

1 STATE OF MISSOURI
2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
4 Public Hearing
5 September 8, 2008
6 Kirkwood, Missouri
7 Volume 3
8
9 In the Matter of Union Electric) Case No. ER-2008-0318
Company d/b/a AmerenUE's Tariffs)
10 To Increase its Annual Revenues)
For Electric Service)
11
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14 MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATOR LAW JUDGE
15 KEVIN GUNN, Commissioner
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1 PROCEEDINGS

2

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's go ahead and get started
4 then.

5 Thank you everyone for coming.

6 My name is Morris Woodruff. I'm the
7 Administrative Law Judge for the Commission. I'll be
8 presiding here tonight.

9 And this is a public hearing for Ameren UE's
10 request to raise their rates.

11 It's Case Number ER-2008-0318.

12 To my left here is Commissioner Kevin Gunn, one
13 of our commissioners.

14 And as you can see, we also have a video
15 connection with Jefferson City.

16 Are there any commissioners in Jefferson City?

17 Not hearing any answers from there -- all
18 right.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: There aren't any commissioners
20 here in Jeff City.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

22 To start off, I'll ask Commissioner Gunn if he
23 has any opening comments.

24 COMMISSIONER GUNN: I just want to thank
25 everybody for coming out -- both the folks from Ameren

1 and Lewis Mills, Office of Public Counsel, who is here.

2 I appreciate their input as well as the public
3 input.

4 I'm here to listen and will stay until
5 everybody has a chance to get their say.

6 Those commissioners that aren't here -- we're a
7 five-member commission. The four commissioners that
8 aren't here, this is being recorded as well as being
9 transcribed.

10 So no need to fear, we will pay very close
11 attention to what you have to say.

12 And we appreciate you coming out and giving us
13 the opportunity to hear you.

14 So thanks very much.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And before we take our first
16 witness, I'll ask if there are any attorneys here for
17 the various parties.

18 First of all, for Ameren UE, state your
19 appearance.

20 MR. BYRNE: Yes, your Honor. I'm Tom Byrne.
21 I'm appearing on behalf of Ameren UE.

22 My address is 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis,
23 Missouri 63013.

24 And for Staff?

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Deputy General

1 Counsel, PO Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

3 And for the Office of Public Counsel?

4 MR. MILLS: On behalf of the Office of Public
5 Counsel, my name is Lewis Mills. My address is PO Box
6 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

8 Are there any other attorneys for any other
9 party?

10 I don't see any response to that.

11 As indicated, I'll ask you to come up and
12 testify right up here at the table and I'll swear you
13 in. And we'll give you a chance to tell us what you
14 want to tell us.

15 After you've testified, I'll ask the
16 commissioners if they have any questions for you.

17 And then I'll also give the other, the
18 attorneys for the other parties a chance to ask you some
19 follow-up questions also.

20 And I've got three names on the sign-up list.
21 I'll call them first.

22 And if there's anybody else that wants to
23 testify that didn't sign up, we'll let you talk as well.

24 The first name on the list is Francesca Alfino.

25 MS. ALFINO: Francesca Alfino.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Alfino? Okay.

2 Come on up.

3 (WHEREIN, Francesca Alfino was sworn in.)

4

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: First of all, tell us your
6 name.

7 MS. ALFINO: My name is Francesca Alfino. I
8 live at 1268 Danvers Drive. It's unincorporated St.
9 Louis County.

10 I wasn't, I've never been to anything like
11 this. So I'm not sure, I wasn't sure if I could ask
12 questions. So I tried to write things down in what I
13 thought was a logical way.

14 So please take these questions rhetorically,
15 but they give meaning to my point.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sure.

17 MS. ALFINO: I have an outage log. I've turned
18 it in to Ameren.

19 I've had five outages in five weeks.

20 What I was hoping to do is get an understanding
21 of how you can get a rate increase with performance in
22 delivering electricity -- at least to the homeowners in
23 my area, it's really sketchy. The power outages are not
24 very good.

25 I'm not sure how outages are counted. As I

1 said, I've had five in as many weeks.

2 But according to my State Representative's
3 Office, Ameren only counted two of those. I'm not sure
4 what report he's getting. But it makes me look like I'm
5 really off the wall.

6 More important, when does an outage not count
7 -- because it has implications.

8 I'm not sure how you rate communications and
9 responsiveness to the customer calling with problems. I
10 think this is important.

11 I started calling after each outage to make
12 sure the outage was logged because three out of the five
13 outages, a transformer popped. And it happens to be
14 right over my backyard. So it's rather loud. And it's
15 a little startling.

16 After the second outage, I requested Ameren to
17 tell me how they were going to fix the problem.

18 Someone came to the house, said he didn't see
19 anything but said he would put a monitor on the line.

20 The 4th time there was still no monitor on the
21 line according to Customer Service. And nobody could
22 tell me what the plan was to fix anything.

23 And as far as I know, there still isn't a plan.

24 I provided my cell number. No one has ever
25 called me back. Well, somebody called me back once but

1 that was with we don't have a plan yet.

2 Instead, today, someone with a camera contacted
3 one of the few neighbors who's not had a problem here
4 and has heard all of our transformers popping all around
5 her.

6 I could have identified the popping
7 transformers because, as I said, one of them was right
8 in my backyard.

9 These outages shorten the life of my appliances
10 and my air conditioner. I'm on Disability. And I need
11 these things to function. I really can't afford them to
12 go out early.

13 Before Ameren gets a rate increase, I would
14 propose that we get a credit on these outages, say, 50
15 dollars an outage. And I would be in the black for this
16 month.

17 When the transformer near me was replaced, the
18 crew requested a replacement pole, stating that the one
19 they hung the new transformer on was shot -- as were
20 many of the poles in the neighborhood.

21 I've called and requested that the pole
22 situation be investigated. And that was roughly three
23 years ago.

24 And there's no status on those poles.

25 I live in a 50, 60 year-old neighborhood. And

1 the top of the pole in my backyard is kind of burnt out.

2 And that's kind of what I wanted to say.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

4 Mr. Gunn, do you have any questions?

5 COMMISSIONER GUNN: I do.

6 Thank you very much for coming tonight. I just
7 have a couple of questions.

8 You said you've had five outages in five weeks.

9 Has this been in the last five weeks or is it,
10 is it --

11 MS. ALFINO: The last outage was -- I handed
12 Ameren my report. The last outage was last week. I
13 think it was the second at 2:20 in the morning or
14 something like that. But they have my report.

15 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. I don't see that.

16 MS. ALFINO: I'm sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER GUNN: That's okay. So that's
18 what -- so in the past five weeks, you've had five
19 outages?

20 MS. ALFINO: Yes. I haven't had one this week
21 yet.

22 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. All right.

23 Approximately how long do those outages last?

24 MS. ALFINO: These have lasted from under a
25 minute to 20 minutes.

1 I think the last one, the one before the last
2 one they said was 22 minutes. But they saw that one.

3 The concern I have is that if nobody fixes a
4 problem -- you know, they won't be able to pinpoint it
5 if they don't have ears in the neighborhood.

6 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Sure. So out of the five
7 in the last five weeks, were they more on the minute
8 side or 22 minute side?

9 MS. ALFINO: Three were the minute side.

10 Two of them were on the 20 minute side. And
11 one of those 20 minutes was the entire area.

12 There was a fire in something and --

13 COMMISSIONER GUNN: And so when you contacted
14 Ameren, they counted only two -- or you contacted your
15 State Representative, they contacted Ameren. And the
16 company came back and said we only have two logged for
17 two outages?

18 MS. ALFINO: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Because those three only
20 lasted a minute, did you call on each one of those
21 outages?

22 MS. ALFINO: Yes. I did. Because I was
23 concerned about the popping over -- we have very small
24 backyards. It's like, if it was a squirrel, you would
25 see fireworks.

1 But, you know, sometime it's so loud you can't
2 really tell which one it is. But it sounded like it was
3 the one over my yard.

4 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. When you called
5 Ameren, did you talk, go through their automated system?
6 Or did you talk to a live person?

7 MS. ALFINO: Oh, no. I spoke with a live
8 person. In fact, I specifically asked for -- it
9 happened at 2 a.m., the last one.

10 And I called on my cell at 2:29. And I said I
11 know these short ones don't seem to be logged, I really
12 want to make a point of this being logged.

13 And as of -- when we were looking at the logs
14 in there, it didn't show up.

15 COMMISSIONER GUNN: So did you, did you go
16 through an automated system to get to a live person? Or
17 did a live person pick up the phone?

18 MS. ALFINO: You have to punch in your number.
19 So I assume it's recorded somewhere. But the person who
20 you speak with doesn't have your phone number.

21 COMMISSIONER GUNN: You said you got one
22 callback. Did you speak to that person when they called
23 back?

24 MS. ALFINO: Yes. That was after the 4th
25 outage.

1 COMMISSIONER GUNN: How long did it take for
2 them to call you back.

3 MS. ALFINO: That was after contacting my State
4 Rep. And that was -- I don't know if there's a
5 correlation there. He called me back a couple of hours
6 later.

7 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. And then my final
8 question is the pole situation, you said your pole is,
9 they're old and they're worn?

10 MS. ALFINO: Yes. The top of several of them
11 are burnt out. Some of them are kind of leaning.

12 The foliage is up and I wasn't sure if it was
13 worth trying to take pictures because I'm not that good
14 at it.

15 COMMISSIONER GUNN: And you haven't seen
16 anybody come out there to take a look at those poles
17 or --

18 MS. ALFINO: Someone was out there while I was
19 away from the house today. I don't know who.

20 I just, I speak to my neighbors. And that's
21 how I know how many neighbors are out.

22 I was delivering flyers in the neighborhood for
23 a neighborhood meeting and the topic of electricity
24 always is a topic that comes up.

25 COMMISSIONER GUNN: How many houses are in your

1 neighborhood?

2 MS. ALFINO: 112.

3 COMMISSIONER GUNN: That's all the questions I
4 have. Thank you.

5 There might be some other folks, so don't jump
6 up.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll ask the attorneys for the
8 third parties -- do you have any questions?

9 Hearing none -- Mr. Williams, did you have any
10 questions?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. I believe I do -- just to
12 make sure that we have enough identifying information
13 and to find out if she's made any inquiries of the
14 Public Service Commission.

15 MS. ALFINO: Yes, I have. I went to the
16 website. And I actually picked one person's name. And
17 today when I was on the website trying to figure out if
18 there was a general e-mail address, I called the phone
19 number, per Sam Page's suggestion, and I sent an e-mail
20 with the outages.

21 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Today?

22 MS. ALFINO: Today.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Do we have your address
24 anywhere?

25 MS. ALFINO: Yes. I can state it again if you

1 would like.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead and state it again.

3 MS. ALFINO: It's 1268 Danvers Drive. And the

4 zip code is 63146.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

7 MS. ALFINO: Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is David

9 Schilling.

10 Good evening.

11 (WHEREIN, David Schilling was sworn in.)

12

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Tell us your name and where

14 you live.

15 MR. SCHILLING: My name is David Schilling. I

16 reside at 1665 Calle Court in Warson Woods. I am a

17 customer of Ameren UE.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

19 What would you like to tell us?

20 MR. SCHILLING: Okay. Before the meeting

21 began, the representatives there for Customer Service --

22 we had an outage where I live and roughly 23 other

23 people on the warm August 5th Election Day one month

24 ago.

25 There was no wind. 98 degrees. A limb came

1 down into the wires behind the house from where I live.

2 That outage, there were, it was partially
3 repaired. And then it went out again about 20 minutes
4 later according to their records.

5 And by 8:00 o'clock that night, from 3:30 to
6 8:00 o'clock, that was the outage.

7 And then another limb came down in exactly the
8 same place this past weekend on the Saturday night,
9 August the 30th, into the morning of Sunday the 31st.

10 This limb, again, was very close to the last
11 one. And this weekend we had no wind or storms.

12 It is of interest that this same area back in
13 the ugly ice outage of November 30th, 2006, a limb came
14 down in this same area and we were out for approximately
15 three days.

16 So I, again, treated it quite fine, they're
17 going to look into it. There have been, their
18 consultants, their crews came through that they hire.
19 They cleared but something is wrong here.

20 Anyone can see it. The trees, if the argument
21 is, they're further back from the 10, 15 foot line,
22 well, when long limbs are coming over, we watch the
23 crews take many of these limbs after checking with
24 homeowners. I believe there's a problem here.

25 They have kindly, Russ Smith and Marie Reason

1 gave me their card. And I think they'll attend to it.

2 So my argument probably is not with the quality
3 of service I receive from Ameren. But we speak of
4 quality and we speak of dollars.

5 For example, this past weekend, a very
6 well-known supermarket in this city, Dierbergs, slashed
7 their prices on milk from 4 dollars a gallon to 3.
8 That's a 25 percent cut.

9 I believe they cut it because people aren't
10 buying much milk. Did the same with eggs. People are
11 going elsewhere. It's a wonderful thing called
12 competition. The free market gets things back to
13 normal.

14 However, as you know, we look to this Public
15 Service Commission and its staff because in this
16 monopoly of utility companies, there is no competition.
17 It's a curious market. We need you very much.

18 So I'm just talking dollars not quality of
19 service.

20 I quote from the newspaper last week -- the
21 staff at the Missouri Public Service Commission is
22 urging regulators to deny most of Ameren's current
23 proposed 251 million dollar increase.

24 Now, I appreciate that -- as I think many do.
25 They've done their homework. I don't think they're

1 incompetent. I don't think they're building an unlawful
2 and incorrect case.

3 As a matter what I call deja vu, I go back to
4 the same Post-Dispatch newspaper in January of 2007 when
5 they say the staff of the Public Service Commission,
6 engineers, accountants and attorneys who advise the
7 commission, said last week that Ameren UE's rates should
8 not be raised but should instead be cut by 136 million
9 to 168 million dollars a year.

10 So, again, my comments tend about cost and the
11 need for checks and balances since there is no
12 competition.

13 If we do not have commissioners who follow what
14 our civil servants, who have done their homework, it
15 seems to me that the commissioners are saying we either
16 have some pretty poor, less competent civil servants on
17 the commission staff, or there's something else at work.
18 And I'm not sure what.

19 We all received a form letter from Tom Voss of
20 Ameren UE.

21 He states be assured, we're doing all we can to
22 keep our costs down and your prices as low as possible.

23 And we pledge to continue to carefully manage
24 our resources to provide you with reliable and clean
25 energy at a price you can afford.

1 I don't care totally about the resources. I'm
2 sure you are managing the resources.

3 I think we, the customers, as in an open market
4 system, are more concerned with profits, salaries,
5 bonuses and this other thing that's called return on
6 equity, what they pay their investors.

7 For the last two years, all the interest rates
8 have been going down. The news overnight has been
9 Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The banks are getting
10 getting help. Many things are.

11 It would seem to me Ameren already has a
12 guarantee return on equity. It ought to be a great
13 place to invest. And yet they're asking for more.

14 At some point, someone should be drawing some
15 lines in more than just the sand.

16 And I believe that's the commissioners.

17 Again, I compliment the staff. But as a tax
18 payer and a customer, it doesn't seem correct to me when
19 in May of 2007, the commissioners went against the
20 recommendations of the staff.

21 And we now wait to see what they'll do in this
22 case.

23 Those are my comments.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

25 Mr. Gunn?

1 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Thank you.

2 I appreciate you coming by. I just have a
3 couple questions.

4 With your August 5th outage, you contacted the
5 company immediately I'm assuming?

6 MR. SCHILLING: We could see the trucks arrive.
7 Many people had. I didn't need to. I would physically
8 talk with the repair people at 7:30 in the evening.

9 COMMISSIONER GUNN: I'm just trying to get a
10 gauge -- one of the issues that you always have when you
11 go to a lot of these public hearings, one of the things
12 we're also concerned about, other than the very valid
13 stuff that you brought up, customer service issues,
14 things like that.

15 What I'm trying to get is your experience with
16 that.

17 So you didn't call, you weren't the one to call
18 on the outage, it was one of the other 23 houses?

19 MR. SCHILLING: When they brought it up on
20 their screen, there must have been 15 houses that had
21 called in.

22 COMMISSIONER GUNN: But you didn't go through
23 an automated system or talk to a repair person. But
24 they were out there relatively quick?

25 MR. SCHILLING: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER GUNN: And the repairs were made.
2 And -- but there seems to be an issue with this
3 particular spot in the neighborhood with leaves?
4 MR. SCHILLING: Yes.
5 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Or limbs?
6 MR. SCHILLING: Yes.
7 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. I think that's all
8 the questions I have.
9 I appreciate you coming in.
10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any of the attorneys have any
11 questions?
12 MR. BYRNE: No questions, your Honor.
13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Williams?
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Staff has no questions. Thank
15 you.
16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
17 You can step down, sir.
18 MR. SCHILLING: Thank you.
19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the list then
20 is Thomas Allen.
21 Good evening.
22 MR. ALLEN: Good evening.
23 My name is Thomas Allen.
24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you could raise your right
25 hand, I'll swear you in.

1 (WHEREIN, Thomas Allen was sworn in.)

2

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And your name?

4 MR. ALLEN: My name is Thomas Allen. I live at
5 1 Smoketree Drive, Fenton, Missouri, unincorporated St.
6 Louis County.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
8 us?

9 MR. ALLEN: Well, I will tell you that having
10 not been to a hearing before, I'm in over my head.

11 You know, but that's the way life is.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We feel that way sometimes
13 too.

14 MR. ALLEN: I'm sure that -- I will make a
15 couple of comments and I'm sure that you will probably
16 think that I'm somewhat senile. And I think age has
17 something to do with that.

18 But I am not a public speaker. I will probably
19 not get things in a good order. But the thing is, I
20 want to make a point.

21 My point is that I started out -- back in 1954,
22 I joined the service, to give you a little history on
23 me.

24 I worked in the printing trade after getting
25 out of the Service for a number of years and a seen a

1 chance to retire early.

2 My union pension never changes. It stays
3 constant.

4 In 2008, I was notified that I was going to get
5 a big increase on my Social Security -- 2.3 percent.

6 My wife never worked enough for a salary to
7 qualify for Social Security so she draws off of my
8 earnings.

9 Between the two of us, with the 2.3 increase,
10 we got a whopping 456 dollar increase. That was as of
11 January 1st, 2008 we get our increase.

12 Now, if I could back up again here -- because
13 on December 31st, I had to pay my real estate taxes on
14 my property. And there's been absolutely no improvement
15 to my house from 2006 through 2008. It was increased by
16 some 441.01.

17 So I was left with a choice of what do I do
18 with the balance of my Social Security being, what,
19 approximately 50 some dollars -- no, I'm sorry, 14.99
20 after I would take out my real estate tax.

21 Where I'm coming from is -- I'm really shocked
22 that there isn't a thousand people in this room that's
23 in the same boat that I'm in.

24 My boat is sinking. You know, my income stays
25 basically the same. So that the people can -- and I

1 just don't, I didn't bring my tax form. I wish I had
2 it.

3 But I got a bonus from the government this
4 year. I got an economic stimulus check for a whole 642
5 dollars.

6 And for those people who is pretty sharp on
7 math, it's easy for them to figure out what kind of tax
8 bracket I'm in with my income.

9 You know, I'm not hurt as bad as some people
10 are.

11 But it's very depressing to have to make
12 decisions about what you're going to do with your income
13 and control the temperature on your air conditioning so
14 you don't have a 300 dollar bill.

15 Now, I shy away from budget billing. And my
16 philosophy behind that is budget billing let's you get
17 in over your head.

18 You know, if you, if you're on budget billing,
19 you keep paying and you don't worry about where your
20 thermostat is set in the summer for your air
21 conditioning.

22 Likewise, with the gas -- you know, I'm not on
23 budget billing on anything.

24 I prefer to pay my bills as I go and not be in
25 over my head. And I think if you go on budget billing,

1 you get in over your head because you pay no attention
2 to what your cost is and where you're at on your budget.

3 I really want to thank the Commission for being
4 here.

5 The additional information that I have received
6 since I got here today, which made me determined that
7 I'm in over my head, but I still wanted to make my
8 point.

9 As far as this fuel surcharge, I would -- well,
10 naturally I'm opposed to any rate increase. I'm also
11 opposed to a fuel surcharge adjustment.

12 Now, if there's a fuel surcharge adjustment to
13 be made at my house, do you know how that would be done?

14 That will be done by the amount of driving that
15 I do and the amount of gasoline that I put in my one and
16 only car -- a 2003 Ford Taurus.

17 I hope from the information I'm giving the
18 Commission, they understand truthfully where I'm coming
19 from.

20 And also many people which -- I say I'm very
21 surprised are not here.

22 I thought this was an open hearing for
23 everybody. Because everybody got the notice through the
24 mail.

25 And -- but -- because I think I'm in over my

1 head, I wasn't going to tuck my tail and run. I wanted
2 to let the people know exactly what I think based on
3 what I understood this hearing was for.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much for
5 coming.

6 MR. ALLEN: And I would be more than glad to
7 answer any questions that anybody has for me.

8 And, again, thank you very much.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

10 Mr. Gunn?

11 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Thanks for coming, sir. I
12 appreciate it.

13 Just a couple of questions.

14 Any quality of service issues? Any prolonged
15 outages? Any time you tried to contact the company and
16 they weren't responsive? Anything of that nature?

17 MR. ALLEN: No, sir. I live in a, I guess, a
18 good area. I've had cases where my next-door neighbor
19 and other homes within my subdivision were, were out of
20 service.

21 Now, maybe, maybe I can help you understand why
22 I might be in a good area.

23 My house, the side of my property and my power
24 line comes off of Boles Avenue, which is a main
25 thoroughfare -- a lot more traffic than I realized when

1 I bought the place.

2 But, still, I think that has something to do
3 with the quality of service that I get. I mean that's
4 my mind, you know, I think that because I'm on a, like a
5 major thoroughfare, the quality of service there would
6 be better than if you were on an accessory road or
7 further back in the subdivision.

8 COMMISSIONER GUNN: In the last rate case, do
9 you know how your rates were affected?

10 Do you know if they went up? And, if so -- I
11 don't expect you to know. Some people have the
12 information, some people don't.

13 MR. ALLEN: No, sir. Like I say, I do not
14 believe in budget billing. I pay my bill when I get it.
15 I try not to be late.

16 In fact, as far as relating to not being late
17 -- when I worked for a living, I would rather miss a
18 day's work than be five minutes late to go to work.

19 So, therefore, I've always paid my bill. I try
20 to pay it on time, you know. You will find no record at
21 Ameren UE of me being a habitual delinquent customer.

22 COMMISSIONER GUNN: And just so you know, we
23 have a couple more -- we're not totally leaving the St.
24 Louis area.

25 We've got two more coming up in St. Louis on

1 September 17th. And we've also got it spread around.

2 If you have any friends or anyone else that
3 wants to come testify, the schedule -- I think there's
4 one at noon in St. Louis County.

5 MR. ALLEN: Yes. I have --

6 COMMISSIONER GUNN: And one at 6:00 o'clock in
7 the city.

8 So if you have other folks that need to come,
9 you've got the schedule.

10 MR. ALLEN: I have it, yes.

11 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Please encourage them to
12 come. We would love to hear from them.

13 MR. ALLEN: Speaking of the schedule -- now, I
14 do not keep up with current events like I probably
15 should. I'm not as informed as most of these people
16 are.

17 But I also have a notice here of a water rate
18 hearing. And I assume -- well, I know it's going to be
19 in this same room. And I'm thinking, from my knowledge,
20 it will be the same members of the commission.

21 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Not necessarily. That's --
22 actually we have two tonight in other parts of the
23 state. That's actually where the other commissioners
24 are. So we will mix and match.

25 MR. ALLEN: You know, based on that, I will

1 probably be here for that.

2 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Great.

3 MR. ALLEN: You know, it's, life is not great.

4 But I thank you for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER GUNN: That's all the questions I

6 have.

7 Some of these other folks may have some

8 questions for you.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any of the parties have any

10 questions for Mr. Allen?

11 MR. BYRNE: No questions.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Williams, did you have any

13 questions?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Staff has no questions.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16 All right then, Mr. Allen, you can step down.

17 MR. ALLEN: One final comment?

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go right ahead.

19 MR. ALLEN: When I get here and I hear people

20 talk about the millions and millions, it makes me

21 nervous because I was never in a category where, you

22 know -- in fact, for a long time, I had to stop and work

23 the little wheels in my head to figure out how many

24 zeros is in 1000 dollars.

25 But I managed to get my bills paid and take

1 care of my family.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

3 MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's all the names on the
5 list.

6 Is there anyone else out in the audience who
7 would like to testify?

8 You want to come forward and -- okay.

9 Come on up.

10 Is there something else you want to tell us?
11 You've already been sworn in.

12 MR. SCHILLING: This is to reinforce, as Mr.
13 Allen brought up, with the people on fixed income, I
14 would hope that the Commission does not expect the tens
15 of thousands of people on fixed income to come to these
16 meetings.

17 One would hope there would be a little bit of
18 an assumption that they're all feeling the squeeze, that
19 lip service about inflation and people on fixed income
20 does not pay their bills.

21 So I would hope you wouldn't have to invite all
22 your friends and neighbors -- and the commissioners
23 understand the argument.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

25 Just for the record, it's Mr. Schilling that

1 came back again.

2 Okay. Anyone else want to come forward?

3 All right.

4 Commissioner Gunn, any final thoughts?

5 COMMISSIONER GUNN: No. I just want to thank
6 everybody for coming out.

7 And as I said, we've got a bunch of hearings on
8 this issue coming up.

9 I think the next one is in the St. Louis area.

10 There's one in Wentzville, which is way out,
11 but it's still around the area, on September 11th.

12 We have two in the St. Louis area on September
13 17th, and then one in St. Charles on the 18th, and then
14 one in Hillsborough in Jefferson County on the 22nd.

15 So we do our best to try to get the information
16 out to everybody so we can get as much information.

17 We also take written comments from the public.
18 So if you have friends or people that can't make it to
19 the Commission Public Hearings, they can certainly
20 submit their comments that way.

21 So other than that, thank you, everybody, for
22 coming up. I appreciate it very much.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

24 And I'll indicate also if you have more
25 questions for the parties, for Ameren and so forth,

1 they'll be here for a while as well as our staff people.

2 Commissioner Gunn?

3 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Just so you know -- I can't
4 answer questions because I'm sitting as a decision maker
5 on this case.

6 So if you have questions for me, I can't really
7 answer it. I would suggest you talk to the parties.

8 The Office of Public Counsel's responsibility
9 is to represent the public in the matter.

10 So you do have representation in the matter.

11 There are representatives from Ameren here.

12 And I would encourage you to ask them questions that you
13 may have.

14 But I, unfortunately, can't answer any of the
15 questions.

16 So if I don't, if I leave without talking to
17 you, it's not because we don't want to hear from you,
18 it's that I'm prohibited from speaking to you in the
19 procedural matter before you.

20 But thank you again for coming.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: With that then, we are
22 adjourned.

23 Thank you.

24 (Proceedings adjourned at 6:45 p.m.)

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