

A background image showing a clear stream flowing over smooth, light-colored rocks. The water is in motion, creating small splashes and ripples. The image is partially obscured by a green overlay on the left side where the title is located.

PROTECTING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

HERE ARE THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

1. Ameren Missouri is committed to the safety of all our customers and communities, including the City and County of St. Charles. The drinking water is safe. There are more than 700 Ameren co-workers who live and work in the City and County of St. Charles. We all have the same goal of ensuring clean drinking water.
2. St. Charles officials, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have made clear that the drinking water in St. Charles City and surrounding communities is safe.
3. The mission of the EPA includes ensuring that drinking water is safe and that contaminated land or water is cleaned up by responsible parties. For almost a decade, the EPA has overseen Ameren Missouri's aggressive groundwater treatment to protect the groundwater at and surrounding Ameren's Huster substation, and to protect St. Charles' well water. Ameren Missouri's continuous testing and monitoring of the surrounding groundwater is in place to ensure safe groundwater. EPA will conduct additional testing to make sure that groundwater used for drinking water complies with all applicable standards.
4. At a recent press conference and in recent communications, St. Charles city officials stated that drinking water is safe, but they detected an increase in a chemical in a city well. The source of the chemical detected at that city well is unknown. Groundwater from the well is tested every two weeks. Ameren Missouri strongly supports additional EPA-directed testing in the area and further study of a municipal sewer line, with the cooperation of all parties. The additional testing could identify the potential source(s) of an increased contaminant level and whether Ameren's Missouri or other parties need to take additional action to protect groundwater and future water supply.
5. Ameren Missouri is committed to working with federal, state and local officials to support St. Charles' efforts to secure available funding to address the city's water infrastructure needs, which is an issue common to many cities and counties facing aging infrastructure and expanded population.

Ameren Missouri is committed to preserving and protecting natural resources.

Ameren's vision is leading the way to a sustainable energy future, and stewardship is one of our key values. These principles are not just words on a page. They guide how we operate and how we interact with our customers and communities. Preserving and protecting natural resources is important for Ameren Missouri co-workers, and the thousands of families that call the area home and those who work and play in the area.

The community can be assured that St. Charles treats the well water at its water treatment plant before it is sent to residents for use, and the drinking water is safe.

A separate issue facing many cities is the need to replace aging infrastructure. Officials have made clear that the drinking water is safe. Like many cities in the country, the city of St. Charles' water infrastructure is aging. The region is experiencing tremendous growth. This growth increases the demand for resources, such as water, and puts additional strains on aging infrastructure. For example, Ameren Missouri is upgrading and replacing outdated equipment first installed in the 1960s and 70s. These investments are improving energy reliability and creating a more resilient energy grid for customers. Many of the other vital services and resources in the area, including water infrastructure, were originally installed in the same era.

The source of the chemical showing up in recent samples from one city well in St. Charles is not known. Ameren Missouri supports the EPA investigation and further analysis. No matter the source, Ameren Missouri is committed to transparency and to working with EPA and the City to investigate and to help identify the source. Ameren Missouri has a strong record of environmental stewardship and will continue to take actions to protect drinking water. To ensure a comprehensive investigation and conclusions based on the best available data and science, Ameren Missouri supports the EPA process, including:

- Expanded testing of the area near City Well 6, including all possible paths the detected chemical could be using to reach the area, including the possibility that chemicals from a more distant location traveled to the well through the nearby municipal sewer line.

- Investigation into the possible impacts from the polluted Hayford Bridge Road superfund (i.e., contaminated) site, also located in the area from which chemicals are known to have moved beyond the limits of the site. EPA has been investigating and monitoring this site since 1984.
- Continued collaboration with regulators, local leaders and third-party experts.

The current consent decree process overseen by the EPA in District Court is transparent, provides opportunity for additional public participation, and enables continued EPA oversight of Ameren Missouri's Huster substation remediation and monitoring activities to protect the city's drinking water. Ameren Missouri supports the EPA consent decree. For nearly a decade, with oversight by the EPA, Ameren Missouri has been taking action to clean up a historical issue on company property near Huster Road and State Route 370. Ameren Missouri's actions have produced positive results, as confirmed by many years of testing by external groundwater scientists. Since 2018, there has been public notification of the work underway and opportunity for community participation. In addition, Ameren Missouri, the city of St. Charles, EPA and other agencies have conducted quarterly meetings to discuss the work in progress and results achieved. These meetings began nearly a decade ago and we are committed to this continued collaboration to ensure protection of the groundwater. The consent decree process and ongoing monitoring, testing and collaboration will continue to facilitate the safety of groundwater supply.

SUMMARY

Ameren Missouri, under the supervision and regulation of the EPA and MDNR, has taken responsibility for cleanup efforts related to the operation of its Huster substation. All stakeholders agree that the drinking water in the City and County of St. Charles is safe. Ameren Missouri supports the EPA investigation of the chemical detected in recent samples of one city well to determine its source. The current consent decree provides opportunity for robust public participation through community development activities supervised by EPA and provides a mechanism for EPA's continued oversight and authority to ensure continued safe drinking water. To address the separate issue of St. Charles' aging water infrastructure needs, Ameren Missouri is committed to partnering to help the City access resources available for infrastructure upgrades.