

Exhibit No. 265

Commission Staff – Exhibit 265
Mark L. Oligschlaeger
Surrebuttal Testimony (Gas)
File Nos. ER-2021-0240 & GR-2021-0241

Exhibit No.:
Issue: Rate Case Expense
Witness: Mark L. Oligschlaeger
Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff
Type of Exhibit: Surrebuttal Testimony
Case No.: GR-2021-0241
Date Testimony Prepared: November 5, 2021

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ANALYSIS DIVISION

SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

MARK L. OLIGSCHLAEGER

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY,
d/b/a Ameren Missouri**

CASE NO. GR-2021-0241

Jefferson City, Missouri
November 2021

1 A. No. There are case-specific scenarios where Staff would not recommend sharing
2 of rate case expense. This would include cases in which the costs of outside assistance is truly
3 held to a minimum by utilities. This scenario has rarely occurred for major utility rate case
4 filings in recent years in Missouri.

5 Q. Please provide examples of when major Missouri utilities filed rate cases
6 featuring minimal incremental rate case expense in the past.

7 A. The *Staff Report* concerning review of rate case expense matters, filed on
8 September 4, 2013 in Case No. AW-2011-0330, referenced several cases filed in 2007 and 2010
9 by Laclede Gas Company (now part of Spire Missouri) in which that utility sought rate case
10 expense recovery in an amount at or under ** [REDACTED] ** (prior to normalization). At that
11 time, ** [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] **. While the Commission's sharing
13 policy was not in effect at the time of those cases, if a major utility conducted its general rate
14 proceedings currently at a comparable cost, Staff probably would not recommend
15 shareholder-customer sharing of rate case expenses.

16 Additionally, Atmos Energy Corporation and Empire District Gas filed rate cases in the
17 2009 – 2010 time frame for which they incurred total rate case expenses of ** [REDACTED] ** or
18 less.

19 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Byrne that a rulemaking proceeding is needed to continue
20 to utilize rate case expense sharing in utility rate cases in this jurisdiction?

21 A. No. The Commission should retain the discretion to consider this issue on a
22 case-by-case basis based on the facts and evidence presented by the parties. Staff notes that the
23 Commission, while consistently ordered sharing in recent rate cases, has varied from

1 case-to-case regarding the formula for sharing, using a 50/50 shareholder-customer split in
2 some cases and ordering sharing based upon the ratio of the amount of relief granted to the
3 amount requested in others. Even in the context of rate case expense sharing, the Commission's
4 approach has not been uniform for each utility case.

5 Q. Another primary topic of Mr. Byrne's rebuttal testimony on this issue is his
6 claim that Ameren Missouri has filed a "cleaner" case than other recent utilities; "cleaner"
7 seeming to mean that the Ameren Missouri case features fewer shareholder-friendly proposals
8 than other companies' rate cases. Do you agree that Ameren Missouri's case is uniquely
9 friendly in comparison with other recent rate case filings by other utilities?

10 A. No. Ameren Missouri is seeking a return on equity (ROE) allowance that is
11 significantly higher than the average of recent ROEs awarded by regulatory commissions in
12 other jurisdictions, as well as being significantly higher than other recent ROEs awarded by the
13 Missouri Commission.

14 Q. Should the Commission consider the number of and the nature of the issues
15 brought forward by a utility in a rate proceeding to determine whether rate case expense sharing
16 is appropriate?

17 A. Yes, but many other factors are relevant and should be considered by the
18 Commission as well, including the total amount of rate case expense incurred, and the number
19 of and the hourly rates of the outside attorneys and witnesses used, and whether the rate case
20 filing was a discretionary decision by the utility.

21 Q. Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony?

22 A. Yes, it does.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union Electric Company)
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Adjust Its)
Revenues for Natural Gas Service) Case No. GR-2021-0241

AFFIDAVIT OF MARK L. OLIGSCHLAEGER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW MARK L. OLIGSCHLAEGER, and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the foregoing *Surrebuttal Testimony of Mark L. Oligschlaeger*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

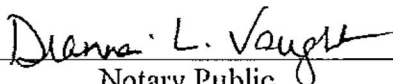
Further the Affiant sayeth not.



MARK L. OLIGSCHLAEGER

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 4th day of November, 2021.



Notary Public

