

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union                   )  
Electric Company d/b/a                   )  
Ameren Missouri's Tariffs            ) File No. GR-2024-0369  
to Adjust Its Revenues                )  
for Natural Gas Service.              )

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING  
VOLUME II  
April 16, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

Wentzville City Hall  
1001 Schroeder Creek Boulevard  
Wentzville, MO 63385

RON PRIDGIN, PRESIDING  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN,  
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,  
GLEN KOLKMEYER,  
JOHN MITCHELL,  
COMMISSIONERS

Reported by:  
Colin Wallis, Lexitas Legal, St. Louis, MO 63101

\* \* \* \* \*

(Starting time of the hearing: 07:05 p.m.)

REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: So, good evening. The Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing in case GR-2024-0369. The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates charged by investor-owned utilities to insure those rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality and service and safety of the operations of those utilities. The Commission is made up of four commissioners, two of whom are with me in person.

The commissioners are appointed by the governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate. The commissioners employ a staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other specialists in the field of utility regulation.

I am Ron Pridgin. I am a regulatory law judge for the Missouri Public Service Commission and I will preside over this hearing. As I said, I have a couple commissioners with me this evening. To my

1 right, Commissioner Coleman. To my left,  
2 Commissioner Kolkmeier.

3 This is an official hearing of the  
4 Missouri Public Service Commission. The  
5 statements and testimony of witnesses must be  
6 given under oath. The purpose of this hearing  
7 is to hear from you. And the company will not  
8 present witnesses and will not answer questions  
9 during this hearing. This is your chance to  
10 testify, and your remarks will be made a part  
11 of the official record of this case. I will  
12 call the name of each witness who has signed up  
13 to speak. When I do, please when -- I ask,  
14 please spell your name so we can get that  
15 recorded correctly. I may just ask you a few  
16 preliminary questions, such as your -- again,  
17 how to spell your name; if you're a customer of  
18 Ameren Gas, and then you can make your comments  
19 for the Commission. Please stay at the  
20 microphone in case someone from the bench has  
21 questions for you.

22 I simply ask that you be brief, and if a  
23 previous speaker has made points that you  
24 wanted to make, you may simply state that you  
25 agree with what that somebody said earlier.

1 Before we have an opening statement from  
2 Commissioner Coleman, does anyone have any  
3 questions about tonight's procedure? All  
4 right, seeing none, Commissioner Coleman, any  
5 opening remarks?

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Judge.  
7 Well, good evening, everyone. We get -- we're  
8 very excited to see you here this evening. We  
9 thank you for your interest in this proceeding.  
10 As the judge noted, there are at this time four  
11 commissioners. Two of us here in person and  
12 the others listening online. We represent our  
13 Chairwoman Kayla Hahn, and there's also  
14 Commissioner John Mitchell. We appreciate the  
15 fact that you want to give us information  
16 because, as commissioners, in order to make a  
17 reasonable decision, we need to get input. Not  
18 just from the company, the intervenors, the  
19 Office of Public Counsel, but also from the  
20 people that this affects the most. So, I look  
21 forward to your testimony, and I thank you for  
22 taking the time to be here this evening. Thank  
23 you, Judge.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissione  
25 r, thank you. We will begin with the first

1 witness, and if I mispronounce your name, or I  
2 can't read your name and I need you to tell me,  
3 I do apologize. Excuse me. I think the first  
4 witness is, if I'm reading that correctly. And  
5 if you'll come forward and raise your right  
6 hand to be sworn, please, sir. All right,  
7 thank you. If you would please state and spell  
8 your name for the record.

9 (Brent Styer sworn.)

10 MR. STYER: Brent Styer, B-r-e-n-t,  
11 S-t-y-e-r.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you  
13 a customer of Ameren Gas?

14 MR. STYER: Yes.

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
16 thank you. What is your testimony this  
17 evening? What testimony do you have this  
18 evening?

19 MR. STYER: Well, I guess my main thing is  
20 I'm just here not go against their rates, but  
21 to quite understand why they're raising them so  
22 much. Me as a business owner, I understand  
23 instructor (sic) and having to improve your  
24 businesses to make it better, and what I heard  
25 tonight is that -- that's the reason why they

1 are going to raise our prices. So, all of the  
2 parts that I heard, in my world, is part of  
3 doing business. You don't go -- I can't go to  
4 my customers and ask them to pay for my stuff  
5 to get done. It either has to be added in on  
6 my costs, and, in my world, I have competition,  
7 and they just go down the street if I raise my  
8 prices. I have no other place to go with  
9 Ameren except for here. They have me.

10 And, again, like I said earlier, I feel  
11 like it's a little unfair. I feel like it's a  
12 monopoly. I understand price increase, though.  
13 So, 15 percent, I think it is a little over  
14 rate. I think they are making good money.  
15 Myself, for me, when I make good money, I try  
16 to always put it back into my business to make  
17 it a better business. I would think that they  
18 would be doing the same thing. So, that's my  
19 testimony. I'm saying no.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.  
21 We may have some questions for you. Thank you.

22 MR. STYER: Thank you, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER KOLKSMEYER: Thank you, sir,  
24 for your comments. Maybe not the name of the  
25 business, but what type of business do you run?

1           MR. STYER: We have an old time general  
2 store in Old Town Wentzville. We also had  
3 advanced our business to bring more to  
4 Wentzville and the Old Town. We have three  
5 little shops outside, a food truck, and we also  
6 live in Old Town. So, we're very much part of  
7 the community, and we do a lot of community  
8 things. We try -- we buy, sell local.  
9 Everything that we make here stays here. All  
10 we're trying to do is make a living, and then  
11 when we get these -- these little chunks that  
12 come at us, we say that they're not part of  
13 Ameren, but they are part of Ameren. So, here  
14 we are on the electrical side getting hit over  
15 here. Here we are on the gas side getting hit  
16 here. When do we say enough is enough, you  
17 know? When we do make things reasonable, you  
18 know?

19           I think earlier it was mentioned about,  
20 you know, a mortgage versus a utility bill, you  
21 know? Those utility bills are getting to where  
22 our mortgages here used to be, you know. I  
23 mean, it's just -- to me, it's just starting to  
24 get out of hand. Somebody has got to say no.  
25 Somebody has got to stand up and say when is

1 enough? That's all. You know, I just -- I  
2 work 60 hours a week to keep my business going.  
3 And a lot of -- there's too many business  
4 people that don't know what it takes to run a  
5 small business. They forget the people that  
6 started that business, who they really were and  
7 how they had to work to get that business to  
8 go. How struggled (sic) they had to go  
9 through. That's what we go through.

10 Now, all of a sudden, we got these little  
11 pac-men sitting here chewing every little  
12 nickel that they can chew from us. It just --  
13 it's starting to get a little ridiculous. I  
14 just feel like it is.

15 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Sure. Thank you  
16 for your comments. For the record, this was  
17 Commissioner Glenn Kolkmeier that asked the  
18 question.

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
20 thank you for your comments. Before I call the  
21 next witness, I think I neglected to ask for  
22 entries of appearance from counsel. I  
23 apologize. Is there anyone who wishes to enter  
24 an appearance on behalf of Ameren Gas?

25 MS. MOORE: Yes, thank you, your Honor.



1     Appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri Natural  
2     Gas, Jennifer Moore.

3             REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN:   Ms. Moore,  
4     thank you.   Any entry on behalf of the Staff of  
5     the Commission.

6             MS. HANSEN:   Yes, thank you, your Honor.  
7     This is Andrea Hansen, appearing on behalf of  
8     the Staff of the PSC; and then spelling my name  
9     it's A-n-d-r-e-a, H-a-n-s-e-n, and then I think  
10    for the court reporter, if they would need my  
11    address, it's just 2-0-0, Madison Street,  
12    Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

13            REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN:   Ms. Hansen,  
14    thank you.   Any entry of behalf of the Public  
15    Counsel?

16            MS. MARTON:   Yes, on behalf of the Public  
17    Counsel.   My name is Anna Martin, spelled very  
18    excitingly, A-n-n-a, M-a-r-t-i-n, and I do  
19    believe that our address is on record.

20            REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN:   Ms. Martin,  
21    thank you.   Any entries on behalf on any  
22    interveners or any other counsel?   Hearing  
23    none, thank you.   The next witness -- I hope  
24    I'm reading this name correctly, is it Nick  
25    Guccione?   If you'll come forward to be sworn,

1 please, sir?

2 (Nick Guccione sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sir, if you  
4 would please state and spell your name.

5 MR. GUCCIONE: Nick Guccione, N-i-c-k,  
6 G-u-c-c-i-o-n-e, that's my last name. I'm here  
7 as a citizen. I'm wearing two hats tonight.  
8 I'm here as a (inaudible) and to speak on  
9 behalf of the citizens.

10 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Whenever  
11 you're ready, sir.

12 MR. GUCCIONE: Okay, thank you. First of  
13 all, I want to echo what Brent said here about  
14 small businesses. They struggle as it is, you  
15 don't have to pass on any costs to the  
16 consumers, which makes it harder for them to  
17 compete with the big box stores and the bigger  
18 stores and everything. So, small businesses  
19 are the cornerstone of our community here in  
20 Wentzville.

21 Also, it hits our budget as a city, about  
22 380,000 we're estimating if the 15.77 percent  
23 is approved, and the 22.8 percent because that  
24 would hit our budget as well, and we can't --  
25 you know, we don't raise taxes. We haven't

1 raised taxes under my administration in 17  
2 years, so we don't like to go back to the tax  
3 payer and say, hey, we got to pass this on to  
4 you as well. They've got a healthy reserve,  
5 and I do know there's a need for improvement of  
6 infrastructure, just like we do. But we try to  
7 find work within our budget, try to find other  
8 funding mechanisms to take care of our city.  
9 So, it's kind of hard when every couple of  
10 years, you know, the utility companies come  
11 back to the citizens and want take another  
12 piece of the pie -- piece of the pie. And our  
13 citizens, our senior citizens, I really feel  
14 for because they're paying, you know, school  
15 taxes, as well as I am, and I don't have kids  
16 going to school. You're going to pay forever,  
17 so there's no relief in sight. There's other  
18 government entities who are raising taxes by  
19 the vote of the people. We have not as a city,  
20 so, now, you come up with another utility  
21 increase, it's just -- the seniors are just  
22 going to be priced out of their homes.

23 Not only them, citizens. Most of the  
24 people I know are on budget billing because  
25 they can't afford their utility bill every

1 month, so they go to budget billing to break it  
2 down in smaller chunks, and, so, they don't --  
3 they're really not going to be ceded smaller  
4 chunks if these increases are improved. And I  
5 do know, you know, I just think at this time,  
6 it's not a good time to get that big of an  
7 increase. We can hold off for a couple of  
8 years. If they can -- if there's a smaller  
9 increase that will suffice until a later date,  
10 so we can give some people some time to  
11 breathe.

12 I'm just asking for you to take into --  
13 into consideration all the factors of what  
14 people are going through in life today. It's  
15 just tough enough as it is, and, like I said,  
16 our seniors are -- the seniors are not only --  
17 the seniors are working class, too. They're  
18 just being priced out of their homes. The  
19 price of home -- a young couple can't even buy  
20 their home anymore because they're just -- the  
21 price of the homes, materials and everything  
22 keeps going up. And everybody struggles, you  
23 know what I mean? As I come through life, I  
24 bought my first house at \$13,500. You can't do  
25 that anymore, and utilities were nothing. You

1 didn't even think about them. But today, a  
2 utility bill, like I said, is a car payment or  
3 part of a big house payment anymore.

4 Anyway, I just wanted to express that for  
5 my citizens and take into consideration all the  
6 factors and put yourself into our shoes as  
7 well. And, like I said, that's a big ask.  
8 22.8, that's a huge increase. 14.77, that's a  
9 huge increase, and I know they do have a  
10 healthy reserve. I think the gentleman here  
11 put those numbers out. I'd had them written  
12 down as well, but they do have a healthy  
13 reserve, and I know they have to be upholden to  
14 their stockholders, I guess, or investors; but  
15 I think this time, that's just too much;  
16 they're asking too much. So, I would say  
17 please say no at this time. That's all I have.

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
19 thank you. Any questions from the bench? All  
20 right, thank you so much for your testimony.  
21 And I may get this name wrong, and I apologize.  
22 I think the first name might be Erick, and I'm  
23 not sure on the last name. If you would like  
24 to come forward to be sworn. I apologize for  
25 not reading your name. All right if you'll

1 raise your right hand.

2 (Erick Kehoe sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
4 thank you. If you would please state and spell  
5 your name for the record.

6 MR. KEHOE: First name, Erick, E-r-i-c-k.  
7 Last name Kehoe, K-e-h-o-e, 1060 Highland  
8 Estates Drive.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you  
10 an Ameren Gas customer?

11 MR. KEHOE: Yes, I am.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.  
13 What is your testimony this evening?

14 MR. KEHOE: I think it's a large increase  
15 for the percentage. I -- something went wrong  
16 on your thoughts and ideas on this. What was  
17 the major expense that caused it to increase?  
18 Everything I hear about gas prices, things --  
19 drilling costs are going down on things. I  
20 disagree with it. 28 percent increase? Man,  
21 it's a lot to ask from people. Appreciate it.  
22 Have a good night.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
24 thank you, any bench questions? All right,  
25 thank you. I have one more name on the sign-up

1 sheet, and that's Collin Green. After  
2 Mr. Green testifies, if you'll come forward,  
3 sir, I'll see if anybody else would like to  
4 testify before we close. Mr. Green, if you'll  
5 come forward and raise your right hand to be  
6 sworn in, please.

7 (Collin Green sworn.)

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you  
9 so much. Would you please state and spell your  
10 name for the record.

11 MR. GREEN: Collin Green, C-o-l-l-i-n,  
12 G-r-e-e-n.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you  
14 an Ameren Gas customer, sir?

15 MR. GREEN: Yes, sir.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
17 what is your testimony this evening?

18 MR. GREEN: So, I took a few notes here,  
19 so you'll (sic) have to apologize while I'll  
20 read from my phone. I'm a member of the  
21 Wentzille P and Z Committee here, and to the  
22 point of many of these business owners in this  
23 room, one of the things that businesses are  
24 struggling to do is just to make ends meet. We  
25 as a community cannot and should not risk

1 putting these businesses under simply because  
2 they're struggling to pay things such as  
3 utility bills. As a state, we're also trying  
4 to attract new businesses. Being in the  
5 construction field myself, I know firsthand the  
6 considerations, clients, potential clients make  
7 when determining whether or not to build and  
8 bring their businesses to our communities.  
9 They put a lot of weight into the cost of doing  
10 said business.

11 Ameren rate increases will absolutely  
12 increase the cost of doing business and this  
13 has, you know, the potential to negatively  
14 impact not only our local community but the  
15 region and the state as a whole. I did  
16 online -- I did a little bit of perspective on  
17 this. I -- based off the literature that was  
18 handed out and then provided, a 16 percent  
19 increase on a \$48 utility bill is equivalent to  
20 about 23.5 percent. If we take into  
21 consideration the average person typically  
22 earns anywhere from about a 2 to 5 percent  
23 raise each year. So, in the two years since  
24 Ameren's last increase, you know, they're  
25 seeking a range in 24 -- in a range of 24



1 percent while the average person has only  
2 increased their income by anywhere by --  
3 anywhere from 4, let's say, maybe 10 percent at  
4 most. Keep in mind, that that increase also  
5 has to cover everything else that's going on  
6 with inflation. It's easy to see that people  
7 that are already struggling are just going to  
8 make -- be struggling that much more. Finally,  
9 Ameren's sales pitch on this increase is  
10 understood to help cover the cost of  
11 improvements. You're going to have, excuse me,  
12 I'm going to try to use a very simplified  
13 example here.

14 But let's say that the wife and I want to  
15 remodel our kitchen, right? I don't go to my  
16 boss and ask him for a 24-percent raise.  
17 Instead, my wife and I find ways to save our  
18 money doing that project in fiscally  
19 responsible ways. Not asking the people around  
20 us for more money. That's all I have. Thank  
21 you for your time and considerations. I hope  
22 you will reject Ameren rate increase.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Green,  
24 thank you. Any commission questions? All  
25 right, Mr. Green, thank you. And that is the

1 end of the sign-up sheet, but before we move to  
2 closing remarks, let me give one last chance.  
3 Does anyone else wish to testify this evening?  
4 If you'll come forward to be sworn, please? If  
5 you'll raise your right hand to be sworn  
6 please.

7 (James Fischer sworn.)

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you,  
9 sir. If would you please state and spell your  
10 name for the record.

11 MR. FISCHER: It's James Fischer,  
12 J-a-m-e-s, F-i-s-c-h-e-r.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Are you an  
14 Ameren Gas customer?

15 MR. FISCHER: I am.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
17 what is your testimony?

18 MR. FISCHER: Mine is just the way that  
19 they was started out saying that there were  
20 going to be a \$16 rate increase for every four  
21 CCFs, and it's just, you know, you take that  
22 into what my -- my rate was in December,  
23 that's -- that's three times that rate. It's  
24 just seems like it's a manipulation, so it's 16  
25 times 3 is what my increase would be for

1 December. For November and January and  
2 February, it was two times that initial 16, so  
3 it would be \$32 more. I just think it's a lot.  
4 I also agree with what the other people had  
5 said that, that there's been a lot of  
6 increases. Back two years ago in '23, they --  
7 they had a huge rate increase, so I just think  
8 that, you know, that -- enough is enough like  
9 everybody said. That's all I got.

10 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
11 Mr. Fischer, thank you. Any bench questions?  
12 Thank you. Thank you, sir. Does anyone else  
13 wish to testify before I if see the commission  
14 has any closing remarks? Yes, sir. If you'll  
15 come forward, raise your right hand to be  
16 sworn, please?

17 (Hazem AlDugo sworn.)

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
19 thank you. If you would please state and spell  
20 your name for the court reporter.

21 MR. ALDUGO: Hazem AlDugo, H-a-z-e-m,  
22 AlDugo, A-l-D-u-g-o.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you  
24 an Ameren Gas customer?

25 MR. ALDUGO: All over, yes.

1           REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right,  
2 and what is your testimony?

3           MR. ALDUGO: Like I mentioned earlier, the  
4 size of our bills is like the size of our  
5 mortgage these days, and it's only going up.  
6 And we heard earlier that 2023, there was an  
7 increase; 2025, there was another. Well,  
8 expect in 2027 as well, I guess. So, we  
9 need -- we need some checks and balances in  
10 this, and this is what the commissioner here  
11 for, and we need this because it is a monopoly.  
12 Nothing wrong with a monopoly, but with no exit  
13 to it, it's a problem. And the problem that we  
14 don't know where we going with it. So, the  
15 future is a little scary. And, again, when  
16 your electrical bill, gas bill, everything is  
17 as high as possible, you don't want to see any  
18 higher.

19           It's a scary, dark tunnel where we heading  
20 with these bills. And thank the Lord, I  
21 have -- I have good income, but there's a lot  
22 of people that don't and scary for them; and  
23 those people they come and they negotiate the  
24 prices of our businesses. So, we take a hit  
25 through the bill, and we get a hit through the

1 customers. So, small business get hit twice,  
2 and that's your number one priority for the  
3 community, that people that actually work, live  
4 and invest into the community, and this is  
5 mostly as small business people. So, something  
6 to be said. Thank you.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right  
8 thank you, sir. Any bench questions? All  
9 right, thank you. Thank you for your  
10 testimony. All right, does anyone else wish to  
11 testify before -- before the Commission maybe  
12 has some closing remarks? Going once, going  
13 twice. Seeing no other volunteers, any closing  
14 remarks, Commissioner Kolkmeier?

15 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, thank you,  
16 Judge. Yeah, it's on. On behalf of Chair Hahn  
17 and the other commissioners, I want to thank  
18 you for coming out this evening. It's a  
19 beautiful evening out. You all could be doing  
20 a whole lot of other things besides sitting  
21 here in a rate hearing. However, your comments  
22 are taken to heart. We haven't made any  
23 decision on this case because it's just  
24 started, and we're starting with you, the  
25 rate -- the customers, the rate payers. So,

1 this is step one in this whole process. So,  
2 again, thank you for your comments, and we do  
3 take these to heart. Thank you, judge.

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissionr  
5 thank you. And that will conclude this  
6 evening's local public hearing in file number  
7 GR-2024-0369. Thank you very much. We're off  
8 the record.

9 (Ending time of the hearing: 07:30 p.m.)  
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1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of  
2 Missouri do hereby certify that the witness  
3 whose testimony appears in the foregoing  
4 Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;  
5 that the testimony of the said witness was  
6 taken by me to the best of my ability and  
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my  
8 direction; that I am neither counsel for,  
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties  
10 to the action in which this examination was  
11 taken, and further that I am not relative or  
12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by  
13 the parties thereto, nor financially or  
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of the  
15 action.

16 Colin Wallis

17 within and for the State of Missouri  
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<b>\$</b>	<b>3</b>	17:22 18:14 19:24	<b>bill</b> 7:20 11:25
<b>\$13,500</b> 12:24	<b>3</b> 18:25	<b>Ameren's</b> 16:24	13:2 16:19 20:16, 25
<b>\$16</b> 18:20	<b>380,000</b> 10:22	17:9	<b>bit</b> 16:16
<b>\$32</b> 19:3	<b>4</b>	<b>analysts</b> 2:19	<b>boss</b> 17:16
<b>\$48</b> 16:19	<b>4</b> 17:3	<b>Andrea</b> 9:7	<b>bought</b> 12:24
<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Anna</b> 9:17	<b>box</b> 10:17
<b>07:05</b> 2:2	<b>5</b> 16:22	<b>anymore</b> 12:20,25 13:3	<b>break</b> 12:1
<b>07:30</b> 22:9	<b>6</b>	<b>apologize</b> 5:3 8:23 13:21,24 15:19	<b>breathe</b> 12:11
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