In the Matter of:

Proposed Revisions To Improve The Commission's Rules

AX-2018-0395 VOL. I

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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
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13	In The Matter Of Proposed) Revisions To Improve The) File No. AX-2018-0395
14	Commission's Rules)
15	JOHN T. CLARK, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
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2 JUDGE CLARK: Good morning. By my watch it is 10:00 a.m. So let's go on the record now. Today's date 3 is January 29, 2019, and it is 10:00 a.m. We're in Room 4 310 of the Governor Office Building. The Commission set 5 6 aside this time for a rule comment hearing in the file 7 captioned as In The Matter Of Proposed Revisions To Improve The Commission's Rules, File No. AX-2018-0395. 8 9 And that involves rescissions, amendments and a proposed 10 rule involving 4 CSR 240's Chapter 2, 3, 10, and 13, 11 specifically rescissions of 3.015, 3.020, 3.025, 3.180, 12 3.250, amendments of 2.010, 2.070, 2.120, 3.010, 3.030, 10.020, 10.040, 13.010, 13.015, 13.020, 13.025, 13.030, 13 13.050, 13.055, 13.070, and a proposed Rule 4 CSR 14 15 240-2.205.

I'm going to remind the parties when they're speaking today to use the microphone. My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to this matter. To my right is Commissioner Hall on behalf of the Commission.

I'm going to begin by asking the attorneys to enter their appearance for the record starting with Commission Staff?

MR. PRINGLE: Good morning, Judge. Good morning, Commissioner Hall. My name is Travis Pringle.

I am Legal Counsel for the Staff of the Missouri Public 1 2 Service Commission. Staff filed our comments to this case on January 18, and I have with me Jamie Myers for 3 4 any questions about those comments. 5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. From the Office of the Public Counsel? 6 7 MR. HALL: Good morning. Caleb Hall appearing on behalf of the Office of Public Counsel. 8 9 JUDGE CLARK: Ameren Missouri? 10 MS. JOHNSON: Paula Johnson appearing on 11 behalf of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri. 12 JUDGE CLARK: And Kansas City Power & Light 13 and GMO? 14 MR. FISCHER: On behalf of those companies, 15 James M. Fischer, and I've given my contact information 16 to the reporter. JUDGE CLARK: 17 Okay. Thank you all. I'm going to remind you that this is not a contested case. 18 19 rule comment hearing. So there's no cross-examination 20 from the parties. The Commission, however, may question 21 witnesses. If you testify, before you start testifying 22 please be sure to state your name and your position, and 23 nobody has really deemed an order for comments. I liked 24 the order on yesterday's hearing that I sat in on. 2.5 why don't we start with the Commission Staff.

1	MS. MYERS: Thank you, Judge. My name is
2	Jamie Myers. I'm the Commission Staff Deputy Director.
3	I appreciate those who have filed comments and those who
4	have attended today. This rulemaking is part of the
5	larger rule review process that was under Executive
6	Order 17-03. The intent of these rulemakings was to
7	improve the Commission's rules, to streamline, to
8	simplify, also to make any noted updates that we found
9	as going through that rule review process. That's what
10	we're here for today.
11	I appreciate the comments that have been
12	filed, because I think there's some additional things we
13	can do and corrections we can make. With that, what I
14	would do is start with the Office of the Public
15	Counsel's filed comments.
16	OPC filed comments noting two specific things.
17	It's in paragraph 2 and 3 of their filed comments.
18	Paragraph 2, OPC recommends that the reference that
19	Staff is recommending to update in Chapter 3, it's
20	3.010, it was an incorrect reference. Instead of trying
21	to nail down the statutory definition to the specific
22	cite to just say as defined in Section 386.020, Staff
23	would be fine with that. I think that's in line with as
24	we start, you know, moving things out of Chapter 3 and

putting them in their specific utility chapters that

25

makes sense to just do 386.020. So Staff is fine with that recommendation. As well as OPC made a suggestion in paragraph 3 noting what was a spelling typo error. So instead of "serves known to the utilities" it should be "services known to the utilities." OPC was correct in noting that typo.

And then Ameren Missouri filed comments, as well as Spire Missouri filed comments last night. Spire Missouri's comments just said that they supported Ameren Missouri's comments. So as I walk through Ameren Missouri's comments, I'll also be responding to Spire Missouri as well.

And so Ameren Missouri's filed comments provided thoughts on several rules, and I will start on page 2 of Ameren Missouri's filed comments. It's paragraph 6 where they start noting specific recommendations. So in terms of 2.010, Staff had recommended updating the definition of Staff Counsel. Ameren Missouri had some additional language thoughts on that.

Staff suggests that we go with Staff's original proposal on that. It merely defines Staff Counsel as any attorney employed to represent the commission staff in proceedings before the commission.

Ameren was suggesting holding on to some of the original

language in that definition, as well as expounding on that. I don't think that's necessary. The original language was trying to differentiate Staff Counsel when Staff Counsel was part of General Counsel's Office.

Because Staff Counsel is a separate entity now, that original language isn't needed. So I don't think holding on to some of that original language and expounding on it is necessary.

And then moving on to paragraph 7 of Ameren's comments. In paragraph 7, Ameren offers two comments on the same rule. It's 2.070. It's the complaints rule. For (8), Ameren suggests modifying the language. Staff had attempted to simplify the service language tying service to the Supreme Court Rule 54. What Ameren is suggesting here is that utilities can receive email notification and therefore it's not necessary to do this certified mail Supreme Court Rule 54. While I understand that and I acknowledge that's true for many utilities, I don't think that's true for all utilities.

I think we have to have this rule that would apply to all the utilities we regulate. And so simply having these two different standards where a utility is served via email or EFIS by the counsel of record of the complaint, I think that opens up the door to counsel on what record, record in what case. Not every single one

1	of our utilities is a large corporation that has in
2	house counsel on record, that sort of thing. So I think
3	going back to Staff's original proposed language tying
4	service to service under Supreme Court Rule 54 is
5	Staff's recommendation.
6	COMMISSIONER HALL: Refresh my recollection
7	what is Supreme Court Rule 54 language?
8	MS. MYERS: There's a lot of language in
9	Supreme Court Rule 54. I think there's 14 subparts.
10	Yeah, there's 14 subparts to it.
11	COMMISSIONER HALL: Related to service?
12	MS. MYERS: Correct.
13	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. All right. Keep
14	going. I'm sorry.
15	MS. MYERS: That's okay. And then Ameren's
16	comments on 2.070 (15)(D) was the comment on Staff's
17	suggestion about removing the language that has in some
18	instances been interpreted as not allowing Staff to take
19	a position in a small formal complaint. Again, it
20	wasn't interpreted that way in every case, but in some
21	it has. Staff suggested removing that language to
22	allowing Staff when it does an investigation to
23	ultimately make a recommendation to the Commission.
24	I think Ameren's comment here it says that
25	language should remain because it believes the default

1	Staff position as a neutral party in these sort of
2	proceedings is important. I would counter that with
3	saying removing this language does not change Staff's
4	position as the neutral party. Staff is always the
5	neutral party in these proceedings, but it would allow
6	Staff to ultimately say these are the facts, this is the
7	conclusion, and this ultimately we think is a
8	recommendation. We're still the neutral party not
9	representing any particular interests in the case, but
10	it would allow again, it would give the Commission an
11	additional recommendation in the case which I see
12	valuing.
13	COMMISSIONER HALL: You note that there's been
14	inconsistent interpretation of that provision and I
15	think that is true. At times Staff has come very close
16	if not actually made recommendations in some of those
17	cases; is that true?
18	MS. MYERS: I would agree with that, yes.
19	COMMISSIONER HALL: And so under this language
20	it would be Staff's view that it would be appropriate
21	for Staff to make recommendations in all of these small
22	complaint cases?
23	MS. MYERS: Yeah, that's the intent with this
24	recommended change.
25	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. And I would agree

with that completely. Thank you. 1 2 JUDGE CLARK: With a lot of these I've seen where I've asked for briefs Staff has asked to be 3 excused from briefing for precisely the reason that they 4 5 tell me their brief isn't going to be more than their 6 filed report. 7 MS. MYERS: Correct. 8 COMMISSIONER HALL: I'll note there's been a 9 number of times when I've been frustrated why isn't 10 Staff giving us a recommendation, and then I come to the realization oh, well, they don't think they can. 11 12 MS. MYERS: Right. We wouldn't have that 13 excuse any more. 14 JUDGE CLARK: Go on. 15 MS. MYERS: Moving on to paragraph 8. This 16 involves Chapter 3. Actually it's moving on to 17 paragraph 9. Paragraph 8 is just a general heading. 18 Paragraph 9 is a comment on 3.030. Staff had made some recommendations on the Minimum Filing 19 20 Requirements for Utility General Rate Increases. 21 think Ameren Missouri and Spire Missouri had some good 22 thoughts on here in ways the language could be modified. 23 However, I would suggest modifying it in a slightly different way. So what Staff had recommended in section 24 2.5 (3) here was to remove the requirements, and I think

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it's a requirement that is an outdated thing where 14 copies would be filed with the Commission which isn't necessary. However, noted not everyone files hard copies with the Commission. Electronic filing is a thing. So I think the rule could be general enough that it would contemplate either filing of hard copies or electronically.

So Staff would suggest that the language read on section (3): That at the time a tariff is filed by a company or utility subject to this rule which contains a general rate increase, one copy of the following information shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and one copy shall be provided to the Office of the Public Counsel. And note I'm also changing that to one copy for the Office of the Public Counsel. I've previously discussed this with Caleb Hall of the Office of the Public Counsel. He didn't see any concern with OPC receiving one copy. And again, I think this language here contemplates either an electronic filing or a hard paper filing, as well as whether OPC would receive a hard copy or an electronic copy. I think it's general enough that either could happen.

JUDGE CLARK: Why are you wanting to remove the word request from there?

MS. MYERS: I did not mean to. And so if I

1	am, that was a misstatement on my part.
2	JUDGE CLARK: Okay.
3	MS. MYERS: Okay.
4	COMMISSIONER HALL: What is wrong with the
5	language proposed by Ameren?
6	MS. MYERS: The way I read Ameren's language
7	is it only contemplates EFIS filing.
8	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay.
9	MS. MYERS: So that's why I was thinking
10	and I think EFIS is traditionally how things are filed,
11	though I do think at times hard copies are filed. So
12	writing the rule general enough to contemplate both was
13	my thought there.
14	COMMISSIONER HALL: So would it be clearer if
15	it expressly said you could do both?
16	MS. MYERS: That would work as well.
17	COMMISSIONER HALL: So you could take Ameren's
18	language and say or one copy to Staff and one copy, one
19	hard copy to OPC?
20	MS. MYERS: Uh-huh, and I think it would be
21	one copy to the Secretary of the Commission and one hard
22	copy to OPC.
23	Staff's next comment is paragraph 12 of Ameren
24	Missouri's filed comments, page 6. Here Ameren Missouri
25	is commenting on Chapter 13. It's 015 Definitions.

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This first comment is in regards to (1)(A). Ameren
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 2
     Missouri suggests in their comments that they don't
     object to Staff's proposed changes, but they note that
 3
     maybe clarifications are needed. Staff would counter
 4
 5
     that those clarifications aren't necessarily needed.
 6
     the language Ameren is proposing to add here in (1)(A),
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     I think that language is already covered if you look at
 8
     13.010, specifically Section (4) I think already
     encompasses what Ameren Missouri is suggesting in this
 9
10
     additional clarification.
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               COMMISSIONER HALL: I'm sorry. Where is that
12
     language?
               MS. MYERS: Chapter 13.010 Section (4).
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               JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.
14
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               MS. MYERS: Ameren noted in (1)(G) of that
16
     same Rule 13.015 that Staff's proposed language, there
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     was an apparent conflict. Staff would agree with that.
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     So what Staff would suggest would either don't change
19
     the language or should the language need a
20
     clarification, we can offer additional proposed
21
     language.
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               COMMISSIONER HALL: So Ameren's proposal that
23
     the existing rule be retained with no revision Staff is
     comfortable with?
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               MS. MYERS: We are.
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1	JUDGE CLARK: You may continue.
2	MS. MYERS: Okay. The next response would be
3	to paragraph 13. This is on Rule 13.030. Ameren made
4	some comments here on modifications to the proposed
5	language. Staff agrees with some of those modifications
6	but would suggest additional modifications to Ameren's
7	language. So on page 8 Ameren provides this language.
8	Staff would suggest that instead of citing to
9	the specific rule it should read unless prohibited by
10	this chapter, a customer who is unable to pay for the
11	entire deposit for gas or electric service. Staff is
12	also okay with the additional stricken language that
13	Ameren has provided there.
14	Lastly would be to paragraph 14. Ameren noted
15	that instead of simply referencing a rule over and over
16	it could be simplified to stating this regulation
17	throughout the rule. Staff is fine with that.
18	JUDGE CLARK: That's somewhat consistent with
19	what you just suggested previously?
20	MS. MYERS: Correct.
21	JUDGE CLARK: Are those all of Staff's
22	responses to filed comments?
23	MS. MYERS: They are.
24	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. From the Office of
25	the Public Counsel? Hold on just a second. Are there

any other questions from the Commission? The Office of the Public Counsel?

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MR. HALL: Good morning. Thank you for providing the Office of the Public Counsel this avenue to provide comments on the Commission's rule revisions. The comments that we filed on the 18th of January only addressed two minor points within Staff's revisions with the understanding that the Commission drafted rules largely in response to the former Governor's Executive Order to streamline and consolidate existing rules.

We only noted that one citation to an existing statute could be improved such that if future revisions of that statute occurred down the street at the General Assembly we need not amend our rules everytime. And we noticed what we thought to be a typo.

Beyond those two comments, we would like to take the time to respond to Ameren's filed comments and Spire's concurrence in support of Ameren's comments.

JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

MR. HALL: As to Ameren's suggested change to Staff's proposed revision to the Chapter 2 Section 10 Definitions section, we believe that Staff's proposed language of the definition of Staff Counsel maintains their independence. However, if Ameren's concerns are to be better addressed, we would suggest that the

language that Staff Counsel operates independent is 1 2 taken out of the definition and put into a separate subsection and that's just merely in the nature of from 3 a drafting standpoint we believe that operative language 4 should not be couched inside a definition section. 5 6 to -- pardon me. 7 COMMISSIONER HALL: So I'm not sure I track 8 that. Are you comfortable with Staff's -- with the 9 original language? 10 MR. HALL: Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Thank you. 12 JUDGE CLARK: Staff had indicated that much of the proposed changes made by Ameren Missouri related to 13 back when Staff Counsel's Office was part of the General 14 15 Counsel's Office. So is the secondary functions independently, is that even necessary? 16 MR. HALL: Based on Staff's comments, I don't 17 believe so. But if the Commission did wish to assuage 18 Ameren Missouri's concerns, we just offer in the 19 20 alternative that that be removed from the definitions 21 section and then be prominently displayed in some 22 subsection. That's merely just a stylistic point. 23 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you. 24 MR. HALL: Moving on to Ameren Missouri's suggestions for changes to Section 70 of Chapter 2 on 2.5

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the complaints regulation. Ameren Missouri seems to be
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 2
     concerned that Staff would be losing its status as
    neutral party if it was somehow getting an indication of
 3
    how a complaint would proceed. OPC notes the
 4
    paradoxical nature of if Commission Staff does take a
 5
 6
    position as to whether a complaint should proceed or
          That nature in and of itself is taking a position
 7
    of at least some kind. So we think Staff's revisions
 8
 9
     are fair and understandable.
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               OPC would note that just because a party
11
     starts out as a neutral arbitrator in a dispute does not
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    mean that they don't ultimately make a decision.
     think the Staff's revisions are rather not necessary --
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     are -- pardon me. I'm losing my verbiage today.
14
15
     losing my --
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               JUDGE CLARK: It sounds like you're saying
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     that it helps clarify a wider position for them.
18
               MR. HALL: Yes, thank you, Your Honor.
19
               COMMISSIONER HALL: Are you referring to
20
     (15)(D) or (8)?
21
               MR. HALL: Pardon me. (15)(D), yes.
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               COMMISSIONER HALL: I'm with you then.
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               MR. HALL: Moving on to subparagraph 9 of
24
    Ameren's filed comments addressing the Section 30
2.5
    Chapter 3 Minimum Filing Requirements for Utility
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Company General Rate Increase Requests. OPC believes 1 2 that Staff's proposed revisions enable electronic filing contrary to Ameren Missouri's concerns that the revised 3 4 rule doesn't enable Ameren Missouri to provide 5 electronic filing as well. So we think that Staff's 6 revisions are fine on that regard. 7 As to Ameren's suggestion that only one copy be sent to Public Counsel, we think that is a fair and 8 9 reasonable change. 10 JUDGE CLARK: You're talking about the 11 language as filed or are you talking about the new 12 language offered today? 13 MR. HALL: As to the -- sorry. Pardon me. 14 JUDGE CLARK: I think if I remember right, 15 Staff proposed an alternative reading today and 16 Commissioner Hall also proposed, you know, why not say 17 this or that. 18 MR. HALL: Sure. Let me respond to each in 19 From Staff's original filing, we saw that as 20 breaking down two parts. One was changes to how you file with the Commission. The second one was a 21 22 requirement of sending two copies to Public Counsel. As 23 to the first part, filing with the Commission, we believe that Staff's revised rules would enable 24 2.5 electronic filing which we understand that to be Ameren

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Missouri's desire. As to Public Counsel's -- as to the change to the provision relating to Public Counsel, we agree with that and think it's reasonable. As to the language now offered by Staff in the alternative, we think that is also reasonable. As to the language offered by the Commissioner, we think that also addresses the concerns.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

MR. HALL: Moving on to Ameren Missouri's suggestions to changes to Section 15 of Chapter 13 in the Definitions section. Ameren Missouri has suggested that the definition of applicant be further refined to require that they provide certain information as is required within the utility's tariffs. We echo Staff's response that that requirement is already satisfied within the newly numbered subsection (3) of Section 10 of Chapter 13 within Staff's proposed rules. And furthermore we would not recommend the change as offered by Ameren Missouri simply for the reason that not all utilities require certain information at the initiation of utility service.

As for within this same rule, Ameren Missouri has suggested that the word "and" be changed to "or" so that a customer would be defined as a person or legal entity who is presently or who has received service from

the utility or accepted responsibility for payment of that service.

I don't think this was Ameren Missouri's intent. But when I read that literally, it means that if you enjoy utility service you are seen as a customer for purposes of that rule. We are all enjoying Ameren Missouri's utility service in this room right now. If the state were to nix on its bill and not pay for the bill to this building, it seems we would all be defined as customers and even yourself, Your Honor, could be seen as someone who has to pay up the front for that bill. We don't think that was Ameren Missouri's intent, but literally it seems like that's the absurd result. So instead we recommend that you keep the changes as offered by Staff.

I should have mentioned that. As I'm going through Ameren Missouri's comments, if I fail to respond to any of the recommendations, it's merely because Public Counsel concurs or agrees with their position.

JUDGE CLARK: I can see how you're reading the first section that way. When it says previously received service from the utility, is that what you're referring to?

MR. HALL: No. What I mean is if you change the -- if you change the and to or within sub --

JUDGE CLARK: Substantial benefit? Point me to exactly what you're looking at. That's what I want to know.

MR. HALL: Okay. Section 15, Chapter 13

Definitions you go to, I believe these are called paragraphs, paragraph (G). You have a definition of customer. Someone who is presently or has previously received service from the utility and accepted responsibility. The and is what was offered by Staff.

Ameren Missouri has offered in the alternative that that and be changed into an or in order to provide clarity to the rule.

Public Counsel offers that read literally then a customer is someone who accepted responsibility or someone who ever presently or in the past received service, and customers within this chapter would then be subject to bill collection methods by the utility.

Ameren Missouri's concerns the definition of customer could be changed to something of the nature of someone who is responsible for paying those bills. That would take care of people who have explicitly accepted responsibility such as those customers who call the utility and put their name on those accounts. That would also address the common law responsibilities of a

1	joint tenant or a roommate who enjoys that service and
2	has a much more substantial connection to the utility
3	and responsibility of payment rather than just any
4	passerby who happens to enter a building and by the
5	nature of being in the building literally enjoys that
6	utility service.
7	JUDGE CLARK: You're taking mainly received is
8	the word that's really causing a problem there for you?
9	MR. HALL: Yes.
10	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. So what is OPC's
11	position on the original language, the existing
12	language?
13	MR. HALL: Public Counsel does not see any
14	need to change the language. We believe that Staff's
15	revisions are a fair and reasonable change to them.
16	COMMISSIONER HALL: So it would appear that
17	Ameren, Staff and OPC are all fine with leaving the
18	existing language?
19	MR. HALL: Yes.
20	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Thank you.
21	MR. HALL: Or rather do not let me speak for
22	other parties. If they disagree, they should voice
23	that.
24	Moving on to Ameren Missouri's suggested
25	changes to Section 30 of Chapter 13 Deposits and

Guarantees of Payment. Ameren Missouri is concerned 1 2 about the implication that the customers who have been 3 assessed a deposit at anytime could pay in installments 4 even if they were not able to pay the deposit in full during November, December, and January. Honestly, I 5 6 guess we're okay with that implication in terms of 7 consumer benefits. We don't actually see Ameren's proposed revisions as addressing that vagueness on the 8 9 part of the company. 10 However, we do agree that citing to the Cold

However, we do agree that citing to the Cold Weather rule to avoid any conflict between the Cold Weather rule and the guaranteed payments is a fair and reasonable change. So we approve of Ameren Missouri's suggestion that the phrase unless prohibited by 4 CSR 240-13.055(8) is a fair change.

At the same time, I also believe that Staff Counsel's witness's suggestion that this be changed to just reference to Chapter 13 would also be good.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

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MR. HALL: Finally, as to any other changes that I did not address in Ameren Missouri's filing, we either concur with them or agree and think that they are reasonable changes that should be approved.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Ameren Missouri?

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Paula Johnson for

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Ameren Missouri. I'm just going to kind of go through and support our comments and respond to some of the things that have been said. Before I do, though, I do want to thank Staff for all the hard work they have gone through to work on pulling these rules together and consolidating them. I appreciate what an effort that is and I just want to let you know that we do appreciate everything you've done and we hope that our additional comments just provide further benefit.

Going to the definition in my paragraph 6, I think we were just going for a little bit of transparency. We don't really have a concern about the independence. We just think transparency in government is always a good thing. In our eyes, that made that clear. I don't think we would contest anything. We know that Staff has been wonderful to work with. Having that standard in place doesn't necessarily hurt anything either and just kind of reinforces, reinforces the operations and transparency to the public.

Paragraph 7 when we're getting into the complaints, I think one of the reasons we suggested the email service, we do have a general service email where we can receive some of these so we know it will always get to our in house counsel. I realize that not every utility has that opportunity. I think maybe an

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either/or service might be helpful partially because the sooner we can get service of a complaint the sooner we can begin working to try to address it and see if we can resolve it before it ever gets into another proceeding. Going through the mail system, sometimes it can add an extra five days or so to that process just for us being able to address the customer's concern that much more quickly. So if there's a way that we could construct language that might do an either/or for companies like ours that does have a general service email that goes directly to our attorneys, that would be very helpful.

JUDGE CLARK: Just a quick question. So what you're saying right now is right now you don't receive an EFIS notification or an email? For a complaint for Ameren to have notice of it at this time it's entirely via email -- or entirely via the postal service?

MS. JOHNSON: We don't always receive an EFIS notification. Usually we don't get the full content of anything until we get the mailed service. So I can double check with our paralegals to make sure I'm reflecting that correctly. I do know that even when we do like spot some of these we still have to file an entry of appearance so that we can get the full information and that would just speed up that process for us also.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

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COMMISSIONER HALL: I'd be interested if Staff or OPC could respond to that argument if they have any additional analysis that would be valuable.

MS. MYERS: I can speak from Staff's perspective. So what we were going for here was just a clarification of what constitutes service here. And so tying it to the Supreme Court Rule 54 we thought was something that would provide consistency.

To Ms. Johnson's point, and as I kind of briefly noted earlier, we understand that there are utilities who may have in house counsel or a general service list. I think if we could craft this language in a way that would allow for those utilities to be served that way with the default is through the Supreme Court Rule 54 so that we are getting proper service on these other utilities. I think my initial concern on reading Ameren Missouri's proposed language is that public utilities, any service email on record and whether that's on record in any particular case it's not listed here, you know. It could have been an attorney that represented someone in several cases prior is no longer representing them. Those kinds of things were concerns when thinking about all utilities.

about when -- thinking about the fact that most of the 1 2 complaints have confidential information. 3 MS. MYERS: Right. JUDGE CLARK: And so when those go out 4 5 certified mail, and they're theoretically getting to who 6 they should get to, theoretically they shouldn't be going to anybody else before an entry of appearance is 7 8 made. 9 MS. MYERS: Exactly. MR. HALL: Your Honor, if I may add. Perhaps 10 11 this would be a belt on top of suspenders, but maybe 12 both parties' concerns could be addressed by requiring 13 the mailed service in compliance with Supreme Court Rule 14 54 with the additional option that if a general service 15 email address is provided by a larger utility that the 16 Commission can forward that complaint immediately -thereupon to that email in addition to mail service. 17 18 MS. JOHNSON: We would be very appreciative of 19 that as a process. 20 JUDGE CLARK: How does that alleviate the down 21 side of it possibly not ending up with litigation, 22 ending up somewhere it shouldn't be? MS. MYERS: To your point, Judge, I'm not sure 23 24 that it does before that entry of appearance. 2.5 MS. JOHNSON: I do realize that not every

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utility is set up this way, but our general service email only goes -- the only people who have access to that are the Missouri regulatory attorneys and our paralegals. There aren't any other parties who can actually access that inbox, but we do check that inbox regularly throughout the day. So if there was some construct where we could receive service that way, that would allow us to more quickly get an entry of appearance, get the additional information and begin working all that more quickly on trying to get the issue resolved.

MS. MYERS: One thought I had on Ms. Johnson's point of just getting notice as soon as possible that something has been filed, I believe there are ways to set up EFIS notifications so that if anything is filed with Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri a notification is sent out. So I think, Ms. Johnson, when you check with your paralegals, that might be something to check with too to make sure you guys are getting that notice right away. Again, it might not be the confidential information, but they'll be on note that something has been filed.

JUDGE CLARK: I think that would address at least some of what I'm immediately concerned with because, like I said, I understand that that's how

Ameren is set up but I have no way of knowing that that's how other utilities are set up.

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MS. MYERS: Right. And again, that wouldn't be anything that would need to be done through a rule change. That's just an option for EFIS notifications.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. I will check into those EFIS settings since I wasn't aware that might be a possibility and that would help us tremendously. So thank you for that.

Let's see. As far as the other portion (15)(D), I think I may not have made our position entirely clear. We absolutely do prefer to be able to get Staff recommendations. Maybe there's another way to clarify the language. Our issue would only come into play if for some reason Staff went, and this is not something I've seen happen often, but if Staff for some reason decided to lead the charge on behalf of the customer and began taking an advocacy position that just went a little too far into that realm and kind of lost the semblance of neutrality in their position. Again, this is not something that has happened very often, and we have had very good working relationships with Staff in getting this resolved. But while -- but it sounds like there's another language, maybe some other language we could find where we could meet in the middle, because

we don't want Staff to also feel that they can't make a recommendation, because obviously that provides value to everyone.

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We also don't want Staff to feel that they have to get into the advocacy position because that's for the customer and possibly the Office of the Public Counsel to do. So I guess that was our main concern.

COMMISSIONER HALL: Does this concern go beyond situations where there are small complaint cases, because that's all we're dealing with here. And so my understanding of this provision is to give Staff the same authority and responsibility it has in all cases.

MS. JOHNSON: I think that this would be limited to the small rate cases because we understand -- or small complaint cases, because we understand like in a rate case they have a position that they have to advocate on but they are by nature looking at an expansive position that covers everything from here to here. So we don't see that as an issue in the other cases. Their position is kind of that inherent neutrality because they're charged with balancing all the interests at once.

I think there could be a temptation in the small complaint case when there's one customer who has a certain issue that Staff feels strongly about. There

1	might be a temptation to go a little further than just
2	this is our recommendation and how that could be seen,
3	and I don't want them to feel they have an obligation to
4	be that customer's attorney because that's not their
5	responsibility. So I think the concern is far more with
6	the small complaint cases than it is with the broader
7	cases just because the broader cases also have a wider
8	variety of intervenors who are coming into the process,
9	which I think also kind of addresses the broader
10	standing and the broader spectrum of positions.
11	We don't have that necessarily in the small
12	complaint cases. We don't want Staff to feel like they
13	have to get involved to a larger extent beyond just the
14	investigation and the recommendation.
15	COMMISSIONER HALL: So you would take issue
16	also with the new rule regarding Staff assisted rate
17	cases?
18	MS. JOHNSON: I have not looked at that in
19	detail. I've just looked at it from this perspective.
20	So I can't speak to that particular proposed rule.
21	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay.
22	JUDGE CLARK: My understanding of Staff's
23	position right now is they're almost not understanding
24	why they're in these complaints if their sole purpose is

to provide a report that's sort of a broad recitation of

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just merely the facts, whereas in most cases they provide a recommendation based on what they believe should happen according to the rules, the law and the tariffs. I think given the nature of what a complaint case is, which is let's take the small, for example, individual customer complaint, at the end of the day I mean, are you really advocating a position if what -- if what the customer has to show is that a Commission rule, order, tariff or law that would be under the authority of the Commission was violated, how does that put Staff in a position where they're advocating if those are the outside limits of their authority?

MS. JOHNSON: I think, and it's fairly subjective which is why this is a hard one to discuss, I mean, I think it's absolutely appropriate for Staff to investigate, report on the facts that they believe are appropriate and to make a recommendation regarding whether or not they feel a rule or a tariff has been violated. I think that is entirely appropriate.

Our issue comes in when it goes beyond -- when almost like when there's more -- there feels like more of an emotional tie in what they're doing as if they are now personally invested in the outcome on behalf of this customer. Again, this is something I've very rarely seen. I can't even cite to the example I'm thinking of

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off the top of my head. I can't remember what exact complaint case it was, but we have seen where like the language in what was filed before the Commission was very -- there was no neutrality to it. There was very little neutrality to it. There was very little of these were the facts, this is what happened, this is our recommendation. It was more along the lines of the company did this and it was reprehensible and how could they, and that's what we're trying to avoid.

And that was hyperbole admittedly, but that's the point we're trying to avoid, because I mean, Staff in small complaint cases in particular, I mean, they have the ability to go back and go through a lot of the technical details and everything that are involved in this. They absolutely have a very good standing to kind of set a level set this is what we believe has happened in this complaint and this is what we recommend you should do. Again, we have no issue with that. It's when -- and again, this is extremely rare, but it's when it's gone beyond that into more of an emotional stance almost. I can't think off the top of my head of a better way to describe it, that kind of issue.

JUDGE CLARK: Let me ask you this. What you're taking issue is the removal of the language Staff shall not advocate a position beyond reporting the

results of its investigation. It sounds like what you're saying is you do not believe that that language prohibits Staff from making a recommendation?

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MS. JOHNSON: Right. And perhaps a good way to do it is even, you know, it does not prohibit beyond reporting the results of the investigation in making a recommendation regarding those results to the Commission. I mean, maybe adding that language in would be helpful also. That would not create an issue and I think would draw very appropriate lines.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. I appreciate that. I know that was a difficult one, and I appreciate you hearing me out on that.

As far as the filing requirements when we get to our paragraph 9, I will state that the way the rule has been revised to read still states an original and one copy, which very strongly implies that that is a hard copy. But if we can find some compromise language that would -- if we can find some way to say that, you know, we -- I'm trying to think of how to state this. If it didn't say an original and one copy, if it just said something like shall file a copy or something like that, I think it would be easier to infer that electronic filing was also allowed. So we just want to

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make sure that when we do our big cases that we aren't needing to bring down 14 copies. I would hate to bring down 14 copies of a MEEIA filing or something and put on someone's desk given that they're like a thousand pages long. I also don't want to file EFIS and just assume we're not violating a rule. I think even taking out the original and one copy and putting some other language in there, shall file with or shall file one copy with or something like that, that would take out some of that inference that a hard copy is involved.

JUDGE CLARK: I think that's actually what Staff proposed today. Am I correct in that?

MS. MYERS: Yes, that was our intent.

MS. JOHNSON: Okay. That would be great so thank you. Let's see. When we get to paragraph 12, I did want to clarify one thing. I know Staff referenced that 13.010(4) probably addressed what our concern was. I'm not sure if I'm reading that incorrectly. But when I turn to the existing regulation, it seems to be discussing that the utility will adopt rules governing relationships with customers and applicants. So I'm not entirely sure that does fully address what our concern was. And we were -- We're fine if we go back to the original language. I think the word residential in there kind of means that a nonresidential customer could

never be an applicant. So we do wonder if that word 1 2 needs to come out of the regulation. MS. MYERS: Judge, if you don't mind if I just 3 4 talk to our customer experience department about Ameren 5 Missouri's most recent comment on that. 6 JUDGE CLARK: Go right ahead. 7 MS. MYERS: Thank you. Staff would be okay 8 with removing the word residential. 9 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. I also wanted to 10 11 address a little bit more of the and/or issue. 12 understand OPC's concern about changing that from and to I think that's kind of alone a further out 13

or. I think that's kind of alone a further out representation of the rule but I also think switching to and, and I don't know if there's some way we can find a middle ground on this language because just referring to and there could also be a very strict reading that well, since say there are two roommates, one roommate never put his name on the bill, then he could say well, I never accepted responsibility for it and then we lose some of the benefits of service rules that let us go

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I don't know if there's a middle ground on that, but I don't think changing it to and is the answer because that just lessens our ability to try to find

towards other collections.

other ways to avoid incurring bad debt in the first place, because that just has to get socialized to all customers. So maybe there's a middle ground we can find somehow. Maybe who has previously received service or the benefit of service. I know that may not fully address OPC's concern, but that has some additional connotations beyond just receiving service without getting into the and accepted. So that is our concern. We think and accepted goes too far and we understand OPC thinks or accepted doesn't go far enough. I'm not sure how to find a middle ground there.

JUDGE CLARK: I understand both concerns from a strict reading of it each way.

MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

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MS. MYERS: Judge, if I may. I think as Staff had noted, we were okay with just leaving the existing language, and I think Ameren Missouri and OPC may have made that comment as well. If we're trying to find a middle ground, we did have another language option there. Instead of and accepted, we would suggest and is responsible for payment of service might also be other language if the Commission would choose to do something different than the existing language.

MS. JOHNSON: And I believe we would find that acceptable and is responsible for.

COMMISSIONER HALL: I'm getting confused. 1 we take the existing language and remove residential, 2 who is opposed? Staff is fine with that. That was your 3 4 request, right, Ms. Johnson? 5 MS. JOHNSON: That's correct, yes. 6 COMMISSIONER HALL: So Ameren would be fine 7 with that. OPC, are you fine with that as well? 8 Mr. Hall? 9 MR. HALL: We see no -- Public Counsel sees no reason to object at this time. 10 11 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Thank you. 12 JUDGE CLARK: That's just shortening the 13 entire thing to applied to receive service. Okay. 14 Thank you. Go on. 15 MS. JOHNSON: And I apologize if I inadvertently caused some confusion there. As far as 16 that addressed (1)(A) and as far as (1)(G), if we went 17 18 back to the original language we would be good with it 19 there also. Otherwise, we also like the suggestion that 20 Ms. Myers just made regarding is responsible for I think either of those would work for us. 21 22 Moving on to paragraph 13. I think we would 23 advocate to maintaining the tie. This rule specifically 24 references an alternative that can be done during the months of November, December, and January. It seems 25

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pretty explicitly tied to the Cold Weather rule. So we would prefer to see that tie -- that strong tie to the Cold Weather rule remain rather than opening it up to this chapter. For one thing, we're in -- I haven't had a chance to go through the entire chapter to see if there's something that might undermine the entirety of that rule in the first place. So I think limiting it to the Cold Weather rule gets to the intent of what was there without potentially opening it up so broadly that this particular provision has no meaning.

Again, I'm saying that without having a chance to go back and go all the way through Chapter 13, but I think by its language it's fairly clearly tied to the Cold Weather rule and we'd like to see it continue to be tied to the Cold Weather rule. I believe that concludes my comments and I thank you for the opportunity. If there are any other questions, I'm absolutely happy to answer them.

JUDGE CLARK: Any questions from the Commission?

COMMISSIONER HALL: I'd like Staff and OPC to respond to that last statement by Ms. Johnson. I think that is a legitimate concern that opening it up to the entire chapter as opposed to the specific provision.

MS. MYERS: Yeah, that is a valid point. So

as a compromise I think limiting it to 13.055 instead of narrowing it down to (8), because 13.055 is the Cold Weather rule. I think the concern we were trying to address by saying this chapter, and I do think probably only the Cold Weather rule is applicable but I do see how that could open that up to interpretations that we aren't intending. So I think limiting it to 13.055 and just eliminating that section (8) specific cite would satisfy Staff.

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MS. JOHNSON: We'd be amenable to that. Thank you.

MR. HALL: I will also plead ignorance as to the knowledge of any other provisions within Chapter 13 that may conflict with this particular rule. If another section does exist, though, we believe that there would still be a conflict regardless of this unless prohibited language, whether the unless prohibited language applies to just one section. If we make it clear that it applies to this chapter, we believe that that should -- we believe that's actually better for the company. If however we think that the end result of what all parties are wanting to get to is also accomplished by just citing to the Cold Weather rule and with what Staff just suggested removing subdivision (8) from the particular -- with regard to the particular citation of Section 55

1	in Chapter 13 is also reasonable.				
2	COMMISSIONER HALL: I have no further				
3	questions.				
4	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Anything further				
5	from Ameren?				
6	MS. JOHNSON: Nothing further. Thank you.				
7	JUDGE CLARK: KCP&L, GMO?				
8	MR. FISCHER: Judge, Commissioner, KCP&L, GMO				
9	didn't file separate written comments. I think they				
10	generally concur with the comments that were filed by				
11	Ameren however. The only issue that was specifically				
12	brought to my attention was the one related to the				
13	revision that Ameren talks about on (1)(G) of the				
14	Definitions section, and I understand from the comments				
15	in the room that Staff and Public Counsel and Ameren are				
16	okay with leaving the rule as it exists today, and my				
17	client would agree with that too.				
18	JUDGE CLARK: Point me to that again, please.				
19	MR. FISCHER: It begins at the bottom of				
20	(1)(G) excuse me, bottom of page 6 where they're				
21	talking about (1)(G) and it carries over to the top				
22	third of the next page and that's talking about the				
23	benefit of service issue that's been discussed. KCP&L				
24	and GMO would like to retain the existing language I				
25	think rather than changing that to possibly implicating				

1	how the existing customer service practices are.
2	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you.
3	MR. HALL: For clarity, Jim, you're referring
4	to Section 15, Chapter 13, correct, when you say (1)(G)?
5	MR. FISCHER: Yes, yes. It's discussed in
6	Ameren's comments at paragraph 12 at the bottom of that
7	page.
8	MR. HALL: Thank you.
9	MR. FISCHER: With that, that's all I have.
10	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Have I missed anybody?
11	Are there any other comments? Hearing none, appears
12	we're done with the comments and responses. Are there
13	any other issues or matters that need to be addressed by
14	the Commission at this time? Staff?
15	MS. MYERS: No, Judge.
16	JUDGE CLARK: OPC?
17	MR. HALL: None, Your Honor.
18	JUDGE CLARK: Ameren Missouri?
19	MS. JOHNSON: None, Your Honor.
20	JUDGE CLARK: KCP&L and GMO?
21	MR. FISCHER: No, sir.
22	JUDGE CLARK: Hearing none, this hearing is
23	adjourned and we'll go off the record. Thank you all
24	for your time today. I appreciate it.
25	(Off the record.)

1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
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