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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
Local Public Hearing  
January 16, 2020  
Sunset Hills, Missouri  
Volume 11

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

Paul Graham , Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

Scott T. Rupp, Commissioner  
Maida J. Coleman, Commissioner

REPORTED BY: Angie Schlotzhauer, CCR No. 1429  
Cardinal Court Reporting Services, L.L.C.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 P R O C E E D U R E S

2 January 16th, 2020

3

4 JUDGE: Good afternoon. It's January 16th,  
5 2020. I've got about almost 1:00 p.m. straight up, and  
6 we're in Sunset Hills, Missouri.

7 The Missouri Public Service Commission has set  
8 this time for a local public hearing in file  
9 No.: ER-2019-0335, which is captioned as In The Matter  
10 Of Union Electric Company doing business as Ameren  
11 Missouri's Tariffs To Decrease its Revenues For Electric  
12 Service.

13 My name is Paul Graham. I'm the regulatory law  
14 judge that will preside over this hearing. With me  
15 today is Commissioner Maida Coleman on my right, and  
16 Commissioner Scott Rupp on my left.

17 Do either one of you, the Commissioners, wish to  
18 make any kind of opening statement or opening remarks?

19 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Only to apologize that  
20 we evidently have no juice up here in our microphones,  
21 so hopefully, you will be able to hear us clearly  
22 tonight.

23 JUDGE: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: And thank you for being  
25 here.

1 JUDGE: Thank you. I'm going to begin by  
2 asking counsel to enter their appearance for the record.

3 Ameren, Missouri? Okay. No counsel.

4 MS. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Judge. Paula Johnson  
5 on behalf of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren  
6 Missouri. 1901 Chouteau, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103.  
7 Thank you, and I'll be quicker next time.

8 JUDGE: Thank you very much.

9 Commission staff?

10 MR. PRINGLE: Travis Pringle for commission  
11 staff, Your Honor.

12 JUDGE: Thank you. Is anyone here for the  
13 Office of Public Counsel?

14 MR. HALL: Yes, Judge. Thank you. Caleb Hall  
15 appearing on behalf of the Office of Public Counsel. I  
16 previously provided my contact information to the  
17 stenographer.

18 JUDGE: Thank you very much. Any interveners  
19 present today? Anyone who has intervened in the case?

20 For those who would like to provide comments  
21 today, I am going to call the names listed on the  
22 sign-up sheet in the order they appear. When I call  
23 your name, please come down to the podium. I am going  
24 to place you under oath and ask you to state and then  
25 to spell your name, and then you can offer your

1 comments to the Commission.

2 Looking at this sign-up sheet, there's possibly a  
3 number of people who are going to testify. There's no  
4 specific time limit, but please try to keep your  
5 remarks to five minutes so everyone has to chance here  
6 to offer comments. Also, please remain after you've  
7 completed your testimony at the podium until you've  
8 been excused by me because the Commission may have some  
9 questions to ask you. If the attorneys have any  
10 questions, they can let me know at that time as well.

11 Now, we at the bench, the Commission, will not be  
12 able to answer any of your questions today because  
13 they, the Commissioners here, have to remain impartial  
14 until after the evidence is presented at the  
15 evidentiary hearing. If you have any questions, please  
16 speak to the representatives of the company, the  
17 Commission staff or the Office of Public Counsel; and  
18 also, and I'm sure you will, please be polite and  
19 courteous to everyone speaking here today and treat  
20 them the same way you would like to be treated.

21 So we're going to proceed now with testimony, and  
22 help many me if I don't get your names right. Andy  
23 Knott, K-n-o-t-t. Am I close to right?

24 MR. KNOTT: That's correct, sir.

25 JUDGE: All right. If you'll step up, I'll

1 swear you in. If you'll raise your right hand, I'm  
2 going to ask you, as indicated, to state your full name  
3 and spell it for me, please.

4 MR. KNOTT: Sure, it's Andy Knot, A-n-d-y  
5 K-n-o-t-t.

6 (The witness was sworn.)

7 MR. KNOTT: Thank you members of the  
8 Commission and Judge for this opportunity.

9 My name's Andy Knott. I am providing a comment  
10 today as a rate payer of Ameren's. I live in Shrewsbury  
11 Missouri. I want to comment on some of the issues is  
12 that we heard about in the Q and A session relating to  
13 some of the costs of coal.

14 Last fall, a federal judge ordered Ameren to  
15 install significant pollution controls at the Rush  
16 Island and the Labadie coal plants. That followed a  
17 2017 ruling by the same judge that found Ameren was  
18 liable for violations of the Clean Air Act at the Rush  
19 Island plant, and in the judge's order from last fall,  
20 he cited an expert witness who testified -- provided  
21 testimony that the violations at the Rush Island Plant,  
22 over a nine-year period, had contributed to as many as  
23 800 premature deaths in the region.

24 My point is that there are certainly health costs  
25 relating to coal plants that get passed on to the

1 community, but there are also economic costs. I know  
2 that from testimony submitted into this docket by the  
3 Sierra Club, that an expert there found that an  
4 estimated \$347 million were spent by Ameren more than it  
5 would have cost to buy energy off the grid between 2016  
6 and 2018. So coal is expensive, and the cost of wind  
7 and solar continue to drop.

8 The last study by the company Lazard, every year  
9 they issue a levelized cost of energy analysis. Their  
10 last analysis that came out in November of last year  
11 found, again, that wind and solar are continuing to  
12 drop down, to wind is about \$28 -- as low as \$28 a  
13 megawatt hour, and solar is -- utility scale solar as  
14 low as \$32 a megawatt hour. This is a national  
15 average. These are actually even cheaper than gas  
16 combined cycle in most cases.

17 So my point is that coal is expensive. These  
18 costs are passed onto customers. It's only going to  
19 get more expensive as new environmental compliance  
20 measures are required, including the judge's order on  
21 Rush Island and Labadie from last year. So my request  
22 to the Public Service Commission is that you required  
23 Ameren to provide a retirement analysis of its coal  
24 plants prior to any future costs that would get passed  
25 on to the customers. Thank you.



1 JUDGE: Thank you, Mr. Knott. Don't just  
2 leave yet.

3 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for this  
4 witness?

5 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

6 JUDGE: Commission staff?

7 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

8 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

9 MR. HALL: None, Judge.

10 JUDGE: Do either Commissioner have questions?

11 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

12 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

13 JUDGE: Thank you very much, Mr. Knott. You  
14 may be seated.

15 Witness Edward -- and again, help me with names --  
16 Bayham? There you are, coming straight at me.

17 Mr. Bayham, if you would state your full name and  
18 spell it, then I'll swear you in.

19 MR. BAYHAM: Edward, E-d-w-a-r-d, Bayham  
20 B-a-y-h-a-m.

21 JUDGE: Okay, Mr. Bayham, raise your right  
22 hand, please.

23 (The witness was sworn.)

24 MR. BAYHAM: Thank you. Thank you for the  
25 opportunity to make some comments. I am a resident of

1 St. Louis County and a rate payer. I know that Ameren  
2 has aspirations to become a source of energy innovation  
3 and efficiency. After all, they have partnered with  
4 UMSL and with Capital Innovators to fund energy  
5 innovation. This past November they showcased energy  
6 innovation companies at Ameren Accelerator Demo Day, and  
7 it's very impressive to see what possibilities there are  
8 with technologies and and innovation to reduce cost, et  
9 cetera. My question is whether this is a bona fide  
10 effort on the part of Ameren or just a PR ploy.

11 This hearing is due to their effort to force a  
12 regressive tax on the customers so that they continue to  
13 operate inefficiently with polluting power plants. I am  
14 concerned that their delays in switching to alternative,  
15 cheaper energy sources will only increase the ultimate  
16 cost to deactivate coal burning plants and to clean up  
17 the toxic waist dumps. In effect, they are defending  
18 the status quo, not innovating for the 21st century.

19 JUDGE: Does that conclude your testimony?

20 MR. BAYHAM: Yes.

21 JUDGE: Thank you very much.

22 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
23 Mr. Bayham?

24 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE: Does The Staff?

1 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge.

2 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

3 MR. HALL: No, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE: Does The Commission have questions?

5 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

6 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

7 JUDGE: Thank you very much for your testimony  
8 today, Mr. Bayham. You may be seated.

9 And the next witness I have is Jamie Gilley.

10 MS. GILLEY: That is correct.

11 JUDGE: Did I get it right? Please come on  
12 up. And would you state your full name and spell it for  
13 us.

14 MS. GILLEY: Jamie Gilley, J-a-m-i-e  
15 G-i-l-l-e-y.

16 JUDGE: Thank you. If you'll raise your right  
17 hand, and we'll swear you in.

18 (The witness was sworn.)

19 MS. GILLEY: Thank you for your service.

20 I would like to ask the Public Service Commission  
21 to require Ameren to study the retirement of the coal  
22 plants before future costs at those plants are passed  
23 on to customers. I would like to ask that you reject  
24 Ameren's \$2 increase in the monthly customer charge.  
25 This increase hurts low-income rate payers the most and

1 discourages energy conservation because customers pay  
2 no matter how little electricity they use.

3 Ameren should, instead, be required to offer  
4 customer rates that incentivize energy efficiency in  
5 shifting usage away from the most expensive times of  
6 the day.

7 I would also like to ask that Ameren drop its  
8 appeal of the September 2019 court ruling, comply with  
9 the Clean Air Act and reduce air pollution that is  
10 causing hundreds of premature deaths, to stop wasting  
11 customer money and plan to phase out its expensive,  
12 dirty plants as soon as possible. Ameren should  
13 replace expensive, dirty coal with energy efficiency,  
14 battery storage and renewable energy from the wind and  
15 sun. I would like to see them set an example as a  
16 leader in clean, renewable energy in the midwest and  
17 not trail behind. We would like to see Ameren stop  
18 sending hundreds of millions of dollars out of state,  
19 coal mining -- to coal mining companies every year and  
20 keep that money in Missouri instead of investing --  
21 instead by investing in clean energy.

22 And that's all I have. Thank you.

23 JUDGE: Thanks, Ms. Gilley.

24 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
25 Ms. Gilly?

1 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

2 JUDGE: The staff?

3 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

5 MR. HALL: None, Your Honor.

6 JUDGE: Commissioners?

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

8 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

9 JUDGE: Thank you very much for your  
10 testimony, Ms. Gilley. You may be seated.

11 Next witness I have on the list is Helen Host.

12 DR. HOST: Thank you.

13 JUDGE: Am I saying your name right?

14 DR. HOST: Yes, Host.

15 JUDGE: Would you state your name and spell it  
16 for the record.

17 DR. HOST: Helen, H-e-l-e-n. Host, H-o-s-t.  
18 I'm a physical therapist with a Ph.D. in applied  
19 physiology --

20 JUDGE: Well, let me have you say that under  
21 oath. May I?

22 DR. HOST: Sure.

23 JUDGE: If you raise your right hand, I'll  
24 swear you in.

25 DR. HOST: Sorry about that.

1 (The witness was sworn.)

2 JUDGE: Again, tell us who you are now under  
3 oath.

4 DR. HOST: Sure, my name is Dr. Helen Host.  
5 I'm a physical therapist with a degree in applied  
6 physiology. I've been practicing in healthcare and  
7 doing research for most of that time since '93 in  
8 working with older adults in optimizing function in  
9 older adults mainly at Washington University, but also  
10 teaching at Maryville University as well and speaking at  
11 national meetings and doing all kinds of things all  
12 over.

13 I'm active with the chapter here, the St. Louis  
14 chapter of the Sierra Club, locally, but became a more  
15 active participant in working with environmental action  
16 since fall of 2018.

17 I'm a volunteer member with Citizens Climate Lobby,  
18 so I've lobbied the past two Novembers in Washington  
19 D.C. working with members of congress in an efforts to  
20 pass and work in a bipartisan approach to tackle the  
21 challenges presented to us in our nation and the world  
22 with climate change.

23 I also do educational outreach with Climate Reality  
24 Project, basically teaching about the scientific basis  
25 and the scientific data that fully supports that our

1 climate is warming and it's warming rapidly, and it's  
2 getting more and more important to tackle this as an  
3 issues.

4 One thing I just want to bring -- and everybody  
5 that's up on this, yesterday, just yesterday, the annual  
6 report came out from National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
7 Association and NASA regarding our ever warming climate.  
8 We just passed our second hottest year ever on record.  
9 Records have been taken accurately since the late 1800s,  
10 and we've actually just passed the wonderful record of  
11 the hottest decade ever recorded as of yesterday.

12 So I think that kind of brings background to my  
13 reason for being here. I teach about this and I know  
14 that Missouri, unfortunately, we have the bad  
15 reputation of being the third state in the nation --  
16 after Texas, No. 1, and Indiana is No. 2 -- as far as,  
17 we get our energy from coal. One of the dirtiest --  
18 well, it is the dirtiest fossil fuel out there and,  
19 unfortunately, we are getting a lot of our energy from  
20 that for our state. We've heard the problems out there  
21 as well about the health, and I teach about that all  
22 the time, so it's a big issues.

23 My concern and my push -- actually, I wanted to  
24 bring in with hearing the gentleman talk, I appreciate  
25 all that Ameren is doing but I think we need to

1 accelerate our actions and do more. I think, probably,  
2 a lot of people in here have children, have  
3 grandchildren or have children that they know, and it  
4 doesn't just have to be children but everybody is  
5 affected by this. It's in the air we breathe and then  
6 we're always pumping 110 million -- I'm going to get  
7 this -- I should have all of this in front of me, but  
8 we pump a lot of fossil fuel gases that are bad for our  
9 environment. We're pumping that into the air every  
10 day, and we can't -- we need to accelerate action on  
11 this front, so I appreciate what Ameren is doing, but I  
12 just wish they would accelerate what they're doing.

13 He mentioned a goal of 700 megawatts of energy.  
14 That is wonderful, but I have the top ten states in the  
15 nation, and I picked two in the top ten that are close,  
16 I think, to us. First of all, close in proximity but  
17 also close in general area and populations.

18 Illinois, this is what they're currently  
19 producing, and this is, actually, probably, a little  
20 bit from behind. It's from this summer of 2019. They  
21 are at production levels, right now, today, 4,464  
22 megawatts. Remember, we're shooting, as a goal, of  
23 700. Iowa, another nearby state, is at 7,312  
24 megawatts. This was as of this summer. Washington,  
25 who's No. 10 in the top ten list, they're at 3,075. So



1 even if we get to 700, which is better than what we're  
2 doing now, it's still way below where we need to be.

3 There's no reason that we're not pushing faster  
4 towards solar and wind. Those are the best that we  
5 have right now. More will come, and as we incentivize  
6 people to change, this brings jobs. It's good for the  
7 economy. This is a win-win situation, and it will save  
8 so much money in the long run to have this long-sighted  
9 rather than short-sighted gains. So that would be my  
10 big thing to push more is that we need to accelerate  
11 this change. We need to work on accelerating closure  
12 of these coal-powered plants. We cannot wait until  
13 2030 or twenty -- whatever the dates that were given.  
14 They're too far out. We need to work to accelerate  
15 these and have this happen now very close to now, if at  
16 all possible. Thank you.

17 JUDGE: Thank you, Dr. Host. Just a minute,  
18 if you would. Someone may want to ask you questions.

19 DR. HOST: I'm sorry. Sorry.

20 JUDGE: That's all right.

21 Does Ameren have any questions?

22 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

23 JUDGE: Staff?

24 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

1 MR. HALL: None, Judge.

2 JUDGE: Commissioners?

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

5 JUDGE: Thank you again, Dr. Host.

6 DR. HOST: Thank you.

7 JUDGE: Sharon Bertram is who I have up next.

8 If you'll come forward, say and spell your name, I'll  
9 swear you in.

10 MS. BERTRAM: Sharon, S-h-a-r-o-n. Bertram,  
11 B-e-r-t-r-a-m.

12 JUDGE: Ms. Bertram, would you raise your  
13 right hand?

14 (The witness was sworn.)

15 MS. BERTRAM: Thank you. I want to address  
16 the rate change itself as we are charged, now, \$9 for  
17 our service fee and Ameren would like to increase that  
18 by \$2. I'm not into all the economics of that. Okay,  
19 that may be a good idea, and perhaps they need it. My  
20 concern is that perhaps in two more years we're going to  
21 need a \$4 increase, and then where does this end or how,  
22 you know, how can this service fee be equitable and just  
23 for the people who are Ameren customers?

24 Now, this may be hypothetical, and this is to the  
25 best of my understanding: I'm concerned that Ameren has

1 the largest number of lobbyist for our state  
2 legislature. We know it's a big corporation and they  
3 employ people to present their ideas and their theories  
4 to our state legislature. So the lobbyists influence  
5 the legislators to favor their policies in one way or  
6 the other, and I don't know what that might be, but I'm  
7 going on the knowledge that I have. And someone from  
8 the Public Service Commission told me that they are not  
9 influenced by lobbyists, but the legislators in our  
10 state legislature write the bills and the legislators  
11 are influenced by the lobbyists, and so the Public  
12 Service Commission has to go by the laws that are given  
13 to them by our state legislature, and I'm just  
14 advocating that -- I don't know that the lobbyists give  
15 us the best chance at good legislation and that our  
16 state legislators give us the best chance at state  
17 legislation. Thank you.

18 JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Bertram. If you you'll  
19 stay there, we'll see if there are any questions.

20 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
21 Ms. Bertram?

22 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

23 JUDGE: Staff?

24 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

1 MR. HALL: None, Judge.

2 JUDGE: Commissioners?

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

5 JUDGE: Thank you very much, Ms. Bertram, for  
6 your testimony.

7 Cindy Gross. Ms. Gross, if you would state your  
8 full name and spell it then we'll swear you in.

9 MS. GROSS: Cindy, C-i-n-d-y G-r-o-s-s.

10 JUDGE: If you raise your right hand.

11 (The witness was sworn.)

12 MS. GROSS: So I came to comment today as a  
13 rate payer, a grandmother and the chair of my green team  
14 at my church. So our church put solar panels on about  
15 six years ago, and we feel that that is a witness to our  
16 calling to care for creation and to care for our  
17 neighbors.

18 And I want to reiterate many of the comments I've  
19 already heard today that our federal government is not  
20 moving fast enough, these corporations aren't moving  
21 fast enough. The City of St. Louis passed a resolution  
22 saying we wanted to move to 100 percent energy  
23 efficiency, and and as a grandmother and a mother, I  
24 feel like we need to do it faster and faster.

25 So I would ask the Commission to insist that

1 Ameren think about closing those dirty coal plants  
2 faster than they have said they're going to do it,  
3 because they're so dirty and they harm public health  
4 and primarily disadvantaged folks in communities of  
5 color that have housing in areas that are more exposed  
6 to toxins.

7 And I also feel, as a retiree, that adding this  
8 fixed charge onto our bills can be tough for folks that  
9 are on fixed incomes, and they should take that into  
10 account that, you know, folks are being penalized. We  
11 should work to be more energy efficient, and they  
12 should reward that, and we are willing to pay for to  
13 support efforts to move to clean energy sources. Thank  
14 you.

15 JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Gross.

16 Does Ameren have any questions for Ms. Gross?

17 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

18 JUDGE: The Staff?

19 MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge.

20 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

21 MR. HALL: No, thank you, Judge.

22 JUDGE: The Commissioners?

23 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

24 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

25 JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Gross. You may be

1 seated.

2 Lloyd Klinedinst. Was it Klinedinst or  
3 Klinedinst?

4 MR. KLINEDINST: Either one.

5 JUDGE: If you'll state and spell your full  
6 name.

7 MR. KLINEDINST: Lloyd Klinedinst.

8 JUDGE: That sounds like the way it's supposed  
9 to be.

10 MR. KLINEDINST: L-l-o-y-d  
11 K-l-i-n-e-d-i-n-s-t.

12 JUDGE: Thank you, Mr. Klinedinst. If you'll  
13 raise your right hand, I'll swear you in.

14 (The witness was sworn.)

15 MR. KLINEDINST: I object to the  
16 Ameren-proposed rate changes. I believe the fixed  
17 charges are regressive, hurting low-income taxpayers the  
18 most, and the fixed charges discourage energy  
19 conservation because customers pay no matter how little  
20 electricity they use.

21 I believe the rate changes compensate for what  
22 should be done, that Ameren take measures to operate  
23 more efficiently, cleaner, less expensive energy  
24 solutions. These rate changes are like rearranging deck  
25 chairs on the Titanic. The frightening reality is the

1 irreparable damages Ameren is wrecking on our air, land  
2 and water, and consequently, on our health and  
3 wellbeing.

4 I live with within a ten-mile radius of the even  
5 larger 40-mile radius of the Labadie plant's so2  
6 emissions. At my last look, this plant is always the  
7 nation's fourth largest co2 coal-fired power plant  
8 polluters. The Labadie plant also devastates our land  
9 expanding waste ponds and landfills even adjacent to  
10 wetlands and floodplains violating our barely-meeting  
11 minimum requirements.

12 Imagine a Missouri water network underground every  
13 bit as spectacular as our aboveground network of rivers  
14 and streams. Missouri is celebrated as karst country.  
15 Now see that underground beauty transmogrified into a  
16 sewer system delivering its deadly waste throughout our  
17 land.

18 Missouri Department of Natural Resources knew as  
19 early as 1992 that a 154-acre, unlined coal-ash pond at  
20 Ameren's Labadie plant, the largest coal plant in the  
21 state and 14th largest in the nation, had been leaking  
22 some 15,000 gallons of coal ash waste for per day. The  
23 same Labadie plant violates the Federal Clean Water Act  
24 with respect to hot water discharge putting wildlife in  
25 the Missouri River at risk.

1 I ask the Public Service Commission to, indeed,  
2 perform your public service, to benefit the people of  
3 Missouri over the profit of a virtually private  
4 interest. Thank you for accepting my statement.

5 JUDGE: Thank you, Mr. Klinedinst.

6 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
7 Mr. Klinedinst?

8 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

9 JUDGE: Staff?

10 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

11 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

12 MR. HALL: None, Judge.

13 JUDGE: Commissioners?

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

15 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

16 JUDGE: Thank you very much, Mr. Klinedinst,  
17 for your testimony.

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.

19 JUDGE: Daniel Berg. Mr. Berg, if you'll  
20 state your name and spell it, I'll swear you in.

21 DR. BERG: D-a-n-i-e-l B-e-r-g.

22 JUDGE: Yes, if you'll raise your right hand.

23 (The witness was sworn.)

24 DR. BERG: My name's Daniel Berg. I'm an  
25 internal medicine physician in St. Louis at Family Care



1 Health Centers, and most of what I was going to say has  
2 already been said, but I want to make two comments.

3 The first is that we have a global climate crisis  
4 and Ameren should be doing everything they can to  
5 decrease their carbon emissions. For that reason, I do  
6 not agree with the rate change because when they  
7 increase the base fee and decrease the variable fee, it  
8 discourages people from saving energy and discourages  
9 people and businesses from using solar electricity. We  
10 should be doing everything we can to encourage those  
11 things, so it's moving in the opposite direction that we  
12 should be going.

13 My second comment is in response to something that  
14 Mr. Woods said earlier that running the Labadie plant is  
15 a way to provide inexpensive electricity. I challenge  
16 that assertion. The reason that it's inexpensive is  
17 because they're not paying the full cost of electricity.  
18 They're not paying for the pollution of the environment  
19 and the injury to people's health.

20 I've been keeping track of the cause of death of  
21 patients at our clinic for the last 11 years, and the  
22 leading causes of death have been heart disease, cancer  
23 and COPD, lung disease. It's very well established  
24 that the emissions from coal-fired power plants are  
25 significant causes of death, both heart disease and

1 COPD, and so -- but they are not paying that cost, so  
2 it seems like the electricity is cheap, but it's really  
3 not. Thank you.

4 JUDGE: Dr. Berg, thank you very much for your  
5 testimony.

6 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
7 Dr. Berg?

8 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

9 JUDGE: Staff?

10 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

11 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

12 MR. HALL: No, your honor.

13 JUDGE: Commissioners?

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

15 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

16 JUDGE: Thank you, Dr. Berg.

17 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Doctor.

18 JUDGE: John Hickey. Mr. Hickey, if you'll  
19 state your full name then spell it.

20 MR. HICKEY: John Hickey, J-o-h-n H-i-c-k-e-y.

21 JUDGE: Mr. Hickey, if you you'll raise your  
22 right hand, I'll swear you in.

23 (The witness was sworn.)

24 MR. HICKEY: Okay. I live in St. Louis  
25 County. I write a check to Ameren every month, so I'm

1 intimately aware of them. And I want to talk about two  
2 elements of this proposal that Ameren's brought to the  
3 Public Service Commission.

4 The first is the increased customer charge, the  
5 fixed charge, and right now it's, as I understand it, \$9  
6 going up to \$11 under the Ameren proposal. While that  
7 may seem small, the important factor here is the  
8 direction, and as Public Service Commissioners, you are  
9 going to be aware that there are electricity providers  
10 in this state that have monthly fixed charges of \$28 and  
11 \$29 a month. I know, for example, Crawford Electric  
12 co-op, it's \$29 a month fixed charge if you never use  
13 any electricity at all. And when you get to that level,  
14 which is the direction Ameren wants to go, you do  
15 discourage the customer's incentive to perform energy  
16 efficiency measures.

17 And I live in an old house. It's a 1915 house. It  
18 is terribly inefficient. I have spent a lot of time  
19 trying to figure out how to make it more efficient. I  
20 have used some of the Ameren subsidy programs. I've got  
21 LED lights throughout my house, and when I go buy them  
22 at Home Depot, it has the little sticker that says  
23 subsidized by Ameren, and I think, yay.

24 I replaced my air conditioner. Again, I got a  
25 subsidy from the Ameren efficiency program, but when I

1 did that, I really penciled it out to make sure I was  
2 being wise with my resources, and I know that as one  
3 increases that monthly fixed charge, the utility of  
4 using those efficiency programs goes down. So that  
5 would be my first point of the proposal in front of  
6 you-all.

7 And the second bit of personal experience I want  
8 to bring is I have two school-aged children who live in  
9 St. Louis County, and they pay a price for the current  
10 energy mix that Ameren has. My oldest boy is a big  
11 soccer player. If anybody is acquainted with South  
12 County and the Meramec River, you know there's a lot of  
13 soccer fields right there just up river from the  
14 Meramec Coal Plant, and I would have the -- the -- I  
15 had to bring my boy to play down there, and you can't  
16 see the coal plant from the soccer field, but if you  
17 are paying attention, you know it's just down the river  
18 and that you are having your child play in the area  
19 that's going to have a particularly high dose of  
20 sulphur dioxide because of its proximity to a coal  
21 plant that lacks sulphur dioxide scrubbers. The  
22 Meramec plant does not have scrubbers. So I think we  
23 need the Public Service Commission to look at the  
24 aspect, and the reality is, Ameren can do better.

25 If you look at the other two invest-your-own

1 utilities in this state, Empire, which is now Liberty,  
2 and KCP, which I think is now Evergy, both of those  
3 IOUs have a much higher percentage of clean energy than  
4 Ameren does. Much, much higher, and they're in the  
5 same part of the world that Ameren is. They're not  
6 necessarily smarter or faster or quicker than people in  
7 St. Louis. We should be able to meet those same levels  
8 of clean energy investment. If they're saving money  
9 for customers in Joplin, if they're saving money for  
10 customers in Kansas City, they're going to save money  
11 for customers in St. Louis, and Ameren can do better,  
12 and the other IOUs show that that is possible. Thank  
13 you.

14 JUDGE: Thank you very much, Mr. Hickey.

15 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
16 Mr. Hickey?

17 MS. JOHNSON: No, Judge.

18 JUDGE: The Staff?

19 MR. PRINGLE: No, Your Honor.

20 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

21 MR. HALL: None, Judge.

22 JUDGE: The Commissioners?

23 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

24 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

25 JUDGE: Thank you, Mr. Hickey for your

1 testimony.

2 Help me with this name, Patricia Schuba.

3 MS. SCHUBA: Yes.

4 JUDGE: Did I get it?

5 MS. SCHUBA: Yes.

6 JUDGE: Lucky me. If you'll state your name  
7 now for us and spell it.

8 MS. SCHUBA: My name is Patricia Schuba.

9 That's P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a; Schuba, S-c-h-u-b-a.

10 JUDGE: Thank you very much. If you'll raise  
11 your right hand.

12 (The witness was sworn.)

13 MS. SCHUBA: Okay. Good morning and thank you  
14 for hearing our comments today. I can say that there  
15 are many more people who would be here, and you'd hear  
16 from a lot of people if they could just be there.  
17 They're working, they're living their lives and engaged  
18 in other things. I would ask that, if it is at all  
19 possible, these rate cases in the future, that you have  
20 one near where I live because I live very close to the  
21 Labadie Power Plant. I live in Labadie, Missouri. I  
22 live about four miles from the power plant, and I think  
23 in the past, we've held hearings in Washington,  
24 Missouri, so I just ask, as an aside, that potentially,  
25 we put these hearings close to where people are most

1 impacted.

2           And I say the Labadie Plant because it's the  
3 largest in our state. It's an unscrubbed power plant,  
4 so we heard a lot during the Q and A today that they're  
5 doing everything they can, and I certainly appreciate  
6 anything they can do to clean up the air and the water  
7 near their power plants, but the reality is that only  
8 one power plant in the St. Louis area is a scrubbed  
9 power plant, and that means that it removes the toxins  
10 from the air emission from that plant. Why it's  
11 important at Labadie is because it's a huge plant. It's  
12 almost 2,400 megawatts, and I believe it is the largest  
13 in the nation without scrubbers, and that's a huge fact.  
14 It may be second, but I think it's actually first  
15 because the other power plant closed. So we're talking  
16 about a major polluter for the region. In the case  
17 against Rush Island, the Judge made the point that it's  
18 polluted and harmed people all the way to the eastern  
19 coast of this nation.

20           So you hold within your power to say what they can  
21 recover in costs from rate payers who don't have the  
22 choice to say, Please clean up the air. Please clean up  
23 your coal-ash ponds, and don't pass those costs on to  
24 the people that have been most impacted by that  
25 pollution.

1           It was referenced during the Q and A and again in  
2 someone's testimony the number of people who prematurely  
3 die from these power plants. The Labadie plant being  
4 the largest, it's hundreds of people a year that their  
5 lives are cut short. Much like Dr. Berg, I worked in  
6 healthcare for about 20 years. Worked at Vanderbilt,  
7 worked at Harvard Hospitals and home to be on the farm  
8 with my family and worked at Barnes Jewish. I can tell  
9 you that there is a larger number of people who suffer  
10 from cancers, congestive heart failure,  
11 heart-and-lung-related diseases in the St. Louis region  
12 than there needs to be, and that's where we need  
13 regulators to step in and ask the questions and hold  
14 them accountable.

15           The Labadie Plant and the Ameren fleet is  
16 profitable enough to put in scrubbers and to clean up  
17 their coal-ash ponds. We only need to look over the  
18 Mississippi River to Illinois where they also operate  
19 where those are the expectations, and it's happened  
20 there that they're putting more of those things in  
21 place. They actually tested around their coal-ash ponds  
22 years before they had to under federal and state laws  
23 here in Missouri, so we shouldn't have to pay for that  
24 pollution.

25           We also shouldn't have to pay for a slow



1 progression to clean energy. I, like many other people,  
2 took advantage of the opportunities to upgrade things on  
3 our farm so I do have the largest solar array I think  
4 you can have on a residential, and we currently pay very  
5 little for energy. Now, I cannot say that my neighbor  
6 who lives in a trailer can afford to do that, so even  
7 with the 25-cent rebate right now, many Missourians  
8 can't take advantage of that. So again, you have to  
9 look at a higher level of how a power plant, how a  
10 fleet, how a company operates in this state, and there  
11 are ways to provide incentives and opportunities to the  
12 public. One way to do that is to not charge the poor  
13 and the little old ladies living on fixed income as much  
14 per month for running a line to their home as someone  
15 else who has much more means to pay those bills.

16 And as was pointed out, that's not an incentive.  
17 That's an incentive to use more energy. So for  
18 example, if I was charged per gallon of water at my  
19 home versus a flat fee, what do you think would happen  
20 if I payed a flat fee? I'd suddenly want to water  
21 everything. Maybe go out and water the crops on my  
22 farm and irrigate, but when you say, Please conserve  
23 that resource, please don't pollute, you use less of  
24 those resources.

25 And so for all of the reasons that have been

1 already argued, but I just want to put an exclamation  
2 point on it, don't give them an increase on a fixed  
3 rate that gets applied across the board to every rate  
4 payer. I would argue, if you're going to do that, look  
5 at largest consumers of energy. Look at the large  
6 plants in Southeast Missouri and elsewhere that are  
7 using a lot more emergency that can afford to pay that  
8 fee if they feel like that is really what they require  
9 to stay competitive in the market.

10 So you're, sort of, the stopgap. What will they  
11 be allowed to do to us? And I beg you to reconsider  
12 all of those things that they're polluting, that  
13 they're not moving toward clean energy fast enough, and  
14 they are wanting to constantly come back to me who has  
15 to breathe that particulate matter and potentially  
16 drink those pollutants like arsenic in my water. I  
17 shouldn't pay for that.

18 In a just world, it would be the opposite. You  
19 guys would say, No, there are health costs to this and  
20 we need to consider that and provide an incentive to  
21 the company to do the right thing. So I appreciate  
22 what you're doing for us. You're listening to the  
23 public. Know there are thousands of people who stand  
24 behind me. We did a petition very early on from the  
25 Labadie Environmental Organization, I happen to be the

1 president of that, and there were over 2,500 signatures  
2 on that petition asking Ameren to not build a coal-ash  
3 landfill, according to regulations, in a floodplain.  
4 So they're putting a lot of material right where it's  
5 the riskiest spot to put it, and they conveniently  
6 don't say that, only a few thousand feet down the  
7 floodplain on their property, they have leaking,  
8 polluting, unlined coal-ash pits that they could put,  
9 actually, in that landfill if they wanted to, or they  
10 could have decided to put that landfill in a safer  
11 location to begin with.

12 So it requires regulators doing their job and  
13 maybe asking the companies to do better to get this to  
14 happen, and that's from the federal level down to the  
15 state level, and I understand that, but somebody has to  
16 start working together and get this corrected. Protect  
17 the public, make sure rates are fair and I plead you to  
18 do that for us. Thank you.

19 JUDGE: Thank you very much, Ms. Schuba.

20 Does Ameren Missouri have any questions for  
21 Ms. Schuba?

22 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

23 JUDGE: The staff?

24 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge.

25 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

1 MR. HALL: No, thank you.

2 JUDGE: The Commissioners?

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, Judge.

4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

5 JUDGE: Ms. Schuba, thank you very much for  
6 your testimony.

7 Next witness is Janet Crews.

8 Ms. Crews, if you'll state your full name and  
9 spell it, we'll take your oath.

10 MS. CREWS: My name a Janet Crews, C-r-e-w-s.

11 JUDGE: Okay, Ms. Crews, if you'll raise your  
12 right hand.

13 (The witness was sworn.)

14 MS. CREWS: Okay. I am not as eloquent as all  
15 those who are spoken before me, particularly on  
16 increasing a flat rate as proposed by Ameren, but I do  
17 want reiterate on so many of the facts that have been  
18 brought out, or opinions, by Dr. Host and Cindy Gross,  
19 that I totally would agree with, and I can firmly say  
20 that all members of my family who were not able to come  
21 have discussed this and feel the very same.

22 We are very concerned about the environment and  
23 believe that Ameren, again, thank you for all their  
24 plans, but they're too long-range. We need them more  
25 immediate, and I believe any increase that the

1 commission might grant is just enabling them to prolong  
2 what should have been done way before this present time.

3 So I would just please ask the Commission to  
4 consider all the facts that have been brought about the  
5 environment for those who have spoken before me,  
6 because there's so many people, as Cindy Gross said,  
7 that were unable to come here, but it's just a standing  
8 issue, and it's just too far behind, and then to say  
9 that we are so far behind other states should be an  
10 embarrassment to people who have the authority to  
11 control some of these things, like this Commission. I  
12 thank you for that consideration.

13 JUDGE: Thanks, Ms. Crews.

14 Does Ameren Missouri have questions for Ms. Crews?

15 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

16 JUDGE: Staff?

17 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge.

18 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

19 MR. HALL: Just one. Ms. Crews, for the  
20 benefit of the stenographer, does your first name have  
21 two Ns or two Ts?

22 MS. CREWS: No, J-a-n-e-t.

23 JUDGE: Thank you very much, Ms. Crews.

24 I have no more witnesses signed up, but is there  
25 anyone else who like would like to step forth and make a

1 comment?

2 Yes, ma'am. Come forward, and would you state  
3 your full name.

4 MS. SPEED: Rachel Ruth Speed.

5 JUDGE: And if you would spell your name,  
6 please.

7 MS. SPEED: It's S-p-e-e-d.

8 JUDGE: And the first?

9 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: How do you spell  
10 Rachel?

11 MS. SPEED: R-a-c-h-e-l.

12 JUDGE: Well, it's a good thing I asked. So  
13 it's just E-l?

14 MS. SPEED: Yeah.

15 JUDGE: If you'll raise your right hand, we'll  
16 take your oath.

17 (The witness was sworn.)

18 MS. SPEED: I'm going to be very, very short.  
19 I wasn't planning on doing this until, like, a second  
20 ago.

21 First of all, I agree with everything that people  
22 have said here. I've lived here five years. I was born  
23 here and I moved back five years and I've seen just  
24 radical changes. I live on the Meramec. I know what's  
25 happening to the state of Missouri and our climate, and

1 that this is happening all over the world, that this is  
2 the hottest decade ever recorded.

3 I guess, to me, it comes down to one -- two things.  
4 We base our decisions on our values. That's how make  
5 choices is on what we value, so I guess this Commission  
6 has to decide what's more important for the state of  
7 Missouri: Is it more important to protect people's  
8 health? Is it more important to limit pollution? Or is  
9 it more important to let a corporation continue to  
10 profit from a lot of misery and deterioration of our  
11 land and our water and our environment. So I guess  
12 that's what you have to think of is what does this  
13 Commission value more, and make your choice based on  
14 that.

15 And I hope you value the right thing.

16 JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Speed. If you'll just  
17 stay for a minute. Does Ameren have any questions?

18 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE: The Staff?

20 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge.

21 JUDGE: Office of Public Counsel?

22 MR. HALL: None, thank you.

23 JUDGE: Does The Commission have questions?

24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

25 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

1 JUDGE: Thanks so much, Ms. Speed, for coming  
2 up.

3 Does anyone else want to share some comments with  
4 us?

5 Okay. At this point, does either commissioner  
6 have any closing remarks?

7 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

9 JUDGE: I'd like to thank all of the  
10 participants this afternoon for your comments, and if  
11 you have additional comments or someone who could not be  
12 present would like to comment, you may make written  
13 comments by contacting the Office of Public Counsel,  
14 they're represented here, or by going to the Public  
15 Service Commission's website.

16 At this point, we're going to adjourn the hearing.  
17 Have a good day, and we're off the record.

18 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at 1:49 p.m.)  
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-REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE -

I, Angie Schlotzhauer, a Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri, do certify that I was present at Sunset Hills City Hall, 3939 Lindbergh Boulevard, on the 16th day of January, 2020; that thereafter, a hearing was held; that all proceedings which then transpired were reduced to writing by me, and that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcript of the record of proceedings made by me at that time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd of January, 2020.

/s/ Angie Schlotzhauer

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ANGIE SCHLOTZHAUER

Certified Court Reporter within  
and for the State of Missouri  
and for the State of Illinois  
MO: #1429 IL: #084.004898

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