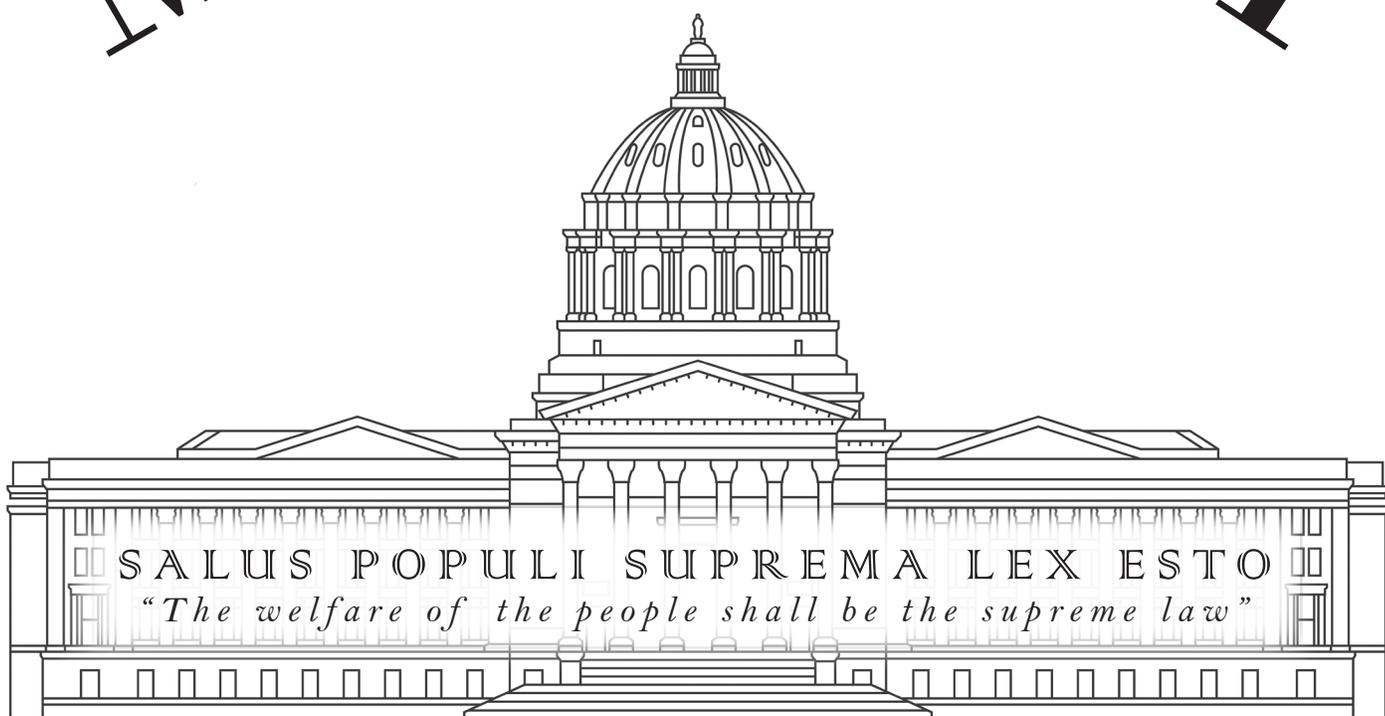


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Denny Hoskins  Secretary of State

the injection of “dirty power,” privacy issues, and issues with potentially being overcharged. Mr. Workman also discussed why he believes mechanical meters are preferable to digital meters. Staff responded noting that some meters are available without a communication module but will still have a digital viewing screen.

RESPONSE: The commission thanks Mr. Workman for his comments. The purpose of the proposed rule is to set out a process allowing customers to opt out of having an advanced meter or hub meter in compliance with the statutory requirements. Section 386.820, RSMo, defines “traditional meter.” Therefore, the commission does not need to define traditional meter beyond the language in the statute. No changes were made as a result of these comments.

COMMENT #12: Elizabeth Peterson filed written comments and commented at the hearing. Ms. Peterson stated that the language in the proposed rule is too ambiguous regarding the definition of “traditional meter.” Ms. Peterson believes the rule needs to specify that a traditional meter is an analog meter. Ms. Peterson believes that non-analog meters pose potential physical harm. Staff responded noting that some meters are available without a communication module but will still have a digital viewing screen.

RESPONSE: The commission thanks Ms. Peterson for her comments. The purpose of the proposed rule is to set out a process allowing customers to opt out of having an advanced meter or hub meter in compliance with the statutory requirements. Section 386.820, RSMo, defines “traditional meter.” Therefore, the commission does not need to define traditional meter beyond the language in the statute. No changes were made as a result of these comments.

COMMENT #13: Bob Peterson commented at the hearing. Mr. Peterson commented that he has concerns with electromagnetic waves and electromagnetic fields and believes that the commission and the general public have been misled by utility companies stating that these do not cause harm. Mr. Peterson commented that customers should have a choice with regard to analog and smart meters.

RESPONSE: The commission thanks Mr. Peterson for his comments. The purpose of the proposed rule is to set out a process which will allow customers to opt out of having an advanced meter or hub meter in compliance with the statutory requirements. Therefore, the commission finds no change to the proposed rule is needed as a result of these comments.

COMMENT #14: Catherine Cogorno commented at the hearing. Ms. Cogorno commented that she supported the comments of Mr. Workman and Ms. Peterson. Ms. Cogorno commented that she believed wire radiation and smart meters are causing health problems to herself and others.

RESPONSE: The commission thanks Ms. Cogorno for her comments. The purpose of the proposed rule is to set out a process which will allow customers to opt out of having an advanced meter or hub meter in compliance with the statutory requirements. Therefore, the commission finds no change to the proposed rule is needed as a result of these comments.

20 CSR 4240-10.035 Residential Advanced Meter or Hub Meter Opt-Out

(3) All utilities shall file with the commission a tariff that governs its advanced meter or hub meter opt-out process.

(A) The tariff may include –

1. A one- (1-) time all-inclusive fee, not to exceed one

hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125), for removal of an advanced or hub meter and to provide and install a traditional meter;

2. A monthly meter use fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15), for the use of a traditional meter.

A. The utility may propose a single monthly fee for all customers using a traditional meter, or it may propose separate monthly fees for customers who elect to self-read the traditional meter and for those whose meters are read by the utility. In no event shall a utility assess more than one (1) monthly fee per meter for the use of a traditional meter; and

3. An interest charge on any unpaid amount the utility may assess due to the customer’s failure to report usage or reporting inaccurate information in any given billing cycle. Such interest rate shall be no greater than five percent (5%).

TITLE 20 – DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE Division 4240 – Public Service Commission Chapter 10 – Utilities

ORDER OF RULEMAKING

By the authority vested in the Public Service Commission under section 393.140, RSMo 2016, and section 386.760, RSMo Supp. 2025, the commission amends a rule as follows:

20 CSR 4240-10.165 is amended.

A notice of proposed rulemaking containing the text of the proposed amendment was published in the *Missouri Register* on October 1, 2025 (50 MoReg 1376). Those sections with changes are reprinted here. This proposed amendment becomes effective thirty (30) days after publication in the *Code of State Regulations*.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The public comment period ended November 14, 2025, and the commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment on November 21, 2025. The commission received two (2) written comments during the comment period and two (2) people commented at the hearing. All the comments were generally in support of the proposed amendment with a few suggested changes.

COMMENT #1: J. Scott Stacey on behalf of the staff of the commission filed written comments and commented at the hearing in support of the proposed amendment. Staff stated that due to the passage of Senate Bill No. 4, the provisions of which became effective on August 28, 2025, the amendment was necessary to update the standards, requirements, procedures, and prohibitions for whenever the utilities participate in transactions with affiliates. Staff also responded to the comments of Spire Missouri Inc. as set out below.

RESPONSE: The commission thanks its staff for its work on this proposed amendment. No change was made as a result of staff’s general comment in support of the proposed amendment. The commission’s reply to staff’s response to Spire Missouri Inc.’s comments are set out below.

COMMENT #2: J. Antonio Arias filed written comments and commented at the hearing on behalf of Spire Missouri Inc. Spire was generally supportive of the proposed amendment but asked for clarification regarding how the “indirectly engage” language would be applied in order to determine if tariff changes would be necessary. At the hearing, staff

replied with a proposed change to section (3) to address Spire concerns. Spire agreed with staff's proposal at the hearing.
RESPONSE AND EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: The commission thanks Spire for its comments and participation in the rulemaking process. The commission agrees with staff and Spire that section (3) should be clarified and will make the recommended change.

20 CSR 4240-10.165 Prohibition on HVAC Services Unless Providing Services Required by Law or Providing Programs Pursuant to an Existing Tariff, Rule, or Order of the Commission

(3) Covered utilities shall develop a written qualification process for all utility contractors engaged in HVAC services and shall advertise bid opportunities to all such qualified contractors.