BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity under Section 393.170.1, RSMo. And Approval to Transfer an Interest in Transmission Assets Under 393.190.1, RSMo relating to Transmission Investments in Northwest and Northeast Missouri.

File No. EA-2024-0302

MOTION REQUESTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COMES NOW Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI or the Company), through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.080, requests that the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") schedule two (2) local public hearings in this proceeding – one at a location physically located in Gentry or Worth County and the other to be held virtually. In support of this Motion, ATXI states as follows:

1. On July 16, 2024, Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) filed an application with the Commission seeking an order granting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) pursuant to Section 393.170.1, RSMo, as well as the direct testimony of eleven witnesses. The CCN would authorize ATXI to construct, install, own, operate, maintain, and otherwise control 44 miles of 345 kV transmission line, in two segments, in Worth, Gentry, and DeKalb counties, a new 345 kV substation named Denny in DeKalb county (the Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri Border or FDIM Project), and 9 miles of 345 kV transmission line in Marion county between ATXI's existing Maywood Substation near Palmyra, Missouri, and the Mississippi River Illinois/Missouri border, including upgrades to the Maywood Substation (Maywood-Mississippi River Crossing or MMRX Project). The application also requests permission and authority to

transfer an undivided 49% interest in the transmission facilities for the FDIM Project, excluding the land for the Denny Substation, to the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC).

2. On July 18, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice, Setting Intervention Deadline, and Directing Staff Recommendation*, establishing an intervention deadline of August 16, 2024.

3. On July 19, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Canceling Recommendation*, cancelling the order for Staff to file a recommendation.

4. On July 30, through August 14, 2024, MJMEUC, Renew Missouri, Clean Grid Alliance, Sierra Club, and Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO"), filed their intervention requests. The Commission granted MJMEUC, Renew Missouri, and Clean Grid Alliance's intervention requests on August 12, 2024, and the Sierra Club and MISO's intervention requests on August 27, 2024.

5. On August 29, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Status Report*, ordering Staff to file a status report no later than September 30, 2024.

6. On September 30, 2024, Staff filed its *Status Report*, requesting additional time, until December 20, 2024, to file its recommendation, and on that same date the Commission issued its *Order Extending Time for Recommendation*, establishing that Staff's recommendation shall be filed no later than December 20, 2024.

7. Counsel for ATXI has been engaging in, and is continuing to engage in, informal discussions with counsel for Commission Staff regarding a procedural schedule.¹ While discussions with Staff are ongoing and have not yet resulted in an agreed procedural schedule,

¹ ATXI intends to discuss procedural schedule, once the local public hearings are scheduled, with all parties to reach an agreed upon procedural schedule if possible.

Staff has disclosed they would like local public hearings to be scheduled in December to allow Staff to consider any public testimony submitted at such local public hearings in its recommendation to the Commission due on December 20, 2024. Further, the timing of local public hearings could impact Staff's and the parties' positions on the procedural schedule. ATXI agreed with Staff to file this motion requesting the Commission schedule two (2) local public hearings, one in-person and one virtual, in this proceeding while the parties continue to discuss an agreed procedural schedule.

8. Accordingly, ATXI respectfully requests that the Commission schedule two (2) local public hearings – one at a location physically located in Gentry or Worth County and the other to be held virtually – the week of December 9, 2024, preferably on Monday December 9, 2024 in Gentry/Worth County and Tuesday December 10, 2024 for the virtual local public hearing.

9. ATXI suggests that the Commission investigate the availability and suitability of an appropriate venue for the purposes of the in-person local public hearings, but ATXI suggests the following venue for the Commission's consideration:

FDIM Project Area: University of Missouri Extension/Discovery Center Auditorium 1109 South Birch Albany, Missouri 64402 Gentry County

10. ATXI requests that the Commission direct its Public Policy and Outreach Department to provide a copy of the order setting the local public hearings to the County Commissions of Worth, Gentry, DeKalb, and Marion Counties, to the members of the General Assembly representing Worth, Gentry, DeKalb, and Marion Counties, and to the news media serving those Counties. In addition, ATXI agrees that ATXI or the Commission (at the option and direction of the Commission) should provide notice to all owners of property within 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed routes for the FDIM Project and the MMRX Project, as stated in the records of the county assessor's offices of Worth, Gentry, DeKalb, and Marion counties, via direct mailings substantially in the form of Attachment A hereto, subject to the finalization of details by the Commission. Such direct mail notice should be postmarked no later than 10 business days prior to the in-person local public hearing.

11. As indicted above, counsel for Staff has advised counsel for ATXI that Staff supports this motion. Counsel for ATXI also conferred with counsel for Intervenors in this proceeding, and counsel for each Intervenor responded and advised counsel for ATXI that their client did not oppose the local public hearing schedule proposed in this motion. Since the local public hearing dates are not opposed by any party to this proceeding, ATXI respectfully requests that the Commission grant expedited treatment for this motion and grant the requested relief as soon as practicable but no later than November 20, 2024, so that notice of the local public hearing can be served consistent with the 10-business-day time-period set forth in this motion. Granting expedited treatment will avoid delaying the procedural schedule for this proceeding related to the timing of public hearings. Granting expedited treatment will not have a negative effect and will benefit the general public by allowing sufficient time for notice to the public to plan their attendance, and to accommodate Staff's desire to have local public hearings in December for consideration of any public testimony in Staff's recommendation.

WHEREFORE, ATXI respectfully requests the Commission schedule two local public hearings as set forth in this motion, adopt the proposed local public hearing procedures, grant this motion on or before November 20, 2024, and for any other relief deemed necessary and appropriate by the Commission.

Date: November 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Isl Carmen L. Fosco

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ATTORNEYS FOR AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on the persons on the Missouri Public Service Commission's service list in this case via electronic mail (e-mail) on November 15, 2024.

> <u>/s/. Carmen L. Fosco</u> Carmen L. Fosco