

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

In the Matter of Union Electric Company)
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's 4th Filing to)
Implement Regulatory Changes in) **Case No. EO-2023-0136**
Furtherance of Energy Efficiency as)
Allowed by MEEIA)

**REPLY TO THE OPPOSITION TO JOINT MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Company" and for its Reply to the National Resource Defense Council's ("NRDC") Opposition to the Joint Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule, state as follows:

1. On October 11, 2024, Ameren Missouri along with the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), Renew Missouri Advocates d/b/a Renew Missouri ("Renew Missouri"), and Consumers Council of Missouri ("Consumers Council"), filed a Joint Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule in which Staff and Midwest Energy Consumers Group did not oppose the motion.

2. Also on October 11, 2024, NRDC filed its Response In Opposition to Joint Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule. In its response, NRDC states it opposes the terms of the settlement and argues it would be deprived an opportunity to submit briefs in this case.

3. NRDC's request should be denied. The hearings in the proceeding concluded in July. All parties in this docket, including NRDC, filed three Joint Motions to Amend Procedural Schedule to allow for settlement discussions. The intent of amending the procedural schedule was to reach an agreement in this docket. The Company, OPC, Renew, and Consumers Council reached an agreement and anticipate the agreement will be filed this week.

4. Under the Commission's rules each "party shall have seven (7) days from the filing of a nonunanimous stipulation and agreement to file an objection to the nonunanimous

stipulation and agreement. 20 CSR 4240-2.115(2)(B). Consequently, NRDC's right to file a response to the nonunanimous stipulation and agreement is preserved under the rules.

5. No party's rights will be prejudiced if the Commission's rules are followed and parties are given an opportunity to respond to the nonunanimous stipulation and agreement.

6. Ameren Missouri wants to continue its energy efficiency programs under the stipulation and settlement and a final Commission order is needed as soon as practicable so that program implementors can be retained and contracts for demand side management can be executed. Any unnecessary delay will prejudice the Company and jeopardize its ability to implement energy efficiency and demand response programs by January 1, 2025.

7. Additionally, the parties negotiated in good faith to work toward an agreement in this case. All parties agreed to enter into settlement negotiations and the parties who reached an agreement should be allowed to file the nonunanimous stipulation and agreement. The rights of the parties who agreed on the nonunanimous stipulation and agreement will be prejudiced if the Commission does not suspend the remainder of the schedule and allow for comments on the nonunanimous stipulation and agreement. NRDC's request is unreasonable and undermines the settlement process.

WHEREFORE, Ameren Missouri respectfully requests the Commission reject the Natural Resources Defense Council's Motion opposing the request to suspend the procedural schedule. Instead, Ameren Missouri respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order suspending the schedule and then allowing all parties to comment on the stipulation and settlement as required under the rules.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer S. Moore

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**ATTORNEYS FOR UNION ELECTRIC
COMPANY D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that true and correct copies of the foregoing was served on the
via electronic mail (e-mail) on this 14th day of October, 2024.

/s/ Jennifer S. Moore
Jennifer S. Moore