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Depreciation  
Robinett/Rebuttal  
Public Counsel  
ER-2024-0319

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**JOHN A. ROBINETT**

Submitted on Behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel

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

CASE NO. ER-2024-0319

January 17, 2025

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY  
OF  
JOHN A. ROBINETT  
AMEREN MISSOURI**

**CASE NO. ER-2024-0319**

1 **Q. What is your name and what is your business address?**

2 A. John A. Robinett, PO Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

3 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

4 A. I am employed by the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) as a Utility Engineering  
5 Specialist.

6 **Q. Have you previously provided testimony before the Missouri Public Service  
7 Commission?**

8 A. Yes. Both as a former member of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission  
9 (“Staff” and “Commission,” respectively) and on behalf of the OPC.

10 **Q. What is your work and educational background?**

11 A. A copy of my work and educational experience is attached to this testimony as Schedule  
12 JAR-R-1.

13 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

14 A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond Staff and Ameren Missouri’s positions  
15 regarding the depreciation rates and depreciation expense of Ameren Missouri. I will also  
16 discuss deficiencies of the depreciation study supplied by Ameren Missouri

17 **Q. Does Ameren Missouri’s depreciation study comply with Commission Rule 20 CSR  
18 4240-3.175?**

19 A. No. There are items that are deficient.

20 **Q. What are the deficiencies under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-3.175?**

21 A. 20 CSR 4240-3.175(1)(A)2D requires:

1 Estimated date of retirement and surviving dollar investment for each  
2 warehouse, electric generating facility, combustion turbine, general office  
3 building or large structure[.]

4 Ameren Missouri and its consultant failed to provide as part of this depreciation study  
5 plant-in-service balances and accumulated depreciation reserves for individual combustion  
6 turbines of combustion turbine facilities. Rather, the combustion turbines are all  
7 aggregated together. The same is true for Ameren Missouri's solar generating facilities.  
8 Like the combustion turbines, these facilities are also all aggregated. Ameren Missouri and  
9 its consultant also failed to provide estimated retirement dates for the combustion turbines,  
10 solar generating facilities, and for the Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center.

11 **Q. What recommendations do you have related to the depreciation study?**

12 A. To ensure that the depreciation study complies with 20 CSR 4240-3.175, I make the  
13 following recommendations.

14 1) Ameren Missouri should provide each combustion turbine's plant-in-service and  
15 accumulated depreciation reserves separately. At a minimum though, where multiple  
16 turbines are located at one site, Ameren Missouri should provide these values by generating  
17 facility.

18 2) Ameren Missouri should provide projected retirement dates for each combustion  
19 turbine. Or, at a minimum, a retirement date for combustion turbine facilities if more than  
20 one turbine is present at a location.

21 3) Ameren Missouri should provide each solar generating facility's plant-in-service and  
22 accumulated depreciation reserves separately.

23 4) Ameren Missouri should provide projected retirement dates for each solar generating  
24 facility.

1           5) Ameren Missouri should provide a projected retirement date for the Maryland Heights  
2           Renewable Energy Center.

3           6) The Commission should not allow recovery of Ameren Missouri's depreciation study  
4           until the study is resubmitted or Ameren Missouri can show that they comply with 20 CSR  
5           4240-3.175(1)(A)2D by providing estimated retirement dates for its combustion turbines,  
6           solar facilities, and the Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center individually and plant-  
7           in-service and accumulated depreciation reserves for each combustion turbine and solar  
8           facility individually.

9   **Q. Did Staff perform a depreciation study?**

10 A. No. Based on Staff witness, Ms. Amanda Coffey's direct testimony at page 3 line 17  
11 through page 4 line 4, Staff did not perform a depreciation study. Instead, Staff adopted  
12 Ameren Missouri witness Mr. John J. Spanos's study, with a few exceptions for accounts  
13 where Staff recommends use of current ordered depreciation rates. Specifically, Ms. Coffey  
14 states:

15           Q. Did Staff perform its own depreciation study?

16           A. No. Staff has reviewed the depreciation study performed by Ameren  
17           Missouri witness John Spanos and is recommending the adoption of the  
18           majority of the requested depreciation rates, with the exception of several  
19           accounts for which Staff is currently recommending the previously ordered  
20           depreciation rates. While Staff agrees that most of Mr. Spanos'  
21           recommended depreciation rates are reasonable, there are some for which he  
22           has recommended a change greater than what is reasonable. Staff is  
23           currently experiencing issues with its depreciation software and intends to  
24           perform a depreciation study on these accounts once those issues are  
25           resolved.

1 **Q. Do you agree that Staff utilized the currently ordered depreciation rates where it**  
2 **determined Ameren Missouri's recommendations were unreasonable?**

3 A. Not entirely. In some instances where Staff recommended a different depreciation rate, it  
4 did not recommend what the Commission ordered in Ameren Missouri's last rate case,  
5 Case Number ER-2022-0337.

6 For example, for account 316 Miscellaneous Equipment associated with the Sioux  
7 production facility, Ameren Missouri recommended a 7.66% rate. Staff recommended an  
8 8.44% rate. However, the stipulation and agreement from Case Number ER-2022-0337,  
9 specified the depreciation rate for that account was 8.5%. Also at the Sioux facility,  
10 account 316.21 Miscellaneous Equipment Office Furniture, Staff recommends a 5.4%  
11 depreciation rate. However, the last case included a rate of 5%, which mirrors what  
12 Ameren Missouri recommended in this case. Similarly, for Solar Facilities Large, Staff  
13 recommends a 3.75% rate, which is the rate Ameren Missouri recommends for small solar  
14 facilities generators. In this case, Ameren Missouri recommends a depreciation rate of  
15 3.89% for Solar Facilities Large, which is the ordered rate from Case Number ER-2022-  
16 0337.

17 **Q. Do you have any other concerns about Staff's recommended depreciation rates?**

18 A. Yes. It may be due to the timing of the data utilized by Staff, but it is recommending a set  
19 of depreciation rates for the Rush Island facility, even though the Commission allowed  
20 Ameren Missouri to securitize the under recovered value of the facility and an estimated  
21 value for retirement and dismantlement costs. I do not recommend depreciation rates for  
22 this facility as the units were retired in October 2024.

1 **Q. Do you have any concerns about Staff's or Ameren's recommended depreciation**  
2 **rates?**

3 A. Yes. My next concern is related to the use of remaining life depreciation techniques on  
4 accounts that have previously been approved for General Plant Amortization.

5 **Q. What is General Plant Amortization?**

6 A. General Plant Amortization and Vintage Year Accounting are two names for the same  
7 method of amortization of assets. However, this amortization method is distinct from  
8 depreciation expense, which is calculated using the historical experience of the average  
9 lives of the assets contained in an account. General Plant Amortization/Vintage Year  
10 Accounting, by contrast, covers a defined period over which the company may recover  
11 costs for capital investments in specific accounts which will not be tied to the actual life of  
12 the assets in the future.

13 **Q. Has the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") provided any guidance**  
14 **on the issue of General Plant Amortization or Vintage Year Accounting?**

15 A. Yes. FERC issued Accounting Release Number 15 (AR-15), Vintage Year Accounting for  
16 General Plant Accounts, effective January 1, 1997. AR-15 allows utilities to use a  
17 simplified method of accounting for general plant assets, (referred to as "General  
18 Property") excluding structures and improvements. The AR-15 accounting release allows  
19 high-volume, low-cost assets to be amortized over their associated useful life, eliminates  
20 the need to track individual assets, and allows a retirement to be booked at the end of the  
21 theoretical depreciable life. FERC's AR-15 lists certain general plant accounts for which  
22 Vintage Year Accounting might be reasonable.

1 **Q. What concerns do you have regarding General Plant Amortization?**

2  
3 A. General Plant Amortization threatens the Commission's ability to perform a prudence  
4 review of plant added into these accounts due to this amortization method failing to track  
5 retirement units and original costs. Under the General Plant Amortization method, only  
6 two values matter: 1) the total additions for an account in a vintage year and 2) the  
7 amortization period over which the original investment can be recouped. The total  
8 additions do not reflect the costs per retirement unit, which prevents parties from auditing  
9 these additions based on cost per unit.

10 General Plant Amortization does not yield historical data for depreciation that will  
11 differ from the amortization period for the select account. Therefore, any future  
12 depreciation study could not properly analyze the actual lives of the asset and match the  
13 actual lives with an appropriate depreciation rate. Under General Plant Amortization,  
14 amortization periods are not necessarily related to the useful life of the assets. Instead, the  
15 retirement booking relates to the retirement of dollars. Depreciation is designed to  
16 determine the appropriate return of investment to the company's shareholders based on the  
17 useful lives of its assets. With General Plant Amortization, however, plant assets may retire  
18 prior to the amortization period or may survive many years past the amortization period.  
19 This method could mask the appropriate recovery period for Ameren Missouri's assets.  
20 General Plant Amortization creates a circular loop of information feeding the depreciation  
21 study data on a going forward basis.

22 **Q. Could you please explain exactly what you mean?**

23 A. Depreciation studies determine depreciation rates using the experienced mortality, *i.e.*, the  
24 historical retirement data, of the assets in an account. In other words, you observe how long

1 plant is lasting before it needs to be retired to determine its average usable or “service” life.  
2 However, under the General Plant Amortization method of accounting, plant is retired,  
3 from a bookkeeping perspective, as soon as it is “fully accrued” (*i.e.* the accumulated  
4 depreciation reserve has been met or exceeded the original cost of the plant). Therefore,  
5 plant will be retired at the end of its calculated average service life regardless of whether  
6 the plant is still in use. Because the retirements are being driven by the average service life  
7 and the average service life is the time before the plant is retired, a circular loop is created  
8 where the retirement dictates the average service life, and the average service life dictates  
9 the retirement.

10 **Q. How would someone faced with this circular loop be able to change a General Plant**  
11 **Amortization in a future rate proceeding?**

12 A. In order to change a General Plant Amortization rate in the future, one would need to  
13 review two potential things. The first would be the retirement data for the account one is  
14 trying to change. However, that account will only show that the current ordered  
15 amortization period is the appropriate value for the retirement rate. The second is similar  
16 utilities and their ordered depreciation rates.

17 **Q. Please identify the accounts for which the Commission has approved Ameren**  
18 **Missouri’s use of General Plant Amortization?**

19 A. Accounts 316.21, 316.22, 316.23, 325.21, 325.22, 325.23, 335.21, 335.22, 335.23, 346.21,  
20 346.22, 346.23, 390.05, 391.0, 391.2, 392.05, 393, 394, 394.05, 395, 397, 397.05 and 398.

21 **Q. Do you agree with Staff’s and Ameren Missouri’s use of remaining life depreciation**  
22 **on General Plant Amortization accounts?**

23 A. No.



1 **Q. Why?**

2 A. The rationale behind the movement to the General Plant Amortization method for general  
3 plant is that previously utilities were required to track the lives and locations of many small,  
4 short-lived assets, which created a burden. Now, with the approval of General Plant  
5 Amortization, utilities are required to track the dollars placed into service annually and  
6 recover them over the set amortization period.

7 **Q. Does Ameren Missouri or Staff explain why the depreciation rate changes are**  
8 **occurring for general plant accounts?**

9 A. No. Neither Staff nor Ameren Missouri presented evidence that a change in technology  
10 occurred or that similarly situated utilities were experiencing a shortening of lives as  
11 support for adjusting the depreciation rates upwards for these assets.

12 **Q. What depreciation rates do you recommend for the general plant amortization**  
13 **accounts?**

14 A. I recommend the depreciation rates that are consistent with the recommended amortization  
15 periods that were agreed to in the stipulation and agreement, which the Commission  
16 approved in Case Number ER-2022-0337. The accounts and rates from Case Number ER-

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2022-0337

are:

Account 316.21	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Furniture	5.00%
Account 316.22	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Equipment	6.67%
Account 316.23	Power Plant Equipment- Computers	20.00%
Account 325.21	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Furniture	5.00%
Account 325.22	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Equipment	6.67%
Account 325.23	Power Plant Equipment- Computers	20.00%
Account 335.21	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Furniture	5.00%
Account 335.22	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Equipment	6.67%
Account 335.23	Power Plant Equipment- Computers	20.00%
Account 346.21	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Furniture	5.00%
Account 346.22	Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment- Office Equipment	6.67%
Account 346.23	Power Plant Equipment- Computers	20.00%
Account 391	Office Furniture and Equipment-Furniture	5.00%
Account 391.20	Office Furniture and Equipment-Personal Computers	20.00%
Account 391.30	Office Furniture and Equipment-Equipment	5.00%
Account 393	Stores Equipment	5.00%
Account 394	Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment	5.00%
Account 395	Laboratory Equipment	5.00%
Account 397	Communication Equipment	6.67%
Account 398	Miscellaneous Equipment	5.00%

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3 **Q. Turning away from the accounts that utilize the General Plant Amortization method,**  
4 **what sources did you use to calculate your recommended depreciation rates?**

5 A. I utilized the accounting schedules associated with Staff's Direct Testimony for the plant-  
6 in-service values and accumulated depreciation reserves, which I then used to calculate the  
7 current rate base and the remaining amount to collect for each facility. I also utilized the  
8 projected retirement rates found in Ameren Missouri's depreciation study. Additionally, I  
9 utilized the net salvage percentages presented in Ameren Missouri's and Staff's Direct  
10 Testimonies for the production accounts.

1 **Q. How did you calculate your recommended depreciation rates?**

2 A. First, to calculate the total amount that Ameren Missouri needs to collect for each facility  
3 I multiplied the original plant-in-service cost by the sum of one minus the net salvage  
4 percentage. In some instances, the net salvage percentage was negative. This means that  
5 at the asset's retirement date the cost of removal exceeds the salvage value of the asset.  
6 This, in turn, means Ameren Missouri must collect more than the original cost of the asset  
7 to fully recover for it. For example, a negative ten percent net salvage percentage means  
8 the utility must recover an additional ten percent of the original cost to cover the expected  
9 cost of removal.

10 Second, to calculate the remaining amount that Ameren Missouri must collect for each  
11 asset, I subtracted the accumulated depreciation reserve amount from the amount to be  
12 collected over the life of the assets that I calculated in Step 1. It is important to note that  
13 none of these calculations consider the ultimate dismantlement/make safe costs for the  
14 production facilities, which Ameren Missouri may seek to recover later.<sup>1</sup>

15 Third, to calculate the amount that Ameren Missouri must collect each year, I divided the  
16 remaining value to be collected (as calculated in Step Two) by the remaining life of each  
17 of the production facilities. For this calculation, all of the assets for each production facility  
18 are considered to have the same retirement date.

19 Finally, I divided the annual accrual value from Step Three by the original cost/plant-in-  
20 service value. This result is the depreciation rate for the account.

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<sup>1</sup> I am not aware of any Commission decisions that allow terminal salvage in depreciation rates. In addition, securitization allows for the collection of dismantlement and retirement costs, which can be trued-up based on actual spends.

1 **Q. Which of Ameren Missouri's production facilities did you analyze?**

2 A. I analyzed all of Ameren Missouri's production facilities, including: the Sioux Steam  
3 Production Plant, the Labadie Steam Production Units, the Callaway Nuclear Production  
4 Plant, the Osage Hydraulic Production Plant, the Keokuk Hydraulic Production Plant, the  
5 Taum Sauk Hydraulic Production Plant, the combustion turbines, the High Prairie Wind  
6 Production Plant, the Atchison Wind Production Plant, the Maryland Heights Renewable  
7 Energy Center, and Ameren's solar facilities.

8 **Q. Why did you choose these facilities to analyze?**

9 A. These facilities are all of Ameren Missouri's production facilities. As discussed, earlier  
10 Ameren Missouri failed to provide projected retirement dates for the combustion turbines  
11 and solar facilities individually. Therefore, I utilized the remaining life as calculated by  
12 Mr. Spanos to determine the projected retirement date for the fleet of solar facilities and  
13 combustion turbine facilities. I utilized the same method for the Maryland Heights  
14 Renewable Energy Center but that is a singular unit.

15 **Q. What are your recommended depreciation rates for these facilities?**

16 A. My recommended depreciation rates for the steam facilities are as follows:

	Plant account Description	OPC Depreciation Rate Recommendation
Sioux		
311	Structures	7.31%
312	Boiler Plant Equipment	5.53%
314	Turbogenerator unit	4.86%
315	Accessory Electric Equipment	5.33%
316	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	9.00%
Labadie		
311	Structures	3.67%
312	Boiler Plant Equipment	3.83%
314	Turbogenerator unit	3.12%
315	Accessory Electric Equipment	2.99%
316	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	5.08%

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My recommended depreciation rates for the nuclear facility are as follows:

	Plant account Description	OPC Depreciation Rate Recommendation
Callaway		
321	Structures	1.66%
322	Reactor Plant Equipment	2.78%
323	Turbogenerator unit	2.53%
324	Accessory Electric Equipment	2.39%
325	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	3.03%

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My recommended depreciation rates for the hydraulic facilities are as follows:

	Plant account Description	OPC Depreciation Rate Recommendation
Osage		
331	Structures	3.68%
332	Reservoirs	3.12%
333	Water Wheels/ Generators	2.93%
334	Accessory Electric Equipment	2.93%
335	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	3.90%
Keokuk		
331	Structures	2.90%
332	Reservoirs	2.49%
333	Water Wheels/ Generators	2.72%
334	Accessory Electric Equipment	2.50%
335	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	2.44%
Taum Sauk		
331	Structures	1.28%
332	Reservoirs	1.60%
333	Water Wheels/ Generators	1.77%
334	Accessory Electric Equipment	1.58%
335	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	1.40%

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My recommended depreciation rates for the other generating facilities are as follows:

	Plant account Description	OPC Depreciation Rate
<b>Combustion Turbines</b>		
341	Structures	2.31%
322	Fuel Holders	2.43%
344	Generator	1.81%
345	Accessory Electric Equipment	2.04%
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	1.71%
<b>High Prairie Wind</b>		
341	Structures	3.43%
344	Generator	3.39%
345	Accessory Electric Equipment	3.39%
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	3.38%
<b>Atchison Wind</b>		
341	Structures	3.29%
344	Generator	3.31%
345	Accessory Electric Equipment	3.27%
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	2.70%
<b>Solar</b>		
341	Structures	3.64%
344	Generator	3.80%
344	Generator-Large	4.08%
345	Accessory Electric Equipment	4.01%
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	3.13%
<b>Maryland Heights</b>		
344	Generator-Turbines other	-1.80%

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The negative 1.80% depreciation rate for the Maryland Heights facility indicates that the account is over accrued. This occurred because Ameren Missouri has estimated a forty percent salvage value for the facility, which means that Ameren Missouri expects to receive forty percent of the original cost at the time of retirement as salvage. This, in turn, means that for the asset to be fully accrued Ameren Missouri will only need to collect sixty percent of the

1 original cost. The current accumulated depreciation reserves sit higher than the sixty percent  
 2 of original cost, which means ratepayers have paid more than the needed value. The negative  
 3 depreciation rate sets up a return to customers to account for the over collection when salvage  
 4 is considered.

5 If the Commission wishes to avoid a negative depreciation rate for this facility, I recommend  
 6 a zero percent depreciation rate be ordered for this unit.

7 **Q. What are the depreciation expenses you calculated for the production facilities?**

8 A. The following tables show my calculated depreciation expense for each of the production  
 9 facilities.

	Plant account Description	Plant-in- service 12/31/2024	Depreciation Rate	Depreciation Expense
<b>Sioux</b>				
311	Structures	88,539,548	7.31%	6,470,477.94
312	Boiler Plant Equipment	1,122,994,170	5.53%	62,129,962.93
314	Turbogenerator unit	176,171,065	4.86%	8,569,682.46
315	Accessory Electric Equipment	136,181,734	5.33%	7,260,573.00
316	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	26,698,867	9.00%	2,404,107.79
				<b>86,834,804.11</b>
<b>Labadie</b>				
311	Structures	150,372,111	3.67%	5,519,079.29
312	Boiler Plant Equipment	1,240,626,221	3.83%	47,514,252.00
314	Turbogenerator unit	330,940,324	3.12%	10,313,443.71
315	Accessory Electric Equipment	121,095,796	2.99%	3,615,473.44
316	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	114,436,335	5.08%	5,811,173.21
				<b>72,773,421.65</b>



	Plant account Description	Plant-in- service 12/31/2024	Depreciation Rate	Depreciation Expense
Callaway				
321	Structures	1,002,748,512	1.66%	16,656,407.91
322	Reactor Plant Equipment	1,532,990,896	2.78%	42,611,323.65
323	Turbogenerator unit	550,481,292	2.53%	13,931,140.10
324	Accessory Electric Equipment	305,083,866	2.39%	7,279,691.61
325	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	181,259,863	3.03%	5,500,957.66

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	Plant account Description	Plant-in-service	Depreciation Rate	Depreciation Expense
<b>Combustion Turbines</b>				
341	Structures	48,304,118	2.31%	1,117,134.40
322	Fuel Holders	48,731,597	2.43%	1,183,422.39
344	Generator	1,046,771,892	1.81%	18,928,840.70
345	Accessory Electric Equipmen	83,038,115	2.04%	1,692,605.67
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	10,487,603	1.71%	179,622.01
				<b>23,101,625.17</b>
<b>High Prairie Wind</b>				
341	Structures	48,059,137	3.43%	1,649,054.90
344	Generator	530,650,214	3.39%	18,012,309.93
345	Accessory Electric Equipmen	75,410,290	3.39%	2,552,813.05
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	15,499	3.38%	524.00
				<b>22,214,701.88</b>
<b>Atchison Wind</b>				
341	Structures	31,862,732	3.29%	1,048,079.70
344	Generator	431,932,363	3.31%	14,293,316.78
345	Accessory Electric Equipmen	52,526,283	3.27%	1,717,662.97
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	10,894	2.70%	294.11
				<b>17,059,353.56</b>
<b>Solar</b>				
341	Structures	3,279,013	3.64%	119,518.97
344	Generator	38,192,548	3.80%	1,450,924.46
344	Generator-Large	969,714,032	4.08%	39,516,011.71
345	Accessory Electric Equipmen	7,828,061	4.01%	313,907.85
346	Misc. Power Plant Equipment	52,422	3.13%	1,639.44
				<b>41,402,002.43</b>
<b>Maryland Heights</b>				
344	Generator-Turbines other	7,832,286	-1.80%	-140,898.22

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**Q. How do your calculated depreciation expenses for these facilities compare to Staff's and Ameren Missouri's depreciation expenses?**

A. The following table compares the depreciation expense for each of the previously discussed production facilities as calculated by myself, Staff, and Ameren Missouri using Staff's plant-in-service values as of December 31,2024.

	OPC	Staff	Ameren Missouri
Sioux	\$ 86,834,804	\$ 106,779,166	\$ 89,098,294
Labadie	\$ 72,773,422	\$ 74,444,780	\$ 74,444,780
Callaway	\$ 85,979,521	\$ 90,963,143	\$ 93,678,390
Osage	\$ 6,406,790	\$ 6,451,203	\$ 6,451,203
Keokuk	\$ 6,885,785	\$ 7,240,278	\$ 7,240,278
Taum Sauk	\$ 2,871,785	\$ 3,453,405	\$ 3,453,405
Combustion Turbines	\$ 23,101,625	\$ 22,324,014	\$ 22,324,014
High Prarie Wind	\$ 22,214,702	\$ 23,733,468	\$ 23,733,617
Atchison Wind	\$ 17,059,354	\$ 18,306,121	\$ 18,306,121
Solar	\$ 41,402,002	\$ 37,995,324	\$ 39,352,924
Maryland Heights	\$ (140,898)	\$ 65,008	\$ 140,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 365,388,892</b>	<b>\$ 391,755,910</b>	<b>\$ 378,223,224</b>

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2 **Q. In your opinion what are driving the differences between your recommended**  
3 **depreciation rates and expense from that of Staff and Ameren Missouri?**

4 A. The primary differences between my recommendation and Ameren Missouri's that I am  
5 aware of appear to be driven by a difference in timing relating to the plant-in-service and  
6 accumulated depreciation reserves, as well as in many instances one less year of remaining  
7 life tied to the data that was used for the calculations. Ameren Missouri utilized December  
8 31, 2023 plant and reserve balances, where I utilized Staff's direct accounting run values  
9 that included data through December 31, 2024. Additionally I do not recommend the use  
10 of remaining life on top of the use of general plant amortization, however differences  
11 related to this recommendation are not considered in the above totals as they are a  
12 comparison of production facilities' depreciation expense. There may also be additional  
13 factors that are causing the differences of which I am not aware at the time of this  
14 testimony.

15 The differences between my recommendations and Staff's recommendations are  
16 driven by many of the same factors just discussed for Ameren Missouri, as Staff has

1 adopted a large portion of Ameren Missouri's recommended depreciation rates. As  
2 previously discussed, Staff also utilized stipulated and agreed to and then Commission  
3 ordered depreciation rates from Case Number ER-2022-0337. One issue that may not be  
4 readily seen or known from that case is that since the 2022 case the projected retirement  
5 date for the Sioux facility has changed. Ameren Missouri in their study is now projecting  
6 a retirement date of 2032, but Staff's testimony in the 2022 case listed Sioux as a probable  
7 retirement date of 2030. Due to the size of the remaining net book value of the Sioux  
8 facility, this two-year difference will certainly change the valuation. Also as previously  
9 discussed there are three accounts for which Staff makes recommendations that do not  
10 match either current ordered depreciation rates or Ameren Missouri's that will also  
11 contribute to some of the differences between my calculated depreciation rates and expense  
12 from Staff.

13 **Q. What is your recommendation?**

14 A. I recommend the Commission adopt my depreciation rates for the six production facilities.  
15 These rates decrease depreciation expense by \$26,367,018 from that calculated by Staff  
16 and \$12,834,332 from Ameren Missouri when using Staff's plant-in-service and  
17 accumulated reserve balances.

18 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

19 A. Yes, it does.

**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     )     Case No. ER-2024-0319  
Revenues for Electric Service     )

**AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN A. ROBINETT**

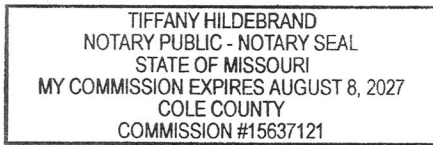
**STATE OF MISSOURI**     )  
                                       )     **ss**  
**COUNTY OF COLE**     )

John A. Robinett, of lawful age and being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. My name is John A. Robinett. I am a Utility Engineering Specialist for the Office of the Public Counsel.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my rebuttal testimony.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that my statements contained in the attached testimony are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Robinett  
Utility Engineering Specialist

Subscribed and sworn to me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.



My Commission expires August 8, 2027.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tiffany Hildebrand  
Notary Public