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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
March 7, 2011
Moberly, Missouri
Volume 10

In The Matter Of Union)
Electric Company d/b/a)
AmerenUE's Tariffs To)
Increase Its Annual) File No. ER-2011-0028
Revenues For Electric)
Service)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

TERRY JARRETT, COMMISSIONER

Reported by:
Melissa Bennett, CCR
Midwest Litigation Services

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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 I N G S

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: My name is Morris
3 Woodruff. I'm the regulatory law judge for the Public
4 Service Commission, and I'll be presiding here this
5 evening. In a moment I have the list here of people
6 who signed up to testify. I'll go ahead and call your
7 names and ask you to come up to the podium here, and
8 I'll swear you in to tell the truth, the whole truth,
9 and nothing but the truth, and we'll take your
10 testimony. Before we do that, I'd like to introduce
11 the gentleman to my left here. This is Commissioner
12 Terry Jarrett.

13 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thanks, Judge. I am
14 Terry Jarrett. I'm one of the five commissioners on
15 the Missouri Public Service Commission. I want to
16 thank you all for being here tonight. I want to
17 apologize. I know we were supposed to have this
18 hearing several days ago, but because of the bad
19 weather, we had to cancel and reschedule, so I
20 apologize for any -- any inconvenience for that. The
21 purpose of these hearings really for us is twofold.
22 First, you know there's a question and answer session
23 that you just had, the informational session, where
24 you are able to get information from the various
25 parties and then ask questions and get answers, so we

1 as commissioners feel that this is very important that
2 you get to know a little bit about the process and
3 understand what we do a little bit better. Now we're
4 moving on to the second portion of the meeting
5 tonight, which is the hearing portion where you will
6 come forward and give testimony. You'll be sworn by
7 the Judge, and then you will be able to give your
8 thoughts, concerns, requests, anything you want to
9 tell us. And as a commissioner, that's very important
10 to me because this is the only time as commissioners
11 we get to hear directly from the rate payers. When we
12 go to the evidentiary hearing, it'll be lawyers
13 representing the parties and there'll be witnesses,
14 but normally the rate payers don't participate in that
15 process, so this is our opportunity to hear from you
16 as well as your opportunity to talk to us. So with
17 that I'll turn it back over to the Judge, and again,
18 thanks for being here tonight, and I look forward to
19 your testimony.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you,
21 Commissioner. Before I call the first witness,
22 there's one more thing I need to do, and that's
23 determine which parties are here with attorneys.

24 MS. DALE: Colleen M. Dale, Post Office
25 Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, on behalf of the

1 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is there an attorney here
3 for Ameren?

4 MR. TRIPP: Yes. Michael R. Tripp, 111
5 South Ninth Street, Columbia, Missouri, for Ameren
6 Missouri.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Mr.
8 Robertson's over there for the Office of the Public
9 Counsel, but he's not a lawyer, so he won't enter any
10 appearance at this time. All right. The first name
11 on the list is William Dodd. Good evening, Mr. Dodd.

12 MR. DODD: Good evening.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Can you please raise your
14 right hand.

15 WILLIAM DODD, being sworn, testified as follows:

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Could you tell
17 us your name, please.

18 MR. DODD: My name is William Dodd.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. What would you
20 like to tell us?

21 MR. DODD: Well, I agree that energy costs
22 are going up. And I'm -- I know you have to -- you
23 have to pay the piper, so to speak. But I think that
24 their estimate -- I question how they estimate because
25 they're based -- they're trying -- they're trying to

1 project what this cost is going to be in the future.

2 Well, in -- we're in a down economy now. And like --

3 like was mentioned earlier, the demand for power is

4 down. When the demand goes up, is AmerenUE going to

5 tell its shareholders, well, we just can't pay you

6 money because we're paying more and we have to go

7 through this rate commission business to get more

8 money to operate? Now, how good or accurate is your

9 projection for future costs? Do you guys have a

10 crystal ball?

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It'd be a lot easier if we
12 did.

13 MR. DODD: Yeah, I know it. That's what I
14 want to know. I want to know -- I know it's not a
15 science, a lot of it is hard, I'm sure. But it's very
16 important to -- because you know, the economy
17 fluctuates, it goes up and down. You've got to figure
18 some kind of happy medium. And well, personally, you
19 know, somebody mentioned this. That budget billing is
20 a good thing, I think, because it helps me on a fixed
21 income to project my expenses cause I pay the same and
22 then I can regulate my usage, so to speak, and cut
23 back at certain times when I can cut back and come out
24 at the end of the year pretty close to where I want to
25 be because of the mathematical formula to determine

1 the rate. What I want to know is how good is your
2 method of determining what you think the costs are
3 going to be? Because we have -- we have a wild card
4 in here, and I suspect that may have had some
5 influence on this Proposition C, and that's your
6 environmentalists, people that object to human beings
7 being around. You know, we got a lot of coal in this
8 area, and that's a good source of power. Now they've
9 found out you got coal shale, you can get oil out
10 there. But you have a big objection, and evidently
11 the environmentalists lobby has a lot of influence on
12 competitions when it comes to making laws. Just --
13 that's all I want to know.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, I can't actually
15 answer your question about whether we have the crystal
16 ball. But if you go out and talk to Lena Mantle over
17 here after the hearing, she's one of our staff persons
18 and as well as the company, they can give you more
19 answers about that. Commissioner Jarrett, do you have
20 any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I don't have any
22 questions. I don't have any questions, sir. Thank
23 you for your testimony. I appreciate it.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. The next name
25 on the list is Darren Reddick. Good evening.

1 MR. REDDICK: Good evening.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
3 hand.

4 DARREN REDDICK, being sworn, testified as follows:

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Could you tell
6 us your name, please.

7 MR. REDDICK: Darren Reddick.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And could you spell your
9 last name.

10 MR. REDDICK: R-e-d-d-i-c-k.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would you
12 like to tell us?

13 MR. REDDICK: The cost rate increase that's
14 being proposed as a lady in the rear had spoke, you
15 know, previously about we have got a really bad
16 economy around here, and it's not only here, but it's,
17 you know, throughout the country, and you know, we
18 realize that. But you know, we have -- we have to
19 trim our budgets as well just as others have to. And
20 you know, a lot of it comes down to being more
21 efficient. And there was something that I had also
22 looked at on your information sheet, you know, and it
23 stated right here, "In particular Ameren Missouri is
24 seeking to recover the costs of installing two
25 scrubbers at the company's Sioux Power Plant, at the

1 cost of approximately \$6 million." It says, "These
2 scrubbers will eliminate nearly 100 percent of sulfur
3 dioxide emissions from the plant, providing cleaner
4 air for the Midwest. Approximately 110 million of the
5 263 million request relates to the Sioux scrubber
6 project." Okay. My question is this. When in
7 business, people normally have to purchase their --
8 their tools, if you will, before, you know, before
9 charging your customers, you know. You have to take
10 care of your end before you can -- you can go on with
11 it, but you don't go after the customer after the
12 fact. If you understand what I'm saying. You don't
13 spend the money and then you come back and say, well,
14 you owe that to me and we're going to get that one way
15 or the other, whether we have to lobby or we have to
16 do that one way or the other. That's wrong. And then
17 it mentioned 600 million and then you have 110 and
18 263. Well, you add that together and that's 373
19 million. Where's the rest of it going? And you know,
20 that's the question that -- that I have on that end of
21 it. And like I said, you know, there's a lot of
22 people in this area that are really hurting right now,
23 and you know, we're -- we're no different than anyone
24 else. But our bank accounts are shrinking just, you
25 know, just as others are, but at the same time, how

1 can, you know, a corporation such as -- as Ameren
2 expect to still, you know, try to please everybody in
3 their area when everybody else is taking a hit. And
4 that's all.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Do you
6 have any questions, Commissioner?

7 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I have no questions
8 of Mr. Reddick, but thank you for your testimony. I
9 appreciate it.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is
11 Greg Evans. Good evening, sir.

12 MR. EVANS: How you doing?

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your rate
14 hand.

15 GREGORY EVANS, being sworn, testified as follows:

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Would you tell us your
17 name, please.

18 MR. EVANS: Gregory Evans.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. What would you
20 like to tell us?

21 MR. EVANS: Well, you know, being -- being
22 here in Missouri, I've only been here about eight,
23 nine years. I moved here from Arizona. And you know,
24 I know it's a different state, different climate, and
25 a situation like that, there's two utility companies

1 out there. They put up competition and stuff for
2 rates and stuff like that so the -- the common --
3 commonality of the situation remains the same, I would
4 imagine, for all the utility companies. But the -- I
5 don't understand -- I mean, I do understand you guys
6 wanting this rate hike. I'm against it for one mainly
7 because the situation for the past year, year and a
8 half, you know 20 -- 25, 26 percent rate increase
9 since 2009. I'm in a house that's under 800 square
10 feet. It's two bedroom. And I got my -- you guys
11 printed me off a copy of my utility bill, and it's
12 darn near \$200. I mean, looking back, just say even
13 five years ago, how could you justify a \$200 electric
14 bill on a dwelling that's less than 800 square feet?
15 That's not a question, it's just something to think
16 about cause I understand this ain't a questionnaire at
17 this time, but just something to think of. It's a
18 small picture on a big problem, but everyone in this
19 room, everybody in this state, if you add that up,
20 that cost analogy in comparison, you know, I think
21 we're paying enough. That's all I got.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

23 Commissioner Jarrett?

24 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: No questions. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I appreciate it,
2 sir.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Next name on
4 the list is Harold Oliver. Good evening, sir. Please
5 raise your right hand.

6 HAROLD OLIVER, being sworn, testified as follows:

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Your name is
8 Harold Oliver?

9 MR. OLIVER: Right.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to
11 tell us?

12 MR. OLIVER: Well, mainly that I live
13 almost entirely just on Social Security. I was a
14 self-employed trucker. And what little I've saved
15 over the years and what you're getting in interest is
16 almost nothing because you know what the rates are,
17 and there's a lot of people in my situation in
18 Huntsville and Moberly too. And it just makes it
19 mighty hard to get along. And so I just think you
20 need to take into consideration that there, you know,
21 economy is bad and a lot of people don't even have a
22 job, and it's -- I think it's time to do what is going
23 to be right and just for all our people in our county.
24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: No questions. Thank
2 you for your testimony. I appreciate it.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is
4 Dane Churchill. Dane Churchill. There you are. Good
5 evening, sir. Will you please raise your right hand.

6 DANE CHURCHILL, being sworn, testified as follows:

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Tell us your
8 name, please.

9 MR. CHURCHILL: Dane Churchill.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.

11 MR. CHURCHILL: I was just wanting to see
12 if you could consider this Proposition C because I
13 tell ya, all of these people that voted on this thing,
14 it says -- it says 1 percent annually. And that's
15 what we voted -- that's the way I voted. That's what
16 I thought it meant. I didn't think it was meant to be
17 picked apart and try to get it to say something else
18 because I mean, if that was the case, then we should
19 have been informed at the polls. And one other
20 suggestion, it's not a -- it's not a testimony, but
21 this clean energy thing, why couldn't you trade some
22 of that diesel fuel that you're burning up in that
23 train and hauling that coal clear from out of state
24 when we got coal here? And you're building scrubbers
25 for that coal, why not scrub the coal from Missouri?

1 I mean, it's perfectly -- it's got a lot of coal. And
2 before the coal mine was all shut down here, nobody
3 thought a thing about it. Now you're hauling coal
4 from Wyoming, and every time you go to Jeff City, you
5 see a train either coming in towards St. Louis or it's
6 going back out empty, and that's -- that's pretty near
7 a crime. Burns that diesel fuel up. There's --
8 there's a company just waiting to build this wind farm
9 up there west of Kirksville. If you take -- if you
10 need more electricity, you could take it off there,
11 and I can give you the number if you want to call
12 them. That's all I got to say.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I will say we heard about
14 the wind farm in Kirksville a couple nights ago when
15 we were in Kirksville. We heard testimony about the
16 wind farm in Kirksville. We were in Kirksville last
17 Thursday night. Commissioner Jarrett, do you have any
18 questions?

19 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: No questions, but
20 thanks for your testimony. You made some good points.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I have no insight on that
22 at all, so -- the next name on the list is Victoria
23 Evans. Good evening.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Will you please raise your

1 right hand.

2 VICTORIA EVANS, being sworn, testified as follows:

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

4 Could you tell us your name, please.

5 MS. EVANS: Victoria Evans.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to
7 tell us?

8 MS. EVANS: Well, you know, they want
9 another increase and everything. Being unemployed is
10 hard enough. When asked for help, was told budget
11 billing, however, they want our budget billing 50 to
12 \$60 more than our bill. It's ridiculous when our
13 utilities is lower than what they want to put us on
14 budget billing. As far as the windmill goes, hoorah
15 for Kirksville cause as far as I'm concerned, Ameren
16 wants to promote energy savings, energy we're going to
17 help you save. You know what? Shut down the nuke
18 plants, open up the wind farms, and you'd be amazed at
19 how many people you can get powered up. I'm from the
20 west coast. I miss it every day. There's windmills
21 out there in California. They power all kind of
22 people in different little states and towns and
23 everything else. You know, it's ridiculous for
24 Moberly residents -- allow everybody else in these
25 small towns that can't find jobs, are unemployed, are

1 on a fixed income like Social Security, are -- you
2 know, our seniors, they're suffering. Everybody is
3 suffering because Ameren wants to keep raising their
4 rates every three to six months it seems like. It's
5 getting ridiculous. They need to quit padding their
6 pockets and take the cuts out of their pay. That's
7 it. I mean, it's just flat out ridiculous on every
8 time I turn around these suckers want an increase in
9 the rates when people are struggling as it is to live
10 day to date with the increase of milk, with the
11 increase of gasoline for their vehicles, whatever's
12 out there, diapers for their children. It's
13 ridiculous. It needs to stop. Something needs to be
14 done, and somebody needs to stop Ameren from raising
15 their rates. It's ridiculous. We cannot afford it as
16 the people of Moberly. It's a poor town and people
17 are really struggling. And I'm tired of it. I'm
18 ready to shut down my whole kit and caboodle and not
19 have any electric coming through Ameren. I'm that fed
20 up with it. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you very much.
22 Appreciate your testimony, ma'am.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ms. Evans was the last
25 name on our list. Is there anyone else who didn't

1 sign up who would like to come forward and testify at
2 this time. All right, sir. Come on forward. If
3 you'd please raise your right hand.

4 ROBERT KOEHLER, being sworn, testified as follows:

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Could you tell
6 us your name, please.

7 MR. KOEHLER: My name is Robert Koehler.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Robert Koehler.

9 MR. KOEHLER: Robert Koehler,
10 K-o-e-h-l-e-r. I'm getting my throat cleared up. I'm
11 surprised that these chairs aren't all full. I didn't
12 say anything tonight to people to come. They say
13 they're going to do whatever they want to anyway. But
14 it just seems to me that with the economy the way it
15 is -- I'm a retired farmer, by the way. And out there
16 on the farm, when I put a crop out in the spring --
17 this thing kind of hollers back at me -- sometimes I
18 didn't get my profit back or didn't get a profit even,
19 didn't get my money back, but I had to tighten my belt
20 up to get along until the next year. It seems to me
21 the economy the way it is that there's been people
22 that just can't buy anymore, and I don't know what to
23 do other than tighten their belts a little bit more.
24 The main thing point that I want to make here this
25 evening was that you can price yourself out of

1 business. People will try finding an alternative
2 where you get where you don't have the money to pay
3 the bill, you're going to try and buy groceries, you
4 got to have something to eat. You've got to clothe
5 your children, and you'll just have to find a way, and
6 you're going to need one. When the economy gets
7 better, you're going to need the customers back. And
8 I burned wood and coal in the stove for many years,
9 and it gets bad enough, they'll just have to find some
10 way to do that. And about all that I can think of is
11 that you can price yourself out of business. There's
12 many big businesses that have done that. You just
13 think back over the years. And I'm not sure what
14 maybe the gasoline companies are heading that way, and
15 there's other ones. And I don't have anything else to
16 say. Thank you.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you very much,
19 sir. Appreciate it.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is there anyone else who'd
21 like to come forward and testify? Okay. Well,
22 Commissioner Jarrett, any final comments?

23 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Again, I just want
24 to thank everybody for coming out tonight. I know
25 that some of the staff folks will still be here

1 afterwards if you have any questions and probably
2 Mr. Kidwell from the company will be here, people at
3 the tables also. So if you didn't get your questions
4 answered, there's people here to try to answer them
5 for you, so stick around as long as you have a
6 question. Appreciate you coming.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you all,
8 and with that, we are adjourned.

9 WHEREUPON, the public hearing was
10 concluded.

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No exhibits were marked herein.

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