

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a)
Ameren Missouri's 2023 Utility Resource Filing) File No. EO-2024-0020
Pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-Chapter 22.)

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS LLC'S REPLY TO AMEREN MISSOURI'S RESPONSE

COMES NOW Grain Belt Express LLC ("Grain Belt Express"), by and through counsel, and respectfully files this Reply to Ameren's Missouri's Response to Grain Belt Express LLC's Motion for Commission Order on Deficiencies and Concerns. In support of its Reply, Grain Belt Express states as follows:

I. Background

1. Grain Belt Express' Motion for Commission Order on Deficiencies and Concerns ("Motion"), filed on May 27, 2025, provides relevant background at Paragraphs 1-16. Grain Belt Express incorporates that background by reference for this Reply.

2. On June 6, 2025, Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren") filed a Response to Grain Belt Express' Motion ("Response") in this proceeding.

3. Also on June 6, 2025, in File No. EO-2025-0235 ("2025 PRP File"), Ameren filed a Response to Grain Belt Express LLC's May 27 and May 30 Filings ("2025 PRP Response"). Ameren did not oppose the relief sought by Grain Belt Express in its May 30 Motion in the 2025 PRP File. Further, Grain Belt Express' May 27 Filing in the 2025 PRP File noted, "[b]ecause the same deficiencies are present in Ameren's 2025 PRP, the relief requested in File No. EO-2024-0020 will have the effect of also addressing the issues in this proceeding (File No. EO-2025-0235)." Accordingly, Grain Belt Express believes the Missouri Public Service Commission

(“Commission”) can and should resolve the outstanding deficiencies with Ameren’s approach to integrated resource planning in this File.

II. Ameren’s Response Avoids the Issue

4. The Commission has a duty to issue an order articulating whether the 2023 Triennial Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) filed by Ameren either does or does not meet the requirements of the Commission’s Rules. 20 CSR 4240-22.080(16). That duty is the basis of Grain Belt Express’ Motion, yet Ameren’s Response largely avoids addressing it.

5. Instead, Ameren attempts to distract the Commission with vague and unsubstantiated statements about Grain Belt Express’ motivations and rights in the opening paragraph of its Response.¹ But Ameren did not object to Grain Belt Express’ participation in this proceeding at the time of intervention and it still does not object to Grain Belt Express’ participation. Ameren’s vague and unsubstantiated statements in Paragraph 1 of its Response serve no purpose and should be disregarded.

6. Ameren’s Response goes on to discuss its opinion of the Commission’s role under the current IRP rule but falls short of addressing the issues raised in Grain Belt Express’ Motion. Ameren does not discuss 20 CSR 4240-22.080(16) at all, save for the very last sentence of its Response, in which Ameren offers an alternative form of relief—which would be a ruling of the Commission pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-22.080(16).

¹ Ameren’s citation to the Commission’s *Order Denying Late Filed Application to Intervene* in File No. EO-2021-0021 furthers the distraction, since that *Order* was based on a late intervention in which the would-be intervenor did not demonstrate a unique interest that would be adversely affected. Those facts are not present here.

7. Ameren also deftly avoids quoting or addressing the full IRP rule that is at the heart of the concerns expressed by Grain Belt Express in its original Comments identifying deficiencies² and in its current Motion. The relevant rule states as follows:

The utility shall evaluate all existing supply-side resources and identify a variety of potential supply-side resource options which the utility can reasonably expect to use, develop, implement, or acquire, and, for purposes of integrated resource planning, all such supply-side resources shall be considered as potential supply-side resource options. ... The utility shall collect generic cost and performance information sufficient to fairly analyze and compare each of these potential supply-side resource options, including at least those attributes needed to assess capital cost, fixed and variable operation and maintenance costs, probable environmental costs, and operating characteristics.³

8. A Commission order finding that Ameren can reasonably expect to use renewable generation delivered through Grain Belt Express would mean that Ameren must collect generic cost and performance data from wind and solar resources in Kansas, rather than arbitrarily limiting its cost and performance data to resources within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (“MISO”) system. Importantly, that obligation would then apply to Ameren’s “full-blown triennial IRP to be filed less than 16 months from now.”

9. Ameren’s repeated assertions regarding its imminent triennial IRP filing in which it will select a new preferred resource plan do not relieve it of its burden to comply with current IRP rules and requirements. The fact that a new IRP filing will be made at some point in the future neither cures the 2023 IRP deficiencies nor obviates Ameren’s duty to evaluate all existing supply-side resources under the IRP rules. Ameren’s statement that there is simply “no need” to further litigate Grain Belt Express’ claimed deficiencies regarding the analysis underlying a Preferred

² Grain Belt Express Comments on Ameren Missouri’s 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (Feb. 28, 2024).

³ 20 CSR 4240-22.040(1) (emphasis added).

Resource Plan that is no longer in effect is a false premise, since the deficiencies identified by Grain Belt Express will continue to infect future IRP proceedings if they are not addressed by the Commission. Ameren’s suggestion that the Commission simply ignore the identified deficiencies turns the IRP Rules on their head.

10. Ameren also takes the position that—save for the Castle Bluff Stipulation discussed below—it is under no obligation to study the renewable generation delivered through Grain Belt Express because “[t]here remains uncertainty regarding whether and when” Grain Belt Express will be built.⁴ Ameren’s position on this point is both inconsistent with IRP rules and illogical. By Ameren’s logic, there are NO “potential supply-side resource options which the utility can reasonably expect to use, develop, implement, or acquire” since there is uncertainty regarding *all* yet-to-be-constructed supply-side resources. Ameren’s position on this point also fails because Grain Belt Express and associated generation have accomplished major milestones that make their construction more imminent and certain than other supply-side resources that Ameren considers in its IRP. Accordingly, the exclusion of Kansas wind and solar resources is arbitrary and a textbook deficiency under the IRP Rules.

11. Grain Belt Express is pleased to hear that Ameren is actively working on the analysis required by the Stipulation and Agreement in File No. EA-2024-0237 (the “Castle Bluff Stipulation”), but it remains highly problematic that Ameren points to the Castle Bluff Stipulation as the *only* reason it is studying the renewable resources deliverable through Grain Belt Express. Moreover, Ameren filed a new Preferred Resource Plan *after* the Castle Bluff Stipulation which was based on modeling that continued to exclude consideration of potential Kansas wind and solar

⁴ Ameren’s Response, ¶ 6.

resources.⁵ Ameren also continues to be ambivalent about whether it will consider Grain Belt Express and associated renewable resources in its 2026 triennial IRP.⁶ Accordingly, Ameren fails to recognize that 20 CSR 4240-22.040(1) *requires* it to consider the renewable resources deliverable through Grain Belt Express, as long as they remain (as they are today) potential supply-side resources that Ameren can reasonably expect to use.

12. The relief sought by Grain Belt Express' Motion, therefore, goes beyond the 2025 Annual Update and the Castle Bluff Settlement. The relief sought by Grain Belt Express would prohibit Ameren from arbitrarily excluding supply-side resources that it can reasonably expect to use in the 2026 triennial IRP and beyond.

WHEREFORE, Grain Belt Express respectfully requests the Commission issue an order either: (i) finding that Ameren's IRP filing does not demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22 of the Commission's Rules and that Ameren's resource acquisition strategy does not meet the requirements of Chapter 22 due to its exclusion of supply-side resource options which the utility can reasonably expect to use, or (ii) establishing a procedural schedule and scheduling a hearing on the deficiencies and concerns identified by Grain Belt Express and other parties, along with any such further relief the Commission may deem just and reasonable.

⁵ File No. EO-2025-0235.

⁶ *See, e.g.*, File No. EO-2025-0235, Ameren's 2025 PRP Response, ¶ 2 ("If the analysis the Company will submit later this year supports further consideration of the GBX line and associated renewables, then GBX and such renewables can be considered in Ameren Missouri's ongoing and prescribed resource planning activities (including its upcoming 2026 triennial IRP filing).") (emphasis added).

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served upon the parties listed on the official service list by email, this 16th day of June 2025.

/s/ Anne E. Callenbach
Attorney for Grain Belt Express