

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 Case No. EA-2026-0183
Certificate of Public Convenience
and Necessity Authorizing it to
Construct Renewable Generation
Facilities and Battery Energy
Storage Systems

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026
6:00 p.m.

YMCA Y Cafe
309 S. Main Street
Vandalia, MO 63382

VOLUME 2

KEN SEYER, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

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KRISTINA R. GRAY

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EXHIBITS

(NONE MARKED)

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE SEYER: Today's July 28, 2026.

3 The time is 7:05 PM. My name is Ken Seyer.

4 I am a regulatory law judge with the Missouri
5 Public Service Commission, and I will preside
6 over this portion of the hearing tonight. As
7 you know, we are here in Vandalia because the
8 commission has set this time for a local
9 hearing to give members of the public a
10 chance to comment about the application of
11 Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri
12 for certificates of convenience and necessity
13 relating to three battery energy storage
14 system projects, two solar generation
15 facilities, and related transmission
16 facilities.

17 The commission's case number for this
18 case is EA-2026-0183. The commission
19 regulates the rates charged by public utility
20 companies in Missouri to ensure that those
21 rates are just and reasonable. The
22 commission also regulates the quality of
23 service and safety of the operations of
24 public utilities. The commission currently
25 has four commissioners. They are appointed

1 by the governor and confirmed by the senate.
2 The commission employs a staff of engineers,
3 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts,
4 and other specialists in the field of utility
5 regulation.

6 With me here tonight is the chair of the
7 commission, Kayla Hahn, and Commissioners
8 Maida Coleman and Glen Kolkmeyer and also
9 joining us via the internet is Commissioner
10 John Mitchell. The commissioners have not
11 made any decision regarding this case and
12 cannot answer any questions today because
13 they have to remain impartial until after all
14 the evidence is presented at the evidentiary
15 hearing in this matter currently scheduled
16 for the end of September.

17 At this time, Chair Hahn, would you like
18 to make opening remarks?

19 CHAIR HAHN: Good evening, everyone. I
20 just want to take a minute on behalf of the
21 entire commission to welcome to you to our
22 local public hearing this evening. This is
23 the beginning of the certificate case
24 process, so we're very early in our process,
25 and so we look forward to hearing your

1 comments. As the case goes on, we can then
2 consider those comments in our deliberations.
3 But we welcome you and we look forward to
4 hearing from you. Thank you.

5 JUDGE SEYER: There are also attorneys
6 here today representing the parties in this
7 matter, so, for the sake of the record, would
8 you please identify yourselves and state
9 which party you're representing?

10 MR. LOWRY: Thank you, Judge. My name
11 is Jim Lowery of JBL Law, LLC, law firm, and
12 I represent Ameren Missouri in this case.
13 Thank you.

14 JUDGE SEYER: And for the commission
15 staff.

16 MR. HENNON: Good evening. My name is
17 Douglas Hennon. I'm an attorney with the
18 Missouri Public Service Commission Staff
19 Counsel's office.

20 JUDGE SEYER: And for the office of
21 public counsel.

22 MS. VANGERPEN: Good evening. Lindsay
23 VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC.

24 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you.
25 The way we'll proceed tonight with this

1 portion of the hearing is to call the names
2 that are listed on the sign-up sheet in the
3 order that you signed up. So when I call
4 your name, please step up to the microphone.
5 I'll place you under oath and then ask you to
6 state and spell your name. And then you can
7 offer your comments to the commission. Once
8 you finish your comments, if you don't mind,
9 please remain at the microphone in case there
10 are any questions from the commissioners or
11 for the attorneys for the parties. So the
12 first name on the list is Renee Clark.

13 Good evening, Ms. Clark. Would you
14 raise your right hand first to be sworn in?
15 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you
16 give tonight at this hearing shall be the
17 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
18 truth?

19 MS. CLARK: Yes.

20 JUDGE SEYER: And your name is Renee
21 Clark?

22 MS. CLARK: Yes.

23 JUDGE SEYER: And is that R-e-n-e-e
24 C-l-a-r-k?

25 MS. CLARK: Yes.

1 JUDGE SEYER: I did all the work for
2 you. Now it's time to do the work.

3 MS. CLARK: Okay. Thank you. Okay. So
4 I'd like to urge the commission to stand on
5 the side of the people. I live in Lincoln
6 County, and there are numerous residents
7 there, including myself, that are completely
8 opposed to Ameren and their facility that
9 they're planning to build. We don't want it.
10 It's plain and simple. We don't want it.
11 We're speaking our words. We're standing up.
12 We want to be heard, and we're urging you to
13 vote against it. I don't know of any -- I
14 haven't gotten an answer yet about how many
15 times you've turned down Ameren's request in
16 the last few years, but this time I'm asking
17 you to turn them down. I would appreciate
18 it.

19 And also, I want to urge you to consider
20 that there are rumors in our community that
21 this land was acquired by nefarious ways by
22 going into a nursing home, to the owner of
23 the property, around the children, the
24 rightful heirs to the properties, objection
25 to the sale of the property, and went to the

1 father in the nursing home, and they are
2 considering a lawsuit over this way the land
3 was acquired. And I would like to urge the
4 commission to delay or inquire, get involved
5 in some way to wait and see if there is a
6 legal standing on the family's behalf. I
7 can't think -- I'm just hoping that you'll
8 side on the side of the people. We live in a
9 n community that we cherish. We've been
10 there for generations and generations, and
11 there are so many other places that Ameren
12 can choose to put this. I asked them if they
13 could put it in the top of their -- to build
14 it 10 stores tall on top of their offices,
15 let them have it where they live, not where
16 we live, not more of our farmland gone. We
17 can't compete with the cost. They have
18 inflated the real estate costs out there.
19 They're offering people 27 and \$28,000 an
20 acre for cow poop, manure, hay fields and
21 corn fields. It makes absolutely no sense,
22 and it makes it hard for the rest of us to
23 live where we have invested our lives in.
24 And I would appreciate your consideration in
25 turning them down. Thank you.

1 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Next on the
2 list is Jeff Hamann. Not quite?

3 MR. HAMANN: It's Hamann, H-a-m-a-n-n.

4 JUDGE SEYER: Would you raise your right
5 hand, please, Mr. Hamann?

6 MR. HAMANN: I will.

7 JUDGE SEYER: Do you swear or affirm
8 that the testimony you give tonight at this
9 hearing shall be the truth, the whole truth,
10 and nothing but the truth?

11 MR. HAMANN: I do, so help me God.

12 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you.

13 MR. HAMANN: My name is Jeff Hamann. I
14 graduated from Georgia Institute of
15 Technology with a degree in electrical
16 engineering. As I served in active duty in
17 the Us Navy, I was trained to operate
18 pressurized water nuclear reactors. Since
19 then, I've been in the IT industry for 28
20 years. That's a little of my background. As
21 we're looking at the nice, pretty pictures
22 from Ameren UE, but we see renewable energy
23 center. And I would say that renewable
24 energy, quote, unquote, is a solution for a
25 problem. I did some recent research.

1 Apparently 80 percent, about, of the world's
2 polysilicon supply, which is used in solar
3 panels, comes from an area in China where
4 there is slave labor, well-known and
5 documented. You can probably hear about it
6 in the news. Is that renewable? Probably
7 not. What happens to all the solar panels
8 when they're decommissioned by about 20 to 25
9 years from now? Landfill? Is the recycling
10 technology going to be there? These are
11 questions we don't really know the answer to.

12 Are some of these things being done as a
13 strategic move? A lot of people are
14 concerned about that. We are, too. A data
15 center that wanted a virtue signal and say,
16 look at how much renewable power we use, and
17 I might find, if this project goes through, a
18 really handy location where we all live.

19 I asked the Ameren EU about the 30 to 40
20 percent, perhaps more, of tax credits on
21 various portions of this project. They said
22 that even if those credits were not available
23 that the project would still make economic
24 sense. I would love to see the numbers on
25 that. And I would call on the Public Service

1 Commission to say does this really make
2 sense, because it's easy to say, we're going
3 to get all these federal subsidies and it
4 will keep your rates down. Who's paying the
5 federal taxes that produce the money for the
6 subsidies? The ratepayers are doing that.
7 So if we're robbing Peter to pay Paul, does
8 this make economic sense? I would say
9 perhaps not.

10 There's been some questions about
11 environmental impact. We don't know. Maybe
12 it will be available, testing for some of
13 these battery systems. When a hailstorm
14 comes and solar panels are smashed to
15 smithereens and the water is washing little
16 shards of polysilicon down the road, down the
17 land, who's going to clean that up? Are
18 there any guarantees that that's going to be
19 cleaned up? We don't know.

20 I was at the meeting in Eolia. There's
21 certainly a lot of concerns about the local
22 fire department capability. We don't know if
23 it will be okay. It's safe to assume these
24 systems are going to have security. How much
25 lighting is there going to be? Where are the

1 cameras? Is anybody protecting the privacy
2 of those who are nearby these facilities? Is
3 there light pollution? One of the reasons we
4 moved out to the country is because the
5 heavens declare the glory of God. When
6 there's light pollution, you can't see God's
7 glory too well.

8 What's going to happen when these
9 facilities are decommissioned? I'm thinking
10 particularly the solar farm. Maybe they're
11 just going to keep replacing solar panels.
12 When solar technology goes away, is this land
13 going to be recoverable as farmland? We've
14 heard some folks earlier testify to their
15 concern about we're losing our farmland, and
16 you can get sunlight anywhere. You can't get
17 farm light anywhere or the amount of sunlight
18 you get sometimes is lower than you might
19 like.

20 Another thing to point out, since I'm
21 here, is these little -- I'm an electrical
22 engineer. These things say that the solar
23 fields have a dependable output that steadily
24 feeds the grid. That's false advertising.
25 You have to have the batteries to steady the

1 grid because what the solar panels are
2 producing, it can't be predicted, because
3 sometimes -- today, there's a little bit of
4 sun toward the end of the day, but earlier
5 today, it was really overcast. It's July.
6 It's summer, but it was really overcast.
7 You're not going to get much power today out
8 of that solar panel.

9 But all this brings me to, I think, the
10 most important point, and that is
11 stewardship. God gave man the responsibility
12 to steward the earth well and wisely. Now,
13 one of the gentlemen from Ameren UE said we
14 could think that instead of growing food
15 crops, we're growing energy crops, that we're
16 just changing the crop and the land. The
17 problem with that is that solar energy is a
18 really, really inefficient crop. I tried to
19 look up the amount of acreage on the various
20 Ameren UE coal and gas-generating sites. I
21 was not able to find the information. I was
22 able to find that Callaway is less than
23 3,000 acres, I think, about 2800 acres. So
24 it's less than three times the space, the
25 size of the Tom Sawyer field, but it produces

1 six times as much power. And I'm sure the
2 almost 3,000 acres at Callaway is not fully
3 in use either. There's probably a lot more
4 land there than what they need for the
5 nuclear reactor.

6 And so the question is, why are we going
7 to solar when it's such an inefficient use of
8 the land? We're putting -- somebody
9 mentioned earlier how there used to be
10 beautiful farmland and now it's all solar
11 panels. We're putting something on the land
12 probably as ugly as Obama's presidential
13 library for what? The people know that there
14 is -- that this is too much land to be used
15 for too little power. We're taking land out
16 of our use and, again, will it ever be
17 recoverable as actual farmland? We don't
18 know. I'm not sure the technology has been
19 around long enough to be sure of that. I was
20 reading in some of my research. I realized
21 that solar-collecting facilities that use
22 mirrors is a different technology, but out in
23 the desert, they're being abandoned because
24 they're not cost-effective. They're not
25 working out.

1 And so I guess that's what I would like
2 to close with, is that we are called to
3 steward the earth well. And when we're
4 converting good farmland to produce a very
5 inefficient crop of power that could be done
6 in a much smaller space, we're not being good
7 stewards. There's a price to pay for that,
8 especially before God, who will hold us
9 accountable for that. Thank you.

10 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Mr. Hamann.
11 Those are the only names that I have on the
12 list. Is there anyone who did not sign up
13 who now would like to testify? All right.
14 I'll take this lady first. All right.
15 Before I find out what your actual name is,
16 if you'll raise your right hand, please. Do
17 you swear or affirm that the testimony you
18 give tonight in this area shall be the truth,
19 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

20 MS. GIBSON: I do.

21 CHAIR HAHN: And then can you go ahead
22 and state and spell your name and maybe get a
23 bit closer to the microphone?

24 MS. GIBSON: My name is Natalie Gibson,
25 N-a-t-a-l-i-e G-i-b-s-o-n.

1 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Go ahead.

2 MS. GIBSON: My name is Natalie. I'm
3 our school superintendent here in the Van-Far
4 School District since we have so many
5 communities. And I spoke a minute ago, and
6 then was asked to maybe share a few points.
7 I love to talk about but not always, so I'll
8 do my best.

9 I, first of all, want to share with you
10 that I think the solar stuff is pretty
11 awesome. In the 1900s, as I tell the
12 students, I was on a solar bike team just
13 here in the small town. We did quite well.
14 We went to Japan. And so I think that it is
15 has some pretty great things. Is it enough
16 to power the world? I don't know. That's
17 his education, not mine. I wrote a book, but
18 I think my mom is the only one who ever read
19 it. So nonetheless, we also farm, so it kind
20 of breaks my heart to see the farmland
21 changed, but it's kind of a done deal. So
22 what I do know is that there was a discussion
23 about a report of the way some of the
24 batteries might burn, because that's the
25 stage we're in here in Audrain County. And

1 Ameren mentioned that they have done some
2 studies on that, and I think that will be
3 valuable information. As the school
4 superintendent, I have to write an emergency
5 operation plan, and I partner with these
6 guys, and I probably -- I have to put that
7 in. I'm probably going to need to add that
8 because this is literally a half mile from
9 both of my campuses. And I'm probably going
10 to need to know how to handle that. While
11 the panels were being installed, there was an
12 issue with a tractor-trailer, and so we made
13 some adjustments for that day because the
14 students weren't able to go out for recess.
15 There were just some things. EPA was
16 involved. Everything was fine, but I'm just
17 saying I'll need to know that information and
18 I would like to have the information, as I
19 think some of my neighbors would, because we
20 all live out in that area together. So I
21 don't know that there was a plan to make that
22 public, but I think that that would be useful
23 information, because if you don't live out
24 here, you may not know, we can only burn like
25 one, maybe two tires even for a brush pile, so

1 if we're regulating to that, I think we need
2 to know some other things, too.

3 One of the things I also appreciated
4 that Ameren shared is that most of that power
5 that will be generated will stay in the state
6 of Missouri with the possibility of being
7 transmitted interstate. And I do appreciate
8 that. I am in an REA, so I can't say that I
9 can speak to the rates of other people. I
10 have family that pay those rates, and I know
11 that's a whole other level of question and
12 concern. I also think my REA rates have gone
13 up, but that's a whole other night of
14 conversation. You guys have had a long day.

15 I also wanted to speak to the Chapter
16 100 Bonds. So part of the payments that we,
17 as school districts and public agencies
18 receive, we get some funds from this. And so
19 I just wanted to speak slightly to that, not
20 as a question, maybe more as an informational
21 piece. The Huck Finn project that was
22 completed slightly north of town here by the
23 previous Duke energy plant that is right
24 around 2,000 acres. The Tom Sawyer project
25 will be south of town and is just about

1 437 acres, I believe, directly owned by
2 Ameren. So the project slightly north of
3 town is the one that I've received pilot
4 payments on thus far, but that's based off of
5 our tax rate. So we received about \$133,000
6 for that, and I did use that for raises for
7 my staff this year. It didn't cover
8 everything we needed to put some more money
9 on the salary schedule, but I did appreciate
10 that. And then we also received money from
11 Ameren for that site outside of town, which
12 they now own. And so, you know, all of that
13 helps, and so I keep looking at that table
14 because those guys were there earlier. I'm
15 sorry. And I appreciate their partnership.
16 The only thing I find slightly interesting
17 about Ameren is they get to set their own
18 assessed value is what I've been told, and so
19 I feel like it just keeps fluctuating and I
20 can't get answers sometimes from my local
21 offices as to how that all works, but maybe
22 those will start rolling in really quick.

23 So I think my question or hope from this
24 would be that we could get some answers about
25 how we can be safe with this, because I'm not

1 sure that it's not going to happen. So just
2 what we as local patrons -- and when I have
3 550, 60, 70, hopefully 570 kids this year
4 coming in to me, how I keep them safe should
5 something happen, or if it's a Friday night
6 football game and something happens, what do
7 I do when I've got all these folks visiting
8 from out of town?

9 And then, secondly, when you're looking
10 at how this project is going to be assessed,
11 not just for me, but if it ends up in Eolia
12 or wherever, those school districts need to
13 be benefited, too. So if you didn't hear
14 from those school folks, being a public
15 school is not always easy right now, so we're
16 facing Amendment 4, Amendment 5, all those
17 things, and if it could remain locally
18 assessed, I think that's what's fair because
19 we're the people that have to deal with it.
20 And if you start spreading it out across the
21 state, it's really not going to amount to
22 much for anybody anyway, so I would really
23 appreciate to see it remain locally assessed
24 for us to benefit in some way, shape, or
25 form. Thank you.

1 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Ms. Gibson.
2 Would you mind coming back to the microphone?
3 Commissioner Coleman has a question.

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you,
5 Superintendent. For some clarification, it's
6 a school district, two different school
7 districts that you --

8 MS. GIBSON: No, ma'am. We're one, but
9 we have two schools all on the same gravel
10 road. We're just one building.

11 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Vandalia and --

12 MS. GIBSON: It's Van-Far, so it's
13 Vandalia and Farber, so we're just four or
14 five minutes apart.

15 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I think I passed
16 Van-Far.

17 MS. GIBSON: Yes. It's a mess right
18 now. We're under construction, so. It might
19 like we're empty, but we're not.

20 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Another question
21 is that you did mention that you get some
22 support from Ameren. I guess this was part
23 of a previous conversation of previous
24 activities. Have you had the opportunity or
25 will you be speaking and negotiating with

1 Ameren for further support, or is that a
2 board decision?

3 MS. GIBSON: The additional funds we got
4 from Ameren is because they bought -- I
5 always call it the Duke plant because when it
6 came to be in 2000, it was purchased by Duke,
7 a company out of Texas. I think that was a
8 Texas company. I don't know. I catered the
9 meal that night. That's what I was doing in
10 life then. And so then Ameren became owners
11 of that, and then they made some improvements
12 to that and built a substation slightly to
13 the north of that that also works with those
14 panels. And anytime you get new construction
15 going, then that increases the value of that
16 location and that increase of assessed value
17 then gave us more funds as a school district.
18 So that's where that money came from. It's
19 because they had to pay more in their local
20 utilities and railroad funds.

21 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: All right. Thank
22 you. Thank you, Judge.

23 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. There's a
24 gentleman that wishes to speak. Could you
25 raise your right hand, please? Do you swear

1 or affirm that the testimony you give tonight
2 at this hearing shall be the truth, the whole
3 truth, and nothing but the truth?

4 MR. GRAVITT: Yes, sir.

5 JUDGE SEYER: All right. And please go
6 ahead and state and spell your name, please.

7 MR. GRAVITT: It's Mike Gravitt, M-i-k-e
8 G-r-a-v-i-t-t. I am a business agent with
9 LiUNA Local 955 laborers union out of
10 Columbia, Missouri. I'm speaking on behalf
11 of our membership tonight as far as --

12 JUDGE SEYER: I'm sorry. Yeah, you
13 might need to raise it. You're a member of?

14 MR. GRAVITT: LiUNA or Laborers
15 International Union North America.

16 JUDGE SEYER: Gotcha.

17 MR. GRAVITT: If Ameren follows through
18 with this and goes along, we would be in
19 support of this if and only if they use local
20 contractors, local union workers. We would
21 like to keep everything local. The money
22 that's spent here on these projects go to
23 out-of-state contractors. We don't want
24 what. Our membership does not want that, so
25 whatever we need to do to keep that work and

1 the money and income that comes in from these
2 projects, we'd like to keep it here locally,
3 so.

4 JUDGE SEYER: Yes. Chair Hahn.

5 CHAIR HAHN: Good evening. Great point.
6 There's a lot of construction going on right
7 now. Does your union membership -- are there
8 enough in their union to support the --

9 MR. GRAVITT: Always. And we actually
10 have had solar training at our High Hill
11 training center that all our apprentices go.
12 Our journeymen can go through and get
13 refresher courses, so this is not new to
14 them, to us. So we have folks in this
15 community, Farber, Laddonia, you know,
16 surrounding areas that, you know, they want
17 to see the money they stay here. They want
18 to see the community get better. They don't
19 want to see a bunch of people come in and
20 then leave and all that money goes with them.
21 Let's keep it in the community and help grow
22 the community.

23 CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. Appreciate
24 that.

25 MR. GRAVITT: Thank you, yes.

1 JUDGE SEYER: I'm sorry, Mr. Gravitt.

2 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. So
3 one of the things we hear quite often when
4 there's a desire to build, to create a
5 project in an area, it's about labor and
6 whether or not the labor is local or if
7 people are being brought in from across the
8 country. You mentioned that local labor is
9 being used, and I just wanted you to give me
10 some insight to that. And are you hearing --
11 what type of assurances are you aware of that
12 this will be all local?

13 MR. GRAVITT: We have several local
14 unions in Missouri. We can draw from folks
15 right here on the county line. I mean, we've
16 got over 800 members in our local right now
17 and we can man up to, you know, 50 to a
18 hundred at a time like it's nothing. And if
19 we don't have it directly out of our hall,
20 Jeff City's got a hall. There's a couple
21 around St. Louis area. So we're going to
22 keep, you know, the work with Missourians.
23 We want to keep it as local as possible,
24 which 800 plus members, we can do that for
25 the most part. At any given day, I can't

1 tell you, hey, we're going to have 50 people
2 not working, but we're going to get them from
3 the area. So it's not going to be coming
4 from out of state or anything like that. All
5 of our folks are local.

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.
7 Thank you, Judge.

8 JUDGE SEYER: Is there anyone else who
9 would like to testify? Yes, ma'am. Do you
10 swear or affirm that the testimony you give
11 tonight shall be the truth, the whole truth,
12 and nothing but the truth?

13 MS. SHAW: Yes.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. And what is
15 your name, please?

16 MS. SHAW: My name is Krystal,
17 K-r-y-s-t-a-l, Shaw, S-h-a-w.

18 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Shaw.

19 MS. SHAW: I have a high level of
20 confidence in Ameren. I worked at the
21 Callaway Energy Center for 38 years, so I
22 have seen their project planning from the
23 get-go, and I know they go to every level
24 that they possibly can to assure safety. One
25 thing I would like to have considered,

1 though, is I think a lot of times when people
2 hear that projects are in rural areas, they
3 think, oh, it's not going to be a big deal
4 about noise or emergency response or things
5 of that nature. So I don't want the projects
6 to be treated any differently because it's in
7 a rural area than it would be if you were
8 putting it in the middle of St. Louis. I
9 think the standards should be the same.

10 And in addition to that, even though
11 different facilities have been using the best
12 technology for the last 10 to 15 years, it is
13 still considered highly new within the
14 industry. And if you go out and look at the
15 EPRI website, the information that's
16 available to the public, which EPRI is one of
17 the organizations that the industry uses to
18 share information. There is not a lot out
19 there. They're just getting rolling with
20 some of this best technology. And so I feel
21 like even though Ameren will do the best that
22 they can do, it is still new and there are
23 still things that can happen. A lot of
24 things happened during the manufacturing of
25 the battery units that caused fires and

1 different things like that. As you've heard
2 a few people speak on, we have a rural
3 department. It's volunteer response, and the
4 plant at the Huck Finn facility, when there
5 are no construction workers there, it's a
6 pretty light crew for Ameren. So I am
7 concerned about the monitoring and emergency
8 response. I live right there close to the
9 area. We already deal with noise levels from
10 the plant operation itself and from
11 collection stations for the solar panels.
12 One of my neighbors has a significant impact
13 on them because it wasn't taken into
14 consideration how close the proximity of that
15 gathering station was during that solar panel
16 installation. So with these battery units, I
17 do know that they put off noise. You know,
18 Ameren has responded that it might be
19 insignificant or only last for a few hours
20 out of the day, but it is noise levels that
21 need to be considered because there are
22 several of us who live in the surrounding
23 area. Thank you.

24 JUDGE SEYER: You mentioned, I believe,
25 a website.

1 MS. SHAW: EPRI.

2 JUDGE SEYER: How do you spell that?

3 MS. SHAW: E-P-R-I.

4 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Thank you. All
5 right. If after we're done here tonight, you
6 have comments that you would like to make,
7 you can make those comments on our website,
8 psc.mo.gov. There is a link that is labeled
9 "submit comments." You can provide your
10 written comments there and all we would ask
11 is that you reference this case number. It's
12 EA-2026-0183.

13 Before we end the hearing today,
14 Commissioner Coleman, would you like to make
15 closing remarks? Oh, I'm sorry. Would you
16 like to testify? I'm sorry. I did not see
17 you back there. I apologize. And you've got
18 your right hand raised. Do you swear or
19 affirm that the testimony you give tonight at
20 this hearing shall be the truth, the whole
21 truth, and nothing but the truth

22 MR. WINDERS: I do.

23 JUDGE SEYER: And what is your name,
24 please?

25 MR. WINDERS: Winders, W-i-n-d-e-r-s.

1 Alan Winders. I am the presiding
2 commissioner of Audrain County.

3 JUDGE SEYER: And can I ask you how you
4 spell your first name?

5 MR. WINDERS: A-l-a-n. The way it was,
6 of course, intended.

7 JUDGE SEYER: Go ahead, Mr. Winders.

8 MR. WINDERS: Thank you for being here
9 in Audrain County and in Vandalia this
10 evening. We appreciate the opportunity to
11 offer our perspective on the project. As
12 county commissioner, it's my job to protect
13 the people of the county, the infrastructure
14 of the county, and to the greatest degree
15 possible, make sure people pay their fair
16 share of the services that are provided by
17 the County. I would ask that you do the same
18 on behalf of, not only of the people of
19 Audrain County, but of the state as you
20 consider the proposal.

21 There are safety questions. I don't
22 want to go so far as to say there are
23 concerns. It's just a technology that we're
24 not familiar with here, so we're trusting
25 that you will do your part in terms of

1 vetting the safety of these sorts of things
2 and protecting the integrity of the rate
3 system that ratepayers must pay into. So I
4 would just add help in those goals,
5 protecting the people, protecting the
6 infrastructure, and making sure people pay
7 their fair share.

8 I want to echo that the -- and I
9 understand it's not in the purview of the
10 commission, but the facility, particularly
11 the battery energy storage facility, will pay
12 no -- to the local fire department or the
13 Van-Far School District. However, if there
14 are needs that the facility represents, if
15 there are public service requirements that
16 the facility has, for example, a fire, that
17 has to be dealt with locally. So effectively
18 without the Chapter 100 bonds, there's no --
19 effectively, the facility doesn't pay their
20 fair share of providing those services. Like
21 I said, I understand that's not in your
22 purview, but when we're testifying about it
23 at the legislature, we can say talk about it
24 every time we have the opportunity, and we
25 will. And with that, that will conclude my

1 ask of you and my comments.

2 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Commissioner
3 Coleman.

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you to each
5 and every one of you that were -- what's the
6 right word I'm looking for -- concerned
7 enough to come out tonight to attend the
8 question-and-answer phase, and to also, those
9 of you that provided testimony. I hope that
10 during the question-and-answer phase that you
11 were able to get clarification, get questions
12 answered, but I also thank you for the time
13 that you've taken to give us your opinion on
14 the information that you've researched and
15 the knowledge that you've gained as you
16 prepared for this meeting.

17 As Chair Hahn mentioned in her opening
18 remarks, no decisions have been made at this
19 time. We hold these local public hearings to
20 get the information we need, not only what we
21 heard from the company that comes before us,
22 but from the people that this affects and
23 touches each and every day. So we appreciate
24 the time you're taking away from your Tuesday
25 evening. We appreciate your information, and

1 we look forward to all the information we get
2 as we prepare to make decisions in this case.
3 Thanks again.

4 JUDGE SEYER: Once again, thank you all
5 for coming out tonight. And I will adjourn
6 the hearing. We'll go off the record.

7 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were
8 concluded in the matter at 7:43 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

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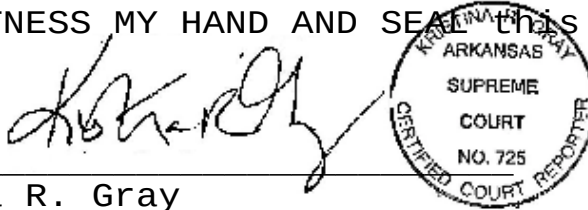
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, Kristina R. Gray, Arkansas Certified Court Reporter #725, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the voice-writing method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that in accordance with Rule 30(e) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, review of the transcript was not requested.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested, or otherwise, in the outcome of this action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 5th day of August, 2026.



Kristina R. Gray
Arkansas State Supreme Court
Certified Court Reporter #725

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