

September 30, 2024

Ms. Nancy Dippell Secretary of the Commission Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, Suite 100 Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren Missouri") Case No.: GR-2024-0369

Dear Ms. Dippell:

Filed concurrently with this letter is a cover letter from Ameren Missouri's Senior Corporate Counsel, Jennifer S. Moore, with which is included certain tariff sheets consisting of gas rate schedules designed to increase Ameren Missouri's gas base rate annual revenues by approximately \$39,647,825. The above-cited figure is exclusive of applicable gross receipts, sales, franchise or occupational fees or taxes. The proposed tariff sheets bear a date of issue of Sept 30, 2024, and an effective date of October 30, 2024.

The rate increase sought by this filing is driven by multiple factors. These include incorporating into rate base investments needed to maintain and improve the safety of the distribution system since the last gas general rate case (File No. GR-2021-0241). The test year employed by the Company is the 12 months ending March 31, 2024, with certain pro-forma adjustments to include known and measurable items through December 31, 2024, the true-up cutoff date the Company is requesting in this case, as discussed in the direct testimony of Ameren Missouri witness Benjamin Hasse.

Also included herein or in Schedules to this letter is the information required by 20 CSR 4240-3.030(3)(B), as follows:

- **<u>3(B)1.</u>** See Schedule 1.
- **<u>3(B)2.</u>** See Schedule 2.
- **<u>3(B)3.</u>** See Schedule 3.
- **<u>3(B)4.</u>** See Schedule 4.
- **<u>3(B)5.</u>** See Schedule 5.
- **<u>3(B)6.</u>** See attached press release.

<u>3(B)7.</u> The changes are needed to update our general rates to reflect rate base additions to enhance safety and reliability since the last natural gas general rate case (Case No. GR-2021-0241).

As required by 20 CSR 4240-2.065(1), this filing includes Ameren Missouri's direct testimony relating to this general rate increase request. Direct Testimony is provided by the following witnesses:

Steven M. Wills	Overview of Company and Rate Increase Request; Policy; Introduction of Company Witnesses
Benjamine Hasse	Revenue Requirement; Lead/Lag Study
Ann E. Bulkley	Rate of Return
Darryl T. Sagel	Capital Structure
Michael W. Harding	Rate Design; Misc. Tariff Updates; Weather Normalization Process; Class Cost of Service Study
John Spanos	Depreciation/Depreciation Study
Laura M. Moore	Affiliate Transactions
Joseph S. Weiss	Affiliate Transactions
Shelly Harmon	Natural Gas Energy Efficiency

I request that you please bring this filing to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel and see that a copy of all correspondence, notices, orders or other communications in connection with this matter and proceeding are furnished to the following persons:

Wendy Tatro Director and Assistant General Counsel Jennifer S. Moore Senior Corporate Counsel Jennifer Hernandez Corporate Counsel William Holthaus Senior Corporate Counsel Ameren Missouri P.O. Box 66149, MC 1310 St. Louis, MO 63166-6149 Telephone: (314) 554-2041 Facsimile: (314) 554-4014

AmerenMOService@ameren.com

Thank you for your assistance with this filing. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer S. Moore

Jennifer S. Moore

cc/enc: Missouri Public Service Commission General Counsel Office of the Public Counsel

> 1901 Chouteau Avenue PO Box 66149

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI Missouri Natural Gas Operations

AGGREGATE ANNUAL INCREASE

The aggregate annual increase over current revenues produced by current base rates proposed in the tariffs is \$39,647,825 for Ameren Missouri, which is an overall increase of a customer's total bill (including Purchased Gas Adjustment charges) of 22.8% on a pro forma basis.

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI Missouri Natural Gas Operations

COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY FILING

Advance Ashland Ash Hill Auxvasse Blackwater Bloomfield Boonville **Browns Station** Cairo California Cape Girardeau Center Centertown Centralia Circle City Clark Clarksville Columbia Curryville Delta Dexter Eldon Elsberry Elston Essex Farber Fisk Flint Hill Foley Foristell Franklin Glen Allen Grayridge

Hallsville Hartsburg Hawk Point Higbee High Hill High Point Hinton Holts Summit Huntsville Idalia Jamestown Jefferson City Jonesburg Kelso Laddonia Lohman Louisiana Marble Hill Maryknoll Martinsburg McGirk Mexico Midway Moberly Moscow Mills Nelson New Bloomfield New Franklin New London Old Monroe Olean Owensville

Painton Perkins Pierpont Prairie Home Prathersville Randles Renick **Rivers** Addition Rocheport Rolla Russellville St. Martins Salem Scott City Silex Stover Sturgeon Troy Truesdale Truxton Vandalia Vandiver Vanduser Versailles Wardsville Warrenton Wellsville Wentzville Winfield Wright City

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI Missouri Natural Gas Operations

COUNTIES AFFECTED BY FILING

Audrain County Bollinger County Boone County **Butler County** Callaway County Cape Girardeau County Cole County Cooper County Dent County Gasconade County Howard County Lincoln County Miller County Moniteau County Montgomery County Morgan County Phelps County Pike County **Ralls County** Randolph County St. Charles County Saline County Scott County Stoddard County Warren County

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI

Missouri Natural Gas Operations

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED BY GENERAL CATEGORY OF SERVICE AND RATE CLASSIFICATION

AVERAGE FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 2024

Service and Rate <u>Classification*</u>	Number <u>of Customers</u>
Residential Service	123,428
General Service	13,467
Interruptible Service	4
Transportation Service	
Standard Transportation	596
Large Volume Transportation	21
Special Contract	2
TOTAL CUSTOMERS	137,516

* Ameren Missouri's general categories of service and rate classifications for natural gas service are substantially the same.

Schedule 3 – Page 1 of 1 Min. Filing Reqmt. - 3(B)3

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI

Missouri Natural Gas Operations

PROPOSED AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE REOUESTED IN DOLLARS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM CURRENT RATES*

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 2024

Service and Rate <u>Classification**</u>	Average <u>Annual Change</u>		Percentage <u>Change</u>
Residential Service	\$	195	26.7%
General Service	\$	638	21.5%
Interruptible Service	\$	55,662	15.3%
Transportation Service			
Standard Transportation	\$	7,021	16.4%
Large Volume Transportation	\$	117,531	16.3%

- * Includes a weighted average PGA factor of 60.46¢/Ccf and 46.46¢/Ccf for Firm (Residential and General Service) and Interruptible Service respectively, and an assumed 46.46¢/Ccf gas for Transportation Service.
- ** Ameren Missouri's general categories of service and rate classifications for natural gas service are substantially the same.

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI

Missouri Natural Gas Operations

PROPOSED ANNUAL AGGREGATE CHANGE AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN REVENUES FROM CURRENT RATES

Service and Rate <u>Classification**</u>		nnual ate Change	Percentage <u>Change*</u>
Residential Service	\$	71,626,051	26.7%
General Service	\$	25,491,506	21.5%
Interruptible Service	\$	659,743	15.3%
Transportation Service			
Standard Transportation	\$	12,908,888	16.4%
Large Volume Transportati	on <u>\$</u>	6,796,355	16.3%
TOTAL***	\$	117,858,756	22.8%

- * Includes a weighted average PGA factor of 60.46¢/Ccf and 46.46¢/Ccf for Firm (Residential and General Service) and Interruptible Service respectively, and an assumed 46.46¢/Ccf gas for Transportation Service.
- ** Ameren Missouri's general categories of service and rate classifications for natural gas service are substantially the same.
- *** Includes revenues from special contract customers and excludes PGA and assumed price of gas for Transportation Service customers. The targeted change in base revenues from Ameren Missouri witness Benjamin Hasse's direct testimony are \$117,858,756; however, after rate rounding the tariffs are designed to produce increased revenues of \$39,661,197, or \$13,372 more than stated in Mr. Hasse's testimony.



1901 Chouteau Avenue : St. Louis, MO 63103 : AmerenMissouri.com

Contact: Ameren Communications 314.554.2182 communications@ameren.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reliability investments in natural gas system improve safety and supply for Ameren Missouri customers

Company files request to adjust natural gas rates next fall reflecting system upgrades

ST. LOUIS (Sept. 30, 2024) – Today Ameren Missouri filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) a request to adjust its natural gas base rates next year. The new rates would take effect in the fall of 2025 to recover the costs of major infrastructure improvements and the expanded natural gas supply line that provides residential and commercial customers with safe and reliable energy. The request also includes the replacement of 20-year-old technology with upgraded modules on existing natural gas meters that provide detailed information to help customers manage their energy usage.

"The improvements we are making to our natural gas system are making a real difference for our customers," said **Pam Harrison**, senior director of gas operations at Ameren Missouri. "Our focus is ensuring the natural gas system remains safe and dependable for families and businesses while making prudent investments to better serve our customers. We are also providing our customers with energy usage information and enhanced service with upgraded module technology on the meter."

Ameren Missouri's natural gas delivery service rates have remained relatively stable over the last decade, growing at a compound annual rate of only 0.5% since 2014 and well below the consumer price index. The last natural gas rate adjustment occurred in 2022, with a slight increase of about 6%. Before that, the company decreased rates in 2019.

Ameren Missouri also periodically files Purchase Gas Adjustment (PGA) requests before the PSC to reflect the cost of natural gas that the company purchases from suppliers and then delivers to its customers. The cost can be adjusted throughout the year and is always passed to the customer dollar for dollar with no markup. The cost of natural gas is not part of this rate review request.

Over the next 11 months, the rate adjustment filing will be carefully reviewed by the PSC and other stakeholders. If the request is approved by regulators, the rate adjustment next fall would cost an average residential natural gas customer about \$16 more a month based on approximately 48 ccf of usage per month.



Key components of the rate adjustment request include:

- **Improving our existing natural gas infrastructure** by installing equipment to ensure the safe delivery of natural gas.
- Expanding and modernizing the natural gas supply lines that provide residential and commercial customers in the region with safe and reliable energy.
- **Upgrading natural gas modules** to existing meters for all customers to provide them with detailed information they can use to manage their energy usage.

Customers can also visit AmerenMissouri.com/AdvancingMissouri for more information about the filing.

"Our customers can depend on us to deliver safe and reliable natural gas service day in and day out," said **Steve Wills**, senior director of regulatory affairs for Ameren Missouri. "While new rates will not go into effect until late next year, we encourage any customer in need of bill assistance to contact us today. We have several energy assistance programs available for customers who need help."

As the communities we serve manage current economic conditions, Ameren Missouri has made even more energy assistance available. The company offers flexible payment options and connects customers with government and community assistance funding programs through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Clean Slate program. Customers can view which options are available to them at <u>AmerenMissouri.com/EnergyAssistance</u>.

About Ameren Missouri

Ameren Missouri has been providing electric and gas service for more than 100 years, and the company's electric rates are among the lowest in the nation. Ameren Missouri's mission is to power the quality of life for its 1.2 million electric and 135,000 natural gas customers in central and eastern Missouri. The company's service area covers 64 counties and more than 500 communities, including the greater St. Louis area. For more information, visit <u>Ameren.com/Missouri</u> or follow us at <u>@ AmerenMissouri</u> or <u>Facebook.com/AmerenMissouri</u>.

###