

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Application)
of Union Electric Company d/b/a) File No.
Ameren Missouri for Permission) EA-2025-0238
and Approval and Certificates of)
Public Convenience and Necessity)
Authorizing it to Construct a)
New Generation Facility and)
Battery Energy Storage System)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Jefferson City, MO
via WebEx

VOLUME 1

JOHN T. CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

REPORTED BY:
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1 JUDGE CLARK: Let us go on the record.
2 Good evening. It's October 30th of 2024 and the
3 current time is 7:03 p.m.

4 Now, the question and answer portion of
5 the hearing just ended. And if you had questions
6 about this case, I hope you were able to get answers
7 to those questions. Now we start the formal part of
8 the hearing where you get to comment to the
9 Commission.

10 Now, the Missouri Public Service
11 Commission has set aside this time this evening for a
12 local public hearing in File Number EA-2025-0238,
13 which is captioned as In the Matter of the Application
14 of Union Electric Company, doing business as Ameren
15 Missouri, for Permission and Approval and Certificates
16 of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to
17 Construct a New Generation Facility and Battery Energy
18 Storage System.

19 My name's John Clark. I'm the Regulatory
20 Law Judge presiding over this hearing this evening.

21 Now, the Missouri Public Service
22 Commission regulates the rates charged by
23 investor-owned utilities in Missouri to ensure that
24 those rates are just and reasonable. The Commission
25 also regulates the quality of service and the safety

1 of operations of investor-owned utilities.

2 The Commission is made up of five
3 Commissioners: The chair of the Commission, Kayla
4 Hahn; and Commissioners Maida Coleman; Glen Kolkmeier;
5 and John Mitchell. One Commission seat is currently
6 vacant. The Commissioners are appointed by the
7 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.

8 The Commissioners employ a staff of
9 engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts,
10 and other specialists in the field of utility
11 regulation. As I indicated with me, I believe all the
12 Commissioners are present tonight.

13 Chair Hahn, would you like to make any
14 opening remarks?

15 CHAIR HAHN: Of course. Thank you,
16 Judge.

17 Good evening everyone. My name is Kayla
18 Hahn. I'm the Chair of the Commission. On behalf of
19 the entire Commission, just want to welcome you to
20 this virtual local public hearing this evening. We
21 look forward to hearing your comments on the proposal.
22 And so with that, just thank you for giving your time
23 this evening and we'll look forward to hearing from
24 you. Thanks.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chair Hahn.

1 Now, the -- as I indicated off the
2 record, there's a court reporter here. That court
3 reporter is transcribing this hearing so that the
4 Commissioners may review the -- the testimony later.

5 Now, I'm going to start by asking counsel
6 to enter their appearance for the record, starting
7 with Ameren Missouri.

8 MR. TRIPP: Good evening. This is
9 Michael Tripp representing Ameren Missouri. My
10 address is 9020 South Barry Road, Columbia, Missouri
11 65203.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Tripp.
13 On behalf of Commission Staff.

14 MR. GRAHAM: Judge, can you hear me?

15 JUDGE CLARK: I can, Mr. Graham. Go
16 ahead.

17 MR. GRAHAM: Okay. Having a little
18 trouble getting on.

19 Yes, this is Paul Graham. I am here for
20 the legal Staff of the Missouri Public Service
21 Commission. And our offices are at 200 Madison Street
22 in Jefferson City, Missouri.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much,
24 Mr. Graham.

25 From the Office of the Public Counsel.

1 MS. VANGERPEN: Good evening, Judge
2 Clark. Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC. And
3 we are also at 200 Madison Street in Jefferson City.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. VanGerpen.
5 Are there any intervenors present?

6 MS. MERS: Nicole Mers with Renew
7 Missouri is on. And my information is in the record
8 already.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Mers.

10 MR. SCHULTE: This is Andrew Schulte with
11 the Polsinelli Law Firm, on behalf of Grain Belt
12 Express. I am also online and my information is in
13 the record.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much,
15 Mr. Schulte.

16 Are there any other intervenors present?
17 Okay. I hear none.

18 Now, for those of who would like to
19 provide comments today, I'm going to call the name on
20 my list in the order that I received them. When I
21 call your name, please unmute. If you're
22 participating via app, you can do that by pressing the
23 unmute button at the bottom part of your screen. If
24 you're participating by telephone, to unmute, you will
25 need to dial *6.

1 At that time I'll place you under oath,
2 I'll ask you to state and spell your name and then you
3 may offer your comments to the Commission.

4 Now, as of before the start of the
5 Q and A, I had more than 50 names of people who have
6 signed up to speak. And that's a very large number.
7 So what I'm going to do is I'm going to limit comments
8 to three minutes per person. And I will let you know
9 when two minutes is up and you have a minute remaining
10 so that you can wrap up your thoughts.

11 Also, if you -- and I see people using
12 the chat function. The chat function is not part of
13 the record of this case, so bear that in mind, that
14 nothing that appears in the chat will be preserved
15 as -- as part of this local public hearing.

16 If you are offering comments -- if you
17 were getting up to offer comments to the Commission --
18 or if you're offering comments to the Commission and
19 you realize that somebody before you had the same
20 issue that they were addressing, if you want to
21 streamline the process so I can get as many people in
22 as possible, just let the Commission know that you
23 also have the same issue and feel the same about it as
24 somebody else and that might shorten it.

25 Also, please, after you've made your

1 comment, don't immediately mute yourself again because
2 I may have some questions to ask you, the attorneys
3 may have some questions to ask you, or the
4 Commissioners may have some questions to ask you.

5 If attorneys have questions, please let
6 me know audibly. And if Commissioners have questions,
7 feel free to just go ahead and ask them at any time.

8 Now, the Commissioners will not be able
9 to answer your -- any of your questions today. And
10 that's because the Commissioners have to remain
11 impartial until after the evidence is presented at the
12 evidentiary hearing in this case.

13 If you have questions about the case that
14 weren't answered in the Q and A, please speak to
15 representatives of Ameren, the Commission Staff, or
16 the Office of the Public Counsel.

17 I'm also going to ask that people be
18 polite and courteous to each other and treat each
19 other as -- as they would like to be treated.

20 With that in mind, I'm going to call the
21 first name on my list, and that is Kent Pikey --

22 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Judge,
23 Commissioner Mitchell joining.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Mitchell.

1 Is Kent Pikey here? Brenda O'Brien?
2 Stacey Willoughby?

3 And I'm going to say this is not unusual
4 for virtual local public hearings. Sometimes people
5 sign up and they don't actually end up attending.

6 Allison Seaborn? Again, if you're
7 participating by phone, you can unmute by dialing *6.

8 Amy Lewis? Kara Weekley? Mieka Lewis?
9 Derrick Scott? Vicki Harder? Gary Radoch? Dave
10 Roberts? I see a Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts, did you
11 have comments you wanted to make? I'll circle back to
12 that.

13 Jeffrey Smith? Mike Howells? Angela
14 Wilder?

15 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge, this is
16 Commissioner Kolkmeier. You're coming through loud
17 and clear, so apparently they're not on or not getting
18 through.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Well, we -- we've been
20 receiving these names for a while. People -- a lot of
21 these people signed up days ago and they have decided
22 that they had other things to do this evening. That
23 is a possibility.

24 Craig -- Craig DeSiato? And I'm -- if I
25 butcher your name, I'm sorry.

1 MR. DESIATO: Can you hear me, Judge?

2 JUDGE CLARK: I can. Is that -- am I
3 saying your name --

4 MR. DESIATO: Everybody gets it wrong.
5 It's DeSiato.

6 JUDGE CLARK: DeSiato. Well, thank you
7 very much --

8 MR. DESIATO: It's okay. Just -- I'm
9 sorry.

10 JUDGE CLARK: And if you'll raise your
11 right hand to be sworn.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to
14 tell the Commission this evening?

15 MR. DESIATO: So I have some concerns
16 about the cost. So this -- this summer just in the
17 beginning, my electric bill went up by over \$100 for
18 no reason at all. And so I have some real concerns
19 about the new one.

20 What's to prevent somebody from just
21 raising the price for no reason? I mean, I called up
22 and I was told, "Well, it's summer rates." I never
23 heard of that before.

24 And so somebody on the call earlier
25 mentioned winter rates are going to be enforced here

1 shortly. And so my concern is that I'm paying for
2 this and it's not even started yet. And when this
3 does -- if it does pass, you know, there's nothing to
4 prevent somebody from passing a cost off to the
5 consumer at -- at any whim. I mean, they could just
6 say, "Hey, we're going to raise the prices again."

7 And so it's -- that's -- it's just a huge
8 concern that I don't think this should move forward
9 until that's -- until that's -- my wife's in the
10 background, I'm sorry -- until that's addressed.

11 I think the consumer should have an idea
12 what the cost is going to be before moving forward. I
13 mean, if they want to do behind-the-scenes and all
14 that, it should not cost the consumer a penny until
15 it's all approved by the consumer, because they're the
16 ones that's going to have to pay anyway. Does that
17 make sense?

18 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, it does.

19 MR. DESIATO: Well, I appreciate that
20 feedback. So honestly, I think -- I think what's
21 going to happen is nobody's going to care what the
22 consumers say. Nobody's going to care what I'm
23 saying. They're just going to move forward and do
24 what they want.

25 I mean, I was blindsided by this. If I

1 didn't get an e-mail seven days ago, I would have
2 never known this even took place. And so that's
3 another concern, that people are just trying to slide
4 through.

5 JUDGE CLARK: You have one minute left.

6 MR. DESIATO: So and I think the other
7 concern is that the -- the things that they're --
8 they're doing -- I mean, we're being charged for
9 something that's being decommissioned and it -- we
10 just heard it's already decommissioned. So why are we
11 still paying?

12 It all comes down to cost. I mean, it's
13 how much people can afford. And with everything
14 that's going on today, throwing an extra 100 or
15 150 dollars onto a bill for no reason at all, just to
16 call it summer rates, is ridiculous.

17 And so here we are the end -- the
18 end-user, the end-consumer stuck with paying these --
19 this additional money for nothing, just because
20 somebody wanted more money. And now they want even
21 more money to build this. I mean, it all comes down
22 to --

23 JUDGE CLARK: That's -- that's three
24 minutes, sir.

25 MR. DESIATO: Okay.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for
2 your comments. I will -- while the Commission can't
3 answer questions, because I indicated they have to
4 remain impartial, I will tell you that the -- the
5 utility companies cannot just raise rates at their
6 whim.

7 The Public Service Commission does
8 regulate the rates of investor-owned utilities. So if
9 it is an investor-owned utility and they want to
10 change rates, they have to get authorization from the
11 Commission.

12 MR. DESIATO: Who do I reach out to for
13 that? Because I -- I'm just told it was summer rates
14 and I have to just eat it.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Well, the Commission -- I
16 believe the Commission has a customer -- Consumer
17 Services line. And that number is 1-800 --

18 MR. DESIATO: I called it. I spoke with
19 them several times and I was told it's summer rates,
20 deal with it and got hung up -- hung up on.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Was that the Company that
22 hung up on you or was that the Public Service --

23 MR. DESIATO: Ameren. Ameren. I called
24 Ameren directly and they hung up on me.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. The number I was

1 giving you was the number for the PSC, the Public
2 Service Commission Consumer Services.

3 MR. DESIATO: Can you repeat the number?
4 Can you repeat that, please?

5 JUDGE CLARK: I certainly can. It's
6 1.800.392.4211.

7 MR. DESIATO: Thank you. I really
8 appreciate it. I will call that.

9 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry? Somebody else?

10 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Judge, this is
11 Commissioner Coleman.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
13 Coleman. We're glad you're here this evening.

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Well, my question
15 is to the caller that he received an e-mail. And I
16 would like to know if that was a general notification
17 from friends or was that notification from the
18 Company? And if it wasn't notification from the
19 Company, did he get that information in the mail in
20 his bill? If he can answer, please.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Craig, are you still there?

22 MR. DESIATO: Yes.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Commissioner Coleman asked
24 you a question. Did you hear the question?

25 MR. DESIATO: I'm here.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Did you --

2 MR. DESIATO: So I got an e-mail --

3 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead. I apologize.

4 MR. DESIATO: No, I -- I received an
5 e-mail and I thought it was in return to the -- the
6 case that I opened up for the additional money. I
7 didn't get any information in the mail about this. It
8 was an e-mail. And I don't know if somebody slipped
9 up or what. But like I said, I'm really concerned
10 because I had no idea this was going to take -- take
11 place.

12 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: So that's why I'm
13 asking. Was it an e-mail from the Company?

14 MR. DESIATO: Yeah, I'm -- I'm really not
15 sure if it came from the Company or not. I don't
16 know. If you have time, I can go ahead and look on my
17 computer.

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, it's -- no,
19 the only thing that -- I wanted clarification on that
20 because I have been informed that usually utility
21 companies do send notice of a hearing out in advance
22 via your -- your bill. And --

23 MR. DESIATO: I didn't get it in the
24 bill, I'm sorry.

25 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I just wondered if

1 you got it -- the e-mail from the company or from some
2 other organization. Thank you, sir.

3 And thank you, Judge.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner.

5 And as I indicated earlier --

6 MR. DESIATO: I'm sorry I didn't have the
7 number.

8 JUDGE CLARK: As I indicated earlier, all
9 Commissioners are present.

10 Moving on to the next person, Malyn
11 Canales? And again, I apologize if I mispronounce
12 your name. Malyn Canales? Dedrick Martin? Dedrick
13 Martin? Jeff Holem? Jeff Holem? Lionel Stovall?
14 Lionel Stovall? Clye James Verde? Clye James Verde?
15 Paul Adamec? Paul Adamec? Anna Farrar?

16 MS. FARRAR: Anna Farrar --

17 JUDGE CLARK: Anna Farrar.

18 MS. FARRAR: -- here. Yes.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for -- thank you
20 for letting me -- for correcting my pronunciation.
21 And, Ms. Farrar, would you spell your name for the
22 record?

23 MS. FARRAR: A-n-n-a, Anna. Farrar is
24 F-a-r-r-a-r.

25 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your

1 right hand to be sworn.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 JUDGE CLARK: And then what would you
4 like to tell the Commission this evening?

5 MS. FARRAR: Good evening, Commissioners.
6 Thank you for hosting us. My name is Anna Farrar. I
7 am a resident of Warrenton and my parents are adjacent
8 landowners to Split Rail Solar, the Ameren renewables
9 facility south of Rootbeer substation in Warren
10 County, Missouri. I bring that up because it is
11 connected to the project this evening.

12 The Big Hollow Battery Energy Storage
13 system and simple-cycle combustion turbines at the
14 former Rush Island site should be evaluated only in
15 full context with Ameren's Missouri's large-load
16 customer tariff and Preferred Resource Plan.

17 These filings read together describe a
18 single acceleration strategy to supply unprecedented
19 large-load customers. Ameren's PRP testimony
20 attributes resource acceleration to a surge of very
21 large loads with signed construction agreements
22 ramping as early as 2026 and fully ramped within three
23 to five years. This requiring dispatchable generation
24 and storage to serve them readily.

25 The Big Hollow docket confirms this

1 linkage. It's -- in its direct testimony, Ameren
2 states that: The project will contribute to
3 protecting our customers from the tightness we have
4 seen in the MISO market and take advantage of Rush
5 Island's valuable interconnection rights by putting
6 the Big Hollow project in service by September 2028.

7 Ameren can add dispatchable capacity
8 without the additional cost or risk associated with
9 entering the MISO large generator interconnection
10 queue.

11 That comes from direct testimony of
12 Andrew Meyer.

13 And that language shows that Big Hollow
14 is not an isolated reliability upgrade. It is timed
15 infrastructure to absorb the new 100 megawatt plus
16 loads while avoiding interconnection delays.

17 JUDGE CLARK: And you have one minute.

18 MS. FARRAR: In Ajay Arora's direct
19 testimony, Ameren explicitly ties these projects to
20 customers with significant new large loads and
21 acknowledges executed construction agreements,
22 contracts whose cost recovery and risk allocation are
23 still being adjudicated under that large-load tariff
24 case.

25 Because Split Rail Solar and Rootbeer

1 substation are the primary renewable and transmission
2 assets positioned along the I-70 corridor to serve
3 those same large-load interconnections, approving Big
4 Hollow now effectively pre-determines the network
5 capacity that enables those private contracts.

6 So I, therefore, respectfully urge the
7 Commission to defer approval of Big Hollow until the
8 large-load customer tariff is finalized and its cost
9 allocation safeguards are public, or condition
10 approval to state explicitly that the plant may
11 operate only as a reliability and grid -- grid
12 stabilization asset, but not as preemptive
13 infrastructure for unapproved private load
14 commitments.

15 Reliability investments must be -- must
16 serve the public, not backfill contractual obligations
17 to undisclosed hyperscale customers.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Three minutes.

19 MS. FARRAR: In conclusion --

20 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.

21 MS. FARRAR: I'm sorry. Approving the
22 Big Hollow Creek facility today, before the tariff and
23 its cost allocation safeguards are finalized would
24 amount to pre-approval of these private
25 interconnection agreements and the infrastructure

1 built to serve them.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much,
3 Ms. Farrar. Those comments were very organized.
4 Appreciate that.

5 MS. FARRAR: Thank you.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Robert Merrick? Is there a
7 Robert Merrick? Adam Balinski? Adam Balinski? Steve
8 Sambo? Clyde Verde? I feel like I have him -- yeah,
9 sorry. It looks like I have that name twice.

10 Rebecca Redd? Rebecca Redd? Matthew
11 Westerheide? Matthew Westerheide? Magdalena Reyes?

12 MS. LOPEZ-REYES: Hello.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Hello.

14 MS. LOPEZ-REYES: Can you hear me okay?

15 JUDGE CLARK: I can. Did I say your name
16 correctly?

17 MS. LOPEZ-REYES: Yeah, you did. I
18 appreciate that.

19 So my name is MagdalenaSTL on TikTok, but
20 in real life --

21 JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second.
22 Hold on just a second. Would you --

23 MS. LOPEZ-REYES: Yeah, you got to swear
24 me.

25 JUDGE CLARK: -- please spell your

1 name -- would you please spell your name for the court
2 reporter and then I will swear you in?

3 MS. LOPEZ-REYES: Yeah. My full legal
4 name is Maria Magdalena, so it's M-a-r-i-a
5 M-a-g-d-a-l-e-n-a. And my full legal last name is
6 Lopez-Reyes, L-o-p-e-z R-e-y-e-s.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. And would you
8 raise your right hand to be sworn.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

11 MS. LOPEZ-REYES: My name is Magdalena STL
12 on TikTok, but in real life I work with solar.

13 Ameren, all of Missouri does not want and
14 cannot afford this gas plant or the data center that
15 needs this gas plant. Local businesses are
16 struggling. Missouri families are choosing ver- --
17 food versus an electric bill.

18 I went to a private Ameren event and
19 before your caring employee figured out who I was, I
20 asked, "Who will pay for this gas plant?" The
21 question was obviously dodged. Allegedly every Ameren
22 customer will pay for it.

23 Ameren, you are a monopoly. You own the
24 grid. As heard in the Q and A, they plan to raise
25 that price. Stop saying Missouri won't pay when we

1 will.

2 The ozone in Jefferson County and all of
3 St. Louis is labeled by the EPA as serious. This
4 plant will create smog and make our air dirtier. If
5 you or your child have asthma, expect it to get worse.

6 I want you to retire that coal plant;
7 don't get me wrong. But replace it with 100 percent
8 real clean energy, solar. Take the billions you plan
9 to collect from Missourians and buy land in the places
10 that you call the hood and put solar on it. Work with
11 us. If you're going to use our money, then take it,
12 but make Missouri greener and protect our children and
13 their future.

14 Shame on you, Ameren, for calling a gas
15 plant green energy. Shame on anyone taking commission
16 on this deal. And the let me -- "let them eat cake
17 mentality" stops here. A movement is building.
18 (Speaking a non-English language.) Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Reyes, thank you for
20 your comments.

21 Teresa Galucci? Teresa Galucci? Keith
22 Fear? Keith Fear?

23 Like I said, if you're participating by
24 phone and you are having difficulty unmuting yourself,
25 it is *6.

1 Brandi Liskey?

2 MS. REDD: Hello? This is -- can you
3 hear me?

4 JUDGE CLARK: I can.

5 MS. REDD: I'm not Brandi. My name is
6 actually Rebecca Redd and I was having trouble
7 unmuting myself when you called my name. Is it okay
8 if I have a turn?

9 JUDGE CLARK: Absolutely.

10 MS. REDD: Thank you. Rebecca Redd.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Would you spell your
12 name for the court reporter?

13 MS. REDD: R-e-b-e-c-c-a R-e-d-d.

14 JUDGE CLARK: And if you'll raise your
15 right hand.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

18 MS. REDD: Okay. So I'm reading a news
19 article from NewsCore that Ameren Missouri was ordered
20 by a court to spend 61 million dollars on projects
21 tied to mitigation around violations of the Clean Air
22 Act at the Rush Island Power Plant near Festus.

23 So this was just in December. And now
24 Ameren wants to build a new power plant and charge the
25 consumers in advance for it.

1 It really seems kind of fishy. Like
2 we're paying for their court-ordered sign and their
3 mitigation. I don't think it's fair to charge
4 residential consumers for a new plant to be built.

5 And I don't think that it's
6 environmentally smart when the EPA said that Ameren
7 had 14 years of unpermitted excess emissions of sulfur
8 dioxide, you know. And this causes health issues,
9 lung disease, heart disease, premature -- premature
10 deaths in our communities.

11 So how can residents be assured that
12 Ameren isn't just going to build another toxic plant,
13 using our money that they're supposed to be
14 reinvesting back into the people for the damage
15 they've already caused?

16 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Ms. Redd, thank you
17 very much for your comments.

18 MS. REDD: Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Brandi Liskey? Brandi
20 Liskey? Darron Collins-Bey? Darron Collins-Bey?
21 Betty Hammit? Betty Hammit? Netanya Martin? Netanya
22 Martin? Paul Dombrowski? Paul Dombrowski? Jesse
23 Doggendorf? Jesse Doggendorf? Rebecca Hyatt?
24 Rebecca Hyatt? Jennie Loomis?

25 MS. LOOMIS: Here.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Loomis, would you
2 please spell your name for the court reporter?

3 MS. LOOMIS: Sure. It is Jennie,
4 J-e-n-n-i-e, and then Loomis, L-o-o-m, like Mary, i-s,
5 like Sam.

6 JUDGE CLARK: And if you'll raise your
7 right hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to
10 tell the Commission this evening, Ms. Loomis?

11 MS. LOOMIS: Good evening. First, I
12 would like to say that I think it's really important
13 that we have a strong grid and a diverse grid to
14 protect our power. We've seen how that goes awry in
15 places like Texas when they're not update and
16 modernized their systems, and especially diversify
17 them in renewable resources. So I understand the
18 importance of updates.

19 However, I would urge this committee not
20 to approve this grant, not to move it forward without
21 clear public guidelines for cost in individual
22 customers and -- or to the taxpayers, in general.

23 During the prior question session, the
24 representative for Ameren could not even give a range
25 of potential price increase. And the only people who

1 have any idea what that might look like are the
2 stakeholders in Ameren and the PSC, neither of whom
3 has citizen interest as a primary motivation.

4 What we know about this Public Service
5 Commission, it's my understanding, is that they're the
6 ones who approve any rate increases and -- and plant
7 development, but they're appointed by the Governor who
8 receives huge campaign contributions from Ameren. So
9 it's kind of an incestuous relationship without
10 anybody who's really there as an advocate for the
11 people.

12 We're looking at these accelerated plans.
13 And as Ms. Farrar indicated earlier, they seem to be
14 primarily to benefit -- or exclusively to benefit the
15 expectation and hope for AI data centers. And I
16 think, as many people do, that these data centers and
17 these mass building projects are experiencing a bubble
18 right now.

19 AI data centers is not something that
20 people want or need as a population. And these huge
21 data centers come at a gigantic environmental cost.
22 They suck all the water out of the ground, raise
23 everyone's electric rates, crater our home values,
24 make the air dirtier.

25 And on top of that, the A -- AI is

1 currently a -- it's not a sustainable business
2 pattern. Every time someone uses ChatGPT, it seems to
3 cost about five dollars. And their model -- their
4 business model currently is so financially, like,
5 insolvent that they're pivoting towards primarily
6 producing pornographic content.

7 So I think it's short sighted to speed up
8 a build during a bubble for a product that nobody
9 wants, except tech companies and electric companies,
10 in order to let AI make porn. I think that's insane
11 as a use of our resources --

12 JUDGE CLARK: One minute left.

13 MS. LOOMIS: Thank you. -- especially as
14 it's going to crater our home values and suck the
15 water out of ground.

16 The gentleman from Ameren continues to
17 say that currently the projected build will not
18 increase rates until 2028 or 2029, as if that is
19 supposed to offer us comfort.

20 What is clear is that even as energy
21 production becomes efficient, Ameren and the PSC will
22 continue to raise rates and build facilities primarily
23 meant to benefit big tech with little or no regard to
24 environmental protection, values, or price increases
25 to customers. And I urge you to vote no.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Loomis.
2 That was very organized as well. I appreciate your
3 comments.

4 William Roughly or Rouggly? William
5 Rouggly? Sara Skidmore? Sara Skidmore? Lisa
6 Govreau? Lisa Govreau? Barbara Bossert? Barbara
7 Bossert? Carl Bossert? Carl Bossert? Melinda and
8 Daniel Doenges? Melinda and Daniel Doenges? Larry
9 Sutton?

10 MR. SUTTON: Can you hear me?

11 JUDGE CLARK: I certainly --

12 MR. SUTTON: I'm right here. Can you
13 hear me?

14 JUDGE CLARK: I can. Is this Mr. Sutton?

15 MR. SUTTON: All right. Yes, sir. Yes,
16 Judge.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Would you spell your name
18 for the court reporter?

19 MR. SUTTON: My name is Larry Don
20 Sutton, Jr. L-a-r-r-y, Don, D-o-n, Sutton,
21 S-u-t-t-o-n. That's a Junior.

22 JUDGE CLARK: And will you raise your
23 right hand to be sworn.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

1 MR. SUTTON: You know, we can see what's
2 happening all over the country. We don't live in a
3 bubble. And, you know, we can see what's happened
4 globally as well.

5 You know, Ameren for the last 50 years,
6 instead of investing in the grid and putting power
7 lines below the ground and doing all those things that
8 other countries that are moving into the future do
9 with their, you know, infrastructure, they paid out
10 their shareholders instead.

11 Now they want to put this dirty fossil
12 fuel plant here in Festus. I don't know if any of you
13 have been to Festus. It's a nice place. People --
14 you go down Main Street, people say "hi" to you. It's
15 a nice town. You know, we can see the writing on the
16 wall. You know, in ten years, those houses are going
17 to be worth nothing. Nobody's going to want to live
18 in Festus.

19 So this -- this -- this plant serves
20 nobody but the stakeholders of the community. This is
21 for the AI data centers that come in. And like
22 Ms. Loomis said, all they're good at is making porn.
23 You know, we don't want that here. Nobody wants these
24 in their communities.

25 All's we have to do is look at West

1 Memphis. Those people are having respiratory
2 problems, their homes are worth nothing. And this is
3 everywhere. People in St. Charles didn't want it,
4 they didn't want it in the Armory. Let's go put this
5 thing in Town and Country or Ladue and see how it
6 flies.

7 But I -- I just don't think our lives
8 matter anymore in this country. America is like a
9 stolen car in a chop shop being sold off for spare
10 parts. Water rights, forests don't matter no more.
11 This happens with any fallen empire, whether it's the
12 USSR, whether it's -- any fallen empire.

13 They come in -- the oligarchs, the
14 billionaires buy everything up and then offload the
15 costs onto the working class. America as we knew it
16 is done with. And I think we all have to look in the
17 mirror one day and ask ourselves: Did we do our part
18 or did we stand up for money or did we stand up for
19 the citizens of this country?

20 And, you know, I live in Arnold. So, you
21 know, I'm on the other side of the county, but I don't
22 want to see this happen to the people of Festus. You
23 know, I don't want to see a dirty plant. This is
24 not -- this is not investing in the future. This is
25 not renewables.

1 They're selling this to us and they're
2 doing this, you know, almost under the cover of
3 darkness by the light of the moon. You know,
4 suitcases of money under tables kind of action. This
5 isn't -- just doesn't seem right.

6 People -- there's nobody in Festus that's
7 cheering this on, that's happy about it. And if you
8 lived in that community as -- as somebody on this
9 panel, you wouldn't want it in your town either.
10 That's all I really have to say.

11 I mean, I just -- what can we do, you
12 know, other than fight this with words to a Commission
13 that's appointed by the Governor who took \$400,000,
14 you know? So I mean, who's on our side? Other than,
15 you know, if we ban together. And that's all we can
16 really do. Thank you.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Sutton. I
18 appreciate your comments. I got very caught up in
19 what you were saying and forgot to tell you you had
20 one minute left.

21 MR. SUTTON: I appreciate it. Thank you.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Brie Gerl? Brie Gerl?
23 Peter West? Peter West? Zhidong Xie? Zhidong Xie?

24 MR. XIE: Hello. Can you hear me,
25 Mr. Judge?

1 JUDGE CLARK: I can. Did I say your name
2 correctly?

3 MR. XIE: Yes, you did. Thank you.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Would you
5 please spell your name for the court reporter?

6 MR. XIE: Yes. My first name spelling is
7 Z-h-i-d-o-n-g. My last name spelling is X-i-e.

8 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
9 right hand to be sworn.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Xie, go ahead.

12 MR. XIE: Yes. I also share the concern
13 that Mr. Craig DeSiato mentioned earlier and other
14 callers about the cost to the consumer and impact to
15 environment.

16 So although we need energy and although
17 AI may do good things, but we have to balance the --
18 the need for. Also, honor fact of society such as
19 environment and such as the public. And Ameren being
20 a utility is serving the public interest, so it should
21 carry the public interest as its first priority.

22 So in this hearing, I do -- I did get an
23 e-mail from Ameren, but I was not sure what that topic
24 is about. So I would say in the future, things like
25 this, they should send us a PDF or something, some

1 document about what this is and really write us some
2 of the pros and cons so that we can make informed
3 choice.

4 Because, like, one-hour answer and
5 question session, there's many facts that we don't
6 know, many data/information we doesn't know. So we
7 couldn't really make a very good informed decisions.

8 And especially things like this sort that
9 have potential for the environment. And then have AI,
10 have data center, all sort of things that -- I don't
11 like it being like rushed.

12 So -- so at this point I would say
13 probably no for this proposal. So -- but, you know,
14 if you want to get us support, give us the facts and
15 we should be -- again, the public should be the first
16 stakeholder to Ameren, which is a public utility
17 service.

18 So that's all my comment. Thank you,
19 Judge.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I got a quick
21 question for you, Mr. Xie, if you'll stay on. You
22 said you received an e-mail from Ameren?

23 MR. XIE: Yes, I did.

24 JUDGE CLARK: And that was about this
25 local public hearing?

1 MR. XIE: Yes. It point to a website.
2 And then from the website, I got the information to
3 call in and send an e-mail.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Did you -- was there -- was
5 it -- you indicated that there wasn't information on
6 what this case was about in the e-mail you received;
7 is that correct?

8 MR. XIE: There is a -- several words
9 call Big Hollow Energy Center and that's already in
10 the title of the e-mail. But such a short piece of
11 information, I have no idea what it was and what is
12 the pros, what is the cons involved, and what's the --
13 all these things related to it? How can we make
14 decision?

15 So in the website, they did just say that
16 Ameren requested permission from the Missouri Public
17 Service Commission to build a natural gas and battery
18 storage facility in Jefferson City [as said]. So
19 there is some information there.

20 But again, without the real data, the
21 information and the pros and cons analysis -- and
22 again, so this hearing I think -- so let's say we have
23 95 people on the call, but it affect a lot more
24 people. So I feel like this is a little bit rushed to
25 make a decision in an hour without the written

1 documentation and everything.

2 JUDGE CLARK: So you would like to see
3 more information in advance of a local public hearing;
4 is that correct?

5 MR. XIE: Right. Right. And again, AI
6 using too much energy, maybe that is a concern. I
7 don't know whether that's is a fact or not, but it
8 looks like based on the previous people saying -- and
9 that could be a fact, then we should be a little bit
10 more careful to use our energy wisely.

11 So if it does not serve very good
12 utility, then probably it's not -- not a good idea.
13 But, you know, without the detail, I wouldn't say for
14 sure.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Well, thank you for your
16 comments, Mr. Xie. I appreciate them. And it's good
17 to know about the e-mail.

18 MR. XIE: Okay. Thanks.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Mary Winslow?
20 Is there a Mary Winslow? Mark Hake? Tricia --

21 MR. HAKE: Hello, Judge?

22 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, sir.

23 MR. HAKE: This is Mark Hake.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Hake, would you
25 please spell your name for the court reporter?

1 MR. HAKE: Thank you. How you doing
2 tonight? My name's Mark -- Mark Hake, M-a-r-k, last
3 name is Hake, H-a-k-e.

4 JUDGE CLARK: And will you raise your
5 right hand to be sworn.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Hake, what would
8 you like to tell the Commission this evening?

9 MR. HAKE: Okay. My e-mail said nothing
10 about what you guys are talking about. I'm talking
11 about the Capital Bluff route.

12 It's where a -- anyway -- anyway, at this
13 point a guy contacted me a few times. And at this
14 point I feel I haven't got any truthful or accurate
15 plans on the project.

16 The project consists of Marion wants to
17 run a 20-inch gas -- natural gas line in a -- right
18 along the Marion, UE's easement that's just outside of
19 it. So they're going to -- they want an easement from
20 me in the back of my home.

21 And to me, it sounds kind of dangerous
22 having a 20-inch main going through your backside of
23 your property.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Hake, is this -- is
25 this in relation to the -- to the gas turbine

1 generator that Ameren wants to build or the battery
2 storage system? Or is this something else? Because I
3 mean, you're talking about a natural gas line and
4 while this is a -- a gas generation plant, this is an
5 electrical case.

6 MR. HAKE: This is about the one that's
7 going out to the Meramec plant at -- what is that?
8 It's over in Oakville, Missouri, which is at the end
9 of -- basically where the Meramec dumps into the
10 Mississippi.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I'm unfamiliar with
12 that case. It's -- it's obviously not mine, so it may
13 be --

14 MR. HAKE: Maybe it sent me to the wrong
15 one.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Did you -- did you have
17 comments that you wanted to offer on Ameren's desire
18 to build these two generation and storage facilities?

19 MR. HAKE: No.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Well, thank you for
21 your comments, Mr. Hake. I'm sorry that -- that this
22 is not the -- the hearing that you were hoping it
23 would be.

24 MR. HAKE: Well, why would they send me
25 an e-mail then?

1 JUDGE CLARK: I think they sent e-mails
2 to all customers who -- who are within a certain area
3 that -- that -- that want to come to the hearing, so.

4 MR. HAKE: And they're going to -- and I
5 guess they'll contact us when they have this hearing?

6 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry?

7 MR. HAKE: Anyway, thank you.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Hake.

9 MR. HAKE: Thank you. I guess I got the
10 wrong one.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Tricia Machtemes? Tricia
12 Machtemes? Zachariah Dumas?

13 MR. DUMAS: Yeah. I'm here.

14 JUDGE CLARK: And would you spell your
15 name for the court reporter?

16 MR. DUMAS: Yes. It's Z-a-c-h-a-r-i-a-h
17 D-u-m-a-s.

18 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
19 right hand to be sworn.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. And what would you
22 like to tell us?

23 MR. DUMAS: Kind of I guess reflecting on
24 Zhidong Xie's comments as well, I think a lot of what
25 he said reflects my concerns as well.

1 Some of my specific concerns are around
2 the environmental impacts of -- of any construction on
3 the waterway. You can google the -- the site for --
4 I -- I -- and I guess also to back up, with what
5 Zhidong Xie was saying, it did take a lot of digging
6 on the Ameren site and on the internet in general to
7 find any plans or articles specifically speaking to
8 the construction or utilization. I found them, but it
9 was -- like, it took effort to find it.

10 But you can Google -- Google Maps the
11 Rush tower site or the Big Hollow site and you'll find
12 it. Just right off of -- right off of Big Hollow
13 Road.

14 I live in the direct area of this. I
15 spend a lot of time in that -- in that -- the Harry
16 Truman Park River access area. So it -- it does, I
17 guess, affect me and several other people that I care
18 about in the community for -- for any construction
19 being done here.

20 But when you Google Maps it, the
21 facility's within 100 feet of Mississippi River
22 proper. So it's in a high-impact area if there was
23 any significant flooding or other weather events that
24 we've seen kind of escalate across the country in
25 the, you know, surrounding area.

1 So there might be a 1000-year flood that
2 we're talking about that would affect the Ameren site.
3 Those events are more and more common across the
4 country and -- so it's just a major concern to have
5 any type of infrastructure placed on a retired site.

6 And then the representative from Ameren
7 was also talking about upgrades to the site, going to
8 a thousand megawatts in the future. So to have
9 upgrades on a site that's already in a high
10 environmental impact zone -- you know, using language
11 I -- as -- as a laymen.

12 And in my opinion, it wouldn't be smart
13 to put a major facility within such a -- such a --
14 like we don't -- we don't know what -- what's going to
15 happen with that site. We don't know how the
16 Mississippi River is going to act. We can only
17 account for its most extreme.

18 And so it doesn't seem reasonable to --
19 to put a high energy site that we would need on -- on
20 a place that -- that kind of doesn't make sense, if
21 we're looking at impact on the river.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Got one minute left.

23 MR. DUMAS: I think that's all I have.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for --

25 MR. TRIPP: Judge, I did have a question

1 for Mr. Dumas.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Tripp, go ahead.

3 MR. TRIPP: Yes. Mr. Dumas, I -- I think
4 I saw earlier you put in the chat that you did
5 actually get a notice with your -- in a billing cycle
6 of the hearing; is that correct?

7 MR. DUMAS: I'm not sure if it was on the
8 billing cycle. I -- I tried to edit that part out.
9 But I did get an e-mail on October 17th, yeah.

10 MR. TRIPP: Okay. Thank you. I --
11 that's all I was asking about. Thank you very much.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Dumas, thank you for
13 your comments this evening.

14 Michael Berger? Michael Berger?

15 Okay. We are in an unusual situation
16 that I did not expect to be in tonight with -- with
17 more than 50 names on the list, but at this point I
18 have gone through all the names.

19 If -- if you were here and you had signed
20 up and you came in late and maybe missed or did not
21 hear me call your name, if you would let me know now,
22 I would be happy to let you offer comments to the
23 Commission.

24 I see a bunch of people in the chat that
25 are saying they signed up. What I'm going to do --

1 hold on just a moment. Okay. I have a few more
2 people on the list and you may have signed up at --
3 while you were there or before the Q and A session.

4 Cindy Gross? Is there a Cindy Gross?

5 MS. GROSS: Yes, I'm here.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Gross, would you please
7 spell your name for the court reporter?

8 MS. GROSS: C-i-n-d-y G-r-o-s-s.

9 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
10 right hand to be sworn.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

13 MS. GROSS: Thank you. So my name is
14 Cindy Gross and I am a grandmother of five young ones
15 here in St. Louis. And I also serve as the chair of
16 the Green Team at my church.

17 I feel a calling to care for the gift of
18 creation and to work for a livable climate for my
19 neighbors, as well as my children and grandchildren.

20 I was very happy to see Ameren close the
21 Rush Island coal plant, as it was polluting our air.
22 However, I am very unhappy to hear that they want to
23 replace it with another fossil fuel, methane gas.

24 Methane emissions trap considerably more
25 heat than carbon dioxide. and we need to be drawing

1 down sources of methane, not expanding its use.
2 Methane gas prices are also extremely volatile and
3 depend on global politics.

4 It seems to me a much better option for
5 this site would be solar power, which is cheaper and
6 cleaner, better for the environment.

7 I'm glad to hear that they are
8 considering a battery energy storage facility as part
9 of the plan for this site, but I certainly hope that
10 Ameren and the PSC will consider cleaner, safer and
11 more reliable options for this site such as solar,
12 thus, benefiting our St. Louis community. Thank you.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your
14 comments, Ms. Gross.

15 Elyse Schaeffer? Elyse Schaeffer?

16 MS. SCHAEFFER: Hello.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, Ms. Schaeffer. Would
18 you please spell your name for the court reporter?

19 MS. SCHAEFFER: Absolutely. It's
20 E-l-y-s-e, last name S-c-h-a-e-f-f-e-r.

21 JUDGE CLARK: And, Ms. Schaeffer, would
22 you raise your right hand to be sworn.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to
25 tell the Commission this evening, Ms. Schaeffer?

1 MS. SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Judge. And
2 thank you to the Commissioners for the time to speak
3 on this issue.

4 I want to first say I'm very disappointed
5 that the Commission did not heed requests to hold an
6 in-person hearing on this matter, but I am grateful,
7 nonetheless, that we were able to weigh in on the
8 future of our health, safety and environment in this
9 format.

10 My name is Elyse Schaeffer and I'm
11 testifying on behalf of Missouri Coalition for the
12 Environment. MCE is a non-profit, non-partisan,
13 advocacy organization that seeks to empower
14 Missourians to protect their environment and their
15 health.

16 The methane gas or natural gas component
17 of Ameren's proposed Big Hollow Energy facility will
18 be detrimental to the health, environment and wallets
19 of Missourians. For these reasons, I urge the Public
20 Service Commission to vote no on this proposal.

21 Ameren says this project is necessary for
22 reliability, affordability and sustainability. In
23 reality, it supports none of these goals. Methane gas
24 is -- methane gas reliability is not assured. The gas
25 has to be transported into the state through leaky

1 pipelines and often from politically volatile places.

2 In 2021, failure of a methane gas
3 infrastructure led to the tragic loss of hundreds of
4 lives in Texas.

5 Methane gas is not an affordable option
6 for ratepayers either. Between June of 2020 and
7 August of 2022, for example, the cost of the gas
8 spiked by nearly 20 percent.

9 Further, the 2025 Lazard Levelized Cost
10 of Energy reports construction time for new gas plants
11 at 24 months, double the time needed to build an
12 equivalent utility-scale solar project, or four times
13 as long as building community or residential rooftop
14 solar. And that's if Ameren isn't delayed by the
15 five- to seven-year wait time manufacturers are now
16 estimating for new gas turbine production.

17 Including construction costs,
18 utility-scale solar is \$78 per megawatt hour, just
19 31 percent of the \$251 per megawatt hour a gas-peaking
20 plant like the one proposed in this case would cost.

21 Finally, methane gas is not a sustainable
22 energy source. Methane gas is often fracked, which
23 harms water quality and releases hazardous pollutants
24 like VOCs and nitrous oxides. Burning gasses releases
25 similar pollutants. The pollutants can cause

1 childhood cancer, birth defects and respiratory
2 issues.

3 Methane gas releases toxic pollutants
4 when burned as well, including VOCs, carbon dioxide,
5 and primarily methane, which as noted, traps
6 82.5 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon
7 dioxide.

8 The methane gas component of Big Hollow
9 will exacerbate the ongoing public health and racial
10 injustices of global warming, including more extreme
11 heat, heat waves, drought, tornados and flooding.
12 Heat already kills more Americans every year than any
13 other natural disaster, and adding more methane to the
14 atmosphere will not help.

15 Solar and wind, on the other hand, do not
16 produce any greenhouse gasses and do not create any
17 air pollution when used. Instead of burning deadly
18 methane gas, Ameren should be investing in the more
19 reliable, more cost effective, zero carbon solution
20 renewable energy.

21 The proposed Big Hollow project is not a
22 sound step toward reliability, affordability or
23 sustainability. And as such, I respectfully urge the
24 PSC to vote no on this proposal. Thank you so much
25 for your time and consideration.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Schaeffer.
2 I appreciate your comments. They were succinct and on
3 point for what you were discussing.

4 Mahala Pittman? Mahala Pittman?

5 MS. PITTMAN: Mahala. This is she.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Sorry I mispronounced your
7 name, Mahala. Will you please spell your name for the
8 court reporter?

9 MS. PITTMAN: Yep. M-a-h-a-l-a. Last
10 name Pittman, P-i-t-t-m-a-n.

11 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
12 right hand to be sworn.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

15 MS. PITTMAN: My name is Mahala Pittman
16 and I am a Sierra Club, Missouri Chapter, Regional
17 Field Organizer for the St. Louis region. I'm
18 grateful for the opportunity to speak at today's
19 public hearing.

20 I firmly oppose a gas plant to be built
21 at the formal -- former Rush Island site. Not only is
22 methane gas dangerous and expensive, but this plant is
23 slated to power large-load customers such as data
24 centers, which have been highly controversial to the
25 communities in which they're sited due to their many

1 harmful environmental impacts and extensive cost to
2 communities.

3 I spent my entire childhood in Festus,
4 Missouri, which is just miles from the former Rush
5 Island coal site. I always loved my little hometown,
6 passing fields of horses on the way to middle school
7 or picking out pumpkins at Richard's Produce Stand,
8 riding my bike to Dollar General to get my mom sweet
9 tea, riding back to the house I spent my entire
10 childhood in, never once moving; the home my single
11 mother still lives in today. She who would be
12 impacted by this, and myself.

13 Looking back at the illegal levels of
14 sulfur dioxide we now know were being emitted from the
15 Rush Island coal plant from the time I was just seven
16 years old, I wonder about the quality of the air I was
17 breathing all those years as I played outside with my
18 friends.

19 Now, here we are and at the exact site
20 where Ameren made illegal modifications to a coal
21 plant, failing to install pollution controls and
22 violating the Clean Air Act for more than a decade,
23 they want to build a gas-fired power plant to power
24 large-load customers such as data centers.

25 We are made to believe this, quote,

1 natural gas is better for us. The truth is this
2 methane gas is no cleaner than the dirty coal that
3 continues to make Labadie the second-highest emitting
4 coal plant in this nation.

5 The term "natural gas" refers to methane
6 gas, which traps over 82.5 times more heat than carbon
7 dioxide emissions. To insinuate that methane gas is
8 anything but dangerous, expensive and volatile is
9 irresponsible and misleading.

10 JUDGE CLARK: You have one minute
11 remaining.

12 MS. PITTMAN: It is unconscionable that
13 Ameren would pursue this path when my community has
14 only recently received acknowledgment of years of
15 deadly illegal air pollution. Now we are expected to
16 hold the burden of data centers?

17 The electricity demand caused by data
18 centers is delaying coal plant retirements, causing
19 utilities to propose new gas power plants and
20 resulting in the development of hundreds of back-up
21 diesel generators, resulting in more air pollution, on
22 top of skyrocketing electric rates.

23 In addition to their extravagant power
24 usage, data centers also use massive amounts of water
25 and cause severe noise pollution.

1 Festus deserves better. Festus, Missouri
2 is my hometown. It's my community. I plead with you,
3 do not allow Ameren to continue to build out more
4 fossil fuels. Do not allow Ameren to continue
5 pursuing profits over the health and safety of their
6 consumers. And instead, force them to go back to the
7 drawing board and start investing in the clean energy
8 our planet and communities so desperately need. Thank
9 you.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments
11 Ms. Pittman.

12 Claire Mueller? Claire Mueller?

13 MS. MUELLER: I'm here.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please spell your
15 name for the court reporter, Ms. Mueller?

16 MS. MUELLER: First, C-l-a-i-r-e; last,
17 M-u-e-l-l-e-r.

18 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
19 right hand to be sworn.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

22 MS. MUELLER: My name is Claire Mueller.
23 I'm speaking as a private citizen.

24 First, I am consistently disappointed in
25 the PSC and Ameren for doing such a poor job of

1 publicizing these meetings. Then, even when there is
2 turnout and opposition, the PSC seems to just let
3 utilities do whatever they like. It feels like a
4 facade and does not make sense.

5 I'm an Ameren customer. I did not
6 receive an e-mail about this. I am very plugged into
7 the environmental space and want to thank the Missouri
8 Coalition for the Environment. They are the only
9 reason I knew this was happening. The PSC and Ameren
10 are not doing their due diligence.

11 Important context to ground us in that I
12 have not heard mentioned yet, but on March 13th of
13 2025, SB-4 went through and allowed the Missouri
14 Public Service Commission authority to allow customers
15 to be charged for building new electric generating
16 plants.

17 That's called a Construction Work in
18 Progress, CWIP, and was banned since 1976, when
19 consumers were worried about the cost of nuclear. I
20 believe that started with the Callaway Nuclear Plant.

21 Let's be clear. That gave the PSC full
22 ability to make us, the end-users, pay for Ameren's
23 needs instead of having Ameren utilize their dividends
24 that are paid to shareholders; i.e., making the rich
25 richer, while making us sicker. This is unethical.

1 The PSC needs to step in and do their jobs.

2 Additionally, methane gas is bad for the
3 environment. Reminding everyone, when we say natural
4 gas, that means fossil fuels. That is a marketing
5 term to make this sound cleaner. We are using fossil
6 fuels here.

7 Methane are fossil fuels and they trap
8 CO2 and increase planet degradation. It's inexpen- --
9 or it is expensive, pardon me, and unreliable. There
10 are better options for the environment, for the
11 economy. Renewable energy, particularly solar and
12 wind, are more reliable, particularly combined with
13 battery storage.

14 But methane is a limited resource. It is
15 not good for our health. This is damaging our
16 communities. What will it take for the PSC to hear
17 from us that we are opposed to this? This has to
18 stop.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your
20 comments, Ms. Mueller.

21 Kellsy MacDonald? Kellsy MacDonald?

22 MS. MACDONALD: Yes. Spelled
23 K-e-l-l-s-y. Last name MacDonald, M-a-c-D-o-n-a-l-d.

24 JUDGE CLARK: If you'll raise your right
25 hand to be sworn.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

3 MS. MACDONALD: Good evening. Thank
4 everyone for taking public comments on this upcoming
5 project.

6 I don't want to see this gas plant built.
7 I don't Ameren to make decisions to positively support
8 the community if there is an opportunity to increase
9 profitability.

10 Ameren lobbied for SB-4 and funded the
11 government's campaign with our tax dollars, as well as
12 stakeholders who also could have been supporting the
13 residents instead.

14 The bill passed and now suddenly we need
15 to have gas power plants to stay compliant for
16 80 percent dispatchable resources. This gas plant is
17 being proposed on a site with plenty of historical
18 significance to Ameren's regards for regulation.

19 Remember when ameren installed upgrades
20 without pollution controls back in 2007 and only just
21 shuttered the facility? I can't help but be skeptical
22 about consumers and environmental protections Ameren
23 will provide for the community when they argue that
24 their pollution would have been rectified just by
25 closing the plant and is only offering financial

1 assistance after court orders to these residents.

2 This plant emits methane, which we know
3 traps more heat than carbon dioxide. The
4 transportation and handling of the gas is also
5 impossible to control completely (internet glitch) --

6 JUDGE CLARK: You cut out there.

7 MS. MACDONALD: -- so we know it will be
8 (internet glitch) this project (internet glitch) tooth
9 and nail for environmental justice from this same
10 company for decades.

11 This project is supporting the ability to
12 attract additional large new customers and driving
13 economics in the state, but these facilities only
14 benefit us by increasing tax dollars, which any
15 development can do.

16 Residents will be paying most of these
17 construction costs based on the flimsy answers
18 provided during the Q and A and asked before. I also
19 have concerns about the increasing costs throughout
20 the life span of this project, as the energy produced
21 is dependent on the price of the gas, which is only
22 projected to go up for the foreseeable future. I fear
23 that we will spend tons of money on a project that
24 only consumes more and more during its life span until
25 it can retire before end-of-life for true green

1 energy.

2 I am in support of the BES project
3 though, as I believe this will help residents to have
4 stability and help our renewable energy resources in
5 the future. So I'd much rather see a proposal for all
6 BES in conjunction with the policy to further reduce
7 our energy waste instead of adding in more pollutants
8 and more gas for the site. That's all I have today.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. MacDonald, so -- and
10 just so that I'm -- I'm clear, you -- you -- you're in
11 support of the battery storage facility, but not the
12 gas generator; is that correct?

13 MS. MACDONALD: Yes, sir.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for
15 your comments.

16 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Jennie Loomis?

18 MS. LOOMIS: I already went. That's got
19 me on there.

20 JUDGE CLARK: I thought so. I thought
21 so. That's what I was looking over my list to see.
22 It felt familiar. Thank you, Ms. Loomis.

23 John Kintree. John Kintree? Hold on
24 just a second. Let's see if -- all right. I have --
25 at this time is there anybody else who would like to

1 offer comments to the Commission that did not sign up?
2 If you would just unmute yourself and let me know, I
3 would be happy to take your comments. Okay.
4 Anything?

5 MS. JOHNSON: I'm sorry. Sorry. Myisha
6 Johnson here.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Myisha Johnson?

8 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Johnson, would you
10 please spell your name for the court reporter?

11 MS. JOHNSON: M-y-i-s-h-a J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

12 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
13 right hand to be sworn.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to
16 tell the Commission this evening?

17 MS. JOHNSON: As a resident living in
18 St. Louis, we know that there's already an experience
19 of high cancerous issues, high lung issues, and other
20 respiratory issues that people face in the Black and
21 Brown communities.

22 Often it's the space that we live in,
23 right? We can't even go outside or be in our home and
24 be able to breathe at a normal capacity because the
25 ventilation -- I'm sorry.

1 (Unidentified speaker speaking.)

2 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. There we go.

3 MS. JOHNSON: The air that we breathe.

4 So we know after hearing what everyone has to say that
5 it's not going to get better for us.

6 And that there isn't really anything
7 that's keeping us from breathing it from the east side
8 of the river. And now it's going to be coming from
9 the west side of the river. And I mean, how much more
10 can we take?

11 We know that people are losing their
12 Medicaid. People are going to be starving. People
13 are going to be outside more because they might lose
14 their housing. There's a lot at risk for those who
15 don't have the funds or the means to meet their daily
16 needs.

17 And we know that in certain spaces if
18 they can't keep up with their utility bill, that
19 they're going to be out in these streets, and that's a
20 crime. So how are we supposed to survive and live
21 after all of these things that is new to everything
22 that's being changed on the way that we live?

23 The ones that are making these decisions
24 won't be as impacted as we are, because you guys can
25 afford the changes that is com- -- that is to come for

1 all of us. And we're the ones paying for it.

2 And most of the people in my community
3 are barely making rent. They're barely able to feed
4 their children. They're barely even to show their
5 children the things outside of what -- what is -- what
6 the change is. Like they're starving. The kids are
7 starving, you guys. They're losing their homes and
8 they're playing with their education as well.

9 So to know that the air that they're
10 going to be breathing will also impact them? What do
11 they have to look forward to? And how do you guys
12 plan to protect us if this goes through? There -- is
13 there a plan to protect us? Is there a --

14 JUDGE CLARK: As I indicated,
15 Ms. Johnson, the Commission can't answer questions
16 this evening.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. So there needs to be
18 a plan to protect us. There needs to be a plan for
19 the medical issues that's going to accumulate after
20 all of this starts taking place. So as a St. Louis
21 resident, I ask that you take us into consideration.
22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Johnson. I
24 have one question for you. You had -- at some point
25 you said -- you said "with all this new coming," I

1 believe or something like that. When you said "new,"
2 were you referring to AI or were you referring to the
3 facility?

4 MS. JOHNSON: AI, regulations, policies,
5 things that's changing.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for clarifying
7 that for me, Ms. Johnson. And thank you for your
8 comments.

9 MS. JOHNSON: You're welcome.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Is there anybody else who
11 would like to offer comments to the Commission this
12 evening? If so, please just unmute and let me know
13 who you are.

14 MR. KOBOLDT: Hello. Can you hear me?

15 JUDGE CLARK: I can. What is your name,
16 sir?

17 MR. KOBOLDT: My name is Rich Koboldt.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Rich Koboldt.

19 MR. KOBOLDT: R-i-c-h K-o-b-o-l-d-t.

20 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your
21 right hand to be sworn.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE CLARK: All right. Please go
24 ahead.

25 MR. KOBOLDT: Okay. My wife received an

1 e-mail from Ameren 14 days ago talking about the AI
2 facility that's going to be built -- or supposedly to
3 be built on Highway P down in Jefferson County. I
4 live near this area.

5 My comment is I'm concerned about the
6 water usage. A lot of people out here are on wells
7 and all the bedrock slopes down towards Joachim Creek
8 near this plant -- proposed plant. If it uses well
9 water to pull the resources in, everybody upstream
10 from this plant is going to lose their well water.
11 They'll run dry.

12 Another concern I have is the noise
13 pollution it's going to create. There was a PBS
14 Special on television talking about a data center in
15 New Mexico where local residents ended up having all
16 kinds of health issues and their pets; losing hair,
17 fatigue, anxiety, you name it.

18 And I'm wondering how that is going to
19 affect residents down here. There's a new subdivision
20 going in less than a mile away just east of this
21 facility. I'm on the west side about three miles away
22 and I have heard that there's two different
23 frequencies that are emitted from these pipes, a low
24 and high frequency.

25 The low frequency will transmit for

1 miles. And that's a big concern, because out here
2 it's very quiet and most of the land around here is
3 residential. That's pretty much what I wanted to say.
4 Thank you.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you Mr. Koboldt.

6 Is there anybody else who would like to
7 offer comments this evening?

8 MS. BETH: Mary Beth.

9 (Unidentified speaker.)

10 MS. BETH: Is there any way that --

11 JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second. Can
12 you spell your name for the court reporter? And then
13 I will swear you in.

14 MS. BETH: M-a-r-y B-e-t-h.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Koboldt, you're
17 still unmuted. If you could mute yourself, I would
18 appreciate it.

19 Go ahead, Mary Beth.

20 MS. BETH: Okay. I really agree with
21 everybody who was against it. I am against it. I
22 really didn't know what it was about when I first was
23 on the call at -- at the beginning, but I know a
24 little bit more about it.

25 Anyway, I want to know if there's any way

1 to stop what Ameren wants to do by getting a certain
2 number of signatures?

3 JUDGE CLARK: The Commission can't answer
4 questions. And I honestly don't know the answer to
5 your question. So I'm sorry there, Ms. Beth.

6 MS. BETH: Okay. Thank you.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Did you have other
8 comments?

9 MS. BETH: No.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Well, thank you for your
11 comments.

12 Is there anybody else who would like to
13 comment to the Commission?

14 MR. KINTREE: This is John Kintree.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Kintree, I called you
16 earlier.

17 MR. KINTREE: I had difficulty unmute.
18 J-o-h-n K-i-n, as in Nancy, T as in T, r-e-e.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Kintree, if you'll
20 raise your right hand to be sworn.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

23 MR. KINTREE: I'm an Ameren customer in
24 St. Louis County, and I like the idea of utility-scale
25 batteries installed at Rush Island. I think that a

1 new natural gas-powered plant is shameful and think
2 Ameren should be required, in its proposals, to
3 include discussion of the social cost of carbon. What
4 is the cost of increasing the concentration of
5 greenhouse gases in the atmosphere? For my personal
6 lifestyle, I use the amount of \$200 per ton of carbon
7 dioxide.

8 Beyond the monetary amount, coral reefs
9 around the world are dying, hurricanes are
10 intensifying more quickly. I saw hail in my front
11 yard after it hit the roof of my house earlier this
12 year that was larger than any other hail that I've
13 seen before. I'm 71 years old.

14 I have an all-electric house. My power
15 was out for about seven hours last week from Tuesday
16 evening into Wednesday morning. Earlier this year it
17 was out for about 36 hours about when we -- the
18 tornado came through the city. So electricity is
19 essential.

20 With respect to the data centers, I've
21 been testing language models on my smartphone. And
22 I've read that running small language models on smart
23 phones uses one-tenth -- just 10 percent of the
24 electricity used with large language models running in
25 data centers.

1 And I'm testing the language models for
2 speed. The latency is good running on my -- my
3 smartphone. This one language model could identify
4 the nouns rain, Spain and plane. When I asked it to
5 identify the nouns in "The rain in Spain falls mainly
6 on the plane." Language models can be used on
7 smartphones to help build knowledge graphs and shared
8 knowledge graphs.

9 We swore to tell the truth. Fossil fuel
10 companies have been lying about climate change. The
11 President of the United States just said it's a con
12 job. Those are lies.

13 We need to be able to build shared
14 knowledge graphs that are fact-checked and trustworthy
15 if -- if democracy is going to work. And that's what
16 I want to use language models running on my smartphone
17 is to help build a platform for digital democracy so
18 we can vote directly on instead of principles and
19 policies instead of politicians and political parties.

20 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
21 to share a vision of the world I want to live in.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Kintree.
23 That was very passionate.

24 Is there anybody else who would like to
25 speak and offer comments to the Commission this

1 evening?

2 I'd like to think all of our participants
3 who showed up today to testify. If you are unable to
4 provide testimony today or if you get home and you're
5 talking to friends or neighbors and they wanted to
6 offer comments to the Commission, local public
7 hearings are not the only place to do that.

8 You can also make written comments by
9 contacting the e-mail address PSCinfo@PCS --
10 PSC.MO.gov. I'll say that again since I messed it up.
11 PSCinfo@PSC.MO.gov. By contacting the Office of the
12 Public Counsel that has been very gracious about
13 helping people get comments to us, or by going to the
14 PSC's web page and there is a link for a place to
15 leave comments.

16 If you're going to leave written
17 comments, you will need to know the -- the case number
18 for this case. And the case number for this is
19 EA-2025-0238.

20 Chair Hahn, would you like to make any
21 closing remarks?

22 CHAIR HAHN: Of course. Thank you,
23 Judge.

24 Just want to thank folks for staying on
25 the line -- I know we're getting, you know, into the

1 evening now -- to give us your feedback. We know you
2 have a lot of -- a lot of demands on your time and it
3 is really, really helpful to hear from the public. So
4 just want to say that we appreciate your feedback and
5 have a good evening.

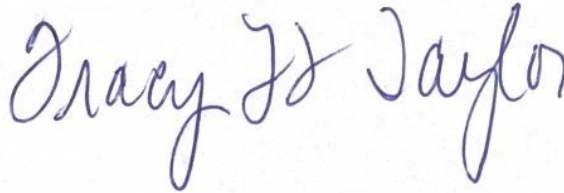
6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. Thank
7 you for attending the hearing.

8 And with that, we will go off the record
9 and I will adjourn this local public hearing.

10 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at
11 8:26 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was duly taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR, RPR, CRR-MO

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