

1 Rebuttal Testimony of Michael Walter
2 Submitted on Behalf of IBEW Local 1439
3 Ameren
4 Case No. EA-2015-0146

5 **Please identify yourself and your job title.**

6 My name is Michael Walter. I am the Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of
7 Electrical Workers Local 1439, AFL-CIO (IBEW Local 1439.) My union represents 703
8 members, all of whom work in Missouri for Ameren.

9 **Please describe your history with Ameren and IBEW 1439.**

10 I worked for Ameren for almost 17 years, most of the time as a fleet service mechanic. I became
11 a Business Representative for IBEW 1439 in December 1995 and served continuously in that
12 capacity until I became Business Manager in August 2007.

13 **On whose behalf are you presenting this testimony?**

14 I am testifying on behalf of IBEW Local 1439. The other unions at Ameren/MO consist of
15 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 2, 702 and 1455, AFL-CIO and
16 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 148, AFL-CIO.

17 **What is the purpose of this testimony?**

18 I strongly support Ameren's application to construct, maintain and operate the Mark Twain
19 Transmission line in the Northeast portion of Missouri.

20 **Why do you support this application?**

21 As a Business Manager and an officer of the IBEW, I fully recognize and appreciate the need for
22 an expansion, upgrade and continuous investment in our electrical transmission system in the
23 U.S. More specifically, this proposed project offers value and benefit directly related to
24 Missouri and the customers in Missouri.

25 **How would this project benefit the State of Missouri and Ameren's customers in Missouri?**

26 Through proposal of this project, Ameren, a Missouri-based utility company, is showing the
27 foresight and willingness to invest in Missouri's future.

28 The construction of a transmission line will create a significant amount of construction jobs.
29 Ameren will utilize skilled, unionized construction crews for this work. As a result, these are

30 good jobs with good pay and benefits. This benefit resonates into multiple areas of job
31 opportunities, such as engineering and material procurement. Once the line is constructed,
32 maintaining and operating the station will lead to employment of skilled, unionized workforces
33 in the areas of operations and delivery. Thus, the Mark Twain Transmission project would have
34 a significant impact on economic growth. This positive economic impact will extend to all
35 communities and counties along the transmission line's route. This in turn will create an on-
36 going property tax benefit to the counties which, before the construction of the line, does not
37 currently exist.

38 Just as important as the direct economic impact, we must also consider the need to create a
39 mechanism or a path for renewable energy to enter or simply pass through Missouri. We cannot
40 say "if the Clean Power Plan ever comes to fruition" but "when it comes to full fruition." The
41 impact that the Clean Power Plan will have on our country makes a project like the Mark Twain
42 Transmission line imperative. We must be proactive in our quest to provide additional lines and
43 an adequate transmission system in preparation for additional renewable energy.

44 Electricity is a commodity which enables everyone's daily life. Without it, our world changes
45 dramatically. It is also a serious economic engine that cannot be ignored or taken for granted.
46 The electric utility industry requires tremendous amounts of capital investment. This is an
47 industry which is under serious stress and uncertainty, as it will probably transform more in the
48 next ten years than it did in the previous 100 years. Ameren is willing to take the risk and
49 respond to the needs of the industry, our state and our local communities. I ask that the Public
50 Service Commission support Ameren's foresight and investment.

51 **Does that conclude your testimony?**

52 Yes.