

**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	§	No. ER-2026-0291
	§	
Revenues for Electric Service	§	

**SIERRA CLUB'S RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF
MISSOURI'S MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING IN THE CITY
OF ST. LOUIS**

Sierra Club respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Consumers Council of Missouri's Motion for Additional Local Public Hearing in the City of St. Louis.¹ Sierra Club further requests that this additional in-person local public hearing be held in the North side of the City of St. Louis, such as the O'Fallon Park Rec Complex.² This community is currently saddled with multiple unique challenges that create an acute need for a public hearing that is close enough for individuals living in these communities to be afforded the opportunity to be heard. That need is particularly salient in a case where Ameren is proposing double-digit percentage rate increases for residential electric customers.

First, the citizens of the North side of St. Louis are disproportionately energy burdened and therefore would be well-served by a local hearing to express their concerns regarding this ongoing issue. Energy burden is the percentage of a household's annual income that is spent on energy utility bills.³ Renew Missouri has tracked and mapped the energy burdens on different Census

¹ Motion for Additional Public Hearing in the City of St. Louis, Consumers Council of Missouri (Filed 10/16/2026), *In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Adjust its Revenues for Electric Service*, MO PSC Case No. ER-2026-0291, EFIS Item No. 58.

² The O'Fallon Park Rec Complex is located at 4343 W Florissant Ave, St. Louis, MO 63115.

³ Jenn DeRose & Tori Cheatham, St. Louis Energy Burden Report at 5, Sierra Club (2025) https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/stlouisenergyburdenreportjan2025_0.pdf

tracts throughout the state, and a close look at St. Louis reveals that the most severely energy burdened communities are clustered tightly in the North side of the city.⁴ In St. Louis, predominantly Black census tracts have more than double the energy burden of predominantly white census tracts.⁵ In fact, the disparity is so great that in 2025, two-thirds of households with a high energy burden within the combined boundaries of St. Louis County and St. Louis City were located in the City of St. Louis.⁶ The disproportionate burden borne by the customers of this area suggests that the additional burden of finding safe and reliable transportation to attend public hearings should not be imposed as well.

Second, sluggish tornado recovery efforts have seriously disrupted the ability of many North St. Louis Ameren customers to pay electric bills, creating a pressing need for face-to-face community engagement on the community's turf.⁷ After the 2025 tornado, while the South side of St. Louis has largely been rebuilt, many in the North side of St. Louis who had their homes destroyed have still not moved back in.⁸ A community struggling to get back on its feet after facing compounding disasters at least deserves a chance to tell Ameren how it would be impacted by

⁴ Renew Missouri, Missouri Energy Burden Explorer, <https://app.power-d.city/dashboard/missouri>.

⁵ DeRose & Cheatham, St. Louis Energy Burden Report at 5-7. High energy burden is defined as “[h]ouseholds that exceed six percent . . . of their income on energy costs. . . .” *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Chad Mira, St. Louis residents say tornado recovery funds still fall short, Fox 2 Now (2026) <https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/st-louis-residents-say-tornado-recovery-funds-still-fall-short/>.

⁸ See also *Environmental Racism in St. Louis*, Washington University School of Law Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, 26-27 (2026), <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f75504832055a109f6f3ca6/t/69b2cd2981225e5d5c4d09af/1773325609490/REVISED+EJ+Report+with+cover+03122026.pdf> (“Central parts of the City – where average home values near \$700,000 – have seen relatively quick and effective cleanup compared to neighborhoods north of Delmar, where average home values are less than \$50,000. As efforts to repair North City move along at a snail’s pace, residents are concerned that the region may never fully recover.”). *Id.*

proposed double-digit rate increases, increases that could very well be devastating to people living in the North side of St. Louis.

Therefore, Sierra Club requests that the Commission grant the Consumers Council of Missouri's Motion for Additional Local Public Hearing in the City of St. Louis.⁹ Sierra Club agrees with Consumers Council that such a public hearing would be well-attended, and adds that that would be particularly true of a meeting in North St. Louis specifically, due to the longstanding energy issues that the community has been vocal about needing addressed.

⁹ Motion for Additional Public Hearing in the City of St. Louis, Consumers Council of Missouri (Filed 10/16/2026), *In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Adjust its Revenues for Electric Service*, MO PSC Case No. ER-2026-0291, EFIS Item No. 58.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Elizabeth Hubertz

Elizabeth Hubertz

Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic

Washington University School of Law

1 Brookings Drive

St. Louis, MO 63130

ejhubertz@wustl.edu

(314) 935-8760

Tony Mendoza

Sierra Club

2101 Webster St., 13th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

tony.mendoza@sierraclub.org

(415) 977-5589

ATTORNEYS FOR SIERRA CLUB

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all parties listed on the official service list on this 19th day of October, 2026.

/s/ Elizabeth Hubertz