

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)
Ameren Missouri for Permission) File No. EA-2025-0239
and Approval and Certificates of)
Convenience and Necessity)
Authorizing it to Construct)
Renewable Generation Facilities)

Tuesday, January 6, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 7:08 p.m.

Fulton Rec Center
808 State Street
Fulton, MO 65251
and WebEx

VOLUME 1
Pages 1 - 15

RILEY FEWELL, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 202102

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1 The following proceedings began at 6:54 p.m.:

2 JUDGE FEWELL: We can go on the record. Good
3 evening everyone. It is January 6, 2026, and the
4 current time is 6:54 p.m. My name is Riley Fewell, and
5 I am a Regulatory Law Judge with the Missouri Public
6 Service Commission and I'll preside over this hearing.

7 The Missouri Public Service Commission has set
8 this time for a local public hearing to give members of
9 the public a chance to comment about the application in
10 Case No. EA-2025-0239 which is captioned as In the
11 Matter of the Application of Union Electric Company
12 d/b/a Ameren Missouri for Permission and Approval and
13 Certificates of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it
14 to Construct Renewable Generation Facilities.

15 The Missouri Public Service Commission
16 regulates investor-owned utility companies in Missouri
17 and ensures that rates are just and reasonable. The
18 Commission also regulates the quality of service and
19 safety of the operations of investor-owned utilities.
20 The Commission is made up of up to five Commissioners
21 but there are currently four: Chair Kayla Hahn and
22 Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glen Kolkmeyer and John
23 Mitchell. The Commissioners are appointed by the
24 governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.

25 The Commission employs a staff of engineers,

1 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other
2 specialists in the field of utility regulation. With me
3 today are Chair Hahn and Commissioners Coleman and
4 Kolkmeyer in person, as well as Commissioner Mitchell
5 online.

6 Commissioners, if you have any questions at
7 any time, feel free to interrupt me and ask them of
8 those testifying.

9 This is an official hearing of the Missouri
10 Public Service Commission, and the statements and
11 testimony of witnesses will be recorded by the court
12 reporter and must be given under oath or affirmation.
13 The Commission has not made any decisions in this case
14 and neither the Commissioners nor myself answer any
15 questions about the issues of the case today because the
16 Commission must remain impartial until all evidence is
17 presented.

18 The court reporter is transcribing this
19 hearing so that the Commission may review and read those
20 comments. As we want to provide all attendants an
21 adequate opportunity to speak tonight, we will limit the
22 time for testimony to only three minutes. Once you
23 finish your comments, please remain at the podium in
24 case there are questions from the Commissioners or
25 myself or the attorneys for the parties.

1 Chair Hahn, would you like to give opening
2 remarks?

3 CHAIR HAHN: Good evening everyone. My name
4 is Kayla Hahn. I'm the Chair of the Missouri Public
5 Service Commission. On behalf of the entire Commission,
6 we just want to welcome you here this evening as part of
7 this local public hearing on Ameren's proposed reform
8 solar project. We look forward to hearing your comments
9 and considering them before any decision is made in this
10 case.

11 I know it can be intimidating to come to the
12 microphone and get sworn in. Just encourage you to
13 offer your true testimony and we look forward to hearing
14 from you. Thank you for spending your evening with us.
15 Thank you.

16 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, Chair. And we can
17 start with the entries of appearance beginning with
18 Ameren Missouri.

19 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. My name is
20 Jennifer Hernandez, and I am appearing on behalf of
21 Ameren Missouri. Our address is 1901 Chouteau Avenue,
22 St. Louis, Missouri 63103. Thank you.

23 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. And staff.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge. My name is
25 Tracy Johnson, Deputy Counsel from the Office of Staff

1 Counsel. My information is already with the court
2 reporter.

3 JUDGE FEWELL: And for Public Counsel.

4 MS. VANGERPEN: Good evening everyone. My
5 name is Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC. My
6 information is also with the court reporter.

7 JUDGE FEWELL: Are there any intervenors
8 present who would like to make an entry of appearance?
9 Okay. For those who would like to provide comments
10 today, I'm going to call the names listed on the sign-up
11 sheet in the order they appear. When I call your name,
12 please come down to the podium and I will place you
13 under oath and ask you to state and spell your name.
14 Then you can offer your comments to the Commission.

15 As I stated, we are limiting comments to three
16 minutes so that everyone present has an adequate chance
17 to be heard. Please remain at the podium after your
18 remarks until you've been excused, because the
19 Commission may have some questions for you and the
20 attorneys can let us know at that time as well.

21 Valerie Larm. Can you raise your right hand.
22 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
23 about to give are the truth?

24 MS. LARM: Yes.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Can you state and

1 spell your name for the record.

2 MS. LARM: Valerie, V-a-l-e-r-i-e, Larm,
3 L-a-r-m.

4 JUDGE FEWELL: What would you like to tell the
5 Commission?

6 MS. LARM: I think it's extremely important to
7 start relying on renewable energy. We need to phase out
8 nuclear power. Right now we're storing a lot of the
9 waste down in New Mexico, not in the Kansas salt mines,
10 but we're running into problems there. And any place
11 where we are storing nuclear waste we need to save that
12 for our universities like MU. They have their MURR
13 power plant and they are making isotopes that are being
14 used in the hospitals and helping with cancer and so we
15 need to save our waste places for the universities.

16 We also in June every year they measure the
17 greenhouse gases. And from June 24 to June 25, the
18 greenhouse gases increase by over 3.6 percent, and this
19 is what is causing the higher temperatures, the changes
20 in our weather. Not maybe more hurricanes but instead
21 of 2s or 3s we're having 4s and 5s. The Atlantic Ocean
22 is getting too warm.

23 We need to just start phasing out all of these
24 types of power, you know, making of power and, you know,
25 phase in the renewable energies like solar power.

1 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Do the
2 Commissioners have any questions? Thank you, Ms. Larm.
3 You can be excused.

4 Bryant McAllister, you can come up to the
5 podium. You don't want to make a comment any more?
6 Art. Is the last name Clervi?

7 MR. CLERVI: Yes.

8 JUDGE FEWELL: If you could step to the
9 podium, sir. And if anyone makes a comment that you
10 agree with, you can make that affirmation. You don't
11 have to give testimony if you don't want to. Even if
12 you have signed up, there's no requirement.

13 MS. LARM: I have several around me who are
14 saying that.

15 JUDGE FEWELL: Mr. Clervi, can you raise your
16 right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
17 testimony you're about to give is the truth?

18 MR. CLERVI: Yes.

19 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you state and spell your
20 name for the record.

21 MR. CLERVI: Art, A-r-t, Clervi, C-l-e-r-v-i.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, sir. You may
23 proceed with your comments.

24 MR. CLERVI: Well, I just want to say I was
25 very pleased to see that Ameren is looking at building a

1 solar facility. I think it makes sense in several ways.
2 It's cheaper and it's cleaner than other sources of
3 energy generation. And I think it's definitely a move
4 in the right direction. That's it.

5 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, sir. Any
6 Commissioner comments? Questions?

7 MR. CLERVI: Thank you.

8 JUDGE FEWELL: You may be excused. Bryant
9 Little.

10 MR. LITTLE: I yield my time. Thank you.

11 JUDGE FEWELL: Sure. Robin. I'm not sure on
12 the last name. I'm sorry. Starts with a C.

13 MS. CRANE: Crane.

14 JUDGE FEWELL: I apologize for that. Please
15 raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
16 the testimony you're about to give is the truth?

17 MS. CRANE: Yes.

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
19 your name for the record?

20 MS. CRANE: Robin, R-o-b-i-n, Crane,
21 C-r-a-n-e.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. What would you like
23 to tell the Commission?

24 MS. CRANE: I believe that we should be
25 putting funds into more reliable energy and long-term

1 reliable energy, and I do not believe that the solar
2 power at this time is one of those energies. Even
3 though it looks like it is more environmentally safe, I
4 do not believe that this information is correct. That's
5 my statement. Thank you.

6 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, ma'am. Scott Lowe.
7 Please your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
8 the testimony you're about to give is the truth?

9 MR. LOWE: I do.

10 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you state and spell your
11 name for the record?

12 MR. LOWE: Scott, S-c-o-t-t, Lowe, L-o-w-e.

13 JUDGE FEWELL: What would you like to tell the
14 Commission?

15 MR. LOWE: As I understand it, the federal
16 government has projected that over the next ten years
17 we're going to see a need for 2 percent growth per year
18 of energy. That doesn't sound like a lot, but
19 compounded over time it's like 33 percent over ten
20 years. That's a huge amount of increased energy usage
21 because of artificial intelligence and all the other
22 things we're seeing come into the world.

23 In terms of energy sources to address those
24 needs, I see solar as a huge stopgap for a lot of that,
25 a lot of daytime load. Especially I was only

1 disappointed that we're not doing more with batteries.
2 I'd love to see that too. But we're going to need all
3 of the tools we have at our disposal to address the
4 incredible demand that we're seeing across the country
5 for new electricity including here in Missouri.

6 I see solar as a huge part of the solution for
7 some of those challenges. I do agree with one of the
8 other commenters that said we also need to consider more
9 baseload type things or more energy storage. But I do
10 think that solar is, especially here in Callaway County
11 where we already have land that's owned by the energy
12 utility with transmission lines, that it's a really good
13 path forward. Thank you.

14 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, sir. Is there
15 anyone else who would like to offer their testimony
16 tonight? Okay. Sorry. Sir, if you can.

17 MR. HOLT: Hello.

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Hello. Can you raise your
19 right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
20 testimony you're about to give is the truth?

21 MR. HOLT: I do.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
23 your name?

24 MR. HOLT: My name is Cody Holt. That's
25 C-o-d-y H-o-l-t.

1 JUDGE FEWELL: What would you like to tell the
2 Commission?

3 MR. HOLT: With regard to the information that
4 I've obtained on this project that was represented by
5 the developers Ameren, this project seems unique in its
6 approach with regard to the land usage in that it is
7 Ameren's land that is being utilized, land that is not
8 rural farmland, land that is not adjacent to other
9 farmers, land that does not suffer the same ecological
10 impacts that might occur on natural farmland. While I
11 am not opposed to this project, I would caution the
12 Public Service Commission with future projects that
13 might be proposed by solar developers are tied in with
14 Ameren for utility tie-in to the MISO grid that solar
15 does carry significant risk when it relates to its use
16 on agricultural land that is adjacent to other
17 agricultural land that is not participating in those
18 programs.

19 JUDGE FEWELL: Are there any questions? Thank
20 you, sir. You may be excused.

21 Would anyone else like to give testimony
22 tonight? Okay. If you or someone you know would like
23 to make additional comments, there's a consumer comments
24 tab that can be reached via the Commission's website
25 psc.mo.gov. On the right side of the home page there's

1 a link titled submit comments. You'll click on that
2 link to submit your comments and make sure that you
3 reference this case number EA-2025-0239. There will
4 also be another local public hearing on Thursday that is
5 virtual at noon, and that may be easier to attend for
6 anyone that you're aware of that didn't come tonight.

7 Commissioner Kolkmeyer, would you like to make
8 closing remarks?

9 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes. Thank you,
10 Judge. Good evening. I want to thank everyone for
11 their comments, whether it was pro or con against this.
12 We welcome all comments. Like the Judge said, if you
13 want to add something else, please send it to that
14 address. On behalf of Chair Hahn and the entire
15 Commission, we want to thank you for coming out this
16 evening. So thank you.

17 JUDGE FEWELL: This hearing is adjourned.
18 We're off the record. Thank you everyone. Have a good
19 night.

20 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 7:08
21 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF MISSOURI)

3 COUNTY OF COLE)

4 I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do
5 hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
6 stenographically report the foregoing Public Service
7 Commission Local Public Hearing and that the transcript,
8 pages 1 through 14, is a true record of my stenographic
9 notes.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
11 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12 nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the
13 action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

14 Dated this 14th day of January, 2026.

15 
16

17 Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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