

Exhibit No.:
Witness: Senator Gary Romine
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Issue: Noranda Economic Impact
Sponsoring Party: Noranda Aluminum, Inc.
Case No.: EC-2014-_____

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

)
In the Matter of Noranda)
Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for)
Revisions to Union Electric) **Case No. EC-2014-_____**
Company d/b/a Ameren)
Missouri's Large Transmission)
Service Tariff to Decrease its)
Rate for Electric Service)
_____)

Direct Testimony of Gary Romine

On behalf of

Noranda Aluminum, Inc.

December 2, 2013

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Noranda
Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for
Revisions to Union Electric
Company d/b/a Ameren
Missouri's Large Transmission
Service Tariff to Decrease its
Rate for Electric Service

Case No. EC-2014-01__

STATE OF MISSOURI

COUNTY OF

Cole

SS

Affidavit of Gary Romine

I, Gary Romine, being first duly sworn, on my oath state:

1. My name is Gary Romine. I am a Member of the Missouri Senate representing the 3rd District. My office address is 322 E. Karsch Blvd., Farmington, MO 63640.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my direct testimony, which was prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in Missouri Public Service Commission Case No. _____.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that the testimony is true and correct.

Gary Romine
Gary Romine

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of December, 2013.



LAURIE NOWACK
My Commission Expires
January 26, 2017
Cole County
Commission #13659152

Laurie Nowack
Notary Public

1 Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

2 A A. Gary Romine, 322 E. Karsch Blvd., Farmington, MO 63640.

3

4 Q WHAT ELECTED POSITION DO YOU HOLD?

5 A I am a member of the Missouri Senate, and I represent the 3rd District.

6

7 Q WHERE IS THE 3rd DISTRICT?

8 A The 3rd District includes St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Iron, Washington,
9 Reynolds, and part of Jefferson County.

10

11 Q DOES NORANDA ALUMINUM, INC. OPERATE A PLANT IN YOUR
12 DISTRICT?

13 A While Noranda's aluminum smelter does not operate within my Senate district,
14 the plant employs several of my constituents and is an economic staple for
15 Southeast Missouri.

16

17 Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

18 A To provide information and insight on the importance of the Noranda smelter to
19 my constituents and the people of Southeast Missouri.

20

21 Q ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATIONS AT THE NORANDA PLANT IN
22 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI?

23 A Yes. I have a strong familiarity with the operations at the Noranda plant. Being
24 from the Southeast Missouri area, many of the hardworking plant employees are
25 people I call family and friends.

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Q DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS THAT YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NORANDA'S OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST MISSOURI?

A With nearly 1,000 high quality jobs, Noranda offers the citizens of Southeast Missouri an exceptional opportunity to enjoy a high rate of pay and substantial benefits. These employees in turn serve as leading citizens for their communities and help foster economic development in the area.

Q HOW HAVE NORANDA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TAX BASE IN NEW MADRID COUNTY BENEFITED THE COMMUNITY?

A As I previously stated, Noranda is an economic staple, not only as a gainful employer, but as a community benefactor as well. Noranda levitates a considerable amount of tax burden from the citizens of the area, accounting for 18 percent of property taxes paid in New Madrid County and just over 28 percent of the taxes paid for the New Madrid County R-1 School District. Moreover, as a former teacher and a now small business owner, I know that an educated work force is key to a strong future work force. The property taxes paid by Noranda has transformed New Madrid County schools into a strong district consisting of excellent facilities and top tier educators with the ability to adequately prepare our next workforce generation.

1 Q **BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES,**
2 **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE OF MANUFACTURING**
3 **JOBS SUCH AS THOSE THAT EXIST AT THE NORANDA PLANT?**

4 A I understand the difficulty of attracting jobs to our area. Not only are we
5 competing on a regional and national level, we are also competing on a global
6 level. Job creation and retention has become a rare circumstance, which is why
7 Noranda assumes a leading in role in the quality of life for Southeast Missouri
8 citizens. Noranda's leadership as an economic catalyst in this area will help
9 rebuild Missouri's economy by attracting investment and spawning growth in
10 related businesses.

11
12 Q **ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?**

13 A Noranda is more than just an employer, it is an economic catalyst and the
14 lifeblood of the region, generating millions of dollars for some of the poorest
15 counties in the state and fostering growth in other industries their product
16 supplies. The absence of Noranda's nearly 1,000 jobs is certain to have a ripple
17 effect on the livelihoods of countless Missourians employed in a variety of
18 industries throughout the state – an outcome I am confident neither the members
19 of the Public Service Commission nor my constituents would want.

20
21 Q **DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?**

22 A Yes.

23