

In the Matter of:

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a AMEREN MISSOURI'S TARIFFS TO DECREASE, etc.

ER-2019-0335, VOL. XIII

January 21, 2020



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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

January 21, 2020

Jefferson City, Missouri

Volume 13

In The Matter Of Union Electric)
Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's)
Tariffs to Decrease Its Revenues For) File No. ER-2019-0335
Electric Service)

NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

PRESENT:

MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
COMMISSIONER.

REPORTED BY:
Lisa M. Banks, CCR
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

A P P E A R A N C E S

1
2 JAMES LOWERY, Attorney at Law
Smith Lewis, LLP
3 111 South Ninth Street, Suite 200
Columbia, Missouri 65205
4 573.443.3141
FOR: Ameren Missouri

5
6 LEWIS MILLS, Attorney at Law
Bryan, Cave, Leighton, Paisner
Riverview Office Center
7 221 Bolivar Street, Suite 101
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
8 573.556.6620
FOR: Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers

9
10 JEFF KEEVIL, Legal Counsel
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
11 P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360
12 573.751.1854
FOR: Staff Of Missouri Public Service Commission

13
14 JOHN CLIZER, Counsel
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
15 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573.751.5324
16 FOR: Office Of Public Counsel

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1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Good evening. Let's go on the
2 record. Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time
3 for a local hearing in Case No. ER-2019-0035 in which Union
4 Electric Company doing business as Ameren Missouri seeks to
5 decrease its revenues for electric service. My name is Nancy
6 Dippell. I'm the regulatory law judge assigned to hear this
7 matter this evening. With me is Commissioner Coleman who is one
8 of five commissioners that preside over the commission.

9 We are going to take public comments. You've
10 heard a little bit earlier about how the Public Service
11 Commission works, and so we regulate the rates charged by
12 investor-owned utilities like Ameren Missouri in Missouri to
13 ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. We also
14 regulate the quality of service and safety of operations of
15 those utilities. So if you have comments about rates or utility
16 operations or the service that you receive, we are here to hear
17 that.

18 If you were present for the question-and-answer
19 I know staff members and some of Ameren's service people
20 introduced themselves. They're happy to stay around after the
21 hearing if you have additional questions that you didn't think
22 of during the question-and-answer session.

23 This is an official hearing of the Missouri
24 Public Service Commission and so we will take the statements and
25 comments of witnesses tonight under oath or affirmation and they

1 will be taken down by our court reporter. The remaining
2 commissioners will have the opportunity then to read and review
3 those comments.

4 To get started I will call the names of the
5 witnesses that have signed up, or in this case, the witness that
6 has signed up. And I'd ask you to come up here to the front of
7 this podium, if you are able, and speak into the microphone.
8 I'll ask you to state your name and spell it for the court
9 reporter. And if you could please stay at the podium in case
10 the commission or myself have some clarifying questions to ask
11 you.

12 And then, if there's anybody else that decides
13 they'd like to give comments that did not sign up, I will ask at
14 that time if there are any additional comments.

15 With that, I'd like to begin by letting the
16 attorneys make their entries of appearance. And I will start
17 with the Company, Ameren.

18 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Your Honor. James B.
19 Lowery of Smith Lewis LLP, PO Box 918, Columbia, Missouri, 65205
20 appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Staff?

22 MR. KEEVIL: Yes, Judge, for Staff of the
23 Missouri Public Service Commission, Jeff Keevil. My address is
24 200 Madison Street, Suite 800, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Office of Public Counsel?

1 MR. CLIZER: Thank you, Your Honor. John Clizer
2 on the behalf of The Office of Public Counsel. And my
3 information has been previously supplied to the court reporter.

4 JUDGE DIPPELL: And do we have other parties
5 that wish to make an entry of appearance? Mr. Mills?

6 MR. MILLS: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor. Lewis
7 Mills on behalf of Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers. I'm
8 with the law firm Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner. My address is
9 221 Bolivar Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101. Thank you.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Are there any other
11 attorneys that need to make an entry of appearance? All right.
12 Seeing none, then we can go ahead and begin with our first
13 witness. Andy Knott.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you spell your name for
16 the court reporter, please?

17 MR. KNOTT: Sure, it's Andy, A-N-D-Y, Knott,
18 K-N-O-T-T.

19 JUDGE DIPPELL: And please go ahead with your
20 comments.

21 MR. KNOTT: Thank you. Thank you Commissioners.
22 Thank you, Judge for this opportunity to comment. My name is a
23 Andy Knott. I am an Ameren ratepayer. I live in Shrewsbury,
24 Missouri. I also work for the Sierra Club and I am here just to
25 enter into the public comment record some comments from our

1 members. Over the last few days we have collected 397 of these
2 comments with more than a hundred that were actually also then
3 personalized, but I'm going to read the general comment into the
4 record and then our plan is to submit this electronically into
5 the public comment section of the PSC's website tomorrow. But
6 I'm just going to read this into the record.

7 Dear Missouri Public Service Commission, as the
8 decision-maker for approving or denying Ameren's rate case, I
9 request that you put the needs of the citizens of Missouri first
10 and require Ameren to study the retirement of its coal plants
11 before future costs of those plants are passed on to customers.

12 Also reject Ameren's two-dollar increase in the
13 monthly customer charge. This increase hurts low-income
14 ratepayers the most and discourages energy conservation because
15 customers pay it no matter how little electricity they use.
16 Ameren should instead be required to offer customers rates that
17 incentivize energy efficiency and shift the usage away from the
18 most expensive times of day.

19 A Sierra Club analysis found that between 2016
20 and 2018 Ameren's coal plants lost \$347 million more compared to
21 market energy prices. This means that for significant time
22 periods it would have been cheaper for Ameren to purchase
23 electricity from the market instead of operating its dirty coal
24 plants. Customers would save millions of dollars every year if
25 Ameren decreased dirty coal and increase use of cheaper, cleaner

1 energy such as wind and solar.

2 It's time for Ameren to stop wasting customer
3 money and plan to begin phasing out its expensive, dirty plants
4 as soon as possible. Ameren's should replace this expensive,
5 dirty coal with energy efficiency, battery storage, renewable
6 energy from the wind and sun instead of sending hundreds of
7 millions of dollars to out of state coal mining companies every
8 year and keep that money in Missouri instead by investing in
9 clean energy.

10 As I said, we will be submitting these tomorrow
11 in the public record on the website.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Thank you. Do you
13 have any questions for Mr. Knott?

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Just thank you for your
15 testimony today. We appreciate your travel up here to Jefferson
16 City.

17 MR. KNOTT: Yours as well.

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.

19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. You may step down.

20 MR. KNOTT: Thank you.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. I did not have
22 anybody else signed up on the testimony list, but is there
23 anybody else present who would like to give comments? All right
24 then, seeing no further comments, we can go ahead and go off the
25 record. Thank you all for coming.

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(OFF THE RECORD.)
(THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS ADJOURNED.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Lisa M. Banks, CCR within and 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 witness 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.



Lisa M. Banks, CCR No. 1081

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