

In the Matter of Union Electric Company (d/b/a: Ameren Missouri's Tariffs)

Judge John Clark

February 03, 2023

Vol 3

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Friday, February 3, 2023

12:53 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 3

Pages 1 - 40

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

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

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1 The following proceedings began at 12:53 p.m.:

2 JUDGE CLARK: Let's go ahead and go on the
3 record at this time. Good afternoon. It is February
4 the 3rd, 2023, and the current time is 12:53 p.m. Now,
5 the question and answer portion of the local public
6 hearing just ended. If you had questions about this
7 rate case, I hope you were able to get those questions
8 answered. Given the amount of time that it went on, I'm
9 assuming it was fairly robust.

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

16 My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory Law
17 Judge presiding over this hearing today. Now, the
18 Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates
19 of investor-owned utilities in Missouri to ensure that
20 those rates are just and reasonable.

21 The Commission also regulates the quality of
22 service and the safety of operations of investor-owned
23 utilities. The Commission is made up of five
24 Commissioners: Chairman Scott Rupp and Commissioners
25 Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman and Glen Kolkmeyer. One

1 Commission seat is currently empty. Now, those
2 Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to a fixed
3 term and confirmed by the Senate. Now, the
4 Commissioners employ a staff of engineers, accountants,
5 attorneys, financial analysts and other specialists in
6 the area of utility regulation. And all of the
7 Commissioners are here with me today.

8 Would any of the Commissioners like to make an
9 opening remark? Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN RUPP: No, thanks, Judge. Just want
11 to welcome everybody but that's all.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chairman. Now, the
13 court reporter is transcribing this hearing so that we
14 can review it later if necessary. I'm going to begin at
15 this time by asking counsel for the parties to enter
16 their appearance for the record starting with Ameren
17 Missouri.

18 MR. BANKS: Eric Kendall Banks to Banks Law,
19 LLC, 1824 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Banks. On behalf
21 of the Commission Staff.

22 MR. VANDERGRIFF: I'm Eric Vandergriff, Legal
23 Counsel here with the Missouri Public Service Commission
24 representing the Staff. Our address is PO Box 360, 200
25 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

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

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy
4 Public Counsel appearing on behalf of the Office of the
5 Public Counsel and the public. We're located in the
6 Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, PO Box
7 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Williams. There
9 are a number of intervenors in this case. Are there any
10 parties present that I have not called today? Okay. I
11 hear no one and see no hands at this time. Now, for
12 those who would like to provide comments today, I'm
13 going to call the names listed on the sign-up sheet in
14 the order they appear. When I call your name, if you
15 would unmute yourself and at that time I will place you
16 under oath and ask you to state and spell your name for
17 the record and the court reporter and then you'll have
18 an opportunity to offer your comments to the Commission.

19 Also, when you're finished offering your
20 comments, don't immediately mute and get off the video
21 feed. I may have some questions for you, the
22 Commissioners may have some questions for you, or some
23 of the attorneys that are here may have questions for
24 you. If any of those people have questions, just get my
25 attention audibly. That's probably the easiest way

1 since I may not see hands up given the number of
2 participants.

3 Now, the Commission will not be able to answer
4 any questions today and that's because they have to
5 remain impartial until after the evidence is presented
6 at the evidentiary hearing. And I believe the
7 evidentiary hearing is currently set for April 3rd
8 through the 14th of this year. If you have questions
9 that you need answered that were not answered during the
10 question and answer portion, please contact the Company,
11 Ameren Missouri, the Commission Staff, the Office of the
12 Public Counsel. I know that Ameren Missouri provided a
13 customer service number if anybody needs to contact
14 Ameren Missouri about that. I will give that right now.
15 That's 1-800-321-2477.

16 We also have a Public Service Commission
17 consumer services number. That number is
18 1-800-392-4211. With all that in mind, I'm going to
19 call the first person I have on my list to speak.
20 Please bear with me. I may mispronounce your name.
21 Please correct me. I apologize if I do. First on the
22 list I have a Walle Amusa. Is Walle Amusa present?

23 FACILITATOR: He's coming up now.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much.

25 MR. AMUSA: Good afternoon, Missouri Public

1 Service Commission.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Good afternoon. Did I say your
3 name right?

4 MR. AMUSA: Yeah, my name is Walle Amusa. I'm
5 the co-chairperson of the Campaign for Human Dignity,
6 and we are an organization that is very much concerned
7 about the quality of life for all Missourians, black --

8 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Amusa, Mr. Amusa, before you
9 offer your comments, can I get you to spell your name
10 for the court reporter and then I'd like to place you
11 under oath.

12 MR. AMUSA: Sure. It's W-a-l-l-e, last name
13 is A-m-u-s-a, and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

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

18 MR. AMUSA: Yes.

19 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize for interrupting
20 you. What would you like to tell the Commission today?

21 WALLE AMUSA,
22 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 MR. AMUSA: I'd like to tell the Commission
24 that the request by Missouri, Ameren Missouri for a rate
25 increase be flatly and unquestionably rejected. I'm

1 co-chair of the Campaign for Human Dignity. We are
2 concerned about the quality of life for all Missourians,
3 rural and urban, black, white, Native American, and the
4 fact that they are heavily impacted by the cost of
5 living and many, many Missourians are having to choose
6 between food, heat, medicine and many other essential,
7 you know, requirements of life.

8 We believe that the Ameren Missouri request
9 should be flatly rejected for three simple reasons.
10 Ameren Missouri is a greedy corporation that is never
11 satisfied regardless of how much profit they make. In
12 2022, Ameren Missouri made \$398 million net. That is
13 after all of their bills have been paid, all of the
14 employees have been paid, all of the costs of generating
15 electricity have been paid. This company made \$398
16 million in one year in profits. And they have the
17 audacity and temerity to put before Missourians who are
18 struggling to pay their gas bills, they're struggling to
19 pay for food, they're struggling to pay for education
20 and everything else. They're now being burdened,
21 especially as seniors who have worked all their life to
22 build this state are now being put in a position of
23 having to pay more of their fixed income that is
24 actually worth less because of the rate of inflation of
25 everything that they need for their life.

1 We think it would be irresponsible for any
2 Commissioner on that PSC to vote to support such an
3 unreasonable request by a company that made \$398 million
4 in 2022. We think it's also unfair and it would be
5 unreasonable for any Commissioner to raise the rates on
6 Missourians who are fixed income, who are on low wages,
7 many of whom are making less than living wages, while
8 the company executive, the chief executive of Ameren UE
9 or Ameren Missouri is making \$1.2 million every year.
10 That is an absurdity. It is an absurdity. It is an
11 absurdity. It is an absurdity. And the PSC needs to
12 get off of whatever comfortable seat that they're
13 sitting on and say hell no, enough is enough, enough is
14 enough, Missouri residents, black, white and brown are
15 sick and tired of all these corporations. Ameren
16 Missouri is one of the Fortune 500 companies. We're
17 sick and tired. Can't take it no more. Thank you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Amusa, I have a couple
19 questions for you if you'd come back, please.

20 Mr. Amusa?

21 MR. AMUSA: Yes.

22 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize. I can tell that
23 you feel very strongly about this. I just want to see
24 that I can clarify. You had said that there were three
25 reasons and they kind of blurred together a little bit.

1 So reason number one I got is because they are a greedy
2 corporation that made \$398 million net in 2022. I
3 believe the second reason you gave is that you thought
4 it would be unreasonable for any Commissioner to support
5 this rate increase in any way. What was your third
6 reason, if I may ask, and I may just not have caught it.
7 I apologize.

8 MR. AMUSA: I thought my comments were
9 recorded.

10 JUDGE CLARK: They are, that is correct.

11 MR. AMUSA: Let say this. This is one of the
12 main reasons why people don't participate in these
13 events. We spoke the first time, which was not
14 recorded. Now I have to speak on the record again. Now
15 you're asking me to repeat the points that I made for
16 the record which has already been recorded. Don't waste
17 my time. Please.

18 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize if you believe I'm
19 wasting your time. I just take notes. I like to refer
20 to those notes. So yes, it is being --

21 MR. AMUSA: I'd like for you to go back and
22 listen to the transcripts. Thank you very much.

23 JUDGE CLARK: I will do that. Is there
24 anybody who has any questions for this witness? I will
25 take that as a no. Mr. Amusa, I understand you feel

1 strongly about this. I do appreciate you taking the
2 time to talk to the Commission today.

3 The next person I have signed up to speak is
4 May Johnson. Is May Johnson there? Good afternoon, Ms.
5 Johnson. Would you please spell your name for the
6 record.

7 MS. JOHNSON: M-a-y J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Johnson, would you raise
9 your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm
10 that the testimony you're about to give at this local
11 public hearing is the truth?

12 MS. JOHNSON: It is.

13 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
14 Commission today, Ms. Johnson?

15 MAY JOHNSON,
16 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 MS. JOHNSON: I was just thinking about the
18 rate increase and being a senior citizen myself. With
19 inflation on the rise, joblessness, the food costs and
20 just everyday living is out of the ballpark. And if
21 you're on a fixed, fixed, fixed, fixed income, some
22 people's income is more fixed than others. What if
23 after you get through doing whatever you need to do and
24 you still don't have enough to pay utilities? Where
25 does that leave us? It's hard.

1 It's very, very hard to try to get the things
2 that you need, that we need, to get the provisions that
3 we need and yet we don't have enough to do that. And
4 then we ask for a rate increase. Where do we get it
5 from?

6 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize if you're expecting
7 me to answer the question. As I indicated, the
8 Commission can't answer questions today.

9 MS. JOHNSON: I didn't understand what you
10 said. Oh, okay.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Johnson, I didn't mean to
12 interrupt you. Did you have more you wanted to say?

13 MS. JOHNSON: No. I have plenty I could say
14 but no, not right now.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much for
16 your comments, Ms. Johnson. The Commission appreciates
17 the opportunity to hear the concerns you have with this
18 case. So thank you very much.

19 The next person I have signed up to speak is
20 Reverend Kevin Kosh. Is Reverend Kosh there?
21 Good afternoon, Reverend.

22 REV. KOSH: Good afternoon.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Would you spell your name for
24 the court reporter and the record.

25 REV. KOSH: Yes. Kevin, K-e-v-i-n, Kosh,

1 K-o-s-h.

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

6 REV. KOSH: Yes.

7 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell
8 the Commission?

9 REV. KEVIN KOSH,
10 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

11 REV. KOSH: Yes. It would seem to me that the
12 Ameren would in their budgeting process do some
13 long-range planning that would include these increases.
14 They knew that these increases were expected. Seniors
15 have to plan, churches have to plan, everybody has to
16 plan. With the ongoing increases, my seniors are saying
17 to me now, is this a Missouri thing? Missouri is one of
18 12, one of 12 states where our seniors have to pay
19 social security tax.

20 Not only in Missouri, you can just go right
21 across the river to Illinois, they don't have to pay on
22 their retirement pensions. In Illinois, they do not
23 have to pay taxes on their pension. In Missouri, our
24 seniors have to pay taxes on their pension. It becomes
25 one more thing.

1 Our congregation, our young families are
2 saying to me, is there another increase, is something
3 else going up, Pastor? When they look at their gas,
4 when they look at their food, they look at their total
5 budgets, their children in school and in colleges,
6 everything goes up. And a company this size with
7 attorneys and lawyers, it appears to me that there has
8 to be those who do some more long-range planning where
9 moneys could be set aside within their various budgets
10 to address these issues as they're 10-year planning,
11 20-year planning, even 30-year long-range planning. And
12 I oppose this increase at this time.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you, Reverend Kosh.
14 To summarize your comments, it sounds like what you're
15 saying is that these things were foreseeable and Ameren
16 should have planned for them --

17 REV. KOSH: That is correct.

18 JUDGE CLARK: -- rather than waiting until it
19 needed a rate increase to pay for those costs?

20 REV. KOSH: That is correct.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. I always
22 learn something at these and I appreciate you telling me
23 that, I was unaware that Missouri was one of 12 states
24 where seniors have to pay taxes on their pensions.
25 Thank you for letting me know that.

1 REV. KOSH: Social security.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Social security.

3 REV. KOSH: And they pay taxes on their
4 pension, yes, sir.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. All right. Thank you
6 very much for your comments. I don't have any further
7 questions. Are there any other questions for this
8 witness? I hear none. Thank you, Reverend Kosh. I
9 appreciate your comments. Ollie Stewart?

10 MS. STEWART: Yes.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Is there an Ollie Stewart?

12 MS. STEWART: Yes. I'm Ollie Stewart.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Hello, Ms. Stewart.

14 MS. STEWART: Hi. I set up the Zoom meeting
15 because I've had many complaints by our seniors about
16 their utility bills and medication and the high price of
17 food. Because you all --

18 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Stewart?

19 MS. STEWART: Yes.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Stewart, I hate to interrupt
21 you. I'm sorry. Would you please -- I apologize.
22 Would you please spell your name for the court reporter
23 and the record and then I'll swear you in.

24 MS. STEWART: Spell my name? O-l-l-i-e M-a-e
25 S-t-e-w-a-r-t.

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

4 MS. STEWART: Yes.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead. Again I apologize for
6 interrupting.

7 MS. STEWART: Beg your pardon. Are you
8 finished?

9 JUDGE CLARK: I said go ahead.

10 OLLIE MAE STEWART,
11 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

12 MS. STEWART: What I want to tell you the
13 reason set up the Zoom, because when you all set up your
14 hearing, it's usually in the evening and our seniors
15 want to be involved. So that's the reason the only time
16 I set it up this would give them the opportunity to
17 express themselves, because many of them have expressed
18 the high cost of medication, food and utilities.

19 The medication include myself, I went to get
20 my medicine yesterday and I had a breather was 400 and
21 some other medicine was 500. So that would have been
22 \$900 right there. Everybody don't have that. I had to
23 go back to my doctor to rewrite the prescription. But
24 these are some of the problems that the senior citizens
25 are facing. They only -- They're not only facing the

1 high cost of food, the rent and also the medication and
2 the utility bills. And I told them that I would provide
3 them with a chance to express themselves. I'm sure you
4 all would appreciate that. So that's the reason we set
5 up the Zoom. We had some that was here that have left,
6 but we're happy that they are able to express themselves
7 and let you know how they feel about this increase.

8 Anything?

9 JUDGE CLARK: I have no questions based upon
10 what you said. I took notes on what you said.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, if I might.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Go right ahead, Mr.
13 Williams.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Ms. Stewart, I heard you saying
15 how others viewed the increase. Do you have an opinion
16 about it?

17 MS. STEWART: Do I have what?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Do you have an opinion about
19 Ameren Missouri's increase request?

20 MS. STEWART: Well, I feel that the increase
21 is going to hurt the senior citizens who are on fixed
22 income. Everybody don't qualify for the assistance that
23 you all give. We have seniors that is trying to live in
24 their community, live in their homes, and they not
25 qualify for the utility assistance but yet they have to

1 pay their bills on time. Okay?

2 JUDGE CLARK: When you say not qualified for
3 assistance, have you tried to get assistance in the past
4 with your utility bills?

5 MS. STEWART: No, we have not. We know that
6 there's guidelines. I'm very much familiar. I work
7 very close with Ameren, has some very good friends. You
8 all have been a friend to the Southside Wellness. I
9 still work with the senior citizens in the community.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for your
11 comments, Ms. Stewart.

12 MS. STEWART: Thank you.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any other questions
14 for Ms. Stewart?

15 MS. STEWART: No, thank you.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Next name I have who
17 desire to offer comments to the Commission is Mario
18 Williams. Is there a Mario Williams present? Okay. I
19 will skip over Mr. Williams for the moment. I'll come
20 back and ask at the end. Is there a Regina Sanguinette?

21 FACILITATOR: She's on her way.

22 JUDGE CLARK: I feel almost sure I'm saying
23 that wrong.

24 MS. SANGUINETTE: Hello. I'm Regina
25 Sanguinette.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please spell your name
2 for the record.

3 MS. SANGUINETTE: R-e-g-i-n-a. Sanguinette is
4 S-a-n-g-u-i-n-e-t-t-e.

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

9 MS. SANGUINETTE: Yes.

10 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell
11 the Commission today?

12 REGINA SANGUINETTE,
13 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 MS. SANGUINETTE: I would just like to tell
15 the Commission if Ameren's compensation committee could
16 take a second look at their compensation packages for
17 their top executives and their board members and maybe
18 consider making some cuts there before increasing our
19 rates. We're all really grateful for the reliable
20 electric service that Ameren gives us, and the
21 corporation does a really good job. I'm sure you want
22 to continue to attract top talent. But you need to keep
23 in mind many of your customers are struggling just to
24 get by on fixed incomes and even a \$12 a month increase
25 is going to be hardship for a lot of us. We're all on

1 the brink of a crisis, and we need to work together and
2 make sacrifices together.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Is that all you wanted to
4 offer today?

5 MS. SANGUINETTE: Yes.

6 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry. I don't mean that in
7 any kind of de minimis way. I just want to be sure if
8 you had more to say that I caught it all. And you had
9 indicated in addition to that people were struggling to
10 get by and that even a \$12 increase would be too much
11 for many people. You also indicated that you would like
12 Ameren to look at its executive compensation and see if
13 it can make some cuts there that would possibly fill the
14 gap and make this more reasonable. Is that correct?

15 MS. SANGUINETTE: Yes, and also look at what
16 they pay their board members. Their board members get
17 compensation too for serving.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I have no questions based
19 upon what you said, Ms. Sanguinette. Do any of the
20 attorneys or Commissioners have questions for Ms.
21 Sanguinette? I hear none. Thank you very much for your
22 comments today.

23 MS. SANGUINETTE: Thanks.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Now, that was the last name on
25 my list. I'm going to circle back. Is there a Mario

1 Williams present?

2 FACILITATOR: Excuse me. We have two other
3 people that spoke earlier. I didn't hear them on the
4 list. Ron Gregory is one of them and Reverend Kenneth
5 Mckoy.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Reverend?

7 FACILITATOR: Kenneth Mckoy.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Kenneth McCoy. Thank you. Just
9 so everybody knows how this is going to -- the public
10 comments are going to continue, if I didn't call your
11 name and you believe you were on the list, I am going to
12 open this up after I read the last name on my list. So
13 anybody at that time, even if you didn't sign up, if you
14 have things that you want to tell the Commission I will
15 be more than happy to listen to those comments. So I
16 don't want to leave anybody out who would like to speak
17 today. So with that in mind, Ron, is it Gregor or
18 Gregory?

19 MR. GREGORY: Gregory.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Gregory, would you come up
21 to give your comments, please.

22 MR. GREGORY: Yes.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Would you spell your name for
24 the record.

25 MR. GREGORY: R-o-n G-r-e-g-o-r-y.

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

5 MR. GREGORY: I do.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. What would
7 you like to tell the Commission this afternoon?

8 RON GREGORY,
9 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 MR. GREGORY: When we talk about seniors, we
11 talk about fixed income when, in fact, the expression
12 should be inadequate income. Most of these people have
13 been on fixed incomes for a long time, yet the cost of
14 living has not been adjusted to their income and
15 everything has basically gone up.

16 It's like a soldier on the battlefield being
17 shot from 15, 20 different directions, and trying to
18 deal with it is just impossible. We talk about we have,
19 and we put together programs, that will be able to
20 assist some of the elderly people in dealing with these
21 increases. The problem is, the people at Ameren and the
22 people who get money for these programs, they totally
23 understand it completely but the seniors who need these
24 programs, they have no way of understanding, and I think
25 the young lady said that they have three people at

1 Ameren who go out and talk to the different people about
2 it where if they had a training program where the
3 different senior agencies people could come in and be
4 trained as to how to assist these people with financial
5 support and then let them go back and talk to the people
6 at the various senior centers, because you take out
7 applications that they have to fill out and a lot of
8 these people don't understand these applications,
9 whereas if you had somebody at their local agency that
10 you all were willing to bring in at a certain period of
11 time and train all these people and let these people go
12 out and talk to the people that they represent and let
13 them know that these programs are available. So I'm
14 saying at this time until we're able to do something
15 about these conditions where these people, the only way
16 they can cut back on, because they can't cut back on
17 their heating, they can't cut back on their water, so
18 what they do is they cut back on their food and they cut
19 back on their medicine, which has dire consequences in
20 the end.

21 So what I'm saying until we're able to provide
22 some type of training and some type of assistance for
23 people to cover these costs, I'm totally against the
24 increase. Thank you.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Hold on just a

1 second, Mr. Gregory. I'm asking because I genuinely
2 don't know, so what you're telling me is that at least
3 from your view you don't currently see agencies that
4 assist seniors receiving the requisite training in these
5 senior assistance utility programs; is that correct?

6 MR. GREGORY: Yes. So the people will
7 understand what is available, because when you say well,
8 we understand your plight and we have some programs to
9 help you out, but if they don't completely understand
10 what that assistance is, then these programs are null
11 and void. And we're saying be able to get the
12 information out in an explainable way that they know how
13 to apply for this assistance. I'm basically speaking
14 for senior agencies. I know there's a whole lot of
15 other people that have been affected by these rate
16 increases, you know, the people who are disabled, things
17 like that. But I'm saying you need to do a better job
18 of getting the information out about what type of
19 assistance is out there for these people. Until we're
20 able to do that and say that these training programs are
21 adequate, I'm totally against any type of increase for
22 Ameren.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I've got that down. It's
24 certainly preserved in the record as well. Have you
25 yourself availed yourself of any senior assistance

1 programs?

2 MR. GREGORY: Yes. I'm chairman of the Board
3 of Directors here at the Southside Wellness Center and
4 we could be able to provide people to be part of the
5 training, along with contacting other senior agencies in
6 making sure that their people are trained so they would
7 be able to understand what type of assistance their
8 seniors, that's available for their seniors.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. So when you say that
10 there's no training programs or that there isn't
11 adequate training that's going out, you're not just
12 speaking as a senior citizen, you're speaking as a
13 member of the Southwest Wellness Center and you're not
14 getting -- the people where you are are not getting that
15 training; is that correct?

16 MR. GREGORY: Yes. I'm talking about the
17 seniors who need the understanding of what type of
18 assistance is available to them city wide. They don't
19 have the knowledge because there's nobody coming out and
20 informing them and letting them know the type of forms
21 that has to be filled out. You know, it's just like,
22 you know, it's amazing the IRS is one of the biggest
23 agencies in the world. They have programs all over the
24 country to help people fill out their taxes to guarantee
25 them that they get their money, but we don't have people

1 that's being trained to come out to let folks know what
2 type of assistance is available to them. So I'm saying
3 we need to take that same attitude of getting this
4 information out so seniors know.

5 You know, it doesn't make sense if you're
6 going to allocate a hundred dollars to every senior to
7 pay some bills but nobody is able to explain to these
8 seniors what they have to fill out in order to qualify
9 for these programs.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Gregory. Thank
11 you for your comments. Are there any questions for
12 Mr. Gregory? I thought I saw Mr. Williams.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: You did, but I think you
14 covered the topic that I was concerned with, which was
15 whether he was talking about the agencies that
16 administer the programs or things like a community
17 center in getting the information to eligible
18 participants or those who could participate.

19 MR. GREGORY: Right.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. And Reverend Kenneth
21 Mckoy.

22 REV. MCKOY: Thank you.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Reverend Mckoy, would you please
24 spell your name for the record.

25 REV. MCKOY: Reverend, R-e-v, Ken, K-e-n,

1 Mckoy, M-c-k-o-y.

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

6 REV. MCKOY: Yes.

7 JUDGE CLARK: What comments would you like to
8 offer to the Commission today?

9 REV. KEN MCKOY,
10 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

11 REV. MCKOY: A couple of things. I'm a little
12 concerned about the good faith here. It seems a bit
13 frustrating that we went through an earlier process of
14 comment and question and to have to come back and repeat
15 that. We lost a few people that I thought were
16 important to this process. And then to have to swear as
17 if there's a threat of perjury, so that's really
18 intimidating to some people to go through this kind of
19 process, but that's a legitimate concern of mine.

20 Another concern I have is that you guys were
21 not aware that the states of Missouri and Illinois
22 actually tax social security. And so that speaks to a
23 concern that you all really don't know and understand
24 your customer base. So that was a bit frightening to
25 hear that you guys did not know that and that that was

1 not factored obviously into your decision to ask for
2 this price hike.

3 From 2013 to 2021, there has been less than a
4 2 percent increase in social security, less than 2
5 percent in nearly a decade. So finally, I think last
6 year there was a 5 percent increase. Yeah, 2022, there
7 was a 5 percent increase. This year there's an 8
8 percent increase. So as soon as seniors get a raise,
9 corporations want to take it. And they don't really
10 feel or get the benefit of the increase. I ditto
11 everything that Walle Amusa said earlier that this is a
12 powerful corporation. Most people here are not
13 represented by attorneys. Most people here don't have
14 powerful lobbyists to lobby on their behalf. And most
15 of the time I would venture to say, and I don't know
16 this as a fact so don't charge me with perjury, but I
17 would imagine that most of the time you get the
18 increases that you want. I think I would be right if I
19 said that. So if you have the -- and it just looks like
20 if you guys, and I'm piggybacking off of what Reverend
21 Kosh said, if you guys did budgeting, sensitive kind of
22 budgeting, budgeting that was sensitive to your customer
23 base that we would not be here today.

24 During COVID, everybody took a hit, everybody,
25 the whole world took a hit. And as a pastor, I told my

1 folks on several occasions you all can't afford to pay
2 my salary, we just don't have it. We certainly did not
3 go to our parishioners and say to them that you all need
4 to increase your tithes. So this thing is not going to
5 work without a good corporate citizenship.

6 I also want to say that I am the director for
7 Social Action and Political and Economic Empowerment for
8 the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the state
9 of Missouri and I have been authorized by my bishop,
10 Bishop Antonio Frencher, to speak to this issue.

11 We were talking earlier about how much eggs
12 are. Just a carton of eggs going on \$6 now. On behalf
13 of the AME Zion Church of Missouri, we are vehemently
14 opposed to any kind of price hike and would support and
15 would support you wholeheartedly 100 percent if there
16 was a discussion on the table about a reduction. Thank
17 you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Reverend Mckoy. I
19 want to clarify just a couple things if I could. I am a
20 regulatory law judge. I do not work for Ameren. I work
21 for the Public Service Commission. But I was --

22 REV. MCKOY: I know who you work for.

23 JUDGE CLARK: I understand. I was not
24 speaking for the Commissioners when I indicated that I
25 did not know that about the states and the taxation. So

1 I am unaware of what they know. I was just saying what
2 I don't know and --

3 REV. MCKOY: Perhaps they should find somebody
4 that knows.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Perhaps. Secondly, I apologize
6 that people feel like they had to say things twice. The
7 first part of the presentation today is a question and
8 answer session meant to provide people questions and
9 answers but the Commission and myself are not allowed to
10 be present for that. So we don't hear any of that. And
11 that's so we don't hear anything that we shouldn't hear
12 before the evidentiary hearing.

13 REV. MCKOY: Okay.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Again, it's not my intent to
15 intimidate anyone. The only reason that we swear people
16 in for the formal portion of this is not so that we can
17 charge anybody with perjury. That is never an issue and
18 that's something that would never happen. It's because
19 if we ask questions, we want to be sure to the best of
20 our ability that the answers to those questions are, in
21 fact, true to the best of the knowledge of the person
22 who's answering them. So I don't know if that's helpful
23 at all. I will say I appreciate your comments and I
24 will certainly take away what you said that I thought
25 was very well said that maybe they should consider

1 budgeting that is sensitive to their customer base.

2 REV. MCKOY: Thank you.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much, Reverend
4 Mckoy, for your comments today. Are there any questions
5 from Commissioners or attorneys for Reverend Mckoy? I
6 hear none.

7 FACILITATOR: We have one more person, Ms.
8 Jackson. Were you going to say something?

9 JUDGE CLARK: Please. I was just getting
10 ready to say that I have nobody else on my list and I
11 was going to open it up for anybody else who would like
12 to offer comments to the Commission. If Ms. Jackson
13 would please come up, I would be happy to hear her
14 comments. Good afternoon, Ms. Jackson. Would you
15 please state and spell your first and last name for the
16 record?

17 MS. JACKSON: My name is Rosetta Jackson,
18 R-o-s-e-t-t-a J-a-c-k-s-o-n.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Jackson. Would
20 you say raise your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear
21 or affirm that the testimony you're about to give at
22 this local public hearing is the truth?

23 MS. JACKSON: Yes.

24 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
25 Commission today about this case?

1 ROSETTA JACKSON,
2 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
3 MS. JACKSON: So hello. We live in a world
4 where we have choices. Everybody has choices. But one
5 choice should not have to be made if you're choosing to
6 pay for food, utilities and just basic needs. So I
7 think that should not have to be a choice that anyone
8 should have to make in the United States. So that's how
9 I feel about the increase that is trying to take place
10 in the lives of many that will be affected in a negative
11 way.

12 I am not a senior, but me and my husband have
13 five children and we are on a fixed income just like the
14 seniors are on a fixed income. So I feel that I should
15 not have to turn my heat down at night having five
16 children. I feel that we should be able to heat up our
17 house to be able to make sure that our children are
18 staying warm. And if I feel that way being a mom, I
19 speak for the seniors as well. They should not have to
20 choose and have to choose to turn their heat down and
21 put extra blankets on at night just to stay warm to be
22 able to afford medicine and food. So I feel that it's a
23 negative and I don't agree with the rate increase. I am
24 not a senior again, but I am a mom of five children and
25 I do not understand all the information that is thrown

1 out that should be able to support people who cannot
2 afford their bills. It's a lot of good information but
3 what good is it if you don't understand it. So --

4 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize. Go ahead.

5 MS. JACKSON: -- that's I was about to say
6 that's my sentiments I have for today.

7 JUDGE CLARK: It sounded like at least the
8 last part of what you were saying is you're also in
9 addition to the other things you said that there's
10 insufficient training and awareness of available
11 programs?

12 MS. JACKSON: Yes.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any questions for Ms.
14 Jackson? Thank you for your comments, Ms. Jackson. I
15 appreciate them.

16 MS. JACKSON: Thank you.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Is there anybody else who would
18 like to offer comments to the Commission today about
19 this rate case?

20 MS. FREITAS: Hello and good afternoon. My
21 name is Rita, R-i-t-a, last name is Freitas,
22 F-r-e-i-t-a-s, and my mother is a senior here with Ms.
23 Stewart's Southside Wellness Adult Daycare Program, and
24 my question or concern with this rate increase is that
25 sometimes she does take advantage of the budget billing.

1 How would this increase affect the budget billing, as
2 well as any other assistance that she'll get just on
3 daily living expenses and whatnot? That's just my
4 concern as far as how would it disrupt her being on the
5 budget billing program with the rate increases and how
6 soon will the seniors and residents see these increases?

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I apologize again. As I
8 indicated at the beginning, the Commission and myself
9 cannot answer questions today, because we have to remain
10 impartial until after the evidentiary hearing. However,
11 as I indicated earlier, Ameren-Missouri has also
12 provided a customer service number for people who have
13 concerns. I'm happy to give you that number if you
14 would like to contact them or the Public Service
15 Commission's consumer services number. I'd be happy to
16 give you both.

17 MS. FREITAS: I have that information.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. If all you had was those
19 questions, I'm not going to swear you in. If you would
20 like to make further comments, I would like to swear you
21 in at this time.

22 MS. FREITAS: No. That's all I have at this
23 moment. I just had a question on that.

24 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry. I can't answer that.
25 I apologize.

1 MS. FREITAS: I understand. Thank you for
2 your time.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Is there anybody
4 else who would like to offer comments to the Commission
5 today?

6 MS. TALLEY: Yes. This is Pamela Talley.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Would you please spell
8 your name for the court reporter.

9 MS. TALLEY: First name is Pamela,
10 P-a-m-e-l-a. The last name is Talley, T-a-l-l-e-y.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Talley, would you raise your
12 right hand to be sworn?

13 MS. TALLEY: My right hand is up, yes.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Do you swear or
15 affirm that the testimony you are about to give at this
16 local public hearing is the truth?

17 MS. TALLEY: Yes.

18 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell
19 the Commission today?

20 PAMELA TALLEY,
21 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

22 MS. TALLEY: I'd just like to say that I am
23 against this rate increase. I think it is outrageous,
24 and there is nothing I've heard about their budget
25 request, and I did ask about that, that justifies the

1 amount that they're asking for. It is outrageous, and
2 it is a burden to the community and to most of their
3 customers.

4 JUDGE CLARK: When you say "budget request,"
5 maybe I wrote that down wrong, I apologize, when you say
6 "budget request," what do you mean?

7 MS. TALLEY: The amount of money that Ameren
8 is asking for. So I asked how did they come up with the
9 amount they were asking for, asking the public for and
10 if they could give a breakdown. So I got some
11 explanation and I've read some stuff that, you know,
12 didn't make a whole lot of sense to me. I mean, it's
13 just an unreasonable request.

14 JUDGE CLARK: In regard to it being an
15 unreasonable request, I'm assuming that you would cite
16 many of the reasons that were given today or is there
17 something specific you wanted to address for the
18 Commission?

19 MS. TALLEY: No. Certainly that's definitely
20 some of the reasons as well so that they can have this
21 windfall of money to continue to, you know, to give to
22 board members and stockholders and on and on when it's a
23 burden to the community. Do some cost sharing. It just
24 seems to be plain greed.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. So when you say cost

1 sharing, I assume that what you mean there is you mean
2 that the company should make some cuts in compensation,
3 or as the other gentlemen indicated, board fees to at
4 least at a bare minimum split the difference; is that
5 correct?

6 MS. TALLEY: Absolutely, absolutely.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Is there anything else you
8 wanted to tell me today?

9 MS. TALLEY: That is it.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms. Talley.
11 Are there any questions for Ms. Talley? Thank you again
12 for your comments. Is there anybody else who would like
13 to offer comments to the Commission at this time? Okay.
14 I'm not hearing anybody.

15 Would any of the Commissioners like to make
16 any closing remarks?

17 CHAIRMAN RUPP: We just want to thank
18 everybody for coming down today and sharing their
19 thoughts and opinions. Thank you, Judge.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd
21 like to thank everybody who offered testimony today.
22 I'd especially like to thank the people of the Southside
23 Wellness Center. It seemed like a lot of the comments
24 today came from there. If you have additional comments
25 or you have friends or relatives that weren't able to be

1 here today who would like to make comments, it is still
2 possible to make written comments. You can do that by
3 contacting the email address pscinfo@psc.mo.gov, by
4 contacting the Office of the Public Counsel. They've
5 been very gracious about seeing that comments that are
6 made get filed with the Commission so that they can be
7 read or by going to the PSC's web page, and there's a
8 link there to make comments. You may need to know the
9 case number for this case in order to make comments. I
10 will say that one more time, but it's certainly fairly
11 easy to get ahold of if you don't catch it right now.
12 It's ER-2022-0337. Again, I'd like to thank everybody
13 who made comments today and took time out of their day
14 to offer comments to the Commission. The Commission has
15 an opportunity to hear from the parties at the
16 evidentiary hearing and in the parties' briefs, but
17 these public hearings are the Commission's opportunity
18 to hear opinions about the case from the public that is
19 going to be affected the most.

20 So thank you again for offering your comments
21 here today. And I will now adjourn this hearing and we
22 will go off the record.

23 (The proceedings concluded at 1:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission local public hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 39, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

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

Dated this 16th day of February, 2023.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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