

MSPE Supports the Missouri Energy Partnership Act

The Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) supports legislation that helps with getting a second nuclear reactor facility in Missouri. This legislation is a critical step toward needed infrastructure development, energy affordability and security, economic development, and creating and keeping jobs in Missouri.

Missouri is facing a variety of challenges in our energy policy. We receive 80 percent of our electricity from aging coal-fired plants, many of which will require costly upgrades or need to be retired. The federal government is currently considering regulations that would cause electricity generated from coal to become much more expensive. Meanwhile, our state's demand for electricity is expected to continue to increase over the next 20 years.

Recent legislation would help Ameren and its energy partners make measured progress on a second nuclear power plant before making a firm commitment on specific technology and a construction timeframe. This will optimally position our state for federal incentives and a robust competitive bidding of technologies before moving ahead with a project, which could significantly reduce the cost of this energy resource to the benefit of all Missourians. Unlike other sources of electricity, nuclear power is nearly emissions-free and runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As the regulatory landscape evolves, it is important to include these considerations in our plans for the future.

Missouri's electric service providers and lawmakers need to make long-range plans to meet the state's electricity needs as older plants are retired and demand increases. To continue to successfully meet our baseload electricity needs, we must invest in our energy infrastructure. As we strive to grow and diversify our state's economy, it is important to consider the critical role that affordable, reliable and efficient energy plays in attracting industry, companies and jobs to our state.

For these reasons, MSPE supports the steps being taken to allow Ameren to proceed toward application for a second nuclear plant. This legislation and the steps it will take toward investing in our state's infrastructure will have a positive impact on our state's ability to meet its future energy needs reliably and affordably.