

In the Matter of:
UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI, et al.

ER-2019-0335, VOL. VIII

January 13, 2020

{ Audio recording transcribed by Kayla Kliethermes }

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

January 13, 2020

Kirksville, Missouri

Volume 8

In the Matter of Union Electric)
Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's) File No. ER-2019-0335
Tariffs To Decrease Its Revenues)
For Electric Service)

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:
KAYLA KLIETHERMES, PARALEGAL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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JUDGE HATCHER: Alright, if we could go ahead and get started. I'd like to make an announcement to the parties first. A little unusual for this hearing we do not have a court reporter. We are going to be recording the hearing and then transcribing it later. So, for the normal introduction, if you would present your business cards to me I will make sure and then give those to the transcriber.

Good afternoon. Today is January thirteenth, two thousand and twenty at just after noon and we are in Kirksville, Missouri. The Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing in File Number ER-2019-0335, which is captioned as In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Decrease Its Revenues for Electric Service.

My name is Charles Hatcher, the Regulatory Law Judge that will preside over this hearing. With me today are Public Service Commission Chairman Ryan Silvey. Chairman, would you like to make any comments?

CHAIRMAN SILVEY: I just would like to thank you all for taking time out of your day to attend. This is an important part of our process and your comments will be made available to the other commissioners as we decide this case.

JUDGE HATCHER: And let's go ahead and get to the hearing portion. Let's ask counsel to make their entry of appearance for the record. For Ameren.

MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Your Honor. James Lowery, Smith Lewis, LLP, PO Box 918, Columbia, Missouri 65201, appearing on behalf of Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri.

JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, and also Public Counsel.

MR. HALL: Thank you, Your Honor. Caleb Hall appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel. The business address is 200 Madison Street, Suite 650, Jefferson City, Missouri.

JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, and Commission Staff.

MR. KEEVIL: Yes, Judge, appearing on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Jeff Keevil, 200 Madison Street, Suite 800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. For those of you who would like to provide comments today, I am going to call the names that are listed on the sign-up sheet. There is only one name currently on the sign-up sheet. After, as we get close to the end of the hearing, I will call again if there are any members of the public who would like to testify who did not sign up. So you have not missed your opportunity if you did not sign up already.

So for the one name, or for anyone, I am going to call your name and then please come on down. I am going to ask you to state and spell your name for the record, and then please offer your comments to the Commission. Please do remain at the podium after your remarks until you are excused as the Commission may have some questions to ask. If the attorneys have any questions please speak up and let me know.

The Commissioners will not be able to answer any of your questions today because they have to remain impartial until after all of the evidence is presented at an evidentiary hearing. If you do have questions please speak to representatives of the company, the Commission Staff, or the Office of the Public Counsel.

Let's go ahead and call the first witness, Michael Diel. Thank you, Mr. Diel and we don't have microphones working today, they are part of the court system, so if you could just speak up so everyone behind you can hear you. If you would please raise your right hand sir, I would like to swear you in. Do you solemnly swear, or affirm, that the comments you are about to give are the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

MR. DIEL: Yes I do.

JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please state and spell your last name.

MR. DIEL: My name is Michael Diel. D, as in David, I-E-L. I live in Macon, Missouri.

JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Diel. And please go ahead with your comments.

MR. DIEL: Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. My concerns are twofold. As a publicly regulated utility Ameren wants to increase the fixed charge that every customer pays by two dollars. This two-dollar increase hurts low income ratepayers the hardest.

Ameren says eventually they want to raise it to almost twenty-five dollars a month. Those on fixed incomes, particularly older Missourians, may not be able to afford the added bill. We need to protect them.

But what really bothers me is what they want the money for. While Iowa generates forty percent of its electricity from cheap wind power and Kansas generates thirty-six percent of electricity from cheap wind energy Ameren wants to lock Missouri into old outdated coal plants, making it harder to compete in the future.

Ameren's own data states that each of Ameren's Labadie, Rush Island, and Sioux coal power plants lost more than twenty million dollars relative to the market over the past three years. Ameren's customers would save money if, instead, the company had shut off its coal burning plants during those times they were not market competitive and bought cheaper, cleaner energy.

Also, after years of violating the Clean Air Act, in September 2019 a federal court ordered Ameren to install pollution controls on its Rush Island and Labadie power plants. A report from Clean Air Task Force estimates that in 2016, Ameren's coal burning plants caused 289 premature deaths, 174 heart attacks, 1,903 asthma attacks, and 14,052 lost work days, for a total economic impact of more than two billion dollars.

Ratepayers should not have the costs of dirty energy passed on to them. I urge the Public Service Commission to order Ameren to study retirement of its coal burning plants before future costs at those plants are passed on to consumers. I also urge the Public Service Commission to reject the two-dollar increase in the customer charge.

JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Diel. Are there any questions from the bench? I don't have any questions. Are there any questions from Counsel? I'm not seeing any questions. Thank you, Mr. Diel. You are excused. And, as I promised, I would call for any other witnesses since Mr. Diel was the only witness that signed up. Are there any other witnesses who would like to testify? If not, we're going to close the hearing in the next minute. Alright. Mr. Chairman, would you like to make any closing remarks? Thank you, I would like to thank all of our participants for their comments. Mr. Diel, if you do have any additional comments I want to encourage you to make written comments by contacting the Office of the Public Counsel or by

going to the Public Service Commission's website. This hearing is now adjourned. Have a good rest of the day. Thank you all.