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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
January 5, 2015
St. Louis (Holiday Inn), Missouri
Volume 2

In The Matter Of Union)
Electric Company d/b/a) File No. ER-2014-0258
Ameren Missouri's Tariff)
To Increase Its Revenues)
For Electric Service)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman
STEPHEN M. STOLL
SCOTT T. RUPP
COMMISSIONERS

REPORTED BY:
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good afternoon, once
3 again. If you could come to order, please. We're
4 ready to get started with the on-the-record portion
5 of this local public hearing. Once again, my name
6 is Morris Woodruff. I'm the presiding officer,
7 chief judge for the Commission and I have three
8 other commissioners with me here today.

9 To my right is Commissioner Robert Kenney.
10 Mr. Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Good afternoon,
12 everybody. I just want to -- the judge in a few
13 minutes is going to give you more details and
14 specifics about how the public hearing will be
15 conducted. I just wanted to take a moment to thank
16 you for being here at -- in the middle of the day on
17 a Monday afternoon.

18 Your presence here is an indication of how
19 important this issue is to you and I wanted to let
20 you know that it's important to us as well. We
21 appreciate the fact that you've taken the time to
22 come out and give your testimony and it's a
23 meaningful and an important part of the rate case.

24 There are five commissioners and you'll see
25 that there are three of us that are present here

1 today. The other two commissioners will have the
2 opportunity to review the transcript of this hearing
3 and so please rest assured that they will have an
4 equal opportunity to review and view your testimony.

5 This is just the beginning of the process.
6 We'll have evidentiary hearings in Jefferson City at
7 the end of February and the beginning of March. So
8 we do appreciate you taking the time to be a part of
9 this important process and we look forward to
10 listening to what it is that you have to tell us.
11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I, too, wanted to
13 welcome you. We appreciate you coming out and I
14 look forward to hearing your testimony.

15 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Great. I'm
16 Commissioner Scott Rupp. Again, wanted to welcome
17 you here. Also just wanted to remind everyone that
18 we are not allowed to ask you any questions. We are
19 only here to listen. So we're here to listen. Just
20 think of us as judges hearing a case. We have to
21 just take all the evidence and just sit there and
22 listen and then we -- we'll make a ruling several
23 months down the road but we are not allowed to ask
24 you any questions. So just because we are stoic and
25 we are sitting here listening to you, doesn't mean

1 we wouldn't like to ask you questions but we just
2 probably will not be able to answer any questions
3 that you have.

4 We might ask some clarifications on, you
5 know, customer service and things of that nature but
6 we will not be able to respond to any of your
7 questions. If you ask us something we will just
8 smile and say thank you but we will not be able to
9 be responding to yourselves. We look forward to
10 hearing from you and thank you for coming.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you,
12 Commissioner. There was a sign-up list out at the
13 front desk as you were coming in. What I'll do in a
14 moment is call the names off the list, have you come
15 up here to the table in the front of the room and
16 I'll swear you in to tell the truth, the whole truth
17 and nothing but the truth and then you can tell
18 us -- give us your testimony.

19 I'm not going to have a stopwatch on you but
20 I ask you to keep your comments to around five
21 minutes or so, just out of respect for everybody
22 else that's in the room that wants to make a
23 statement as well.

24 But before we call the first witness I'll ask
25 the attorneys to introduce themselves just to let us

1 know who all is here. So entries of appearance
2 beginning with Ameren.

3 MS. TATRO: Good afternoon. Wendy
4 Tatro, 1901 Choteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And for the
6 Staff?

7 MR. DOTTHEIM: Steven Dottheim, Post
8 Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, appearing
9 on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public
10 Service Commission.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And from Office of
12 Public Counsel?

13 MR. OPITZ: For the Office of the Public
14 Counsel I'm Tim Opitz, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson
15 City, Missouri 65201.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And I see the attorney
17 for the office of -- or for AARP is here also.

18 MR. COFFMAN: Appearing on behalf of the
19 Consumers Council of Missouri, John B. Coffman.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Is it just
21 Consumers Council in this case?

22 MR. COFFMAN: That's correct.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. All right.
24 Any other attorneys here on behalf of any other
25 parties that I missed?

1 I'll go ahead and call the first name on my
2 list, which is Mike Grimes. Good afternoon, sir.

3 MR. GRIMES: Good afternoon.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you could please
5 raise your right hand, I'll swear you in. Do you
6 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you're
7 about to give in this matter is the truth, the whole
8 truth and nothing but the truth?

9 MR. GRIMES: Yes, sir.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. You may be
11 seated. And your name is Mike Grimes?

12 MR. GRIMES: My name is Mike Grimes. I
13 live at 8019 Gannon Avenue in University City. I'm
14 also president of Commercial Energy Consultants. We
15 do deregulation in the State of Illinois. We have
16 25 different suppliers in the State of Illinois that
17 brings competition into the supply market that has
18 dropped the rates 50 percent in the State of
19 Illinois.

20 State of Illinois consumers have saved
21 \$37 billion in the last 16 years due to deregulation
22 and let me show you something. Since 2007, in the
23 State of Missouri, Ameren has asked for \$1.6 billion
24 in rate increases. You have awarded them 54 percent
25 of that, \$864 million.

1 At the same time my home rate has increased
2 57 percent. I submit to the Public Service
3 Commission, you're not doing it right. Do it like
4 they do in the State of Illinois and 16 other
5 states, allow competition to come in on the supply
6 side of the equation. You have the right to take
7 these utilities, these regulated utilities, and
8 mandate that they allow alternative suppliers. They
9 can deliver the power but the consumers, the
10 businesses and the consumers should have a choice on
11 who supplies it at a lower rate.

12 The fact that my rate has increased
13 57 percent in Missouri, when the electric rates in
14 Illinois, downstate Illinois have decreased by
15 50 percent due to competition, is ridiculous.

16 Mike Grimes, Commercial Energy Consultants.
17 We like to say, "Why pay more for the exact same
18 power."

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. If you
20 could wait for a moment, we may have questions.
21 First, do any of the parties have any questions for
22 Mr. Grimes? Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Grimes, hold on.

24 MR. GRIMES: Yes, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks for being here.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How do we bring it to
2 Missouri?

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sorry, but we can't
4 take questions from the audience at this point. We
5 have a question here from the Commission, from the
6 Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Grimes, thanks.
8 Are you aware of what the kilowatt hour rate is in
9 Illinois?

10 MR. GRIMES: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: What is it?

12 MR. GRIMES: Approximately bundled 6
13 cents a kilowatt. This is downstate Ameren Illinois
14 rates.

15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: That's just for the
16 energy?

17 MR. GRIMES: That's just for the supply
18 side of the energy.

19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Do you know what a
20 consumer pays on their bill for everything, the
21 transmission, distribution --

22 MR. GRIMES: Six cents.

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And what do you pay
24 here?

25 MR. GRIMES: Ten cents.

1 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. But that's just
2 the energy charge, that's not the full --

3 MR. GRIMES: The bundled rate in
4 Missouri: 10 cents. The bundled rate in Illinois: 6
5 cents.

6 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: What do you mean by
7 the "bundled rate"?

8 MR. GRIMES: Delivery and supply
9 combined.

10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Are you aware in
11 Illinois that -- and I think the other 16 states
12 that you're referring to, that requires like a
13 statutory change of some sort, are you aware of that
14 fact?

15 MR. GRIMES: That's why in Missouri you
16 have a governor task force steering committee that
17 is looking at this issue. In the Senate, as early
18 as this week, we probably have a task force that's
19 being put together to study deregulation. I would
20 just ask how, in 2014, we don't have it in Missouri?

21 To answer the question behind me, "How do you
22 get it in Missouri," you get it legislated and you
23 tell these three major utilities to offer choice on
24 the supply side of the energy bill.

25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So the answer to my

1 question is yes, it requires a legislative change?

2 MR. GRIMES: It does require a bill and
3 a law to be changed.

4 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So nothing that we can
5 do independently as a commission to effectuate that?

6 MR. GRIMES: You can certainly support
7 those two task forces.

8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: There's nothing we
9 could do independently to effectuate that change?

10 MR. GRIMES: I believe that's correct.

11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: All right. Thank you.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

13 Next name is Ron Lemons. Good afternoon,
14 sir.

15 MR. LEMONS: Good afternoon.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
17 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
18 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
19 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

20 MR. LEMONS: Yes, sir.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And if you
22 could spell your last name for me.

23 MR. LEMONS: L-E-M-O-N-S. Just like the
24 fruit.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Just like it sounds,

1 okay.

2 MR. LEMONS: Just like it sounds, pretty
3 easy. I'm on social security disability income and
4 we received a 1.5 percent raise and I'm trying to
5 figure out and I've talked to several people from
6 Ameren and so far all I get is a runaround, if they
7 get a 10 percent rate or 9.55, where am I supposed
8 to make up the difference from? And so far nobody
9 from Ameren will seem to answer this question.

10 They say run to the different charities but
11 then that's taking money from other people and I
12 would hope that the Commission would -- and I
13 understand that Ameren, you know, does need money to
14 operate. I appreciate that but I think 9.55 is a
15 bit much. I would hope you all would look at us
16 basic consumers out here and come to a more
17 equitable number for the rest of us who don't have
18 that kind of increase in our income. That's it.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you,
20 sir. Any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
22 testimony.

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks for your time,
24 Mr. Lemons.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list

1 is Joe -- I think it's Boving. Joe Boving? Jerry
2 Jones? Good afternoon, Mr. Jones.

3 MR. JONES: Good afternoon, sir.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
5 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
6 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
7 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

8 MR. JONES: I do, sir.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

10 MR. JONES: This is different than the
11 last time I spoke before your Commission. That was
12 2011, I think. As others have spoken that they're
13 on social security, which I am too, but what helps
14 keep me above water is I'm a veteran. I get VA
15 compensation.

16 My usage for electric last year went up about
17 4 percent. This year it won't go up 4 percent. I'm
18 going to try to make it go down 4 percent. No
19 Christmas tree lights or anything else that I really
20 enjoy having.

21 I see that in August 2012 they initiated this
22 energy efficiency investment charge. It started out
23 2 cents and now it's up -- my last bill in December
24 2014, it was a dollar thirty-four. When talking to
25 someone on the Commission earlier they indicated

1 that the energy efficient surcharge was there to
2 teach me how to use less energy. I'm a retired
3 maintenance electrician. I've been working on
4 electricity since 1970 -- say, '77, '76, I think.
5 I've worked at different companies. Not one of
6 those companies that have capital improvements go to
7 their customers and say we got to raise the rate
8 before we can build this plant or before we can
9 place this part. It's part of your operating
10 expenses for the year. And if you've got
11 stockholders and you're in a -- since 2008 we've
12 been in a slight recession here. We don't have a
13 lot of money to spend.

14 When I buy food, medicine, pay my rent, maybe
15 once a month, maybe twice I can go out and eat at a
16 restaurant. I don't get a million dollars or so
17 bonus money. The government is very frugal with
18 what they give me and I have to live within that.
19 But if you put the price of our utilities: gas,
20 electric, sewers -- EPA had to get on them before
21 they got in the act of replacing things that they've
22 known for 50 years needed to be improved and
23 replaced.

24 They had news articles on the news -- on the
25 TV, I should say, they came on showing a person

1 inside one of the sewers made of brick. You could
2 drive a tank into them. Where was the replacements
3 of them? You knew that our cities and counties and
4 everything were going to increase with population
5 but yet when it comes to the individual -- I'm a
6 baby boomer. You got millions of us turning 65
7 every day from that era. We don't have that money.
8 We can't ask the government to give us more because
9 our expenses are such that we need it to survive.

10 I get my medications free because I'm low
11 income from the VA. I get most of my medical from
12 them but if it wasn't for that I wouldn't have
13 hardly any money at all for food. And I know that a
14 lot of individual problems that we have are our
15 responsibility but our responsibility is also for
16 the next person.

17 I'm not here just for myself. I wouldn't be
18 here if it was just for myself. I would just
19 struggle along but I see every day other people that
20 can't make it. Their houses are in foreclosure.
21 They're living on the street. They need help. But
22 when you pay someone \$6 million or an increase of
23 bonuses of 18, that's outrageous and it doesn't have
24 to come out of what I pay every month.

25 If this company is really being managed

1 right, most of that money wouldn't be in bonuses.
2 It would be in capital improvement. They would have
3 better service. They would cut down and we would
4 all live more economically. We're looking at that
5 now. Maybe when I was 20 I wasn't. But today, if I
6 could save a dime, I try to save it. I'm the most
7 frugal person in my family and they could testify to
8 that but when it comes to utilities I feel that it's
9 not you, it's the utilities themselves that aren't
10 really taking into consideration how to be better.

11 They say -- there was a lot of double talk
12 here. I sit here and saw people getting a little
13 bit upset. Why? Because they didn't get what they
14 feel was the truth. They felt there was a little
15 double talk. You can't raise -- keep raising things
16 if my living expenses doesn't increase too. I
17 increased \$15 of my social security and they're
18 talking about \$10. So that leaves me \$5. And you
19 got a rate increase for Laclede Gas. Every time you
20 turn around...

21 Last time we had an increase Medicare went
22 up. So all I'm saying is that there has to be a
23 line where you cross that you don't -- if it was 3
24 or 4 percent I really wouldn't be that upset but 9
25 or 10 and the last time they wanted almost

1 14 percent.

2 So I look to you, gentlemen, to more
3 rationale because of our economy, people struggling,
4 and those that want to enjoy their life and if you
5 got to worry about your electric bill, your
6 utilities or whatever, how can you really enjoy
7 something if you're always stressed out? And I
8 don't want a heart attack. I don't want to get
9 stressed out. I want to wake up and smile every
10 day. And I thank you, gentlemen, for your time. I
11 hope I didn't go too long.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You're fine. Thank you
13 very much. Any questions?

14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Jones, thanks for
15 being here and taking the time to come down here.

16 MR. JONES: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: You participated in
18 the question-and-answer session that proceeded this
19 portion?

20 MR. JONES: Yes, I did. I asked one
21 question.

22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Did you -- I got the
23 sense from you that you didn't feel like questions
24 were adequately answered, is that safe -- is that a
25 fair impression?

1 MR. JONES: You know, I'm not a lawyer
2 but I've heard many lawyers talk in court when they
3 go to plead their case, okay, and if they can make
4 it sound good enough, they're going to win. It's
5 not always the evidence that makes you guilty or
6 makes you innocent. It's the person that can use
7 the antics and the displaying and making their
8 position so well-positioned that they got a win.
9 They don't want a loss. I didn't come here to sit
10 here and lose, so I'm going to try to give you the
11 best position I can for a win.

12 So that's what I feel that they did. They
13 didn't necessarily tell lies but you can twist
14 anything someone says to mean something else if you
15 really know how and there are people in this world
16 that are great commentators.

17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you for that
18 feedback. We do appreciate it. Thank you.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I have one more
20 question I wanted to ask you.

21 MR. JONES: Sure.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: When you first came up
23 you said this proceeding today was pretty different
24 than last time. What did you mean by that?

25 MR. JONES: Oh, I'm sitting at a table,

1 microphone, I don't have to talk loudly and get
2 myself hoarse to try to have everybody in the back
3 of the room to hear me, so I appreciate that.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Was that a problem last
5 time?

6 MR. JONES: Pardon?

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Was that a problem last
8 time?

9 MR. JONES: Yeah, because I was
10 standing.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Can you remember
12 which public hearing you testified in last time?

13 MR. JONES: It was the one off of
14 Lindbergh in the Holiday Inn there.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, I'm glad
16 it's working out good today for you because we're
17 always trying to make sure everybody has a fair
18 chance of testifying and I appreciate that.

19 MR. JONES: Thank you.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Next
21 name on the list is Jesse Tutterrow. Good
22 afternoon.

23 Please raise your right hand. Do you
24 solemnly swear or affirm the testimony you're about
25 to give in this matter is the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth?

2 MR. TUTTERROW: I do.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And could
4 you spell your last name for us.

5 MR. TUTTERROW: T-U-T-T-E-R-R-O-W.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.
7 What would you like to tell us?

8 MR. TUTTERROW: First I want to thank
9 you for having the public comments, the opportunity
10 to come here and present our side. My first comment
11 is to the Public Service Commission itself. My
12 recollection of government history is we formed this
13 country to be of the people, for the people, and by
14 the people. When I look at the bios -- biographies
15 of the members of the committee, three of them are
16 ex-chiefs of staffs of different state --
17 state-elected officials. We have a VP of a bank.
18 The closest thing I could see to "of the people" was
19 a person who was city administrator for Jefferson
20 County.

21 I know this is applied for and the governor
22 selects them. One of my points of feedback is maybe
23 we really should have someone on the Commission
24 itself to represent John Q. Public, not professional
25 bureaucrats or civil service people who are

1 comfortable with the state government schmoozing,
2 not the people.

3 My comments on the rate increase itself, I'm
4 a small businessman. I live in the City of St.
5 Louis. Over the last few years the city has raised
6 business tax, my insurance has gone up, my
7 electricity, according to this one handout, in the
8 last seven years went up 57 percent. I assume
9 that's what you've actually approved, not what
10 Ameren asked for.

11 I've absorbed those costs. I haven't passed
12 them on to my customer because I realize my customer
13 or the home computer user who's struggling with
14 their home system is getting hit with the same cost
15 increases I have. Including things up through --
16 until December the increasing cost in gasoline.

17 I'm down now to the point that I'm having to
18 draw money out of my retirement annuities at my age
19 in life to manage to pay my bills. And Ameren wants
20 a 9.7 percent increase? I'm not sure where I'm
21 going to find the 9.7 increase in my funds to pay.
22 Add on the extra that I'm paying for the
23 federally-mandated medical insurance, that again
24 adds cost to me. I just don't know how I can pay
25 for it.

1 My income since 2006 is halved. Today I'm
2 making half of what I made then. I could easily
3 pull in five or six thousand a week back in 2004,
4 2005. Now I'm lucky to make a thousand a month and
5 I've lost money on taxes the last few years.

6 Social security I saw on the Internet is
7 going up 1.7 percent. Someone here said it went up
8 1.5 percent. How can anyone on a fixed income or in
9 a struggling economy manage to handle a 9.7 increase
10 in electricity? I don't have a Christmas tree. I
11 didn't light up the neighborhood. My house isn't
12 one of those you see on TV that has a million light
13 bulbs and the gigawatts of electricity per hour. I
14 have cut back everything I can.

15 I just don't see how this increase can be
16 absorbed and I don't have enough customers who are
17 rich enough to be able to pass on all of these
18 increases in electric, in natural gas, in business
19 tax, in insurance, in what I got to pay now for
20 having health insurance. My customers can't afford
21 those increases being passed on to them and I can't
22 afford to pay them, so I cut back.

23 I ask -- Ameren said in their opening remarks
24 that they're in the bottom 25 percent for outages.
25 So that means 75 percent of the country has more

1 outages than Ameren UE -- or Ameren. Do we really
2 need to have a major increase now? Let's wait until
3 this country and the average person is back on their
4 feet, not while they're still struggling to figure
5 out how to pay for things. Let's let that
6 25 percent go up to 35 percent, postpone those
7 capital improvements until we are back to the point
8 that we have extra money. I know I don't have any
9 discretionary services money to spend for things.

10 I thank you for your time.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
12 questions?

13 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Thanks.

14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
15 testimony.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Next name
17 on the list is Arthur Kuhn. Good afternoon, sir.

18 MR. KUHN: Hello.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you solemnly swear
20 or affirm the testimony you're about to give in this
21 matter is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
22 the truth?

23 MR. KUHN: I do.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And your name is Arthur
25 Kuhn, K-U-H-N?

1 MR. KUHN: K-U-H-N.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

3 MR. KUHN: I'm one of them fellas that
4 they've all been talking about. I'm 80 years old,
5 I'm a senior citizen, that's for sure, and I'm
6 really on a fixed income. I will honestly tell you
7 I get \$1250 a month from social security. I have no
8 retirement or anything. I'm one of them middle guys
9 and I live over on Concord School Road, South
10 County. I don't know how long I can stay living
11 there because the cost of everything keeps going up.

12 And Ameren, I don't know what I would do
13 without electric but, you know, the rebate thing is
14 they're giving you money -- I mean, they're giving
15 you money back but at another time they're charging
16 you for it. I mean, you're paying for it, the
17 rebate, so what's the big deal?

18 The other thing I can say is I commend -- I
19 mean, you know, Ameren is really reliable. I mean,
20 I have -- you know, I can't thank them enough, I
21 mean, to get the energy and everything but as a
22 senior citizen how long can you keep going? I mean,
23 what are we supposed to do, live in a poor house?
24 We can't afford this big luxury of retirement homes
25 that they have on my salary and there's so many

1 people like me.

2 And you just don't even realize -- and, you
3 know, what do we have to do, go up -- like be up in
4 Ferguson, get out there and protest? That's
5 ridiculous. I'm just speaking to you guys as just a
6 regular guy.

7 And for my pastime, I'm retired and what I do
8 for a pastime, me and another fella we go out and
9 gospel sing to nursing homes. We don't get no money
10 but when you see the people's faces and they're so
11 glad that somebody comes in and you feel like a
12 million bucks but then you come back home and you
13 got to face reality.

14 And, you know, I just ask you guys to give
15 some consideration to some of us senior citizens.
16 You know, we don't have that much money. What are
17 we going to do? You know, if it keeps going we'll
18 have to sell our homes and just get a little rental
19 someplace and is that a life? I thank you.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
21 questions?

22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Randall
24 Viehland? Good afternoon.

25 Please raise your right hand. Do you

1 solemnly swear or affirm the testimony you're about
2 to give in this matter is the truth, the whole
3 truth, and nothing but the truth?

4 MR. VIEHLAND: Yes, sir, I do.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And your
6 last name is Viehland, V-I-E-H-L-A-N-D?

7 MR. VIEHLAND: That's correct.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

9 MR. VIEHLAND: Okay. I'm a retired
10 electrician. Started in the business back in 1964.
11 Back then Ameren -- well, it was Union Electric at
12 the time, the big thing was gold medallion houses.
13 They had specifications. You had to have outlets
14 with not two holes but three holes every 6 feet.
15 You had to have light fixtures with a whole lot of
16 wattage. All electric heat. This all was to use
17 more electric.

18 Now they want you to go around and put CFL
19 and LED lightbulbs in. Make it real dim light.
20 That's going backwards because we can't afford it.
21 They say they're doing it to save electric and
22 they're saving electric by all these rebates. What
23 about all the manufacturing that's going array? The
24 Chrysler plant, the Ford plant, many any other
25 plants I use to work in, they're gone. All of that

1 electric they used to use, Union Electric -- or
2 Ameren does not have to sell that anymore so they
3 shouldn't have to produce near as much electric and
4 they don't have to.

5 Now, what I would like to know is why the
6 co-ops out in the country, Callaway County, they can
7 go out and buy electric and pass it on to their
8 customers for about 6.1, 7 cents a kilowatt hour
9 when Ameren gets anywhere from 10 to 12 cents a
10 kilowatt hour for residential.

11 In the co-ops, at the end of the year, most
12 of the people, which everybody that uses electric is
13 a member of the co-op, they get a rebate back
14 because they didn't need that much. There's
15 something wrong with Ameren's policy that they have
16 to spend so much more to produce their own electric.

17 I use to work in Ameren plants and like I
18 said awhile ago in the question and answer, I saw
19 the waste that they created by themselves, pulling
20 the tubes out of the boilers at the Labadie
21 powerhouse because they were too efficient, because
22 they didn't use enough coal.

23 I know that the Public Service Commission is
24 supposed to represent us. Well, they better wake up
25 and do it and not listen to the lobbyists. They

1 better listen to the people.

2 Now, I -- we talked about I'm retired now.

3 I'm one of the guys that's going to get 1.7 percent.

4 I built a new home in Eureka, Missouri in 2006. I

5 got all electric heat because I'm an electrician.

6 My electric bill sometimes in that house -- last

7 month it was \$400. Biggest part of that -- not the

8 biggest part -- a huge part of that was taxes and

9 fuel surcharge, energy rebate. About \$75 of that

10 three -- 400 was that. I had a bill last winter

11 that was \$600 a month. That's a little bit

12 ridiculous.

13 And that's six times since 2006 they've been

14 here and that's not the first time I've testified.

15 This is about the third or fourth time before the

16 Public Service Commission. Six times since 2006

17 that they have to have a rate increase and this time

18 it's almost 10 percent, 9.65.

19 And we talked a while ago about those people

20 from the salaries. I looked up on the Internet,

21 latest one like somebody said is 2013, Warren

22 Baxter: \$2,246,218. Thomas Voss: \$5,719,927. Steve

23 Sullivan: \$4,532,928. Charles Naslund: \$1,530,739.

24 Gregory Nelson: \$1,575,760. And Martin Lyons:

25 2,078,155. Total: \$15,816,387 for six people.

1 That's crazy.

2 And, like I said a while ago, I know people.
3 My father-in-law was a retired Ameren lineman. He
4 had real good retirement. Now a good friend of mine
5 retired a few years ago, they just cut his insurance
6 out. Something is wrong that picture. Ameren needs
7 to deregulate -- be deregulated so everybody -- like
8 the man said, give them some competition. Thank
9 you.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
11 questions? Mr. Opitz has a question.

12 MR. OPITZ: Mr. Viehland?

13 MR. VIEHLAND: Yes.

14 MR. OPITZ: You mentioned earlier in
15 your testimony that you were one of the people who
16 will be receiving 1.7 percent. Can you clarify what
17 you mean by that?

18 MR. VIEHLAND: Social security raise.

19 MR. OPITZ: And that is for this year?

20 MR. VIEHLAND: For this year.

21 MR. OPITZ: Thank you.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any other questions?

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No.

24 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thanks for your
25 testimony.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list
2 is Tim Pogue. Good afternoon.

3 MR. POGUE: Good afternoon.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you solemnly swear
5 or affirm the testimony you're about to give in this
6 matter is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
7 but the truth?

8 MR. POGUE: I do.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And if you
10 could spell your last name for the court reporter's
11 benefit.

12 MR. POGUE: P-O-G-U-E. I do have a
13 report here that I'm going to be referencing. I'd
14 like to give a copy here for the Commission members.
15 There are extra copies as well.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. I'm going
17 to go ahead and mark this as an exhibit, as Exhibit
18 A. Go ahead and refer to it.

19 MR. POGUE: Thank you. Again, I'm Tim
20 Pogue. I also want to state that I'm the mayor of
21 Ballwin but today I'm here as a citizen and not as a
22 representative of the city. As a taxpayer I'm
23 concerned about how much the City of Ballwin has to
24 pay for streetlight services to Ameren, which is
25 approximately half a million dollars a year. So you

1 can see what a 9 percent increase would do to the
2 city's budget.

3 The city has been in discussions with Ameren
4 to convert to customer-owned tariffs in an attempt
5 to save money in the long run by acquiring the
6 depreciated fixtures. I understand that this would
7 not be free but the city has considered and should
8 be allowed to purchase these depreciated fixtures at
9 fair market value as they've done with Ameren
10 Illinois at SIUE and I believe the City of Clayton
11 back in the 80s.

12 If the city converted to these customer-owned
13 tariffs it would pay approximately \$94,000 per year
14 under their existing customer-owned tariff for
15 street lighting. The city already pays too much for
16 the existing customer-owned tariff, which affects me
17 as a taxpayer, and the city residents should not be
18 subjected to continue to pay this rate increase.

19 As a resident I'm keen to see investment in
20 more energy efficient lighting and I'm glad to see
21 the city has been participating with Ameren in a
22 study to look into the efficiency of street
23 lighting.

24 However, Ameren's refusal to negotiate with
25 the city for the sale of these depreciated fixtures

1 is detrimental to the efforts to increase the use of
2 more energy efficient streetlamps. Acquisition of
3 the depreciated fixtures would help the transition
4 to newer, more efficient fixtures in the future.

5 In most cases and nearly all cases, Ameren
6 did not purchase these fixtures in the first place.
7 They were put in by the developers, paid by the
8 homeowners and then dedicated back over to Ameren
9 but they continue to charge the city for the
10 depreciation of these fixtures.

11 So I would ask that -- well, first, in the
12 study there, this was an Ameren study dated July of
13 2013 that was done in conjunction with the City of
14 Ballwin, that on page 18 it states that they're
15 working on a customer-owned non-metered 6M tariff
16 rate for customers to install LED lighting but after
17 a year and half they've still not completed and
18 developed that tariff rate for a 6M.

19 Also, on page -- I believe it's 17 on that,
20 Ameren states that 24 percent of their fixtures
21 would be efficient to convert over to more energy
22 efficient LED fixtures. Now, this would be the
23 removal of the old fixtures and replaced with LED.
24 So, again, they state 24 percent of them. It would
25 make common sense to change over these fixtures but

1 yet they refuse to do so and have not completed
2 that.

3 So at this time I'd like to ask that the PSC
4 not change the rates of the 5M or the 6M tariffs
5 until they develop a rate schedule for the
6 conversion for the use of LED fixtures. Thank you.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Pogue.
8 As far as Exhibit A, do you wish to offer that into
9 evidence?

10 MR. POGUE: Yes, please.

11 (Exhibit A was offered into evidence.)

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. I'll ask
13 the parties -- I think --

14 MS. TATRO: Can I see what it is?

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You certainly may. And
16 if any of the other parties want to come up and get
17 a copy you're welcome as well.

18 MS. TATRO: Okay. I just wanted to make
19 sure I knew what it was. Thank you.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

21 MR. POGUE: For the benefit of the
22 audience, this is a report that was developed by
23 Ameren after a study of streetlights was done in
24 conjunction with the City of Ballwin along Holloway
25 Road.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. And Ballwin
2 is actually a party in this case also, I believe?

3 MR. POGUE: Yes.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. And this
5 issue will be before the Commission in the
6 evidentiary hearing as well.

7 MR. POGUE: Yes.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. At this
9 point does anyone object to the admission of Exhibit
10 A?

11 MS. TATRO: No, Your Honor.

12 MR. OPITZ: No.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Hearing no objections
14 it will be received into evidence.

15 (Exhibit A was received into evidence.)

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions for
17 Mr. Pogue?

18 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thanks for your
20 testimony though.

21 MR. POGUE: Thank you.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on my
23 list is Marvin Schroepfer. Steve Bland? Good
24 afternoon.

25 MR. BLAND: Good afternoon.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Could you please raise
2 your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
3 the testimony you're about to give in this matter is
4 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
5 truth?

6 MR. BLAND: Yes, sir.

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

9 MR. BLAND: I was at the last rate
10 commission, Public Service Commission hearing that
11 you did. I testified at that time that in the month
12 of December, prior to that Commission hearing,
13 Ameren UE raised their dividend on their stock
14 approximately three months before the hearing took
15 place. I noted again this last December, last
16 month, they raised their dividend again.

17 And I follow several utility companies' stock
18 prices and dividend payouts. They have the highest
19 paying dividend rate of any utility that I monitor.
20 Their stock is at a near 52-week high and I noticed
21 in their financials that they file on Yahoo dot com
22 that their gross profit has gone from 554 million up
23 to 869 million just from the month of March through
24 September of last year.

25 Their operating income almost doubled from

1 464 million up to 561 million. Their net income
2 increased from 98 million to 295 million. Their
3 assets on their balance sheet increased each
4 quarter. The cash flow increased in each quarter.
5 It would seem to me these people are making plenty
6 of money. They're just not using it correctly.
7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
9 questions?

10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Yeah, just one.
11 Mr. Bland, thanks. What are the other utilities
12 that you follow, that you compared to?

13 MR. BLAND: There's one in -- I was
14 following Duke Energy for a while and I can't think
15 of the others right off the bat but they're on the
16 stock exchange, New York -- New York Stock Exchange.

17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list
19 is Susan Stuart. Good afternoon.

20 MS. STUART: Hi, how are you?

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
22 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
23 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
24 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

25 MS. STUART: Yes.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And your
2 last name is Stuart, S-T-U-A-R-T?

3 MS. STUART: That is correct.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. STUART: Thank you. I am Susan
6 Stuart, chief brand officer of Centrex Electrical
7 Supply. For over 35 years Centrex has remained a
8 family-owned whole distributor of electrical
9 supplies. Today our clients include major and
10 independent electrical contractors, private sector
11 business and government agencies.

12 Recently we were recognized by Ameren as one
13 of the top suppliers for our outstanding customer
14 service. As an Ameren-certified ally in the Act On
15 Energy Program, Centrex has joined Ameren as its
16 quest to lower energy consumption by educating our
17 customers on the Ameren program that offers cash
18 incentive for energy efficiency projects.

19 Many of our customers have benefited from
20 this rebate offered by Ameren to convert
21 energy-saving products. As a result, not only has
22 Centrex increased sales but local electrical
23 contractors providing installations have benefited
24 as well.

25 We thoroughly support the proposed rate

1 increase to allow for much needed infrastructure
2 upgrades that are required to bring new businesses
3 into Missouri, an investment in jobs as well. You
4 know, all of this would make a better Missouri.

5 There's a reason we are constantly and
6 consistently named one of the top minority business
7 enterprise companies in St. Louis, Missouri. It is
8 because we care about our customers. It's why we
9 enjoy doing business with Ameren because they have
10 the same values we do.

11 Commissioners, please help us and Ameren
12 continue good business for our state. We support
13 the rate increase.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Any
15 questions?

16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks, Ms. Stuart.

17 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list
19 is Margie Saulka. Good afternoon.

20 MS. SAULKA: Hi.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you solemnly swear
22 or affirm the testimony you're about to give in this
23 matter is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
24 but the truth?

25 MS. SAULKA: Yes, I do.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And if you
2 would spell your name for the court reporter's
3 benefit.

4 MS. SAULKA: S-A-U-L-K-A.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

6 MS. SAULKA: I'm sorry to be repetitive
7 but I receive widow's benefits so I'm under the same
8 1.5, 1.7 percent increase, so it's hard for me to
9 justify a 9 percent increase for pretty much anybody
10 since everybody is going to have their hands in that
11 1.7 percent.

12 And the other thing seems to be that the
13 biggest source of concern from all of us average
14 people is these astronomical bonuses that are being
15 awarded to high level executives already making
16 money that none of us can understand. So if you
17 could please make sure that this -- however they
18 sugarcoat that and try to tell you how it's
19 disbursed in other ways, that it's not buried in
20 some loophole that doesn't look like income or what
21 they're putting out in these ridiculous amounts of
22 money. It's hard for most of us to understand.
23 That's all I have.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am. Any
25 questions?

1 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mike Walter? Good
3 afternoon.

4 Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
5 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
6 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

7 MR. WALTER: Sure do. Yes.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And your
9 name, please?

10 MR. WALTER: Mike Walter. W-A-L-T-E-R.

11 I'm here today as the business manager of the
12 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
13 Local 1439. I'm a customer. I receive no
14 discounts. I represent what is considered the
15 entire physical workforce in the State of Missouri
16 for Ameren. I would like to say that we keep the
17 lights on.

18 Local 1439 and Ameren have been partners in
19 this industry since 1945. IBEW has been a partner
20 in this industry since 1891. We're very proud of
21 this fact. We, the company union, have the lowest
22 rates in Missouri and probably about 90 percent of
23 the entire country. We have a very reliable system,
24 what I believe is probably closer to 10 percent in
25 the country. I believe the previous statement from

1 Ameren was 25 percent. I believe that's a little
2 conservative.

3 The Missouri Public Service Commission plays
4 a very big part in this fact that we do have great
5 rates, low rates. We have good reliability. I
6 think the Staff, Public Counsel, all play a very,
7 very significant role in why we, as Missouri, stand
8 out as an island and provide such a great utility,
9 all the utilities in the State of Missouri. I think
10 we should be proud of all of them.

11 Since the mid-1990s -- and I have been in
12 this -- I have been with Ameren, with the IBEW since
13 1979, so I believe I have a little bit of experience
14 and knowledge of what has been taking place. I hear
15 a lot about deregulation. In the 1990s we started
16 to prepare for deregulation and moved into a
17 reduction mode to maintain low rates. We continued
18 to still provide quality product.

19 However, there is a limit and we do continue
20 even today to negotiate better, more efficient ways
21 to operate, to maintain the system, to construct the
22 system. This continues on a day-to-day basis. But
23 there is a limit to how far we can go and I do not
24 believe there's any such thing as addition by
25 subtraction and eventually you have to pay.

1 We're going to have to do something to
2 continue the infrastructure that has been mentioned.
3 Whether it be the sewer, the streets or whatever, we
4 have got to maintain our infrastructures. We cannot
5 overlook this aging infrastructure of the electric
6 utility and I believe the Commission has recognized
7 that in the past several rate cases.

8 I believe we also have an issue of the aging
9 workforce. I heard earlier about the baby boomers.
10 It's a reality. We have about 60 percent of our
11 workforce, that I represent, has a potential of
12 retiring within less than five years. That's a
13 tremendous amount of knowledge that you just can't
14 bring in. This is an investment. There's so much
15 capital investment involved in the utility I think
16 it's hard for a lot of people to understand but
17 there's also a tremendous amount of investment that
18 goes into the employees, the trained employees who
19 have to maintain the system and keep the lights on.

20 It appears to me from looking from an
21 operational standpoint, not as a consumer, that
22 there is merit to Ameren's request for this rate
23 increase. The amount of the increase is in your
24 hands. It has been from the beginning since the
25 inception of the Public Service Commission and I

1 trust that that will be handled properly. The
2 company, Ameren, Local 1439, as well as the Missouri
3 Public Service Commission, again, I believe has much
4 to be proud of and I hope we can continue to do this
5 with customers in the future. Thank you.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
7 questions from the parties or Commissioners?

8 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
9 testimony.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list
11 is Carl Scheibal. Good afternoon.

12 MR. SCHEIBAL: Good afternoon, sir.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
14 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
15 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
16 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

17 MR. SCHEIBAL: I do.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And if you
19 could spell your last name for the benefit of the
20 court reporter.

21 MR. SCHEIBAL: I'd be happy to.

22 S-C-H-E-I-B-A-L.

23 Thank you for this opportunity. I've enjoyed
24 listening to the questions of my fellow participants
25 and I hope, I hope that even though you weren't in

1 the room you will understand that this is a serious
2 issue for everyone that lives in the State of
3 Missouri. I have lived here all my life and I'm
4 very proud to be a part of this state.

5 I'm a registered professional engineer. I
6 worked for IBEW Local No. 1 for four years working
7 my way through college and I also worked for Ameren
8 for four years working my way through college. I'm
9 an electrical engineer and I hope I bring some of
10 that knowledge to what I have to say today.

11 But I want to compliment everyone that has
12 spoken so far. I think they have meant it sincerely
13 from their heart. They're telling you what's really
14 happening where we live. And the gentleman that
15 talked about the members of your staff that have no
16 knowledge of any of this except that they're
17 politicians and they were nominated by politicians
18 and then approved by politicians probably has a
19 pretty good point. That doesn't mean you can't be
20 good but you may have to work a little harder at it
21 to be good.

22 Now, the primary thing that I wanted to do
23 was really focus on the issues. The rate of return
24 of 9.0 to 10.0 is similar to what I testified in
25 1957 before the Commission, before Ameren. It's

1 kind of in that range. The purpose was stressed to
2 me before I made that presentation that the
3 Commission represents the customer. They are the
4 form of competition that was created to ensure that
5 that customer was always honestly and fairly
6 represented and that's why a utility has usually a
7 total access of providing service in a given area.

8 I would like to be brief, so I'll just take a
9 quick glance at that. All I ask is that please
10 represent us as you listen to this because I do
11 believe, in addition to the public counsel, that you
12 are really the key people that will make this
13 happen.

14 The depreciation expressed -- expressed,
15 excuse me, the significance that they're asking for
16 a higher level of depreciation and primary expense,
17 I know this is primarily accounting kind of things
18 but I hope in your questioning of them you'll
19 understand how the movement of depreciation expenses
20 to an earlier payout just increases the amount of
21 money they're going to need from you to be approved.

22 The difference in revenues that Ameren
23 Missouri receives when they enter into transactions
24 on the sale of power -- you know, I know they're
25 really smart people at Ameren and I know they're

1 really talented people but as a simple little old
2 electrical engineer, they have no way to store
3 power. So anything they do to save power can only
4 have two possibilities. It can keep them from
5 having to build more power plants and, therefore,
6 save them the expense of that major expenditure or
7 the power is generated and just not used.

8 When you come to a person and say I want to
9 give you a program in which I would like you to have
10 better gas mileage so I'm going to ask you not to
11 drive every third day of the week, you're saying to
12 them I know you bought the car to get around and get
13 to work but I don't want you to drive it because it
14 uses gas and if you don't do that you'll save money.
15 That's how I kind of have felt a lot about this
16 program with respect to solar and so forth.

17 Many of the people that have put in solar
18 systems are expecting a major, major payout for that
19 and that's why Ameren ran out of money and had to do
20 some negotiations to work around that. There is no
21 free lunch, whether it's in electrical engineering
22 or any other area that you work with, so please
23 consider that as you listen to what they say.

24 I'd like to put my support to you on the
25 pension expense. You know, most companies today

1 don't have pensions anymore. When I started with
2 them they had probably one of the best pension
3 programs in the United States and at least in the
4 State of Missouri. So I understand if I was working
5 for Ameren I would want the best pension I could get
6 but I worked for Bell Telephone for 25 years and
7 right now if you work for Bell Telephone 401k is
8 your pension. So the times they are a changing and
9 as you see these kind of requests please consider
10 those things as well.

11 I do like the Staff's recommendation and I
12 hope that you'll follow through with that. Thank
13 you.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. SCHEIBAL: And I think the last
16 point, because I'm trying to keep within my time
17 limit, Mr. Chairman, is if I started a business and
18 nobody bought anything from me or if a road
19 collapsed so that they couldn't drive to my place, I
20 don't know who I would ask to give me the money back
21 I should have made if people had come as I thought
22 they would. My point is they had a power problem.
23 They actually had a weather problem and they lost
24 revenue from that giant aluminum plant and I'm sorry
25 that happened to them but isn't there a phrase that

1 says, "That's life"?

2 When you go into this kind of a business --
3 there has been power and ice storms down in the boot
4 heel of Missouri, where I lived for a while, a lot
5 and you do the very best you can and they work hard
6 to bring the service back and they get it back and
7 the plant is shutdown, so the load is down. Should
8 we really pay that? I just ask you to please
9 consider that strongly.

10 I do thank you for this opportunity. I'm
11 honored to be here and I wish you the very best.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.
13 Any questions?

14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks for being here.

15 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list
17 is Sara Edgar. Good afternoon.

18 MS. EDGAR: Good afternoon.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
20 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
21 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
22 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

23 MS. EDGAR: Yes.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Have a seat
25 and tell us your -- spell your last name for the

1 court reporter.

2 MS. EDGAR: Edgar. E-D-G-A-R.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

4 MS. EDGAR: Thank you so much for the
5 chance to speak here today. My name is Sara Edgar
6 and as an Ameren ratepayer I would like to express
7 the sentiment that I'm against rate increases that
8 support the continued burning of fossil fuels at
9 out-of-date coal plants.

10 I would like to see my dollars put towards
11 clean energy and energy efficiency. Clean energy
12 and energy efficiency have the power to reduce
13 ratepayer costs over the long term and to save our
14 region billions of dollars in healthcare costs.

15 According to a study, Ameren's dependence on
16 coal costs our region \$1.36 billion just in
17 healthcare costs alone and so I think we should be
18 considering the externalized costs of Ameren's
19 power. Those are costs that every person in this
20 room is paying for in their tax dollars, in their
21 healthcare but Ameren is not paying those costs, so
22 we're not seeing them reflected in our bills.

23 Utilities around the Midwest are
24 transitioning off of coal, improving air quality and
25 they're are also saving the ratepayers money in the

1 process. Including right here in Missouri, Kansas
2 City Power & Light has made major investments in
3 wind and has said that they're going to save their
4 ratepayers \$1 billion over the next 20 years.

5 We're also seeing in Omaha they're
6 transitioning off of coal and those utility
7 ratepayers are not seeing any increase in costs
8 associated with that transition. And in Iowa
9 they're transitioning to 39 percent wind and in the
10 process they've said that they're going to stabilize
11 the rates for ratepayers and they're actually going
12 to reduce costs for the ratepayers.

13 So I would like to see those investments
14 happening here in Missouri so that we can see
15 benefits over the long term and see our rates
16 reduced over the long term. So I think we need to
17 have a long-term vision for our state. We can't
18 just see these incremental costs every year hurting
19 all of us in the St. Louis region. None of us want
20 to be here in this room two years from now seeing
21 another rate increase.

22 And so I would really like to ask that, you
23 know, we stop making investments in antiquated fuel
24 sources which are harming our health, harming our
25 environment, and harming our pocketbook. So I would

1 like to ask that you all please consider the
2 long-term costs to our region and if we keep
3 approving these costs, the ties to coal, we're going
4 to be stuck here for another 20 years. Thank you so
5 much.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am. Any
7 questions?

8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Yes.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Ms. Edgar, thanks for
11 being here. Can you tell me the report that you
12 were citing for the healthcare costs associated with
13 burning fossil fuels?

14 MS. EDGAR: Yes, it's the Environment
15 Integrity Project Report.

16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. Thank you again
17 for your time.

18 MS. EDGAR: Thank you.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I have one question
20 also. You mentioned that Omaha Public Power is
21 trying to transition off of coal. Can you tell me
22 more about that?

23 MS. EDGAR: OPPD made a recent
24 announcement, I want to say it was within the last
25 six months, that they're going to be making major

1 investments in wind and transitioning their coal
2 plants to natural gas, which is going to make major
3 improvements for air quality and they said that they
4 will not see any increase in rates for the
5 ratepayers.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. I used to
7 live in Omaha, that's why I was curious.

8 MS. EDGAR: Okay. Thank you.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on my list is
10 Steve, I believe it's Platt. Steve Platt? Okay.
11 Bill Kuhn? Good afternoon.

12 MR. KUHN: Good afternoon.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
14 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
15 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
16 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

17 MR. KUHN: Yes.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And your
19 name is also K-U-H-N?

20 MR. KUHN: Correct.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.

22 MR. KUHN: I just have a comment here
23 more so on solar energy, the rate that Ameren buys
24 energy back from a solar producer. In the
25 summertime they're buying it back at 2.06 cents a

1 kilowatt hour and during the wintertime there
2 they're buying it back at 1.9 cents a kilowatt hour.
3 And I think that if they get a rate increase there
4 where they're selling it for roughly about 9 1/2
5 cents in the wintertime and about 12 cents in the
6 summertime, that they should be paying back to the
7 people that are generating solar and reducing their
8 load. They should increase the amount that they're
9 paying back to these people.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
11 questions?

12 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No thanks. Thank you,
13 sir.

14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No.

15 MR. KUHN: Thank you.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Next name
17 is Mary J. Brown. Good afternoon.

18 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you solemnly swear
20 or affirm the testimony you're about to give in this
21 matter is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
22 but the truth?

23 MS. BROWN: Yes.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am. And
25 your last name is Brown, B-R --

1 MS. BROWN: O-W-N.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

3 MS. BROWN: I'm surprised, I wasn't
4 expecting to really be called but I have listened to
5 proceedings of the Missouri Commission for years.
6 This is my first time ever even coming to a meeting.
7 And I remember last time UE got a rate increase I
8 was listening to the news and they announced on the
9 news they had got another rate increase. And the
10 newsman turned around and said, "They just got one a
11 few months ago."

12 And that's why I went to the computer and I
13 looked up Missouri Commission. I wanted to know
14 what you did and I was not even expecting that you
15 were there to protect me. And in reading everything
16 I saw that you were there more to protect the
17 utility companies.

18 And I know the lady just before me she said
19 that we'll be back here in two years for another
20 rate increase, I said I don't see that because if UE
21 gets a rate increase today, they might not get 10
22 percent or 9 percent but they might get half of that
23 and then within a year they will be back for the
24 rest of that rate increase. I've seen it happen
25 before.

1 I have sat and listened to you talk about the
2 baby boomers and people who are on fixed incomes and
3 not only are we on fixed incomes, you have people
4 that go to jobs every day who are on fixed income.

5 I remember when I was working and there was a
6 woman in our office who was trying to figure out how
7 to buy her medication because she had a high utility
8 bill. So it's not just the senior citizens or the
9 people that are disabled. You have people every day
10 who are trying to figure out how to buy food, how to
11 buy their medicine and how to pay the utility
12 commissions, not to mention how to get to work
13 because UE is getting a higher -- another increase.
14 But the average citizen, the average working person
15 out here we might see a rate increase once every two
16 years or once every three.

17 Because I remember working for the state. We
18 didn't have a -- we didn't have an increase for four
19 years. The government just gave the State of
20 Missouri's employees a raise, 1 percent, a 1 percent
21 raise and that's within the last year or so. Before
22 they hadn't gotten one for four years.

23 You have workers at hospitals who don't get
24 rate increases for four years. So for them to ask
25 for this rate increase now or anytime, they should

1 be embarrassed. The average person out here can't
2 stand that. We can't -- we're struggling now to pay
3 one thing after another. We really are.

4 And I was laughingly telling somebody out
5 there in the lobby that I felt I should just send my
6 social security check to UE and let them send me the
7 difference. That's what it's coming down to.

8 So I hope you think about this rate increase
9 again because the average person can't make it, not
10 just senior citizens but people who are working
11 every day can't make it. And that's all I have to
12 say.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you,
14 ma'am. Any questions?

15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Thank you, ma'am.

16 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Larry Jenneman? Larry
18 Jenneman? Mary Anne Folkes? Folkes? Brad Feeler?
19 Brad Feeler? Helen Harrison? Good afternoon.

20 Please raise your right hand. Do you
21 solemnly swear or affirm the testimony you're about
22 to give in this matter is the truth, the whole
23 truth, and nothing but the truth?

24 MS. HARRISON: I do.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And you are

1 Helen Harrison?

2 MS. HARRISON: Yes.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Harrison is

4 H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N?

5 MS. HARRISON: Yes.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you.

7 MS. HARRISON: I'm going to sound
8 redundant because I, too, am a senior citizen. I am
9 79 years old. I raised five children on my own
10 working three jobs and when they were older and
11 independent I was able then to start saving for my
12 retirement. Up until that point, of course, I
13 couldn't save anything.

14 But I worked and I saved and I am now to the
15 point where I'm about to run out of those savings
16 because I don't have any income other than my social
17 security because I was a registered nurse and back
18 when I was working there wasn't retirement programs
19 like there were later on. And I actually made \$3 an
20 hour working nights at Barnes, so you can see it
21 required me to work three jobs.

22 But I can't take anymore of these increases.
23 I'm just asking you to be just and fair and
24 reasonable. I feel I'm representing a lot of
25 seniors who couldn't be here today. I don't like

1 speaking in public but I'm doing it today because I
2 feel it is necessary. That's all I have.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much and
4 you did a very nice job of speaking. Any questions?

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
6 testimony.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Carol Morrison? Good
8 afternoon.

9 MS. MORRISON: Hi.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I will swear you in.

11 MS. MORRISON: I have come to a meeting
12 before --

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ma'am, I need to swear
14 you in first.

15 MS. MORRISON: Oh, okay.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
17 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
18 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
19 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

20 MS. MORRISON: Correct, yes.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And your
22 name is Carol Morrison?

23 MS. MORRISON: Morrison, yes. I live
24 right over here off of Dean Court (ph) where they're
25 putting in that new substation and first I would

1 like to tell the vets that were up here thank you
2 very much for your service. And I think Missouri is
3 at a breaking point and I almost -- I have been to
4 one of these before and I almost think this is like
5 fluff coming to one of these meetings because they
6 always get at least half of what they ask for.

7 And, if this is true, which most people have
8 been saying and I'm thinking that it is, our bills
9 have gone up 57 percent. That's almost 60 percent,
10 you know, and I know from the older people that are
11 coming here and I know from the raise that my
12 husband has been getting -- we've got a 2 percent
13 raise in last seven years and I can't even imagine
14 being older and being on a fixed income.

15 And with these people with the money that
16 they make and the bonuses that they make, maybe they
17 need to change their way of thinking and the way
18 they do their business.

19 Now, this over here, this has been here from
20 1962. They are building a new substation but
21 with -- like with my money, I have to plan for
22 things. I have to -- if I want something, I have to
23 save for it. Well, if that has been there since
24 1962, I would have thought that maybe they would
25 have been saving up for that rainy day when it comes

1 when they can't use that no more, you know, not
2 every year for the past seven -- well, six out of
3 the last seven years they get more money. That's
4 ridiculous.

5 And unless people in Missouri start voting
6 for some people that are going to vote their way
7 then some of these people need to go. That's all
8 I've got to say about that.

9 I've got some other things just writing down.
10 I'm just upset. 600 million just in surcharges.
11 You know, I mean, every time you're turning around
12 they're getting another surcharge that they can add
13 to this to get some more money to pay for the stuff
14 that we're already paying for.

15 Plus they make money on this. You know, if
16 it's privately owned I'm just thinking that they're
17 just going to make more money and more money.
18 They're going to make money. It isn't for the
19 people. And I'm not sure that this Commission is
20 actually for the people and I'm really starting to
21 get to think that maybe we need to get rid of this
22 Commission. We need to get rid of Ameren.

23 And, you know, 1.3 -- 1,364,000,000, just
24 within -- that's how much they'll be making on what
25 you guys have been voting for, for the past six

1 years. And it's just -- I'm just telling you,
2 people are going to be needing to go and soon. And
3 I think this is just like a formality that you come
4 --- they come here and ask for the money and then
5 they get half and then the next year they come. And
6 it's true. It's fact. And if you're not going to
7 be for the people and you weren't put in position
8 for the people, we don't need a Commission no more.

9 I just want to say that if they're saying oh,
10 solar is not, you know, going to do us any good,
11 they're just afraid people are going to get solar.
12 They're afraid people are going to do wind. Then
13 they start losing money in their stockholders and
14 their shareholders and all those people that pay
15 them those big bucks are going to be gone.

16 And I think -- if that's the case, then why
17 did they build that up there? We pay for the solar
18 and stuff that they're putting in, that they're
19 going to be making money off of. When it's
20 privately owned it's always going to be that way
21 because they're always going to have to make a buck.
22 I don't even know if you guys get paid.

23 And the other gentleman, coal is cheaper, gas
24 is cheaper, natural gas is cheaper and our rates
25 just keep on going up. For them to even supply us

1 with it is getting cheaper but yet we have to keep
2 on paying and that's wrong. That's just wrong that
3 everybody is just rubber-stamping this every time it
4 comes up. This is just wrong.

5 And if our governor is putting you into
6 office, he's putting you in there for us and to
7 regulate them. On this thing it says, "Your
8 decision should be that authorizes rate changes that
9 are just and reasonable based on the evidence in the
10 case." There hasn't been one evidence or any case
11 of when I have been to a meeting like this that they
12 have ever proven that they needed more money.

13 And they keep on -- okay, they got rid of 500
14 employees but they didn't get rid of any of the ones
15 up at the top. They got rid of all the people that
16 used to go around and meter read and do that kind of
17 stuff. Well, they're getting rid of people but
18 they're getting rid of people that, you know, needed
19 the jobs to be able to pay for what they're trying
20 to -- you know, for electricity.

21 And I almost have to laugh because they
22 always have somebody like Mrs. Stuart and
23 Mr. Walters come up and tell how we just need this
24 and, you know, well, we'll always need electricians
25 and stuff like that, we just don't need Ameren.

1 And, oh, "Our shareholders vote, you know,
2 for us to have this money." Well, you know what,
3 they need to start voting so that people can have
4 some electricity and don't have to, you know, turn
5 it off or us have to pay for people that can't
6 afford it anymore. They keep on talking about this
7 dollar help and all this stuff and do this wonderful
8 stuff. Stop raising it on everybody so that they
9 can afford it. Nobody will be able to afford this
10 -- the electricity if they keep on going up.
11 57 percent in six years, that's outrageous. That is
12 just totally unbelievable.

13 So I'm just disgusted, sorry. And
14 until Missourians get together and we start just
15 getting these people out of here, that's the only
16 way it's going to work I think, I fear.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

18 MS. MORRISON: Thank you.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Thank you.

21 MS. MORRISON: I think I made myself
22 clear, didn't I?

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Kurt Schulz? Good
24 afternoon.

25 MR. SCHULZ: Good afternoon.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
2 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
3 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
4 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

5 MR. SCHULZ: Yes, sir.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And if you
7 could spell your last name for the court reporter.

8 MR. SCHULZ: It is S-C-H-U-L-Z.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And Kurt is with a "K"?

10 MR. SCHULZ: K, K-U-R-T.

11 I'm actually here with -- wearing two hats.
12 One, I work for Eaton's Crouse-Hinds Business. I'm
13 a supplier to Ameren. I have distribution and
14 contractors I sell to that do work there as well.
15 The other hat that I wear, I'm a former chairman of
16 the Electrical Board of Missouri and Illinois.
17 That's a trade organization, which represents
18 everybody in the industry. So I have expertise in
19 both sides.

20 As we talked or people talked about going to
21 solar or going to different types of power
22 producing, the solar project that happened in
23 O'Fallon, that's 6 megawatts of power that's
24 generated by the sun. It is very low cost but it
25 still has to be transmitted. That's 19 football

1 fields. Meramec is going to be shutdown and to
2 replace Meramec I wouldn't even want to guess the
3 acreage of solar that would be required for that.

4 Ameren did just replace the nuclear head unit
5 at Callaway, the most efficient and cleanest
6 electrical power. So they are putting forth the
7 money to ensure quality power for the next 20 years
8 via Callaway.

9 Personally, that solar project in O'Fallon,
10 my division and three other divisions of Eaton
11 Corporation actually benefited in sales. The
12 inverters, the combiners, the harnesses and
13 different material. So our company did benefit in
14 sales and that helped us personally. I believe
15 there were between 50 and 80 electricians that
16 worked on that project. I don't know how many other
17 trades, via mechanical or whichever, were employed
18 there, so the jobs were very important.

19 Another project, a few years ago Holcim
20 Cement decided to build the world's largest cement
21 plant down in Bloomsdale. It was because of the new
22 infrastructure that Ameren provided for them, was
23 part of that deal. It was largest project that I've
24 seen in Missouri in my 23 years in the electrical
25 industry. So Ameren providing quality power and

1 quality at a decent rate brought that industry in.

2 Someone had mentioned about the car plants
3 are no longer here. We have GM. That's the only
4 one left and it's the smallest of the four that were
5 here. We don't have a lot of industrial work,
6 industrial projects. Ameren, however, personally
7 for me, has done a number of projects due to the
8 clean air requirements from the government. I've
9 benefited from selling products for that in addition
10 to the day-to-day stuff.

11 A lighting project just at the Labadie plant
12 last year was probably a half a million dollars in
13 business just for my company and that's an
14 improvement to one of their strongest or their
15 stronger power plants. So, personally, we're -- I'm
16 benefiting, not only myself but the contractors, the
17 engineers designing the work, various facets of the
18 industry, we're benefiting from the work that Ameren
19 is actually doing at their facilities.

20 One other thing I'd like to mention, a lot of
21 people talked about being retired. Ameren has
22 retired a number of folks and their workforce age
23 has gone up as well. The problem, they have not
24 replaced those maintenance workers and so the plants
25 haven't changed. They actually -- there's probably

1 more in plants to do with the new clean air and
2 such, so there's more -- the same work to do with
3 less people. So how do you do that?

4 One solution that we've come up with for
5 Ameren is using LED lighting in their facilities.
6 So we're actually reducing their maintenance cost
7 and maintenance hours replacing the lamps within
8 their plants. And if you've been to a plant, you're
9 probably talking a couple thousand light fixtures
10 per plant. That's a whole lot of power that they're
11 not going to use themselves, that they're going to
12 be able to use to provide for others.

13 That being said, they're actually still able
14 to properly maintain their plants due to having a
15 lower workforce, lower number of people but still
16 having less man hours required because of the LED
17 lighting. So on one side Ameren is actually
18 promoting LED for folks to use it but they're doing
19 it themselves. They're actually using LED fixtures
20 to reduce their power consumption so that it can be
21 provided for others and then they won't have to
22 increase the number of plants later and so on and so
23 forth.

24 Basically I'm in support of the increase and
25 I'll leave that up to you guys in whatever the

1 increase may be but Ameren is a very important
2 customer to me, personally, but also to our entire
3 industry as far as the number of people working on
4 the projects. Thank you.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
6 questions?

7 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
9 testimony.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Fara Puten? Chris
11 Roepe? Chris Roepe? Cameron Redd? Cameron Redd?
12 Carl Owens, I think? Gene Hutchins? Good
13 afternoon.

14 MR. HUTCHINS: Good afternoon.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
16 hand.

17 MR. HUTCHINS: My name is Hutchins and
18 it's spelled H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S. I live at 9447 Radio
19 Drive in Affton.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
21 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
22 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
23 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

24 MR. HUTCHINS: I do.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would

1 you like to tell us?

2 MR. HUTCHINS: Well, I've got a list of
3 three points. Well, first of all, in the handout
4 provided, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service
5 Commission major issues and Ms. Lena Mantle pointed
6 out that the incentive structure should be modified
7 to reduce costs. That's the big bonuses. Okay. I
8 believe you really need to take a hard look at that
9 and they need to modify that.

10 These folks -- I worked in corporate America
11 for 39 years before I retired and I could tell you
12 these bonuses that they get, they usually don't give
13 them cash. It's usually stock. They don't like to
14 take that money immediately because it's taxed.
15 When they retire, they give them that money. That's
16 money that's on the books in the bank. It's usable
17 but I still think in some ways it's egregious.

18 I'm still angry about the major power outage
19 that occurred in I think it was 2007, when the ice
20 storm -- and I incurred \$800 of damages and my wife
21 would say the number was a lot higher because we had
22 an English bulldog that died because we couldn't
23 keep the house warm enough. Okay. Yes, they're
24 talking about the reliability, that's really great
25 but I think that reliability needs to be maintained,

1 so there's some legitimacy to that.

2 The next point I want to make, I really
3 endorse the words of Mr. Grimes that we should be
4 able to select who we buy our electricity from. We
5 pay a lot less -- I just want to unwind here, after
6 hearing Mr. Grimes I've hard-wired the issue, hadn't
7 thought about it, but I took out the cell phone and
8 my golly, I can find six people in the Midwest that
9 will sell me electricity.

10 Okay. If you allowed that and I say, "you,"
11 the State of Missouri, if that were allowed, then
12 the Missouri Public Service Commission would not
13 have to worry about the cost structure of the
14 generation of power. That wouldn't be your problem.
15 That would be Ameren's to keep the price of their
16 electricity attractive that people would buy it.
17 You would worry about and be focused on their cost
18 of distribution and the reliability of that
19 distribution and I think that we would be better
20 served to do it that way.

21 You made the point that while you guys can't
22 change that, that's, you know, something that has to
23 be taken up by the legislature, yeah, I'll contact
24 my legislators but you, as the Missouri Public
25 Service Commission, have the capability to make a

1 recommendation to the legislature, to the governor.
2 Say hey, this is in the best interest for our
3 citizens. I bet you guys might feel a little more
4 sympathetic to our citizens if you were elected to
5 office. That might be something we ought to do, is
6 start electing our Public Service Commissioners.

7 My last point here, the fuel costs that the
8 gentleman from Ameren spoke about that they're
9 retiring plants and they're building one good plant,
10 well, I hope that they just don't use coal, that
11 they have the ability to switch to natural gas or
12 oil.

13 Part of why a lot of companies, particularly
14 Omaha Power is the one we talked about, they are
15 going to natural gas because there's fracking.
16 There's more energy available in this country. I
17 don't know the economics of using oil but I do know
18 about the economics of using natural gas. It's much
19 more efficient.

20 The other advantage to it is the lady talked
21 about the health issues. I think that would clean
22 it up.

23 The only thing I see that Ameren has got out
24 there that might justify a higher rate increase is
25 the Obama administration EPA wants to clobber the

1 heck out of those guys with their power plants and
2 their emissions and God only knows how much it's
3 going to cost them.

4 So that's all I have to say and I thank you
5 for your time. If you have any questions.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
7 questions?

8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions.

9 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Opitz, you had a
11 question?

12 MR. OPITZ: Yes, Mr. Hutchins, I have a
13 couple clarifying questions. You mentioned Ms. Lena
14 Mantle.

15 MR. HUTCHINS: Yes.

16 MR. OPITZ: Are you -- I believe that
17 where you can find her recommendation is on the
18 Office of Public Counsel's sheet because she works
19 for the -- our office.

20 MR. HUTCHINS: Oh, I stand corrected on
21 that, sir.

22 MR. OPITZ: And within your comment you
23 seem to indicate that her -- based on the sheet that
24 her testimony was regarding executive compensation.

25 MR. HUTCHINS: Yes, that is correct.

1 MR. OPITZ: I guess if I would point out
2 to you that within the section on that handout
3 regarding Ms. Mantle, it's not regarding -- her
4 testimony is not on the executive incentive
5 compensation but it's on the incentive structure
6 within the FAC and I would ask that you -- or
7 encourage you to find me afterwards if you have
8 questions about that.

9 MR. HUTCHINS: FAC?

10 MR. OPITZ: Fuel adjustment clause.

11 MR. HUTCHINS: So you're saying that the
12 fuel adjustment clause is what they need to work on
13 as opposed to executive compensation?

14 MR. OPITZ: I would like to point out to
15 you that you referenced that her testimony -- or
16 your understanding of this was that her testimony
17 was on executive compensation.

18 MR. HUTCHINS: Yes, I was thinking the
19 higher cost structure.

20 MR. OPITZ: And her testimony is not
21 regarding this --

22 MS. TATRO: Your Honor, could I suggest
23 that perhaps -- this is not questions, so could I
24 suggest that perhaps they go outside and he can
25 explain to him but this isn't a cross-examination or

1 any other kind of examination.

2 MR. HUTCHINS: Oh, I can be
3 cross-examined. I'd be glad to.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yeah, I encourage you
5 to talk to Mr. Opitz after the hearing and he can
6 explain more about what Public Counsel's position
7 is.

8 MR. HUTCHINS: Okay.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr.
10 Hutchins.

11 The next name is Harold Michael Beck.
12 Mr. Beck? All right. Veronica Donovan? Good
13 afternoon.

14 MS. DONOVAN: Good afternoon.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
16 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
17 you're about to give in this matter is the truth,
18 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

19 MS. DONOVAN: I do.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And your
21 name is Veronica Donovan?

22 MS. DONOVAN: Yes, it is.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

24 MS. DONOVAN: I'm a senior and I did
25 everything the right way so I'm not hurting like a

1 lot of people back here but a prime example is I
2 have had long-term healthcare insurance for 12 years
3 and they decided that with so many people putting in
4 they were going to go up, which I didn't think they
5 could. I thought it was like life insurance but
6 they can, so my long-term insurance is going up
7 45 percent starting in January and then we have
8 Ameren who wants a piece of my pie and everybody
9 else.

10 I have two questions. You are the Public
11 Service Commission, so you are supposed to work for
12 us, correct, the public, does the public pay your
13 salary?

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The Commission --
15 myself and the commissioners can't really answer
16 questions at this time. If you want to talk with
17 some people from the Staff after the hearing they
18 can explain how all of that's taken care of.

19 MS. DONOVAN: Okay. I don't understand
20 because it says "public service" and the word
21 public -- no answer?

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I can't give you an
23 answer at this time because we're the judges in the
24 case and we can't comment about issues of the case.

25 COMMISSIONER STOLL: The Staff does have

1 a table and there's a gentleman in the back, he'd be
2 happy to explain that to you though.

3 MS. DONOVAN: Okay. So I can't find out
4 who pays you and --

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You can't find out from
6 us but you can find out from the people out there.

7 MS. DONOVAN: Okay. Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anything else?

9 MS. DONOVAN: No.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions? All
11 right. Thank you, ma'am.

12 Ms. Donovan was the last name on my list. Is
13 there anyone here who hasn't testified yet who would
14 like to testify at this point? Yes, sir? Good
15 afternoon.

16 MR. LEONARD: James Leonard.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: L-E-T-T-E-R?

18 MR. LEONARD: L-E-O-N-A-R-D.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. And if you
20 could please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly
21 swear or affirm the testimony you're about to give
22 in this matter is the truth, the whole truth, and
23 nothing but the truth?

24 MR. LEONARD: I do.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

1 MR. LEONARD: I think Ameren has done a
2 very good job of gaming the system. They keep
3 coming back for increases over and over again and
4 they get them. Well, what is their overall
5 objective? They state their overall objective is to
6 get to the national average of kilowatt hours and
7 they're below, 25, 38 percent, whatever numbers
8 you're using, and that's their objective.

9 They are not good actors. They're not good
10 people but they do a good job as a corporation. I
11 admire what they do and they're gaming you guys and
12 they're gaming prior Public Service Commissioners
13 and they're gaming the legislature.

14 Mr. Wood used to work for you guys, PSC, the
15 PSC. He became a lobbyist and he was pushing for
16 money upfront, much like a co-op but they're not a
17 co-op. They're investor-owned. He's good. He's
18 slick. Now he goes and works for Ameren and he's
19 pushing for more and more rates. What do they want?

20 You have a history with Ameren, Taum Sauk,
21 the 95 percent that they were supposed to give back
22 that other commissioners had to -- had to give
23 \$17 million back reimbursement because Ameren didn't
24 think the customers deserved that but they did, they
25 gave it back and there's more and more. Every time

1 you look into something Ameren has done, they have
2 not been good actors.

3 I point out that Kirkwood, who buys their
4 electricity -- used to buy their electricity from
5 Ameren, no longer buys their -- or will no longer be
6 buying their electricity from Ameren because they
7 got involved in a bad contract with Ameren. They're
8 buying it elsewhere and now they think they're going
9 to be profitable or be refunding their utility
10 system. Why can they go outside the grid or go
11 outside of Ameren and do a better job and reimburse
12 their funding of their utility system?

13 The problem is not Ameren. They're doing a
14 good job. You guys and your prior commissioners and
15 the legislature are not doing their job. That's
16 where it should be. You got to say no and you got
17 to say no and say go to the courts and try to get it
18 adjudicated. We can't.

19 If Rex Singuefield had a lot of money to put
20 into this and wanted to fight it in court, they
21 wouldn't be winning all the cases that they're
22 winning. You're going to give them 50 percent,
23 maybe two-thirds. The last time you didn't give
24 them 50 or two-thirds percent was in 2009, I think,
25 maybe 2007. You're going to give it to them. It's

1 a rubber stamp.

2 You guys are all making six figures. That
3 answers your question, ma'am. It's a good job.
4 It's a good gig. I don't blame Ameren. They're
5 doing their job. They're a mismanaged company but
6 they're doing their job and they're gaming you
7 people. That's it. Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
9 other questions? Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks, Mr. Leonard.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone else wishing to
12 testify that hasn't already spoken? I don't see any
13 other hands coming up.

14 MS. MAINER: Good afternoon, gentlemen.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good afternoon.

16 MS. MAINER: I was just leaving.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you solemnly swear
18 or affirm the testimony you're about to give in this
19 matter is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
20 but the truth?

21 MS. MAINER: I do.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And your name?

23 MS. MAINER: Margo Mainer.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

25 MS. MAINER: And I just have a comment.

1 As I was standing out there, as I was leaving
2 actually because some of the time was taken up by
3 people who were promoting the pay raise, from my
4 perspective, which everyone has a right to come and
5 I understand that but it was taking up time of
6 people who are against the pay raise but something
7 that occurred to me was I think it would be helpful
8 if there was documentation kept of people, as
9 myself, who come to the hearing in opposition to
10 what's happening, to the pay raise.

11 At this point, as I understand it, you have
12 only documentation of people who are willing to come
13 up here and speak. There's no further documentation
14 of anyone who might come but they have opposition
15 and by all means those people should be willing to
16 give their name, their telephone number, phone
17 number, whatever is needed to verify who they are
18 but I think it would be beneficial for everyone that
19 you have some knowledge of people that were here and
20 cared but did not take the time to come up and
21 speak. That's all I really have to say.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I will add one thing,
23 if anyone who wants to add any comments you can go
24 to the Commission's website, PSC dot mo dot gov and
25 you can make an entry of your thoughts on the

1 website and that is also made a part of the record.

2 MS. MAINER: They did tell me that and I
3 appreciate that. They gave me the form. However,
4 that's another step. If I've come here, you should
5 have something to bear witness I've been here and
6 whether it was for the pay raise or against it.
7 That's just my feeling. Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

9 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you. That's
10 good feedback.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

12 MS. DONOVAN: Thank you.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Does anyone
14 else wish to testify? All right. With that, then
15 we are adjourned. Thank you all for coming.

16 (Exhibit A was marked for identification
17 by the court reporter.)

18 - - - - -

19 (Public Hearing concluded at 2:41 p.m.)

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit	Description	Marked	Rec'd
Exhibit A	LED Street and Area Lighting Report	34	35

(Exhibits were sent to the Missouri Public Service
Commission.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Suzanne Zes, within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; the testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Court Reporter

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