

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

In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a )	
AmerenUE for Authority to File Tariffs )	
Increasing Rates for Electric Service Provided )	<b><u>Case No. ER-2008-0318</u></b>
to Customers in the Company's Missouri )	Tariff No. YE-2008-0605
Service Area. )	

**STAFF RESPONSE TO ORDER ESTABLISHING TIME  
TO RESPOND TO AMERENUE'S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) in response to the Missouri Public Service Commission's (Commission) April 17, 2007 Order Establishing Time To Respond To Motion For Reconsideration. The Staff supports the request of Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE) filed on April 17, 2008 for reconsideration for the limited purpose of (a) reserving, but not setting, the first three weeks of December (December 1 through 23) as possible dates for evidentiary hearings in this case, pending completion of the Early Prehearing Conference; (b) rescheduling the Early Prehearing Conference by moving the same from May 27, 2008 to May 12, 2008; (c) rescheduling the deadline for recommending a test year/update period to May 14, 2008; and (d) rescheduling the deadline for recommending a procedural schedule and local public hearing dates from June 3, 2008 to May 19, 2008. In response, the Staff states as follows:

1. The Commission in its April 7, 2008, Order Directing Notice, Suspending Tariff, Setting Hearings, And Directing Filings scheduled an evidentiary hearing for November 5 through 7, November 10, November 12 through 14, November 17 through 21 and November 24 through 26, 2008. In AmerenUE's last general rate increase case, ER-2007-0002, the Commission commenced evidentiary hearings 248 days after AmerenUE filed its revised tariffs.

The Staff notes that November 5, 2008 is 215 days after AmerenUE's filing of revised tariffs on April 4, 2008 and December 1, 2008 is 241 days after AmerenUE's filing of revised tariffs.

2. The Staff has not had discussions with the Office of the Public Counsel or the other parties that in the past have sought time to review compliance tariffs filed after the Commission issues a general electric rate increase case Report And Order, but the Staff has reason to believe that they would be concerned about the Commission addressing said parties' concerns by in part setting much earlier evidentiary hearing dates. These parties themselves file revenue requirement / cost of service cases or rely upon the Staff to audit the electric utility and file a revenue requirement / cost of service case, and thus would likely have the same concern as the Staff about much earlier evidentiary dates cutting into the Staff's audit time. This is a matter that would likely be beneficially discussed at any Early Prehearing Conference scheduled by the Commission.

3. The Staff suspects that because of Section 386.210.3 RSMo. Cum. Supp. 2007, some parties will suggest to the Commission that it not vacate the evidentiary hearing dates that the Commission has already set contrary to AmerenUE's suggestion in AmerenUE's April 17, 2008 filing.

Wherefore the Staff states its support for the request of Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE), filed on April 17, 2008, for reconsideration for the limited purpose of (a) reserving, but not setting, the first three weeks of December (December 1 through 23, 2008) as possible dates for evidentiary hearings in this case, pending completion of the Early Prehearing Conference; (b) rescheduling the Early Prehearing Conference by moving the same from May 27, 2008 to May 12, 2008; (c) rescheduling the deadline for recommending a test year/update period to May 14, 2008; and (d) rescheduling the deadline for recommending a procedural schedule and local public hearing dates from June 3, 2008 to May 19, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 23rd day of April 2008.

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson