

1 BEFORE THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

3 In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric
4 Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri for permission and
5 approval and certificates of convenience and
necessity authorizing it to construct renewable
generation facilities.

6 CASE NO. EA-2025-0239

7
8 LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING
9 VOLUME 2
10 BEFORE THE HONORABLE KAROLIN WALKER
11 ON JANUARY 8, 2026

12 Commissioners present:

13 KAYLA HAHN, Chair
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner
JOHN P. MITCHELL, Commissioner

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20 Proceedings recorded by voice stenography,
21 transcript produced by computer.

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25 JODI T. WADE

PROCEDINGS

[Proceedings commencing in open court at 12:42 p.m.]

3 JUDGE: Good afternoon. Is this January
4 8th, 2026, and the current time is 12:42. My name
5 is Karolin Walker, and I'm the regulatory law judge
6 with the Missouri Public Service Commission. And I
7 will preside over this hearing.

17 The Missouri Public Service Commission
18 regulates investor-owned utility companies in
19 Missouri and ensures that rates are just and
20 reasonable.

21 The Commission also regulates the quality
22 of service and the safety of the operations of
23 investor-owned utilities. The Commission is made up
24 of five commissioners, and currently we have four.
25 The chair is Kayla Hahn and Commissioners Maida

1 Coleman, Glen Kolkmeyer and John Mitchell.

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

7 With me today are Chair Hahn and
8 Commissioners Coleman, Kolkmeyer and Mitchell.

9 Commissioners, if you have questions at
10 any time, feel free to interrupt me and ask them.

11 This is an official hearing of the
12 Missouri Public Service Commission, and the
13 statements and the testimony of witnesses will be
14 recorded by the court reporter and must be given
15 under oath or affirmation.

16 The Commission has not made any decisions
17 in this case and neither the commissioners nor
18 myself can answer questions about the issues in a
19 case today because the Commission must remain
20 impartial until after all the evidence is presented.

21 The court reporter is transcribing the
22 hearing so the Commission may review and read the
23 comments.

24 If you want to -- we want to provide all
25 the attendees an adequate opportunity to speak

1 tonight. We will limit testimony to only three
2 minutes. Once you finish your comments, please
3 remain at the podium in case there are questions
4 from the commissioners or the attorneys for the
5 parties.

8 CHAIR HAHN: Yes, thank you, Judge. Chair
9 Hahn on of the entire Commission. We want to
10 welcome you to the virtual public hearing this
11 afternoon on the reformed solar project proposed by
12 Ameren.

13 We know that you can do a lot of things in
14 your afternoon with your time, but we are thankful
15 that you are joining us, and we look forward to
16 hearing your thoughts and comments about the
17 proposal.

18 With that, thank you and back to you,
19 Judge.

20 JUDGE: Thank you, Chair Hahn. We'll do
21 entries of appearance now. First, Ameren Missouri.

22 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. Jennifer
23 Hernandez appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri.

24 JUDGE: Thank you. Commission staff?

25 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon, Judge.

1 Tracy Johnson from staff counsel's office on behalf
2 of the Staff of the Commission.

3 And my contact information is in the
4 record from the first hearing. But just for
5 posterity's sake, it's 200 Madison Street in
6 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

7 JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Johnson. The
8 Office of Public Counsel?

9 MS. VANGERPEN: Good afternoon. My name
10 is Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC. And we
11 are also located at 200 Madison Street here in
12 Jefferson City.

13 JUDGE: Thank you, Lindsay from the Office
14 of the Public Counsel. Are there any intervenors
15 present who would like to make an entry of
16 appearance? Like Renew Missouri?

17 MS. MERS: Yes, Nicole Mers for Renew
18 Missouri. And my information is in the record.
19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE: Thanks, Ms. Mers. Sierra Club?
21 Okay, hearing no one from Sierra Club.

22 MS. SCHAEFFER: I'm actually here from
23 Sierra Club, but I'm not here in an official
24 capacity. I'm here as a -- just to testify as a
25 citizen.

1 JUDGE: Okay. For those who would like to
2 provide comments today, I'm gong to call the names
3 listed on the sign-up sheet in the order they
4 appear.

5 When I call your name, please unmute
6 yourself, and I will place you under oath and ask
7 you to state and spell your name. And then you can
8 offer your comments to the Commission.

9 As I previously stated, we're limiting
10 comments to three minutes today so that everyone
11 present has an adequate chance to be heard.

12 Also, please remain muted until and after
13 you have been called. Please also stay unmuted once
14 you are finished testifying as the Commission or
15 parties may have questions to ask you.

16 I'll call the first witness. Bill Wilchet
17 (phonetic). I hope I said that correctly.

18 Okay, how about Elaine [sic] Diane
19 Schaeffer?

20 COMM'R COLEMAN: Judge, this is
21 Commissioner Coleman. Please remind those online to
22 punch "*6" to come off of mute. Sometimes it's
23 difficult if they're on the telephone. Thank you.

24 JUDGE: Thank you so much. As
25 Commissioner Coleman said, please press "*6" to

1 unmute yourself if you're on the phone.

2 Elyse Diane Schaefer?

3 MS. SCHAEFFER: Hello.

4 JUDGE: Hi. Okay, let me swear you in.

5 Can you -- do solemnly swear or affirm that the
6 comments you're about to give are the truth, the
7 whole truth and nothing but the truth?

8 MS. SCHAEFFER: Yes, I do.

9 JUDGE: Can you, please, state your name
10 and spell your name?

11 MS. SCHAEFFER: Yes, my name is Elyse
12 E-l-y-s-e, Schaeffer S-c-h-a-e-f-f-e-r.

13 JUDGE: Okay. You may proceed with your
14 comments. What would you like to tell the
15 Commission?

16 MS. SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Judge. Hello,
17 commissioners. Thank you so much for the time to
18 speak on this issue. My name is Elyse Schaeffer,
19 and I'm testifying on behalf of Missouri Coalition
20 for the Environment.

21 MCE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy
22 organization that seeks to empower Missourians to
23 protect their environment and their health.

24 MCE supports the proposed Callaway solar
25 project, which is a sound investment in Missourian's

1 health and our energy independence and in our
2 economic security.

3 For these reasons, I urge the public
4 service Commission to vote "yes" on this proposal.

5 Replacing fossil fuel energy with
6 renewable resources, like solar, is essential for
7 improving local health outcomes in Missouri.

8 St. Louis already suffers from some of the
9 nation's worst air quality and the most
10 asthma-related deaths in the country.

11 One of the primary drivers of our poor air
12 quality is its associate health impacts, and it's
13 associated health impacts is fossil-fueled based
14 energy generation.

15 The Callaway solar facility, therefore,
16 represents a vital step forward in protecting
17 Missourian's health.

18 Furthermore, burning fossil fuels releases
19 carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which increases
20 global and local temperatures and exacerbates the
21 severity of extreme weather patterns, like last
22 summer's deathly heat, the current drought
23 conditions statewide and predicted increases in
24 wildfires.

25 The important step in preventing

1 disaster-related deaths and health impacts is in
2 transitioning to renewable energy like solar.

3 Additionally, the Callaway project relies
4 on Missouri's own resources to add grid capacity and
5 takes advantage of the fastest energy sources
6 deployed on the market today.

7 Solar power, unlike gas or coal, does not
8 have to be imported to the state, which means that
9 changes in global or national landscape, political
10 landscapes are much less likely to effect the cost
11 of renewable energy.

12 For example, in 2025, gas fire generation
13 prices reached a ten-year high while solar costs
14 have decreased.

15 Callaway solar also represents a sound
16 financial investment because it can go online much
17 faster than fuel-based generation could. The
18 average utility scale solar project is operational
19 within the first year, twice as fast as new gas
20 plants can come online.

21 Most of all, investing in solar generation
22 is the best economic investment possible in the
23 energy sector today.

24 This very Commission acknowledged in 2023
25 that, quote, renewable generation is the most

1 affordable energy resource to replace coal-fired
2 generation plants.

3 Solar and wind power remain the cheapest
4 and fastest to deploy energy sources on the market
5 today, despite a hostile federal landscape for
6 renewables.

7 As everyday Missourians continue to face
8 economic challenges, keeping the cost of energy
9 affordable by investing in renewable energy is
10 imperative.

11 For the future of Missouri's economic and
12 environmental well-being, I respectfully urge the
13 Commission to vote yes on Ameren's Callaway solar
14 project. Thank you so much for your time and
15 consideration.

16 JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Schaeffer. Okay,
17 next we have Jenn DeRose. Hi.

18 MS. DeROSE: I'll spell my name.

19 JUDGE: Let me go ahead -- let me go ahead
20 and swear you in, please.

21 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
22 comments you're about to give are the truth, the
23 whole truth and nothing but the truth?

24 MS. DeROSE: I do.

25 JUDGE: Please state your name and spell

1 your last name.

2 MS. DeROSE: Sure. It's Jenn DeRose. The
3 last name is D-e-R-o-s-e. And I'm here today -- I'm
4 Jennifer DeRose. I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

5 I'm the Missouri ban coal organizing
6 strategist for the Sierra Club, which is the
7 nation's oldest environmental organization. We have
8 over 10,000 members and over 45,000 supporters in
9 Missouri.

10 So, I'd like to testify in favor of
11 Ameren's Reform Solar Project. I am thrilled,
12 ecstatic that Ameren is taking advantage of
13 federal -- federal tax credits to create a project
14 that will provide so many benefits for Missouri from
15 job creation to tax-based benefits for Callaway
16 County to affordable renewable energy for all.

17 My only complaint is that there aren't
18 more ambitious proposed renewable energy projects
19 from Ameren and all of the other utilities across
20 our state.

21 We are, as Elyse said, far too dependent
22 on burning coal from Wyoming to provide our energy.
23 This puts us at risk for market disruptions and
24 volatility as well as for potential supply-chain
25 issues.

1 We have the ability and the need to create
2 most of our own energy right here in Missouri
3 without subjecting ourselves to outside forces that
4 threaten our energy reliability and independence.

5 We need to be focused on energy
6 independence. We need to be focused on energy
7 reliability and energy security. We need projects
8 that stabilize or lower cost for households.

9 Solar is the most deployable and the
10 cheapest energy resource, especially when it comes
11 to fuel costs. Fuel is free with solar.

12 I don't want to see us fall behind other
13 states. And I'm sick, literally sick, I have
14 chronic asthma, from breathing toxic air here in
15 St. Louis. And that's partially due to, you know,
16 coal fire power plants that Ameren runs and
17 operates.

18 I really think we should be doing
19 everything we can to transition to a renewable
20 energy future and not clinging to the doomed
21 ideology of a fossil fuel past.

22 And I thank you and the Commission so much
23 for considering this project, and I thank Ameren for
24 submitting it. Thank you.

25 JUDGE: Mike Breault?

1 MR. BREAULT: Yep. Here.

2 JUDGE: Okay.

3 MR. BREAULT: Good morning. Okay --

4 JUDGE: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
5 that the comments you are about to give are the
6 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

7 MR. BREAULT: Yes, I do.

8 JUDGE: Please state your name and spell
9 your name.

10 MR. BREAULT: My name is Mike Breault. My
11 last name is spelled B-r-e-a-u-l-t.

12 JUDGE: You may proceed with your
13 comments. What would you like to tell the
14 Commission?

15 MR. BREAULT: Okay. I'd just like to
16 remind the Commission, perhaps in an irritating way,
17 that you represent all of Missouri, and the citizens
18 of Missouri are counting on you to care about their
19 health, as far as Ameren and power plants can affect
20 it.

21 Despite the national administration kind
22 of going backwards to the 1950s, many states are
23 advancing into the future, leaving Missouri behind
24 as far as pulling up renewable energy sources and
25 bringing them online. And I would love to see

1 Missouri keep pace with all of those states.

2 And solar power, wind power, geothermal
3 generation, that's the way to go. It's much, much
4 quicker than bringing coal fire, you know, dirty
5 coal plants, dirty natural gas plants online.

6 It's much better for the health of
7 everyone in Missouri, and I urge the Commission to
8 approve this project and maybe poke around to get
9 more solar and geothermal and wind power projects up
10 and running. Thank you. That's it.

11 JUDGE: Thank you so much. Two things, I
12 want to let everyone know I'm calling on people as
13 they signed up on a list beforehand. But anyone
14 else who wants to make a comment, there will be an
15 opportunity after the people who have signed up.

16 And the second one is, if you have a
17 comment that is something you've already said,
18 someone's already said, you are welcome to go on the
19 Consumer Comments tab that can be reached by the
20 commission's website at PSC.mo.gov. And there's a
21 link entitled on the right side of the homepage that
22 says Submit Comments.

23 I'll say that again at the end, but I just
24 want to let everybody know who's waiting and who
25 would like to make a comment, that they will be

1 welcomed to.

2 The next person who is signed up is Sarah
3 Felts. Sarah Felts? Okay. Jim Steitz?

4 MR. STEITZ: Yes, can you hear me?

5 JUDGE: Yes, thank you. Do you solemnly
6 swear or affirm the comments you're about to give
7 are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
8 truth?

9 MR. STEITZ: Yes, indeed.

10 JUDGE: Please state your name and spell
11 your name.

12 MR. STEITZ: James Steitz, that's
13 S-t-e-i-t-z.

14 JUDGE: Thank you. You may proceed with
15 your comments. What would you like to tell the
16 Commission?

17 MR. STEITZ: Well, I'll keep it brief.
18 I'll just point out that this is an incremental step
19 forward in a process that we really should have
20 completed about a generation ago.

21 I would have hoped that by the -- you
22 know, when I was younger, I would have hoped that by
23 2026 solar power would be the norm not a -- not the
24 exception, not a novelty, notwithstanding the
25 policy of purging scientific expertise that seems to

1 have taken hold at the federal level and the policy
2 of abnegation of our planet and of our children's
3 future.

4 I trust that the commissioners are all
5 scientifically literate adults and have absorbed
6 what scientists have told us about the need to
7 stabilize our climates, that is the most important
8 task before humanity today and sub portions of
9 humanity, such as the Missouri utility regulators.

10 The viability of this planet as a place
11 for human life is inversely proportional to the
12 amount of fossil carbon that we burn. And
13 conversely, the awfulness of St. Louis summers in
14 the future is directly proportional to the amounts
15 of fossil carbon that we burn.

16 As someone who lives in St. Louis and who
17 traditionally enjoys doing things outside in the
18 summer, I take this personally as well, as well as
19 just a member of our society who would like to see
20 human beings in the future flourish and not be
21 ducking for cover under a climate that is turning to
22 hell.

23 So, I encourage you to, naturally, to
24 approve this project and to keep the other eye on
25 Ameren with a persistent question of why this hasn't

1 been done 100 times over already and why is this not
2 the default any time that they request permission to
3 install a fossil methane turbine technology that
4 should have been foresworn a generation ago. Thank
5 you.

6 JUDGE: Thank you. I've got a message
7 from Sarah Felts. Ms. Felts, would you like to try
8 again? Hit *6 on your phone, and you should come
9 off of mute.

10 Okay, well, I'm going to move to anyone
11 else who would like to make a comment.

12 MR. ROTHE: I would like to make a
13 comment.

14 JUDGE: Okay. Can you -- let me go ahead
15 and swear you in, and then we'll get your name.

16 Do solemnly swear or affirm that the
17 comments you're about to give are the truth, the
18 whole truth and nothing but the truth?

19 MR. ROTHE: Yes, I do.

20 JUDGE: Please state and spell your name.

21 MR. ROTHE: Walter Rothe, R-o-t-h-e,
22 W-a-l-t-e-r.

23 JUDGE: Thank you. You may proceed with
24 your comments. What would you like to tell the
25 Commission?

1 MR. ROTHE: As we confront the escalating
2 demand on our energy grid, I urge you to heed the
3 stark warnings of US Energy Secretary Chris Wright.

4 Secretary Wright has emphasized that the
5 Midcontinent Independent System Operator region
6 encompassing Ameren Missouri faces immediate and
7 serious challenges to the reliability of our
8 region's electric grid with the North American
9 Electric Reliability Corporation assessing it at
10 elevated risk of capacity shortfalls over the next
11 five years.

12 The Department of Energy's Resource
13 Adequacy Report further predicts that power outages
14 could surge by up to 100 times by 2030 if reliable
15 sources, fossil fuel plants or nuclear, are retired
16 prematurely.

17 These type reserved margins cartel a hire
18 frequency of blackouts threatening homes, businesses
19 and our way of life.

20 And also, as far as data centers, looking
21 at what our neighbor PJM did, Kaboly (phonetic)
22 proposed that data centers, massive energy
23 consumers, must bring their -- must bring their own
24 capacity to on-site generation or storage or face
25 mandatory power cut offs during emergencies to

1 protect the broader grid.

2 This forward thinking approach prioritizes
3 reliability for all. Ameren Missouri -- and we
4 should champion -- Ameren Missouri should champion a
5 similar path and advocate for changes to Missouri
6 law or identify illegal loopholes to mandate that
7 data centers provide 100 percent of their own power
8 needs or accept curtailment at any time to safeguard
9 reserves. This isn't restrictive. It's resilience.
10 Unfortunately, solutions can be found here in
11 Missouri.

12 Sedalia-based PROENERGY re purposes
13 retired jet engines into efficient gas turbines,
14 like their TE 6000 units, which run on natural gas
15 or liquid fuels, to deliver reliable on-site power.

16 Data centers could help the community with
17 this innovative and most of Missouri's jobs and
18 energy independence and burning -- and turning
19 challenge into opportunity.

20 When Ameren generates surplus electricity
21 from renewables, offer it to data centers at
22 discounted rates. This win-win respects our
23 environment by maximizing clean energy use while
24 easing grid strain and keeping costs down for
25 everyone.

1 Thank you.

2 JUDGE: Thank you. Would anyone else like
3 to make a comment?

4 Okay, I want to go over this one more
5 time. If you or someone you know would like to make
6 additional comments, there is the Consumer Comments
7 tab that can be reached on the commission's website,
8 which is PSC.mo.gov. And it's on the right side of
9 the homepage there. It's titled Submit Comments.
10 Click on that link to submit your comments making
11 sure that you reference this case number:
12 EA-2025-0239.

13 Now, I would like to ask Commissioner
14 Coleman to make some comments to close the meeting.

15 COMM'R COLEMAN: Thank you, Judge. Thank
16 you very much, Judge. And thank you everyone who's
17 made comments today. We appreciate your input.

18 It's important for us as a Commission to
19 understand and to know and to hear from each and
20 every person that's affected by the cases before us,
21 whether you are a customer, an intervener, any type
22 of person that would need or have assistance --

23 Excuse me, Judge, I'm sending a message in
24 the comments from a woman whose first name is Kelly.
25 She has a question about submitting comments. And

1 maybe you can find that. I can't find it anymore.

2 I no longer can do more than one thing at
3 a time. I can't walk and chew gum at the same time
4 anymore. But I did want to bring that to your
5 attention.

6 And again, I'd just like to say, thank
7 you, everyone, for your time and attention this
8 afternoon. We appreciate your comments. Thank you
9 very much, Judge.

10 JUDGE: Thank you, Commissioner Coleman.

11 I want to say to Kelly and also Sarah Felts, who we
12 tried to get on twice, that you are welcome to make
13 comments. The Commission will welcome your
14 comments. And, please, make them on the website
15 PSC.mo.gov and submit your comments there since
16 we're not able to connect to you on the phone. And
17 I really apologize for that technical difficulty
18 that we are having.

19 Okay, we're going to adjourn the hearing,
20 and we're off the record. Thank you everyone for
21 appearing.

22 [Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.]

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

3 I, Jodi T. Wade, an Official
4 Court Reporter for the United States District Court,
5 Western District of Arkansas do hereby certify that
6 the foregoing is a transcript of proceedings which
7 occurred at the time and place herein designated,
8 consisting of 21 pages which was recorded by a
9 court-approved electronic sound recording means and
10 then transcribed via a computer personally by me or
11 under my supervision, and this transcript is a true,
12 correct and complete transcript of said proceedings
13 as reflected herein to the best of my ability after
14 listening and transcribing said sound recording.

Jodi Wade

Jodi T. Wade

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