#### STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone/internet audio conference on the 25th day of March, 2020.

In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri for a Variance from Portions of Its Tariffs Related to Reconnection and Late Payment Fees

File No. GE-2020-0291

## ORDER GRANTING VARIANCES

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Issue Date: March 25, 2020

Effective Date: April 4, 2020

On March 17, 2020, in response to the national COVID-19 emergency, Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, filed an application for variances from certain Commission rules and from provisions of its electric service tariffs.<sup>1</sup> After the close of business on March 17, 2020, Ameren Missouri filed an amended application adding a request for variances from provisions of its gas service tariffs.<sup>2</sup> Ameren Missouri specifically requested variances from the portions of its tariffs regarding reconnection and late payment fees for customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ameren Missouri also requested waivers from Commission procedural rules regarding filing requirements and notice of its application. The Commission granted the variance requests for the electric service tariffs on March 18, 2020 in File No. EE-2020-0290.

Ameren Missouri stated in its amended application that it requests these variances to ease some of the financial burdens on its customers that reductions in hours worked,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> That filing opened File No. EE-2020-0290.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The amended filing opened File No. GE-2020-0291.

job and shift losses, sick leave, and other impacts of COVID-19 emergency may cause. Ameren Missouri requested these variances remain effective until it becomes evident that the COVID-19 outbreak is waning. Ameren Missouri stated that it will provide at least a 15-day notice to affected customers before these fees are reinstated.

Ameren Missouri stated in its request for variances that the Office of the Public Counsel had no objection to the amended request. Staff filed a statement on March 18, 2020, that it also had no objection to the request.

The Commission finds good cause due to the COVID-19 emergency to grant Ameren Missouri variances from the provisions of its gas service tariffs as requested. The Commission will additionally require notice prior to Ameren Missouri reinstating these fees. The Commission also finds that good cause exists to grant Ameren Missouri a variance from the Commission's procedural and notice requirements as requested. The Commission further finds that this order should be effective in less than 30 days.

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, is granted a variance from compliance with the reconnection or assessment of late payment fees portions of its tariffs during the pendency of the current COVID-19 emergency. Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, is specifically granted a variance from:

Union Electric Company, Gas Service, MO.P.S.C. No. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Sheet No. 58.1 General Rules and Regulations, Section VIII.F.

and

Union Electric Company, Gas Service, MO.P.S.C. No. 2, Original Sheet No. 68 General Rules and Regulations, Section XI. H. 2. Prior to Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, reinstating the tariff provisions that are granted a variance in Ordered Paragraph 1, it shall provide at least 15 days' notice to potentially affected customers and the press in its service territories, and at least 20 days' notice to the Commission.

3. Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, is granted a variance from the 60-day notice requirement of 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) and the requirement for an affidavit attached to its application of 20 CSR 4240-2.060(1)(M).

4. This order shall become effective on April 4, 2020.



BY THE COMMISSION

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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and Holsman CC., concur.

Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.



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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

### March 25, 2020

#### File/Case No. GE-2020-0291

#### Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff Counsel Department 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 staffcounselservice@psc.mo.gov Office of the Public Counsel Marc Poston 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 opcservice@opc.mo.gov Missouri Public Service Commission Travis Pringle 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Travis.Pringle@psc.mo.gov

#### **Union Electric Company**

Paula Johnson 1901 Chouteau Avenue St Louis, MO 63103 AmerenMOService@ameren.com

Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.