

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

Case No. EA-2026-0183

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Moscow Mills Lions Club
30 Freise Industrial Drive
Moscow Mills, MO 63382

VOLUME 5

KENNETH J. SEYER, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

Reported by:

LEI ANN ODOM, CCR, RDR, CRR
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1 (Starting time of the hearing: 8:01 p.m.)

2 JUDGE SEYER: Let's go on the record. So we're on
3 the record. Okay. I'm sorry.

4 We are on the record. Today's August 26, 2026. The
5 time is 8:00 o'clock p.m. Good evening, everyone. My name is
6 Ken Seyer. I'm a Regulatory Law Judge with the Public --
7 Missouri Public Service Commission and I will preside over
8 this formal testimony part of tonight's hearing.

9 The Commission has scheduled this hearing tonight to
10 receive public input regarding the application of Union
11 Electric Company doing business as Ameren Missouri for
12 approval of certificates of convenience and necessity relating
13 to three battery energy storage system projects, two solar
14 generation facilities, and related transmission facilities.
15 The Case No. is EA-2026-0183.

16 With me here tonight is the Chair of the Commission,
17 Kayla Hahn, and Commissioner Maida Coleman. Also
18 participating online are Commissioners Glen Kolkmeier and John
19 Mitchell.

20 The Commissioners have not made any decisions in
21 this case and cannot answer any questions today during this
22 portion of the hearing because they have to remain impartial
23 until after all the evidence is presented at the evidentiary
24 hearing in this matter which is currently scheduled to begin
25 on September 29th.

1 At this time, Chair Hahn, would you like to make
2 some opening remarks?

3 COMMISSIONER HAHN: Thank you, Judge Seyer.

4 Thank you all for coming out this evening. I
5 appreciate you being here. My fellow Commissioners and I are
6 glad that we've got such a great turn-out. We feel -- we felt
7 that it was important to have this additional local public
8 hearing as we did hear some concerns about the late notice
9 provided for the last round of local public hearings and we
10 heard in particular that noon during weekday was difficult for
11 some folks to attend.

12 We also think it's important that Commissioners
13 attend the local public hearings, and due to a scheduling
14 issue in Eolia we were unable to be there in person, which is
15 another reason why we thought it was important to hold this
16 hearing this evening.

17 The portion of the hearing this evening is part of
18 the formal case process. As Commissioners we are not able to
19 hear information or testimony that is not part of the formal
20 case process. This is why we are unable to view or respond to
21 emails that are sent to us about the case and we are unable to
22 attend events or other meetings regarding the projects in this
23 case because they are not part of the official proceeding.

24 However, we can hear your comments and tonight we
25 have an opportunity to do so. This is the reason we are

1 prioritizing those who have not testified or provided comments
2 at one of the other local public hearings already held in this
3 case. It's also the reason we're going to make sure that we
4 limit comments to two minutes so we can be respectful of
5 everyone in attendance and make sure we get to as many folks
6 as possible.

7 And while this on the record portion is the time
8 you're able to share your comments, this is not the only
9 opportunity to share your comments. We do also have a public
10 comment feature, you can do so on our website or by filling
11 out public comment forms, and we also have a QR code you can
12 scan to enter your comments. If you see any of our staff
13 they'd be happy to help you do that.

14 Again, we appreciate you being here. We look
15 forward to hearing from you tonight. Thank you, everyone.

16 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Chair Hahn. There are
17 attorneys here today representing the parties in this matter.
18 For the record would each of you identify yourselves and state
19 which party you're representing beginning with Ameren
20 Missouri.

21 MS. GRUBBS: Good evening. Jermaine Grubbs on
22 behalf of Ameren Missouri. Thank you.

23 JUDGE SEYER: And for Staff.

24 MR. HENNON: Doug Hennon. I'm an attorney with the
25 Staff Counsel's Office of the Missouri Public Service

1 Commission.

2 JUDGE SEYER: And for the Office of the Public
3 Counsel?

4 MS. VanGERPEN: Good evening. My name is Lindsey
5 VanGerpen on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel.

6 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. This portion
7 of the hearing is more formal than the question and answer
8 session that proceeded it. We expect everyone to behave as if
9 this were a courtroom. The Commissioners and I understand
10 that many people have strong opinions about this case but we
11 won't tolerate people interrupting other's testimony with
12 outbursts. Not only is it disrespectful, it takes away time
13 to hear from all who wish to testify. Therefore, anyone who
14 interrupts another's testimony will be reprimanded and warned
15 that a second interruption will result in removal from the
16 building.

17 We also request that you limit your comments to the
18 projects that Ameren is proposing.

19 As for the procedure for the rest of the evening,
20 people will testify under oath or affirmation and a court
21 reporter who is online will be recording the testimony and
22 preparing a written transcript of the hearing to be filed with
23 the case. Those of you who have signed up to testify have
24 filled out a form attesting that your testimony will be true
25 and accurate but the persons testifying also need to be

1 formally sworn in. So now to save time I'd like to
2 simultaneously, all at the same time, swear in anyone who
3 plans to testify tonight.

4 So if you signed up to testify or if you have not
5 yet signed up but you think it's possible that you might once
6 you hear others testify, at this time I'd ask you to raise
7 your right hand.

8 (Prospective speakers sworn.)

9 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. In a few minutes I will
10 call people to testify in the order that people, excuse me --
11 in the order that people signed up to testify. When I call
12 your name, please step up to the podium and clearly state and
13 spell your first and last name for the court reporter. You
14 may then give your comments to the Commission.

15 I will try to let the next person on the list know
16 that they're up next so that they can either wait there in the
17 aisle or just be prepared to come up to the microphone so we
18 don't waste too much time.

19 As Chair Hahn said, we are going to try to limit
20 testimony to two minutes each, and our contract with the
21 Lion's Club here requires us to conclude the public hearing by
22 10:00 o'clock p.m. So if you are testifying I will either --
23 and you're coming up on your time limit I will either signal
24 with my hand in maybe this fashion or will verbally let you
25 know that you have 30 seconds of time remaining. You will

1 then need to wrap up your testimony.

2 Finally, priority, as Chair Hahn touched on,
3 priority will be given tonight to those who have not testified
4 in one of the previous local public hearings in this case. If
5 all others have testified tonight and time remains people who
6 have previously testified may be given an opportunity to
7 testify again.

8 And as Chair Hahn also mentioned for anyone who
9 would like to give comments to the Commission but did not get
10 to testify tonight, you may submit your written comments to
11 the Commission on our website at psc.mo.gov referencing this
12 case number. And as you may also have been told or noticed
13 that there is a QR code on the back of the "What to Expect"
14 handout that will take you directly to that comment form.

15 All right. So let's get started. First person that
16 I've been told signed up is Lynne Luckett. And after
17 Ms. Luckett is Linda Whittler. So . . .

18 LYNNE LUCKETT: I apologize, I took "hurry" out of my
19 vocabulary. Hi, there. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

20 JUDGE SEYER: Good evening.

21 LYNNE LUCKETT: I am Lynne Luckett, Mayor of the
22 City of Silex.

23 JUDGE SEYER: And Ms. Luckett, could you state or
24 could you spell your name?

25 LYNNE LUCKETT: L-y-n-n-e, L-u-c-k-e-t-t.

1 When I took office in August of 2023, about a week
2 afterwards we got an administrative order of consent from EPA
3 telling us we had to correct this radionuclides in our water.
4 We had to provide one -- one gallon per person per household
5 per day to our citizens. That cost us in the end \$55,000 in
6 bottled water and \$46,000 to fix the leaks we had.

7 The reason I bring that up is the plan that we went
8 with as far as getting water to us, clean potable water, is a
9 pipeline that we connected to in Eolia that directly falls in
10 line with this proposed lithium battery storage site. I am
11 concerned about contamination. I am concerned if, not "if"
12 but "when," it would catch on fire. All of that going to the
13 wildlife areas and the creeks that are there. It doesn't take
14 much for it to get into the aquifer. We don't know where the
15 radionuclides came from. And you know, like Elsbery has PFAS
16 from putting out fires in the '50's and '60's. So, and
17 environmental concern is great for us. I've contacted the
18 environmental agency in Region 7. They said they knew nothing
19 about this.

20 So I just wanted to thank you for having this here
21 and let you know you know what we're facing in Silex. We
22 can't afford another water source. Thank you.

23 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Ms. Luckett.

24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, ma'am.

25 JUDGE SEYER: Linda Whittler is up next and after

1 that Bret Martin. Is Linda Whittler here? How about Bret
2 Martin? There he is. And then after Mr. Martin is Gakita
3 Rahe, I'll say. I apologize.

4 All right. If you would state and spell your name,
5 please.

6 BRET MARTIN: My name is Bret Martin, B-r-e-t,
7 M-a-r-t-i-n. I'm a lifelong resident of Silex, Missouri and I
8 just wanted to point a few things out.

9 Outside of the corporate limits of Silex and Elsbery
10 and the surrounding towns everybody out there is on private
11 water wells. Most of which are, you know, not dug past
12 300 feet, especially a lot of the older ones that are in the
13 hundreds.

14 I know Ameren has said that their plan for the most
15 part in response to a fire does not involve the use of water
16 but their plan for the construction includes water storage
17 which by default means that to some extent they are planning
18 on using water to control some amount of the fire.

19 Ameren also spoke and said that all these
20 particulates, all these poisonous gases, everything that this
21 will put off, they're going to be heavily concentrated,
22 according to them they don't go past 20 to 50 feet, so they'll
23 be heavily concentrated in the immediate area of the fire that
24 they are anticipating using water on to extinguish or control
25 to some extent based on their inclusion of a water storage

1 facility.

2 So if they are going to be using water to contain
3 the fire, put it directly on it or the neighboring units of
4 the one that is on fire, and you have a high concentration of
5 all this toxic stuff that it's putting off, cyanide, whatever
6 they mentioned, in the immediate area and you're putting water
7 on that and stuff that they said that immediately binds to the
8 things around it, which I would assume would be, you know,
9 partially the other units that they're going to be spraying
10 with water, it's going to get into the aquifer. And all these
11 people have private wells, they're not going to -- and most of
12 the people out there the average income's not very high.
13 They're not going to be able to test their own water supply.

14 So I don't know what the course of action is on that
15 but that's my main concern.

16 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Martin.
17 Gakita Rahe? All right. And Don Ra-hay (phonetic), Rahe.
18 All right. And then the next one I have is Mike Roth. And
19 after Mr. Roth Mark Jadwin.

20 MIKE ROTH: Hello, my name is Mike Roth, M-i-k-e,
21 R-o-t-h. And I do thank you guys for allowing us to have this
22 meeting tonight.

23 Mine's a little bit different. It's more of just a
24 concern as a whole. We broke ground in our home in 2020.
25 Like some people in this room we chose to move far north

1 because we wanted the peace, beauty and low risk of disruption
2 that Lincoln County offers.

3 Lincoln County is defined by its rich agriculture
4 heritage, its rolling farmland and its livestock. For many
5 families here livestock is not a hobby, it is a livelihood.
6 We all know how central this is to our community. You have to
7 only look at the turnout of the auctions and the shows at the
8 Lincoln County Fair every single year to see the importance of
9 livestock in this community, including with the 4H kids.

10 With what is being proposed we are looking at a
11 project that may take away people's livelihoods and force
12 livestock to relocate. That includes businesses that have
13 been here for years to relocate with reputations that they've
14 built in this county. Excuse me.

15 If families have to leave their land where do they
16 go? I know we struggled finding a place in Silex when we
17 wanted to move out here. We chose it because of the school
18 district. To my understanding Silex and Clopton are fantastic
19 school districts. And at this point if it was to come in, I
20 do believe people will be uprooted to where they do have to
21 relocate and maybe even move towards -- more towards the city
22 of O'Fallon, St. Peters. We all know that farmland has been
23 taken up there, of course, over the years. Apartment
24 complexes, including probably apartment bans to where they
25 can't build because the land is being taken up.

1 JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Roth, you are nearing your time
2 limit.

3 MIKE ROTH: I'm sorry. I'm afraid that this project
4 may halt everything Lincoln County is known for. The
5 aftermath will put our neighbors' peace, safety and beautiful
6 landscape in jeopardy.

7 Thank you for listening. I appreciate each of you.

8 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. All right. Mark Jadwin?
9 Mr. Jadwin. All right. Next is Judy Batton.

10 JUDY BATTON: Hi. My name's Judy Batton, J-u-d-y,
11 B-a-t-t-o-n.

12 So in 2019 my husband and I retired. We moved to
13 Montgomery to have acreage and be around wildlife and we've
14 been going through the fight with Amazon, Google and for other
15 reasons besides being two miles from the data center and that
16 included we decided to move to Elsbery. So now I'm in the
17 same predicament.

18 We were told we were putting solar panels up to help
19 with our bills. Then they turned around and blindsided us
20 with the data centers. They've raised our bills before the
21 data centers are even built. And it's all been DNR-wise, we
22 don't know, you know. Now they're going to build the
23 batteries buildings.

24 But you mentioned solars. They said no, we don't
25 have anything to do with solars yet. Next comes data centers.

1 Totally against it. Who wants to live close to a data center?
2 Does any of you want it in your backyard?

3 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you for your
4 testimony. Next is Christopher Reineck, and then after him
5 Diana and Denise Baumgartner.

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's Christopher.

7 CHRISTOPHER REINECK: I don't have a speech written.
8 I just want to say that --

9 JUDGE SEYER: But before you do say it, could you
10 spell your name for the court reporter.

11 CHRISTOPHER REINECK: Oh, yeah. It's Christopher
12 Reineck, R-e-i-n-e-c-k. I live in St. Louis County. Is that
13 all you need?

14 JUDGE SEYER: Yeah.

15 CHRISTOPHER REINECK: Okay, thanks. But yeah, it's
16 -- it seems as if these battery centers pretty much go hand in
17 hand with, you know, a would-be solar farm. Everybody here is
18 most likely, as far as the residents go in the area, they
19 don't want either one of that in their, you know, area. Like
20 they have -- many of them have already said, they moved up
21 here, you know, to get away from it. And we're all seeing the
22 same rate raises throughout the service area. We don't -- we
23 don't want to pay more.

24 And as far as the cor -- between industrial growth
25 and residential growth and our increased demand on

1 electricity, from what I understand what is submitted to the
2 Public Service Commission from Ameren, part of it is sealed.
3 I don't know exactly what the public doesn't have access to in
4 those numbers but maybe just being more transparent about, you
5 know, this is the projected demand brought on by this and this
6 is the projected demand brought on by residents. Because I
7 know I'm not, you know, turning down my air conditioner to
8 lower and lower, I'm trying to save money.

9 And yeah, I mean, I just think that, you know, the
10 PSC, you guys wanna protest us and do that, you know, please
11 just listen to everybody here. Thanks.

12 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. All right.
13 Diana Baumgartner or Denise Baumgartner. All right. Next is
14 Jim Eaklor, and then after him would be Sophia Thompson.

15 JIM EAKLOR: Thank you. My name's Jim Eaklor,
16 J-i-m, E-a-k-l-o-r. I'm just voicing my concern. I live real
17 close to this said property project. I've got two major
18 concerns.

19 One, I've got a special needs grandson that is
20 sensitive to batteries. He has a shunt in his head. I don't
21 really got a clear answer from Ameren if there's been a study
22 on exactly what's involved with that. I mean, he can't be by
23 a cell phone, what have you. I don't know how much these
24 batteries put off but my question would be is he going to be
25 able to come over to my house anymore.

1 With this being said, my other concern would be the
2 water. As far as, you know, what is it going to be, what's
3 it's gonna do as far as like they said the wells and all that
4 that you have. And the fire and fume issue. I mean, we're
5 right there, you know. What do we do? There's not a real
6 elaborate plan to really protect anybody from this.

7 But that's all I have, and thank you for your time.

8 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Eaklor.
9 Sophia Thompson. And then after Ms. Thompson is Jamie Blair.

10 SOPHIA THOMPSON: Hello. I just want to voice --
11 sorry.

12 JUDGE SEYER: Could you go ahead and spell your
13 name, please.

14 SOPHIA THOMPSON: Yep. S-o-p-h-i-a,
15 T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

16 I would just like to address my concerns to the
17 Public Service Commission and ask that you would actually take
18 into account the whole picture of what you're hearing as it is
19 very obviously to all of us in the room a preparation for a
20 much larger system to be put into place. So not just what
21 they propose here today but what they intend to do matters.

22 So I would like to remember what they said earlier
23 that they did not deny a solar in the future for the Mill
24 Creek location and there's very clearly a lot of people who do
25 not want that to happen.

1 And also for the best system that there is not --
2 there were not studies published to the public at the original
3 Eolia hearing. They said they didn't have to release those
4 and they didn't actually do that. And so for us to be told
5 here today, well, we hope you read all of the studies, we
6 don't even know when those were actually disclosed to us.
7 That feels very dishonest because we were told at the original
8 Eolia hearing that they didn't have to disclose those. So
9 that does not feel honest. It feels very, very shady to me
10 for lack of a better word.

11 And then also that they really -- I just -- I don't
12 feel that they are actually being honest. Because when we
13 talk about -- I'm sorry, let me look at my notes. When we
14 talk about the capacity we were told that this was because
15 they wanted to fill the deficit for energy. So if that is
16 true, why can they not actually tell us any numbers about the
17 deficit that is existing. So it does feel as though they are
18 doing this to sell to other like states for income.

19 And so that is our concern is that they're not
20 actually being honest about the deficit that Missouri
21 residents are currently operating under. They should be able
22 to clearly express that to us and that was not done today.
23 They were not able to provide those comments earlier with
24 proof, with data. They had no -- for us. Instead, they just
25 said oh, we need it. Well, we have to take the -- we have to

1 take all of the risk as Missouri residents for a deficit that
2 is not our own and that should not be the case for us.

3 So thank you for your time.

4 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

5 JAMIE BLAIR: Hi, I'm Jamie Blair, J-a-m-i-e,
6 B-l-a-i-r.

7 So I'm a consumer, I'm an Ameren consumer, and a
8 rate payer and I'm from Audrain County. And I understand that
9 there was potentially a meeting in Vandalia that I never
10 received any sort of notice for so I was not able to speak at
11 that time.

12 So I would like to formally testify at this hearing
13 that I am opposed to the proposal for all five of the
14 different things that are in the proposal because I don't know
15 how my own county is affected because I haven't seen any of
16 the information about the solar field we are getting according
17 to this proposal or the BESS facility or where it will be
18 located.

19 And in addition to those concerns in Mexico which is
20 in Audrain County we already had like a natural gas pipeline
21 burst and everybody's still got a little trauma about that.
22 That was a few years back. And so I don't think we want like
23 a BESS fire situation happening.

24 And my largest concern in the situation is the
25 gobbling up of farmland, and I would like to formally put

1 forth my appreciation for the Office of the Public Counsel's
2 testimony. Thank you.

3 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. The next
4 person that signed up was Savanna Dickherber and then after
5 her is Craig Hall.

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's in the restroom.

7 SAVANNA DICKHERBER: Here. Hi.

8 JUDGE SEYER: Hi. Could you go ahead and spell your
9 name for the court reporter?

10 SAVANNA DICKHERBER: Savanna Dickherber,
11 S-a-v-a-n-n-a, last name is D-i-c-k-h-e-r-b-e-r. It is on the
12 board behind you.

13 JUDGE SEYER: You can go ahead.

14 SAVANNA DICKHERBER: Yeah. I'm not as well prepared
15 as I wanted to be because we don't get to talk about
16 everything that we probably need to because we know there's
17 future things coming. So I just wanted to tell you all that
18 we appreciate our linemen and women with Ameren and the
19 workers there, but we have trust issues with them. I think
20 everybody that has Ameren has trust issues with them and their
21 own reasoning for that.

22 There is a massive invasion of these projects
23 happening all around our country at a faster pace than any
24 other industrial revolution we have ever had. We are more
25 advanced in this century but it's obvious that these tech

1 giant billionaires are competing and have no care about the --
2 this -- sorry, the destruction they are going to leave behind
3 under the guise of clean energy. Although the infrastructure
4 being built for them is considered clean energy what comes
5 after is anything but. And I think most of us are aware of
6 that or should be by now. The advancement is not a bad thing
7 but the corruption that comes within the AI arms race, we
8 might as well say it for what it is, is going to steer us
9 directly down our own digital prison. I'll talk more about
10 that when we get to the next one which will be the solar farms
11 and the next one which will be data centers.

12 But we are experiencing one of the biggest
13 transformations in history and we are asking you to help us
14 delay it, slow it down at a more reasonable pace, in a more
15 transparent, safer way until all risks are managed. And I
16 sure hope that you'll choose us and listen to everybody here
17 because it's either us or it's corporate greed.

18 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. All right.
19 Next is Craig Hall and after Mr. Hall Erin Schaffer.

20 CRAIG HALL: Good evening, Commissioners. My name
21 is Craig Hall, C-r-a-i-g, Hall, H-a-l-l, and I'm a Lincoln
22 County resident.

23 And basically what I'm going to ask the Commission
24 is to put Lincoln County first over the data center needs. My
25 electricity bill is up about 12 percent year over year and

1 I've been told that's due to the data center usage that's
2 primarily come out of the St. Louis area and now it's growing.
3 And we heard tonight that we're not going to have a data
4 center in Lincoln County so we have no benefit to Lincoln
5 County.

6 Now, what I want to testify, however, is that the
7 proposed location is right in the middle of the White Memorial
8 Area and also the William Logan Conservation Area, and there's
9 a watershed there. And tonight I heard a lot about smoke,
10 pollution, fire. Heard a lot about water pollution. These
11 are two exquisite parks, nature areas, that are right in the
12 same location as the proposed area for this battery park.

13 And my question to the Ameren people are why can't
14 we go somewhere else? I mean, from a Lincoln County person, I
15 value the park much more so than a data center. I don't need
16 data centers, I don't need AI, I don't need to help the people
17 in St. Louis. I need to help the people in Lincoln County and
18 those parks and those habitat, those wildlife, help me. And I
19 just ask you to consider it. If you're going to do this, do
20 it somewhere else. It's a bad location, too much of a
21 watershed, too many animals, too much wildlife, and it just
22 doesn't work for Lincoln County.

23 So that's my point and I appreciate your time and I
24 hope you take that into consideration.

25 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Hall. Erin

1 Schaffer and then after Ms. Schaffer is Ann Reisinger.

2 ERIN SCHAFFER: Erin Schaffer, E-r-i-n,
3 S-c-h-a-f-f-e-r.

4 I came here tonight, my husband and I do not live in
5 Silex but we stand in solidarity with the people of Silex and
6 support them, especially those that are closest to where this
7 BESS facility is proposed.

8 What I wanted to talk about was based generically on
9 the information of lithium batteries that are typically used
10 in BESS systems and the emergency response to it, the
11 environmental issues to it.

12 And unfortunately you guys are only allowing two
13 minutes even though we've had a bunch of people not show up
14 here to be able to speak so we should kind of get that time
15 back.

16 But one of the things that I really want to
17 encourage for Public Counsel is -- and for Missouri Public
18 Service Commission I hope that you sit down with your lawyers.
19 I hope that you demand to any of these large companies that
20 are looking to come into Lincoln County to build these
21 infrastructure demanding facilities here, I hope you talk to
22 them about developer mitigation fees. Because asking the
23 local volunteer based Fire Departments to bear the physical
24 and the financial burden to be specialized readiness for
25 catastrophic events, which I do want to note Ameren said

1 they're using lithium phosphate batteries so that's the
2 information we have to go on, that these are going to be safer
3 batteries. If we don't get safer batteries and stored then
4 the stuff that I came here prepared tonight to talk about
5 applies and it's not pretty. But if a catastrophic situation
6 occurred, you're typically looking at a multi-agency response
7 that involves 30 to 60 trained personnel. That includes
8 hazmat teams, air monitoring teams. Lincoln County doesn't
9 have that. We share that. We have to share that with
10 St. Charles County and we have to share that with Warren
11 County.

12 JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Schaffer, you are at your time
13 limit.

14 ERIN SCHAFFER: Wonderful. Appreciate that.

15 JUDGE SEYER: So --

16 ERIN SCHAFFER: Yeah, hurry it up.

17 JUDGE SEYER: -- if you could wrap it up.

18 ERIN SCHAFFER: Yeah. Sure. No problem. But I
19 wholeheartedly urge the Missouri Public Commission -- Service
20 Commission to put a moratorium in place and to connect with
21 the local officials and the fire departments to give an honest
22 and a responsible, not some BS review, a responsible review of
23 how those types of projects will impact the county from a
24 safety standpoint and a water usage standpoint.

25 JUDGE SEYER: Ann Reisinger, and then next after her

1 is Mary Geeding.

2 ANN REISINGER: My name is Ann Reisinger, A-n-n,
3 R-e-i-s-i-n-g-e-r. I live in Silex.

4 I've heard lots of things tonight and I feel like we
5 are not getting the transparency that we need. We -- they say
6 one thing and then they say another thing. They say no solar
7 farm, then they go well, yeah, we are looking at land for a
8 solar farm. Once you get a battery system here, that's going
9 to be their next thing. And if you say yes to the battery
10 system it's going to be -- a solar farm.

11 I have a Type 1 diabetic child -- grandchild. He
12 relies on a cell phone to get his readings from his devices.
13 If you put a battery system and a solar farm here solar farms
14 can affect cellular usage. In the middle of the night I need
15 to have that beep go off when he -- that is a medical
16 emergency. -- hard of what you're asking our community to
17 have and what the impact is.

18 I want transparency, I want enforceable protections,
19 and I want independent information, not just the information
20 that Ameren themselves have gotten. I want it from somebody
21 independent that has no stake in the game. Thank you.

22 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you for your testimony. Mary
23 Geeding and then after Ms. Geeding is Rodney Huckleberry.

24 MARY GEEDING: Hello. My name is Mary Geeding, it's
25 M-a-r-y, G-e-e-d-i-n-g.

1 I wanted to go ahead and start with talking about
2 the fire tests Ameren says these batteries have passed. The
3 fire standard Ameren says it must follow and the battery
4 Ameren is actually proposing, all three in are in Ameren's
5 words. We'll start with the standards.

6 Ameren's August notice tells the community that
7 before an energy storage system can be installed it must also
8 comply with the NFPA 855 and that the batteries are required
9 to pass rigorous testing, including the UL 9540A for fire
10 propagation. The authority it sites for that is a product web
11 page from the battery vendor. The Commission's own staff
12 found something different. No locally adopted ordinances or
13 fire codes apply to that site. And NFPA 855 itself exempts
14 outdoor facilities under the exclusive control of an
15 electrical utility.

16 This site is outdoors. Ameren controls it. So
17 nothing requires Ameren to comply with the NFPA 855 here and
18 nothing requires a UL 9540A test here. Ameren is exempt from
19 the standard by law and bound to it only by its own notice.
20 "Must comply" means "chooses to" for now.

21 Now, the test is not something a battery passes. It
22 is a test method. It burns a cell of molecule a unit in an
23 installation and it reports what happened. How hot, what
24 gases, whether the fire spread. So that an engineer can
25 perform a hazard analysis. The output is data. Describing it

1 as "pass" tells the Commission nothing about what the data
2 showed. Staff asked Ameren whether that hazard analysis has
3 been performed. Ameren answers and redacted Staff's
4 recommended and proposes to receive it when completed.

5 Now the battery. Staff --

6 JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Geeding, you are at your limit.
7 If you could wrap it up, please.

8 MARY GEEDING: Yes. Now the battery. Staff
9 identifies the proposed unit as the Tesla Megapack 3. That
10 unit began production on August 6 of this year, 20 days before
11 tonight. It holds about five megawatt hours up from 3.9 for
12 the unit Ameren is installing at Big Hollow and it gets there
13 with a new larger cell and a redesigned cooling system. It is
14 not the unit Ameren has built before. Ameren's application
15 swears to approximately 240 battery enclosures.

16 JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Geeding, I believe we are -- we
17 will have time when all that are on the -- if you'd like to
18 stick around and continue with that.

19 MARY GEEDING: Okay.

20 JUDGE SEYER: On a second -- on a second round.
21 Thank you. All right. Rodney Huckleberry.

22 RODNEY HUCKLEBERRY: Yeah, Rodney Huckleberry,
23 R-o-d -- sorry.

24 JUDGE SEYER: I'm sorry.

25 RODNEY HUCKLEBERRY: What?

1 JUDGE SEYER: I'm sorry, Mr. Huckleberry. Yes, Ms.
2 VanGerpen.

3 MS. VanGERPEN: I think my -- there we go. We just
4 had a brief question for Ms. Geeding. I wondered if I could
5 ask her to come back.

6 JUDGE SEYER: Yes. If you'd come back to the
7 microphone, please.

8 MARY GEEDING: Yes.

9 MS. VanGERPEN: Thank you. Ms. Geeding, could you
10 repeat that standard that you cited to just a little bit
11 slower?

12 DR. MARKE: I think there were two that you
13 referenced.

14 MARY GEEDING: The NFPA 855?

15 DR. MARKE: 855?

16 MARY GEEDING: Yes. And UL 9540A. And I do have
17 citations with me as well.

18 DR. MARKE: I'm sorry, was it ULR --

19 MARY GEEDING: UL 9540A. And I believe this is
20 included in the packet I gave you earlier.

21 DR. MARKE: Absolutely. Thank you.

22 MARY GEEDING: Thank you.

23 MS. VanGERPEN: Thank you. Thank you, Judge.

24 JUDGE SEYER: All right. And you are Mr.
25 Huckleberry. But I also would like to let the crowd know that

1 after you is Tess Crenshaw. So Mr. Huckleberry, could you
2 spell your name please for the court reporter.

3 RODNEY HUCKLEBERRY: Yes, sir. Rodney Huckleberry,
4 R-o-d-n-e-y, H-u-c-k-l-e-b-e-r-r-y.

5 I'm speaking in opposition to the BESS system and
6 the other things that are coming with it. This is my third
7 meeting that I've been to. It's the first one that I've
8 spoken at. And it's interesting that I haven't heard any
9 testimony at any of the three meetings in support of this. So
10 I just wanted to get that point out.

11 I gotta say I don't fault the landowners for selling
12 their property or leasing their property for the system. Even
13 though it's not supposed to be known but everybody knows it's
14 pretty exorbitant price that it was sold or leased for.
15 Personally I wouldn't sell my land for anything.

16 So the other thing is, is I don't know how long this
17 transmission line is. You can't tell me that there isn't some
18 non -- unproductive land somewhere along that transmission
19 line or in this region grid that is not productive farmland
20 where these -- the battery system could be put. Apparently,
21 there's no solar farm or anything associated with it so it can
22 be split off and it could be put anywhere.

23 And then looking at the map of all the solar
24 facilities in Missouri, there's 39 of them I think and 28 of
25 them are in rural areas. And I presume, I don't have the

1 facts on that, most of them are in areas where there's no
2 planning and zoning. And I got a feeling that these places
3 are being targeted because of economical factors and not being
4 able to -- that have lower regulations for what they have to
5 comply with with no planning and zoning in these areas.

6 Thank you.

7 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you,
8 Mr. Huckleberry. Tess Crenshaw and then Fred Schmidt.

9 TESS CRENSHAW: Tess Crenshaw, T-e-s-s,
10 C-r-e-n-s-h-a-w.

11 JUDGE SEYER: And I am going to ask you to speak up
12 a little bit.

13 TESS CRENSHAW: Yeah. Sorry.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Or maybe be a little too much. That's
15 better. Thank you.

16 TESS CRENSHAW: Okay. I've been in Lincoln County
17 my entire life. Live in Silex now.

18 Ameren publicly marketed this project as financial
19 windfall that will provide stable, predictable revenue for the
20 next 20 years to support our roads, county services, the Silex
21 School District. This claim is highly misleading. Under
22 Missouri tax law industrial battery equipment depreciates
23 rapidly. This revenue will not be stable, it will peak and
24 then plummet year after year as the equipment loses value,
25 leaving our school district with a shrinking asset.

1 Also Ameren hasn't stated if they will seek Chapter
2 100 tax abatements or local exemptions that should slash the
3 project funds in half. Meanwhile the construction of this
4 facility will send hundreds of industrial haulers and concrete
5 trucks tearing through our roads. The minimal tax revenue
6 generated will barely cover structural destruction done to our
7 local chip and shale roads and bridges.

8 Also Ameren's -- stored -- the energy stored in
9 their batteries will be dispatched throughout the entire
10 Missouri grid and not just in Lincoln County. So why should
11 we bear 100 percent of the industrial footprint safety
12 hazards, road destruction while the four-hour battery power
13 exported throughout the entire Missouri area.

14 The project does not serve our community,
15 convenience or necessity. It's dangerous, industrial mismatch
16 for our rural community. I strongly urge the Commission to
17 deny this application.

18 JUDGE SEYER: All right.

19 TESS CRENSHAW: Thank you.

20 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Ms. Crenshaw. All right.
21 Fred Schmidt and then Jeff Hamann. Mr. Schmidt.

22 FRED SCHMIDT: Yes. Good evening. Fred Schmidt,
23 F-r-e-d, S-c-h-m-i-d-t.

24 I am here because of the certificate of convenience
25 and necessity is for Ameren. It is not -- I'm sorry,

1 Commissioners. I'm going to ask the Commissioners to meet and
2 exceed their requirements. Ameren is picking this spot
3 because they're going in the Silex Fire District that does not
4 have an ICC code. If they would locate on the other end of
5 the property they would fall under Eolia ICC 2024 code so then
6 we would have inspections, we would have reviews, we would
7 have a higher standard. They've also picked this location
8 because we don't have planning and zoning, and planning and
9 zoning the City -- or the County Commissioners can't (audio
10 disruption) do this.

11 I went to MoDOT, the -- across the highway is
12 scheduled for improvement in '28 because of the dangerous and
13 the safety and they said they can't do anything about it, you
14 know, to do anything to Ameren to make them do the road
15 improvements or wait until the safety is good for the
16 community because they don't have authority over it.

17 So it leads it down to the Public Service Commission
18 to do what we need to be done. That is, require them, they
19 are going to tell you we meet the standards, you know, we meet
20 the code, and that's the same as saying we're doing the
21 minimum that we have to do and that we could do more, we know
22 we should do more, and there are more availability but if the
23 PSC doesn't make us do it we don't.

24 So I just need you to step up your game to step this
25 opportunity up. Thank you.

1 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. All right.
2 Jeff Hamann and then Joseph Gray.

3 JEFF HAMANN: Hello, my name is Jeff Hamann, spelled
4 J-e-f-f, H-a-m-a-n-n. I have a lot more to say than will fit
5 in two minutes so I'm going to go pretty fast.

6 From Ameren UE's own website: Ameren's company-wide
7 goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045 is science based and
8 consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement in
9 limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. If
10 you go to the websites of the top ten AI data center operators
11 you'll find that all ten are committed to 100 percent
12 renewable or something like that but sometime between the
13 years 2030 and 2045.

14 Just two days ago the Attorneys General of four
15 states -- Texas, Nebraska, Florida and Alaska -- confronted
16 the big four accounting firms over their requiring clients to
17 report compliance with international climate goals even if
18 that didn't matter to that particular client. Further,
19 requiring climate disclosures adds profits to those four big
20 accounting firms.

21 The simple fact of the matter is Co2 is plant food.
22 If you look around and if you read -- you read the materials
23 where this has been studied, we're growing more vegetation on
24 the earth and that's a good thing. The record high
25 temperature in the state of Missouri was set in July of 1954.

1 That was 70 years ago. Why are we doing renewable energy?
2 It's not necessary.

3 JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Hamann.

4 JEFF HAMANN: Yep.

5 JUDGE SEYER: You've got about 30 seconds.

6 JEFF HAMANN: Okay, thanks. Ameren EU is owned
7 about 78 percent, I just checked that this morning, by
8 institutional investors. These are people who live out of
9 state, who don't know us from a hole in the wall, who they
10 care about the stock price, they care about the dividend. If
11 some little folks get stepped on that's probably the cost of
12 doing business.

13 And so I would ask the Public Service Commission for
14 us who are -- as we're in the nosebleed section, we're getting
15 steamrolled by a really big system that's doing things that
16 are not necessary. Please vote no for this project and
17 protect the little people before we get steamrolled. Thank
18 you.

19 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Next up is Joseph Gray and
20 then Andrea Young.

21 JOSEPH GRAY: Hello. Thank you for coming tonight.
22 My name's Joseph Gray, J-o-s-e-p-h, G-r-a-y. I live in
23 southern Pike County very close to Eolia. I am a graduate
24 University of Missouri-Rolla and a degree in engineering.

25 Tonight the Ameren fire expert with the safety

1 department -- had made on a thermal runaway on a battery
2 system in Surprise, Arizona and they've been learning over the
3 last 15 years. Studies only cover what has already happened.
4 Happened in the past. And then as an engineer and I do, we
5 use that as your new benchmark. So it's a moving goalpost.
6 Just because they're stating things today, I guarantee you
7 that's going to be different in the future. Wind turbines are
8 example. You know, blades were supposed to last 20 years and
9 they're already replacing them and trying to figure out where
10 to go with them and what to do with them and they're a
11 problem.

12 Some of the other things about this battery system
13 is, again, it's real easy to do "what if" scenarios in a
14 static situation. We can contain this unit, let it burn and
15 cool the other units around it. I didn't hear any talk of
16 tornado, flash flooding, a lightning strike, you know. All
17 these things that, again, we're in a rural, very rural
18 setting.

19 At the previous meeting in Eolia I mentioned in this
20 testimony the vocational school that we use their room has a
21 full blown water tower next to it. There was a fire in that
22 school and it burned to the ground. And the firefighters,
23 rural firefighters, volunteers, with --you know, they don't
24 have the equipment that I'm sure the safety expert with his
25 firefighting capability uses in the City of St. Louis or that

1 area. But they couldn't save that and they even needed
2 additional water to drive up nearly to Bowling Green to fight
3 that fire. It's just a different animal out here.

4 Last point I want to make is when I questioned the
5 Ameren folks, you know, there's this need for energy. Was it
6 a need for energy for the average homeowner or farmer here or
7 small manufacturer. Or is it because they want this data
8 center. I really don't know. But it's not giving me a warm
9 fuzzy feeling.

10 When I asked about these gas turbine generating
11 sites in Vandalia and Bowling Green, how often they're used,
12 five of them at that table are kinda scratching their head and
13 looking at one another because it's -- I guess they don't
14 know. But the answer I got sounded like less than 10 percent
15 of the time. So they're available too. But I think like the
16 last speaker said, you know, using gas turbines isn't green.
17 It's not the "in" thing to do.

18 Well, we have to utilize all our resources that this
19 amazing country has and do it smart. And the farm ground that
20 we have in this area is amazing, this country's amazing in
21 what we can produce. We need to preserve that and use that
22 for what it's meant for.

23 JUDGE SEYER: Okay.

24 JOSEPH GRAY: Thank you very much for your time.

25 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Mr. Gray. And Andrea

1 Young.

2 ANDREA YOUNG: I'm Andrea Young, A-n-d-r-e-a,
3 Y-o-u-n-g.

4 I spoke at the Eolia meeting and was not planning to
5 speak tonight but this is the second meeting I've sat through
6 where I've listened to Ameren UE's people be as disingenuous
7 as they could possibly be about what it is they want to do and
8 the dangers of the BESS. I mean, I've looked at what -- the
9 information that our firefighters have been given about the
10 environmental hazards of something like this and it is not
11 what they're telling us. All right?

12 This area is farmland, it is watershed. It is
13 precious stuff. Okay? And they -- Ameren wants to come in
14 here, put in this BESS and put in a solar thing that they
15 don't want to tell us they're putting in so they can
16 eventually sell the electricity to some data center which we
17 sure as heck don't want here. Nobody in this state wants
18 those things except the politicians.

19 And we need you guys to see us. Okay? We need you
20 to see us. Because your name is the Public Service Commission
21 and we are the public. Okay?

22 And if I ask how many times you've denied Ameren UE
23 I know the answer. So maybe it's time you reconsider how you
24 view places like this. Because we didn't just fall off the
25 turnip truck. We know what's coming at us. And we are not

1 stupid people. And we have value here. This place has value.
2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Ms. Young. That concludes
4 the people that I'm aware of that had signed up to testify.
5 Are there others who have not signed up but would like to
6 testify? Yes, sir. And all I would ask you is that after
7 you're done testifying if you can grab one of those clipboards
8 and fill out your information and leave it with the staff in
9 the back of the room before you leave.

10 JAMES GORDON: I already filled one out.

11 JUDGE SEYER: Oh. Gotcha.

12 JAMES GORDON: Yeah.

13 JUDGE SEYER: And if you could state and spell your
14 name please.

15 JAMES GORDON: Yeah. So my name is James Gordon.
16 That's J-a-m-e-s, G-o-r-d-o-n. I live in Boone County. And I
17 am an organizer with Missouri Rural Crisis Center.

18 I am here tonight because multiple people
19 independently reached out to our offices, asking us what was
20 going on here tonight and asking us to show up for this. MRCC
21 opposes any industrial development that would ruin our
22 farmland, raid our natural resources and wreck our
23 livelihoods.

24 In June I attended the Governor's Forum on
25 Artificial Intelligence and Data Centers that was held down in

1 Rolla at the Missouri S&T. During his opening remarks in
2 reference to the concerns of all Missourians Governor Mike
3 Kehoe offered a very simple message: Your rates are going up.
4 As if that were some force of nature. As if there is nothing
5 that our elected or appointed officials could do on our behalf
6 except perhaps smooth the trendline of our rise in consumer
7 costs as if the rising profits of companies like Ameren could
8 not be challenged in any way.

9 What I hope you take away from us tonight is that
10 the people here in this community and in communities all
11 across Missouri, they demand better. We want a future where
12 we can all afford to meet our basic needs and we do not have
13 to ruin our land in order to have that. If Ameren is going to
14 make a little less money next year, if their shareholders are
15 going to get a smaller return on their investment, we want you
16 to know we're okay with that. Thank you.

17 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. All right. Is there
18 anyone else who is -- who would like to testify tonight? Yes.

19 FRED SCHMIDT: Can I say one minute?

20 JUDGE SEYER: I will get to you. I don't -- yes, go
21 ahead. Yes, you.

22 LIZ STRECKFUSS: Hi. My name is Liz Streckfuss,
23 L-i-z, S-t-r-e-c-k-f-u-s-s.

24 I just want to say that it really seems like to me
25 that Ameren is asking Lincoln County to accept the risk of an

1 emergency that we're just not equipped to handle. Not to
2 mention the potential environmental harm that's there.

3 But my question is: Has Ameren actually proven that
4 we need this project? The CCN process is here and exists to
5 protect the people, us, who are affected. Need and basic
6 safety should be proven before the project is approved, not
7 afterwards.

8 So until Ameren proves both I just ask that the
9 Commission deny or delay. Thank you.

10 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Mr. Schmidt, if you'd like
11 to come back up.

12 FRED SCHMIDT: I have one last note for the PSC
13 Commission. I would like you to consider when Ameren comes to
14 you with their costs for this project that they're paying
15 twice the fair market value, that is what I would say the
16 property is, so they should only get credit for the fair
17 market value.

18 They're picking this particular spot, this
19 particular property, and they're paying a premium to be there.
20 So they should only be allowed to pass on those fair costs
21 that would be a fair market value. They're artificially
22 running up the cost of this project by overpaying for a
23 property that isn't fair market value. That would be the same
24 as saying I want to pay \$10 for a two-by-four, even though
25 they're only \$5 and I want to pass on the \$10 cost.

1 So I don't know if this is the right area or the
2 time but these are the issues that Ameren is not -- as I would
3 tell my children, if you don't tell me all of the truth it's
4 the same as telling me a lie. And that's what Ameren is
5 doing, they're just giving you enough to get by and I think I
6 would like you to ask them and require more. Thank you.

7 JUDGE SEYER: All right. And again, for the court
8 reporter, that was Fred Schmidt.

9 And is there anyone else who would like to testify?
10 Yes. Yes, you'd like to continue testifying. And again for
11 the court reporter, could you tell her who you are?

12 MARY GEEDING: Mary Geeding. Do I need to spell it,
13 or?

14 JUDGE SEYER: It's G-e-e-d-i-n-g; correct?

15 MARY GEEDING: Yes, correct.

16 JUDGE SEYER: Uh-huh.

17 MARY GEEDING: Okay. So the fire test data for the
18 new unit of the Tesla Megapack 3 at the spacing Ameren
19 proposes is not on the record. Tesla lists UL 9540A among the
20 certifications of the old unit. For the new one that is only
21 three weeks old, no installation level report appears anywhere
22 that I can find. The Commission is being asked to certify a
23 battery that was three weeks old when this hearing was noticed
24 at a site where no code applies on a hazard analysis no one
25 has seen on the strength of a web page.

1 So I will ask for two conditions as they are yes or
2 no conditions. One, before any enclosure is delivered to
3 Lincoln County Ameren files in this docket an installation
4 level UL 9540A test report for the unit and revision it
5 actually contracts at the spacing it actually proposes.

6 Number two, Ameren waives the utility exemption and
7 accepts the NFPA 855 compliance, third party plan review, and
8 annual inspection by the fire district as enforceable terms of
9 the certificate.

10 I put both conditions to Ameren on this record as a
11 yes or no question and I ask that Ameren be required to answer
12 in writing before its rebuttal on September 4th. Ameren told
13 this community it must do both. If that was true, the
14 conditions cost it nothing. If Ameren says no, then the
15 Commission was heard in Ameren's own words what "must comply"
16 was worth. Thank you.

17 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Ms. Geeding.

18 Is there anyone else who testified earlier who would
19 like to testify additionally? All right.

20 And Commissioner Coleman, if you are ready to wrap
21 up the evening's festivities, would you like to make some
22 closing comm -- remarks?

23 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you. We
24 really do appreciate you all being here tonight. As what's
25 noted in the introductions we look forward to receiving this

1 information in a formal setting such as tonight on the record
2 so that we can evaluate and consider all of the comments.

3 We appreciate the fact that so many people turned
4 out on a work weeknight and we appreciate your concerns and we
5 look forward to the testimony that will come before us so that
6 we can make the appropriate decisions.

7 Thank you, and safe travels home.

8 JUDGE SEYER: Again, thank you all for coming out
9 and participating tonight. This hearing is now adjourned and
10 we are off the record.

11 * * * * *

12 (Conclusion of hearing at 9:03 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Lei Ann Odom, Registered Diplomate Reporter,
Certified Realtime Reporter, Certified Court Reporter No. 428
and Notary Public for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify
that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of my
stenographic notes to the best of my ability of the
proceedings herein that were held on August 26, 2026, between
8:01 p.m. and 9:03 p.m.

I FURTHER CERTIFY I am neither related to nor
employed by any of the attorneys or parties herein, nor
financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this
action.

WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 31st day
of August, 2026.



Lei Ann Odom
Certified Court Reporter No. 428
Certified Realtime Reporter
Registered Diplomate Reporter

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