |
| 22 | A. Yes, and fairly easily. Now, I think               |
| 23 | what what's important to consider is that we we       |
| 24 | have tried to get information from the Company on     |

kind of what that end goal is, right, from these --

- 1 Because that is the starting point. these programs. 2 Getting to -- how do I -- how do I identify the 3 problem that I'm going to solve prior to throwing out 4 a solution. Once you've identified the problem or 5 identified what we -- what we've talked about as the deferred investment, now you can start planning 6 7 towards that, start looking at the timing of when 8 that investment occurs, what seasons are driving kind 9 of that investment and then identifying what measures 10 and what kind of mix of programs can really achieve 11 that end goal. 12 We don't have that within this 13 application. Staff has tried over the course of the 14 last year, and probably, honestly, longer to get to
  - application. Staff has tried over the course of the last year, and probably, honestly, longer to get to that information with the Company. We've been unsuccessful. But that's what we need to have, MEEIA programs move forward that are going to meaningfully benefit ratepayers regardless of whether or not they participate.
- MS. JOHNSON: Nothing further, Judge.

  Thank you.

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JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you.

Mr. Luebbert, thank you very much. You may step

down. And this looks to be an opportune time to take

a lunch break. I'm showing time to be 12:30. I



- Page 86 1 would like to get back on the record, and I believe 2 is it Ms. Lange will be the next witness, at 1:30. 3 So is there anything further from counsel or from the 4 bench before we take a lunch break? All right. 5 Hearing nothing further, we'll be off the record 6 until 1:30. Thank you very much. We're off the 7 record. 8 (Off the record.) 9 All right. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 10 We are back on the record. afternoon. I believe 11 Ms. Lange is about to take the stand on Earnings 12 Opportunity. Before she does, some scheduling 13 We are kind of behind schedule now and matters. 14 we're running out of days in the week. So the only 15 solution I see is to go a little late this evening, 16 unless of course the pace picks up and then we won't. 17 But I kind of see not going any later than 7:00. 18 think after that, people are going to start falling 19 over, especially our court reporter and we don't 20 want that. So my thoughts are we'll go until we 21 either finish Earnings Opportunity and EM&V or 2.2 roughly 7:00 p.m., whichever comes first. 23 So if there's nothing further from
  - counsel or from the bench, I'll call Ms. Lange to the And you are still under oath. stand.





Ameren, that was the case from I believe

about -- well, from -- from before I got here until

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Empire.

about 2011. Similar timeline for Evergy, well, at the time Aquila and Kansas City Power & Light.

- Q. Thank you for that. Are you aware of any investor-owned utilities who currently have that setup, even if they are not electric utilities?
- A. Oh, I'm not sure exactly how Spire's setup is -- it's been a while since I've been involved in that, but I'm not sure exactly what Spire, formerly MGE and Laclede, have.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. We've also talked a little bit today about demand response. You would agree with me that Ameren can do demand response outside of MEEIA. Correct?
- A. Absolutely. And I would expect it would be prudent for them to do so in many instances.
- Q. And are you aware whether Ameren did demand -- had a demand response program prior to implementing MEEIA or did demand response in any respect?
- A. I believe they had curtailable rates or a curtailable rider. Whether or not programs were denominated demand response, I'm -- I'm not certain, but I know they have a history of interruptible load.

  And I -- I think that they had an air conditioner cycling program in the late 2000s time frame. I'm



1 not completely certain on that. I would defer to 2 their cancelled tariffs. 3 MS. VANGERPEN: Thank you. Just one 4 moment, your Honor. That's all we have. Thank you, 5 Thank you, your Honor. Ms. Lange. 6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you. 7 Any cross from Renew Missouri? 8 MR. LINHARES: No. Thank you very much. 9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Linhares, thank you. 10 Any cross from NRDC? 11 No, thank you. MS. RUBENSTEIN: 12 Thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross 13 from Ameren Missouri? 14 No, thank you, your Honor. MS. MOORE: 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Any bench 16 questions? 17 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: None from me, 18 Judge. 19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Hearing none. All right. 2.0 Thank you. Any redirect? MS. JOHNSON: None for us Judge, thanks. 21 2.2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you. 23 Ms. Lange, thank you very much. I believe Dr. Marke 24 is the next witness on this topic and the final 25 witness on this topic if I recall correctly. And,

Page 90

| 1  | Dr. Marke, you're still under oath.                   |
|----|---|
| 2  | (Witness previously sworn.)                           |
| 3  | DR. GEOFF MARKE                                       |
| 4  | the witness, having been first duly sworn,            |
| 5  | testified as follows:                                 |
| 6  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: And, Ms. VanGerpen,                    |
| 7  | anything before he stands cross?                      |
| 8  | MS. VANGERPEN: No. We consider him                    |
| 9  | tendered for cross.                                   |
| 10 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right.                             |
| 11 | Ms. VanGerpen, thank you. Cross-examination. Staff?   |
| 12 | MS. JOHNSON: Yes, please, just briefly.               |
| 13 | Okay. Sorry about that.                               |
| 14 | CROSS-EXAMINATION                                     |
| 15 | BY MS. JOHNSON:                                       |
| 16 | Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Marke.                         |
| 17 | A. Good afternoon.                                    |
| 18 | Q. So we've talked a lot about kind of the            |
| 19 | supply-side equivalent for the earnings opportunity.  |
| 20 | I would like your perspective on how or what would be |
| 21 | a comparable earnings opportunity on the supply side. |
| 22 | A. Okay. This is a challenge because there's          |
| 23 | a lot different resource mixes that could be the      |
| 24 | proxy, right. So Ameren needs to fill some missing    |
| 25 | load. What do they fill it with. And by definition    |



the costs are going to change, right, you know, cost for wind is going to be different than cost for gas and coal and so forth.

Putting aside -- let's just accept at face value that what they put forward here, simple cycle is the appropriate resource that we're going to use as a proxy. When we talk about companies and cost-plus regulation, they make money by building things. So on a supply-side investment they make a return on their capital expenditures, not their operational expenditures.

If you follow that same logic with DSM programs, the closest comp in my professional opinion would be to say rebates and incentives are the equivalent of capital expenditures, and that program administrative costs are the equivalent cost of operational expenditures. If you do that and if you look at my surrebuttal testimony in page 50 and 51 where I break down the different cost categories, I have given -- my testimony effectively talks about a 20 percent equivalent return that Ameren, shareholders, the Company would get from if they accomplish what they're proposing to accomplish.

When we talk about -- when we write about MEEIA, and this is a complex topic, you know. When



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| I when I try to simplify fee something, it comes      |
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| at the expense of, like, trying to go into something  |
| in more detail, and this is a case where I'm critical |
| of myself in this. So return on equity is not a       |
| comparable metric to use for how it works with MEEIA. |
| And in part, because capital structure matters, the   |
| timing of the rate case matters. There's a            |
| difference between authorized ROE and earned ROE.     |
| All of those factors kind of play into what that      |
| earnings opportunity is on the supply side.           |

Not so for DSM. For DSM it's these are the targets the Company picked. If we meet the targets, we get rewarded. Well, if you keep that frame of thought that I talked about, capital expenditures and operational expenditures, and this is -- this is what the statute says, we need to value them on an equivalent basis. And if you look at my page 50, I talk about how let's take out all the operational expenditures, in this case the program administrative overhead. And the Company's not arguing this; they're saying we project 45 percent administrative overhead, all right. you're down to \$166.5 million that we are taking out of the equation. You shouldn't get a return on something like that because we don't do that on the



supply side. So you have \$203 remaining.

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If they get a \$70 million return, which would be the full EO, that comes out to close to a 35 percent return on investment. So I'm going to say ROI instead of ROE just to avoid the complexity of that. That's a 35 percent. If they earn 70 million, we've got 203 million of capital investment. And that capital investment's HVACs and calling demand response programs and stuff like that.

Now, if you take it a step further, is the next section we're going to talk about is evaluation, measurement, and verification which is what can actually be attributed to Ameren Missouri and what would naturally occur. My page 51 talks about that. And I took a very conservative approach. I -- for example, I didn't even factor in the IRA. Everything we talked about yesterday about the IRA and being a free rider impact on this case is not even included in this evaluation. I put in something about the rebound effect on operational efficiencies. did historical free ridership of 15 percent.

All of a sudden what can be attributed to Ameren Missouri, I calculated approximately \$112 million, all right. So that's \$112 million that's doing the heavy lifting. That's the heavy that can

| be attributed to Ameren Missouri as capital expense.  |
|---|
| So what is \$70 million of return on \$112 million    |
| investment. That's 62 percent. Sixty-two percent      |
| return on investment. I can't think of anything       |
| anywhere that gets that sort of return on investment. |

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Like, that's -- and the caveat here is that they're not putting up their capital. There is These are ratepayer dollars that are putting up that capital and ratepayers will then have to pay a 62 percent -- now, and I get it. maybe they don't hit their targets. Okav. Fifty I mean, that's still incredibly generous for something that we can't be sure will happen. And that there is -- reasonable people can sit here and say a lot of this is probably just going to naturally And that's -- that's the frustration on our occur. end and that really is a product of me talking to Ms. Lena Mantle who's an OPC witness yesterday where, you know, she kind of came into this at the last minute and we started talking about the earnings opportunity and she pointed out the -- the flaw in my logic, you know, that I had put in testimony, and she's right.

So that really gets to the heart of it, that this is an extremely -- I mean, use your



- hyperbolic statement that you want to put in there.
- 2 | It's very rich.

- 3 Q. Okay. I need a little bit more help,
- 4 Dr. Marke, because I understand that we started with
- 5 program costs of 370 million.
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. And the earnings opportunity, 70 million.
- 8 | It's 19 percent --
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. -- ROI if we -- if we count the 370 as an investment. Right?
- 12 A. Right.
- Q. Okay. So then you moved to a 35 percent, which was basically 166.5 million less than the \$370
- 15 | million program budget.
- 16 A. So --
- 17 | 0. Where did that come from?
- A. Right. So the \$370 million is the overall
- 19 cost of the programs. But within that cost you have
- 20 costs that are tangible, like I can point to
- 21 | something concrete, and costs that are not tangible,
- 22 | it's hiring another employee to go ahead and secure a
- 23 | contract, right. And those dollar amounts are
- 24 historically not stuff that's included in -- it's not
- 25 | rate based. Those are your operational expenses.

| 1  | So again, if we're valuing what the                   |
|----|---|
| 2  | statutes says, we're valuing supply side on an        |
| 3  | equivalent basis of demand side, we shouldn't be      |
| 4  | counting that as part of it. So when you look at,     |
| 5  | well, how rich is this, you're in step two, and that  |
| 6  | step two just went from 19 percent, 20 percent,       |
| 7  | depending on how you look at it, to 35 percent.       |
| 8  | Q. Okay. And that happened by taking                  |
| 9  | the \$370 million of programming and removing         |
| 10 | administrative overhead which is the equivalent       |
| 11 | A. Yep.   |
| 12 | Q of operational expenditures?                        |
| 13 | A. That's correct.                                    |
| 14 | Q. And that leaves us with 203.5. And the 70          |
| 15 | million as a percentage ever 203.5 is 35 percent ROI? |
| 16 | A. That's correct.                                    |
| 17 | Q. Okay. So we're step two?                           |
| 18 | A. Right.   |
| 19 | Q. Okay. So step three?                               |
| 20 | A. Okay. Step three is and we'll talk                 |
| 21 | more about this in the next session, but it's the     |
| 22 | EM&V. Step three says maybe not all of this is a      |
| 23 | result of Ameren. Maybe that 8,000 rebate that I'm    |
| 24 | getting from the federal government had more of a     |

And if

push than the \$900 rebate I got for my HVAC.

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that's the case, then we need to not count that. And that -- again, that's the Commission rules. That's how we set this up. These are naturally-occurring energy efficiency.

I -- based off of my recommendations, and I can't stress this enough, these are very conservative recommendations where I factored in 10 percent for a rebound fact. That's straight from That's about as an authoritative, like, ACEEE. pro-energy efficiency group you can find. I did 15 percent for operational efficiencies. Again, that's the Department of Energy. I did 5 percent on principal-agent, which I think is probably grossly understated, but okay. And then we did 15 percent for free ridership just based off of historical numbers. Just historically we've just said, yeah, about 15 percent would just naturally happen. think it's going to be greater than that because of the IRA, but let's say, I don't know, people never hear about the IRA, okay.

If you then take that 203 million and subtract those elements, I came up with 112 million. That, if we want to value it on equivalent basis, that's what they should be earning a return on investment off of. And if you do that, if it's still



- the 70 million, we haven't adjusted anything else, this is the Commission saying, We agree with Ameren's proposal, then they're earning a 62 percent return on their investment. On, I say their investment; it's ratepayers' investments. That's -- that's a very -- that's very generous.
  - Q. What's a typical return?

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- A. Oh, boy. I mean, so again, it's a bit complicated but, you know, we talk about the 8 to 10 percent, you know, on ROEs are typically set on that, whether or not they earn it, you know, is -- is open to debate and timing and the capital structure of the utility. But for simplicity's sake, let's just say 8 to 10 percent.
- Q. Okay. So based on the most thorough estimate that you can do in your professional opinion to value this equivalent to the supply side, the result of your analysis, when you apply it to this application using extremely conservative estimates that you listed in your testimony, results in a 52 percent higher return on investment than anything on the supply side?
- A. And the 52, if I understand your question correctly, it would be -- is that subtracting --
- Q. Yeah. Taking out --



1 -- what it typically would be --Α. 2 -- the 10 percent --Ο. 3 Α. So, yes. Yes, that would be correct. Thank you. Oh, I have one more. 4 Q. Okay. 5 I apologize, Judge. 6 Oh, right. We need to address -- we need 7 to address an assumption here, I quess, a caveat that 8 we're making. We're making a caveat that -- that 9 Ameren is going to earn a return on the ratepayer 10 investment there at all. Right? 11 Α. That's correct. 12 Can you explain that a little bit more? Q. 13 We're making the assumption that Ameren Α. would have an opportunity? 14 Is that maybe --15 Ο. Sure. 16 I thought I understood the Okay. Α. 17 question, but maybe I don't. 18 I just want to make sure that all of our Ο. 19 assumptions are transparently listed here. So when 20 we have this entire discussion of what the return on 21 investment looks like moving through your three steps 2.2 to reduce the 370 million program budget --23 Α. Right. 24 -- down to the 112 which gives us that 62 Q. 25 percent ROI, all of that is with the caveat that

Ameren is earning return on ratepayer investment at

all.

A. Oh, I understand I think. Yes, that's

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And this is effectively what Staff's argument true. is that it -- whether or not that that's appropriate that we're deferring anything at all and that you can point to something tangible. That's the problem of a counterfactual, right. How do you prove something that would not -- that doesn't exist but for this. And my sanity check on it and I -- we had a completely very different approach than what Mr. Luebbert did in sort of valuing this, and I don't disagree with anything that he's talking about. Ι took it from a much more macro perspective of saying, How -- if this program didn't exist, how reasonably can we expect that people will still buy energyefficient equipment and take advantage of it. the IRA and the saturation of just efficient appliances, I would -- my professional opinion is it's very likely.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for the clarification. I appreciate it. Nothing further.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you.

Any cross from Renew Missouri?

MR. LINHARES: Yes, Judge, just very



- 1 briefly.
- 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 3 | BY MR. LINHARES:
- 4 Q. Dr. Marke, I want to actually keep on the
- 5 | current thread to which you were just speaking. So
- 6 | we heard your opinion there. In the case of
- 7 | income-eligible populations, income-eligible customer
- 8 | market, would your answer be the same if we're just
- 9 | looking at that -- that demographic? Would -- do
- 10 you --
- 11 A. Oh, I understand. Okay.
- 12 Q. Yes.
- A. No. Do I think absent -- well, that's an interesting question.
- Q. Yeah. I'll -- happy to rephrase just for the record here. Do you think that absent an Ameren Missouri energy efficiency portfolio --
- A. Yeah. I believe I understand your -- your question. I'm thinking about it a little bit. So
  I'm going to reframe the question and you just tell
  me if I've got it correct. So absent the Ameren
  Missouri program, would low-income customers still
  take advantage of energy efficiency products.
- Q. That's correct.
- 25 A. Okay. So there's a couple things to think



about when we start talking about those programs.

And I want to say just in general we're consumer advocates. We are very conscious of how expensive things have become just inflation-wise. Nobody's denying that having a rebate will have a material impact on your purchasing power.

The problem that we wrestle with is those products are going to exist regardless of whether or not the rebate takes place. That wasn't the case when we first passed the statutory requirement of MEEIA. That is much more the case today. So even if the low-income customer can't afford it, if they were in a position to purchase something or if they were forced to do something, their only options available to them would be very efficient equipment.

Now, there are other mechanisms in place. The most notable one is LIWAP. So we get federal funds that come down to go ahead and address energy efficiency. All things being equal, that's our preferred method because I don't have -- as a consumer advocate, we don't have to pay lost revenues for that. We don't have to pay an earnings opportunity. We don't have to pay program costs. That's all through taxpayer dollars. And there's more of that money coming down at ARRA-like levels



than what has existed for at least more than a decade.

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Now, is there more of a need than there is money. Most definitely. Like, there are definitely people that need help and that can move forward with But what I just articulated really -- and this is more of a program question, but this goes to the same -- my same criticism of Ameren Missouri and their low-income programs. So Ameren Missouri's proposing a single-family low-income weatherization By all practical purposes, that's the exact program. same thing that you have with federal LIWAP. got people going in and just weatherizing homes. The difference between the two is that what I'm paying for program cost overhead for everything that's taking place through a contractor through Ameren Missouri is so much more expensive than just having it go through the community action agency.

That's what I struggle with, Mr. Linhares, in promoting the energy efficiency through the low-income programs. I think there's an argument to be made for multi-family programs because of the split-incentive issue that takes place between landlords and tenants, and maybe we can talk more about that in the Programs section. But the



1 low-income programs are most definitely a challenge.

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So I acknowledge the problem, but from my vantage point, that doesn't justify the cost and certainly doesn't justify the -- the potential, you know, orders of magnitude, like earnings opportunity that the utility would otherwise receive if the Commission were to approve this program. Because at the end of the day, those customers, those low-income customers are going to -- you know, a good chunk of them, because they can opt out -- do I think most customers do opt out of that program. No I don't. The numbers will bear that out. But they're going to be the ones getting that bill, that rate increase that's going to result from MEEIA. So I think it's just incumbent upon us that we are good stewards of the finite money that we have.

MR. LINHARES: Okay. Well, your answer touched upon a lot of issues on which I have other questions, but to stay on topic, I'll forego those for the time being. No further questions.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right, Mr. Linhares.

Thank you. Any cross from NRDC?

MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you, Judge.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.

25 | Any questions from Ameren Missouri?

| 1  | MS. MOORE: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.              |
|----|---|
| 2  | CROSS-EXAMINATION                                   |
| 3  | BY MS. MOORE:                                       |
| 4  | Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Marke. I have a few          |
| 5  | questions for you. I believe you were present when  |
| 6  | Mr. Fortson was testifying. Correct?                |
| 7  | A. I was.   |
| 8  | Q. All right. And then he discussed the need        |
| 9  | for an earnings opportunity to be tied to deferred  |
| 10 | resources?  |
| 11 | A. Yes.   |
| 12 | Q. Do you remember that? Okay. Do you agree         |
| 13 | with his assessment that programs we are seeking to |
| 14 | approve will not reduce winter load at all?         |
| 15 | A. No. Would you like me to explain why?            |
| 16 | Q. Sure. It might lead help lead into the           |
| 17 | next couple of                                      |
| 18 | A. Okay.  |
| 19 | A series of questions.                              |
| 20 | A. So the demand response programs are going        |
| 21 | to reduce load. If you're recalling events for      |
| 22 | for items for peak load, the demand response will   |
| 23 | reduce it. It sounds like the Company is making     |
| 24 | every effort to go ahead and move forward with      |

expanding programs on the winter side and to an

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extent, it already is including some of that. So that will have an impact on it.

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And our office is supporting the demand I mean, I think it's critically response programs. important for the Commission to distinguish when we start -- and Mr. Wills did it correctly. I mean, he says DSM's sort of an umbrella term that includes demand response and energy efficiency. take -- we've made the observation that there are private entities that are now in the market that could go ahead and function in the exact same manner as Ameren's demand response. But realistically I think we're probably a couple years away from that being a reality. So we are -- we are effectively supporting the demand response programs for Ameren.

- Q. Great. Thanks. Now, in terms of the energy efficiency measures, do you, off the top of your head, can you think of any energy efficiency measures that might affect winter peak load or winter load?
- A. Winter load? Water heaters is one thing that -- there's a lot of hope for, like, dispatchable water heaters. There's some pilot programs that have been done in, like, some much colder states would have an impact. Our big go-to for reducing -- to get

| Τ | demand savings on the energy efficiency side are    |
|---|---|
| 2 | HVACs. Well, I mean, HVACs aren't going to run in   |
| 3 | the winter, so I mean, that kind of negates that    |
| 4 | that argument. There are there is a little bit of   |
| 5 | demand savings that are going to be associated with |
| 6 | energy efficiency, but it's going to vary           |
| 7 | considerably between the measures.                  |
|   |   |

- O. But what about on the commercial side.
- Oh. Α.

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- So let's think process chillers. Ο. know, those are the things that help reduce the heat made by machines such as computers for data centers and then there's some industrial applications in MRIS. Do you think more efficient equipment in that sector would help reduce winter load?
- It would. Α.
- And then on the HVAC side, heat pumps Ο. would be helpful in that regard too. Do you agree with that?
  - Α. I would agree with that.
- 0. All right. And then would you -- would you agree -- would you agree with me that if we reduce our winter peak load, that that, in turn, would reduce our winter resource needs and improve

|    |               | Evidentiary Hearing                     | July 24, 20 |
|----|---------------|---|-------------|
| 1  | our capac     | city position in the winter?            | Page 10     |
| 2  | A.            | Yes.                                    |             |
| 3  | Q.            | All right. And then were you at the     |             |
| 4  | meeting l     | ast fall in September where the Company | went        |
| 5  | over its      | IRP plan?                               |             |
| 6  | A.            | I was. I I don't I went back a          | nd          |
| 7  | checked m     | my calendar from a year ago and it's on | my          |
| 8  | calendar      | so I'm sure I was there.                |             |
| 9  | Q.            | Yeah. Is it your understanding that     | the         |
| 10 | capacity      | position reflects the demand-side progr | ams         |
| 11 | as part c     | of our preferred resource plan?         |             |
| 12 | A.            | I would agree that that's what Ameren   | has         |
| 13 | framed it as. |   |             |
| 14 | Q.            | So you would agree that in the assump   | tions       |
| 15 | made for      | that preferred plan demand response?    |             |
| 16 | A.            | The demand response, yes. It does fa    | ctor        |
| 17 | that.         |   |             |
| 18 | Q.            | Well, demand-side programs were inclu   | ded         |
| 19 | as well.      |   |             |
| 20 | A.            | So                                      |             |
| 21 | Q.            | So let                                  |             |
| 22 | A.            | Okay.                                   |             |
| 23 | Q.            | I have to get used to the Missouri, w   | hen         |
| 24 | other jur     | risdictions energy efficiency is a big  |             |



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umbrella.

A. Right.

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- Q. So just demand response and energy efficiency measured together for.
- A. It is -- so it's a modeling exercise. And there's a lot of assumptions that go into a modeling exercise. What Ameren Missouri modeled for was their market potential study results that informed that. We agreed that there are demand savings that accurately reflect that on the demand response side. We are less confident that those savings associated on the energy efficiency side accurate -- accurately reflect what would happen absent this program.

From my vantage point when you ask me do heat pumps do this, do controls in commercial buildings. Yes, they do. Do I think those are going to happen regardless of an Ameren program. Yes, I do.

Q. All right. Would you agree with me that not having those demand-side or DSM programs would increase the -- well, I think you answered it, but I'll let you do it again. And let me start from the beginning. Would you agree with me that not having DSM programs would increase the capacity shortfall projected by the Company under extreme weather event with this even if we had a simple cycle in place?

| 1                                 | A. Yes. But I'll tell you when we started  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2                                 | going down this rabbit hole, I started thinking about  |
| 3                                 | the curtailable rate tariff that we had on there.  |
| 4                                 | And I'm more convinced now than ever that you don't  |
| 5                                 | necess there are there is a way forward with   |
| 6                                 | value demand-side demand response programs that we   |
| 7                                 | have historically done that doesn't necessarily need   |
| 8                                 | to fit within this framework. So I hope I answered   |
| 9                                 | that question.   |
| 10                                | Q. So let me ask you this. So let's give you   |
| 11                                | a scenario where we have to for demand response  |
| 12                                | you really do need to rely on the customer to drop   |
| 13                                | the load. Correct?   |
| 14                                | A. Correct.  |
| 15                                | Q. So what happens when we request a customer  |
|                                   |  |
| 16                                | drop the load and for whatever reasons, they're going  |
| 16<br>17                          | drop the load and for whatever reasons, they're going under their own crisis, and they cannot drop the   |
|                                   |  |
| 17                                | under their own crisis, and they cannot drop the   |
| 17<br>18                          | under their own crisis, and they cannot drop the load?   |
| 17<br>18<br><b>19</b>             | <pre>under their own crisis, and they cannot drop the load?  A. So it depends.</pre>   |
| 17<br>18<br><b>19</b><br>20       | <pre>under their own crisis, and they cannot drop the load?  A. So it depends.  Q. Would you want to rely on that and go</pre>                   |
| 17<br>18<br><b>19</b><br>20<br>21 | <pre>under their own crisis, and they cannot drop the load?  A. So it depends.  Q. Would you want to rely on that and go ahead. I'm sorry.</pre> |

Commission recommend -- we are recommending the

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| Commission approved the demand response program. I  |
|---|
| believe that that's the simplest, easiest way to go |
| ahead and and deal with the potential shortfall     |
| that you're articulating.                           |

Now, are there other ways of doing that.

Absolutely. Have there historically been other ways of doing it. There has. Most energy -- most DSM programs in other states don't even touch on demand response programs. This is -- this is largely a unique Missouri application because we have historically let out ARCs.

Q. Okay. I want to just circle back to some question that Staff had asked you regarding the return on equity. Would you agree with me that kind of an ov -- a simplified formula of the revenue requirement includes rate base times the rate of return plus expenses and taxes will equal --

### A. Yes.

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Q. -- that adds up to the revenue requirement.

So that's -- all of those are one component of the revenue requirement. Correct?

# A. Correct.

Q. All right. Give me a moment. I want to go back to, you know, when we were talking about heat

Page 112

- 1 pumps reducing the, you know, energy efficiency 2 measure that can help contribute to reducing the 3 winter peak.
  - Α. Yes.
  - All right. Would you agree with me that 0. under the MISO seasonal construct, September is defined as a fall month?
  - Α. Yes.

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- O. And over the recent years MISO has had peaks in September?
- 11 Α. Yes.
  - And so if -- and I think you heard Ο. Mr. Lozano testify earlier that the curtailment period runs through September?
- 15 Α. Yes.
- 16 So assuming that we have those resources Ο. 17 available, the residential HVAC, we could also call on those resources, well, not only for curtailment, 18 19 but those that enrolled in the demand side, the 20 curtailment programs to -- through the smart 21 thermostats, those customers who opt not to --
  - Α. Turn it off.
  - Yeah, turn it off. Those customers who Ο. have participated in the HVAC program and gotten rebates for more efficient HVACs, air conditioners,



| 1  | Page 113<br>that would be an energy efficiency resource that |
|----|--|
| 2  | would be contributing to reduce that load peak during        |
| 3  | that September month, would it not?                          |
| 4  | A. Oh, there's a lot to unpack there. So if                  |
| 5  | I understand correctly, it you're asking me                  |
| 6  | whether or not   |
| 7  | Q. I think the simple way to say                             |
| 8  | A. Okay.   |
| 9  | Q is that a customer has purchased a more                    |
| 10 | efficient HVAC system, but they elected not to               |
| 11 | enroll in the peak-time savings reward program.              |
| 12 | A. Okay.   |
| 13 | Q. So the Company cannot curtail.                            |
| 14 | A. Right.  |
| 15 | Q. They not at all. They can't curtail                       |
| 16 | that HVAC system. And what I'm and, but we both              |
| 17 | agree that that's an energy efficiency measure?              |
| 18 | A. It is.  |
| 19 | Q. So on a hot day if that customer is                       |
| 20 | running their more efficient air conditioner, do you         |
| 21 | agree that that contributes to reducing the overall          |
| 22 | peak load on that hot day?                                   |
| 23 | A. Yes.  |
| 24 | MS. MOORE: All right. Thank you. No                          |



further questions.

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|    | Page 114   |
|----|--|
| 1  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Counsel, thank you. Let             |
|    | ·  |
| 2. | me see if we have any bench questions. Chair Hahn, |
| _  | me see ii we nave any senen queserens. Chair nam,  |
| 2  | any questions? Commissioner Coleman?               |
| 2  | ally quescions: Commissioner Coreman:              |
| 4  | GOVERN GOT TAXABLE TO 1                            |
| 4  | COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I do.                        |

## **QUESTIONS**

### BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN:

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- Just something I've thinking about all day 0. and since you're on the stand, I think I'll ask you So after all the DSM programs, from your about this. vantage point, do you believe that Ameren is selling less electricity to their customers?
- I think MEEIA That's a great guestion. Α. affords a really -- up until a couple years ago where everything started -- the -- the first movement was like, oh, there's going to be electric cars coming online and that's going to be a lot of load and smart appliances is going to be a lot of load. And now it's data centers, right. Prior to that it was decreased load because the efficiency just kept increasing exponentially, just naturally. It's naturally-occurring energy efficiency.

When you got MEEIA, all of a sudden that -- those lost revenues all of a sudden became potentially captured through MEEIA so the Company could get recovery for that. Now, they would say,



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Well, we're promoting, you know, light bulbs and everything else. And, you know, reasonable minds can disagree, you know. And I'm disagreeing right now.

I'm saying a lot of this stuff is just going to naturally happen. And we would say those numbers are grossly overstated.

I think Evergy -- Evergreen Economics, I heard the quote earlier in this -- this hearing where they were talking about the IRA and how the net to gross should account for that. I believe they said point, you know, ten should be the -- the net-to-gross ratio. So what Evergreen Economics is saying is that 90 percent of that's just naturally We've never gotten -- we've never going to happen. had an approved or lost revenue mechanism that showed But if you believe that that's at all that much. accurate, then -- then the Company's probably recovering lost revenues that they otherwise shouldn't be getting because of MEEIA.

So do I -- do I think that the Company is losing ener -- do I think they're losing revenues as a result of energy efficiency. Yes. I mean, and that's okay. I mean, that's how -- we're -- there's no -- they're natural monopolies, and what we're doing here as economic regulators really is a proxy

for the market. I mean, you go out into the market, it ebbs and flows.

COVID-19's a perfect example, you know.

COVID-19 hit everybody, hit all companies. And we had utilities come in and say, Hey, we're losing revenues, like we should be made whole entirely for this. Well, that doesn't actually reflect a natural, you know, a proxy for the market. And in the market, you've got market discipline. In a market, the pizza company has to work really hard to get your business because you can go someplace else. You can't do that for the utilities.

So anytime that we're giving mechanisms to increase or ensure revenues on this end, you're just reducing risk and you're getting farther and farther away from what I believe pure economic regulation is supposed to master. And the result of it is that you end up getting -- the companies end up making more money than they otherwise would be. I -- look no further than, you know, their earnings over time. And what you see really in the past ten years with the influx of surcharges like the FAC, MEEIA, the RESRAM, their earnings go up and they've gone up and they've gone up. And you -- can I point to other nonnatural monopolies that deal with this. Well,

1 what you see is that most companies ebb and flow. That's -- again, it's not the case. 2 3 So do I think it's happening. Yes. think it's happening at the level that should cause 4 5 Absolutely not. Because you're going to us panic. get more generation that's going to -- you're going 6 7 to get more load coming on, the data centers. 8 Anytime anybody buys an electric car. Like, those 9 revenues are going to materialize over time. 10 Because, I mean, think of it this way, Commissioner 11 Coleman, we're not sitting here talking about what we 12 We're sitting here talking about what we can retire. 13 can build. That's -- that's the easiest example. 14 Like, I -- I'm not concerned on that end. 15 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank 16 you, Judge. 17 Thank you, Commissioner. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 18 Any further bench questions? I will -- I will have a 19 few. 20 QUESTIONS 21 BY JUDGE PRIDGIN: 2.2 0. Dr. Marke, does the Office of Public 23 Counsel believe there's a way to insulate customers 24 who are paying for the MEEIA plan from future events 25 that might impact the viability of the plan?

| 1  | A. I mean, it it'll come at a cost.                   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Every and I don't again, I don't envy what            |
| 3  | the position that you guys are in. It's there's       |
| 4  | trade-offs in everything that we we decide. So        |
| 5  | there are ways of insulating it. A crude example      |
| 6  | would be what they did in Iowa. And that was a        |
| 7  | legislative fix where they said, okay, you know, the  |
| 8  | Commission can approve a program, but if doesn't pass |
| 9  | the RIM test, customers have the option of opting     |
| 10 | out. Okay. I mean, there it is. Because the RIM       |
| 11 | test would actually show that it's happening. It's    |
| 12 | taking into account all those costs. And if it's      |
| 13 | not, then those customers could could opt out.        |
| 14 | I think the trade-off on that is, I mean,             |
| 15 | I think you would cripple the programs, right. And    |
| 16 | that's so we wouldn't be moving forward with any      |
| 17 | viable DSM program. I mean, in short, I mean,         |
| 18 | there's a reason why customers of a certain size try  |
| 19 | to opt out of MEEIA, right. That's if that luxury     |
| 20 | was afforded to other customers, I believe they would |
| 21 | take advantage of it.                                 |
| 22 | Q. Do any of the programs in Ameren's                 |
| 23 | proposed MEEIA have the ability to meaningfully       |
| 24 | reduce winter load?                                   |

The -- the most obvious in short term and,

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A.

again, like, that's the key, it's short term, would be the demand response programs. I mean, that's -- that's just very obvious. Like, it's peaking. Okay. Hey, Walmart, shut off your power. All right. We can -- we can point to that.

As far as measures, the heat pumps, if they were adopted at -- at scale -- and it's difficult to go ahead and project whether or not people going to adopt heat pumps at scale especially in Missouri given the price of electricity versus natural gas at the moment. I said water heaters could have an impact. I haven't seen any -- there's been pilot studies in other states. I haven't seen any real strong showings to point one way or the other. The honest to God evidence, and it's not going to be a really popular answer, but the -- the honest to God answer is pricing electricity.

You know, in my direct testimony, and this is coming from Ameren, I go -- I talk a little bit about this and we all understand now at this point that a TRC above one is a good thing. So if the TRC of two, that's even better and if it's three, that's is even -- that's even -- that's better than two, right. Well, the TRC for their rates, if adopted at scale, is on page 38 of my testimony. Residential

| TOU ultimate savers has a TRC of 10.28. That's       |
|--|
| that's a real value at the end of the day that you   |
| can point to. Now, again, there's trade-offs that    |
| come with that, you know. The education that would   |
| be involved in in making that, the adoption of       |
| that. I think we're probably a ways off from doing   |
| that, but I would encourage the Commission not to    |
| forget that, that pricing I'm an economist. Like,    |
| pricing matters, you know, and I think price signals |
| do matter at the end of the day.                     |
|  |

So the nice thing about that is I don't have to pay -- I don't have to do incentives for that. I don't have to go ahead and -- not like measures like we do with the uncertainty with -- with MEEIA. You know, we've -- that's sunk investment, in fact. You know, we've already paid for the AMI. We've already paid for the software. Ameren's putting on their own private LTE network just for that, to support that. Well, not just that, but it is supporting that. And that's all really expensive stuff that they're getting a return on.

From our perspective, like, we just want the benefit that -- from that investment. So that is another way of curbing winter peak and summer peak.

Q. Dr. Marke, can you confirm what the



low-income eligibility criteria is for the LIWAP program?

- A. 200 percent federal poverty line. I'm 90 percent sure saying that, you know, with -- subject to check. And I -- would be lower I think for a LIHEAP. It would be lower for a LIHEAP.
- Q. Do you know whether Ameren Missouri's weatherization proposal offers expanded eligibility which could help lower-income customers who struggle paying their bills, but are not eligible for LIWAP?
- A. It -- oh. No, I don't believe it would.

  Now, Mr. Via got up here, and I -- I want to commend,

  like, Ameren actually, like, on that. Like, you

  know, there's a lot of things that we disagree with

  about this, but they have worked with Office of

  Public Counsel, they've worked with Staff, you know,

  to craft these programs.

One of the things we've been doing to try to address the LIWAP problem is utilizing, whether it's through a rate case or even through MEEIA, like approved MEEIAs, what we've said is use that money to work on homes that are pass overs. And what I mean by pass overs is homes that have mold, homes that are hoarders, homes that have a bad roof or knob and tube wiring that's messed up. All of -- there's -- which

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is a lot of homes, right, that are just poorly made. Well, under the construct today with federal funds, community action agencies can't touch them. They're hazardous homes. They can't touch them.

What we've done is say, all right, well, let's take the money and we'll get -- Evergy's actually been real good with this -- let's go ahead and just get a couple roofers and knob and tube wiring electricians on contract, and they'll go ahead and redo that stuff. Because you can't use federal funds for that, but as soon as you take care of that, then you can use the federal funds to weatherize it. So we're -- we're just trying to adapt and do what we can. And, I mean, the reality is that some homes just can't be weatherized. You hit a point of diminishing returns. Like a big hole in a roof, you know, at some point you just kind of walk away from it.

But where there are examples of -- of being flexible with that, the Company -- the companies, plural, have been very receptive to that idea.

Q. And I think one final question. If the Commission rejects this application, do you think that ARCs could provide equivalent demand response

services?

| A. Y | es, bu | ıt I | don't | think | immediately | y . |
|------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------------|-----|
|------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------------|-----|

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Dr. Marke.

Any further bench questions before we go to recross?

5 | Any recross from Staff?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, just briefly. Thank

7 you.

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#### RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. JOHNSON:

- Q. Dr. Marke, I want to clarify a few things in your answers to Judge Pridgin. So the judge asked about insulating customers who pay a MEEIA charge from future events that impact the viability of the plan. Have you considered an earnings opportunity claw back that would serve as an offset to rate base if the Company builds a new supply-side plant?
- A. Oh, I mean, yes. I haven't considered that, but that's -- you know, typically you have enough bandwidth to go ahead and work on a program and say yes or no, not usually both. So, you know, if I started getting in like the problem-solving mode, I'm sure we could come up with -- with some options. But I think it would be incumbent upon the Commission saying that's what they want. And then we can go back and figure out some options. But you're

right, a claw back method might be a viable option.

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- Q. Okay. You also discussed with the judge the adoption of heat pumps over gas. Just to clarify, is an efficient heat pump more electrical load than a gas furnace?
- A. It is, yes. That -- yeah, I walked into that. That -- that is true. The heat pumps are going to increase load too, so. The point I think Ameren was trying to make was peak reduction, but if that heat pump was formerly a natural gas furnace, then all things being equal, we would have been better off with the natural gas furnace by reducing that load.
- Q. Okay. One more follow up related to the adoption of the programs. So we've talked about upgrades and the Bench has asked several questions about if customers opt in, if they don't opt in. You and Ms. Moore had a discussion about the customer who isn't enrolled in the smart thermostat program, but buys a more efficient HVAC, which you agreed would reduce load on a warm September day. What portion of that reduction should be attributed to Ameren?
- A. I mean, I sit here today, and I challenge myself. Like, I think that customer's going to buy it regardless of the Ameren program. So in a vacuum,



1 having a more efficient HVAC will reduce load. 2 Will -- if Ameren doesn't have their program will 3 there still be HVAC -- efficient HVACs moving forward. Yes, I think there will be. 4 And again, 5 very generous tax breaks and market saturation will -- it's just -- it's what's available at the end 6 7 of the day. 8 And if the goal really is let's just make 9 the cost cheaper for customers regardless of 10 attribution, then my God, let's go to a statewide 11 program, let's do bulk buying. Like, if the answer 12 is more heavy-handed government, we can go that route 13 and it'll -- you will save money. But again, it's 14 trade-offs. You're going to come at the expense of 15 market innovation and other things, so yeah. 16 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for the 17 Nothing further from Staff. clarification. 18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you. 19 Any recross from Renew Missouri? 20 None at the moment, Judge. MR. LINHARES: 21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. 2.2 Recross from NRDC? 23 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you, Judge. 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any recross 25 from Ameren Missouri?

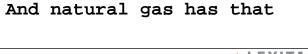
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| 1        | MS. MOORE: Yes. I just have a couple  |
|----------|---|
| 2        | follow-up questions I promise.  |
| 3        | RECROSS-EXAMINATION   |
| 4        | BY MS. MOORE:   |
| 5        | Q. Staff counsel just asked you about heat  |
| 6        | pumps. Those that's not a Ameren's program  |
| 7        | isn't a fuel-switching program. Correct?  |
| 8        | A. No.  |
| 9        | Q. That would apply to customers that don't   |
| 10       | have natural gas available to heat their homes.   |
| 11       | Correct?  |
| 12       | A. The program's not limited to those   |
| 13       | customers. So, I mean, if a customer is a natural                                       |
| 14       | gas customer and wants to convert, there's nothing                                      |
| 15       | preventing them from taking advantage of that. But                                      |
| 16       | the comp the programs aren't promoting that.  |
| 17       | There's effectively an agreement across the board                                       |
| 18       | between the gas and the electric utilities that we're                                   |
| 19       | not fuel switching.   |
|          |   |
| 20       | Q. All right. Well, do you know how   |
| 20<br>21 | Q. All right. Well, do you know how approximately what percent of residential customers |
|          |   |
| 21       | approximately what percent of residential customers                                     |

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areas where there are more than -- than not, but I

|    |            | Evidentially Floating Odly 24, 20          |
|----|------------|--|
| 1  | don't know | Page 12 off the top of my head.            |
| 2  |            | MS. MOORE: All right. Thank you. I have    |
| 3  | no further | questions.                                 |
| 4  |            | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.       |
| 5  | Dr. Marke, | thank you very much. You can step down.    |
| 6  | I'm sorry. | Redirect. Excuse me. Ms. VanGerpen, I'm    |
| 7  | sorry.     |  |
| 8  |            | MS. VANGERPEN: That's okay.                |
| 9  |            | REDIRECT EXAMINATION                       |
| 10 | BY MS. VAN | GERPEN:                                    |
| 11 | Q.         | I just have a few definitions I want to    |
| 12 | make sure  | that we have clear                         |
| 13 | A.         | Sure.                                      |
| 14 | Q.         | in the record.                             |
| 15 |            | You mentioned the LIWAP program. Could     |
| 16 | you define | what that is?                              |
| 17 | A.         | Low-income Weatherization Assistance       |
| 18 | Program, I | IWAP. It's a federally-funded program, but |
| 19 | we supplem | ent a version of that through rates in the |
| 20 | utilities' | cost of service.                           |
| 21 | Q.         | Okay. Thank you. You also mentioned the    |
| 22 | LIHEAP pro | gram?                                      |
| 23 | A.         | Low-income gosh, it's either Housing or    |



LIHEAP is bill assistance.

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Heating Energy Assistance Program which is -- so

- **Evidentiary Hearing** Page 128 1 option too. Water had it, but that's since been 2 eliminated. 3 0. Thank you, Dr. Marke. And lastly the LTE. 4 Could you explain what that is? 5 LTE stands for -- it's the 5G stuff. Α. Yes. I can't think off the top of my head. 6 It's -- it's 7 the -- I'm sorry, I can't. It's -- it is effectively 8 their -- AT&T, Verizon, they've got all, you know, 9 effectively LTE networks, so some of our utilities 10 utilize that resource. Ameren and Evergy now are 11 putting in their own LTE network to -- basically for 12 cybersecurity reasons is probably the primary reason. 13 Look, you know, the Windows debacle a week ago is a 14 good example of that. 15 MS. VANGERPEN: Great. Thank you, 16 Dr. Marke. Thank you, Judge.
- 17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you.
- 18 Now you may step down. My apologies for earlier.
- 19 And we are now ready to switch topics to 20 EM&V. Did counsel wish to make mini openings on this 21 topic?
- 2.2 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, Judge.
- 23 MS. MOORE: Yes, your Honor.
- 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm assuming that the
- 25 Company's been going first; I think I missed -- so



1 | Ameren Missouri, when you're ready.

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MS. MOORE: Good afternoon. May it please the Commission. Jennifer Moore again appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri. For the issue today that -- it's whether the Commission should adopt Ameren Missouri's EM&V plan proposed in this docket. And I just want to make the Commission aware that this EM&V plan is similar to the MEEIA 3 plan and also consistent with the Commission's rules. And accordingly, the Company thinks that you should adopt this plan as part of the MEEIA plan.

Now, this EMV process we're proposing as has allowed for stakeholder input, and the Company collaborated to make the process more transparent dating back from the MEEIA 3 plan. The proposed EM&V process is designed to maintain the collaboration that reduced the amount of EMV disputes before the Commission. The Company considered feedback from MEEIA 3 and whether stakeholders -- and whether stakeholders from -- whether that feedback is from stakeholders or our -- the evaluation reports. And the result is that a more open and transparent process is needed for EM&V. And I think we've heard testimony about that today too.

And so what I want to do is walk you



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| through all these documents everybody is talking     |
|--|
| about and what that plan consists of. So here is the |
| Appendix E which is a residential program evaluation |
| plan template. So we take these plans, and everybody |
| has been talking about free ridership. And so if you |
| look at net impacts, so this evaluation plan would   |
| take those free riderships in consideration and then |
| other stakeholders would have the opportunity to     |
| comment on it and then there's a process evaluation  |
| that we go through. Stakeholders contribute and have |
| an opportunity to say speak up and, you know, add    |
| different things that they'd like to see done with   |
| this evaluation for this plan. And then it would be  |
| given to the evaluator to look over and then a scope |
| would be developed for the process of the EM&V.      |
|  |

And for specific details, Mr. Graser will be able to give you some details.

Now, I want to make a distinction that we've been talking today. So if you look at net impacts, it says the net to gross is one. For the multi-family income-eligible and even single-family income-eligible programs, there will be no evaluation of net to gross. So -- or excuse me -- free ridership. So that one nets it out, and it's not being considered. But for the income-eligible

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programs, the nonenergy benefits are looked at. And so for the MEEIA 3 cycle, we did look at whether or not there was an impact on these income-eligible programs on the customer bill.

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And so again, this would have been gone to the evaluator as an outline. People would have commented on it. And then the evaluation report comes out where everybody has a chance to comment on So this one is from 2023 where I believe it. Commissioner Holsman has been reading from, and this will outline those nonenergy benefits for those income-eligible customers and in -- our plan outlines. And it has shown some benefit to customers in the reduction of bills, and they've also seen that it's more likely that -- and you can look at the more details of what percentage that is -- it's more likely that customers who participate in income-eligible programs are less likely to be disconnected. So we have more customers online paying bills, and I think all customers receive a benefit from that.

Then I want to go into part of this and part of the Company's planning. So when evaluators look at this and they look at the savings, they're going to go to the Technical Resource Manual. This



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| is the volume one, and it's this volume is only 19    |
|---|
| pages, but there is another; it will give you a user  |
| index. But what we heard Staff express concern over   |
| is that this document, this is all the changes that   |
| we've made to the volume two is that volume three?    |
| Those are documented, but this document has grown to  |
| over a couple hundred pa well, I think it's not       |
| quite 200 pages. And to give you some I checked       |
| into this. Illinois has a statewide technical         |
| resource plan. Their volume three is over a thousand  |
| pages. So that's just the nature of, you know, when   |
| you start looking at different measures and trying to |
| evaluate what what is out there, you want a           |
| comprehensive index there.                            |

And then, again, that gives you an idea that it's organized so you can see the table of contents. And then you'll have the measure description and how it impacts that. And this is a resource for evaluators for the Company and for stakeholders to see.

Now, here we get more technical because in the same subsection you have, you know, the calculations. And I just want to highlight because I want to stress that I want you to ask Mr. Graser these questions. So in that table, there will be



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| footnote references. And a few of the footnotes      |
|--|
| there you cannot get to that electronic copy of that |
| water heat recovery calculator. Or it's not a        |
| calculator, but it's a PDF of a manual for that. And |
| so talk to Mr. Graser because we are trying to make  |
| this as comprehensive as possible, but again, this   |
| process began and the Commission originally approved |
| this document in 2018, and it's undergone some       |
| changes that you saw there in the table here.        |

Now we're talking about another component of EM&V which is in our reviewed Appendix F and that's the deemed savings table. And in there you can see we -- all of the changes that you get in October for the TRM updates include this deemed savings log. And so this is what has been tracked and approved.

And then this is a snapshot of all the measures listed. And this deemed savings table, I don't believe that we offer the clothes washer anymore, but -- so that would be one of the measures that would be included.

So I just want to, you know, so this is -- kind of gives you, explains of what we've been filing and what we're talking about in the abstract. Visual learners, that might be helpful. And so I

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want you to also understand that when we file the TRM update, we have a 2020 -- a 2023 evaluation that we're working on in 2024. And then we're filing that update, will be coming up here in October of 2024 filing that update and then implementing the And you can see that there's a timing measures. difference. So when we're talk about the deemed savings table and Mr. Graser is talking about just updating this portion prospectively agreeing to it sooner, it's more of a timing issue. And so I welcome you to ask him more questions about that so you can understand the process that we've been debating the past week.

I think, you know, we've provided a lot of detail in the plan and invite you to have more questions. Overall, this is the same format and structure with updates, version improvements if you will. When your iPhone tells you to update, this is same thing that we've been doing as we've been going along. So we believe that this EM&V is reasonable and the planned evaluation does have an outline for each program. We do document the prior version of the TRM that was approved, and we provide that to the Commission and the stakeholders when they review it.

And for all of these reasons, we believe



- 2 EM&V program and its associated Technical Resource
- 3 Manual and deemed savings chart. And that concludes,
- 4 if you have any questions.
- 5 Ms. Moore, thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN:
- 6 Any bench questions? Counsel, thank you.
- 7 Thank you. MS. MOORE:
- Any opening statement 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN:
- 9 from Staff?
- 10 MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge, thank you.
- 11 Mr. Pringle, when you're JUDGE PRIDGIN:
- 12 ready.

- 13 MR. PRINGLE: And for the record this is
- 14 now Travis Pringle representing Staff.
- 15 afternoon, Judge Pridgin, Chair Hahn, Commissioners.
- 16 And may it please the Commission. As we've heard
- 17 this week, the devil is in the details. And these
- 18 details are essential to implementing a successful
- 19 Like the rest of the application EM&V program.
- 20 Ameren has submitted, Staff recommends rejecting
- 21 Ameren's proposed EM&V plan. What Ameren has
- 2.2 submitted regarding EM&V is simply not developed
- 23 enough to measure and verify the demand savings for
- 24 each program.

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Things to keep in mind when reviewing

| 1  | Ameren's proposed EM&V plan include are the results   |
|----|---|
| 2  | of EM&V applied on a prospective or retrospective     |
| 3  | basis. While Staff does not directly address this     |
| 4  | question in its testimony, Staff witness J Luebbert   |
| 5  | does discuss the impact of retrospective versus       |
| 6  | prospective EM&V on seasonality and Staff supports    |
| 7  | the position of OPC witness Dr. Marke who recommends  |
| 8  | that EM&V be done on a retrospective basis. I         |
| 9  | encourage you to ask both questions to both           |
| 10 | Mr. Luebbert and Dr. Marke on why a retrospective     |
| 11 | EM&V is essential in the context of MEEIA.            |
| 12 | Staff has multiple concerns about issues              |
| 13 | that Ameren has failed to address in its proposed     |
| 14 | EM&V plan. This includes the omission of the          |
| 15 | following: First, there is the rebound effect. The    |
| 16 | rebound effect arises in energy efficiency programs   |
| 17 | when a more efficient asset like an appliance or HVAC |
| 18 | unit is now being used more than it previously was.   |
| 19 | Staff witness Dr. Hari Poudel has put forth testimony |
| 20 | describing this effect and is happy to take any       |
| 21 | questions you may have.                               |
| 22 | The interactive effects. The interaction              |
| 23 | of primary and secondary measures within the          |

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application, the throughput disincentives, and how

Ameren intends to use this information to inform

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potential future MEEIA cycles must be taken into account. Staff witness Justin Tevie is available to answer any questions you may have on this topic.

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The principal-agent issue. This problem arises when one party to a contract, in this case the ratepayers, cannot directly observe the actions or efforts of the other party, the agent, in this case Ameren Missouri. The ratepayers can only observe the outcomes of Ameren's actions. Since the actions of Ameren cannot be observed, ratepayers have no say in pushing Ameren to pursue the most optimal action. Staff witness Justin Tevie is also available to answer questions you have on this topic.

Back to the Inflation Reduction Act. As pointed out earlier in this hearing, Staff's independent auditor, Evergreen Economics, suggests the IRA products be entirely excluded from Ameren's MEEIA savings claims. If IRA products are to be included, a low negotiated net-to-gross ratio should be used to reflect the dominant influence of the IRA. Staff agrees with Evergreen's suggestion and recommends a ratio of no higher than 10 percent. Staff witness Mark Kiesling is available to answer any questions you may have on this topic.

Free ridership. Again as discussed



during the IRA portion of this hearing, the current application does not adequately provide restrictions and safeguards to prevent or minimize free ridership. Staff witnesses Mark Kiesling and Francisco Del Pozo are available to answer any additional questions you may have on this topic.

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Spillover. It is important to note the presence of spillover prior to the implementation of these programs. Staff witness Dr. Hari Poudel has put forth testimony describing this effect and is happy to take your subject.

Time-based rates. This will tie into the net throughout disincentive issue later in these proceedings. Without precise and updated savings data, it is very difficult to determine realistic net impacts. For EM&V, Dr. Hari Poudel has put forward testimony describing this and is happy to take any questions you may have.

Also tomorrow when we do net throughput disincentive issue, I implore you to ask Sarah Lange well this about as well.

The Commission is also being asked to determine if EM&V should be completed by a single independent Commissioner-approved consultant with no utility oversight. The answer is yes. Independence

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of EM&V is crucial to identifying the net benefits of a given MEEIA cycle. EM&V process to date has relied on several assumptions, and the verification has occurred for a relatively small size -- small sample size of measures. Further, after final EM&V reports are filed for any given program year, there is not a process in place to ensure those evaluated savings actually occurred as they were deemed to have. Staff witnesses Dr. Poudel and Brad Fortson are happy to take any questions you have on this issue.

Next the Commission is being asked to approve, modify, or reject the Technical Resource Manual, or TRM, and the deemed savings table. Both should be rejected. Both are voluminous and give the appearance of providing very accurate estimates of energy and demand savings, but the sources utilized for thousands of assumptions included are opaque. Many of the assumptions within the deemed savings table are hard coded without citations. Many of the citations that do exist within the TRM and deemed savings tables are no longer valid. Citations that are still valid within the TRM and deemed savings table are largely vague references to entire documents that are often hundreds of pages long.

In this case Staff performed a limited



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| review of the TRM and deemed savings table and        |
|---|
| identified assumed values that do not appear          |
| reasonable are aligned on studies that are likely     |
| outdated and many of which did not provide clear      |
| citation to justifications for the assumptions.       |
| Staff witness J Luebbert is available today to answer |
| any effects [sic] you may have regarding the flaws in |
| the TRM and deemed savings table and how this affects |
| EM&V.   |

Staff further argues that no MEEIA cycle should be approved prior to the submission of a TRM and deemed savings table with serviceable links and page-specific citations of the assumptions that are reasonable, justified, and well-documented. Staff witness J Luebbert is available to answer any questions you may have about the importance of these -- of assuming these documents are reasonable, justified, and well-documented.

Also as a note, when it comes to the low-income programs, there is also an impact of that on the NTD as well and I implore you to save questions about that for tomorrow when Sarah Lange comes up as well.

Thank you for your time. And if you have any questions, I'm happy to entertain them.

1 Mr. Pringle, thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 2 Any bench questions? All right. Mr. Pringle, thank 3 you. 4 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you. 5 Any opening on behalf of JUDGE PRIDGIN: 6 Renew Missouri? 7 None at this time, Judge. MR. LINHARES: 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any opening 9 on behalf of NRDC? 10 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you, Judge. 11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any opening 12 behalf of Public Counsel? 13 Yes, Judge, thank you. MS. VANGERPEN: 14 You're welcome. JUDGE PRIDGIN: Whenever 15 you're ready. 16 MS. VANGERPEN: Good afternoon again, 17 Chair Hahn, Commissioners, Judge Pridgin. 18 please the Commission. We're here today to talk 19 about the evaluation, measurement, and verification 20 process or the EM&V process. The EM&V process in a 21 nutshell is trying to determine what amount of energy 2.2 savings exist and what can be attributed to Ameren. 23 It's trying to take that maybe that I talked about in 24 my main opening and turn it into something that's 25 more verified. But as I mentioned during that main

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opening, this is really, really hard. We're trying to estimate a counterfactual here. So what's the OPC asking you guys -- you all to do.

The OPC sees three possibilities for moving forward. First and most simply, we're -Commissioners, we're asking that you reject Ameren's amended application. This of course would eliminate the need to do any sort of EM&V process. Second, you could move forward with Dr. Marke's suggestion towards a statewide program and order a limited, simple EM&V as he discusses. Or third, if you wish to move forward with MEEIA energy efficiency programs and an EM&V, the OPC requests that you provide the parties some guidance on the considerations that are listed in the list of issues.

These considerations include things like operational inefficiencies which would account for things like individuals forgetting to change their air filters in their -- in their furnaces. It would also include time-based rates and the rebound effect where an individual uses more energy after adopting an energy efficiency measure. Each of these items affect the attribution due to Ameren. Dr. Marke includes in his surrebuttal testimony a table that gives estimated reductions for many of those



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considerations.

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Without your guidance on these issues now, should you approve any MEEIA programs, it's likely that we will have very contentious EM&V dockets in the future.

option, the OPC also encourages you, Commissioners, to require that the EM&V be completed by a single, independent, Commission-approved consultant with no utility oversight. As Staff has stated throughout the hearing, the details here matter. With EM&V, the inputs really matter. To ensure the objectivity of any EM&V that is completed, the Commission should move away from Ameren overseeing the EM -- EM&V consultant and move towards a single, independent consultant.

And lastly, we've already touched a bit on the topic of prospective versus a retrospective EM&V during this hearing. This is one of our listed subissues in this issue as well. As Dr. Marke has testified, a prospective EM&V process requires you, Commission, to first determine the savings attributed to Ameren. This again would require a consideration of that -- those list of con -- list of issues that are included in our list of issues. A retrospective



| Τ  | EM&V process requires that those considerations be   |
|----|--|
| 2  | made after the programs are implemented, and the OPC |
| 3  | believes that a retrospective process should be used |
| 4  | moving forward, but again, it will also require      |
| 5  | consideration of those those listed issues as        |
| 6  | well.  |
| 7  | And again, Commissioners, I encourage you            |
| 8  | to ask Dr. Marke any questions that you have. And    |
| 9  | I'm happy to take any questions that you have now as |
| 10 | well.  |
| 11 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you.             |
| 12 | Any bench questions? All right. Thank you, Counsel.  |
| 13 | MS. VANGERPEN: Thank you.                            |
| 14 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: I believe we are ready to             |
| 15 | go to is it Mr. Graser, I hope I'm pronouncing       |
| 16 | that correctly, from Ameren Missouri.                |
| 17 | MS. MOORE: I believe that is correct,                |
| 18 | your Honor. And as a reminder, he was sworn in       |
| 19 | yesterday, and so we would tender him for cross, as  |
| 20 | soon as he arrives.                                  |
| 21 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you.                 |
| 22 | Mr. Graser, I'll remind you you're still under oath. |
| 23 | (Witness previously sworn.)                          |
| 24 | NEIL GRASER  |
| 25 | the witness, having been first duly sworn,           |



Page 145 1 testified as follows: 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Any 3 cross-examination for this witness from Renew 4 Missouri? 5 MR. LINHARES: No, thank you. 6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any cross 7 from NRDC? 8 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you, Judge. 9 Any cross from Staff? JUDGE PRIDGIN: 10 MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge, thank you. 11 CROSS-EXAMINATION 12 BY MR. PRINGLE: 13 Good afternoon, Mr. Graser. Ο. 14 Good afternoon. Α. 15 And were you present when Ms. Moore gave Ο. 16 her opening statement? 17 Α. Yes. 18 And did you hear her say that the Illinois Ο. TRM volume three is over 1,000 pages long? 19 20 Α. I did. 21 Do you know, are there any references or Ο. 2.2 citation to the Illinois TRM in Ameren's TRM? 23 Α. Yes, there are. 24 Do you know how many? Q. 25 I do not know off the top of my head. Α.



1 Q. Thank you, sir. 2 One moment, Judge. 3 Mr. Graser, the citations that are in the 4 Ameren TRM to the Illinois TRM, are you aware, are 5 they cita -- like, are they citations to the document 6 as a whole, or do they have specific page citations? 7 Subject to check, I believe there are Α. 8 specific page citations. 9 But that is subject to check at this time? O. 10 Α. Yes. I don't know off the top of my head. 11 Thank you, sir. MR. PRINGLE: No further 12 questions at this time, Judge. 13 Mr. Pringle, thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 14 Any cross from OPC? 15 MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you. 16 All right. JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. 17 Any bench questions? Seeing none. Any -- no bench 18 questions I quess, so no cross. Any redirect? 19 No, your Honor. MS. MOORE: 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. Mr. Graser, thank you. 21 2.2 MS. MOORE: Your Honor, I don't believe 23 Mr. Graser is going to appear again, so I would move 24 to -- I move to admit Ameren Exhibit 110, which is 25 the rebuttal testimony of J., just the letter J.,



No, thank you.

MS. VANGERPEN:

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Page 148 1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross from Renew 2 Missouri? 3 MR. LINHARES: No, thank you, your Honor. 4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross from NRDC? 5 No, thank you, Judge. MS. RUBENSTEIN: 6 And cross from Ameren JUDGE PRIDGIN: 7 Missouri? 8 MS. HERNANDEZ: No, thank you. 9 Any bench questions? JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ι 10 think I have one. 11 **OUESTIONS** 12 BY JUDGE PRIDGIN: 13 And if you're not the proper person I Ο. 14 should ask, feel free to let me know who I should 15 ask. I believe it's Staff's position that the EM&V 16 approach should be rejected. Is that correct? 17 Α. Yes. 18 If the Commission were to approve either Ο. 19 the entire application or maybe just a portion of it, 2.0 what would be Staff's proposed modifications that 21 should be made to the EM&V approach to address some 2.2 of Staff's concerns? I believe Staff witness J Luebbert would 23 Α. 24 probably be the best to speak to that. 25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.



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Page 149
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     think that's all I have. Any other bench questions?
 2
     Any recross based on my questions? Public Counsel?
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                MR. PRINGLE:
                               It's Staff's witness,
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     Judge.
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                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                              Well, I was
                                 Excuse me.
 6
     going to ask any recross based on my questions, so.
 7
     Public Counsel, any cross?
 8
                MS. VANGERPEN:
                                 No, thank you.
 9
                                 Renew Missouri?
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
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                MR. LINHARES:
                                None, thank you.
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                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 NRDC?
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                                  No, thank you.
                MS. RUBENSTEIN:
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                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Ameren Missouri?
                                 No, thank you, Judge.
14
                MS. HERNANDEZ:
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                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Any redirect?
16
                               No redirect, Judge, thank
                MR. PRINGLE:
17
     you.
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                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Thank you.
                                              Thank you.
19
     You may step down. Next witness, Staff witness, is
2.0
     it Tevie?
                Am I pronouncing that correctly?
21
                MR. PRINGLE:
                               Justin Tevie.
2.2
                JUDGE PRIDGIN:
                                 Tevie, excuse me.
                                                     And,
23
     Mr. Tevie, you're still under oath.
24
                MR. TEVIE:
                             Yes.
25
                 (Witness previously sworn.)
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| 1  | JUSTIN TEVIE  |
|----|---|
| 2  | the witness, having been first duly sworn,            |
| 3  | testified as follows:                                 |
| 4  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Anything from Staff                    |
| 5  | before he stands cross?                               |
| 6  | MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. At this time                  |
| 7  | Staff tenders Mr. Tevie for cross-examination.        |
| 8  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.                  |
| 9  | Any cross from Public Counsel?                        |
| 10 | MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.                         |
| 11 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross from Renew                   |
| 12 | Missouri?   |
| 13 | MR. LINHARES: No, thank you.                          |
| 14 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Cross from NRDC?                       |
| 15 | MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you.                        |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri?                       |
| 17 | MS. HERNANDEZ: No, thank you, Judge.                  |
| 18 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any bench questions? All               |
| 19 | right. Thank you very much. You may step down.        |
| 20 | MR. TEVIE: Thank you.                                 |
| 21 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Next wit                               |
| 22 | MR. PRINGLE: Judge                                    |
| 23 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry, go ahead.                   |
| 24 | MR. PRINGLE: For Staff's next two                     |
| 25 | witnesses, this will be the first time both have come |



Page 151 1 to the stand, so I will have to go through direct. 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you. 3 believe Mr. Del Pozo. 4 That is correct. MR. PRINGLE: 5 (Witness sworn.) 6 FRANCISCO DEL POZO 7 the witness, having been first duly sworn, 8 testified as follows: 9 Thank you very much. You JUDGE PRIDGIN: may have a seat. Mr. Pringle, when you're ready, 10 11 sir. 12 Thank you, Judge. MR. PRINGLE: 13 DIRECT EXAMINATION 14 BY MR. PRINGLE: 15 Ο. Good afternoon, Mr. Del Pozo. 16 Good afternoon. Α. 17 Please state and spell your name for the Ο. 18 record. 19 Α. F-r-a-n-c-i-s-c-o, space, D-e-l, space, 20 P-0-z-0. 21 Thank you, Mr. Del Pozo. And by whom are Ο. 2.2 you employed and in what capacity? Public Service Commission. I am economist 23 Α. in the tariff rate design department. 24 25



Thank you, Mr. Del Pozo. And are you the

Q.

|    | Evidentiary Fleating July 24, 26                         |
|----|--|
| 1  | Page 15<br>same Francisco Del Pozo who caused to sponsor |
| 2  | rebuttal testimony in this matter that has been          |
| 3  | premarked as Staff Exhibit 215?                          |
| 4  | A. Yes.  |
| 5  | Q. At this time do you have any corrections              |
| 6  | to make to Exhibit 215?                                  |
| 7  | A. Yes. I have a small correction to do in               |
| 8  | the page number 2, line 11. It should be replacement     |
| 9  | on failure instead of return on equity. Replacement      |
| LO | on failure, f-a-i-l-u-r-e.                               |
| L1 | Q. Do you have any additional corrections at             |
| L2 | this time, Mr. Del Pozo?                                 |
| L3 | A. No, that's  |
| L4 | Q. Thank you, sir. And is the information                |
| L5 | contained in Exhibit 215 true and correct to the best    |
| L6 | of your belief and knowledge?                            |
| L7 | A. Yes, it is.   |
| L8 | Q. If I were to ask you the same questions               |
| L9 | within Exhibit 215, would your answers be the same or    |
| 20 | substantially similar?                                   |
| 21 | A. Would be the same.                                    |
| 22 | MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Mr. Del Pozo.                    |
| 23 | And, Judge, this will be Mr. Del Pozo's only time on     |
|    |  |

move to enter Exhibit 215 on the record.

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the stand for these proceedings, so at this time I

Page 153 1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And I'm -- that's his 2 rebuttal? 3 MR. PRINGLE: Yes. All Mr. Del Pozo has 4 in this is his rebuttal testimony, correct. 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Exhibit 215 has been 6 Any objections? offered. Hearing no objections, 7 Exhibit 215 is admitted into evidence. (Staff Exhibit 215 was admitted and made 8 9 a part of this record.) 10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And he's ready for cross. 11 Is that correct? 12 That is correct, Judge. MR. PRINGLE: Αt 13 this time Staff tender Mr. Del Pozo for 14 cross-examination. 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Al right. Thank you. 16 Any cross examination, Public Counsel? 17 MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you. 18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross from Renew 19 Missouri? 20 No, thank you. MR. LINHARES: 21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any cross 2.2 from NRDC? 23 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you. 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri? 25 No, thank you, Judge. MS. HERNANDEZ:



Page 154 1 Any bench questions for JUDGE PRIDGIN: 2 this witness? All right. Hearing none, thank you 3 very much. 4 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And is it Dr. Poudel the 6 next witness. Is that correct? 7 MR. PRINGLE: That is correct, Judge, Dr. Hari Poudel. 8 9 (Witness sworn.) 10 DR. HARI POUDEL 11 the witness, having been first duly sworn, 12 testified as follows: 13 Thank you. You may have JUDGE PRIDGIN: 14 And, Mr. Pringle, when you're ready, sir. a seat. 15 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PRINGLE: 17 18 Good afternoon, Dr. Poudel. Ο. 19 Good afternoon. Α. 2.0 Please state and spell your name for the 0. 21 record. 22 Α. Hari, H-a-r-i, middle initial K., last 23 name Poudel, P-o-u-d-e-1. 24 Thank you, Dr. Poudel. And are you the Ο. 25 same -- oh, wait, sorry. By whom are you employed



and in what capacity?

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- A. I am employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission in the tariff rate design department in the industry analysis division as an economist.
- Q. Thank you for that, Dr. Poudel. And are you the same Dr. Poudel who caused to sponsor in these proceedings direct, rebuttal, and surrebuttal testimony which have been premarked as Staff Exhibits 216, 217, and 218?
- 11 A. Yes.
  - Q. At this time do you have any corrections to make to Exhibits 216, 217, or 218?
  - A. Yes. I have two correction. In my surrebuttal testimony on page 4 and 5, if you go to the footnote, the footnote 6 should be, instead of Dr. Geoff Marke, it should be J. Neil Graser, Ameren Missouri. And on page 5, footnote 7, it should be Dr. Geoff Marke instead of J. Neil Graser, just it's a flip flop.
  - Q. And do you have any further -- further corrections to make this at this time, sir?
- A. No, I am not aware of any.
- Q. Thank you, Dr. Poudel. And is the information contained in Exhibits 216, 217, and 218



1 true and correct to the best of your belief and 2 knowledge? 3 Α. Yes, I do. 4 Q. If I were to ask you the same questions 5 within Exhibits 216, 217, and 218, would your answers 6 be the same or substantially similar? 7 Would be substantially similar. A. 8 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Dr. Poudel. 9 Dr. Poudel will be taking the stand again so we will not be entering his testimony on the record at this 10 But Staff does tender Dr. Poudel for 11 12 cross-examination. 13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Pringle, thank you. 14 Any cross-examination from Public Counsel? 15 MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you. 16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross from Renew 17 Missouri? 18 MR. LINHARES: None, thank you. 19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any cross 20 from NRDC? 21 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you, Judge. 2.2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any from Ameren Missouri? 23 MS. HERNANDEZ: No questions, thank you. 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. 25 Any bench questions for this witness? All right.

1 Hearing none, Dr. Poudel, thank you very much. The 2 next scheduled witness I believe is Brad Fortson from 3 Staff. That is correct, Judge. 4 MR. PRINGLE: 5 And this will be Mr. Fortson's last time taking the 6 stand, so prior to cross-examination, I would like to 7 move to enter his testimony on the record. 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you have those 9 exhibits numbers, whenever you're ready. 10 MR. PRINGLE: Yes. Those will be 11 Exhibits 206, the direct testimony of Brad 12 Fortson; 207, the rebuttal testimony of Brad Fortson; 13 and 208, the surrebuttal testimony of Brad Fortson. 14 Any objections? JUDGE PRIDGIN: 15 none, Exhibits 206, 207, and 208 are admitted into 16 evidence. 17 (Staff Exhibits 206, 207, and 208 were 18 admitted and made a part of this record.) 19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Anything further before 20 he stands cross? 21 MR. PRINGLE: No. At this time Staff 2.2 tenders Mr. Fortson for cross-examination. 23 (Witness previously sworn.) 24 BRAD FORTSON 25 the witness, having been first duly sworn,

Page 158 1 testified as follows: 2 Mr. Pringle, thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: 3 Any cross from Public Counsel? 4 MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you. 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any cross from Renew 6 Missouri? 7 No, thank you, your Honor. MR. LINHARES: 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Cross from NRDC? 9 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you. 10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri? 11 No, thank you, Judge. MS. HERNANDEZ: 12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any bench questions? 13 riaht. Thank you very much. You may step down. Ιs 14 it Mr. Luebbert who's the next witness? 15 MR. PRINGLE: Yes. Mr. J Luebbert. And. 16 Judge, Mr. Luebbert will be taking the stand a few 17 more times in these proceedings, so at this time we tender Mr. Luebbert for cross-examination. 18 19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Pringle, thank you. 20 (Witness previously sworn.) 21 J LUEBBERT 2.2 the witness, having been first duly sworn, 23 testified as follows: 24 Any cross from Public JUDGE PRIDGIN: 25 Counsel?



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| 1  | MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you.                         |
|----|---|
| 2  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Renew Missouri, any                    |
| 3  | cross?  |
| 4  | MR. LINHARES: No, thank you.                          |
| 5  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: NRDC?                                  |
| 6  | MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you.                        |
| 7  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ameren Missouri?                       |
| 8  | MR. HOLTHAUS: None, thank you.                        |
| 9  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Any bench                   |
| 10 | questions? I do I think Commission Mitchell, go       |
| 11 | ahead, sir.   |
| 12 | QUESTIONS   |
| 13 | BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:                             |
| 14 | Q. So we've heard a bit about the                     |
| 15 | completeness and reliability of the data in the TRM.  |
| 16 | And could you could you elaborate a little bit on     |
| 17 | that or give us your opinion on what you think the    |
| 18 | reliability of that data is?                          |
| 19 | A. I can. I guess so I think one thing to             |
| 20 | keep in mind is that the TRM documents, I think there |
| 21 | are three documents that Ameren's asking approval of, |
| 22 | those also feed into deemed savings tables where      |
| 23 | they're utilizing some of the formulas that are       |
| 24 | included within the TRM to then calculate an          |



estimated annual energy savings amount from each

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measure. And then they're utilizing a factor to multiply by that energy savings amount to come up with a -- with Ameren's estimated demand impact. And like I mentioned before, that's -- that's limited to one time period.

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So we did -- we did some analysis of the -- the TRM early on when Ameren first filed its application in this case. It was -- it was in 2023. And we identified that there were a lot of links either broken or that there were a lot of assumptions that were included there that just didn't have any When you're thinking about estimating the citations. energy savings value from installing one measure, and that's how granular this -- this document is getting, you can imagine that there are a lot of assumptions that go into that, some of them being the existing equipment type, some of them being the expected useful life. There may be hours of use in a given year that are -- that is going in as an assumption. A lot of different variables that can vary not only by the piece of equipment, but also by the location, your climate. You know, certain -- certain measures are going to operate more frequently here in the Midwest then they might in the Northeast and vice versa. Certain measures are going to operate less

Page 161

here than they would in another location, maybe in, you know, Southern California and vice versa.

Again, it's, I know we sound like broken records here over this last week, but the details really matter. And it matters for a number of reasons. For the TRM and the DM savings table what I would say is that in the review that we've done, I -- we struggled to walk through a single measure or let alone, you know, a series of measures and not come to a point that a number was hard coded that we couldn't follow back with a citation. Or if there was a citation, maybe it was a reference to, I think as Mr. Pringle mentioned, maybe it's a reference to a document that's a thousand pages long or one that we didn't have whenever the Company provided that -- that document.

So for those citations, let's just kind of break it into those categories, right. The ones that don't have citations, you have a hard-coded number that's maybe out ten decimal places and we don't have any support for it. I don't think that there's any questions that that's problematic, especially when we're considering kind of the outcome of what the TRM and the deemed savings table is providing.

Citations to -- with links to a source



that no longer exists or we can't identify where it is. Obviously that's -- that's problematic. Kind of falls into that same bucket as the prior one.

And then the third is we have some citations to some very large documents, but without -- what we've asked for is page-specific citations or to the extent that it comes from a table, a file, an Excel file, tell us what cell you're using for that assumption. And the reason that's important is that some of these documents that they may be referencing might be talking about various different types of equipment or various different assumptions that -- that go into the calculation of a very -- a detailed formula.

If you kind of look through the TRM, it doesn't take long to see that there are some formulas that might have, you know, upwards of seven to ten variables. So you're thinking about that many variables and having compounding issues of not having citations there, it gets out of hand really quick.

I think your original question is what -what issues we had with kind of the documentation and
the reliability. We started to look through some of
those that did have citations, and we found problems
with the assumptions that were included there. Some

of the baselines there were being utilized, and one specifically that one of the Staff witnesses pointed out in their direct testimony -- may have been rebuttal testimony, I'm sorry -- is the issue of what baseline do you utilize for HVAC equipment. And to give -- I don't want to get too far in the weeds here, but the -- the baseline is essentially what is the least efficient equipment that's available for replacement, as a kind of high level way to think about it.

Instead of utilizing a baseline of equipment that's available today what the Company would utilize in their deemed savings table is a seasonal energy efficiency rating much, much lower than that. So just as an example, I think instead of utilizing a using SEER 14, which I believe is the standard today, they were using somewhere between a SEER 8 and a SEER 9. What that does is it drives the energy savings estimate much higher than what's realistically expected to occur. So you have overstated savings.

Now, I can't stress enough that the TRM and the deemed savings table are kind of the, I want to say to an extent, the backbone that Ameren's basing all of their estimates on in this application.



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They're basing those program summary sheets that we talked about earlier today in Appendix A on the -- to determine what the gross and net megawatt and megawatt hour savings are. They're basing those on the deemed savings tables. They're basing their program target and their earnings opportunity targets just like we talked about with that.

But then they're -- they're also planning to utilize that, those deemed savings tables and the -- the TRM in the calculation of the throughput disincentive which as some others have referred to as the lost revenues, right. So the estimate that they have for the amount of energy that you've saved, they're going to multiply that by the net marginal And Dr. Poudel talks a little bit about this rate. and we can -- I implore you to ask him about that; I'm sure he'd be happy to talk about that process. But you're utilizing that assumption, that flawed assumption kind of over and over and over through this process, not only on the front end as they're asking for approval of their application, but also then on the back end when it comes time to charge -charge ratepayers for the net throughput And then they're also utilizing that disincentive. to some extent for the earnings opportunity as well.



1 So evaluating that -- that energy and demand savings.

So you start kind of cascading or snowballing this -- this issue of unreliable information or overstated information and it -- it picks up steam and it -- you start adding more and more assumptions on top of it and it becomes more problematic. That's where we are with that.

- Q. And can -- can you help me understand the origins of that document? Where did those documents come from?
- perspective from Cycle 3 on is probably the best that I can do today. And that's because I haven't been with -- I came to the commission during Cycle 2. The TRM was proposed; Ameren requested approval of the TRM and a deemed savings table, I want to say it was in 2018 for Cycle 3. I know we looked at some of the revision logs that -- that were talked about earlier today. I know that the TRM is kind of -- the way that it's framed at least I think within the application is that this is an Ameren document.

Now, I'm -- I've heard that there's, you know, there's some source documentation that they're relying on, and we have seen -- I've seen some of those revision logs that talk about changing certain

| aspects, some limited assumptions as they go along  |
|---|
| and providing kind of who has done that that        |
| revision. But I can't state with certainly who, you |
| know, if somebody handed Ameren this TRM or handed  |
| them the deemed savings table and said, This is     |
| you know, this is the numbers you should use.       |

- Q. So they're not an industry standard; they're a custom or design or a custom-prepared data set?
- A. As far as I know. And one -- I guess one thing that I'd say to that -- to that effect is even if this was a third-party product that was handed to Ameren, it's imperative that they understand the assumptions that are going into it for many reasons. One, to know what kind of impacts to expect. But the more important reason is that you're using that as a basis to charge customers, and we have to have support for that.

So I -- I do think that there's -- I think that the TRM in this case has been a more visible topic than what it's been in a prior case, but it's not because it was any less important in that case; we just have a better understanding of kind of what's driving that end result or what's driving the estimated end result.

Q. And is there a relationship between the data in those two documents, whether prospective or retrospective, looking at the EM&V, is there a connection there?

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So for the -- the calculation of net Α. throughput disincentive as Ameren's proposed, my understanding is that it is going to rely on those estimations from the TRM as the primary source. you're going to take the -- the -- I don't want to get too far in the details because the mechanism itself is kind of complicated. But at a high level you're taking the -- the number of measures that are installed in a given month. You're multiplying that. You're doing some averaging so that you're assuming it happens mid-month. Multiplying that by the estimated energy savings that occurs. And then you're multiplying that by a factor to come up with the -- the net throughput disincentive which gets included as the TD component of the EEIC, the energy efficiency investment charge.

So if you're doing that on a prospective basis, you could go an entire year looking at installations of measures and never go back and account for the fact that maybe it wasn't reasonable to attribute, I think as Dr. Marke has talked about,



| 1  | maybe it wasn't reasonable to attribute all of the $ m $ |
|----|--|
| 2  | savings to a given program. Maybe it was more            |
| 3  | reasonable to attribute only 50 percent or 10            |
| 4  | percent, something along those lines. And if you do      |
| 5  | that on a prospective basis, you've essentially          |
| 6  | charged customers for that throughput disincentive       |
| 7  | for that entire year, even though that wasn't a          |
| 8  | reasonable thing to have done. And you're                |
| 9  | shielding you're placing that risk on the                |
| 10 | ratepayer and shielding the the Company, but also        |
| 11 | the implementers to an extent from risk of them          |
| 12 | driving installations of energy efficiency measures      |
| 13 | that they probably shouldn't have been focused on.       |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thanks very much.                 |
| 15 | That helps me understand.                                |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Mitchell,                    |
| 17 | thank you. Any other bench questions? I think I may      |
| 18 | have a few.  |
| 19 | QUESTIONS  |
| 20 | BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:  |
| 21 | Q. Mr. Luebbert, if the Commission were to               |
| 22 | approve either a portion of this application or the      |
| 23 | entire application, what would Staff's proposed          |
| 24 | modifications be to the EM&V approach to address some    |

of Staff's concerns?

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| A. That's a difficult question. I will say,           |
|---|
| you know, we've gone pretty quick through this topic, |
| so it might take a while, and I don't know that I'm   |
| going to be able to give a comprehensive answer. But  |
| I can certainly give some things that that could      |
| be done or what Staff thinks should have been done on |
| the front end in order to improve this EM&V process.  |

First thing that I'm going to point out is if you look at the EM&V plan, quote, unquote, plan for each of these programs, they're pretty generic. You're going to see a lot of similarity between each and -- between each of the EM&V plans for each program, even though they're pretty different programs, the design them, who they're impacting, that type of thing. The answer for -- from -- from Staff's perspective is as you're planning for programs, you need to have a -- a well-thought out plan for how you're going to evaluate these things and that needs to play into how you actually design the program.

So there are going to be some measures that are extremely difficult to evaluate. There are going to be other measures that are much easier to evaluate. And there's -- there should be a cost differential between those two things if you're

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trying to get the same level of accuracy. That's something that can be well-thought of or thought of well ahead of time prior to implementation of that plan.

If there are measures or programs that are right for free ridership, then you can implement -- you can implement steps leading up to that point to minimize some of that free ridership so that you don't have to deal with as much of it on the back end. And when we're talking about that, those changes, implementing kind of the results of the EM&V, to the extent that you can minimize those large swings from what you expected to have occurred to what actually occurred, what you evaluated or you've measured, ideally you've verified, to have occurred, that's -- that's probably an ideal situation.

On the front end what we're -- what we're looking at within this application are Ameren's estimates of megawatt hours savings and megawatt savings. That's -- that's the document that we were all looking through together. To the extent that you can accurately quantify or at least account for the difference that's going to occur between kind of the gross or the unadjusted amount compared to a net, it's a much better look at it from the front end if

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you know that there are large issues that are going to drive differences. So accounting for those types of things ahead of time is a good idea.

I know that we have a list of topics that we've -- we've included within the issues list. By and large I'd say our -- our position is that those things should be accounted for ahead of time, have a plan in place, have it documented. Ideally have -- have it documented at the time that you've done your application so that we can have -- we can have Staff experts and other party experts provide the Commission with their insights on whether or not they think it's a reasonable plan to account for some of those things.

And then I -- I think another area that's important to keep in mind is one of the things that I don't think -- well, it hasn't been talked about with this issue because we've gone quick, right. When we're evaluating things, when we're looking at the results of evaluation, those results are relying on the avoided cost, at least to date, okay, to date the evaluation results have relied upon the avoided costs that were approved by the Commission. We know those are incorrect because they're at best a forecast and at worst an overestimation, which is what we're



talking about in this case.

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But we have real data every year about what the actual cost of energy is in a given hour. It's publicly available information through MISO, We have real data through the results of the PRA on what the market price of capacity is in each And so to the extent that you're evaluating season. megawatt hour savings and megawatt reductions, identifying the time periods is really important. We've talked about this. But then applying that to real data to have an understanding of what those actual avoided costs are. What was the result compared to what the forecast was or what the estimate was from the Company would give a very clear indication of whether or not that was an overblown It would also give a clear indication of estimate. whether or not they're hitting the time periods that matter.

Noth -- I've looked at EM&V reports. I haven't seen anything that accounts for what the actual cost of energy is over that time period, what the actual reductions are in a given hour. You know, it's going to be -- even if you -- if you did that as best as you could, it's going to be an estimate, but it would be a more granular estimate.



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And then I guess the last thing that really kind of would be especially important is understanding what that impact is not only over that year, but over time. Because if what we're talking about here is trying to kind of compare demand-side resources to a supply-side resource and what the ultimate goal is is to drive benefits to all ratepayers through a deferral of supply-side resource in the future, then the demand savings that occur out in that future -- future time period are more important than possibly what happens today.

If I'm looking at a deferral of a resource that doesn't happen for 12 years, but I'm only evaluating the megawatt reductions that happened in Year One, I'm drawing a blind eye to the thing that actually matters which is what is the megawatt reduction that occurs later. That's more important. And does it occur later and in the time period that I real needed it most, or at least what I was basing my -- my justification on. I don't think any of that's been looked at thoroughly through EM&V. are improvements. I'm sure that I'm missing a few, but I also know that the Commission has limited time and we've got other issues too.

So if there are more specific questions,



| 1  | I'd be happy to answer them. I we've tried to lay     |
|----|---|
| 2  | out kind of the issues we've identified within our    |
| 3  | testimony. I I will caution that there are            |
| 4  | probably others that we just haven't identified yet.  |
| 5  | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Luebbert,               |
| 6  | thank you. I I do have a few more questions. And      |
| 7  | I don't really like to break in the middle of a       |
| 8  | witness like this, but we've been going for about a   |
| 9  | couple of hours and I do want to give people a chance |
| 10 | for a break. So I'm showing it's not quite 3:30.      |
| 11 | Let's take a break until about 3:45 or so. Is there   |
| 12 | anything further from counsel or for the bench before |
| 13 | we take a break? All right. We will stand in recess   |
| 14 | then until 3:45. Thank you. We're off the record.     |
| 15 | (Off the record.)                                     |
| 16 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good afternoon. We are                 |
| 17 | back on the record. Mr. Luebbert is still on the      |
| 18 | stand for EM&V, and I believe Commissioner Mitchell   |
| 19 | has some additional questions.                        |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thanks, J.                     |
| 21 | QUESTIONS   |
| 22 | BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:                             |
| 23 | Q. You mentioned a laundry list of worries            |
| 24 | about the data sources and the and the TRM and the    |
| 25 | deemed savings tables. And did did you ever take      |

that concern to Ameren and ask about it, and if so, what was the response?

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Α. Yeah, that's a good question. Yeah. Ι raised that issue really early on in the initial application. The first data request that we sent, I wrote, and it identified that there were large swaths of hard-coded numbers within their work papers without citations. We asked for those citations, and we didn't get a responsive answer in the first place. And so we had conversations with the Company and we had several conversations with the Company and it became clear fairly quickly that they weren't going to be able to provide citations for DM savings table and the TRM.

I talk about this a little bit within my rebuttal testimony kind of a condensed timeline of events, if you will, between the initial application and then part of the impetus from Staff's perspective of kind of thinking about an extension for this -- this calendar year was with the intention of having a new application that would include support, right.

We would know that support is needed in order to look at something like this on a long-term basis or on a -- with the magnitude of the dollar value. And we had workshops and discussions and we described some

of issues that we were running into. You know, we would walk through, and we -- we hit this point and it's a wall; it's a hard-coded wall of data to some extent.

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We asked for -- I mentioned we asked for the citations. But once we had the amended application in hand after months and months of, you know, multiple conversations with the Company, their witnesses, we got an amended application. I want to say it was early in 2024. I want to say it was January; I may get the timing wrong there. And there were again large swaths of data that were hard coded. And so we sent a follow-up data request that was largely similar to DR1 in this case, I think I've attached it to my testimony, essentially asking for the same information. Provide us the support for the assumptions that are included, citations for all hard-coded data, tell us where, if you've calculated a number somewhere else, tell us where it pulled from so that we can follow the bread crumbs back, right, to understand what the support is for these assumptions.

And we had follow-up conversations from there, had -- I think there was some discussion about there -- there was a possibility that we'd be getting



| 1  | some of the information updated. And so we kind of    |
|----|---|
| 2  | held off on raising the issue to having a discovery   |
| 3  | conference in this case. And we held off so long      |
| 4  | that we got to a point that it was time to write      |
| 5  | testimony. Or it was time to file testimony. And so   |
| 6  | that's why I included it in my rebuttal testimony,    |
| 7  | that this is an issue, it's been an ongoing issue,    |
| 8  | and we tried. I want to document it for the           |
| 9  | Commission because I think it's important for you all |
| 10 | to understand that we're not we're not just           |
| 11 | opposing it. We took steps trying to explain what     |
| 12 | the issue is and trying to address the issue with the |
| 13 | Company for a long period of time, and we're still in |
| 14 | this spot. I wish the outcome was different, but      |
| 15 | that isn't the case.                                  |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thank you.                     |
| 17 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. I                |
| 18 | think I have a few more questions.                    |
| 19 | QUESTIONS   |
| 20 | BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:                                     |

Q. Given that Ameren has deployed AMI to nearly all of its customers, would Staff recommend or would you recommend using a more accurate way to account for savings through measurement of actual rather than deemed savings?



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A. I would. That's a great point, and that's a great question. I think to the extent possible, to the extent that customers are paying for that investment through their rates, we need to be leveraging that information. Getting data and having a better understanding of kind of what those impacts are I think is important and it will be more important as we move forward.

I know that as part of this case -- I'm struggling to remember which witness, I want to say it was Staff Witness Tevie asked for some sampling data of some samples of customers that looked at pre and post usage with AMI data looking at that, kind of that information over a number of years. I think to the extent that it's possible to leverage that information, either if it's for cost savings for EM&V or for accuracy for EM&V, if it's, you know, anywhere comparable costs, I think that's where this has to move if MEEIA'S going to move forward. We've got to utilize that infrastructure that customers are already paying for because they're paying for it regardless. If you can avoid making assumptions on top of assumptions on top of assumptions and utilize real data, I'd say that's preferable.

Q. Does Ameren and do the other parties have



the data needed to do EM&V in more of a measured manner?

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- Α. I -- I will tell you that I don't think the other parties have the data to the extent that Ameren does, specifically kind of segmenting customers by rate class and whether or not they've have participated and what level of participation. I'm not sure that they have kind of the -- I don't want to say they don't have the capability, but they may not have the infrastructure in place to do so But I don't want to -- I can't state that definitively, but I think -- I'm very comfortable saying Staff doesn't have the information available, and my quess is that other parties wouldn't either. We have kind of a fairly, a more transparent view than some of the other parties that are typically subject to these cases.
  - Q. Would a single EM&V consultant be able to verify savings through a -- through a measured approach?
  - A. I don't want to give -- my answer's going to be caveated, and the reason is the details of how that evaluation done -- is done really matters. I think we -- we can all understand that an evaluation can be as accurate as possible and that can come at



| 1  | cost, and it can also be very cheap but probably not |
|----|--|
| 2  | very accurate. And I do think there's some balancing |
| 3  | there. So really knowing the details of how that's   |
| 4  | going to be done, what's going to be looked at, and  |
| 5  | kind of how how you plan to implement that ahead     |
| 6  | of time is probably important. Well, I know it is    |
| 7  | important. But it I think also knowing the data      |
| 8  | that's going to be available for that one if you     |
| 9  | went that route, kind of the data granularity that   |
| 10 | they'd have is probably going to drive some of that  |
| 11 | accuracy and some of the cost.                       |
| 12 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Luebbert, thank you.              |
| 13 | I don't think I have any further questions. Any      |
| 14 | further bench questions? Any recross based on bench  |
| 15 | questions? Public Counsel.                           |
| 16 | MS. VANGERPEN: Yes, just very briefly,               |
| 17 | Judge.   |
| 18 | RECROSS-EXAMINATION                                  |
| 19 | BY MS. VANGERPEN:                                    |
| 20 | Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Luebbert. You                 |
| 21 | mentioned some ways that Staff would fix the EM      |

suggest fixing the EM&V process. Do you agree that a single, independent, Commission-approved evaluator 24 would be another fix?

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A. I think this -- my answer's probably going



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- to be very similar to Judge Pridgin's question, and it would depend on the details. I do think that there are some -- I guess one thing that I hadn't thought of prior, but I do think there are some kind of potential conflicts or potential conflicts that could be avoided by not having kind of oversight by the utility and having kind of a centralized look. But the details again are so important in knowing kind of the level of data granularity, the level of review that they're planning, and the accuracy that should be expected from that is -- are all things that have to be considered. And then obviously cost I think is another thing that would have to be considered.
  - Q. Would you agree with me though that it would likely be cheaper to do a single, independent evaluator as opposed to the current methodology which uses multiple?
  - A. There's a chance that there would be some cost savings just from, I think if nothing else, the ability to standardize some of the review and -- and I guess to take that a step further, it would probably make review a bit simpler from -- just from the Staff perspective, not having separate contractors doing something for each utility and



| 1 | then, oh, by the way they switched contractors nearly |
|---|---|
| 2 | every cycle. Sometimes they have multiple             |
| 3 | contractors do evaluations in the same cycle. And so  |
| 4 | you have this, you know, difference in data           |
| 5 | formatting, report formatting, what they're actually  |
| 6 | providing.  |

I mean, I think from an administration stand point just from Staff's perspective, the review would be simpler. But again, the details are so important. And I -- I know I sound like a bit of a broken record on that, but I can't stress it enough.

- Q. Thank you. Again -- so again talking about those corrections that you mentioned, you would agree me that the review necessary to determine that the programs worked as they were supposed to with your proposed corrections to EM&V, that review process would be time and labor intensive. Is that correct?
- A. I think reasonable evaluation,
  measurement, or verification is, by its nature, going
  to be time and labor intensive. There are certain
  aspects that are -- that are going to be more so.
  My -- my assumption is that well-planned programs,
  well-designed evaluations from the beginning can
  alleviate some of those costs that might pop up if

| you're not accounting for things like massive amounts |
|---|
| of free ridership or other aspects from the front end |
| and you're allowing for large amounts of customers to |
| participate and take incentives that would have,      |
| let's say just would have otherwise purchased         |
| purchased that equipment anyway. I think you're       |
| subjecting more cost to EM&V to appropriately or to   |
| accurately account for that than if you can take      |
| steps to kind of mitigate those ahead of time.        |

So the short answer is yes, changes to EM&V are going to come with a cost. We currently have a cost of EM&V, and I -- I think it's -- it's been established as labor and time intensive already. So improvement can -- I think it could probably cut both ways.

- Q. And just to make sure I understand your answer correctly, my question was the review on behalf of other parties like Staff or OPC who would be reviewing those EM&V reports. Would your corrections to the EM&V process increase the review time for those parties?
- A. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't understand that question. Thank you for asking again. I think the answer is that many of the improvements that I laid out would shorten the review time. Having things



| well-documented from the beginning, having them kind |
|--|
| of fleshed out through the the case timeline         |
| process so we've had a chance to review, you know, a |
| fully and well-documented, well-supported plan ahead |
| of time, we've written testimony, the Company's      |
| written testimony back to kind of explain what their |
| thought process is.                                  |

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I think having those types of thing well-documented before the Commission ever goes to approve a plan can alleviate some of that time. And ideally if you've kind of planned accordingly to avoid some of these issues that we're going to -- that have been brought up within the issues list, those are -- I don't know how to -- a good way to say this -- headaches you can avoid ahead of time. And maybe not avoid, but minimize, right. Some of -- some of these are going to happen regardless, but there are steps that can be taken to kind of mitigate those from the front end.

MS. VANGERPEN: Okay. Thank you. Nothing further.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you.

Any cross from Renew Missouri? Any cross from NRDC?

MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, thank you, Judge.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any from





- Report dated June 11th, 2024, Independent EM&V Audit

  of the Ameren Missouri Plan Year 2023 Program

  Evaluation?
  - A. I -- that's possible, but I can't really speak to it. I haven't -- haven't been involved in that part of the process. Mr. Fortson could probably speak to that better.
  - Q. Understand. You also had some discussion with Commissioner Mitchell about your efforts to get more information from Ameren in regard to the TRM and a few other things. Is that -- do you recall that testimony?

## A. I do.

- Q. And I think you attached to your rebuttal testimony one -- Ameren's response to one of your follow-up DRs. You mentioned -- let me back up. You mentioned an initial DR, I think you said DR1 and then you mentioned there was -- you submitted a follow up DR. Did I summarize that correctly?
- A. I did -- well, I issued several follow-up

  DRs, but I think if -- if I'm recalling the

  discussion that you're referencing, the follow up to

  data request one was after the amended application

  filing, and we did send something that was

  substantially similar, a little bit pared back, but a



| very | similar | data | request. |
|------|---------|------|----------|
|      |         |      |          |

- Q. And the follow-up DR, would that be DR No. 0124 attached to your rebuttal testimony?
- A. Yeah. I was going to say I do think that
  I had attached that. I can -- I can confirm if you
  give me a minute or --
  - O. Please.
- 8 A. -- a few.

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- All right. Okay. Yeah. Schedule JLR4 I think is the response to data request 124.
- 11 Q. And the date of that response by Ameren is 12 March 8th, 2024. Is that correct?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. And is it true that Ameren provided,
  beyond just this cover sheet that's attached to your
  rebuttal testimony, a large number of reports and
  Excel files?
  - A. Ameren did provide a file, and I'm trying to think if it was in response to this data request. It may have been some of the -- I want to say it was a folder with something like 200 PDF documents of various sizes, but it didn't include any citations, which is what we were asking for in the initial data request for the assumptions that were included in Ameren's work papers. So we did get kind

| 1          | of a quote, unquote, data dump from the Company on    |
|------------|---|
| 2          | that date or on a date; I'm not I'm not certain if    |
| 3          | we got it that same day with with a large amount      |
| 4          | of information.                                       |
| 5          | And that's that's some of the                         |
| 6          | information I was kind of talking through with        |
| 7          | Commissioner Mitchell about not having those          |
| 8          | citations really isn't reasonable because in many     |
| 9          | instances there may be information for the same types |
| LO         | of measure across multiple different documents. And   |
| L1         | if I don't know what it is you're utilizing to go and |
| L2         | verify the reasonableness of that assumption, then    |
| L3         | it's created a barrier barrier that's unnecessary,    |
| L <b>4</b> | especially when we're talking about something that's  |
| L5         | over a year after we initially requested it.          |
| L6         | MR. HOLTHAUS: No further questions.                   |
| L7         | Thank you for your time, Mr. Luebbert.                |
| L8         | THE WITNESS: Thanks.                                  |
| L9         | JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Counsel. Any                |
| 20         | redirect?   |
| 21         | MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge, very brief.                  |
| 22         | REDIRECT EXAMINATION                                  |
| 23         | BY MR. PRINGLE:                                       |
| 24         | Q. Mr. Luebbert, could you go back to that            |
| 25         | JLR4 that you were discussing with Ameren's counsel?  |

| Α.  | T'm | there |
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| 41. |     |       |

- Q. Page 3. And I'm going to read this first sentence from the first -- well, the only full paragraph on this page. And this is, again, this is Ameren's response to DR124. Correct?
  - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And this sentence, the first sentence on the last paragraph of the response reads, Therefore, prior to this data request, Ameren Missouri had no reason to believe that TRM documentation was a concern of our stakeholders, end quote.
  - Did I read that correctly?
- 13 A. You have.
  - Q. Is DR1 -- what is the difference between DR1 and DR124?
  - A. There are some subtle differences. If you give me a minute, I can probably give you a pretty good indication. They're minimal, I will say that.

    I think we -- we may have deleted a few sentences because there were a couple pieces of information that -- that were provided over that, kind of that time -- one-year time frame. Give me just a minute.
    - Okay. So the first difference between DR1 that I included as JLR1 that was -- that was responded to in April of 2023 and this JLR4 which



is DR124 which was responded to on March 8th of 2024, the first difference in the question was we -- we removed a request to provide all work papers utilized by Ameren to support claims, data, figures, tables, and graphics included in the report and appendices.

Part of that reasoning was that after multiple discussions with the Company, we were able to get more of the work papers that were kind of underlying that initial -- well, that -- I think they understood that we needed to see kind of the -- the work papers themselves. And so we -- we did remove that request.

What didn't get removed is that very next request which was to provide for -- Provide justification for any of the assumptions made within those work papers and citations for any of the hard-coded numbers.

That's something that we talked about from that very, you know, first conversation with them.

And so part of -- part of that second request was to provide the entire document as well as specific citations to the page and line number for all of the reference -- references to work products of Ameren, other affiliates, or outside entities relied upon for the report, any of the appendices, or any underlying

work papers.

What we'd asked for in the prior, that first DR was for them to provide specific citations to the underlying file, tab, and cell for the specific data referenced in each page of the report and the appendices.

Oh, I guess we may have -- we may have removed that -- sorry. I think number four matches up with -- four of the initial request matches up maybe with number two.

What also remained there is a reference to Appendix I, which is one of the TRM documents. And what we said is, you know, as an example we've got these issues with the hard-coded information, we've been asking you for it, we've talked about it. But we threw it in as an example that Appendix I refers to numerous sources of information, doesn't provide those source documents, nor the page numbers where the information relied upon can be found.

And that's an issue that was, you know, apparent throughout many of the work papers, but we wanted to provide, Here is an example. When you look at my testimony, I mean, the -- the status report is JLR2. We had a status report in this case prior to -- I think it was prior to the extension

filing for the program year 2024. It describes some of the information that we were -- we were talking with the Company and we'd asked for them to provide and kind of lays out, Hey, we're going to have these workshops, this is the information we need you to address.

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- Q. I guess, Mr. Luebbert, is it fair to say that DR124 was Staff's attempt to simplify the ask in DR1?
- A. Yeah. It -- it pared it back, but it was largely the same request. It shouldn't have been anything new to the Company.
- Q. And Staff still did not receive all the documentation that was requested?
- Α. Yeah. We didn't get the citations for those assumptions. And that -- that is -- you know, admittedly there are a lot of assumptions. understand that. We understand that citing that many assumptions could take some time. That was part of the reason we -- we went forward with that extension. But we also understand that the Company is the one that's requesting approval of that entire document and they're requesting approval for -- for spending ratepayer dollars in massive amounts over the next And so the burden has to be on them to be few years.

- Page 193 able to justify not only those upfront assumptions, 1 2 but then those assumptions are being utilized to then 3 charge ratepayers through the throughput disincentive So, you know, it's -- that's an issue 4 mechanism. 5 that they need to address, and it's not really one 6 that Staff can. 7 Thank you, Mr. Luebbert. MR. PRINGLE: No 8 further questions, Judge. 9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Pringle, thank you. 10 Mr. Luebbert, you may step down. 11 MR. LUEBBERT: Thank you. 12 And I believe we have JUDGE PRIDGIN: 13 Dr. Marke as the final witness on this topic and the final witness for the hearing today. Dr. Marke, you 14 15 are still under oath. 16 (Witness previously sworn.) 17 DR. GEOFF MARKE: 18 the witness, having been first duly sworn, 19 testified as follows: 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, anything 21 before he stands cross? 2.2 MS. VANGERPEN: No, your Honor. We would
- 23 consider him tendered for cross.
- 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. 25 Any cross-examination from Staff?



| 1  | Page 194<br>MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge.                  |
|----|---|
| 2  | CROSS-EXAMINATION                                     |
| 3  | BY MR. PRINGLE:                                       |
| 4  | Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Marke.                         |
| 5  | A. Good afternoon.                                    |
| 6  | Q. So I guess I want to kind of talk about            |
| 7  | the EM&V and the extensions. Is it when it came       |
| 8  | to the extensions, is the emphasis put on EM&V for    |
| 9  | the extension years 2022, 2023, and 2024 less than    |
| 10 | what was agreed to in the initial Cycle 3             |
| 11 | stipulation?  |
| 12 | A. That's correct.                                    |
| 13 | Q. And is one of those reasons because of             |
| 14 | certain stakeholder concerns with the EM&V process?   |
| 15 | A. They were my concerns. That flat out               |
| 16 | say that. That was that was the Office of Public      |
| 17 | Counsel's issue. We so just to pull this full         |
| 18 | circle to what Mr. Pringle's talking about, we've had |
| 19 | three years of one-year extensions with Ameren. The   |
| 20 | EM&V in those have been                               |
| 21 | MS. MOORE: Your Honor                                 |
| 22 | THE WITNESS: bridge programs.                         |
| 23 | MS. MOORE: I'm going to object again on               |
| 24 | the basis that this is, I call it friendly direct     |
| 25 | testimony, and I'm not sure it's exactly on point.    |

- 1 And to the extent that OPC agreed to something in
- 2 negotiations, I think that's privileged. The reason
- 3 behind that, we do have the settlement, and so I'm
- 4 | little concerned that we're breaching that
- 5 responsibility to not discuss some of the rationale
- 6 behind settlements. And those are my objections.
- 7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
- 8 Mr. Pringle.
- 9 MR. PRINGLE: I'm fairly confident that
- 10 Dr. Marke can answer the question without getting
- 11 | into the black box of settlement.
- 12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yeah, I --
- MR. PRINGLE: And since this is the EM&V
- 14 issue, I do believe it's relevant.
- 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yeah. I -- I will
- 16 | overrule. And obviously I don't want you to get
- 17 | into -- Dr. Marke, I don't want you to get into
- 18 | settlement discussions. So thank you.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Understand. EM&V is a very
- 20 complicated, convoluted issue. One of my first,
- 21 like, real cases working in front of the Commission
- 22 was over EM&V in MEEIA Cycle 1. We had very, very
- 23 contentious EM&V discussions, and it centered around
- 24 | CFL lighting. Hundreds of pages of testimony in very
- 25 | short time frames were filed over -- oh, boy. I

mean, it was -- it was several years, you know, that took into account, just the first-year savings associated with that.

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Just a little context here. At the time, Ameren Missouri, about 90, 95 percent of their programs were just all CFL light bulbs. Company claimed, a term of art that you haven't heard yet, but it's called market effects. And the term of art is supposed to denote that the Company's influence on lighting was so massive that it changed -- absent that, it -- it would not have changed the market. Now, keep in mind, like, within a year or two, CFLs were obsolete, technologically obsolete because LEDs took over. But that was the argument. And when we're talking about, well, the NTG should be -- if everything is going right, If you have free riders at all, it's it's a 1.0. less than that.

In this case they were saying that our one -- it shouldn't be 1.0; it should be like 1.3 because we changed the market and we had the spillover effect that was associated with it. Well, proving a counterfactual is difficult. Proving a counterfactual against third-party implementers, you know, and this is -- this is part of the issue that



we take in one of your recommendations is that there should be just be one independent EM&V ideally, you know, under -- under the PSC's jurisdiction.

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Because when you give people money and ask if a program -- if the program that gave you money worked, what do you think they're going to say. Even if we sit there and say that they're ethically, you know, reasonable, it still has a cloud of bias that's associated with that. And that came full circle, you know, with our first experience with EM&V.

So the argument there was such where each one of these reports, and we do an EM&V report each year -- you've heard a little bit about the TRM, and I'm going to throw out a lot of terms that might be a little confusing, but there's what we call the Latin term ex-ante and ex-post. The ex-ante is what we believe, you know, a widget represents today under ideal situations, engineering estimates, all right. The light bulbs should save this under ideal conditions. That's part of the ex-ante, and that's what Mr. Luebbert's talking about where a lot of these assumptions aren't probably factually correct. Historically we've not spent a lot of time working on that. We've spent more time working on the ex-post

part of it. That ex-post is how much can be attributed to Ameren's result of that.

The one-year extensions deviated from previous EM&V cycles because we cut the fat. Because we cut out a lot of the problematic issues where we would have discrepancies in the past. And we -- we made it on a -- on a spend basis. And that has pros and cons. I mean, again, there's -- there's trade-offs here. But it was really to avoid the contentious issues that can arise from EM&V and that have historically.

I -- honestly I still have, you know -not to -- you know, I still have issues based off of,
you know, stuff happened a decade ago and how much
time and energy that went into that. So that was the
rationale or that's, at least from my perspective,
that was the difference with the EM&V that was agreed
to and the one-year extensions.

## 19 BY MR. PRINGLE:

2.2

- Q. Thank you, Dr. Marke. And that -- the fat that was cut out that you just described, was that fat still cut out when the amended application was filed?
- A. No. I mean, so this amended application is a step back. We're going back to where we were



- 1 before we got to that stage. And that's again, you
- 2 know, why we're coming down as we hard as we are on
- 3 | these programs. We really feel like this is -- for
- 4 something that needs to constantly evolve to make
- 5 sense, we're not evolving; we're regressing.
- 6 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Dr. Marke. No
- 7 | further questions at this time, Judge.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Pringle, thank you.
- 9 Any cross from Renew Missouri? Any cross from NRDC?
- MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, Judge, thank you.
- 11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Ameren
- 12 | Missouri, any cross?
- MS. MOORE: Yes, thank you, your Honor.
- 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 15 BY MS. MOORE:
- 16 Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Marke. How are you.
- 17 A. Good afternoon. I'm good.
- 18 O. Good. Did you review the Evergreen
- 19 | Economics independent eval -- EM&V audit of Ameren
- 20 | Missouri for P -- program year 2023? It was filed in
- 21 | MEEIA 3 on June 11th, 2024.
- 22 A. I did not.
- 23 Q. All right. So you're not aware of any of
- 24 | the conclusions or findings?
- 25 A. Only at a very high level.



| Q.         | All right.   | And for program  | n year 2023,   |
|------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| would the  | independent  | auditor have use | ed the same    |
| TR or p    | erhaps an ea | rlier version of | the TRM that's |
| on file to | oday?        |                  |                |

## A. Yes.

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- Q. And that TRM that's involved today, I think yesterday you had indicated that the genesis of that docket -- or that document was from the 2017 statewide TRM collaboration held by the -- was it the Department of Economic -- Energy and then VIEC? Or no, VEIC? I always -- the Vermont corporation that has developed a lot of these TRMs around the country?
- A. I don't know if I would say the genesis.

  I mean, I think, you know, there's version that

  predated that that helped inform that version. So

  it's just versions on top of versions. But you're

  right, the -- the version we have today owes some of

  its findings from the 2017 exercise.
- Q. All right. Is it your understanding that the Office of Public Counsel or perhaps even another stakeholder such as, you know, Renew or NRDC can comment and take exception to any of the findings in the EM&V reports that are filed?
- A. If you're a party to the case, that is my understanding.



- 1 All right. And for the MEEIA 3 case, OPC Q. 2 was obviously party to the case.
- So, and I just want to be clear. MEEIA 3 -- well, we were a party to, well, all of 4 5 But are we going to talk about MEEIA 3 these cases. 6 or the extensions, the three year one-year 7 extensions?
  - Well, aren't they the same docket? Ο.
  - They are, but they're different portfolios Α. is what I would say. It's --
- 11 Ο. Okay. So --

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- 12 -- it's a just different -- different EM&V Α. 13 process.
- 14 -- procedurally -- yes. Q. What's different about it? 15
  - Oh, I mean, massive. Α. So the -- the Cycle 3 EM&V is similar to -- it's a retrospective process, but it's similar to what you are arguing for The one-year extensions effectively minimized today. impact evaluation entirely. So your earnings opportunity wasn't based off of recorded savings; your earnings opportunity was based off of how much money you spent in terms of incentives.
- 24 But you're talking -- okay. Q. So you're 25 talking about the earnings opportunity. But the



- 1 | evaluation used, I think the auditor mentions that
- 2 too, it used a straight line net to gross -- well, it
- 3 used a valuation used in net-to-gross ratio of .825
- 4 for most programs. Is that --
- 5 A. So this is exactly why when you asked me
- 6 before did I read the EM&V and the answer was no, and
- 7 I'll explain why it was no. Because it didn't
- 8 matter. Because of what we agreed to, the net to
- 9 gross was really irrelevant at the end of the day.
- 10 It was based just purely off of your spend. And
- 11 | this -- at -- when we get to the point where we get
- 12 | an EM&V, the issue isn't --
- 13 | O. But -- okay. Let me -- let me -- I'm
- 14 trying to rationalize this. So --
- 15 A. Sure.
- 16 Q. -- for the MEEIA 3 program -- program,
- 17 | just from 2018 to 2021.
- 18 A. Okay. The first three years.
- 19 Q. The first three years.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 | Q. There wasn't a standard net to gross
- 22 | applied. Correct?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. In the evaluation process?
- 25 A. Correct.



- Q. And so is your issue that you like the process where the surveys would be given to the individuals and then you would apply the net to gross; you'd come up with a net-to-gross ratio and apply it then, or is it your testimony that you prefer just using the same net-to-gross ratio across the board?
  - A. It depends. If I may, I'll explain.
    - Q. I guess I'm hearing I don't know. I'm --
    - A. It's not an I don't know. It depends.
    - Q. It depends on?

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- A. So it depends on whether or not the Commission approves the -- the -- if the Commission approves the application at hand, then we are a hundred percent in support of a retrospect EM&V that goes full force into all of the issues that I addressed and Mr. Luebbert talks about. If there is some other version, such as my alternative version, I recommend that we scrap that idea and we focus on what we did in the one-year extensions, because it's a bridge program.
- Q. If they -- I want to make sure we're on the same page. So if the Commission approves a three-year plan --
- 25 A. If the Commission approves your



| application, if the Commission comes back and says,  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| We agree that Ameren Missouri should move forward,   |  |  |  |
| but they should modify their EM&V to take into       |  |  |  |
| account X, that's fine. I mean, it's not fine. I     |  |  |  |
| mean, we reject the application, but if you're going |  |  |  |
| to move forward with that my entire testimony        |  |  |  |
| really is laid out that way.                         |  |  |  |

In each one of these topics I say, Here's effectively a menu of options for the Commission to consider. If the Commission going to move forward with this in the manner that the Company's move -- is proposing, then we recommend a retrospective EM&V that considers the rebound effect, principal-agent operational inefficiencies, interactive effect, all of that taking into account in that EM&V process. But if you don't, then we say we're -- you're effectively adopting my light version. Then I don't have as much concern. I don't have as much risk.

And if you understand, I mean, the issue really comes down to, from my vantage point, are ratepayers on the hook for \$70 million of potential earnings opportunity or for something significantly less that's associated with the actual value of what would you -- you would be able to earn absent these programs.

| 1  | To me it's a huge difference, and I I                |
|----|--|
| 2  | have to make those decisions at the end of the day.  |
| 3  | I mean, there's there's one of me in or office, so   |
| 4  | am I going to put my time into going deep into this. |
| 5  | Well, I'm going to have to if it's at \$70 million.  |
| 6  | And that's going to take me away from something else |
| 7  | and other activities. But that's it's such a big     |
| 8  | dollar amount that absent the EM&V process, I have   |
| 9  | very little confidence you need that protection.     |
| 10 | I mean, that absent that, you don't have a           |
| 11 | consumer protection.                                 |
| 12 | Q. I want to turn to your recommendation for         |

- Q. I want to turn to your recommendation for just a single independent auditor. I think your counsel said that there would be no utility oversight, and I want to clarify. By that do you mean that there would be no opportunity to comment during the process --
  - A. Thank you --

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- Q. -- for the utility?
- A. Thank you for clarifying that. That's not what I would intend. Absolutely the utility would have opportunity to comment and to provide input, be on an equal foot just like every other party.
- Q. Well, but during the evaluation process, doesn't the auditor kind of communicate back and



forth with the Company asking questions? So your proposal wouldn't bar any of that?

## A. Wouldn't bar that.

- Q. But what about sometimes the independent auditor finds improvements. Would the Company have to wait until the audit comes out a year, maybe a year and a half later to learn about that so they couldn't correct real time?
- A. I mean, that's how it does -- that's how it operates today. There's -- there's two elements to an EM&V, being one is process and impact. Process is where the, you know, the implementer's nice, you know, is there a problem in the marketing of these programs. And the impact is did the savings actually materialize.

So what I'm hearing is would the Company still have opportunity to adapt their programs based off of process impact -- or process information. My experience in working with EM&Vs and many EM&Vs at this point is often the first time everybody's hearing about these results is when they present it, the process part of it.

So we've talked a little bit about the 11-step process and how that takes place. I mean, there -- it -- there's something in place for

the utilities to modify their programs, but there's still a process. So adapting -- I guess the concern that you raise I don't believe is a concern.

- Q. So then what do you mean it's not a concern? I want to understand that I -- your response. And is it because the -- under your structure, the utility would be able to learn about those as the auditor is discovering them so they can make corrections, or was it your intent --
- A. So if -- if it -- if this is a concern for the Company, I have zero problem with drafting up a contract that stipulates that the process element of their evaluation is one that's predicated on continuous feedback to the stakeholders as opposed to waiting until the end of it. That seems eminently reasonable.
- Q. So then is your concern with the Company oversight that some of that instantaneous feedback isn't provided to stakeholder?
- A. My concern is twofold. We're talking about a lot of money here. It's based off of one professional experience that I had with Cycle 1 and the Company and a specific EM&V consultant and just the overall biasness that can occur when you give people money and ask if the program that you gave --



that gave you money worked and how they might respond to that.

- Q. Right. But during the subsequent MEEIA cycles we've identified that issue and corrected it. Would you agree --
  - A. I would --

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- Q. -- with me that --
- A. -- agree it's gotten better.

What has changed that gives me heartburn is we've gotten better at our job too. I'll -- I mean, the easiest thing to, like, point out here is this sort of a-ha moment about the earnings opportunity that I articulated two hours ago. It sounds like a nice, you know, a-ha moment on my end, but I sit here and think, Damn, I've let that go for more than ten years. That's ten years where ratepayers have overpaid, and we've done it incorrectly. So we are constantly refining and getting better at our job. And the issues that I raise here are issues that I have not raised in previous MEEIA applications.

- Q. Well, do you feel that the EM&V structure that the Company is proposing today prohibits you from bringing up those concerns?
- 25 A. No.



- Q. All right. And then you have heard Mr. Luebbert testify about some of the changes that he wants and he -- that he recommends. And in his recommend -- recommendation he recognizes that it would be a cost. Do you have an idea of how many -- how much -- do you have a cost estimate for how much it would cost to change the EM&V process and perhaps develop a new TRM to the level of detail?
- A. I actually don't have -- my concern is not necessarily centered on the TRM per se. Like, my issue is much more on the operational inefficiencies, the potential rebound effect, all of these other things that I laid out. So it's a two-part question as I understand, and you can correct me. How much it would cost --
  - Q. If you had a cost estimate, yes.
- A. It would be much more expensive than it otherwise would be done correctly. You know, I think you can help minimize that with -- by having one EM&V consultant that undergoes it. My concern is not that we don't have a forum to raise these issues. It's that when we raise it, it's going to fall on deaf ears and that we will have to then fight for it in a subsequent case in front of the Commission and why the Ameren agrees we shouldn't study rebound effect.

|    | Evidentiary Hearing July 24, 2                       |
|----|--|
| 1  | Page 2  If the Company wants to come forward and     |
| 2  | say, We are comfortable doing everything THAT I      |
| 3  | recommended, that that helps alleviate my            |
| 4  | concerns. But what I hear is you have a forum to at  |
| 5  | least voice your concerns. There's a big difference  |
| 6  | to me.   |
| 7  | Q. No, I understand that. But you have a             |
| 8  | forum here today where you're recommending to the    |
| 9  | Commission that the rebound effect be studied.       |
| 10 | Correct?   |
| 11 | A. I'm trying to take advantage of that, yes.        |
| 12 | Q. Yes. I understand, and I think you're             |
| 13 | doing quite well. But you've also recommended it in  |
| 14 | previous MEEIA cycles too. And so I think it's up to |
| 15 | the Commission                                       |
| 16 | A. It is.  |
| 17 | Q then to decide, you know, whether to               |
| 18 | modify the plan there.                               |
| 19 | A. I would agree.                                    |
| 20 | MS. MOORE: All right. Thank you. I have              |
| 21 | no further questions.                                |
| 22 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ms. Moore,                 |
| 23 | thank you. Bench questions? Chair Hahn, when you're  |
| 24 | ready.   |

QUESTIONS

| BY | CHATR | HAHN: |
|----|-------|-------|
|    |       |       |

- Q. Good afternoon. I'll try to make it brief.
  - A. I'll try to be brief.
  - Q. You referenced the 2023 EM&V reports or that was referenced in the questions. And you said something like the 20 -- there's something wrong with the EM& -- the Evergreen Economics EM&V report. From your perspective, you said it was based on their spend, can you explain that for me?
  - A. So actually I don't take any issue with the Evergreen Economics report. The Evergreen Economics I think does a very good job. That's -- that's the Commission's auditor.

I didn't -- I did not have any concern with the EM&V report because of the stipulation we entered into. And the stipulation agreed to an earnings opportunity that's different than what the Company's proposing here or what we had agreed to in past cycles. So when I say it was based off of spend, I mean, it really was. We -- we set it up where -- I don't know.

I'm -- I'm going to throw out numbers here
that aren't accurate, but it's going to be
illustrative. Thirty million dollars was allocated

for residential programs. We had a floor that you had to spend at least this amount. And we did that for different programs and that's -- that's important too because I know the Commission looks at that report and sees these different -- we can talk more about this in the Programs sections. But you see those different programs and you see, wow, this one's not doing anything and this one's doing -- part of the rationale with this is that we've got programs for all customer classes.

so small business is like a really good example. Small business is a really tough niche group to go ahead and focus on. So we had a floor that said you had to spend at least this amount of money or incentives or you were penalized. So it would motivate the Company to actually do that. When the Company puts out, We've got 36 programs, they can get the energy and demand savings from maybe a handful of those programs. And that's historically what happens, right, is that a handful of programs do all the heavy lifting and we do kind of give lip service to everything else.

The result is that some groups end up participating more than others. So our one-year extensions really there was a lot of thought that



| went into it. And I I understand the hesitation       |
|---|
| with from an outsider looking in that we would        |
| want to verify the savings associated with that. Our  |
| sanity check on that was the measures that were being |
| put in place were measures that have historically     |
| produced more demand savings, like HVACs. We put a    |
| cap on lighting for example. You couldn't do more     |
| than that. You can't rely on that. Those were the     |
| sort of things that made us feel better about it and  |
| quite frankly brought the overall cost of the program |
| down too. So there were a lot of there's a lot of     |
| mental gymnastics effectively that go into, all       |
| right, if we're going to move forward with something, |
| how do we make this work that makes sense. And        |
| really that's been the case with MEEIAs throughout.   |
| I mean, they're constantly evolving.                  |

- Q. Thank you. Maybe tomorrow we can talk more about the particular programs.
  - A. Sure.
- Q. Or Friday. You do have a Ph.D., so I'm going to ask you, did you ever have program evaluation?
- 23 A. Yes.

2.2

Q. How many of those program evaluations were prospective?



- A. Right. Not many.
- Q. Yeah.

- A. Yeah.
- Q. How typically would you go about performing a program evaluation?
- A. So typic -- you -- I -- my research was in mixed method, so it was a combination of quant and qualitative, but my Ph.D. was on the urban area security initiative and federal funding that was -- ultimately came down to the states. So I focused in on Missouri and how first responders effectively met that element. So it really was a combination of the empirical data and interviews. I mean, I just went out and spoke.

The -- I mean, based off your question, I think you recognize the problem with prospective EM&V. And Mr. Luebbert articulated that effectively you're getting one year of likely overstated savings that are getting into that. And that means in year two -- so if you move forward with the programs in 2025, 2025 would be locked into that prospective. In 2026 we would look at the 2025 evaluation and then we would try to -- there would be a sausage-making process involved, and we would have to agree to a number or we'd have to take it in front of you. And



1 then again we're back in the same boat where we sit 2 there and it's just reasonable minds can disagree 3 over stuff. And that -- that's really what it is, 4 so. 5 I think that answers my --CHAIR HAHN: 6 THE WITNESS: Okay. 7 -- question. CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn, thank you. 9 Any further bench questions? Any recross based on 10 bench questions from Staff? 11 One moment, Judge. MR. PRINGLE: No 12 questions, Judge. Thank you. 13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Pringle, thank you. 14 Any recross from Renew Missouri? From --No, Judge, thank you. 15 MR. LINHARES: 16 All right. JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. 17 From NRDC? 18 MS. RUBENSTEIN: No, Judge, thank you. 19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. From Ameren 2.0 Missouri? 21 MS. MOORE: No, thank you, your Honor. 2.2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any redirect? 23 MS. VANGERPEN: No, thank you. 24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you. 25 Dr. Marke, thank you very much. You may step down.

| 1  | And that will wrap up today's portion of the hearing. |
|----|---|
| 2  | We will plan to resume tomorrow morning at 9:00.      |
| 3  | Going on to Net Throughput Disincentive and then we   |
| 4  | will see if we stay on schedule. Thank you for        |
| 5  | getting us back on schedule this afternoon. I         |
| 6  | appreciate the pace this afternoon. Anything further  |
| 7  | from counsel or the bench before we go off the        |
| 8  | record?   |
| 9  | MS. MOORE: No, your Honor.                            |
| 10 | JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Hearing                     |
| 11 | nothing, we will be in recess until tomorrow morning  |
| 12 | at 9:00. Thank you. We are off the record.            |
| 13 | (Off the record at 4:47 p.m.)                         |
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Shelley L. Bartels, a Certified Court

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,

employee, or attorney, or counsel of any of the

action, nor am I financially interested in the

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STATE OF MISSOURI

COUNTY OF CALLAWAY

my stenographic notes.

DATED this 30th day of July, 2024.

action.

Shelley & Bartels

Shelley L. Bartels, CCR 679

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