

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of Union)
Electric Company d/b/a Ameren) File No. GR-2024-0369
Missouri's Tariffs to Adjust)
Its Revenues for Natural Gas)
Service.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

12:00 p.m.

Jefferson City, Missouri

Via Webex

VOLUME IV

RON PRIDGIN, Presiding
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

Reported By:
Shelley L. Bartels, RPR, CCR
Job No.: 185729

1 APPEARANCES:

2 MS. TRACY JOHNSON
Public Service Commission
3 200 Madison Street
P.O. Box 360
4 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360
573.751.4140
5 For: Staff of the Missouri Public Service
Commission
6

7 MS. ANNA MARTIN
Office of the Public Counsel
8 200 Madison Street
P.O. Box 2230
9 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573.751.5324
10 For: Office of the Public Counsel

11 MS. JENNIFER MOORE
12 jmoore499a@ameren.com
Ameren Missouri
13 1901 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-3003
14 314.621.3222
For: Ameren Missouri
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1 Proceedings began at 12:00 p.m.:

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. We will go on
3 the record then please. The Missouri Public Service
4 Commission has set this time for a virtual public
5 hearing in File No. GR-2024-0369. The Missouri
6 Public Service Commission regulates the rates charged
7 by investor-owned utility companies in Missouri to
8 ensure those rates are just and reasonable. The
9 Commission also regulates the quality of service and
10 the safety of the operations of investor-owned
11 utilities.

12 The Commission is made up for four
13 commissioners, all of whom are on the Webex with us
14 today. The commissioners are appointed by the
15 governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the senate.
16 The commissioners employ a staff of engineers,
17 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other
18 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

19 I am Ron Pridgin. I am a regulatory law
20 judge for the Missouri Public Service Commission, and
21 I will preside over this hearing. With me today on
22 the Webex is the chair of the commission, Chair Hahn,
23 and Commissioners Coleman, Kolkmeier, and Mitchell.

24 At this time I would like to get entries
25 of appearance from counsel please beginning with

1 Ameren Missouri.

2 MS. MOORE: Good afternoon. Thank you,
3 your Honor. Appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri,
4 Jennifer Moore. My business address is 1901 Chouteau
5 Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Moore, thank you.
7 Any entry on behalf of the Staff of the commission?

8 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge. This is
9 Tracy Johnson representing the Staff of the
10 commission. The business address is 200 Madison
11 Street and P.O. box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri and
12 it's 65102.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johnson, thank you.
14 Any entry on behalf of the Office of the Public
15 Counsel.

16 MS. MARTIN: Yes, thank you, Judge. I am
17 Anna Martin. I am the associate attorney
18 representing the Office of the Public Counsel in this
19 matter, and I believe our address, excuse me, is on
20 file.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Martin, thank you.
22 Any other entries of appearance from counsel? All
23 right. Hearing none. I want to remind everyone this
24 is an official hearing of the Missouri Public Service
25 Commission. Statements and testimony of witnesses

1 will be recorded by the court reporter and must be
2 given under oath. The purpose of this hearing is to
3 hear from you. The Company will not present
4 witnesses and will not answer questions during this
5 hearing. This is your chance to testify, and your
6 remarks will be part of the official record of this
7 case.

8 I will call the name of each witness who
9 has signed up to testify. When your name is called,
10 I will ask you a couple of preliminary questions such
11 as your name and I'll ask you to spell your name for
12 the court reporter so she can get it in the record
13 correctly. Then I'll ask what your testimony is for
14 the commissioners. The commissioners may have
15 questions for you after you're done with your
16 testimony. Does anyone have any questions about the
17 procedure we will follow? Hearing no questions. Do
18 any commissioners have any opening remarks before we
19 receive testimony?

20 CHAIR HAHN: Yes, Judge, thank you.
21 Chair Kayla Hahn, on behalf of the entire commission
22 as all the commissioners are present today, just want
23 to thank you for coming to testify at this hearing
24 today. We know it's in the middle of the day which
25 can be good for some of you and not good for others,

1 so we appreciate the time that you're taking to visit
2 with us today and to share your perspectives. We
3 know that it will undoubtedly inform -- help inform
4 us to make a better decision in this case. So with
5 that, just thank you all, appreciate you being here,
6 and we look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn, thank you. I
8 do have a couple of people who have signed up to
9 testify. After those people are done, I will ask one
10 last time if anyone else would like to testify before
11 we close. So is Al Robinson ready to testify? I
12 don't hear -- is Mr. Robinson there? Did you need to
13 unmute, Mr. Robinson? I'm not hearing anything. Let
14 me go to the next witness and then we'll come back to
15 Mr. Robinson. Is a Jeff Holzem available to testify?
16 If Mr. Holzem is there -- yeah, I think you might
17 need to unmute so we can hear you. I believe you're
18 on mute.

19 MR. HOLZEM: Thank you.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Holzem, I can hear
21 you now. Can I ask you to raise right hand to be
22 sworn please.

23 MR. HOLZEM: Sure.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JEFF HOLZEM

1 the witness, having been first duly sworn,
2 testified as follows:

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. Thank you. If
4 you would, please state and spell your name for the
5 court reporter.

6 MR. HOLZEM: Certainly. Jeff Holzem,
7 H-o-l-z-e-m.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you a customer of
9 Ameren Missouri Gas?

10 MR. HOLZEM: I am, yes.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. Okay. Thank
12 you. What is your testimony today?

13 MR. HOLZEM: First of all I guess I want
14 to say I read through the comments from other people.
15 I think I read 48 of them. We all pretty much have
16 the same message right now. This is big increase,
17 and let me tell you why it impacts me and people who
18 are also working, struggling to pay their bills.

19 My wife and I retired. She was a teacher
20 in the Catholic School. We didn't make all that much
21 money as we were employed. We're now retired, living
22 on Social Security. We have no pensions. We have
23 Social Security plus what we've managed to save and
24 that's what we're living on. This is a big increase
25 right now.

1 And the other thing that makes it worse
2 is that there's another increase pending for
3 electricity rates. And yet a third thing that's out
4 there. This is something approved by the legislature
5 and just signed by the governor, I realize the PSC
6 has no control over this, but I'm still raising it as
7 a concern. The total of all these will probably
8 raise my rates an average of 133 a month. That's a
9 big jump, big jump. And it's going to be a big
10 burden on people who are struggling to pay their
11 bills right now.

12 So what I ask is the Commission consider
13 lowering these amounts to be awarded. I realize this
14 is only gas, but start with this one. Do not give
15 the full rate increase. I don't see the benefit of
16 the technology improvements to do time of use.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Holzem,
18 thank you. Does that conclude your testimony, sir?

19 MR. HOLZEM: It does, yes.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you
21 very much. Let me see if any commissioners have
22 any questions for you, sir. Any questions from
23 the commissioners? I'm not hearing any. So
24 Mr. Holzem, thank you so much for your time and your
25 testimony. And let me double back to see if

1 Mr. Robinson is present and would like to testify. I
2 don't believe -- I don't hear from Mr. Robinson, and
3 I don't see him on the Webex. And that concludes the
4 people who have signed up to testify.

5 But before we close, is there anyone else
6 who would like to testify before the commission
7 today? All right. I'm not hearing anyone else.
8 Does anyone from the commission have any closing
9 remarks before we go off the record?

10 CHAIR HAHN: Sure. Thank you,
11 Mr. Holzem, for testifying today. That's very
12 helpful. You know, we know a lot of folks out there
13 live on fixed incomes and that's certainly something
14 that we take into consideration. So thank you and
15 thanks to everyone, all the parties for being
16 available today and I look forward to seeing everyone
17 at the hearing tonight as well. Thank you.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Chair Hahn --

19 MS. GIBSON: May I speak?

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: -- any further closing
21 remarks? All right. Hearing none --

22 MS. MARTIN: Judge Pridgin, I did hear
23 someone say, Can I speak, at one point, so we might
24 want to wait for one more moment. Sorry. I -- it
25 was while you were speaking, so I understand that you

1 may not have heard it.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes. Thank you,
3 Ms. Martin. I'm sorry. Did we need -- did you have
4 any remarks or -- I'm sorry, I didn't catch
5 everything you said.

6 MS. MARTIN: Oh. There was someone
7 else who said, Can I speak. So I just thought we
8 wanted -- we would let her speak.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Is anyone else who
10 wishes to testify?

11 MS. GIBSON: Yes, I would like to please.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Thank you very
13 much. Could you raise your right hand to be sworn
14 please.

15 MS. GIBSON: Okay. But I don't want to
16 invoke a god.

17 (Witness affirmed.)

18 SUSAN GIBSON
19 the witness, having been first duly sworn,
20 testified as follows:

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you so
22 much. Could you please state and spell your name for
23 the court reporter. And I'm having a little trouble
24 hearing you, so if I could ask you to speak up
25 please.

1 MS. GIBSON: My name is Susan Gibson,
2 G-i-b-s-o-n.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. And are you a
4 customer of Ameren Missouri Gas?

5 MS. GIBSON: I am.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
7 What is your testimony today?

8 MS. GIBSON: My testimony is I am weary
9 and resentful of being asked so often and really at
10 all by the PSC to consider rate increases by a
11 company that does not operate in good -- in good
12 faith or honorably. They have been ordered by a
13 federal court to spend more than \$61 million to
14 offset past clean air violations. Their Rush Island
15 Energy Center operated for years in violation of the
16 Clean Air Act. That was a choice. Then they shut it
17 down rather than install pollution controls to bring
18 it into compliance. Ameren Missouri bought our
19 governor's favor in donations, and I don't think they
20 deserve to be considered for rate increases. That
21 concludes my testimony.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Gibson, thank you so
23 much. Any questions from the commissioners for
24 Ms. Gibson? All right. I'm not hearing any
25 questions. So, Ms. Gibson, thank you for your time

1 and for your testimony.

2 And let me ask one last time, is there
3 anyone else who would like to testify for this
4 hearing? All right. I'm not hearing anyone, and I
5 believe Chair Hahn has already given closing remarks.
6 Anything further from the Commission before we
7 adjourn? All right. I'm not hearing anything, so
8 thank you to everyone for attending this afternoon's
9 hearing. And that will conclude the local public
10 hearing set for noon in File No. GR-2024-0369. Thank
11 you very much. We are off the record.

12 (Off the record at 12:44 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF MISSOURI)

3 COUNTY OF CALLAWAY)

4 I, Shelley L. Bartels, a Certified Court
5 Reporter, CCR No. 679, do hereby certify that I was
6 authorized to and did stenographically report the
7 transcript of proceedings; and that the foregoing
8 transcript, pages 1 through 12, is a true record of
9 my stenographic notes.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
11 employee, or attorney, or counsel of any of the
12 parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of
13 the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the
14 action, nor am I financially interested in the
15 action.

16
17 DATED this 28th day of April, 2025.

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21 Shelley L. Bartels, CCR 679
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