

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union Electric Company    )  
d/b/a Ameren Missouri’s Tariffs to Adjust    )  
its Revenues for Electric Service   )      File No. ER-2024-0319

## STAFF RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), through the undersigned counsel, and hereby respectfully submits this *Staff Response to Commission Order*:

1.       On September 13, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Setting Time for Responses to Proposed Local Public Hearings and Setting a Deadline for any Proposed Language for Local Public Hearing Notices*. That order specifically directed Staff to consult with the parties and file proposed language to be included in the notice sent to customers regarding local public hearings. It also ordered that, no later than September 20, 2024, that the parties may 1) file any comment, objections, or recommendations about local public hearings; and 2) may file any proposed language to be included in the notice sent to customers about the local public hearings.

2.       Staff states that it has conferred with the parties, and Ameren Missouri, the Office of the Public Counsel, and Staff have agreed upon language to be included in the notice sent to customers regarding local public hearings;<sup>1</sup> that language is attached hereto as **Appendix A**.

3.       With regard to its comments, objections, or recommendations about local public hearings, Staff states that it has none as to the number and location of the local

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix A was shared with all parties; at this time, only Ameren, the Office of the Public Counsel, and Staff have affirmatively agreed to the language.

public hearings proposed by the Commission. That being said, the Commission has proposed that the local public hearings for this matter take place the week of January 13 through 17, 2025. Staff notes that the parties, per the procedural schedule ordered in this matter, are tasked with filing rebuttal testimony on January 17, 2025. As Staff, and presumably other parties, will be finalizing multiple pieces of testimony<sup>2</sup> the week of January 13<sup>th</sup>, Staff recommends the Commission order local public hearings be held the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>3</sup> Or, at the very least, a week other than that of January 13 through January 17, 2025.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff respectfully submits this *Staff Response to Commission Order*, and prays the Commission grant such other and further relief as the Commission deems just in these circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Johnson

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<sup>2</sup> 19 Staff witnesses filed rebuttal testimony in Ameren Missouri's last rate case, Case No. ER-2022-0337.

<sup>3</sup> Staff would note that January 20, 2025, is a national holiday; Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record as reflected on the certified service list maintained by the Commission in its Electronic Filing Information System this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

**/s/ Mark Johnson**

Ameren Missouri has filed a rate increase request with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“PSC”). The requested increase would total approximately \$446 million for an approximate increase of 15.49%.

For the average residential customer, the proposed increase would be approximately 15.77% or \$17.45 per month.

Ameren Missouri has also asked the PSC to continue the Fuel Adjustment Clause (“FAC”). The FAC allows Ameren Missouri to adjust customers’ rates three times per year based on varying net energy costs. The FAC adjustment is applied to customers’ bills based on the customer’s usage. The overall increase sought in this case contemplates a rebasing of net energy costs tracked in the FAC. The rebasing reflects a decrease in net base energy costs of approximately \$1.2 million. However, in this case this reduction in net base energy costs is offset by net increases in other costs. If the net energy costs had not been rebased in this case, the base rate increase that would have been proposed in this case would have been larger.

**Local Public Hearing Information**

The PSC is holding public hearings where customers can ask questions and testify about Ameren Missouri’s rate request. Customers are encouraged to participate in the hearings.

Each hearing is divided into two parts. In the first part, you may ask questions of Ameren Missouri, the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”), and the PSC Staff. The PSC Commissioners and the regulatory law judge will not attend the informal question and answer session. Your questions and the answers provided will not be part of the evidence the PSC reviews. In the second part, PSC Commissioners and a regulatory law judge will be present, and you may testify as part of the official record of the case.

Public hearings will be held in person and virtually according to the following schedule:

<b>In Person Public Hearings</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Start Time</b>

<b>Virtual Public Hearings</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Dial-In Information</b>	<b>Start Time</b>

Anyone is welcome to attend the in-person local public hearings at the addresses and times listed above.

To attend a virtual local public hearing by telephone, at the time of the hearing call toll-free, 855-718-6621, listen to the prompt and enter the corresponding meeting number listed above followed by # (pound/hashtag symbol). If prompted for a password, enter the corresponding password listed above. To attend a virtual local public hearing by WebEx video (internet), visit the website [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com). You can also download the Cisco WebEx meetings application on your mobile device, laptop, desktop, or tablet prior to the hearing and join the meeting at the hearing time by entering the corresponding meeting number and password listed above.

To facilitate an orderly presentation that can be preserved for the record, members of the public who wish to participate in the WebEx question-and-answer session or make comment to the Commission during a WebEx hearing should register by calling 800-392-4211 by 5:00 p.m. the day before the hearing.

Any individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the hearings should contact the PSC **at least three days prior to the hearing** at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline 1-800-392-4211 or TDD Hotline 1-800-829-7541.

### **Additional Ways to Provide Comments and Feedback**

If you are unable to attend a public hearing, or if you would like to make written comments or receive additional information, you may contact the PSC directly at:

Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
Telephone: (800) 392-4211  
Email: [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov)

In addition, you may also provide comments or request additional information from the OPC, a state agency tasked with representing the interests of the public in proceedings before the PSC, by contacting the OPC directly at:

Office of the Public Counsel  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
Telephone: (866) 922-2959 (toll free) or (573) 751-4857  
Email: [opcservice@opc.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@opc.mo.gov)

Comments may also be submitted electronically using the PSC's Electronic Filing Information System ("EFIS") at [https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit\\_Comments](https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments). From this webpage, click on "Submit comments" under the heading "Submit Comments in Writing." When submitting comments please reference File No. ER-2024-0319.

All documents filed as part of the rate review can be found on the PSC's EFIS at <https://psc.mo.gov/general/efis>, click on "Existing Case e-Filing & Search" under the heading "EFIS Shortcuts," and enter Case No. ER-2024-0319.