



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

CONTACT: Jim Chilsen
(o) 312-263-4282, (c) 312-513-1784

CUB STATEMENT ON PROPOSED AMEREN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC RATE DECREASE

Ameren Illinois has proposed a \$45 million decrease in electric delivery rates to take effect Jan. 1, 2021. As a consumer advocate, we're always pleased to hear that a utility is lowering rates. We plan to review Ameren's filing and work to give consumers the greatest benefit possible. We all have a lot of work to do as we recover from the COVID-19 public health and financial emergency. One of the challenges in the year ahead will be how all parties—including Ameren, regulators, legislators and CUB—can work together to bring relief to utility customers and keep their electric service reliable and affordable.

—Jim Chilsen, Citizens Utility Board (CUB) director of communications

BACKGROUND

-On April 14, Ameren Illinois requested that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) decrease the utility's electric delivery rates by **\$45,256,000 (\$45.3 million)**. The ICC will rule on the case in December. If approved, it would take effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

-The decrease affects delivery charges—what all customers pay to have the electricity delivered to their homes. Those charges take up about a third to a half of the bill. The rest of the bill is taken up by the cost of the electricity itself.

-Ameren's delivery rates are set according to the state's 2011 "Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Act," or the "smart-grid bill." The law uses a formula to determine Ameren rates each year to pay for "smart-grid" system upgrades. Since 2012, Ameren Illinois customers have seen a net increase of about \$300 million in delivery rates, under formula rate-making.

-CUB did not support the smart-grid legislation, citing too few consumer protections. The group is now focused on reducing the company's rates as much as possible and pushing electric utilities to improve the power grid in a way that cuts costs and improves reliability. CUB will review Ameren's filing and work for the greatest customer benefit possible.

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, it has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping block rate hikes, secure refunds, and fight for clean, low-cost energy. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline, **1-800-669-5556**, or visit its website, **www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org**.

###