

Spotlight on Commercial Contractors of Southwestern Illinois

Ameren Illinois moves the Metro East forward, energizing expansion and growth

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One of the latest infrastructure investments to the Metro East made by Ameren Illinois will total \$84 million. This major investment will upgrade and modernize its natural gas transmission systems in Madison and St. Clair counties. The work is on tap to start in mid-April, with anticipated completion by mid-September.

Along with new technology to monitor and adjust pipeline pressurization being put in place with this investment, system safety and reliability increases, emissions are reduced, downstate growth is supported, and hundreds of jobs are created in the Metro East.

“As we look to the future, we are building a robust energy delivery system that meets the needs of our customers in St. Clair and Madison counties as well as throughout our service territory,” noted Eric Kozak, vice president of Natural Gas Operations and Distribution.

Under its natural gas modernization program, Ameren Illinois has replaced more than 400 miles of mechanically coupled steel pipeline, 150 miles of high-pressure steel pipes, and more than 70 natural gas regulator stations over the last seven years.

And while this particular work will primarily impact residential and business customers serviced by Ameren Illinois, the utility’s commitment on the commercial and industrial side is evident throughout Downstate Illinois.

“Our Economic Development team works with companies every day looking to expand or relocate to the Ameren Illinois service territory,” said Ameren Illinois Director of Economic Development Eric Whitfield. “We see ourselves as an extension of our communities.

“We work closely with those who establish and grow companies throughout our service region. We are a strategic partner, and ally, when it comes to business attraction, expansion, and retention,” he added.

“We completed 39 projects in 2022,” Whitfield shared further, “with an estimated \$1.2 billion in added investment coming into Ameren Illinois communities, and with 2,326 new jobs created.”

Among those recent projects is their work at Gateway Tradeport in Pontoon Beach, and the Tyson facility in Caseyville.

Ameren Illinois’ Economic Development team partners with state and regional organizations to:

- identify comprehensive, unbiased energy infrastructure options,
- deliver energy cost estimates and infrastructure incentives,
- provide project management support, and
- position the Downstate Illinois region as the smart choice for job-creating investment.

“We have building and site data in our online database that will pinpoint the optimal location to meet a prospect’s operational standards and needs. We provide economic models based on actual ex-

penditures. It’s all a part of our customer affordability initiative,” said Whitfield.

Ameren Illinois also offers incentives to Illinois businesses for implementing energy efficiency improvements. Since 2008, Ameren Illinois has provided more than \$230 million in incentives to Illinois businesses, resulting in more than \$500 million in energy savings.

Whitfield shared further details on non-residential development incentives available through Ameren Illinois:

Non-residential development credit
To encourage non-residential development within Ameren Illinois-served communities, developers are now eligible to receive a refund on the cost to extend electric and natural gas infrastructure to their non-residential development projects.

As part of this program, when new businesses locate within a development, credits are issued back to the developer to offset initial infrastructure costs. The incentive is designed to assist with job creation and capital investment in the communities we serve.

Lower upfront costs with flexible payments

Business customers who are required to make a non-refundable contribution greater than \$250,000 for service extensions or upgrades can choose to pay monthly over a period of up to 60 months.

As part of the finance agreement, a monthly payment amount is set up with Ameren Illinois, including interest, for the full term of the repayment period. This incentive provides flexible payment terms which assist in upfront project costs.

A smarter grid and modern natural gas distribution system have made Downstate Illinois an appealing destination for businesses from all sectors, commercial to industrial. Access to safe, reliable, resilient energy remains a key factor for business leaders and developers when choosing locations for new or expanded facilities.

The company has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to build a smarter energy infrastructure: The poles, wires and technology that deliver energy to homes and businesses. “Ameren Illinois is also a strategic partner in facilitating the steady, measured transition to cleaner energy generation sources,” Whitfield pointed out.

As a delivery-only company, Ameren Illinois does not generate power. It will play a key role, however, in the state of Illinois reaching its 2050 goal of 100 percent clean energy.

The company is installing new equipment and enhancing the existing infrastructure. This is so wind and solar generators can safely connect to the grid and customers can reap environmental and cost-saving benefits.

Ameren Illinois is actively developing and testing systems to produce and store renewable energy. It is looking at fluctuations in availability and working to ensure that dispatchable energy is available to meet demand.

To learn more about Ameren Illinois incentives and programs for business and industry incentives, its Economic Development team, and the services provided, visit online at AmerenIllinois.com/EconomicDevelopment.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

It takes power to build sustainable economic growth. Power that comes from experienced partners who can help every step of the way. Each day, the Ameren Illinois economic development team helps local companies expand and modernize their existing operations to bring new jobs and opportunities to central and southern Illinois.

Learn more about how we’re advancing economic growth for the communities we serve at AmerenIllinois.com/EconomicDevelopment.

ENERGY AT WORK

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