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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing
January 26, 2015
Dexter, Missouri
Volume 10

In The Matter of)
Union Electric Company)
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's) File No.
Tariff To Increase Its) ER-2014-0258
Revenues for Electric Service)

KENNARD JONES
CHIEF REGULATORY JUDGE

ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman
COMMISSIONER

REPORTED BY: Tina Ewbank

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 REPRESENTING AMEREN:

4 MR. L. RUSSELL MITTEN

5 Brydon, Swearngen & England

6 312 East Capitol Avenue

7 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

8 (573) 635-7166

9

10 REPRESENTING MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

11 MR. MARC D. POSTON

12 Deputy Public Counsel

13 State of Missouri

14 Department of Economic Development

15 Office of Public Counsel

16 Governor Office Building, Suite 650

17 200 Madison Street

18 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

19 (573) 751-5558

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 MS. WHITNEY M. HAMPTON
2 Assistant Staff Counsel
3 State of Missouri
4 Department of Economic Development
5 Public Service Commission
6 Governor Office Building, Suite 800
7 200 Madison Street
8 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
9 (573) 751-5558

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PROCEEDINGS

(Start time 6:56 p.m.)

JUDGE JONES: Again, I'll introduce myself.

My name is Kennard Jones. I'm a judge with the Missouri Public Service Commission presiding over this hearing tonight. I have in front of me a list of people who have signed up to make a statement. Again, I will call your name and you have step to the podium here. I'll swear you in as a witness to make your statement which will be taken down by the court reporter. We'll move through the list. After we're done with the list, then I will open up the floor to those who did not sign up and give you an opportunity to also make a sworn statement on the record. Mr. Chairman, would you like to state--

CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Good evening everybody.

Thank you for being here at 6:00 on a Monday night. There are many important things that you could be doing, so we appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to come and participate in this process. As the judge indicated, this is the local public hearing portion of the Ameren Rate Hearing. There will be an evidentiary hearing later on at the end of the month. There are five commissioners, and

1 the other four that weren't able to be here tonight
2 will have the opportunity to read the transcript of
3 the testimony that you provide. So they will have
4 an equal opportunity to review your comments and
5 make those a part of their deliberations after we
6 conclude the evidentiary hearing at the end of
7 February. So again, on behalf of the Commission, I
8 do appreciate the time that you have taken to be
9 here. We are interested and find it very important
10 the comments that you provide at these local public
11 hearings. So thank you for being here tonight. I
12 look forward to what you have to say.

13 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Let's get right to it.
14 The first on the list is Mark Stidham. If you
15 could come up in just a moment. First let me take
16 entries of appearances beginning with Ameren UE or
17 Ameren Missouri.

18 MR. MITTEN: Your Honor, Russ Mitten,
19 Brydon, Swearngen & England, 312 East Capital
20 Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri here on behalf of
21 Ameren Missouri.

22 JUDGE JONES: And for the Office of Public
23 Counsel?

24 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston. I'm here for the
25 Office of the Public Counsel.

1 JUDGE JONES: And for the Staff Committee?

2 MS. HAMPTON: Whitney Hampton, 200 Madison
3 Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

4 JUDGE JONES: Are there any other parties
5 present? I don't see a show of hands. Thank you
6 all. Mr. Stidham, will you raise your right hand?

7 MARK STIDHAM

8 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

9 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

10 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, sir, you may
11 proceed.

12 MR. STIDHAM: Hello. I'm Mark Stidham,
13 City Administrator of Dexter. I want to apologize.
14 Some of the comments I made might have been touched
15 briefly prior to with Ameren's comments. A ten
16 percent increase in the rates reflect on Dexter
17 would also reflect on utility costs of our
18 consumers. Not only do residents see a ten
19 percent, 9.7 percent increase on their home and
20 residential utility costs, but the increases will
21 be passed down from all the local governments on
22 our increased water rates and sewer rates. Dexter
23 will be forced to pass this on to the residents
24 that are already paying for their household
25 increase. Then it will reach the supermarkets and

1 the stores and the trickle down effect because
2 those consumers will have to pass it down also.
3 Ameren has about 2.4 million electric customers and
4 900,000 gas customers. That's 3.3 million
5 customers with almost a ten percent rate increase.
6 It doesn't take much math to realize that that's a
7 pretty phenomenal number. With the cost of fuel
8 that they've touched on just briefly, you would
9 have thought with the cost of fuel down, you would
10 be taking up some of the areas that Ameren is
11 having a shortfall in. Hopefully our legislators
12 and the EPA will ease up some on the coal fire
13 plants to help generate electricity costs in a more
14 efficient way.

15 Also I have a copy of the Fair Energy Rate Action
16 Fund that I will pass out with my copy. It says
17 that Ameren is asking for a 9.7 percent rate
18 increase which is 2.64 million which has already
19 been covered, the sixth increase since 2007. If
20 approved, based off of the Fair Energy Rate Action
21 Fund, if approved, this rate could equal 57 percent
22 over the last seven years. Ameren has raised
23 surcharges alone on electric bills by 600 million
24 during the past six years. a few things come to
25 mind when I as a city administrator go to wanting

1 to recommend rate increases for our sewer and
2 water. First, where is the revenue going that
3 we're currently generating now. Two, can I reduce
4 costs somewhere else to assure my citizens, they
5 are getting the most bang for their buck. Three,
6 if the rate of increase is granted, will it sustain
7 our entity long enough where we will not have to
8 come back in six months or a year and request
9 another rate. I also know people that make up the
10 stock holders and the Board of Ameren UE. They're
11 wonderful people. We have a great working
12 relationship with the local Ameren people, and I do
13 realize these are stockholders and company people
14 just like you and I, and they have invested, and
15 they deserve a return on their investment.
16 These people are not monsters that hide in a closet
17 waiting for the weak moments in our lives so they
18 can sneak out of the closet and grab our
19 pocketbooks. These are people trying to get a
20 return on their investment by offering us a warm
21 comfortable home, workplace where we can work and
22 we can do it in a manner where we can survive. I
23 admire these individuals for their talents, their
24 times and their finances for providing services,
25 but please look at where our current rates are and

1 what impact it could have on the citizens, our
2 life, our economic growth and the jobs here in
3 Southeast Missouri. Our industry in Dexter is
4 second to none for the industry abroad.
5 Touching on Noranda just briefly, I know firsthand
6 what jobs such as Noranda can do for our community.
7 Stoddard County alone has 58 people that work at
8 Noranda, one in Advance, 15 from Bernie, ten from
9 Bloomfield, two from Essex, three from Puxico, 27
10 from Dexter. That's 58 people. Conservative
11 number, 58 times a \$40,000.00 salary looks at about
12 2.320 million dollars. Multiply that contribution
13 to the county by five conservatively, we're looking
14 at about \$16,240,000.00. This is not just a New
15 Madrid concern, but this is a Southeast Missouri
16 concern. Noranda is viable part of Southeast
17 Missouri. I'm not here to give answers on how to
18 solve our rate issue or who is going to compensate
19 who. I believe we can either help now or God
20 forbid we do nothing, then we have to compensate
21 900 people, 900 families with unemployment.
22 We have sit back and let our premium jobs in the
23 country go elsewhere, and then we try to give them
24 unemployment incentives to make their lives better.
25 If we're going to give taxpayer's money away

1 easily, let's work together. I can go on and on,
2 on the pro's and con's of our rates and what would
3 it do with our everyday life up here in our Dexter
4 residents, but other citizens have voiced some
5 concerns. We have repeated ourselves. I don't
6 want to get redundant. I just want to see us work
7 together and hopefully for the better of our
8 citizens of Dexter. Thank you.

9 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you for your time,
11 sir.

12 JUDGE JONES: Next we have Tom Ray.

13 TOM RAY

14 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

15 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

16 MR. RAY: First of all, I thought Noranda
17 or someone would prelude a little bit of
18 information about the effects of a rate increase
19 would have on Noranda. I really came here today
20 just to talk about opportunities. I heard a
21 gentleman say the opportunity for profit. I want
22 to tell you what Noranda has done for me, my
23 opportunity. I was born and raised in Sikeston,
24 Missouri, went to high school, graduated from high
25 school in Sikeston, went to SEMO for about three

1 years, and I quit. I want to get back to that
2 because that is a significant opportunity I'd like
3 to talk to you about. I have to put my glasses on.
4 In 1978 I went to work at Noranda. As I said, I
5 quit college. I worked in the food industry for
6 just a little bit. I played on a softball team and
7 a bowling team with a guy that was a foreman at
8 Noranda. He gave me the opportunity to fill an
9 application out, and Noranda gave me the
10 opportunity to work down there.
11 During that time I hired in as a laborer. It
12 wasn't very long I went to what we call a utility
13 man, then a cell operator, then a supervisor. And
14 we had a line supervisor and a lead supervisor, and
15 in about a 14 year span, I went from the laborer to
16 a lead supervisor. The next promotion that I
17 sought at that time required a college education,
18 and I didn't have one. Remember that significant
19 event that I quit school, Noranda offered to
20 arrange my schedule where I could go back to
21 school, and if I made the grade, they reimbursed me
22 for my tuition. Those are significant
23 opportunities in my life. I also had the
24 opportunity to meet a woman in my life. She has
25 two children, and I adopted those children. They

1 think of me as their father, and was able to
2 educate those two kids, of course married late in
3 life, she has two children, we didn't have the
4 opportunity to save for a college fund. Noranda
5 provided, Noranda and of course my wife working, we
6 were able to school those two children at SEMO,
7 Southeast Missouri University, and I also was in
8 SEMO at the very same time. Now, I'm not telling
9 you we didn't like to go broke. We did. I mean it
10 was a significant event in our life, but it was a
11 good opportunity that Noranda provided my family.
12 They also provided me the opportunity to have
13 various training throughout. I'm a certified Six
14 Sigma Black Belt. I don't know if you're familiar
15 with that, but a statistical process controlman.
16 Some of the projects that we worked on at that time
17 or I worked on at that time was with the Sikeston
18 Shelter Community Workshop. We did an impact on
19 the landfill, our cost was quite significant, and
20 was able to work with the shelter workshop.
21 We got a grant. We donated a significant amount of
22 money for a system that takes wood trash. We have
23 a lot of custom pallets and packing, and they -- we
24 worked with the shelter workshop. They'd take our
25 packing. The machine that we purchased makes mulch

1 out of it, and it's an opportunity for the disabled
2 -- the developmentally disabled people in Southeast
3 Missouri to continue with jobs. They also make
4 almost of our packing material. I forgot exact
5 what the name is, but when you shim stuff up for
6 rail cars, so it gives them the opportunity to
7 exist and have a useful life.

8 I have retired from Noranda in 2010, 32 years of
9 service there. And they've given me another
10 opportunity to go back and maybe supplement the
11 rising cost of healthcare as a I guess we'd call it
12 a consultant for lack of a better name, and I've
13 gone two or three times. As a matter of fact, I'm
14 doing that right now. And I went back this time
15 and I said gosh, I don't know anybody here anymore,
16 everybody my age has retired. But I got to asking
17 a few people's names, and this guy's name was
18 Curtis Stinnet and John Denny's son is out there.
19 So a second generation now is coming through
20 Noranda, and they're providing them opportunities.
21 And my concern is if Noranda suffers a power rate
22 and by working in the superintendent level, I know
23 what the cost is and what the pressure is to hold
24 those power costs down, I'm just afraid these
25 opportunities will slip by us. The opportunity to

1 eat at a restaurant. I went to Colton's Restaurant
2 about three weeks ago, six families were eating in
3 there that worked at Noranda.
4 My wife hates to go to Wal-Mart and Lowe's with me
5 because I always see these people out here in these
6 blue T-shirts, of course I've got to stop and talk.
7 I'm afraid the power increase will significantly
8 impact Southeast Missouri. I know you know this,
9 it's an agricultural community that can't stand any
10 industrial based decrease at this time. Thanks for
11 hearing me.

12 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks for your
13 testimony, Mr. Ray. Thank you very much.

14 JUDGE JONES: Jerry Jenkins.

15 JERRY JENKINS

16 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

17 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

18 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed.

19 MR. JENKINS: Most of you don't know me,
20 but I'm an electrical contractor. I am also
21 retired now, but I still do a little bit of work
22 around. In the past, I have been in the capacity
23 of plant management all the way up, and we always
24 made money because our prices was in the part if we
25 used a surcharge, a surcharge was always said free

1 money all the way. So we used it as much as we
2 could, and it wasn't right. We were competition
3 with the price, but we used a surcharge for
4 insurance, surcharge for everything, water, sewage,
5 everything. This went on and mostly in the New
6 York states. Texas wasn't that far along at the
7 time. We see this surcharge as we already have on
8 our utility bills, it amounts to quite a bit of
9 money. You say it's only going to increase \$10.00
10 for 100,000 watts, 1,000 watts, what about 5,000
11 watts, that's \$50.00. That's quite a bit to add to
12 everyone. I feel like that this is unjust when
13 Ameren already charges over \$10,000.00 to hook up a
14 small business. If the transformer was taken down
15 by Ameren and the pole was still there, the wire's
16 still there, it's not worth \$10,000.00 to put a
17 transformer back up. They say well, it's for the
18 transformer. How many times do you buy that
19 transformer if they keep taking it down every two
20 years. Times has got to stop. We've got to get
21 together on the things. Thank God Seeman
22 [phonetic] has started making small wind power
23 which is going to help us some. They've made the
24 large ones. Now they're going to smaller ones for
25 cities like we have going to Jeff City, between

1 Columbia and Jeff City. If we can get into a lot
2 of these small ones, we can distribute that power.
3 The earth and dam that they let go, that was a
4 shame that it didn't have that -- manned it so we
5 would have had power coming of there with water
6 that didn't cost as much. But somebody must have
7 raised problems a little bit, and it went over. It
8 almost cost some people their lives. We have a
9 company that's big piece wanting to come across the
10 United States with a pipeline. We're talking about
11 fuel. They're going to bring crude oil across the
12 United States from pipelines to the coast. We've
13 already got a pipeline from the coast all the way
14 up to Chicago and up in that area for our
15 refineries. Why not put that pipe into the
16 refineries and save the cost of all the transport
17 down the river and all that. We spend a lot of
18 money useless this way. Some kind of private
19 gains. We've had real good luck with Ameren in the
20 local, but upper we haven't -- we haven't had any
21 service. They're the worst service we could get.
22 They may come out and they may not. We used to be
23 able to call people, but that's out now too.
24 Surcharges is a way to make money if you're in
25 business. And I've seen it with every company I've

1 worked. I've seen it when we was associated with
2 -- when I worked with Noranda Aluminum. All of
3 these companies is that way. If you go into
4 surcharges, it's just a scam off the top. It needs
5 to be in the final product so you know how much
6 you're paying. Ozark Border has got a lot better
7 rate. Scott New Madrid they've got a better rate.
8 In fact, I get a dividend back from Ozark Border
9 every so often. If these smaller companies can
10 make it, the larger company should be able to. I'm
11 sorry about the hearing problem. Thank you.

12 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Carolyn Johnson.

13 CAROLYN JOHNSON

14 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

15 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

16 MS. JOHNSON: Can you all hear me? Good.

17 My name is Carolyn Johnson. I live here just
18 outside of Dexter. And I am in the rural area, but
19 as well I own a house, half of a house, in town,
20 and I get bills for both. I want to talk first
21 about my installation of renewable energy and my
22 experience with that when my brother and I owned
23 property together and we put in a ground source
24 heating for both of our houses which has been
25 pretty marvelous, and then I put solar on my garage

1 and put 14 panels up. I wanted to have that solar
2 system all my life if I ever got into a situation
3 to do it. I am trained as a geologist. I'm
4 retired now. And I had worked on mines and mining
5 and trying to get them to comply with the law and
6 energy facilities. So I saw sort of a way with the
7 future that if I could do it, I could do it, and I
8 fortunate enough to be able to do it. But the
9 problems in dealing with Ameren on putting in that
10 solar were many and complex.

11 Ameren kept losing my application, and they have to
12 approve it. They lost it three times. Then they
13 couldn't find my address even though I filled it
14 in. Several times had to call them, finally had to
15 send stuff into them certified mail return receipt
16 requested. Now, companies that are on top of
17 things don't work that way. And this was the
18 headquarters in St. Louis on Ameren. I would
19 strongly urge that you need to have somebody who
20 runs interference with the company when people are
21 trying to do -- trying to save energy and do the
22 efficiency and perhaps the solar installations that
23 I was able to do. It's not enough for them to put
24 it on their own building, but getting the ability
25 to do solar energy and other kinds of renewable

1 energy in Missouri was really tough because Ameren
2 lobbied for years and spent millions of dollars in
3 the state legislator to try to hold back the tides
4 of time and not do anything on renewable energy in
5 any form.

6 Well, then, when it comes, and it does finally
7 come, I mean Missouri was like 44th in the nation
8 because of Ameren's very effective lobbying, a
9 lobbying which is counted as business expenses I
10 want you to know. Then Ameren has to play catch
11 up, and playing catch up costs a lot of money. But
12 it costs a lot of money on other aspects too, not
13 just them. Before I built my house out there,
14 Ameren -- we had the ice storm, you all remember
15 that. We have no easement on our property for
16 Ameren on the west side of our property, none
17 whatsoever. There is a utility line on the --
18 right across from our property line that belongs to
19 another land owner. I mean it's on his land. So
20 there is no utility line on ours on the west side
21 of the property. Ameren came in during the ice
22 storm and cut from 30 to 60 feet wide swath down
23 that utility line every tree that was there.
24 Needless to say we bought the property in part
25 because of the good trees.

1 They cut everything. It looked like a war zone,
2 and indeed it was. They claimed, and I have a
3 picture here, I'm going to give you all some
4 pictures, I call them the dirty pictures because
5 they are pretty dirty on what they did. Ameren --
6 we called Ameren as soon as we knew about it, and
7 they claimed that they had an easement on our
8 property. They do not. We told them to produce
9 the easement. They could not. Of course not,
10 there is not one. And I spent days in the county
11 courthouse confirming that there was never an
12 easement anywhere on there and there couldn't be,
13 the pole's up. But then they came in -- now, we
14 have a pond, and this is one of the dirty pictures
15 I'm going to show you, after we had notified them
16 and to get off, they left all of the trees that
17 they cut, and I'll pass these around or you can
18 look at them before we turn them in. And then they
19 came in and put in a new pole on our property. And
20 the new pole is in the limit of our pond.
21 Now every time the pond get's up, the pond was
22 newly built at that time, but you could see that
23 there was a pond. Everything on that had been
24 done. Then they put it in there. That pole is
25 still there with a grade big guide wire. And this

1 is a picture of my brother. He's standing next to
2 the guide wire with his feet in the water. This is
3 not safe. So there was no respect for our private
4 land, no respect for what was done. In fact, they
5 ended up putting two poles. In the process of
6 doing all of this and cutting our trees, they did
7 over \$25,000.00 worth of damage to our property.
8 And they have agreed with that. Ameren has agreed
9 to that. But they also dumped trash everywhere.
10 This is toilet paper, cans, you name it, and our
11 survey stake was taken up and removed and cast
12 aside and later disappeared right after we had
13 Ameren's vegetation man come out and look at it.
14 So this was -- and we have collected all that
15 trash, and we have kept it all these years, even
16 their toilet paper. They -- Ameren has agreed that
17 there was \$25,000.00 worth of damage to our
18 property. They also drove up the other side and
19 left ruts everywhere. One of these pictures shows
20 some of ruts. This is on the west side. On our
21 east side of property, they went all the way to our
22 property line 1300 feet which was marked. It was
23 don't trespass. They had nothing there and cut our
24 neighbor's fence and then took the trucks and
25 doodled and played around over there. But the

1 problem is this, Ameren will not pay to -- yet to
2 fix this up, even though they have agreed that
3 that's the amount and they will do it because they
4 want us in return to give them an easement. And
5 they want to prohibit us from ever complaining
6 about what they do ever again if on the course of
7 using that easement or coming on to remove the pole
8 and the guide wire that is in the pond.

9 In other words, they're blackmailing us. And they
10 want us to keep it quiet how much they would pay us
11 and the terms of the thing. Well, we're not going
12 to go along with that, and we haven't. And so
13 that's where things are at a standstill. And I
14 suspect they will continue to stand still because
15 there is no provision in -- that we can find for
16 the Public Service Commission to take a proactive
17 stance and protect people on their private property
18 or when they're dealing with this company.

19 Ameren's response is sue us. Well, if you've seen
20 their Army of lawyers, I can tell you we don't have
21 an Army. We have us. So I think there needs to be
22 something within -- a very much more of an
23 effective policy to help people like ourselves.

24 Were we alone with this happened, no. I have heard
25 reports all over this county of them coming in and

1 cutting people's fences, letting their cows out,
2 claiming that they have easements or have the right
3 to be on it when in fact they cannot produce the
4 paper. It's not there. So there's that.

5 Now, the next thing I'd like to testify unless you
6 have some questions on that, and then I'll move on
7 to the next subject.

8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I'll save them all for
9 the end.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. That works for me.

11 It's very interesting with this rate raise, Ameren
12 wants to increase its profits and it gets a
13 guaranteed profit now as a regulated utility, and
14 it wants to go up to 10.4 percent. I don't know
15 how many in the audience have gotten a 9.7 percent
16 raise in the last year, but I bet there's not very
17 many of you, are there? I certainly haven't. And
18 I haven't had a 43 percent raise over the last
19 seven years. Very few of us have. These are
20 significant costs. For people on fixed incomes, we
21 can't afford that. And as Mr. Stidham I thought
22 very carefully and fully pointed out, you raise it
23 on this, whatever the percentage may be, then it's
24 not only that we're going to be paying higher
25 Ameren bills, we're going to be paying higher on

1 our city cost, on grocery stores who've had their
2 prices raised on utilities all down the line.
3 It's a cascading effect, and I think we're under
4 their waterfall, and we're going to be drowning in
5 it. One of the things I think is striking about
6 Ameren is how much -- it's kind of how much they
7 whine and grump around. Everything is they're
8 being forced to do it or they fight off doing it
9 for years and years. Now, they put out a nice
10 little -- I mean it's pretty -- it's pretty good
11 looking. It's one of these full color things that
12 I got handed coming in the door about where this
13 would go, it's investing in Missouri. This is
14 Ameren's, cleaner energy plus a dependable system.
15 We've got a carbon free energy, approximately 150
16 million that they invested in the Calloway Energy
17 Center for a new reactor vessel head. Now, we get
18 electricity. That goes into their grid from
19 Calloway. But when that plant was built and put
20 into service, it was supposed to be a 40 year
21 plant. How many come that thing didn't last.
22 What did they do about it, is this part of it, did
23 they go back on the manufacturer, was that supposed
24 to last. 150 million is no small potatoes, and we
25 paid for that. We paid for that whole plant

1 something like I think it was over two and a half
2 billion dollars that came back on the rate payers.
3 We think you need to investigate that. Why are we
4 buying this new stuff, did it just not last long
5 enough, what about other parts of that facility,
6 and they spent millions trying to get a permit to
7 build more stuff there. Some of that I realize was
8 not in their rate bates, but other parts of it is,
9 the operations are. They're very expensive.
10 Cleaner air, they've invested in cleaner air.
11 Well, I'm all for clean air. Most of us are. We
12 kind of like to breathe and be healthy. But Ameren
13 spent millions both in the state and federally to
14 lobby against the clean air provisions, and they're
15 still whining that half their problems are because
16 of EPA making them. That has been coming down for
17 the last 30 years, that the clean air was going to
18 have to happen, and EPA was going to be setting
19 standards on various aspects of it.
20 You can't just shuffle things off to the EPA. And
21 I tell you, it feels kind of funny trying to defend
22 them because I get very upset with them too. But
23 Ameren, it's that whining again going back to EPA
24 is their problem. That's not their problem. They
25 never prepared. They were trying to hold off the

1 inevitable. So they spent millions of our money
2 both in Jeff City and nationally to try to hold off
3 those regulations. You can't do that. If you're
4 going to be a well managed company and charge fair
5 rates, then you have to be on top of it in advance,
6 not going to the inevitable. Upgrading
7 reliability, well, we've all seen how reliable. I
8 mean we have pour outages that still happen with
9 quite a bit of frequency here in clear day.
10 But that's part of the cost of doing business. You
11 have to maintain your facility. You have to
12 maintain your business. You have to maintain your
13 homes. We all have to do that. You can't just put
14 it off and then pay a much bigger rate later on. I
15 really question whether Ameren negotiates
16 effectively on its costs, and particularly on fuel
17 costs for coal. I'm familiar with all those mines
18 in Wyoming. I worked in the West for most of my
19 career. And I have been to all of them, and I
20 follow coal prices. Ameren goes in and does these
21 little biddy contracts and little biddy amounts of
22 coal. That's not the way you get good rates. And
23 they tend to be short term. I think that should be
24 thoroughly analyzed. Ameren is not -- it's kind of
25 like they're trying to please Peabody, they buy a

1 lot from Peabody and Arch who are two big giants in
2 the industry. But they're not negotiating
3 effectively I think on that.
4 Another thing is the case here in the county. And
5 several other counties have gone in, 16 or 17 of
6 them, with Stoddard County because Ameren has gone
7 in and presented them with two sets of numbers as
8 to what their properties should be taxed at. Now,
9 two different ones, how are they going to choose,
10 and then they say to the county that want to take
11 depreciation on what they're paying. Well, in
12 order to take depreciation, you've got to know what
13 they paid to begin with. You've got to know what
14 the value starts out to be. Ameren wants to fight
15 over that, and the county much to their credit has
16 gone in and contested that and put in the others,
17 but still, we're expending a lot of money through
18 Ameren's legal expenses, plus we're having to spend
19 them on our county and our local governments to
20 deal with them.
21 Smart efficient effective businesses don't do
22 business that way. They're not. It's the
23 incompetence factor. There is a lot of secrecy
24 about Ameren. When organizations enter these rate
25 cases, a lot of time they can't find out what the

1 information is. Their lawyers can, but they can't
2 even tell their own clients. We don't see a full
3 as people who use Ameren's stuff, electricity etc.,
4 I can't get in there and find that out. I'm a
5 member of some of those organizations, but I'm
6 certainly an Ameren customer. They want to hide
7 the ball. And somehow or another, they've
8 effectively convinced or paid off enough people, I
9 don't know quite how that works, but they can hide
10 that ball.

11 They may have a nice board, they may have nice
12 people on it, I'm sure they do, most people do.
13 But we're dealing with a monopoly. And a monopoly
14 that advertises which why do they advertise, I mean
15 do we have a choice, no, we can't chose which
16 utility we get. And I think that all comes down to
17 that we need these choices, we need to be able to
18 choose. We need some better protection from our
19 state legislators on costs, getting rid of the
20 secrecy, being able to fully look at a company
21 that's going to operate and get rid of the
22 incompetence. I have the feeling that we're really
23 subsidizing Ameren to be incompetent in management
24 incompetencies in a lot of places. I mean they
25 pay bonuses to their employees, they do this, they

1 pay high amounts of dues to organizations. I
2 pulled some off today. We're now going to take out
3 the lobby expenses from their dues, but you know
4 what, who supplies the numbers on what the lobby
5 expenses are. By and large it's Ameren. Now, you
6 don't have an effective regulation system, a
7 regulatory system or relationship with a company
8 that's controlling the information.
9 For that reason, we have done up a little petition.
10 You might see my brother back there. You might
11 stand up, Danny. We're going to pass it around.
12 We're going to ask our legislators to do something
13 more effective than putting us at the mercy of
14 Ameren as consumers. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Ms. Johnson, thanks for
16 being here tonight and sharing that information. I
17 just have a couple questions about the
18 circumstances that you described with the trees on
19 your property and the trash, etc. I got the
20 impression that perhaps you already entered into
21 some discussions with Ameren; is that right?

22 MS. JOHNSON: We did.

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And formal, informal
24 discussions, in what context?

25 MS. JOHNSON: We first started very

1 informal with them, and they just refused to do
2 anything. Then they came out and made offers if we
3 sign right then to some -- which always gave them
4 an easement I might add, they wouldn't pay for the
5 damage at that point, that was early on, what they
6 said was we'll give you a bonus, a signing bonus,
7 if you will sign this agreement and give us an
8 easement. And it started \$5,000.00, then it went
9 up -- I mean \$3,000.00, then it went up to
10 \$5,000.00, and we weren't interested because we had
11 \$25,000.00 worth of damage. And we have confirmed
12 that with independent. We have estimates for what
13 it would take to do that. So then when I testified
14 at the Public Service Commission hearings in 2011
15 when the rate raised and I brought a lot of trash
16 and showed the trash and showed the pictures,
17 showed the pictures again, then the vice president
18 Dave Wegmen said well let's negotiate again, and
19 they assigned a lawyer who incidentally used to
20 work for the Public Service Commission on its
21 staff, and then Mr. Wegmen and I and the lawyer and
22 my brother, we were on conference calls, and that's
23 when it finally went up to the \$25,000.00 of the
24 damage because there was several years that had
25 passed, but whatever, but again, insisting on a 20

1 foot easement on our property, and this is a 7.2
2 line, so that's very large, and that they would
3 take out the pole, but it would have to be -- we
4 could not complain about the method that they used
5 to take out the pole in the water, and anything in
6 the future that they did and came on our property,
7 it was at their beck and call, and it wouldn't be
8 just confined to that 20 foot, and we have to give
9 them an easement and sign a confidentiality
10 agreement. So that didn't go.

11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: That's where things
12 stand?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I would encourage you
15 maybe to take some time to talk to the folks from
16 Ameren here and maybe to the Office of Public
17 Counsel.

18 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Chairman, if we could get
19 some more facts, we'd like to look into it.

20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Yeah, I think one of the
21 benefits of these public hearings is that you have
22 the company's undivided attention so to speak. I
23 would encourage you to avail yourself of that
24 opportunity, particularly if you've got some safety
25 issues on the property.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Well, we do. I also want to
2 make it clear that at Ameren's encouragement, we
3 filed with their insurance company and documented
4 everything. We've never even had a response. I
5 mean they asked us to do it. They sent us the
6 address, etc. I put together -- I spent a lot of
7 time putting together all of this, putting it in
8 writing, and then it's like you're talking to I
9 mean that blank wall is about with it. So we have
10 really tried to talk with them. They've got a big
11 file on us, or you should have unless you lost it
12 because we here we are again. But we would like--

13 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Well, sometimes after
14 these local public hearings maybe you'll have a
15 little better luck.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Well, we tried the last time.
17 I'm trying to remain hopeful, but frankly it's
18 going to have to be in their camp if they're going
19 to take some forward steps, but that's good, yes.

20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And let me also -- just a
21 couple additional questions. You talked a little
22 bit about some questions that you had about dues
23 and lobbying costs, etc. Were you here for the
24 question and answer session?

25 MS. JOHNSON: You couldn't always hear me,

1 but yes, I was.

2 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I would encourage you to
3 talk to our staff and see about what things are and
4 are not included so that it would maybe give you a
5 little more illumination as to what goes into rates
6 just so you'll have a better understanding. Take
7 that opportunity as well.

8 MS. JOHNSON: What I'd like to encourage
9 you all to do is to be more forthright with what
10 you have, the information that you have and your
11 analysis. I mean this confidential information by
12 a monopoly is pretty hard to swallow. We need to
13 because it's coming -- a lot of this is coming from
14 Ameren as to what they say is lobbying and what it
15 isn't.

16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you for being here,
17 Ms. Johnson.

18 JUDGE JONES: Next is Dennis McCrate.

19 DENNIS MCCRATE

20 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

21 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

22 MR. MCCRATE: I guess everybody can hear
23 me. Good evening. My name is Dennis McCrate. I
24 am the mayor of the City of Portageville.
25 Portageville is a small community of approximately

1 3200 people. We are extremely fortunate to have
2 several thousands of acres of irrigated farmland
3 which is how most of our residents make their
4 living. However, as a farmer myself, I know that
5 with the advance in machinery and technology, a
6 farm that once relied on 15 to 20 people to operate
7 can now plant and harvest the same number of acres
8 in just five or six people. The decrease in need
9 for farm laborers has put a premium on
10 manufacturing jobs in our community, and it is for
11 this reason that I'm here to ask you to approve a
12 rate decrease for Noranda Aluminum. SRG Global is
13 located in the City of Portageville and employs
14 around 400 people. Noranda Aluminum is ten miles
15 away and employs over 900 people, and over 100 of
16 those people are residents of the City of
17 Portageville.
18 Jobs provided by Noranda and SRG are critical to
19 the families in the Bootheel, and especially
20 Portageville. Because of the revenue from Noranda
21 and SRG, Portageville is able to support several
22 small owned businesses, family owned business,
23 including restaurants, part stores, we have a car
24 dealership. We have a family owned pharmacy, three
25 doctors offices, two dental offices along with

1 grocery stores and gas stations and many other
2 businesses. The livelihood of our small town and
3 success of these small businesses rely deeply upon
4 the dependable good jobs in manufacturing in the
5 area. Portageville's city limits stretches from
6 the southern part of New Madrid County into the
7 northern tip of Pemiscott County. Something that
8 these two counties have in common is that they have
9 been given a designation from the USDA as
10 persistent poverty counties. This means that over
11 20 percent of the residents have been living below
12 the poverty level for over 30 years.

13 In New Madrid County, our poverty level is 22
14 percent. And in Pemiscott County, it's nearly 30
15 percent. Just to give you a comparison, in St.
16 Charles County, the poverty level is five percent.
17 In Lee's Summit, it's six percent. So in a class
18 of 25 students, five of them living in poverty, and
19 their school lunch may be their only meal that they
20 get in that day. These numbers reflect the poverty
21 level in our community with the jobs that Noranda
22 provides now. Can you imagine how much worse the
23 situation would be if these 900 jobs were lost, and
24 this is why I'm here on behalf of the citizens of
25 the City of Portageville to ask that this rate

1 reduction for Noranda Aluminum keep these jobs here
2 where they are so desperately needed. Thank you
3 very much gentleman.

4 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Mayor, thank you.

6 Just a quick clarification, which two counties did
7 you say were the ones that were declared persistent
8 poverty--

9 MR. MCCRATE: New Madrid County and
10 Pemiscott.

11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: New Madrid and Pemiscott.

12 MR. MCCRATE: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

14 Thanks for taking the time to be here, sir.

15 JUDGE JONES: Next we have Russ Oliver.

16 RUSS OLIVER

17 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

18 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

19 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, sir. You may
20 proceed.

21 MR. OLIVER: I have a letter what was
22 submitted to the Public Service Commission during
23 the cases that were filed over the last summer. If
24 I could approach, I'd like to resubmit those
25 letters if that would be appropriate.

1 JUDGE JONES: Is this what you're going to
2 read into the record?

3 MR. OLIVER: I'm not going to read this
4 into the record, no, but I was just going to
5 provide that so it would be available for the
6 record.

7 JUDGE JONES: Well, for the record, I will
8 mark this as DLPH Exhibit 1, Dexter Local Public
9 Hearing Exhibit 1, and I'll have counsel for the
10 parties view this exhibit, and I'll ask them at
11 some point if they have any objections and we'll go
12 from there. But you can continue to testify.

13 MR. OLIVER: And I'm Russ Oliver. I'm the
14 Stoddard County Prosecuting Attorney. The letter
15 that I have handed you is a letter that's been
16 signed by 56 county elected officials all making a
17 request for a rate reduction for Noranda to insure
18 its continued operations. You know, these are all
19 county elected officials, and I guarantee that if
20 you got ten of them in a room, they couldn't agree
21 on what color to paint the courthouse walls, but
22 the resounding universal response from all the
23 county elected officials is that the future of the
24 Bootheel without Noranda is bleak. And I'd ask you
25 to review the letter and what these officials have

1 all agreed is the case, and I ask one other thing,
2 that before you all leave the Bootheel, before you
3 leave Dexter and before you all go back to your
4 part of the world, I ask you to do one thing, stop
5 at a gas station, stop at a diner, stop anywhere
6 where people are gathered, and there you'll see the
7 faces of good, honest, hard working people.
8 Now, some of them can reminisce about the good old
9 days, whenever you lived in the Bootheel and you
10 were willing to work, there was a family sustaining
11 job that was there and available to you.
12 Some of the people that you'll see there weren't
13 lucky enough to have experienced those days. And
14 look at the faces of the people that this decision
15 will permanently alter. After you have done this,
16 look at their faces and realize the Bootheel's
17 dirty little secret, that every third person that
18 you see at that diner, every third person that you
19 pass on that street lives in poverty. Every third
20 person that you walk past on the road is driving
21 home to a home in the grips of the chains of
22 poverty. These are the same people whose economic
23 struggle will only be exacerbated when faced by
24 living in a Bootheel that doesn't have Noranda
25 Aluminum with those family sustaining jobs and also

1 facing those increased electric rates that stretch
2 their already meager incomes.
3 These are the same people whose schools will have a
4 lower tax base when Noranda shuts it's doors and
5 the wage earners leave to survive. One out of
6 every third person are the people who work those
7 minimum wage jobs at the coffee shops and the gas
8 stations that are directly dependant on Noranda
9 employees purchasing their services to survive and
10 stay in business. These are the same people whose
11 electric rates will further stretch their limited
12 budget. But the other two people that you will
13 meet aren't in poverty. Those other two people are
14 able to pay their mortgage. They can and do donate
15 to charities, their churches and their civic
16 organizations. They pay taxes. They hope and they
17 plan for the future. They're not wealthy, but
18 they're able to scrimp and save for their kids
19 braces and their college educations.
20 And they are able to furnish their family with what
21 every American family wants to provide, a chance
22 for a better life for their kids. And a great
23 number of them, over 900 of those households are
24 held out of the depths of poverty because there
25 remains one remnant of those gold old days here in

1 Southeast Missouri, and that's Noranda Aluminum.
2 Noranda still provides those jobs that if you're
3 willing to work, you can earn a sustainable wage
4 that provides benefits like retirement, health
5 insurance and piece of mind through financial
6 security for your family. These are the 900
7 households with wife's and kids and a mortgage and
8 a car payment that are sustained by Noranda. And
9 we as the elected county officials of the Bootheel
10 area ask you to consider the rate reduction for
11 Noranda and also to deny Ameren their increase that
12 will adversely affect those people of the Bootheel.

13 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Oliver.

14 MR. MITTEN: I don't have any objection to
15 this.

16 MR. POSTON: I just have one question. Mr.
17 Oliver, did I understand you to say that this
18 letter had been introduced as an exhibit in a
19 Noranda complaint case?

20 MR. OLIVER: In a previous case, that's
21 correct.

22 MS. POSTON: We have no objection, your
23 Honor.

24 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Exhibit DLPH 1 is
25 admitted to this record as an exhibit. Next listed

1 is Gene Rowland. Is there a Gene Rowland here?
2 I'll note that for the record that I see anyone
3 approaching the podium. Next listed is Buddy
4 Mowery.

5 BUDDY MOWERY

6 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

7 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

8 MR. MOWERY: I would like to thank you
9 Commissioners and Judge for allowing me to speak
10 today. My name is Buddy Mowery. I'm 39 years old.
11 I'm married, and I have four children. I live in
12 New Madrid which I have lived all my life.
13 Starting as a child, I remember going down I-55
14 South, and when I passed the Marston exit, I would
15 see the smoke stacks, one from Associate Electric
16 and the other from Noranda Aluminum. I was very
17 curious what Noranda made. My father told me that
18 it was an aluminum smelter. I was astonished that
19 a plant could make raw aluminum. As a child,
20 you're not sure how we get things on earth or how
21 they're even made. Through my childhood years, I
22 listened to my cousin who worked for Noranda about
23 how this plant has positively impacted their lives
24 as well as others that live in the New Madrid area.
25 When I was in high school, Noranda hired high

1 school seniors to work part of the school day.
2 After working there, I thought it was awesome, and
3 then I decided I wanted to go to work for Noranda
4 full time. After graduating high school, I've had
5 several jobs from working on the farm to Missouri
6 Department of Corrections.
7 I worked there also. I wasn't an inmate there,
8 just to clarify that. I was hired at Noranda
9 Aluminum in June 2005 after gaining several years
10 of work experience. I am now working on my 10th
11 year here at Noranda, and I am surrounded by many
12 others who have worked there for more than 20
13 years. Noranda is Southeast Missouri's private
14 largest employer and already pays 44 million
15 dollars more annually than it did in 2008. 44
16 million is a major increase.
17 How can companies keep a float with increases like
18 this. Smelter's across the world close because of
19 electricity costs, and Noranda has already paid --
20 already pays the second highest rate of the nine
21 remaining US smelters. I hope this plant is here
22 for another 50 years or so because I have many more
23 years to work there before I can retire, and my
24 goal is to retire from Noranda. It has provided my
25 family and me a good life with good benefits. The

1 rate increase that has been proposed has put me, my
2 family and my coworkers with a lot of stress of not
3 knowing what the future holds for all of us.

4 The morale at the plant has gone down because of
5 the stress of not knowing if we're going to get a
6 power rate that is affordable.

7 The longevity of this plant is a plus for every
8 community within a 100 mile radius. The rate hike
9 if approved will cost Noranda 22 million more
10 dollars a year to make aluminum. Once again, how
11 can businesses an increase of this magnitude. All
12 other customer rates will significantly increase if
13 Noranda is no longer a customer of Ameren. If
14 Noranda closes, the impact would be disastrous.

15 There are not many businesses around this area that
16 employs this many people with high paying jobs,
17 high paying union jobs with good benefits. Please
18 support a rate designed that gives Noranda an
19 affordable electric rate which will allow high
20 paying manufacturing jobs to thrive for generations
21 to come in the Missouri Bootheel. Thank you.

22 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Next on the list
23 is Martha Harmon.

24 MARTHA HARMON

25 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

1 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

2 MS. HARMON: I would like to thank you for
3 giving me the opportunity to be here to tell you
4 that I'm just a little bit different. I'm out of
5 the Ameren UE actual area, but I have two
6 organizations I'm here to represent tonight. One
7 is called Hands of Hope. It's a youth center
8 that's in Puxico, Missouri, and we have a food
9 pantry also. What this youth center does is in the
10 afternoon when the kids get out of school, and
11 we're also a poverty area, when the kids get out of
12 school, we have a meal prepared for them, we have
13 games there they play, and we help them with their
14 homework so when they go home every night, they can
15 go home to their family and not have to have --
16 some of these kids, this is the only meal they get
17 a day. We also have a food pantry there where we
18 hand out food baskets to different families in the
19 area. We do not charge a penny for anything that
20 happens there. It is all volunteer work, and we
21 operate 100 percent on donations.
22 One of our big contributors is United Way. United
23 Way also works with Noranda. I know that Noranda
24 has payroll employee deductions that they do for
25 United Way. They also have that the company helps

1 these different organizations. Noranda two years
2 ago, we got a new building, the Noranda employees
3 actually came to Puxico from New Madrid, and they
4 helped us move our things from one building to the
5 other. Then they came back Christmas and brought
6 gifts to all the kids that were there, so that will
7 affect me. I'm out of the area, and the rates
8 don't affect me in the way that I'm going to have
9 to pay it, but it does affect the way that we can
10 provide for our community because Noranda is a big
11 contributor to the United Way, and we benefit from
12 what we get from the United Way. Thank you, sir.

13 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

15 JUDGE JONES: Next on the list is Dayle
16 Hicks, H-i-c-k-s.

17 DAYLE HICKS

18 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

19 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

20 MR. HICKS: I'm from Risco, New Madrid
21 County. Everybody is talking about everything that
22 is good except the schools. I was on the school
23 board for 40 years there, and we are on a set
24 income, and all the schools in the Bootheel are on
25 a set income really. They can tell you how much

1 money at two percent or how much money they're
2 going to get from state and federal, and their
3 local taxes is running one percent because we don't
4 have any improvements or anything in that county.
5 And it's going to put a hardship on our school
6 because we had all air conditioners and all that to
7 comfort the kids and everything, and nobody did
8 that, has mentioned the schools. So with the
9 population that we're losing and everything, our
10 students, young people has to move off to get jobs
11 and everything, this raise is going to make a
12 burden on our schools, and no one has mentioned New
13 Madrid School.
14 Noranda is in New Madrid School District. If
15 Noranda closes, it will break New Madrid schools
16 because there's not enough tax to operate the
17 school unless they raise their school taxes. And
18 it would be a bad mistake if they cannot negotiate
19 and get together on this electric problem. And as
20 far as the raise, I think it's unfair. I asked a
21 question, and I'll bring one up about the \$10.00
22 per month on 1100 kilowatts, I'll go along with
23 that, \$10.00. But how many people in Ameren UE use
24 this 1100 or less kilowatts a year. Everybody's
25 got televisions, central air and heat and

1 everything. And I told them I was from Missouri,
2 I'd have to see it before I'd believe it. Thank
3 you.

4 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

6 JUDGE JONES: Next is Hank Rainbolt.

7 HANK RAINBOLT

8 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

9 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

10 MR. RAINBOLT: Good evening to the members
11 of the Public Service Commission, employees of
12 Noranda and Ameren and the citizens of Southeast
13 Missouri. My name is Hank Rainbolt. I have been
14 an employee of Noranda for 21 years. I've lived in
15 Poplar Bluff for the same amount of time. For me
16 it's a 65 mile trip one way to Noranda. Some
17 employees have a longer trip than I do. I buy my
18 gas at multiple locations, the price being the
19 determining factor. My car which get 45 miles to
20 the gallon has broke down several times during my
21 tour of duty. I do all the repairs on my vehicle.
22 I have done business with every parts store in
23 every small town I pass through. When I was 18 I
24 enlisted in the US Navy. After being schooled, I
25 became an electrician's mate. At the time I needed

1 a job, and the adventure that followed has been the
2 experience that has lasted a life time.
3 I was honorably discharged at the age of 22. I
4 have now been an electrician for 37 years. One out
5 of every four Noranda employees are veterans of the
6 US Military. At my last count, we have
7 approximately 240 US Military veterans that are
8 full time employees at Noranda. I applaud these
9 men and women and all veterans along with active
10 duty personnel who have served our country and put
11 their lives on the line in the name of freedom and
12 liberty. I am the official chairman of Noranda's
13 Veterans Committee. As a group of volunteers, we
14 have had flag raisings just outside of gate one on
15 military holidays. We also have executed programs
16 like 100 flags for 100 schools. To fund this
17 endeavor, we raffled off a small fishing boat. And
18 then we bought 100 flags of the highest quality and
19 presented them to 100 schools throughout Southeast
20 Missouri in the name of the Noranda Veterans
21 Committee. We had ample participation from our
22 veterans, and it went like this, the Noranda
23 veteran went to the school in his hometown and had
24 a flag raising with the students and principal and
25 members of the local newspaper. It made front page

1 on all the newspaper multiple times.
2 One other program of interest is when we raffled
3 off several shotguns. Those tickets sold fast.
4 With those proceeds we were able to inscribe over
5 225 names in the black granite of the prestigious
6 Poplar Bluff Veterans Wall. This veterans wall is
7 among the biggest and most beautiful in Missouri.
8 At this time, one of our retired Noranda veterans
9 along with Noranda is in the process of bringing
10 the Traveling Vietnam Veterans Wall to Southeast
11 Missouri. Big or small, all veteran's monuments
12 are the most sacred and are a proud reminder of the
13 sacrifice that our veterans and our veterans'
14 families have given to our country Like many of
15 these hero's here at Noranda, we work hard and we
16 play hard. It's easy to know the why of this
17 attitude. We love where we live and by far we love
18 our families, and of course we love our jobs.
19 Just like in the Navy, by working everyday with the
20 same bunch, one gets a sense of family. What I
21 mean is we rely on one another for our safety and
22 our well being. We share a healthy work ethic, and
23 we get to know many aspects of our fellow
24 employees. From top to bottom, it's easier now to
25 remember everybody's names due to our new uniforms.

1 We have Chip, Part Time Phil, Biggen, Pee Wee,
2 Biscuit, Bisquick, Heckle and Jeckle, Stumper,
3 Shippy, Nippy, Horse, Goat, Moose, Spanky, Red,
4 Blue, CJ, JJ, BJ, Bullwhip, Goldie, Iron Man and me
5 Sparky. This list goes on and many of our
6 nicknames are well earned. Our work force is very
7 experienced with about ten percent of us having a
8 trade skill. We manufacture some of the purest
9 aluminum in the world. The power contract we are
10 seeking is viable to our survival. Without a
11 favorable outcome, it could be the torpedo that
12 sinks our ship.

13 During the time in acquiring this new electrical
14 rate, the stress level in the plant has risen like
15 an F14 jet getting ready to take flight off an
16 aircraft carrier. Without a favorable contract,
17 most of us will not fly and sink like that fighter
18 jet getting our cord shot off the flatbed.

19 Honorable members of the Public Service Commission
20 and Ameren, don't forget the veterans of the
21 aluminum industry here at Noranda. We implore you
22 to deliver us a favorable power rate that insures
23 the livelihood of our families here in Southeast
24 Missouri. Thank you for your time and
25 consideration. God Bless all of us.

1 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

2 JUDGE JONES: Bruce McClintock.

3 BRUCE MCCLINTOCK

4 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

5 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

6 MR. MCCLINTOCK: First I would like to
7 thank you gentlemen for making the trip, long trip
8 to Dexter. At least I'm speaking to someone in
9 person. I have testified before, but it's been by
10 satellite or some other source. At least I'm
11 seeing someone living and breathing. I'll try to
12 be brief. I'm 82 years old, a disabled Korean
13 Veteran. My wife and I, we built our home 45 years
14 ago two and a half miles southeast of town. We
15 retired in 1995, 20 years ago this May. She taught
16 school 30 years. She contributed to the community
17 and to society. A few days ago we got our AMUE
18 bill. We try to live frugal, wear sweaters to keep
19 warm, maintain our house as comfortable. \$313.40,
20 \$7.37 fuel adjustment charges, 75 cents
21 infrastructure, emergency energy efficient \$5.45,
22 above the gas and electric, \$13.57. So we're not
23 only paying for the gas and electric, we're paying
24 to keep afloat. Last year Ameren filed an electric
25 rate case seeking an increase of an annual electric

1 revenue by 264 million dollars, 9.65 percent
2 increase. They asked to continue the fuel
3 adjustment charges. This is evidence that the AMUE
4 continues to earn more than it's authorized. Yet
5 it still seeks to charge Missouri customers who
6 have no other alternative but to use the utilities.
7 Rates by AMUE have increased 43 percent over the
8 last eight years. 43 percent over eight years.
9 Fuel adjustment charges have raised 600 million
10 dollars for AMUE over the past five years. That's
11 120 million dollars a year for AMUE. Reports from
12 the St. Louis Post Dispatch reveal AMUE Missouri
13 earned 80 million dollars more than it was
14 authorized to earn in 2012. What do they do with
15 this money. If I rob people with a gun, they put
16 me in jail. AMUE robs people by unauthorized
17 profits, and nothing happens to them. They get a
18 rate increase. This is why people have no faith in
19 our government. It's not the AlQueda or the
20 terrorists we should fear, but our own government.
21 The government leaders, leadership that make the
22 laws and the rules we must live by have no guts.
23 We're saddled with them. Can you gentleman help
24 us. That's my request. Thank you for your
25 attention.

1 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you, sir.

2 JUDGE JONES: Next listed is Barry Aycock.

3 BARRY AYCOCK

4 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

5 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

6 MR. AYCOCK: Let me also say welcome to
7 Southeast Missouri. We appreciate you all coming
8 down. Can everyone hear me out there? I hope Mr.
9 Chairman and Judge I can give you a unique
10 perspective on why I'm here tonight. My wife asked
11 me this morning why are you going up and getting
12 involved in that. She don't have a horse in this
13 race. I don't have a horse in this race. I own
14 several businesses in Southeast Missouri, New
15 Madrid County, Stoddard County. I get electric
16 bills from SEMO co-op, Ozark Border Electric,
17 Ameren UE. I'm not here to get involved in the
18 Ameren UE and Noranda battle, but I am here to
19 testify on behalf of the hard working 900 people
20 that work at Noranda Aluminum Company everyday.
21 Like I said, I don't have a horse in this race.
22 And I really think Ameren does a great job. During
23 the ice storm, they're the only people who got
24 people's electricity back within seven days when
25 all the rural areas was -- do you mind if I sit

1 down? I've kind of got a bad knee. Thank you.
2 Like I said, Ameren done a great job getting
3 everybody's electricity back on through the 2009
4 ice storms. I am here to testify today for the
5 workers on behalf of Noranda Aluminum Company.
6 They're 900 family strong. And like I said, I hope
7 I can give you a unique perspective that other
8 people can't because I don't -- I've got a lot of
9 friends that work at Noranda. I just seen three of
10 my fellow Parma citizens here tonight. Parma is
11 very well represented. I'm proud of that. I pay
12 six or eight electric bills to Ameren, so I really
13 don't -- like I said, I don't have a dog in this
14 hunt. But I do have some life experiences I can
15 tell you. Back in the '80s, every little town in
16 Southeast Missouri had a shoe factory. In Parma we
17 had a shoe factory. In the 1980s, that shoe
18 factory shut down. Therefore our school shut down.
19 So these 900 families that are worried about their
20 jobs right now, they're the people that buy the new
21 trucks. They're the new people that buy the new
22 cars. Like the guy before me said, he frequents
23 many parts stores, they buy the gas. So if Noranda
24 shuts down, and I truly believe they will this
25 time, the hopes, dreams and desires of those 900

1 families go down with that. So I want to challenge
2 you all. It's a big decision you have to make in
3 this rate case. Noranda needs a rate reduction.
4 The economic viability of Southeast Missouri is a
5 stake here. And I know you won't take this
6 decision lightly, but like I said, I own several
7 agri businesses in the area, I pay electric bills
8 throughout the whole area.
9 I'm not here to demonize Ameren, but I am here to
10 stand with the families of Noranda Aluminum
11 Company. And I'll just leave you with this, if
12 Noranda goes out of business, it will be like the
13 westerns when you see these tumble weeds going
14 across the desert, this place will dry up and blow
15 away. We don't need that here in Southeast
16 Missouri. We need long sustainable viability with
17 our electric rates for Noranda, and like I said,
18 I'm just here today to stand with those 900
19 families that their hopes, dreams and desires are
20 with Noranda Aluminum. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

22 JUDGE JONES: Mike Griffin.

23 MIKE GRIFFIN

24 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

25 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

1 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you for giving me the
2 opportunity to speak tonight. I really have a
3 different story in it's related to why I'm actually
4 here tonight. I have been with Noranda for two
5 months, but it's really kind of a unique story
6 because it ties into the plight of smelters in the
7 United States. Before this I worked for Ormet
8 based in Hannibal, Ohio, a smelter very similar in
9 size to the Noranda New Madrid Smelter, same kind
10 of economics, same raw materials supplied, very
11 similar all around. The community we operated in,
12 very similar. Southeast Ohio is a rural
13 agricultural area, nothing else in the area. Ormet
14 was the big employer, 1,000 employees, over 1,000
15 before it was shut down. It really supported both
16 sides. There was West Virginia and Ohio, both
17 located right within the vicinity of the plant. We
18 had employees from both states. Ormet supported
19 the tax base, everything related to the economy
20 there.
21 And again, it was very similar story. As we saw
22 power rates increasing, it became very evident that
23 Ormet without a reduction in power or some change
24 to the electric structure, the rate experience,
25 that the plant wasn't going to be there. And

1 smelters can survive for many years. Ormet was
2 built in 1958 and was still operating up until late
3 2013. It has the viability with a good electric
4 contract to be around for many, many years. What
5 happened in this case is the rates progressively
6 went up over time, and essentially what it did was
7 forced us -- the head winds of electricity, we just
8 could not sustain it, and Ormet as an entity
9 running the smelter had to curtail capacity and
10 file bankruptcy. And that's why I'm here tonight
11 because I can tell you what happens first hand to a
12 smaller community when the primary employer, the
13 employer that pays the taxes, supports the
14 community services, pays for the schools, when that
15 employer disappears overnight.

16 I am one of the 900 people. I personally had to
17 leave. That's why I came to Noranda. There were
18 no other jobs in the area. It means a change for
19 my family along with 900 of my fellow employees
20 plus their families. And it's a different thing
21 when you're in a small community with a smelter.
22 You see a situation where father and son and mother
23 and son all work for the same company. And what
24 ends up happening, you don't have that security
25 blanket to fall back on. There's government

1 programs, but these are people that have worked
2 their entire lives, and it's very difficult for
3 people to put their hands out after that time. So
4 you see a lot of very tough issues, social issues
5 and costs for the families, the relatives of
6 families, the local businesses and everything along
7 that line. And I guess what I have heard a lot
8 with smelters, I've been in them for 30 years, you
9 always hear the story well, there are ups and downs
10 and it will always come back. And I can tell you
11 the market has an impact, and smelters, they go up
12 and down in profitability. But what makes or
13 breaks the smelter is the power contract. When the
14 power contract is not good as in Ormet's case, the
15 smelters do not survive. It's not an ebb and flow
16 that you can make it through. In Ormet's case, we
17 shut down, filed for bankruptcy. And of course a
18 lot of people in town thought well, it will come
19 back, it's happened before. This time it did not.
20 Power is a fundamental driver of whether the
21 business makes sense. In our case, we were
22 operating six months later, the plant was sold off,
23 and I can tell you right now it is being scrapped
24 out. A plant like a smelter has a big electrical
25 infrastructure as you know, has a lot of copper,

1 aluminum connections, and I can tell you that demo
2 companies and salvage companies will pay -- will
3 want to get into that to really get to salvage
4 those materials. So there is no coming back.
5 There is no second chance. And I have lived it
6 firsthand. I have seen it. I have gone back. My
7 family isn't moved yet. I have gone back, and I've
8 driven by the plant. I see buildings getting torn
9 down. This is six months after shutting down, so
10 it's devastating to the area, and I'm hoping that
11 you will look at this case, understand what it
12 means and take that into account in your future
13 decisions and understand that the electric rate and
14 where we are is critical to maintaining Noranda in
15 this area. Thank you for your time.

16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Griffin, thanks for
17 being here. You said you were hired in two months
18 ago or so?

19 MR. GRIFFIN: Yeah, two months, yes.

20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: November, December of
21 last year?

22 MR. GRIFFIN: November, yes.

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Are you aware of any of
24 your coworkers from Ormet that were able to be
25 picked up by Noranda or anybody else come--

1 MR. GRIFFIN: There were some previously.
2 And we are actually trying to find some more people
3 right now. Aluminum is really a shrinking industry
4 in the United States. I'm sure you've seen other
5 testimony of how many plants have vanished over
6 time, and it's all because of electricity. So this
7 smaller pool of people, so we're hoping to gain
8 some of that experience and make this facility even
9 better.

10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I appreciate your
11 perspective and thanks for being here tonight.

12 MR. GRIFFIN: Thanks.

13 JUDGE JONES: Dale Kirkbride.

14 DALE KIRKBRIDE

15 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

16 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

17 MR. KIRKBRIDE: Thanks for the opportunity.
18 I'm coming up here and speaking probably on behalf
19 of most of the retired people in this area. We pay
20 taxes. We support schools. We do all kinds of
21 stuff. But again, most of us are on a fixed
22 income, and you all are asking for about a ten
23 percent increase in our rates. And we just get
24 violated, at least I do get upset about that. Just
25 for an example, we know that Ameren knows it's

1 already been approved for this rate increase. From
2 past experience we can figure this out. We can
3 also figure out that when Ameren wants a rate
4 increase, they will -- let's say they want a ten
5 percent increase, they'll come to you and ask for a
6 20. And after a while, Missouri Public Service
7 Commission gives them that ten percent increase You
8 go through the formalities of coming and having
9 these hearings and traveling all over the state to
10 do it, and then you come up and say we are going to
11 go ahead and give Ameren an increase, but we're
12 only going to give them five percent instead of
13 ten, and you also try to get us up by saying, you
14 know, we're watching out for you guys. And in
15 actuality, they get everything they ask for.
16 According to the web site www.togetherwesave, and
17 I'm paraphrasing, according to the Bureau of Labor
18 Statistics, since 1936, a loaf of bread has risen
19 1.3 percent. The price of coffee has risen 55
20 times. But the power of a co-op electric has
21 raised only twice. Ameren UE raised 706 million in
22 only seven years, and now they want another 264
23 million. We just can't afford a rate increase like
24 that.
25 Commissioners of the Public Service Commission,

1 boy, you're going to get mad at me, get 88,000 per
2 year. According to the demographics of this
3 region, the average of \$16,400.00 a year in
4 Pemiscott County, Stoddard County has a 19.3
5 percent per capita, while Stoddard County the
6 richest part of this country gets 23,700. St.
7 Louis for an example is 34,400. So who has a
8 better affordability to pay this kind of increase
9 is definitely not the farmers in Southeast
10 Missouri. The executives of Ameren UE -- and I
11 heard somebody ask does this ten percent increase
12 give you guys a raise, somebody said no. Here I
13 dug up statistics that says the executives of
14 Ameren have a salary between 1.5 and 5.7 million a
15 year. And that is a 15.38 percent increase in one
16 year. So we get upset over things like this. It's
17 time for Ameren to have a price freeze for the
18 upper management to the CEO. We just can't afford
19 the salary increase ourselves. Again, we're from
20 Missouri, so if we can't see what you've done for
21 us, we just don't believe it.
22 Maybe Ameren should buy their electric power if
23 they can't produce it any cheaper than this, we
24 just can't afford this. Ameren claims a rate
25 increase will help prevent power outages like what

1 happened in 2009. That was the year of the big ice
2 storm. Again, we have not seen how they have
3 improved this. They don't come down here and run
4 tests like a section at a time just to see if a sub
5 station can keep power up. They don't say let's
6 try this and notify us we're going to shut the
7 power down just for a second and see how fast it
8 comes back to you, they don't do that. Then Ameren
9 says that they need to meet the renewable energy
10 requirements. We don't see that. We don't have a
11 windmill. We don't have solar power. We don't
12 have anything. All we have is rate increases.
13 Then what really upsets us is when it says or they
14 want us to provide the employee benefits. We
15 didn't sign off on these benefits. We didn't sign
16 the contracts. That's Ameren's problem. That's
17 not, you know, ours. Again, we can't be paying the
18 stockholders a dividend. We have to fight to pay
19 for housing, clothing and putting food on the
20 tables. Our area farmers for example would like
21 love to have a 706 million increase over the last
22 seven years to do their operations because I can
23 guarantee you they would not be back for a pay
24 raise. That's basically it. I'm just trying to
25 express a point from a standpoint of an old guy on

1 a fixed income and why we get upset when we hear
2 Ameren wants a rate increase. That 706 million
3 increase over seven years is just mind blowing, and
4 now they want another 264 million. Guys, we can do
5 a better job. Let's do it. Thank you very much.

6 JUDGE JONES: Next listed is Gary Riley.

7 GARY RILEY

8 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

9 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

10 MR. RILEY: I'm Gary Riley. I am 64 years
11 old, live in Sikeston, Missouri, retired from
12 Noranda Aluminum August of 2013 after 41 years of
13 service. The reason I am here is for fairness
14 which we have not seen or I have not seen. The
15 citizens of this area has it's been hashed out many
16 times, I don't need to go back through that, are
17 burdened with about as much as we can financially.
18 As an example, if a person has utility bill of
19 \$453.00 and they get the 9.65 percent increase,
20 that's going to be a \$500.00 bill. That's a lot of
21 money for people on fixed incomes. But my main
22 point is this, I went to Ormet as the gentleman
23 mentioned before. I went out there in September of
24 2014 to look at equipment that Noranda may be
25 interested in purchasing.

1 As it turned out, it looked like I walked into a
2 tomb. It was horrible. It was sad. It was very
3 upsetting. My wife had been on a tour at Noranda.
4 That's all she was familiar with. She was with me
5 that day, and she got extremely emotional.
6 Everyone that thinks it's not real, it is real. I
7 looked at the equipment, assessed it, did my job,
8 and felt like I left a funeral when I left there.
9 Every clock on the wall said 6:15. That's when
10 they turned the power off. Extremely emotional. I
11 made my recommendations for equipment. Noranda
12 needed that equipment. Noranda wanted to purchase
13 that equipment. Due to unknown power rates and
14 other variables, they could not buy that equipment.
15 So it was all sold last November at public auction,
16 and the rest of the plant scrapped out. Please
17 don't allow this to happen at the New Madrid
18 facility.
19 If this rate increase is approved, and I've heard
20 9.65 percent all night long, let's tell the truth,
21 it's 14 percent for Noranda, it's 9.65 for
22 residential rates. That's an increase of 22
23 million dollars per year on top of what they're
24 already paying. I have two questions, and I don't
25 have the answers. One, can Ameren survive without

1 this rate increase; and the second is can Noranda
2 survive with the rate increase. I highly suspect
3 Ameren can survive and be profitable without it.
4 I'm almost certain Noranda cannot survive with it.
5 I would respectfully request that you deny their
6 request for rate increase in its entirety. Thank
7 you.

8 JUDGE JONES: Next listed is Larry and I
9 can't read your last name. Is there anyone here
10 named Larry? There's no one here named Larry? All
11 right. The next one listed is Chad Pinson.

12 CHAD PINSON

13 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

14 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

15 MR. PINSON: My name is Chad Pinson, and
16 I'm the plant manager for the Noranda Aluminum
17 Plant in New Madrid. And on behalf of the
18 employees who were not able to attend this evening,
19 I actually have 433 testimonies on their behalf
20 signed and documented, and I'd like to submit them
21 for your review.

22 JUDGE JONES: I'm not sure how to handle
23 this. Really I don't. That's a lot of paper. I'm
24 going to let the attorneys look at that for a
25 moment and you can go ahead and testify.

1 MR. PINSON: I'll go ahead give my
2 testimony then. I currently reside in Sikeston,
3 and I've actually worked for the company now for
4 almost 20 years. And today I'm here to give
5 testimony surrounding the 900 plus families that
6 will be seriously impacted if you fail to support a
7 rate design that gives our facility an affordable
8 power rate. Aluminum smelters consume an enormous
9 amount of electricity. In New Madrid, we actually
10 consume about the same amount of power as the
11 entire city of Springfield, Missouri.
12 Unfortunately as others have testified, there has
13 been a serious trend in the US aluminum industry.
14 In the last 30 years, approximately 72 percent of
15 the smelters in the US have been forced to shut
16 down primarily because of uncompetitive power
17 rates. Those jobs are now in other countries. The
18 US companies are now having to import the largest
19 majority of aluminum supply.
20 Today there is only eight -- or nine smelters left
21 in the US. And out of those nine, we in New Madrid
22 are paying the second highest rate for electricity,
23 and we cannot sustain that long term. As a plant
24 manager, I take great pride in our employees and
25 the products that we supply to the North American

1 aluminum industry. Our employees are dedicated
2 with an average tenure of more than 17 years, and
3 the jobs quite frankly are some of the best in the
4 area. As a second generation employee, Noranda is
5 the only company I have known by entire life. I am
6 thankful that Noranda has been able to provide for
7 my family for now more than 40 years. My dad
8 worked for the company for 31 years and it allowed
9 him to provide a good life and a solid education
10 for me and my two sisters. And today Noranda helps
11 me provide the same benefits to my two sons as I
12 raise them here in the Bootheel.

13 I know what these jobs mean to the 900 families and
14 the local communities we support. Our company has
15 invested more than 300 million dollars over the
16 past decade, and the New Madrid plant will provide
17 over 350 million dollars in economic benefits to
18 the State of Missouri, including 28 percent of the
19 taxes provided to the New Madrid School District.

20 We support families in more than 70 local
21 communities and indirectly provide approximately
22 3900 jobs in the area to support our operation.
23 Our cost for electricity has already increased by
24 44 million dollars annually since 2008. The loss
25 of these jobs will destroy our region which is

1 already one of the poorest in Missouri. The ripple
2 effect will be felt across multiple communities,
3 including our school systems and ultimately the
4 safety and security of our communities. We do not
5 need the New Madrid plant to become another
6 statistic in the US smelter closure list because of
7 unaffordable power.

8 I pray that you will approve a power rate that
9 benefits all consumers, a power rate that will
10 allow Noranda to continue to be the economic
11 backbone of our region and continue to provide good
12 paying jobs for Southeast Missouri as it has for my
13 family. I wish to thank you for your time, and I
14 wish you all the best.

15 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Let's go ahead
16 and deal with -- well, we have several more people
17 to testify. Let's do that first and then we'll
18 deal with the paper issues, some people may want to
19 leave, but yet want to testify, and I don't want to
20 hold them up. Next listed is Cameron Redd.

21 CAMERON REDD

22 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

23 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

24 MR. REDD: I'm speaking not only as a
25 customer myself, but I'm assistant chief steward of

1 United Steel Workers Local 7686. The vast majority
2 of those 900 people are steel workers. And I know
3 the you all know the stats forward and backwards,
4 the sad truth of the one out of three in poverty,
5 and how it affects the schools through tax base and
6 on and on and on. But what I would like to remind
7 you of and hope that stays relevant in your mind is
8 when you're looking over all this information and
9 you go to make your decision, that you don't get
10 glassy eyed by all the numbers, that you remember
11 the people. And I'll leave you with that in mind.
12 I thank you for your time, and I'd appreciate it if
13 you'd pass that on to your fellow members. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you, sir.

16 JUDGE JONES: Next is Dallas Snider.

17 DALLAS SNIDER

18 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

19 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

20 MR. SNIDER: My name's Dallas Snider. I'm
21 chief steward with local 7686 at Noranda. I was at
22 Cape a while ago with you all. I'm going to try
23 not to repeat. I know you all -- I can tell the
24 same testimony as everybody has here. 59 years, I
25 live three miles from where I was born. This is

1 true to my heart. My kids got an education out of
2 Noranda, family, friends, and as Mr. Hicks an Mr.
3 Aycock talked about the school, 28 percent of the
4 school tax comes out of Noranda. And we've had
5 debates -- we've had people say hey, the school can
6 survive. Well, they don't -- the trickle effect
7 they don't take into account because my taxes may
8 change, I may have to move or my family move or
9 friends, then their tax rate is going to change.
10 17 percent goes to the county to keep the roads and
11 the bridges and stuff up, and then out of the
12 affected in the same manner.
13 And we just cannot stand that. There is no jobs.
14 As they spoke about the agriculture and the
15 technologies here, we're just going to be a dust
16 bowl, and I'd appreciate it if you would consider
17 the rate reduction for us. Thank you.

18 JUDGE JONES: Next is Jerry Pulle.

19 JERRY PULLE

20 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

21 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

22 MR. PULLE: I am here tonight to represent
23 Noranda Aluminum and speak on their behalf. I am
24 the mayor of Sikeston, Missouri. My name is Jerry
25 Pulle. I think Sikeston probably has the largest

1 number of people living in Sikeston employed by
2 Noranda. With all the statements from our
3 president of the state of the union address and the
4 governor's state of the state address, one thing
5 that was mentioned in both of those speeches was to
6 retain jobs and create jobs. I'm here tonight --
7 let's talk about retaining jobs in Southeast
8 Missouri. Noranda invested a lot of money in
9 Southeast Missouri years ago taking a chance on our
10 section of the country. And we are in rural
11 America, rural Missouri. We don't have very many
12 large companies that you might have seen on your
13 travels down. It's all flat land once you reach
14 Cape Girardeau or get past there. It's farmland.
15 Many of these people have been taken off the farms,
16 went to work for Noranda because the equipment that
17 is manufactured today as one gentleman mentioned
18 earlier takes away the farm way. Well, Noranda has
19 provided jobs for a lot of those folks. The ripple
20 effect of Noranda closing if it happens is so
21 astronomical, it would be devastating to the whole
22 area. I speak not only -- Sikeston has its own
23 power plant, so I don't have a gripe with Ameren.
24 I am an Ameren customer with my business in the
25 county. I do like Sikeston rates better, but

1 that's beside the point. I am here on behalf of
2 all these people that have spent their lives,
3 there's second generation they're talking about
4 here. I mean Noranda took a chance on us, and I
5 think that they deserve appreciation, and I hope
6 you take our voice back to the other four people
7 that couldn't be here. I'm sorry that they
8 couldn't be here, and I appreciate you allowing me
9 to come up and speak on behalf of Noranda. Noranda
10 supports so many different things in our area.
11 I mean they're involved in all of our civic clubs.
12 They donate to every entity. I mean every
13 children's center. The children's center alone in
14 Sikeston, Missouri will probably not -- if Noranda
15 closes it will probably close. The steel workers
16 union donates several thousands of year to that
17 facility along with the United Way and many, many
18 other charities that have been spoken about here
19 tonight. So I would ask you to please consider
20 negotiations -- to come up with a reasonable rate
21 that would work for everyone. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
23 Thank you very much.

24 JUDGE JONES: Next on the list is Kent
25 Hampton.

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KENT HAMPTON

(Sworn in by Judge Jones)

MR. HAMPTON: Gentlemen, thank you for being here tonight. We appreciate it. We've heard Southeast Missouri mentioned on numerous occasions itself. Gentleman, let me tell you where Noranda Aluminum is located is not in Southeast Missouri. It's on the Bootheel. And there is a major difference between the two environments. In Southeast Missouri, part of it is posturally growing. In the Bootheel, it is declining. Noranda is the largest user of electricity in the entire State of Missouri itself. It goes without saying that any and all of our counties are losing population. We are not gaining. Our schools are losing students. They are not gaining. As a matter of fact, between 75 and 80 percent of the students in the schools are on either the free lunch or the reduced lunch programs itself. Noranda Aluminum has allowed a lot of people to stay in this area that otherwise would have been forced to move. It is a rich agricultural community itself. But as we well know with the advancement of agriculture itself, it takes fewer people to participate in that industry itself.

1 As we talk about raising rates itself, let's move
2 away. Let's talk about an older generation that's
3 on a fixed income. And we identified a electrical
4 usage rate a while ago that was going to basically
5 identify a \$10.00 a month increase in rates.
6 Gentleman, I'm here to tell you the area that I
7 live in, \$10.00 to people on fixed incomes is
8 determination whether they pay their electric bill,
9 they buy food or they get their prescriptions.
10 It's not one and all. It's a choice that they have
11 to make.
12 As we look basically at the issues here that's been
13 identified itself for some of these great folks
14 that are working at Noranda, past employees of
15 Noranda, concerned citizens that are in attendance
16 here, we see a guaranteed rate of 9.25 percent.
17 Gentleman, I'm here to tell you the majority of
18 people if they have money available to them, if
19 they could get two percent for it, they would be
20 tickled to death. So I don't know that we're
21 applying apples versus apples and oranges versus
22 oranges. I would hope this would be widely thought
23 of, deeply considered in realizing the impact that
24 it has on a certain area here in the State of
25 Missouri, a very valuable part of the State of

1 Missouri called the Bootheel. I thank you for your
2 time. I thank you for your participation. I thank
3 you for your listening to lengthy conversations at
4 times itself, but I thank you for your willingness
5 to be here.

6 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. I'm going to ask
7 the attorneys to approach so we can talk about
8 these documents. Mr. Pinson, will you come up also
9 since you presented them? Okay. They suggested
10 that the documents be entered as public comments.
11 Now, we've gone through the list of people to
12 testify. Is there anyone else who hasn't signed
13 up?

14 ROBERT WHELAN

15 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

16 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

17 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Will you please
18 state and spell your name?

19 MR. WHELAN: My name is Robert Whelan,
20 W-h-e-l-a-n. I'm a CPA. I'm from Poplar Bluff,
21 Missouri. And I per say don't have a dog in the
22 fight. But I do have clients throughout Southeast
23 Missouri and the Bootheel, and I've been practicing
24 as long as probably Chairman Kenney and yourself
25 have been on this earth, I've been a practicing

1 CPA. And one of the issues I have seen since I
2 came back and started practicing in 1978 is
3 factories going out of business, closing down from
4 Caruthersville all the way up to Piedmont, Poplar
5 Bluff, Sikeston, Dexter. These are factories that
6 supported families. These businesses are no longer
7 there. We can drive around, I can take you --
8 you've probably never been to Caruthersville,
9 Hayti, Hayti Heights, south of Dexter, Doniphan,
10 Van Buren, all of these were all these were
11 thriving communities, all had a factory. They all
12 went out of business because of cost.
13 Things could get done cheaper elsewhere, and that's
14 what it all amounts to right here. Noranda will
15 have to go out business if rates keep increasing.
16 It's just a fact of life. The budgets don't add
17 up. I'm asking you as representing the people of
18 the State of Missouri, Missouri Public Service
19 Commission, to take a hard look at this and say
20 Ameren, we think you've made enough, you have made
21 I heard tonight 743 million rate increases over the
22 last seven years, 600 million in surcharges.
23 Ameren, you have made enough. Slow down. Let's
24 get this on a level playing field. I'm begging you
25 for the people of Southeast Missouri to take a hard

1 look at this because you've heard all the testimony
2 from all these families out here what it's going to
3 do to Southeast Missouri, what it's going to do to
4 these people. It's already done it to Southeast
5 Missouri.

6 We are some of the poorest counties in the State of
7 Missouri. Come ride with me. I have a church I
8 support in Caruthersville, Missouri that has out
9 outreach ministry, 150, 200 kids this age comes in
10 there everyday. We raise money in Poplar Bluff,
11 Missouri to pay the utility bills down there. I
12 don't know if I can continue do that if rates go
13 up. These are things we're talking about. You
14 heard this other lady talking about giving free
15 services. We give free services down in
16 Caruthersville, Hayti, all over Southeast Missouri.
17 We've got good people down here that will step up
18 and lend a helping hand to pull those persons up.
19 I'm asking you to stop this. Please stop it on
20 behalf of Southeast Missouri people. Thank you.

21 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

22 ROB BAILEY

23 (Sworn in by Judge Jones)

24 TESTIFIES AS FOLLOWS:

25 JUDGE JONES: Will you please state and

1 spell your name for the court reporter?
2 MR. BAILEY: My name is Rob Bailey, R-o-b,
3 B-a-i-l-e-y. I wanted to come before the
4 Commission. I thank you for the opportunity. I
5 have sort of a unique story. My late father was a
6 union worker. My mother was an inspector in a non
7 union magnesium facility in Missouri. Through
8 their hard work and through my hard work and
9 borrowing lots of student loans at much higher
10 rates in the '80s than we have now, I went to the
11 University of Missouri at Rolla and obtained my
12 degree in metallurgic engineering. I consider
13 myself a Missouri success story. Although I'm new
14 to the Bootheel, I grew up in a town roughly 33
15 times smaller than Portageville north of Hannibal.
16 So I'm used to farm labor. I grew up with a good
17 work ethic. I think most of my team mates will
18 tell you that as an engineer, I still like to work.
19 Two comments, while working for an Australian
20 company, I was once told Rob Bailey doesn't happen
21 in Australia. The opportunities for my labor,
22 labor appearance to have a metallurgic engineer
23 graduate cannot happen in most countries, but they
24 happen in Missouri. The second thing I want to
25 bring up is through my education and through my

1 ability to work with people, which I gained that
2 communication skill while growing up in Missouri, I
3 have been able to introduce many new technologies
4 into the metal casting industries. The gentleman
5 from Ormet was one of the first customers of the
6 technology there making a specialized billet for
7 Madison, Wisconsin, and for a company I helped to
8 start in Arkansas. Presently Noranda in the late
9 1990s obtained the license to another light weight
10 structural aluminum technology which they still
11 produce.

12 My point is this, we talk about maintaining jobs in
13 Missouri, but the fact of it is Noranda also
14 represents the opportunity for Missouri to excel.

15 The technologies that I am helping to teach and the
16 technology of my decades of experience from my team
17 mates are allowing Missouri to be a jumping point
18 for light weighting of vehicles and for maintaining
19 American automotive jobs also. Please consider,
20 Commissioners and Judge, please consider this isn't
21 just a case of well documented impact of losing
22 these jobs, your decision also impacts Missouri's
23 ability to be a platform for job growth or
24 technology growth. Thank you for your time.

25 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. By a show of

1 hands, is there anyone else who would like to make
2 a statement on the record? Okay. I don't see
3 anyone. With that we thank you for coming out and
4 we are off the record.

5 (End time 7:58 p.m.)

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NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

I, Tina Ewbank, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witnesses was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

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