

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-2026-0183
and Approval and Certificate of)
Public Convenience and Necessity)
Authorizing it to Construct)
Renewable Generation Facilities)
and Battery Energy Storage)
Systems)

Wednesday, July 29, 2026
6:00 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 3
Pages 1 - 32

KEN SEYER, Presiding
SENIOR 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. 214983

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3 Public Service Commission:

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1 The following proceedings began at 7:35 p.m:

2 JUDGE SEYER: Let's go on the record. Today
3 is July 29, 2026. The time is 7:35 p.m. Before we go
4 any further, I'd ask that everyone make sure that their
5 device is on mute until I call on you to speak. If
6 you're using a landline phone or an older cell phone
7 with a mute button, star 6 will mute and unmute your
8 phone.

9 My name is Ken Seyer. I am a Regulatory Law
10 Judge with the Missouri Public Service Commission, and I
11 will preside over this hearing. The Commission has set
12 this time for a local public hearing to give members of
13 the public a chance to comment about the Application of
14 Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri for
15 Certificates of Convenience and Necessity Relating to
16 Three Battery Energy Storage System Projects, Two Solar
17 Generation Facilities and Related Transmission
18 Facilities.

19 The Commission case number is EA-2026-0183.
20 The Commission regulates the rates charged by public
21 utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates
22 are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates
23 the quality of service and safety of the operations of
24 public utilities.

25 The Commission currently has four

1 Commissioners. They are appointed by the Governor and
2 confirmed by the Senate. The Commission employs a staff
3 of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial
4 analysts, and other specialists in the field of utility
5 regulation.

6 Joining us online tonight are Chair Kayla Hahn
7 and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glen Kolkmeyer, and
8 John Mitchell. The Commissioners have not made any
9 decisions in this case and cannot answer any questions
10 today, because they have to remain impartial until after
11 all the evidence is presented at the evidentiary hearing
12 in this matter that is currently scheduled to begin
13 September 29.

14 At this time, Commissioner Mitchell, would you
15 like to make opening remarks?

16 CHAIR HAHN: Judge Seyer, Chair Hahn. I'm
17 going to help us open tonight.

18 JUDGE SEYER: Okay.

19 CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. Good evening
20 everyone. Kayla Hahn, Chair of the Commission. Just
21 want to take a minute and welcome you to our virtual
22 public hearing this evening. This is at least the third
23 local public hearing we've had in this case. We have
24 another one tomorrow. We have received several
25 comments. We look forward to hearing your comments.

1 It's early in the case process, so we will use those
2 comments and deliberate on them as we consider this
3 application. So with that said, on behalf of the entire
4 Commission, we welcome you and look forward to hearing
5 from you. Thank you, Judge.

6 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Chair Hahn. There
7 are attorneys tonight representing the parties in this
8 matter that are online. For the record, would each of
9 you identify yourselves and state which party you're
10 representing beginning with Ameren Missouri.

11 MS. GRUBBS: Good evening, Your Honor.
12 Jermaine Grubbs on behalf of Ameren Missouri. My
13 business address and contact information is on file with
14 the Commission. Thank you.

15 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. And then for the Staff of
16 the Commission.

17 MR. HENNON: Good evening. This is Douglas
18 Hennon. I'm an attorney with the Missouri Public
19 Service Commission Staff Counsel's Office, and my
20 information is on record with the Commission as well.

21 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. And then for the
22 Office of the Public Counsel.

23 MS. VanGERPEN: Good evening. This is Lindsay
24 VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC, and my information is
25 also part of the record. Thank you.

1 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Are there any other
2 attorneys representing parties? Okay. Then the way
3 we'll proceed with this hearing will be to call the
4 names of people who have indicated that they wish to
5 testify. When I call your name, please unmute your
6 device, I will place you under oath and ask you to state
7 and spell your name, and then you can offer your
8 comments to the Commission. We will try to limit
9 comments to five minutes per person. Once you finish
10 your comments, please remain online in case there are
11 questions from the Commissioners or the attorneys for
12 the parties.

13 Now, I was sent information that John Edwards
14 had asked to testify tonight. Is John Edwards online?
15 All right. I was also told that Jenn DeRose would like
16 to testify. Is Ms. DeRose on the line?

17 MS. DeROSE: Yes, I am here.

18 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Ms. DeRose, would
19 you raise your right hand, please. Do you swear or
20 affirm that the testimony you give tonight in this
21 hearing shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing
22 but the truth?

23 MS. DeROSE: I do.

24 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Could you go ahead
25 and state and spell your name.

1 MS. DeROSE: Yes. It's Jenn DeRose, J-e-n-n
2 D-e-R-o-s-e.

3 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Go ahead with your
4 comments.

5 MS. DeROSE: Thank you. I'm Jenn DeRose. I'm
6 a Sierra Club Beyond Coal employee, and I'm an Ameren
7 customer in St. Louis who really enjoys having solar
8 panels on my house. I'm still drawing from the grid, of
9 course, but my overall energy bills are way lower than
10 my neighbors and my bills are predictable and
11 manageable.

12 I want everyone in my state to enjoy the same
13 predictability and affordability I get to enjoy every
14 month when I open my bill from Ameren. I like celebrate
15 when I open my bills. I mean, I know lots of people do
16 not.

17 So renewable energy is affordable, reliable
18 and good for rural communities. It's better for the
19 environment than generation, and it helps ratepayers
20 save money overall. A recent Politico analysis of data
21 from the federal government in the energy industry
22 released in October of 2025, shows that states that
23 embrace renewable energy are far more likely to save
24 money from electricity than those relying on fossil
25 fuels or nuclear power.

1 The report goes on to state that in the 22
2 states with above average increases in wind and solar
3 generation over the past four years, 12 recorded power
4 price hikes below the national average. So solar and
5 battery storage is affordable energy. Once a solar
6 project is online, it provides affordable, reliable
7 power that unlike fossil fuel generation would suddenly
8 become expensive as fuel prices rise. Renewable energy
9 is the quickest to deploy and the most affordable to
10 build.

11 The cost of building new gas-fired power
12 plants is at a ten-year high where coal costs jumped 28
13 percent from 2021 to '24. So, these sort of projects
14 that Ameren is proposing can help provide stability and
15 reliability in an increasingly volatile energy market.

16 Solar is good for rural communities. Ball
17 State University released a study in May of this year
18 that showed how counties that welcome solar rather than
19 imposing strict restrictions had stronger economic
20 benefits, including stronger economic growth and
21 stronger fiscal expansion.

22 Missouri farmers, ranchers and other private
23 landowners receive over 29.5 million annually in
24 drought-proof lease payments helping to preserve family
25 farms and legacy farms. Clean energy projects invest in

1 local Missouri communities providing property, state and
2 local taxes totaling 28.1 million annually. And to put
3 land use in perspective, in Missouri golf courses use
4 44,959 acres of land where solar only takes up 6,778
5 acres. Corn takes up about 545 times the amount of land
6 used by solar arrays in Missouri.

7 Lastly -- This is Henry, by the way. He will
8 not leave me alone.

9 Lastly, I wouldn't be doing my job properly if
10 I didn't include the significant and environmental and
11 health harms avoided when utilities choose renewable
12 options over fossil fuels. Solar does not continuously
13 contribute to climate chaos the way that burning fossil
14 fuels do. Solar panels do not emit CO2 while
15 operational, nor do they leak methane gas the way gas
16 plants do. And we know that methane is a greenhouse gas
17 that has 86 warming potential of CO2 over a 20-year life
18 span.

19 Nor do solar panels emit deadly particulate
20 matter, SO2 pollution or NOx pollution while operating,
21 all of which negatively impact human health and whose
22 medical costs are shifted onto the public. For example,
23 Ameren's Labadie plant alone contributes to over 300
24 premature deaths per year. Someone is paying for that
25 and it's us. Our state desperately needs safer

1 generation choices and we need them now. As our
2 communities transition to healthier, safer renewable
3 energy, thoughtful planning and responsible siting can
4 help us work with nature to maximize benefits to local
5 ecosystems and community. So in closing, I really hope
6 the Commission will consider approving these good
7 projects. I'd love to see more projects like this in
8 Ameren's upcoming IRP.

9 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Ms.
10 DeRose.

11 MS. DeROSE: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge Seyer, I have a
13 question.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Yes, go ahead, Commissioner
15 Kolkmeier.

16 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, thank you,
17 Judge. Ma'am, did I understand are you comparing acres
18 of solar panels to acres of corn?

19 MS. DeROSE: Oh, yes. So there's a common
20 misconception that solar panels are taking up a lot of
21 valuable farmland in Missouri. And so I was comparing
22 it to both golf courses and then I was explaining like
23 the amount of acres devoted to solar to corn. Corn is
24 542 or something like that times the amount of acres of
25 land. I'm sorry if that's confusing.

1 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Well, are you
2 comparing or you want to replace the corn with solar
3 panels?

4 MS. DeROSE: Oh, no. I'm just saying that it
5 takes up a very small portion of our farmable land, and
6 so I know that this is a common concern and I really
7 respect that in rural communities and want to make sure
8 that they stay rural and stay farmland. There's way
9 more golf courses than solar arrays, many, many, many
10 times that.

11 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: I was confused with
12 your comment comparing solar panels to cornfields.

13 MS. DeROSE: Understood.

14 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Thank you.

15 MS. DeROSE: I'm sorry about that,
16 Commissioner. I hope that's clear.

17 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Thank you.

18 JUDGE SEYER: All right. I do not have anyone
19 else signed up to testify. Ms. Kliethermes, has anyone
20 else indicated they wish to testify?

21 MS. KLIETHERMES: Yes, I have sent you a few
22 names in the chat function, Judge, if you are able to
23 see. If not, the first one is Claire Mueller.

24 MS. MUELLER: Do I need to be sworn in?

25 JUDGE SEYER: Yes, I'm sorry, Ms. Mueller.

1 I'm not seeing those names in my chats, but yes, would
2 you raise your right hand, please.

3 MS. MUELLER: Yeah.

4 JUDGE SEYER: Do you swear or affirm that the
5 testimony you give tonight at this hearing shall be the
6 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

7 MS. MUELLER: I do.

8 JUDGE SEYER: And could you state and spell
9 your name, please.

10 MS. MUELLER: Yes. Claire Mueller,
11 C-l-a-i-r-e M-u-e-l-l-e-r.

12 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Ms. Mueller. You can
13 put your hand down. Thank you.

14 MS. MUELLER: I'm just really confirming my
15 name.

16 JUDGE SEYER: Go ahead, please.

17 MS. MUELLER: Awesome. So I am definitely in
18 support of Ameren finally adding some more renewable
19 energy. It's very affordable. The cost is down
20 significantly since its inception. It's definitely the
21 right move for us. It would make us more competitive.
22 Looking at things like Illinois' community solar, it's
23 something that we need to catch up on and this would be
24 a great instance of using it. It's more reliable. You
25 can deploy it in different ways, particularly with the

1 battery storage. I'm going to keep it short and sweet.
2 This is something that I really hope that the Commission
3 will move forward on both now and with future projects
4 as well.

5 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. All
6 right. Ms. Kliethermes, I am not seeing those names.
7 So if you could give me the next person who has asked to
8 testify.

9 MS. KLIETHERMES: I sure will. That would be
10 Jeff Holzem.

11 MS. SIPES: I'd like to testify.

12 JUDGE SEYER: Could you go ahead and give Ms.
13 Kliethermes your name.

14 MS. SIPES: Laura Sipes, S-i-p-e-s.

15 MS. KLIETHERMES: I will add you to the list.

16 MS. SIPES: Thank you. I just didn't know if
17 you got it before. Thank you.

18 JUDGE SEYER: All right. I'm sorry, Ms.
19 Kliethermes, who did you say was next?

20 MS. KLIETHERMES: Jeff Holzem.

21 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Mr. Holzem, are you
22 there? You were unmuted and then looks like you muted
23 again. So if you could unmute, please.

24 MR. HOLZEM: Okay. My name is Jeff Holzem.

25 JUDGE SEYER: Raise your right hand, please,

1 if you don't mind. Do you swear or affirm that the
2 testimony you give tonight in this hearing shall be the
3 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

4 MR. HOLZEM: I do.

5 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. And your
6 name is Jeff Holzem. Could you spell that for us,
7 please.

8 MR. HOLZEM: J-e-f-f H-o-l-z-e-m.

9 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Holzem.

10 MR. HOLZEM: I believe Mr. Wills said that
11 solar is the cheapest form of energy that they have for
12 generating electricity even without the subsidies from
13 the federal government. I would say we should be
14 building more solar instead of less.

15 It's faster to put it up because of its speed
16 at which we can put up solar compared to building gas
17 plants or coal plants or nuclear plants. So another
18 reason for doing it all the time. It's cleaner air.
19 Ms. DeRose spoke quite eloquently about that.

20 My only other concern is I fear that there
21 will be a sharing of the cost of building these
22 facilities with all ratepayers. It's pretty clear to me
23 that there are two major data centers right near
24 Callaway plant, for example. So, why should all
25 customers be paying for this. That's my question for

1 the Commission. That's all I have for right now. Thank
2 you.

3 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. Then Ms.
4 Kliethermes, the next name on the list.

5 MS. KLIETHERMES: Kellsy Macdonald.

6 JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Macdonald, are you there?

7 MS. MACDONALD: I am here.

8 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Would you raise your
9 right hand, please. Do you swear or affirm that the
10 testimony you give tonight in this hearing shall be the
11 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

12 MS. MACDONALD: I swear.

13 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Could you go ahead
14 and state and spell your name.

15 MS. MACDONALD: Kellsy, K-e-l-l-s-y,
16 Macdonald, M-a-c-d-o-n-a-l-d.

17 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Go ahead with your
18 comments.

19 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you. I am here in
20 support of this. I am a resident of St. Louis but I was
21 born and raised in Texas. I was out of state when the
22 big freeze of 2021 happened, and it was terrifying. My
23 mother and grandmother both lost power for several days
24 after the grid failure. Fortunately we're fine and even
25 better Texas responded. Since then they have put on

1 several gigawatts of solar and significantly increased
2 their battery storage capacity. Renewables are quickly
3 deployable and significantly cheaper to produce
4 dramatically reducing the strain on residents both in
5 their bills and their ability to power their homes. I
6 have much more peace of mind as my family ages that they
7 are better protected against the raging weather events
8 that will continue to worsen with our dependence on
9 fossil fuels. I chose a new home for myself here in
10 Missouri and I am pleading that we do everything in our
11 power to follow Texas' lead in embracing alternative
12 energy sources.

13 Besides strengthening the grid, I'm in favor
14 because I know that solar panels don't leach chemicals,
15 that sites are properly revegetated, and this
16 contributes to better carbon capture in the soils since
17 it doesn't have as much disturbance allowing the soil to
18 build itself up. We introduce pollinator habitats, that
19 battery failures from our best systems are rare and that
20 solar plants can be ripped up and the ground restored
21 and reused after their life span.

22 It's a significantly cleaner source of energy
23 and a cradle-to-grave analysis when compared to any
24 other generation source. I want to see a dramatic
25 increase in renewable energy and battery storage in this

1 state, way more than 30 percent of our current mix that
2 we're proposing in the IRP. Thank you for your time.

3 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Ms.
4 Macdonald. I am not seeing any further names of people
5 that would like to testify but --

6 MS. KLIETHERMES: Other than the call-in user
7 who just added her name.

8 JUDGE SEYER: That's right. I apologize. Ms.
9 Sipes, I believe. Ms. Sipes, are you there? If you are
10 there. Okay. Go ahead.

11 MS. SIPES: Hello. I'm here.

12 JUDGE SEYER: All right. And I know you don't
13 have your video on, but I would like to swear you in
14 before you testify. So if you would raise your right
15 hand.

16 MS. SIPES: Sure.

17 JUDGE SEYER: Do you swear or affirm that the
18 testimony you give tonight in this hearing shall be the
19 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

20 MS. SIPES: Yes, sir.

21 JUDGE SEYER: All right. And your first name
22 is Laura. How do you spell that?

23 MS. SIPES: L-a-u-r-a.

24 JUDGE SEYER: And your last name is what?

25 MS. SIPES: Sipes, S-i-p as in Paul-e as in

1 Elvis-s as in Sam.

2 JUDGE SEYER: Go ahead, Ms. Sipes.

3 MS. SIPES: Okay. First of all, I would like
4 to request that before any decision be made that the
5 environmental studies that have not been released be
6 released to the public, both site specific studies and
7 wildlife studies. Without those, I don't think the
8 public can make a reasonable assessment about the
9 viability of this or the reasonableness of this in such
10 a rural community.

11 My second biggest concern about the project is
12 the fire and safety risk. Lithium BESS facilities have
13 a history of thermal runaway fires that are extremely
14 difficult to extinguish and can reignite days later and
15 produce intense heat, heavy smoke and toxic gases like
16 hydrogen floride particulates. While large-scale BESS
17 incidents are rarer than small-scale lithium fires, they
18 pose a unique challenge for rural fire departments
19 especially in Silex, Missouri at the Mill Creek facility
20 which only has a volunteer fire department and basically
21 does not have the equipment to deal with a lithium fire.

22 It raises questions about response times,
23 water supply for suppression, and there is serious issue
24 about the massive of volumes needed to suppress fire in
25 this rural area that's heavily wooded in the area that

1 could start massive wildfires. Just this year the
2 Department of Natural Resources sent out letters
3 requesting rural residents clean up wooded areas and
4 easements along the road because the concerns about
5 wildfires and extreme temperatures.

6 And I think that that could be mitigated, but
7 we have not seen any proof from Ameren UE about their
8 plans for fire mitigation, including staffing of fire
9 departments that would be available to monitor this
10 project.

11 I'm also concerned about having a data center
12 there and the, you know, they said that this facility
13 was being built for a data center and I think that
14 there's no information about who's the data center going
15 to be, what are they going to be filtering and their
16 cleanup for the water and this is on our family's water
17 aquifer and the water aquifer that runs through there
18 and the massive amounts of water that it will require.

19 So I am requesting that the Commission stay
20 the proceedings until the plans for fire mitigation and
21 the environmental studies be released to the public and
22 specifically to Citizens to Stop Lincoln County
23 Corruption specifically to the Mill Creek facility.
24 That's my testimony. I'm asking -- In the alternative,
25 I'm asking you to deny the permit entirely if they're

1 unwilling to produce the environmental studies and their
2 fire mitigation strategy plan.

3 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Sipes, for
4 your testimony. I'm also seeing that Brandon Powers
5 would like to testify.

6 MR. POWERS: Indeed I would. Let me get my
7 video on.

8 JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Powers, you've got your
9 right hand raised. Do you swear or affirm that the
10 testimony you give tonight in this hearing shall be the
11 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

12 MR. POWERS: I do so affirm.

13 JUDGE SEYER: Go ahead.

14 MR. POWERS: Hold, please, while I pull my
15 notes up. Thank you very much. Hello. My name is
16 Brandon Powers. If you need it spelled, it's
17 B-r-a-n-d-o-n P-o-w-e-r-s.

18 I am a resident of St. Louis City. I would
19 like to state on the record that I am in full-throated
20 support of building battery storage and solar
21 facilities. Rejecting renewables is a defacto vote for
22 the alternative, and it would do a great disservice to
23 the public to cast such a vote.

24 The choice is binary. We squander our
25 financial and material resources when building

1 vulnerable infrastructure that depends on a continuous
2 stream of fossil fuel or we do the smart thing. We make
3 solar farms that keep generating power after they are
4 built and the battery systems that allow that power to
5 be used when it is needed. That is the entirety of my
6 statement. Thank you so much for your time.

7 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you,
8 Mr. Powers. And Ms. Kliethermes, correct me if I'm
9 wrong but I believe that's all that are indicating that
10 they wish to testify.

11 MS. KLIETHERMES: That would be correct. I do
12 see a few hands raised. I'm not sure if they would like
13 to testify.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. If you could check that
15 out for me since I'm a little technically challenged
16 here.

17 MS. KLIETHERMES: Jacob Burns, if you would
18 like to testify, please unmute.

19 MR. BURNS: I would.

20 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Mr. Burns, would you
21 raise your right hand, please, and prepare to be sworn
22 in. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you give
23 tonight in this hearing shall be the truth, the whole
24 truth and nothing but the truth?

25 MR. BURNS: I do.

1 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Go ahead. Could you
2 state and spell your name first.

3 MR. BURNS: Jacob Burns, J-a-c-o-b B-u-r-n-s.
4 I am a resident within the five-mile radius of the Mill
5 Creek facility. I'd like to testify my statement.

6 As this proceeding continues to develop after
7 the local public hearings through the staff testimony,
8 rebuttal testimony and any other filings, I request that
9 if any new substantial information is introduced to the
10 citizens have any opportunity to testify such as
11 additional developments or site expansion.

12 JUDGE SEYER: Whoever that caller is, please
13 mute. Thank you.

14 MR. BURNS: I respectfully request that the
15 Commission consider holding at least one additional
16 regional public hearing before issuing its final order.
17 Doing so would allow the citizens to review and comment
18 on the complete evidentiary record rather than only the
19 initial application and would further the Commission's
20 commitment to transparency and meaningful public
21 participation.

22 I believe the decisions of this magnitude
23 deserve the most complete factual record reasonably
24 possible before final action is taken. These projects
25 have the potential to influence Missouri communities,

1 agriculture, emergency services, land use, the
2 electrical infrastructure for many decades. Careful
3 consideration of these issues today will help ensure
4 that the future decisions are informed not only by
5 technical and economic analysis but also by practical
6 questions and concerns of the citizens who live with
7 long-term consequences of those decisions. That's all.

8 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Mr. Burns.

9 MR. BURNS: Thank you.

10 JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Kliethermes, has anyone else
11 indicated they wish to testify?

12 MS. KLIETHERMES: Sonja Pal has their hand
13 raised. You can unmute.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Pal, are you there?

15 MS. PAL: I am here. I'm trying to get my
16 camera to come on. I don't know if you can see me
17 because I can't see anybody else.

18 JUDGE SEYER: I can see you. Would you raise
19 your right hand, please.

20 MS. PAL: Yes.

21 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Do you swear or
22 affirm that the testimony you give tonight in this
23 hearing shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing
24 but the truth?

25 MS. PAL: Yes.

1 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Could you state and
2 spell your name, please.

3 MS. PAL: Certainly. My name Sonja,
4 S-o-n-j-a, and last name is Pal, P as in Peter, a-l as
5 in Larry.

6 JUDGE SEYER: Go ahead with your comments.

7 MS. PAL: I am a resident of Lincoln County,
8 specifically Silex, Missouri, and I want to go on record
9 that I oppose these projects that are before you. I
10 can't say it as eloquently as Jacob did, but the reasons
11 are there's too many unanswered questions. We do not
12 know the environmental impact that's going to happen in
13 our community. There are better options out there.

14 Many people gave better options to Ameren of
15 where they could put the solar, basically the solar
16 farms, top of buildings, City of St. Louis. There's a
17 lot of buildings down there that need help. Put them
18 there. We don't know the noise impact. We don't know
19 the future of the data centers that are coming here. We
20 do know that the water consumption for that is
21 astronomical. So I just want to go on record as a
22 citizen of Silex and Lincoln County that I oppose.

23 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Ms. Pal.

24 MS. PAL: Thank you.

25 JUDGE SEYER: All right. I believe that --

1 MR. BUDDEMEYER: I'd like to speak.

2 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. What is your name,
3 please?

4 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Roman Buddemeyer. I'm the
5 President of the Citizens to Stop Lincoln County
6 Corruption.

7 JUDGE SEYER: Excuse me, Mr. Buddemeyer. Mr.
8 Buddemeyer. Mr. Buddemeyer, before you make any
9 comments, I need to swear you in.

10 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Okay.

11 JUDGE SEYER: Do you swear or affirm that the
12 testimony you give tonight in this hearing shall be the
13 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

14 MR. BUDDEMEYER: I do.

15 JUDGE SEYER: Could you go ahead and state and
16 spell your first and last name.

17 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Roman Buddemeyer, R-o-m-a-n
18 B-u-d-d-e-m-e-y-e-r.

19 JUDGE SEYER: And you stated that you're
20 representing a particular group?

21 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Yeah.

22 JUDGE SEYER: What is that group?

23 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Citizens to Stop Lincoln
24 County Corruption.

25 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Go ahead.

1 MR. BUDDEMEYER: All right. What's happened
2 in so many places, the data centers sweep in, they
3 poison the water, they create noise, they raise
4 electrical rates, they make sure that they get
5 everything taken care of for them, and then when, of
6 course, these things only have a short life span.
7 They're gone in 10, maybe 15 years depending at best and
8 then they leave you with the white elephant. And that
9 infrastructure that they built up but then you have to
10 pay for to maintain because they ain't going to be there
11 no more and you're going to have to carry that load.

12 The next problem is following the path of
13 responsibility. Who really is behind --

14 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Judge Seyer.

15 JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Buddemeyer. Mr. Buddemeyer,
16 the court reporter is asking me to back up, I believe.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Could you ask him to back
18 up and please slow down.

19 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. So probably that last
20 sentence or two you might want to repeat. She's asking
21 just to slow down a bit. She's having problems
22 recording your testimony.

23 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Okay. As I stated, there has
24 to be representation of these people, names and places
25 that they can be contacted and/or given any kind of

1 subpoena to because in the end it's been proven many
2 times already that these data centers in other parts of
3 this country that it does damage. All right. It
4 damages the water table, the data centers, and leaves
5 them nothing because the jobs are a joke. There's
6 almost nobody locally that's ever got hired or used
7 other than the construction. After that, 10 years, 15
8 years down the road, there's a white elephant, because
9 these things will be obsolete and all that
10 infrastructure, all that electrical grid and the water
11 brought to them is going to be paid for by those who are
12 left holding the bill, which would be the citizens, all
13 right, because once they decide they're done and gone,
14 they're leaving, poof, they'll be gone and we're out of
15 it where we live. So we have to cover their back. And
16 they need to have a bond, something going that they pay.
17 It has to be a serious number because, again, once the
18 water table is gone, it's gone forever. It's like all
19 the radiation that was dropped in areas of West County
20 and out west of 94, Weldon Springs. That has been
21 destroyed. No one drinks well water there. You can't
22 have it.

23 Again, we have to have a trail, paper trail
24 and a legal trail to follow. And again, the studies as
25 I've heard other people comment have not been put up

1 front. There's been no actual facts laid down or even
2 predictions of what it will be like. And since we have
3 land there, the water is there to feed the livestock.
4 Once it's gone, they'll be no more livestock if it's
5 ruined. So anyway, I want them to say no on going
6 forward with anything now until everything has been put
7 on the table and they provide all proper legal follow up
8 of their representation, who is responsible, because
9 we're not making any money out of this.

10 There is nothing that we gain from having a
11 data center, nothing, other than somebody got a job to
12 build it, and that will be over because the jobs there
13 will not support anybody locally. It will only be
14 probably somebody else somewhere else, probably not even
15 in the state. So we need to make sure this is checked
16 on every way and followed up properly.

17 Last thing, again, I say ask yourself this
18 question. Is God's water that aquifer that's the most
19 wonderful water in our country? This aquifer is the
20 most important to our country. If that's ruined, then
21 what have we got? Paid for water? We have to pay for
22 water everywhere now? Bottled water for everything?
23 That's insane. You don't want that. So it's not a good
24 trade.

25 JUDGE SEYER: All right.

1 MR. BUDDEMEYER: Thank you very much.

2 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Mr. Buddemeyer. I
3 just want to verify with you very quickly. You had
4 mentioned, I believe, Weldon Springs. I wanted to make
5 sure Ms. Bentch was able to get that.

6 MR. BUDDEMEYER: That's correct, yeah.
7 Spanish Lake, all sorts of areas were destroyed by the
8 spread of radiation. It's no different than tainted
9 water that will be like heavy metals and stuff more than
10 likely where no one can drink it.

11 JUDGE SEYER: Gotcha. Okay. Ms. Kliethermes,
12 has anyone else indicated they'd like to testify?

13 MS. KLIETHERMES: No, they have not.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Then I will just point
15 out to all those people that are online, if you'd like
16 to -- After this hearing is over tonight, if you'd like
17 to make written comments on the Commission's website,
18 you can do that at psc.mo.gov, psc.mo.gov. On that home
19 page, there is a link on the right side that says submit
20 comments. If you click on that, you'll be able to
21 submit your written comments and if you will add the
22 case number with those written comments, I would
23 appreciate that. It is EA-2026-0183.

24 Before we end the hearing tonight, Chair Hahn
25 or one of the Commissioners, would you like --

1 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Commissioner
2 Kolkmeier here.

3 JUDGE SEYER: Commissioner Kolkmeier.

4 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, thank you,
5 Judge. On behalf of Chair Hahn and the other
6 Commissioners, I want to thank everyone for your
7 comments. We had a lot of really good comments from all
8 sides here this evening. And as Chair Hahn said, we
9 have not made any decision in this case because this is
10 at the very beginning of this certificate of need case.
11 So here again, we want to thank you for your
12 participation in this local public hearing here this
13 evening. So thank you, Judge. Thank everyone.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Commissioner. All
15 right. The hearing is now adjourned and we are off the
16 record.

17 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 8:10
18 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)

COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission Local Public Hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 31, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

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

Dated this 6th day of August, 2026.



Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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