1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	Page 1
2	STATE OF MISSOURI	
3		
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
5	DISCOVERY CONFERENCE	
6		
7		
8	In the Matter of)	
9	Ameren Missouri's 2024)Integrated Resource Plan)File No. EO-2025-0123	
10	Annual Update)	
11		
12		
13		
14	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024	
15	3:00 p.m.	
16		
17	Jefferson City, MO 65101	
18	via WebEx	
19		
20	VOLUME 1	
21		
22	RON PRIDGIN, Presiding	
23	REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	
24	Reported by: Melissa Eicken	
25		



Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 2024
Page 2 LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: anyone else who
needs to be on this conference before we begin?
MS. RUBENSTEIN: Not for Sierra Club.
We're all here, just me.
LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
MS. KERR: I'm here for Staff.
MR. HOLTHAUS: Apologies. I was a few
minutes late. I had some difficulty connecting, but
it's all good now. Nobody else from Ameren will be
joining.
LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
And no worries. Thank you very much.
If if everyone's ready to begin, I will
try to keep this short and sweet and informal. I
understand Sierra Club has some discovery concerns and
wanted to have a conference to to try to kind of
air out those concerns and also to check the box and
file a a discovery motion later, if needed.
And, so my plan I mean, I won't be
ruling on anything today. My plan is to simply let
Sierra Club make whatever kind of statement it wants,
and then the same for Ameren Missouri and the same for
Staff, and I don't think anyone else is present for
the conference, so. Unless anyone prefers going
another route, I would simply like to hear from

	Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 2024
1	Page 3 Ms. Rubenstein, Mr. Holthaus and then Ms. Kerr. So
2	anything from any of the parties before we get
3	started?
4	Okay. Hearing nothing, Ms. Rubenstein,
5	when you're ready.
6	MS. RUBENSTEIN: Great. Thank you so much.
7	So in this annual IRP annual update matter,
8	Sierra Club served Ameren with a set of data requests.
9	Ameren has refused to respond to the request
10	asserting, generally, that there's no discovery
11	allowed in an annual update proceeding. We
12	respectfully disagree and would like to seek the
13	Commission's assistance in clarifying this issue, and
14	I'll just mention that we did check the box of
15	we've exchanged correspondence, but then we also spoke
16	over the phone, and it it looks like we just had to
17	reach a point of agreeing to disagree. There are also
18	some specific objections that were asserted to the
19	data request after our our conference. I think we
20	resolved all of them with one exception, and that's
21	Data Request 1.6. That's the request that seeks
22	information about the company's compliance with new
23	and updated EPA regulations.
24	I'll address first the general objection,
25	and then, I guess, I can speak to the specific

Transcript of Proceedings Vol 1 November 26, 2024
Page4 objection after I do that. So Sierra Club believes
that the General Public Service Commission Rule
regarding discovery which is 20 CSR 4240-2.091 should
apply here. And that obligates Ameren to respond to
the data request. 2.091 provides the discovery may be
obtained from the same means and under the same
conditions as in civil actions in circuit court.
Because Sierra Club is an intervenor, and therefore,
stakeholder in this proceedings, we believe it's
entitled to discovery. We also suggest that a 2014
order from the Empire District Electric Company's IRP
proceeding is directly on point and supports our
position. In that order, the Commission overruled
objections that Empire made to data requests that were
served on it by an intervenor. The Commission
expressly found that even though an IRP proceeding is
a non-contested case, because there's no legal
requirement to holding a hearing in an IRP proceeding,
because the Commission rules expressly designate that
an intervenor is considered a party, the intervenor is
entitled to issue data requests and receive responses
thereto. I would suggest that in this proceeding,
similarly, no one disputes that Sierra Club is a
stakeholder to the annual update proceeding or an
intervenor, and therefore, we believe we're a party



	Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 2024
1	Page5 under 2202 that's 56, I believe, of the IRP Rules.
2	So we suggest that even though no hearing is required
3	in an annual update proceeding, under the IRP rules,
4	we should be considered parties, and therefore, allow
5	to serve discovery even in an annual update
б	proceeding. And we think Ameren owes us responses to
7	our data requests.
8	I would also point the Commission to sort
9	of the purpose of the annual update proceedings and
10	and that would be in 22.080 I believe it's 3-A.
11	That's the the provision in the regs about the
12	annual update proceedings and that regulation
13	specifies that the purpose of the proceeding is to
14	ensure that members of the stakeholder group have the
15	opportunity to provide input and stay informed. These
16	data requests are narrowly tailored to that purpose.
17	Finally, I'll point out that in similar
18	annual update proceedings involving Evergy, multiple
19	parties have served to data requests on Evergy and
20	Evergy's responded. There's never an objection has
21	not been raised by that company.
22	Okay. And then as to the specific
23	objections to Item 1.6, that that request in
24	response to that request, Ameren asserts that it
25	refers back to the joint filing that was just



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	Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 20
1	Page LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Rubenstein, thank
2	you. Did you have anything else or or
3	MS. RUBENSTEIN: That's all I got on the
4	issue. Thanks.
5	LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much.
6	Mr. Holthaus, any response?
7	MR. HOLTHAUS: Yes, Judge. Thank you.
8	With regards to Ameren's objections that
9	are directed to all of Sierra Club's data request, the
10	Commission Rules regarding annual IRP updates
11	contemplate only a short update process, lasting about
12	two and a half months which is much shorter than the
13	procedure for triannual compliance filing matters.
14	Ameren Missouri simply files an annual IRP update, and
15	shortly thereafter, Ameren hosts a workshop during
16	which Ameren takes questions from the stakeholders,
17	and Ameren also solicits written question or Ameren
18	requests written questions in advance of the workshop
19	so that we can address them during the the workshop
20	itself, and then 10 days after the workshop, Ameren
21	submits to the Commission a very brief summary report,
22	and the stakeholders have 30 days after that summary
23	report to file comments, and then that's the end.
24	Unlike triannual compliance filings, there's not even
25	an opportunity for a hearing at which to admit

	Transcript of Proceedings Vol 1 November 20, 2024
1	Page 8 evidence, and if comprehensive data requests similar
2	to those propounded in the triannual compliance
3	filings were permitted in annual IRP update cases, it
4	will be a challenge to complete the annual update
5	process in the time provided by Commission Rule 20 CSR
6	4240-20.080. Again, about two and a half months which
7	compares to something like six to 10 months for
8	triannual compliance filings, and further, the data
9	requests propounded by Sierra Club in this instance
10	seek much of the same information that Sierra Club
11	sought in the 2023 triannual IRP compliance filing
12	including emissions data generation and capacity
13	statistics, O&M costs, just to name a few for Ameren
14	Missouri's entire generation fleet. That's DR's 1.2
15	and 1.3. The MISO capacity price forecast used in
16	Ameren Missouri's modelling, that's DR 1.4, costs
17	forecasts for constructing new generation projects of
18	various types, that's D-R1.5, and costs of carbon
19	capture and sequestration, 1.7. I won't list all of
20	them. But Ameren believes it should not have to
21	answer the same DRs every single year and also
22	permitting the same discovery that is permitted in
23	triannual compliance matters would expand these
24	limited annual update reports into something more
25	closely resembling a triannual compliance filing.



November 26, 2024

1	Page 9 Ameren already provides opportunity for the
2	stakeholders to obtain information via the workshop,
3	and we invite stakeholders to submit written questions
4	in advance for us to address during the workshop.
5	Ameren's concern that it that if DRs were permitted
6	the focus of these annual IRP updates will become less
7	about the workshop itself and more about answering
8	data requests. We just in response to Sierra
9	Club's argument regarding the Empire order from 2014
10	that it refers to, that arises in a different context.
11	That case was a triannual IRP compliance filing.
12	Ameren doesn't contend that we don't have to answer
13	DRs in the triannual compliance filing. We actually
14	do answer I believe we answered all of them last
15	year in the 2023 IRP case. Our position is that an
16	annual update is different. For one reason, it's much
17	shorter, and two, unlike an IRP, a triannual IRP
18	filing, it's a much there's no possibility for a
19	hearing. The Commission doesn't even have an option
20	to give a hearing, so there's no hearing that which
21	evidence can be presented.
22	And the last point I'll make regarding

And the fast point I'll make regarding Ameren's position on the objections directed at all data requests is that Sierra Club has alternate avenues to obtain at least some of the discovery that



	Transcript of Proceedings Vol 1 November 26, 2024
1	Page 10 it seeks here. At least two of the DRs at issue here,
2	1.2 and 1.3, are very similar to discovery that Sierra
3	Club has obtained from Ameren in Ameren's pending
4	electric rate case. So that's all I'll say about all
5	the objections that are directed at all DRs.
6	With regard to the additional objection
7	directed at Data Requests 1.6 and that data request
8	relates to how Ameren will comply with the EPA's new
9	carbon capture pollution standards for coal and
10	natural gas generation, what we agreed in our our
11	joint filing, I don't think Ms. Rubenstein misstated
12	it was that Ameren would include analysis of its
13	compliance with new and updated EPA regulations in its
14	next preferred resource plan whether that occurs via
15	an annual update or a change in preferred resource
16	plan, and we don't think that means as Sierra Club
17	suggests that we're obligated to address compliance
18	with EPA regulations in either the annual update or a
19	change in PRP, whichever comes first. The obligation,
20	rather, is triggered by the filing of a preferred
21	resource plan which could potentially come in an
22	annual update, but in this case, it did not. Ameren
23	has not made any changes to its preferred resource
24	plan since the 2023 IRP was filed in September of last
25	year. And if Ameren files an update to the PRP or if

	Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 2024
1	Page 11 we update the preferred resource plan in next year's
2	annual update filing, then Ameren will address
3	compliance with EPA regulations at that time.
4	LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Holthaus, thank
5	you.
6	Anything from Staff, Ms. Kerr?
7	MS. KERR: I no. We don't have
8	anything. Thank you.
9	LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
10	I think the parties can certainly consider
11	the box checked. If if the parties feel like they
12	need to file any sort of discovery motion, a motion to
13	compel or anything similar, I believe you've satisfied
14	the Commission's rules and in giving the conference
15	with the judge. I hope that you'll continue to talk
16	and hopefully work out your dispute, but if not, you
17	are allowed to file a any discovery motion that you
18	find find appropriate.
19	Is there anything else I can do for the
20	parties before we disconnect?
21	MS. RUBENSTEIN: No. I think that covers
22	it. Thank you so much, Judge.
23	MR. HOLTHAUS: Thank you, Judge.
24	Appreciate it.
25	LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you

	Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 20	
1	Page 1 all. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and	2
2	take care. Thank you.	
3	MR. HOLTHAUS: Have a great Thanksgiving,	
4	everyone.	
5	MS. RUBENSTEIN: Thanks. You, too.	
6	Bye-bye.	
7	(Audio ended.)	
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	Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 2024
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Transcript of Proceedings Vol I November 26, 2024Index: 1.2..CSR

		assistance 3:13	Commission 4:2,
1	A	audio 12:7	13,15,19 5:8 7:10, 21 8:5 9:19
1.2 8:14 10:2	actions 4:7	avenues 9:25	Commission's
1.3 8:15 10:2	additional 10:6		3:13 11:14
1.4 8:16	address 3:24 7:19	B	company 5:21
1.6 3:21 5:23 6:3,	9:4 10:17 11:2	back 5:25	company's 3:22
24 10:7	admit 7:25	believes 4:1 8:20	4:11
1.7 8:19	advance 7:18 9:4	box 3:14 11:11	compares 8:7
10 7:20 8:7	agreed 6:8,12,18 10:10	Bye-bye 12:6	compel 11:13 complete 8:4
2	agreeing 3:17	C	compliance 3:22
2.091 4:5	allowed 3:11		6:13,19 7:13,24
2.091 4:5 20 4:3 8:5	11:17	capacity 8:12,15	8:2,8,11,23,25
	alternate 9:24	capture 8:19 10:9	9:11,13 10:13,17
2014 4:10 9:9	Ameren 3:8,9 4:4	carbon 8:18 10:9	comply 10:8
2023 8:11 9:15 10:24	5:6,24 6:4,12,18 7:14,15,16,17,20	care 12:2	comprehensive
22.080 5:10	8:13,16,20 9:1,12	case 4:17 9:11,15	8:1
2202 5:1	10:3,8,12,22,25	10:4,22	concern 9:5
		cases 8:3	conditions 4:7
3	Ameren's 7:8 9:5, 23 10:3	challenge 8:4	conference 3:19
3-A 5:10	analysis 6:19	change 6:22 10:15,19	11:14
30 7:22	10:12	check 3:14	considered 4:20 5:4
	annual 3:7,11 4:24 5:3,5,9,12,18	checked 11:11	constructing 8:17
4	6:15,21 7:10,14	circuit 4:7	contemplate 7:11
4240-2.091 4:3	8:3,4,24 9:6,16 10:15,18,22 11:2	civil 4:7	contend 9:12
4240-20.080 8:6		clarifying 3:13	context 9:10
	answering 9:7	clear 6:23	continue 11:15
5	apply 4:4	closely 8:25	correspondence
5 6:17	argument 9:9	Club 3:8 4:1,8,23	3:15
56 5:1	arises 9:10	6:14 8:9,10 9:24	costs 8:13,16,18
-	assert 6:15	10:3,16	couple 6:10
6	asserted 3:18	Club's 7:9 9:9	court 4:7
6 6:12	asserting 3:10 6:2	coal 10:9	covers 11:21
	asserts 5:24 6:4	comments 7:23	CSR 4:3 8:5



Transcript of Proceedings Woold mber 26, 2024 Index: D-R1.5..members

	6:16,25	general 3:24 4:2	IRP 3:7 4:11,16,18
D	EPA 3:23 6:13,19	generally 3:10	5:1,3 6:1 7:10,14 8:3,11 9:6,11,15,
D-R1.5 8:18	10:13,18 11:3	generation 8:12,	17 10:24
data 3:8,19,21 4:5,	EPA's 6:6 10:8	14,17 10:10	issue 3:13 4:21
14,21 5:7,16,19	essentially 6:2	give 9:20	7:4 10:1
7:9 8:1,8,12 9:8, 24 10:7	Evergy 5:18,19	giving 11:14	Item 5:23
days 7:20,22	Evergy's 5:20	great 3:6 12:3	
deficiencies 6:18	evidence 8:1 9:21	group 5:14	J
designate 4:19	exception 3:20	guess 3:25	joint 5:25 6:4,9,10
directed 7:9 9:23	exchanged 3:15	Н	10:11
10:5,7	Exhibit 6:9,12,17	<u>п</u>	judge 7:1,5,7 11:4
directly 4:12	expand 8:23	half 7:12 8:6	9,15,22,23,25
disagree 3:12,17	expressly 4:16,19	Нарру 12:1	К
disconnect 11:20	F	hearing 3:4 4:18 5:2 7:25 9:19,20	Kerr 3:1 11:6,7
discovery 3:10 4:3,5,10 5:5 8:22		holding 4:18	key 6:11
4.3,5,10 5.5 8.22 9:25 10:2 11:12,	feel 11:11	Holthaus 3:1 7:6,7	kind 6:11
17	file 7:23 11:12,17	11:4,23 12:3	
dispute 11:16	filed 10:24	hope 11:15 12:1	L
disputes 4:23	files 7:14 10:25	hosts 7:15	language 6:11
District 4:11	filing 5:25 6:4,9, 10,21 7:13 8:11,		lasting 7:11
DR's 8:14	25 9:11,13,18		LAW 7:1,5 11:4,9,
DRS 8:21 9:5,13	10:11,20 11:2	include 6:12,18	25
10:1,5	filings 7:24 8:3,8	10:12	legal 4:17
E	Finally 5:17	including 8:12	limited 8:24
	find 11:18	information 3:22	list 8:19
electric 4:11 10:4	fleet 8:14	6:3,5,16,25 8:10 9:2	
emissions 8:12	focus 9:6	informed 5:15	M
Empire 4:11,14	forecast 8:15	input 5:15	made 4:14 10:23
9:9	forecasts 8:17		make 9:22
end 7:23	found 4:16	instance 8:9	matter 3:7
ended 12:7		intervenor 4:8,15, 20,25	matters 7:13 8:23
ensure 5:14	G	invite 9:3	means 4:6 10:16
entire 8:14	gas 10:10	involving 5:18	
entitled 4:10,21			members 5:14

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Transcript of Proceedings Wobl/ember 26, 2024Index: mention..served

	I ranscript of P	roceedings violvember 26,	2024Index: mentionserved
mention 3:14		projects 8:17	10:7
MISO 8:15	P	propounded 8:2,9	requests 3:8 4:14,
Missouri 7:14	parties 3:2 5:4,19	provide 5:15 6:5	21 5:7,16,19 6:2 7:18 8:1,9 9:8,24
Missouri's 8:14,16	6:8 11:10,11,20	provided 8:5	10:7
misstated 10:11	party 4:20,25	provision 5:11	required 5:2
modelling 8:16	pending 10:3	PRP 10:19,25	requirement 4:18
months 7:12 8:6,7	permitted 8:3,22 9:5	Public 4:2	resembling 8:25
motion 11:12,17		purpose 5:9,13,16	resolution 6:17
multiple 5:18	permitting 8:22 phone 3:16		resolved 3:20
		Q	resource 6:7,14,
N narrowly 5:16	places 6:10 plan 6:7,14,20,22	question 6:11 7:17	20,22 10:14,15, 21,23 11:1
natural 10:10	10:14,16,21,24	questions 7:16,18	respectfully 3:12
non-contested	point 3:17 4:12	9:3	respond 3:9 4:4
4:17	5:8,17 6:9 9:22	R	responded 5:20
	pollution 10:9		response 5:24 7:6
0	position 4:13	raised 5:21	9:8
O&m 8:13	9:15,23	rate 10:4	responses 4:21 5:6
objection 3:24 4:1	possibility 9:18	reach 3:17	Rubenstein 3:1,4,
5:20 10:6	potentially 10:21	ready 3:5	6 7:1,3 10:11
objections 3:18	preferred 6:7,14, 20,22 10:14,15,	reason 9:16	11:21 12:5
4:14 5:23 6:24 7:8 9:23 10:5	20,23 11:1	receive 4:21	Rule 4:2 8:5
obligated 10:17	premature 6:3	refers 5:25 9:10	rules 4:19 5:1,3 7:10 11:14
obligates 4:4	presented 9:21	refused 3:9	7.10 11.14
obligation 10:19	pretty 6:23	regard 10:6	S
obtain 9:2,25	price 8:15	regs 5:11	
obtained 4:6 10:3	PRIDGIN 7:1,5	regulation 5:12	satisfied 11:13
occurs 6:21 10:14	11:4,9,25	regulations 3:23	seek 3:12 8:10
opportunity 5:15	procedure 7:13	6:6,13,20 10:13, 18 11:3	seeks 3:21 10:1
7:25 9:1	proceeding 3:11	relates 10:8	September 10:24
option 9:19	4:12,16,18,22,24 5:3,6,13 6:1	report 7:21,23	sequestration 8:19
order 4:11,13 9:9	proceedings 4:9	reports 8:24	serve 5:5
overruled 4:13	5:9,12,18	request 3:9,19,21	served 3:8 4:15
owes 5:6	process 7:11 8:5	4:5 5:23,24 7:9	5:19

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Transcript of Proceedings VdNbvember 26, 2024Index: Service..year's

set 3:8 5:2 (short 7:11 sugg shorter 7:12 9:17 sumr shortly 7:15 supp Sierra 3:8 4:1,8,23	est 4:10,22 6:7 ests 10:17 mary 7:21,22 oorts 4:12	W whichever 10:19 work 11:16 workshop 7:15,	
set 3:8 sugg short 7:11 sugg shorter 7:12 9:17 sumr shortly 7:15 supp Sierra 3:8 4:1,8,23	ests 10:17 mary 7:21,22 orts 4:12	whichever 10:19 work 11:16 workshop 7:15,	
short 7:11 summer shorter 7:12 9:17 summer shortly 7:15 supp Sierra 3:8 4:1,8,23	mary 7:21,22 orts 4:12	work 11:16 workshop 7:15,	
shortly 7:12 9:17 shortly 7:15 Sierra 3:8 4:1,8,23 6:14 7:9 8:9,10 9:8,24 10:2,16 similar 5:17 8:1	orts 4:12	workshop 7:15,	
Sierra 3:8 4:1,8,23 6:14 7:9 8:9,10 9:8,24 10:2,16 similar 5:17 8:1		• •	
6:14 7:9 8:9,10 9:8,24 10:2,16 similar 5:17 8:1 takes	Т		
similar 5:17 8:1		18,19,20 9:2,4,7 written 7:17,18 9:3	
	ed 5:16		
10:2 11:13	5 7:16	Y	
similarly 4:23 talk	11:15	year 8:21 9:15	
	ksgiving	10:25	
single 8.21	eto 4:22	year's 11:1	
solicits 7.17	8:5 11:3		
sort 5.8 11.12	nual 7:13,24		
	8,11,23,25		
spear 3.23	,13,17		
specific 5.10,25	ered 10:20		
	s 8:18		
specifies 5:13	U		
spoke 3:15			
	e 7:24 9:17		
- · - · ·	te 3:7,11 4:24 5,9,12,18		
stakeholder's 6:13	3,15,21 7:11, 3:3,4,24 9:16		
0.10	5,18,22,25		
standards 10:9 upda	ted 3:23 6:19		
started 2:2	tes 6:6 7:10		
statistics 8:13 9:6			
stay 5:15			
submit 9:3	V		
submits 7:21 valid	6:24		
submitted 6:1			

