

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Thursday, February 9, 2023

1:16 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

St. Charles County Administrative Building
Suite 134
201 North 2nd Street
St. Charles, MO 63301
and WebEx

VOLUME 4

Pages 1 - 65

In the Matter of Union Electric)
Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's)
Tariffs to Adjust its Revenues) File No.
for Electric Service) ER-2022-0337

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP, Chairman
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
JASON HOLSMAN, Commissioner
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No.: 139689

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of Union Electric Company:

3 Ameren Services
4 1901 Chouteau Avenue, MC 1310
5 St. Louis, MO 63101

6 BY: JENNIFER S. MOORE, ESQ.
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8 On behalf of the Staff of the
9 Public Service Commission:

10 Missouri Public Service Commission
11 200 Madison Street, Suite 800
12 PO Box 360
13 Jefferson City, MO 65102

14 BY: ERIC VANDERGRIFF, ESQ.
15 Eric.Vandergriff@psc.mo.gov

16 On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel:

17 Office of the Public Counsel
18 200 Madison Street, Suite 650
19 PO Box 2230
20 Jefferson City, MO 65102

21 BY: NATHAN WILLIAMS, ESQ.
22 nathan.williams@opc.mo.gov
23
24
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1 The following proceedings began at 1:16 p.m.:

2 JUDGE CLARK: Good afternoon. Let's go on the
3 record. It is February 9, 2023 and the current time is
4 1:16 p.m. and we are at the St. Charles County
5 Administrative Building in St. Charles, Missouri. Now,
6 the question and answer portion of the local public
7 hearing just ended. If you had questions about this
8 rate case, I hope you were able to get answers to that.

9 Now, the Missouri Public Service Commission
10 has set aside this time today for a local public hearing
11 in File No. ER-2022-0337, which is captioned as In the
12 Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's
13 Tariffs to Adjust its Revenues for Electric Service.

14 My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory Law
15 Judge overseeing this local public hearing today. Now,
16 the Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the
17 rates of investor-owned utilities to see that those
18 rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also
19 regulates the quality and safety of operations of
20 investor-owned utilities in Missouri.

21 Now, the Commission is made up of five
22 Commissioners. Sitting next to me on my right is the
23 Chairman of the Commission, Scott Rupp, and also
24 Commissioners Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman and Glen
25 Kolkmeier. I heard Commissioner Holsman participating

1 by WebEx. Do we have any other Commissioners on the
2 WebEx at this point?

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yes, Commissioner
4 Coleman is here.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Coleman.
6 Now, I had mentioned four Commissioners. I said there
7 are five Commissioners. That's because one Commission
8 seat is currently vacant at the moment.

9 Now, the Commissioners are appointed by the
10 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate, and
11 the Commissioners hire a staff of engineers,
12 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other
13 specialists in the field of utility regulation. I've
14 already gone over the Commissioners that are here with
15 me today, so I'm not going to do that again.

16 I'm going to start the formal portion of this
17 hearing by asking the parties to enter their appearance
18 for the record starting with Ameren Missouri.

19 MS. MOORE: Thank you, Your Honor. Good
20 afternoon. Appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri,
21 Jennifer Moore. I provided you with my address.

22 JUDGE CLARK: On behalf of the Commission
23 Staff?

24 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Eric Vandergriff on behalf
25 of the Commission Staff.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. On behalf of the
2 Office of the Public Counsel.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy
4 Public Counsel. My address is PO Box 2230, Jefferson
5 City, Missouri 65102.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. There are a number
7 of intervenors in this case. Are there any parties
8 present that I have not called today? Okay. I hear
9 none and see no hands.

10 Now, for those of you who would like to
11 provide comments to the Commission today, I'm going to
12 call the names that I have listed on the sign-up sheet
13 in the order they appear. When I call your name, please
14 come up to the mike. You're welcome to adjust it so
15 that it works better for you. At that time, I'll ask
16 you to state and spell your name for the record and
17 that's because we have a court reporter here who is
18 taking down everything.

19 At that point, I will swear you in and you
20 will be able to give your comments to the Commission.
21 Because this is a formal hearing, we do swear you in.
22 And even though these are comments to the Commission,
23 I'm going to call them testimony, and that's because if
24 the Commission decides to use this or rely on this in
25 some way, it needs to be part of the Commission's

1 official record.

2 Now, after you've made your comments to the
3 Commission, please stay up at the microphone for just a
4 second, and that's because myself, the Commission or
5 some of the attorneys that are present may have
6 questions for you. I'm going to ask the attorneys if
7 you have questions, just get my attention.

8 Commissioners, if you have a question at any time, just
9 go ahead and ask.

10 Now, the Commission won't be able to answer
11 any of your questions today. The question and answer
12 portion was for you to get answers from the parties to
13 your questions. That's because the Commissioners and
14 myself have to remain impartial until after the
15 evidentiary hearing on this case. If you have questions
16 that weren't answered during the Q&A part, I would
17 encourage you to talk to the Company, the Commission
18 Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel. I've also got
19 a couple of numbers if anybody would like them for both
20 Ameren customer service and the Missouri Public Service
21 Commission Consumer Services. So I'm happy to give
22 those to anybody who would like them.

23 I'm also going to ask that as people are
24 speaking at the microphone, you may agree or disagree
25 with what they're saying, but I would ask that you give

1 them the courteous -- that you give them the respect
2 that you would want people to give you when you're
3 speaking.

4 Chairman, would you like to make any opening
5 remarks?

6 CHAIRMAN RUPP: I just want to thank everybody
7 for coming out here and just to one more time reiterate
8 the Judge and I cannot answer any questions. We are
9 here just to listen. That would be akin to in the
10 middle of a murder trial you wouldn't say, hey, Judge,
11 do you think he's guilty, because that would show bias.
12 We're here to take notes and listen to what you have to
13 say, but we cannot comment on anything. We get our
14 chance when we have our hearing with all the attorneys
15 in Jeff City and all the evidence. Thank you very much,
16 and we will be taking your comments into consideration.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chairman. The first
18 name, and forgive me and correct me if I mispronounce
19 your name, the first name I have listed is Tom Santon,
20 Stanton. I'm sorry, Mr. Stanton. The microphone is up
21 here. If you would like to come up. Would you please
22 state and spell your name for the record.

23 MR. STANTON: My name is Tom Stanton, T-o-m
24 S-t-a-n-t-o-n.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand

1 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
2 you're about to give at this local public hearing is the
3 truth?

4 MR. STANTON: I do.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Please go ahead.
6 What would you like to tell the Commission today?

7 TOM STANTON,

8 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 MR. STANTON: Well, actually I have a couple
10 questions. I didn't realize this was just strictly
11 comments. One would be, being on a limited budget
12 social security, I would like to see where they continue
13 sending you bills in the mail to where you can pay by
14 check instead of going to strictly electronic.
15 Everybody seems to be doing that. And I don't own a
16 computer let alone have any internet access. That's the
17 one thing.

18 The other thing was I was curious with what
19 this meeting is all about, the rate increase. With
20 everything pushing towards this clean energy, do they
21 have any kind of projections as to what those increases
22 are going to be and when is that all going to start,
23 because I'm sure it's going to be a lot more than what
24 we're looking at here. That's all I have.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I don't have any

1 questions for you. Are there any questions or any
2 questions from attorneys?

3 MS. MOORE: Your Honor, I don't have any
4 questions but, Mr. Stanton, outside the door are some
5 customer service representatives that will help you with
6 your question regarding whether we are going to continue
7 to accept payment by check.

8 MR. STANTON: Yeah, one of the ladies
9 suggested I bring it up at this comment thing. That's
10 the only reason I did.

11 MS. MOORE: Okay. That's helpful.

12 MR. STANTON: Thanks.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for bringing that to
14 my attention, and thank you for your comments today,
15 Mr. Stanton.

16 The next name I have listed is Eileen
17 Zuckerman. Ms. Zuckerman, would you please state and
18 spell your name for the record.

19 MS. ZUCKERMAN: Eileen, E-i-l-e-e-n,
20 Zuckerman, Z-u-c-k-e-r-m-a-n.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
22 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
23 you're about to give at this local public hearing is the
24 truth?

25 MS. ZUCKERMAN: I do.

1 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
2 Commission today?

3 EILEEN ZUCKERMAN,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 MS. ZUCKERMAN: I have two different things I
6 wanted to be stated. One is that I think these public
7 service meetings are important and so many of them for
8 the other utilities are held in North County and it's
9 terribly hard for older people to get up to North
10 County. If you're not familiar with the area, it's very
11 difficult.

12 So I would like to ask that all of the
13 meetings be held in a centrally located place where
14 people can easily access it either during the day or in
15 the evening. I know that's an inconvenience for the
16 people, but as a consumer I greatly appreciate it.

17 The second thing I wanted to say is I wanted
18 to thank Ameren when you call them if there is an
19 outage, I like the way that they tell you where the
20 outage is and how long it will be until service is
21 restored, and they've been right on the money every
22 time. Thank you.

23 JUDGE CLARK: I don't have any questions.
24 Thank you for your comments, Ms. Zuckerman. Steve
25 Wulff.

1 MR. WULFF: Steve, S-t-e-v-e, Wulff,
2 W-u-l-f-f.

3 JUDGE CLARK: You might want to adjust the
4 microphone just a little bit so I can hear you better.
5 Mr. Wulff, do you swear or affirm that the testimony you
6 are about to give at this local public hearing is the
7 truth?

8 MR. WULFF: I do.

9 JUDGE CLARK: What comments do you have for
10 the Commission today?

11 STEVE WULFF,
12 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

13 MR. WULFF: Judge, Chairman, members of the
14 Commission. I do not believe Ameren deserves a rate
15 increase. When electric utilities across the country
16 started switching to wind and solar generated
17 electricity years ago, Ameren put its head down and
18 stuck with coal. It was a bad decision. One utility in
19 neighboring Iowa is generating about 50 percent of its
20 total needs from wind. So maybe if Ameren had been on
21 the ball, we'd be looking at a rate decrease instead of
22 a rate increase. Of course, the wind turbines do need
23 to be put in the right place.

24 Ameren has also disregarded environmental
25 regulations when expanding Rush Island without adding

1 required pollution reduction equipment. Another very
2 bad management decision. I call it cheating. Makes me
3 wonder if Ameren's management can be trusted. In my
4 opinion, Ameren's Board of Directors haven't made
5 decisions to penalize management for these poor
6 decisions, bear the responsibility for their apparent
7 lack of oversight. The Board of Directors is elected by
8 shareholders. The shareholders through their elected
9 representatives on the Board should bear the blunt of
10 the funding for this amount of money taken out as a
11 reduction in profit margin.

12 The ratepayers didn't make these poor
13 decisions but are being asked to pay. I say no. I hope
14 the Commission will not grant the rate increase.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments,
16 Mr. Wulff. Patricia Schuba. Would you state and spell
17 your name for the record.

18 MS. SCHUBA: It is Patricia, P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a,
19 Schuba, S-c-h-u-b-a.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Schuba, would you raise your
21 right hand to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the
22 testimony you are about to give at this local public
23 hearing is the truth?

24 MS. SCHUBA: I do.

25 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell us?

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PATRICIA SCHUBA,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

MS. SCHUBA: First I'd like to say hello and thank you for hosting the hearing for folks like me who live near these power plants. I live in Labadie, Missouri. My family has been there for three, four generations. And before I came here this morning, I put a notice on my Facebook page. Over 30 people responded within about five minutes to say I wish I could go, it's noon on a workday, I can't be there, but carry my thoughts with you.

So I'm going to read a few of those if I have time at the end, but I wanted to make basically five points about what I don't like about this rate increase. The primary thing that really bothers me is this idea of an imposed mandatory monthly fee. I call it a junk fee. I think we heard that phrase in the last couple days. But to charge everyone even \$12 a month, and potentially \$24 a month in the future, Ameren has in some way stated that prior, I think is unjust and unfair and it penalizes people who use very little energy.

We have a farm. We basically turn on the lights for the cattle and the horses and the sheep and we pay that fee every month and we use like very little energy. Then I think of the elderly woman living in her

1 home who's trying to make ends meet and she always has
2 that bill there every month into the future. And so if
3 that would go to \$24 a month, do the math, you know, you
4 could send a child to a community college with that
5 money in ten years for one year of college. So it's
6 significant. We like to say these are small amounts, a
7 little bit here, a little bit there. But it affects
8 people's lives, especially the ones that are saving
9 energy and trying to raise families and trying to be
10 retired without an income.

11 The second thing I wanted to say is that, and
12 I said it in my question and answer discussion, Ameren
13 has the privilege to be a monopoly utility in this
14 state. If you look at their coverage map, it's a
15 significant number of Missourians are forced to buy
16 energy from them. And I think it should be available
17 for rich and poor, for those who have no choice but to
18 pay the fees that the Public Service Commission will
19 allow.

20 I think the Public Service Commission needs to
21 limit charges especially given that this company posted
22 income of about a billion dollars I think it was last
23 year or the year before. So they have plenty of money
24 to invest in clean energy. They have plenty of money to
25 pay their executives \$2 to \$5 million a year.

1 I think everybody needs to tighten their belt
2 including this company. I don't think I said it before
3 but I'm going to be bold enough to say I don't think
4 anybody should pay \$12 per month in a monthly fee.
5 We're talking about raising the amount from 9 to 12. We
6 shouldn't have to pay that at all. It's like what you
7 see on your phone bills, on your other types of bills.
8 They should be transparent with the money they need to
9 run their company and to have a reasonable profit margin
10 period.

11 Citizen ratepayers should not have to pay for
12 Ameren's legal fees. I think this came up in paying for
13 lobbying and you guys denied it. The Public Service
14 Commission denied that reimbursement. They're asking
15 for money to pay for them going up against our federal
16 government trying to defend our communities against air
17 pollution. We keep saying Rush Island, but Labadie was
18 in that case as well because that judge said that they
19 should have to put cleaner technologies on Labadie, and
20 Labadie is the motherlode of pollution in this region.

21 So I live near Labadie. There's many of my
22 family and friends live near Labadie. It affects places
23 as far away as the east coast. It certainly affects St.
24 Louis City. So no, they shouldn't get recovery for
25 legal fees, especially since they were fighting us, the

1 citizens of the United States, in that pollution case.

2 Okay. They should stop disconnecting
3 ratepayers, they're one of the highest in the nation,
4 and figure out how to produce energy and make it
5 affordable for all Missourians since they have been
6 given the right to be a monopoly to produce and sell it
7 in our state. They need to incentivize energy
8 efficiency and make it possible for all to benefit from
9 the government funds they are getting to upgrade and
10 reduce their costs. There was very little discussion of
11 that today. They're getting money under federal
12 incentives that have been put in place in the last year
13 or two with the new administration. Let's make this
14 work for the people of Missouri.

15 And finally, my real pet peeve is they should
16 be producing more clean energy and clean up the air and
17 water and soil pollution from a century of burning coal
18 and fossil fuels. We cannot leave communities like
19 Labadie, the community around Rush Island, the community
20 around Meramec and the community in North County around
21 the Sioux Power Plant that is mostly farmers behind to
22 suffer the consequences of multi-generational pollution.

23 And I wanted to mention one of the people who
24 responded to my post, she lives in St. Louis County and
25 she pointed out, because she's a shareholder, annual

1 proxy statement of 2021 put Baxter over 9 million per
2 year, Lyons over 4 million per year, Moehn getting 3
3 million per year and Diya over 2 million per year. This
4 is not a company that's hurting for profits. So please,
5 please, please, Public Service Commission, Department --
6 or the Public Counsel, do what you can to reduce this
7 rate and make it fair for Missourians. Thank you.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I am going to say
9 you had indicated that several people that had posted to
10 your Facebook were unable to be here today. At the end
11 of this hearing before I let everybody go, I'm going to
12 let people know how they can make comments using the
13 Commission's website.

14 MS. SCHUBA: Perfect. And I tried to share
15 that as well. I know my sister couldn't be here. She
16 had been to be at her child's school. And she came up
17 to my house this morning to try to type something up to
18 send it in. People do want to be part of this process.
19 They need to be part of this process, especially since
20 we have no other choices. This is what we have. Thank
21 you for listening to those people. You don't see their
22 face here today, but they are concerned about this and
23 they're out there. If I could gather 30 something up in
24 five minutes, I bet if there was another way to reaching
25 out to the public like even maybe -- I mean, thinking

1 outside of the box to do something on social media where
2 you get input, I suspect you'd have a lot more input.
3 Thank you very much. We appreciate you.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. We're also having
5 another local public hearing tonight at St. Louis
6 Community College in Florissant Valley at 6:00 p.m.

7 MS. SCHUBA: Right, right. Just to give you
8 an idea where I come from near Labadie it was about 45
9 minutes to get here. Luckily I could come in the middle
10 of the day. Not complaining just saying that's a fact,
11 yeah.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Schuba, I appreciate you
13 taking the time to be here today. I appreciate your
14 comments.

15 MS. SCHUBA: Thank you so much.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Lloyd Klinedinst.
17 Again, I apologize. I feel like I'm getting almost all
18 of these names wrong.

19 MR. KLINEDINST: Lloyd Klinedinst, (REPORTER'S
20 NOTE: Specific address given), Villa Ridge, Missouri --

21 JUDGE CLARK: You don't have to tell us. I'd
22 rather you not tell me where you live. We have rules
23 against revealing people's confidential customer
24 specific information. If you want to tell me more
25 generally where you live, you know, I live in North

1 County, South County.

2 MR. KLINEDINST: Franklin County.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell
4 your name for the court reporter.

5 MR. KLINEDINST: L-l-o-y-d
6 K-l-i-n-e-d-i-n-s-t.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Klinedinst?

8 MR. KLINEDINST: Klinedinst.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Klinedinst, would you raise
10 your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm
11 that the testimony you are about to give at this local
12 public hearing is the truth?

13 MR. KLINEDINST: Yes.

14 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell us
15 today?

16 LLOYD KLINEDINST,
17 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 MR. KLINEDINST: I object to the Ameren
19 proposed rate hikes. Number one, the fixed charges are
20 regressive hurting low-income taxpayers, ratepayers the
21 most. Since January 2022, Ameren has disconnected
22 53,100 customers for late payment, while another 228,412
23 customers are currently behind on their bills. This new
24 rate hike would drive even more of our low-income
25 population out of electric service, possibly even out of

1 their homes.

2 Secondly, the fixed charges discourage energy
3 conservation because customers pay it no matter how much
4 or how little electricity they use.

5 Thirdly, the rate changes compensate for what
6 should be done, that Ameren take measures to operate
7 more efficiently, cleaner, using less expensive energy
8 solutions. The frightening reality is the irreparable
9 damages Ameren is reeking on our air, land and water and
10 consequently on our health and well-being.

11 I live within a 10-mile radius of the even
12 larger 40-mile radius of the Labadie plants, sulphur
13 dioxide emissions. This plant is also in the nation's
14 top sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide
15 emission polluters. The Labadie plant also devastates
16 our land expanding waste ponds and landfills, even
17 adjacent to wetlands and floodplains violating or barely
18 meeting minimum requirements.

19 Imagine a Missouri water network underground
20 every bit as spectacular as are above-ground network of
21 rivers and streams. Missouri is celebrated as karst
22 country. Now see that underground beauty
23 transmogrified into a sewer system delivering its
24 deadly wastes throughout our land.

25 The Missouri Department of Natural Resources

1 knew as early as 1992 that 154-acre unmined coal ash
2 pond at Labadie's Ameren plant had been leaking some
3 50,000 gallons of coal ash waste per day. The same
4 Labadie plant violates the federal Clean Water Act with
5 respect to hot water discharge putting wildlife and the
6 Missouri River at risk.

7 I ask the Public Service Commission to perform
8 its public service to benefit the people of Missouri
9 over the profit of a virtually private interest. Thank
10 you for accepting my statement.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Klinedinst. I
12 don't have any questions for you. Thank you for your
13 comments today.

14 MR. KLINEDINST: Thank you.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Becky Russell.

16 MS. RUSSELL: Hello.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Good afternoon, Ms. Russell.
18 Please feel free to adjust the microphone so it's most
19 comfortable for you. Would you please state and spell
20 your name for the court reporter.

21 MS. RUSSELL: Becky, B-e-c-k-y, Russell,
22 R-u-s-s-e-l-l.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Russell, would you raise
24 your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm
25 that the testimony that you're about to give at this

1 local public hearing is the truth.

2 MS. RUSSELL: Yes, I do.

3 JUDGE CLARK: What comments do you have for
4 the Commission today?

5 BECKY RUSSELL,
6 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 MS. RUSSELL: I don't have too much technical
8 stuff to say, but I will say that I am representing from
9 Union, Missouri a lot of folks who could not make it up
10 here and we had no options at the southern end of the
11 area. We're in Franklin County. And so yes, I did
12 drive up with other people. I had no intention of being
13 here but since I had other people to come with.

14 We've usually had a wider selection of places
15 to go, because I have been to these other meetings much
16 closer to home. Everyone is upset about this rate hike
17 however it must be, or is to be. When one can pay
18 millions of dollars per year to the upper echelon, it
19 doesn't, and then we have the water pollution and the
20 air pollution and profit-making by the shareholders,
21 it's not justified.

22 I live on a fixed income. Most of my friends
23 live on fixed incomes. And everyone is suffering these
24 days. And for them to have the audacity to ask for more
25 money I think is beyond the limit. Thank you.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments, Ms.
2 Russell. Jane Malone.

3 MS. MALONE: It's probably Faye.

4 JUDGE CLARK: You appear to write better than
5 I read. Faye Malone.

6 MS. MALONE: Most people don't spell it with
7 an e either, just stay with the y. My name is Faye
8 Malone, F-a-y-e M-a-l-o-n-e.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
10 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
11 you are about to give at this local public hearing is
12 the truth?

13 MS. MALONE: Yes.

14 FAYE MALONE,
15 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 MS. MALONE: I've just got a couple things to
17 say. One is, yeah, I don't want to see it go up. I
18 live in the city itself so you already pay taxes on that
19 and then these extra charges that are already on the
20 bill. You use a certain amount of electric and then it
21 goes down but the first part you pay higher. So you've
22 got that. And then when you're paying city taxes
23 because you live within the city, that makes it
24 difficult and the bill alone has itself and then the
25 fuel that all these extra charges I think is enough.

1 Another story is I'd like to see that there's
2 more offers for energy. I called in one day and said
3 hey, is there anything that I can get help through,
4 Union Electric, I know in the past they've done that, I
5 got a discount when I got my new type of heater and
6 stuff. I said is there anything like it. She goes
7 well, they do but you've got to have a certain income.
8 Our income is low but too high for the standard that
9 they use where they can put the bill, you know, you'd
10 think they'd want to help you with that and you just pay
11 it through your electric bill. They weren't ready to
12 hear that.

13 The other story I'd like to tell you is a
14 neighbor of mine, she was rushed to the hospital. She
15 was sent home with oxygen tanks. Her electric was about
16 to be turned off because she was already sick before
17 that a few weeks before. She called trying to get help.
18 They really didn't help her much. They told her some
19 steps to go but she had to get a written statement from
20 a doctor. She didn't see the doctor yet. It wasn't
21 time. She wasn't seeing the doctor for a few more days.
22 They said well, if you don't have the money, the
23 electric gets turned off. She's on an oxygen tank. You
24 got to have electric for that.

25 I called in in her behalf to try to help her

1 out too. They told me the exact same thing, she's got
2 to go in, pay the certain amount of money or it will be
3 turned off. I said she's on an oxygen tank. She's got
4 to have it or she's going to die. They really didn't
5 help her. The family and I, we all came up with the
6 money to help her get this paid in order not to turn it
7 off. So I think somebody needs to look there at that
8 situation also because she is still in this same
9 situation and not making enough money, can barely go to
10 work but not in the situation where she could actually
11 apply for disability yet. So she's facing this every
12 month. And I just think something needs to happen in
13 that way for people. Investigate it, find out that
14 people really do need that indeed. If they don't
15 believe it, send someone out some way to help people
16 like that. That's all.

17 JUDGE CLARK: In regard to -- So you're
18 talking about programs you'd like to see fewer income
19 requirements and lower bars to entry for that?

20 MS. MALONE: Yeah. I don't want to see the
21 raise. Really truthfully I can't afford it for it to
22 keep going up either. I just think there's other plans,
23 they should come up with something to help people.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for your
25 comments.

1 MS. MALONE: Thank you.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Bret Gustafson. Would you
3 please state and spell your name.

4 MR. GUSTAFSON: Bret, B-r-e-t, Gustafson,
5 G-u-s-t-a-f-s-o-n.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
7 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
8 you're about to give at this local public hearing is the
9 truth?

10 MR. GUSTAFSON: I do.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Mr. Gustafson.

12 BRET GUSTAFSON,
13 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 MR. GUSTAFSON: Thank you. Just to echo some
15 of the comments that have already been made, the first
16 thing that concerns me is that voting yes on this rate
17 hike is basically rewarding a bad company for bad
18 behavior. We've heard about the pollution. I have a
19 small child with asthma. We know that part of the air
20 pollution problem in the St. Louis region and the
21 surrounding counties is tied directly to the burning of
22 coal in Ameren's plants. I often ask these Ameren
23 people if they don't have children and grandchildren
24 that also have to breathe air. I never really get a
25 straight answer from them.

1 I know Mr. Rupp, I know you have children as
2 well. I'm just as concerned about your children as I am
3 about mine. For many, many decades Ameren has shown
4 absolute disregard for our children continuing to burn
5 coal when we know other alternatives are available. Not
6 only continuing to burn coal but continuing to break the
7 law in burning coal in several of their plants by not
8 upgrading their scrubbers.

9 So it may look like it's all legal on paper,
10 but it's kind of like Spire, that other crooked utility
11 we have in this region, we know they're doing outright
12 illegal acts. So a basic problem here is that we keep
13 seeing the Public Service Commission granting rate
14 increases and saying yes to everything that Ameren asks
15 for. And that's rewarding bad behavior from a bad
16 company. It's not something we need. Now, if they were
17 investing in infrastructure we need, energy storage,
18 transformation to wind and sun, utility scale storage, I
19 would be more than happy to pay more on my bill, because
20 that's stuff we need. They are not doing the right
21 thing. They should not be rewarded.

22 The second thing is about the Public Service
23 Commission itself, I try to have good faith in our
24 system. But as I look over the years, it seems that the
25 Public Service Commission always seems to do what the

1 utilities want and not what the people want. At the
2 university we call this regulatory capture when the
3 industry that's supposed to be regulated actually
4 captures control of the regulators. I try not to
5 believe that. I don't want to believe that. I want to
6 think that everyone is honest and doing their best here.

7 What we see over and over is the utility
8 asking for something and getting it. I believe that's
9 probably what's going to happen in this case as well.
10 Usually what does happen is that the Public Service
11 Commission, whether here or another state, they'll come
12 back and say well, we won't give you that much but we'll
13 give you X. And then it makes everyone feel like
14 somebody did their job when, in fact, they shouldn't get
15 anything. That's another reason. I'd like to be proven
16 wrong. I'd like for the Public Service Commission to
17 find some courage. I know you've got the whole Missouri
18 legislature on your back, the Governor on your back, and
19 all of them have Ameren in their pockets. So I know
20 that's going to take a lot of courage to say no on this
21 rate increase, but I really would like to ask you to do
22 that.

23 And the final thing just for public
24 information sake Ameren never sleeps. They've got their
25 lobbyists and Warren up there in Jefferson City.

1 They're already pushing a new bill in the state house in
2 the Senate that will try to give them the right of first
3 refusal over large scale transmission projects. And
4 what that means is yet another way that competition is
5 being restricted. It's really funny this is a state run
6 by the Republican party and the Republican party talks a
7 lot about free markets and capitalism, this, that and
8 the other. But when it comes to Ameren, they don't like
9 competition. They don't like free markets. So when you
10 reward that utility, you're simply rewarding something
11 that is basically anti-American. We need more
12 competition. We need more companies to be able to
13 generate electricity, transmit electricity and expand
14 wind and solar in this state and stop letting Ameren
15 basically control us, control the politicians and
16 control everything to keep burning dirty coal or gas.
17 Thank you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Gustafson. I
19 appreciate your comments. Michael Lammieg.

20 MR. LAMMIEG: M-i-c-h-a-e-l L-a-m-m-i-e-g.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Do you swear or affirm that the
22 testimony you're about to give at this local public
23 hearing is the truth?

24 MR. LAMMIEG: Yes.

25 MICHAEL LAMMIEG,

1 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

2 MR. LAMMIEG: I just wanted to bring up that
3 Ameren got their last rate increase as far as my
4 research goes in February of '21, which was \$220
5 million. Prior to that, it was 2011 that they were
6 granted a rate increase. So there's a ten-year period
7 that we went without a rate increase to Ameren and then
8 within the past two years there's one in '21 and now one
9 in '23. I don't know what's going on, but I just want
10 to reiterate to you you are called the Public Service
11 Commission, which means you are the stopgap between a
12 monopoly and us poor suckers at the end that have to pay
13 for all this crap.

14 Now, my mother is on a fixed income and this
15 is going to be the straw that broke the camel's back for
16 her, because she doesn't have that kind of money. I
17 don't really have that kind of money. But you know
18 what, we're just going to have to suck it up and do it.

19 The Public Service Commission has allowed
20 every utility that we have to pay a rate increase over
21 the past two, three years. This is now Ameren is up for
22 a second time. We got it in '21, so we're coming back
23 in '23. I challenge you guys, Public Service
24 Commission, to serve the public and protect us against
25 this. You're a monopoly. You can do whatever you want

1 and you can dazzle them with all kind of figures and do
2 creative accounting, everything else.

3 Ameren does not need a rate increase. The
4 public Missouri cannot bear another rate increase. So
5 please do what you are appointed to do for those you are
6 appointed to do it for. Thank you.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Lammieg.
8 Caroline Pufalt.

9 MS. PUFALT: Hello. Thanks. You pronounced
10 it very nicely.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Would you please
12 spell it for the record.

13 MS. PUFALT: Caroline, C-a-r-o-l-i-n-e,
14 Pufalt, P-u-f-a-l-t.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
16 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
17 you're about to give at this local public hearing is the
18 truth?

19 MS. PUFALT: Yes.

20 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell
21 me today?

22 CAROLINE PUFALT,
23 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 MS. PUFALT: Okay, great. First of all,
25 thanks for the extended question and answer period

1 before this. I thought that was very helpful. Thanks
2 for having a hearing. I'll jump ahead to the bottom
3 line of my position. First of all, I'm a Missouri
4 native and I live in St. Louis County.

5 I would encourage the Public Service
6 Commission to oppose the rate increase. The rate is a
7 regressive tax or an aggressive cost. We should not be
8 asking ratepayers to pay more unless Ameren is doing
9 more to address energy efficiency, to give more help to
10 those with lower income, and to be more forward-thinking
11 in how they're going to reduce the fossil fuel use in
12 our utility system and clean up their mess in the coal
13 ash business.

14 I want to really express appreciation for a
15 lot of the comments that have come before me. I think
16 they're very on the mark when they talk about the
17 hardship this will place on many people. Please take
18 that into consideration.

19 After that basic statement, I just want to
20 express some frustrations on my understanding of what
21 the utility, a utility company like Ameren, how it is
22 structured. I've been reading a little bit about the
23 history of utilities. Right now I'm reading a book
24 called California Burning, which is about the history of
25 PG&E, and I would encourage anyone to read a little bit

1 about the history of the development of utilities in
2 this country.

3 But basically now that we are in a situation
4 where we realize the damage that fossil fuels cause, we
5 can no longer operate on a system where you make money
6 by producing more. And it seems like that's the basic
7 underlying assumption of most utility companies now.
8 Even though your company is controlled -- or impacted by
9 a Public Service Commission, they're basically trying to
10 reward their stockholders and they have to produce more
11 to get more, they have to upgrade and do more capital
12 improvements to make money, and Ameren sure has been
13 making some money. We know that. And they've been
14 paying their higher paid employees a lot. That's very
15 discouraging. We're in kind of a backward system here.

16 I certainly don't have the answer on how to
17 get around it. But the system we have now is just not
18 working to produce a public good which is less energy
19 consumption, energy efficiency, more renewables.

20 There's been some talk about renewables, and
21 I'm glad that we've been hearing about that. One of the
22 things, for example, that would be great for Ameren to
23 get out in front on is the rooftop solar issue on more
24 public spaces or commercial spaces like parking lots.
25 You've probably seen some of the news items about in

1 France how they are really expanding the use of solar
2 energy with solar roofs over parking lots. Happening a
3 few other places in this country but that is a totally
4 untapped resource that has minimal, I would think,
5 certainly some transmission costs involved but a lot
6 less than trying to get solar energy from a more distant
7 place. So someone mentioned community solar. That's a
8 great opportunity. But boy, if we could see Ameren just
9 going full steam ahead with these kinds of progressive
10 measures, that would help give us a little faith in the
11 larger picture.

12 And again, I just want to reinforce an
13 opposition to this significant rate increase which will
14 hurt a lot of customers. Please rethink that. Thank
15 you.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.
17 Helen Host.

18 DR. HOST: Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please say and spell
20 your name for the record.

21 DR. HOST: Yep. It's Helen, H-e-l-e-n, Host
22 just like it sounds, H-o-s-t.

23 JUDGE CLARK: And Dr. Host, what would you
24 like to tell us today?

25 DR. HOST: Do I need to do the swearing?

1 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you do. Do you solemnly
2 swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give
3 at this local public hearing is the truth?

4 DR. HOST: Yes, I do.

5 DR. HELEN HOST,
6 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 DR. HOST: Thank you all for offering us the
8 opportunity to speak publicly about how we feel about
9 the rate increase and just energy generation or energy
10 generation by Ameren in general. Can you hear me okay?

11 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

12 DR. HOST: I'm a clinician, a researcher, a
13 wife and a mother of three. I've been working in health
14 care for over 30 years in the St. Louis region.

15 I'm here today because I am hopeful that the
16 Public Service Commission will not approve Ameren's
17 proposed rate increase. It is shortsighted for our
18 state and burdensome to customers, especially those in
19 lower socioeconomic brackets. We are just on the
20 rebound from a time of economic duress, really still in
21 the midst of it.

22 The COVID pandemic disproportionately affected
23 those of color and lower socioeconomic standing the most
24 and now Ameren is asking us all to pay more. This is,
25 despite Ameren increasing its income in 2021 by almost

1 \$120 million from the previous year.

2 Ameren is a monopoly utility and one of the
3 largest polluters in our state. Their detrimental
4 effects of burning coal also disproportionately affect
5 those who are most vulnerable in our community. That is
6 what makes this rate increase especially onerous.

7 We're asking folks who suffer health wise from
8 the effects of coal burning in our community to pay more
9 for this utility even in a time when financially they
10 cannot afford the increase. There is social disparity
11 when it comes to where people live and how they are able
12 to adapt the pollution resulting from Ameren's use of
13 coal. People under socioeconomic stress cannot just
14 simply move to a different area, and quite frankly we
15 have the air that blows the bad air all over the place
16 including neighboring states. So we're affecting not
17 only Missourians but our neighbors nearby.

18 Sadly, all of us in this region are exposed to
19 the effects of Ameren's continued burning of coal to
20 produce energy. Each individual's health and wellness
21 is closely linked to their environment. We know this
22 through many, many studies that have been done up to
23 this point in time. Burning fossil fuels, especially
24 coal, is making us sick in two ways, from the immediate
25 impact of direct air pollutants and from a long-term

1 impact of greenhouse gas emissions that warm our
2 climate.

3 Ameren needs to come up with a long-term plan.
4 We can wait no longer for this plan. I also spoke at a
5 Commission hearing in 2018 pre-COVID on the same things.
6 I feel like we're just in the same program here.

7 We are number two now, we used to be three in
8 2018 after Indiana and Texas, now we're number two only
9 after Texas in burning coal for energy production. We
10 are not even a coal-producing state. In 2021 alone
11 Ameren spent nearly \$500 million to import coal from
12 other states. We need to move to cheaper cleaner energy
13 like wind and solar. An added bonus would be job
14 creation for our communities which would additionally
15 boost our economy.

16 Our state's utilities, including Ameren, could
17 also take advantage of the benefits in the Inflation
18 Reduction Act that was passed last session in the US
19 Congress. It makes it cheaper for us to retire coal and
20 move to wind and solar with improved storage, which
21 that's needed of course because we don't always have
22 sun, and we don't always have wind, but with improved
23 battery storage which is out there and available and our
24 clean energy options.

25 It's hard. It's not easy for change. But we

1 can do it and I don't know why we're waiting. It's hard
2 but it's rewarding work that could be done by Ameren, by
3 our public utilities commissions, our state legislators
4 and the Governor. It would benefit all of us.

5 From the US Energy Information Administration
6 2021 data, coal still accounts for greater than 70
7 percent of in-state generation in only four states in
8 the US. West Virginia is number one at 91 percent.
9 Missouri is number two. 75 percent of our energy
10 generation is from coal. Right behind us is Wyoming at
11 74 and Kentucky at 71. This is not a group of people or
12 group of states that we should be proud of being part
13 of. It's awful, something that we should all be
14 disgusted with at this point in time.

15 Many of our neighboring Midwest states have
16 transitioned to cleaner energy and it costs less. For
17 example, Iowa and Kansas, both of those states wind is
18 now their primary energy source for in-state electricity
19 generation after overtaking coal in 2019. We can do
20 this. Other states have done it.

21 In Iowa, in 2021, 58 percent of their total
22 electricity came from wind. In Kansas, 43 percent.
23 Perhaps most importantly in 2021, the cost of
24 electricity in Iowa is less than the cost in Missouri.
25 Iowa, it's 9.13 cent per kW hour versus Missouri at 9.85

1 cent per kW hour. Instead of raising rates, Ameren
2 needs to retire their coal plants and transition to
3 cleaner energy generation. Now is the time. It's not
4 time to raise the rates.

5 We live me in the Show-Me State. I'm not from
6 Missouri originally, but I always loved that term,
7 Show-Me State. We've been shown. Now is the time, no
8 more waiting. Clean technologies pay for themselves
9 over time through higher efficiency and lower fuel
10 costs. Sunshine and wind is free. By slowing climate
11 change and lessening extreme weather disasters, they
12 also yield trillions of dollars in avoided climate
13 damages. Those benefits are long term, but there are
14 immediate health benefits that we would have through
15 cleaner air yielding longer healthier lives for Missouri
16 citizens, neighboring state citizens and US and global
17 citizens as well.

18 Cleaner air, if we met the America's Paris
19 target points, we would avoid 4.5 million premature
20 deaths, 1.4 million hospitalizations and emergency room
21 visits, this is in the United States, 300 million lost
22 workdays, 1.7 million incidences of dementia and 440
23 million tons of crop losses over the next 50 years.
24 This is from data that came out from a large study done
25 at Duke University, I believe it was in 2018, I have a

1 the date I can share, and with NASA.

2 Air quality benefits would be realized almost
3 immediately and domestically. Near-term national gains
4 are larger than implementation costs. Health impacts of
5 air pollution, most importantly coal burning especially,
6 include heart attacks, asthma, cancer, unhealthy birth
7 like premature births and problems with birth rates and
8 birth -- children being born dead and leads to tens of
9 thousands of deaths in the US each year.

10 Transitioning to a clean energy economy will
11 make us healthier and save money immediately. Switching
12 to 100 percent clean renewable energy is one of the best
13 things we can do to let every Missouri resident breathe
14 clean air and to stop the toll of dirty energy on our
15 health.

16 So let's roll up our sleeves, put in the work
17 and make this happen. I hope I'm not speaking at
18 another hearing three to four years from now. Quite
19 frankly, if I didn't have family ties here and
20 everything else, I would not live in Missouri because
21 we're so far behind. It's really sad. So let's stop
22 kicking this can down the road. Instead of raising
23 rates, Ameren needs to retire these coal plants and
24 transition to cleaner energy generation. Now is the
25 time. It's not time to raise rates. Thank you.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Do you know the name
2 of that Duke study?

3 DR. HOST: I have it. It's on my laptop. I
4 can give it to you exactly for sure. I have it here but
5 it's really written small. It was with the Goddard
6 Institute at NASA and Duke University. I have it on my
7 laptop. I apologize. I walked away from the --

8 JUDGE CLARK: If you want to go get it, I'll
9 wait.

10 DR. HOST: Sure. I can also provide a written
11 statement in addition to just everything I said there
12 and send it too, if you want that.

13 JUDGE CLARK: If you would like to -- If you
14 would to like to make further comments, as I indicated
15 before, at the end of the hearing I'm going to say how
16 that can be done if you did want to. If you had a
17 statement with you today that you wanted me to admit
18 into evidence as part of the record of this hearing, I
19 would be happy to do so.

20 DR. HOST: I have it electronically. I could
21 give that to you or I don't know if they have a printer
22 available but I have it. If you want that, I have it
23 right here.

24 JUDGE CLARK: You can send that to Public
25 Counsel.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Certainly. I'm not sure how
2 you want to handle it in terms of making it an exhibit.

3 DR. HOST: I can just submit it --

4 MR. WILLIAMS: What are you thinking
5 mechanically because she is, as I understand, interested
6 in making it a part of the Commission's record.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Well, it's part of the record of
8 the local public hearing. What I allowed somebody in a
9 previous hearing to do is to send it to Ms. VanGerpen
10 and Ms. VanGerpen send it on to me and I just mark it as
11 an exhibit for this hearing.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Whatever process you'd like to
13 employ I'm okay with.

14 DR. HOST: Okay. So it was researchers at
15 Duke University and NASA Goddard Institute for Space
16 Studies. They modeled the health benefits from reduced
17 pollution from reducing emissions, US emissions at a
18 pace consistent with limiting global warming to 2
19 degrees C. Emissions -- this is the title, Emissions
20 Reductions from the Energy Innovation and Carbon
21 Dividend Act. That was a bill --

22 JUDGE CLARK: You're going a little faster
23 than I can write. Emission --

24 DR. HOST: Oh, sorry. It was Emissions
25 Reductions from the Energy Innovation and Carbon

1 Dividend Act. It was from the last Congress. So we
2 have a new Congress in the US now. So this bill will
3 have to be reintroduced. This is regarding that bill.
4 And basically it was in nature, Nature Climate, and let
5 me see if I have that. I have the link here. I don't
6 know if I have service.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Why don't we do this. It seems
8 Mr. Williams has indicated, and I can see that this is a
9 little awkward, why don't I have you send it to the
10 email address pscinfo@psc.mo.gov.

11 DR. HOST: Okay. Sure.

12 JUDGE CLARK: And we'll have that submitted as
13 an additional comment rather than an exhibit.

14 DR. HOST: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, what I've seen done in
16 the past is when an exhibit is offered, parties I guess
17 it would be offered to the Commission and if any party
18 wants to object to it, they can make their objections
19 regarding it. I don't anticipate making any. But I'm
20 not opposed to it being made a part of the record
21 whatsoever. It's purely the mechanics of how to get it
22 there. I would prefer frankly that it be part of the
23 record as opposed to a comment.

24 DR. HOST: So if I wasn't able to be here in
25 person today, I was going to be able to submit a

1 statement, correct?

2 JUDGE CLARK: Correct.

3 DR. HOST: I can put it within that statement
4 what I said verbatim today and include the reference for
5 that study. It's just a research paper that was in
6 Nature.

7 JUDGE CLARK: That's your preference. Would
8 you like to include that as part of a separate comment
9 or would you like me to take that as an exhibit in
10 today's hearing?

11 DR. HOST: Oh, whichever is easier. Since I'm
12 here, probably that, probably the second choice.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any objections to her
14 offering that as an exhibit for purposes of this local
15 public hearing?

16 MS. MOORE: It's difficult without having the
17 exhibit not having seen it to make a determination on
18 whether there is any objectionable material.

19 JUDGE CLARK: I understand that. I haven't
20 treated these things in the same manner that I've
21 treated evidentiary hearings. In evidentiary hearings,
22 Mr. Williams is absolutely right. Normally what I would
23 do is ask all the parties if they had an objection, but
24 in these local public hearings what I've generally done
25 is allowed them to submit it as an exhibit and the

1 Commission has given it whatever weight they felt was
2 appropriate since local public hearings are --

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I've also seen a process
4 where it's been admitted subject to any objections
5 parties want to make within, I don't know, say ten days
6 afterward.

7 MS. MOORE: Yes, I could agree to that as
8 well, and also I think the concern I would have would be
9 the exhibit would be offered and there would be no
10 opportunity to ask any further questions but the
11 Commission as long as they know that that's subject to
12 that and gives it the weight under those conditions, I
13 don't think there is any concern as long as we have that
14 procedural mechanism.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Can we go off the record for a
16 moment.

17 (Off the record.)

18 JUDGE CLARK: Let's go back on the record.
19 Okay. Here's what I think I would like you to do. If
20 you would like to include that statement as an exhibit
21 for this local public hearing, I am going to mark that
22 as, when I receive it, as Local Public Hearing Exhibit
23 1. If you'll get that information to Mr. Williams here
24 with the Office of the Public Counsel, he will forward
25 it on to me. It will be attached to the transcript --

1 No, prior to attaching it to the transcript, I will
2 forward it to the parties for objections and I will give
3 10 days for objections to that before attaching it to
4 the transcript or not attaching it if those objections
5 are sustained. Okay?

6 DR. HOST: Sounds good. Is it Mr. Williams?
7 I'll get a card from you. Thank you.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Dr. Host. Is that
9 acceptable to you, Ms. Moore?

10 MS. MOORE: Yes, thank you, Your Honor.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I'm sorry for the delay
12 there. Mike Sorenson. Am I saying that right? Is
13 there a Mike who wanted to make a comment? I know I'm
14 getting the first name right. Skip over that for now.
15 Laura Guidry?

16 MS. GUIDRY: Guidry. I'm going to pass for
17 now.

18 JUDGE CLARK: You want to pass for now?

19 MS. GUIDRY: For today.

20 JUDGE CLARK: For today. So you don't want to
21 offer a comment today?

22 THE STENOGRAPHER: How do I spell your last
23 name?

24 JUDGE CLARK: It's G-u-i-d-r-y. And a William
25 Wallace. Mr. Wallace, would you say and spell your name

1 for the record?

2 MR. WALLACE: I will. William Wallace,
3 W-i-l-l-i-a-m, Wallace, W-a-l-l-a-c-e.

4 JUDGE CLARK: And would you raise your right
5 hand to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the
6 testimony you are about to give at this local public
7 hearing is the truth?

8 MR. WALLACE: I do.

9 JUDGE CLARK: What comments do you have for
10 the Commission today?

11 WILLIAM WALLACE,
12 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

13 MR. WALLACE: Well, first of all, thank you
14 for this opportunity. As mentioned, my name is William
15 Wallace, and I am the Executive Director and President
16 of Missouri Veterans Endeavor or MOVE. We are a
17 long-term supportive and permanent housing community for
18 homeless veterans and their family members located in
19 St. Louis County.

20 Our mission is to provide at-risk and homeless
21 veterans and their families with housing, the ability to
22 overcome barriers, and the hope that they need to
23 achieve a better future. I'm also a former Missouri
24 Veterans Commissioner and serve on the Executive
25 Committee of the St. Louis County Continuum of Care of

1 homeless service providers.

2 In speaking today primarily for our veteran
3 clients, I'm also speaking for our neighbors across the
4 region who are experiencing homelessness. The primary
5 barrier to permanent housing that all our veterans and
6 neighbors have is financial instability. The causal
7 effects of this instability include temporary or ongoing
8 low income, poor credit, accumulating debt, equity
9 disparity and a lack of resources particular to their
10 needs.

11 One debt that literally all of our homeless
12 veterans have is utility debt and primarily with Ameren.
13 Utility debt is a huge barrier to securing and
14 maintaining permanent housing. Literally 95 percent of
15 the homeless veterans and their family members referred
16 to our organization come with utility debt which is
17 often insurmountable. The fact of the matter is for a
18 person or head of household to enter into a lease or
19 secure a mortgage, they must be able to have utilities
20 placed in their own names. This is very much the case
21 for our veteran clients.

22 In the past two and a half years, we have seen
23 a marked increase in the number of veterans and their
24 families and our neighbors who are experiencing
25 homelessness in the St. Louis region. We work with our

1 Continuum of Care homeless service providers, our
2 homeless veterans service provider peers and with
3 particular to us our St. Louis VA on managing what is
4 called the by name list for the veterans of all the
5 veterans we have outreached to and identified as being
6 homeless. We try to move those veterans into programs
7 and ultimately into permanent housing.

8 As of last week, we had 304 veterans on our
9 list, an increase of over 30 percent from a year ago and
10 25 to 20 percent -- 20 to 25 percent increase from last
11 summer. What is most alarming is that 93 of those
12 veterans are unsheltered. They're living on the streets
13 or they're bouncing from one spot to the next. This is
14 just for the veterans that we know by name on our list.
15 This is a huge public health issue. And with the
16 continuing uncertainty of COVID, extreme weather events
17 such as we have experienced over the holidays and last
18 summer, our veterans and our neighbors who are
19 experiencing homelessness are in a public health crisis
20 that affects our entire region.

21 I wish to make note that Ameren has
22 disconnected 53,100 customers from January until
23 September of 2022, and that number represents meters but
24 not people. So the impact of these disconnections is
25 greater than the total number of disconnections that are

1 being counted.

2 We are asking again that Ameren not increase
3 their rates and that they again work with our community
4 of homeless service provider peers to develop cogent
5 plans to address the crisis that we are in. In the past
6 we have asked for their partnership in working with our
7 homeless veterans and collective clients to help them
8 become good consumers of the Ameren product.

9 We have asked for ways to address debt such as
10 reasonable payment plans crafted to the financial needs
11 of the client or the neighbor, simplified processes and
12 plans that are easy for a person or their case manager
13 in our case to negotiate, simplify a consistent debt
14 relief program applications, customer service
15 representatives who can engage with specific clients,
16 neighbors or their case managers in a consistent and
17 timely manner with follow up, specific outreach to
18 underserved communities and community advocates and
19 creative ways to pay off this debt.

20 We had approached Ameren a number of years ago
21 going back six years ago and suggested these very
22 things. After that initial agreement and even
23 excitement, it very quickly waned. The communication of
24 plans diminished and sadly to this point today where
25 communication between Ameren, our organizations and our

1 peers and all the service provision in the St. Louis
2 region has really ceased to exist.

3 As a veteran myself, I'm very fortunate to
4 have had a wonderful supportive network of family,
5 friends and a community that embraced me when I returned
6 from the war I deployed to and at my discharge. For my
7 veteran peers and our neighbors in the St. Louis region
8 who are less fortunate than I, I would hope that Ameren
9 would join us and embrace many avenues to reduce rates,
10 treat debt, engage marginalized communities and help end
11 homelessness in the St. Louis region and beyond. I
12 thank you for your time and attention to my thoughts and
13 our collective concerns.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Wallace. You
15 mentioned a number that I heard one other time during
16 this hearing, 53,100 disconnections since and you had
17 said a date there but I didn't catch it.

18 MR. WALLACE: I did. That date was between
19 January 2022 and September of 2022.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 MR. WALLACE: Thank you very much.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Jonathan Lehmann.

24 MR. LEHMANN: I also have a letter from the --
25 a part of a community -- I also have a letter from the

1 HOA regarding the rate increase. Does that have to be
2 dealt with separately by submitting it online?

3 JUDGE CLARK: No. If you've got that --

4 MR. LEHMANN: It's short.

5 JUDGE CLARK: If you've got it on you, you've
6 got a couple options here. You can choose to read it
7 into the record, you can choose to let the parties here
8 look at it and I will take objections and then rule on
9 whether or not it can come into evidence.

10 MR. LEHMANN: I have my own testimony. So I
11 can read my testimony first. How do you want to handle
12 the HOA?

13 JUDGE CLARK: If you'd like me to attach that
14 letter or if you'd like that letter to become an
15 exhibit, if you could bring it up here for just a
16 moment.

17 MR. LEHMANN: Sure.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Would you hand it first to Ms.
19 Moore there. Since you've got another copy, would you
20 hand it to this table for them to look at.

21 MR. LEHMANN: That was written by Mike Wallis.
22 Mike Wallis couldn't make it. He knew I was coming up
23 here.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Any objections to admitting that
25 as an exhibit onto the local public hearing record?

1 MS. MOORE: No objection.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Any objections from Staff or
3 Public Counsel?

4 MR. VANDERGRIFF: No, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE CLARK: I will not be sending out --
6 Thank you very much, Mr. Lehmann.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, Public Counsel also
8 would not object to Mr. Lehmann's written statement that
9 he intends to read either for that matter.

10 JUDGE CLARK: If you want to submit that,
11 again I'm going to ask you to give it to Ms. Moore, the
12 attorney for Ameren.

13 MR. LEHMANN: I'll just need one copy back.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Absolutely. Anyway, as I was
15 saying, in regard to the HOA letter, I'm going to mark
16 that as Local Public Hearing Exhibit 2 for this hearing.
17 I'll call it the HOA letter and that will be admitted
18 onto the hearing record.

19 (LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING EXHIBIT 2 WAS RECEIVED
20 INTO EVIDENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

21 JUDGE CLARK: Now, in regards to what I'm
22 going to choose to call Exhibit 3, are there any
23 objections to admitting that onto the local public
24 hearing record? Ms. Moore?

25 MS. MOORE: Is Exhibit 3 his statement?

1 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

2 MS. MOORE: Wouldn't the transcript capture
3 that?

4 JUDGE CLARK: It would, but I think
5 Mr. Williams had indicated he also wanted to know if it
6 could be attached to the record as an exhibit. Do you
7 have any objection to that?

8 MS. MOORE: No. No, Your Honor.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Any objection from Staff or
10 Public Counsel?

11 MR. VANDERGRIFF: No, Your Honor.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Certainly not.

13 JUDGE CLARK: I will call Exhibit 3 Mr.
14 Lehmann's.

15 MR. LEHMANN: You've got my spelling there on
16 the bottom.

17 JUDGE CLARK: I do. Okay. Exhibit 3,
18 Mr. Lehmann's statement, will be admitted onto the
19 hearing record.

20 (LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING EXHIBIT 2 WAS RECEIVED
21 INTO EVIDENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

22 JUDGE CLARK: At this time, Mr. Lehmann, if
23 you would like to go ahead -- I don't believe I swore
24 you in yet.

25 And would you spell your name for the hearing

1 record.

2 MR. LEHMANN: Sure. It's Jonathan,
3 J-o-n-a-t-h-a-n, last name is L-e-h-m-a-n-n.

4 JUDGE CLARK: And do you swear or affirm that
5 the testimony you are about to give at this local public
6 hearing is the truth?

7 MR. LEHMANN: Yes.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.

9 JONATHAN LEHMANN,
10 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

11 MR. LEHMANN: Should I start with mine or the
12 HOA?

13 JUDGE CLARK: You may start with whatever you
14 -- whichever one you like. I'm not going to tell you
15 how to testify. You get to offer your comments the way
16 you would like.

17 MR. LEHMANN: Okay. I'll start with the HOA.
18 This was written by Mike Wallis who's the treasurer for
19 the community that we're in. Dear Missouri Public
20 Service Commissioners. On behalf of nearly 155 property
21 owners from the Lakewood Hills Subdivision located in
22 northern Jefferson County, Missouri, we are respectfully
23 requesting that the Missouri Public Service reject
24 Ameren Electric's proposed \$12 a month rate increase per
25 line charge. Many of the owners in our subdivision are

1 living off of fixed incomes. And even though this
2 proposed increase seems like a small amount, it
3 represents a 6 percent annual jump for the average bill.
4 If annualized, this represents an additional 144 per
5 year out-of-pocket expense to people who may not have
6 the resources to pay the extra amount. In the bigger
7 picture, this means all of the owners in our subdivision
8 collectively will be paying an extra \$22,320 annually.
9 We need to protect financially vulnerable citizens from
10 this unreasonable increase and respectfully ask for your
11 help. If you have any questions, please feel free to
12 contact me. Thank you. Mike Wallis, Treasurer of
13 Lakewood Hills Homeowners Association.

14 Now to mine. Dear Commissioners. I am a
15 homeowner with an all-electric house located in Lakewood
16 Hills Subdivision in northwestern Jefferson County. I
17 have a small income from my business Graphic Design
18 Communication and along with my partner's earnings from
19 her job we are able to pay our bills but it can be tough
20 sometimes.

21 I ask the Missouri Public Service Commission
22 to please reject Ameren Missouri's proposed \$12 a month
23 rate increase per line. The increase is a flat rate.
24 Everyone pays the same amount. This will impact lower
25 and fixed income households the most, and we have a lot

1 of neighbors in that category in our community. I feel
2 the flat rate increase request is insensitive and
3 untimely. We have no access to natural gas where we
4 live nor would we want it. While we accept that our
5 largest utility bill each month is from Ameren, we would
6 feel much better if Ameren were working much faster and
7 harder to bring renewable energy generation on board.
8 Currently Ameren is still one of the most dependent uses
9 of coal for electric generation among the nation's
10 electric utilities.

11 I realize that the Rush Island power plant in
12 Jefferson County is closing due to Ameren's insistence
13 that the scrubbers were not needed when EPA said that
14 they were. Ameren needs to do what it claims it will do
15 and replace the lost power with renewable energy and
16 electric storage. I believe we are at the beginning of
17 a climate change crisis that will only be at best abated
18 if we dramatically reduce our carbon emissions now.
19 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Feel free to
20 contact me with any questions. Thank you.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Lehmann.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Lehmann, I do have a
23 question.

24 MR. LEHMANN: Sure.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: You said you're an all-electric

1 user. What did you mean by that?

2 MR. LEHMANN: We don't have Spire gas. We
3 don't have natural gas pipelines in our area or anywhere
4 near it. When I say "all electric," when the power goes
5 down, there's nothing there except maybe some firewood.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Let me ask it this way. Are
7 you using electricity for space heating and cooling?

8 MR. LEHMANN: No, just -- My wife uses a
9 heating pad. I don't think that counts. But minimally.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: How do you heat your home?

11 MR. LEHMANN: It's through an electric heater
12 that looks very similar to a furnace. It's in the
13 basement.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Forced air?

15 MR. LEHMANN: It's forced air. It uses, this
16 is new to me, it uses the actual exterior unit which is
17 normally thought of as a compressor for the
18 air-conditioning, it actually uses that too as a heat
19 exchange. So it may be a heat pump in there. I can
20 supply some information on that. It was put in by
21 Future Air by the prior homeowners.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: But the bottom line is the
23 electricity that powers your space heating and your
24 space cooling?

25 MR. LEHMANN: We don't use space heaters, as I

1 said.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't mean --

3 MR. LEHMANN: We have a furnace that uses
4 electricity and only electricity.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

6 JUDGE CLARK: All of your heating and cooling
7 comes from electricity, correct?

8 MR. LEHMANN: Correct.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Judge.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Lehmann. Thank
11 you again for your statement.

12 MR. LEHMANN: Appreciate it.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lehmann is the last person I
14 have signed up to speak at this point. At this time is
15 there anybody who having heard everybody else speak
16 would like to offer comments to the Commission? Yes,
17 sir. Please come up to the microphone.

18 MR. OTERSEN: Yes. My name is Donald,
19 D-o-n-a-l-d, last name O-t-e-r-s-e-n. I wasn't going to
20 come here today. I decided I would. I'm sorry.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Do you swear or affirm that the
22 testimony you are about to give at this local public is
23 the truth?

24 MR. OTERSEN: Yes, I do.

25 DONALD OTERSEN,

1 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

2 MR. OTERSEN: I wasn't going to come here
3 today and then I thought about it. I live here in town.
4 I've heard about the coal mining. I came from southern
5 Illinois. My hometown was called Willisville. Right
6 now it's 650 people. It was a very, very large town.
7 We had coal mining. The reason you do not see coal in
8 Portage Des Sioux or anywhere else around here is
9 because it had high sulphur. All the coal mines around
10 here are probably getting all their coal from Wyoming.
11 I lived out in Portage Des Sioux. When they built that
12 plant out there, I was totally against it with Ameren
13 UE. Why? Because what they have out there is a sewer.
14 You go out there. It's the leftover from the -- The
15 water and minerals and everything that's in coal is in a
16 great big container. Supposedly it's got rubber
17 underneath it. The question that I have to Ameren UE
18 is, if you have an earthquake, which we're on the New
19 Madrid fault here, if you have an earthquake and it
20 comes up the Mississippi River, that is going to burst
21 and you're going to have this contamination everywhere
22 and it is contamination.

23 I don't know how to explain it. I wish they
24 would go total electric, other means of electricity,
25 because the coal mining industry is a mess and a lot of

1 people lost their jobs over it, had to go everywhere
2 else. But it's -- I mean, I cannot see paying that much
3 money to go there. My next question to Ameren UE would
4 be what are you going to do with the electric cars that
5 you think that's going to be, what's your grid going to
6 be for that. I cannot see replacing all the electric in
7 everybody's homes and industries and then what are you
8 going to charge the people for that. It's not going to
9 be \$12. And I guess that's something to think about
10 because sooner or later everybody says I'm going to have
11 to go electric.

12 I'm 77 years old. I don't plan on being
13 around to go to total electric. I can see gasoline
14 being used, yeah. What are you going to do with the
15 vehicles? You're going to have to get rid of your
16 vehicles. Now, in Coulterville, Illinois,
17 C-o-u-l-t-e-r-v-i-l-l-e, Illinois, there are solar farms
18 out there. Farmers have gave up their property. I'm
19 talking hundreds of acres. And the way I understand it,
20 the way it was explained to me, your electric cars have
21 been around already and your electric vehicles. These
22 companies buy these electric batteries, store them in a
23 great big building. The sun comes down, hits the grid
24 of solar panels, goes into these batteries. It
25 recharges them. That's how you get your electricity. I

1 don't know. I don't know all about it but I've seen it.

2 It is amazing to see farmland, which was for
3 cows, chickens and whatever, homes, that gave all this
4 up for the money to put all this out. They're hundreds
5 of them everywhere. It's around Sparta, Coulterville
6 area, and it's worth it to see. And if that's the way
7 it's going to go, I guess that's the way it's going to
8 go, but I can't see Ameren UE putting all what are you
9 going to do here, where are you going to park your cars
10 at here and get them charged here in St. Charles.
11 There's not that many places. Thank you very much.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments. Is
13 there anybody else who would like to offer comments to
14 the Commission at this local public hearing? I see no
15 hands. I'd like to thank everybody who came today to
16 participate in this local public hearing. The
17 Commission appreciates hearing from you. I learn
18 something new every time I am at a local public hearing.
19 If you have additional comments or someone you are
20 talking to, I believe somebody indicated that they had
21 received a bunch of responses on Facebook, if you have
22 somebody who would like to make additional comments but
23 was unable to be here or attend one of the other public
24 hearings, you can make written comments by contacting
25 the email address pscinfo, that's psc stands for Public

1 Service Commission, pscinfo@psc.mo.gov or by contacting
2 the Office of the Public Counsel. That's Mr. Williams
3 over here. They've been very gracious about seeing that
4 those comments get filed with the Commission or by going
5 to the Commission's web page. The Public Service
6 Commission has a web page, and on that web page you can
7 find a link to leave comments about this case.

8 You may need to know the case number for the
9 case. The case number for this case is ER-2022, which
10 was the year it was filed in, and 0337.

11 With that in mind, again, I'd like to thank
12 everybody. This has been a long and informative
13 hearing. I've appreciated everybody taking the time to
14 participate. Have a safe drive home. This hearing is
15 now adjourned. We are off the record.

16 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 2:40
17 p.m.)

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23 (Local Public Hearing Exhibit 1 is to be submitted
 24 later to the Public Service Commission and Local Public
 25 Hearing Exhibits 2 and 3 were retained by Judge Clark.)

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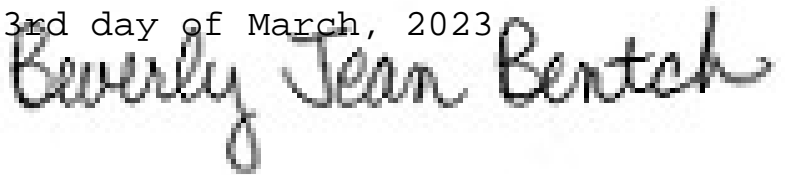
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission Local Public hearing; that all of the witnesses were sworn in by me; and that the transcript, pages 1 through 64, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2023



Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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