

Exhibit No. 2

Commission – Exhibit 2
Patricia Tocco & Catherine Cogorno Statement
Local Public Hearing Exhibit-Sunset Hills
File No. ER-2024-0319

Public Comments at Ameren Public Hearing

1. We represent STL for Safe Technology, with a membership of over 400 people in the metro area. We are here to question if the proposed rate increase has anything to do with the cost of rolling out smart meters. We, the customers, never approved of the Smart (digital) Meters because of adverse health effects, the increase in dirty electricity in our houses, surveillance concerns, a history of them catching on fire, and a deceitful claim by AMEREN that they more accurately register actual consumption or save money.
2. Those who have opted out of them, in favor of the old analog meters have to pay AMEREN an additional \$40/month. We consider this to be extortion. Now, are these customers going to be penalized even further with a rate increase?
3. There is built-in obsolescence to Smart Meters; they only last 6 to 8 years, compared to 30 to 50 yrs for the analog meters. They are also not green. If there are ^{to} 2 million (1,2) homes in Missouri using smart meters and they cost \$250 each. That means AMEREN would need \$300 MILLION to replace them in a several year time period. Is this what the RATE INCREASE is needed for? To meet AMEREN's cost budget for something none of us asked for? And, which was unnecessary? Obviously, there is NO transparency about this by AMEREN.
4. We are already suffering from high inflation and the rates utilities charge have already been creeping up. We are opposed to these arbitrary rate hikes.
5. Other technical concerns include the following facts:
 - a). Contrary to the old analogs which operate with a flawless mechanism, the smart meters have electronic circuits, which are prone to break down and wear out, just like a typical computer. They also have lithium batteries which can explode and catch fire.
 - b). The smart meters don't have built-in surge suppression mechanism to safely route lightning to the ground via the meter box. Should a power surge or lightning strike occur, routing to the electronic boards can cause an explosion AND LIKELY A FIRE. These fires have been documented in many homes. Is AMEREN liable for this fire damage to our houses?

c). The base of smart meters is not made like the analogs, with dimensional stability and ability to withstand high heat.

d). The glass face construction of the analog meter is also superior in providing a time-tested seal from dust and weather effects, and resisting high heat temperatures. The acrylic plastic cover on digital meters, in case of its malfunction, will melt and catch fire.

e). Mr. Bill Bathgate, Electrical Engineer, instructor and national expert in these devices has proven in courts that the smart meters don't accurately measure consumption, don't save any money and frequently the customers are overcharged.

f). Recently, ^{Building Biology} Mr. Robert Workman, a Certified Environmental Consultant and Radiation Specialist contacted the Missouri Public Safety Commission about these Fire Hazards, but has received no response.

g). Digital meters use a switch mode power supply, creating dirty electricity, and have no connection to the ground, so they cannot meet FCC conductive emissions test.

h). In terms of surveillance, the smart meters use a 900 MHz radio signal transmitting personal usage on a 1-15 minute interval to the utility. The signal can determine if you are at home when you use your power the most and whether the load is resistive (light bulbs) or inductive (electric motors).

i). A cell phone can be turned off at will, but not the digital meters, which are pulsing constantly, creating an electromagnetic field that is damaging to people, animals and even plant life. But AMEREN and utility providers never tell you this.

Finally, for anyone who wants to claim "We are in compliance with the FCC" you should know their guidelines are 25 yrs obsolete, and they are in contempt of court for not even looking at the mountains of evidence, ie. there are thousands of scientific studies proving that electromagnetic frequency is harmful.

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns about these dangerous devices that have been rolled out without wise or appropriate consideration of the customers' wellbeing, safety, and security; and NOW an unjustified rate increase imposed on us with no financial means to continue to afford such excessive escalating fees and rates.

Patricia Tocco, Catherine Cogorno