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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

January 22, 2015

Kingston, Missouri

Volume 8

In the Matter of Union Electric Company )  
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariff to Increase )  
Its Revenues For Electric Service )

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding  
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

WILLIAM P. KENNEY  
COMMISSIONER

REPORTER BY:  
FRAN HOLLAND, CCR

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APPEARANCES :

RUSS MITTEN

Bryden, Swearingen & England

312 E. Capitol Avenue

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

COLLEEN M. DALE, Senior Counsel

Public Service Commission

State of Missouri

P. O. Box 360

Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102

CHRISTINA BAKER, P.E., J.D.

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 2230

Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 (Starting time of the Hearing: 6:30  
3 p.m.)

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, good evening  
5 everyone. Once again, welcome to the Local Public  
6 Hearing for the Ameren Rate Increase Case. In a  
7 moment, we will be taking testimony from the people  
8 who have signed up, and if you haven't signed up,  
9 that's all right, too. After I've called the  
10 people who are on the list, I'll just ask if  
11 there's anybody else in the audience who wants to  
12 make a statement and I'll bring you up then.

13 I would like to introduce the gentleman  
14 to my right. This is Commissioner William Kenney.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Welcome, folks.  
16 Good to be here. I am one of five Commissioners on  
17 the Missouri Public Service Commission. I live in  
18 the Kansas City area and each of us try to always  
19 make a public hearing. Fortunately, for the other  
20 Commissioners, we have a court reporter here and  
21 they will be able to sit and read any comments that  
22 are made tonight.

23 I know our Public Service Staff has done  
24 an excellent job of informing you and giving you  
25 the details of how we operate and along with the

1 Office of Public Counsel.

2 I would just like to, on behalf of the  
3 Commissioners, I would like to thank you for coming  
4 out and participating in this event. Thank you.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Before I call the first  
6 witness, we need to determine which attorneys are  
7 here for the parties. I'll ask the attorneys to  
8 enter their appearance beginning with Ameren.

9 MR. MITTEN: Judge Woodruff, could the  
10 record reflect the appearance of Russ Mitten,  
11 Bryden, Swearingen & England, 312 E. Capitol  
12 Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri, appearing on  
13 behalf of Ameren Missouri.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For the Staff of the  
15 Commission?

16 MS. DALE: Colleen M. Dale, P. O. Box  
17 360, Jefferson City, Missouri on behalf of the  
18 Staff of the Public Service Commission.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Office of  
20 Public Counsel?

21 MS. BAKER: Christina Baker, P. O. Box  
22 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 appearing on  
23 behalf of the Office of Public Counsel and the  
24 customers.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I believe that's all the

1 attorneys here for the parties, so if that will  
2 complete the entries of appearance, I'm going to go  
3 ahead and call the list of people to have you come  
4 up to testify.

5 When I call your name, if you'll come up  
6 and have a seat at one of the chairs here, inside  
7 the bar, and I'll swear you in to tell the truth,  
8 the whole truth and nothing but the truth and you  
9 can make your statement. After you've made your  
10 statement, the Commissioner and myself or the  
11 attorneys for the parties may have questions for  
12 you, so just wait around for a moment and we'll  
13 hear what you have to say.

14 So the first name on the list is Ellis  
15 Chowning.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good evening.

17 MR. CHOWNING: Yes, sir.

18 ELLIS CHOWNING, having been duly sworn  
19 by Judge Woodruff, testifies:

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You can have a seat, and  
21 can you spell your name for the court reporter's  
22 benefit?

23 MR. CHOWNING: First name is Ellis, E-l-  
24 l-i-s, last name is Chowning, C-h-o-w-n-i-n-g.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

1           What would you like to tell us?

2                       MR. CHOWNING: Well, sir, I'm opposed to  
3           the profit increase seeked by Ameren because I  
4           believe it's nothing more than corporate greed.  
5           Ameren is already a healthy company, receiving a  
6           fair profit. I believe there are many Ameren  
7           customers that are barely providing a living for  
8           their families, those who are on limited or fixed  
9           incomes, Social Security, minimum wages and  
10          unemployment. I think it's wrong to impose a more  
11          heavy burden on those persons just so that an  
12          already profitable company can just make more  
13          money.

14                      Fuel adjustment charge, to me, is just  
15          like the surcharge the trash man gets when diesel  
16          goes up, but it never goes down when fuel prices go  
17          down. It would be different if Ameren were  
18          struggling and trying to survive, but this is for a  
19          profit increase.

20                      Webster Dictionary says a profit is the  
21          sum remaining after all costs, direct and indirect,  
22          are deducted from the income of a business, so why  
23          should Ameren receive 264 million more of profit  
24          per year from consumers that are just getting by.

25          Thank you.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any  
2 questions from the parties? Commissioner Kenney,  
3 do you have any questions?

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No. Thank you, Mr.  
5 Chowning, I appreciate your comments.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Next  
7 name on my list is Ed Pautz. Good evening, sir.

8 MR. PAUTZ: Good evening.

9 ED PAUTZ, having been duly sworn by  
10 Judge Woodruff, testifies:

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, have a seat.  
12 And if you'll spell your last name for the court  
13 reporter?

14 MR. PAUTZ: P, as in Paul, a-u-t-z.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.  
16 What would you like to tell us?

17 MR. PAUTZ: Just want to speak up and say  
18 I don't feel - that a 9.6, 9.7, almost 10 percent  
19 rate increase is pretty strong. The fuel charges  
20 and the energy efficiency charges that are over and  
21 above the actual electric charge should be used for  
22 a lot of these things that I understood that they  
23 were describing that the rate increase was going to  
24 be used for, as was mentioned with Ellis, that a  
25 lot of these companies now are adding other  
26 surcharges or whatever and that's basically what  
27 this is. It was normally taken out of the profits,  
28 or out of their revenue that they reflected for  
29 their general service fee.

30 I think it's been stated, the past CEO  
31 of Ameren was somewhere in the 6 million dollar  
32 annual revenue. That's pretty good wages. I think  
33 if a person would understand this is total  
34 compensation, but if a guy put a pencil to that,  
35 that's about \$3,000 an hour. That's pretty good  
36 wages. That's probably more than their linemen  
37 make in, I'd say, two weeks. I know it's way more  
38 than I make in two weeks.

39 And then, I've also read the new CEO is  
40 promising big profits and I kind of think this is  
41 one way that he's going to help aid in seeing that  
42 he gets his record profits. Other than that,  
43 that's about all I have got off the top of my head.  
44 I didn't prepare a speech.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, thank you, sir.  
Do any of the parties have any questions?

2 Commissioner Kenney?

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yes, I noticed your  
4 shirt. Did you attend some of those Grainbelt  
5 Hearings, we had eight of them?

6 MR. PAUTZ: Yes, I did.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I thought you  
8 looked familiar.

9 MR. PAUTZ: Probably wrong to remind you,  
10 but it had nothing to do with the Union Electric.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: You're obviously a  
12 participant and I appreciate you participating in  
13 the opportunity to--

14 MR. PAUTZ: The process.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yes. Thank you.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Those are the only two  
17 names that are on my list as signing up. Is there  
18 anyone else in the audience who would like to  
19 testify, at this point? Okay, I don't see anyone  
20 else. Any final comments?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then, we are adjourned.

23 (WHEREIN, the Hearing is concluded at  
24 6:43 p.m.)  
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