

STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

January 16, 2020

St. Louis, Missouri

Volume 12

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IN THE MATTER OF: )  
Union Electric Company )  
d/b/a Ameren Missouri's ) File No. ER-2019-0335  
Tariffs to Decrease Its )  
Revenues for Electric Service )

PAUL GRAHAM, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE  
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, COMMISSIONER

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P R O C E E D I N G S  
(January 16, 2020)

JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay, folks. We are going to go on the record at this time. Good evening. It is January 16th, 2020. Can you all hear me out there? Can anybody not hear me? Because, you know, I think I'm loud but maybe I'm not.

I'm showing that it is 6:35 p.m. or thereabouts. We are in St. Louis, Missouri. The Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing in File Number ER-2019-0335, which is captioned as In the Matter of Union Electric Company, doing business as Ameren Missouri's Tariffs to Decrease its Revenues for Electric Service.

My name is Paul Graham. I am the regulatory law judge that will preside over this particular hearing. With me today is Public Service Commissioner Maida Coleman.

COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Maida, like tomata.

JUDGE GRAHAM: All right. At this point, do you wish to make any kind of opening statement?

COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, thank you.

JUDGE GRAHAM: That said, we are going to begin by asking counsel to enter their appearance on

1 the record.

2 For Ameren Missouri?

3 MR. BANKS: Eric Kendall Banks on behalf  
4 of Ameren.

5 JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Thank you very much.  
6 Commission staff?

7 MR. PRINGLE: Travis Pringle, staff  
8 counsel.

9 JUDGE GRAHAM: Office of Public Counsel?

10 MR. HALL: Good evening, Judge.  
11 Caleb Hall appearing on behalf of the Office of Public  
12 Counsel. My contact information was previously  
13 provided to the stenographer.

14 JUDGE GRAHAM: Are there any intervenors  
15 present this evening? Okay. We will proceed. For  
16 those who would like to provide comments today, I am  
17 going to call the names listed on a sign-up sheet that  
18 I have before me here, in the order that they appear.  
19 When I call your name, please come down to the podium.  
20 I guess we have got one right there.

21 I will place you under oath and ask you to  
22 state and spell your name and then you can go ahead and  
23 offer your comments to the Commission. We only have  
24 three folks that are on this list, although when they  
25 are on this list, although when they are finished, I

1 will invite anyone else who wishes to, to come forth  
2 and make a comment. That said, the list is kind of  
3 short here. But I would invite you, if you can, to  
4 hold your comments to under five minutes, so as to  
5 allow other people to get up here and have time to  
6 talk.

7           Also, after your testimony is done, please  
8 don't walk away from the podium right away. Remain  
9 there after your remarks until I have excused you.

10           And the reason for that is so that  
11 Commissioner Coleman here can perhaps ask questions of  
12 you or the attorneys that are here on behalf of the  
13 company, Ameren Missouri, the staff, OPC, so that these  
14 attorneys may ask you questions, as well.

15           So before you leave the podium, after your  
16 testimony, hold up for a minute, to see if there are  
17 any questions for you.

18           The Commission, here at the table, will  
19 not be able to answer any of your questions tonight  
20 because they have to remain -- the Commission must  
21 remain impartial until after the evidence is presented  
22 later, at an evidentiary hearing. So if you have  
23 questions tonight, please speak to the representatives  
24 of the company, of Ameren, the Commission staff or the  
25 Office of Public Counsel.

1           And also, of course, it goes without  
2 saying that we are all going to be polite to each other  
3 and courteous and treat everyone as we would wish to be  
4 treated here. That said, we are going to proceed now  
5 to testimony and I have on my list here,  
6 Christa Payton. If you will come forth and state your  
7 name and spell it for us, I will swear you in.

8           CHRISTA PAYTON: Christa Payton.  
9 C-H-R-I-S-T-A P-A-Y-T-O-N.

10          JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Ms. Payton, thanks.  
11 If you will raise your right hand, I will swear you in.

12          Ms. Payton, do you solemnly swear or  
13 affirm that the comments that you are going to share  
14 with us tonight are the truth, the whole truth, and  
15 nothing but the truth?

16          MS. PAYTON: I do.

17          JUDGE GRAHAM: You may proceed.

18          MS. PAYTON: Hello, I am Christa Payton  
19 and I am a rate payer in Southwest Gardens. Thank you  
20 to the Missouri Public Service Commission for holding  
21 these hearings and allowing people like me to voice our  
22 concerns.

23          Like many others, I am becoming more and  
24 more aware of the imminent threat climate change poses  
25 to our planet and because of this, over the past almost

1 four years, I have taken individual steps to be more  
2 sustainable. In 2019 alone, I did the following:  
3 Planted a rain garden. Began biking to work. I taught  
4 five year olds how to compost with zero percent  
5 contamination.

6 I convinced my school to stop using  
7 styrofoam, which saved our school \$17,000 annually. I  
8 convinced my school to serve one vegetarian meal a  
9 week.

10 At my new school, we are currently  
11 revitalizing our school garden. My husband and I  
12 bought into the Grow Solo Program in St. Louis. We  
13 source 100 percent wind energy from Arcadia Power.

14 We enrolled in the Ameren Peak Time  
15 Savings Program. In addition to all of this, I also  
16 reached out to local, state and national  
17 representatives, asking them to do more for the  
18 environment.

19 Asking them for large-scale changes that  
20 will have big impact on the health of our environment.  
21 Asking them to do better. And it seems asking has  
22 gotten me nowhere.

23 I am tired of asking. In 2020, I am  
24 demanding. As an individual, there is only so much  
25 that I can do to contribute to clean air and clean



1 energy. I demand that Ameren be held accountable for  
2 violating the Clean Air Act. I demand that they follow  
3 through on a federal court order and install pollution  
4 controls at its Rush Island, Sioux and Labadie coal  
5 plants.

6 I demand that the PSC reject Ameren's  
7 fixed charge rates. These fixed charges will be billed  
8 regardless of customer energy use. This will unfairly  
9 hurt low income rate payers, no matter how little  
10 energy they use.

11 I demand that we all realize who will be  
12 hurt the most if Ameren is allowed to essentially  
13 self-regulate. Simply put, it will disproportionately  
14 hurt black and brown communities.

15 Experts from Harvard have already  
16 estimated as many as 800 premature deaths from the Rush  
17 Island coal plant alone. In 2019 and now in 2020, the  
18 world is experiencing unprecedented climate change  
19 through fires and floods, at the hands of large  
20 corporations like Ameren.

21 And my demands of the PSC are that they  
22 simply see to it that Ameren do the bare minimum.  
23 Install pollution controls and treat their customers  
24 fairly. I look forward to the PSC holding Ameren  
25 accountable and making Missouri a cleaner state for

1 all. Thank you.

2 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much,  
3 Ms. Payton.

4 Does Ameren's counsel have any questions  
5 for Ms. Payton?

6 MR. BANKS: No, thank you, Your Honor.

7 JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the staff have any  
8 questions?

9 MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge.

10 JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the Office of Public  
11 Counsel have any questions for Ms. Payton?

12 MR. HALL: None. Thank you.

13 JUDGE GRAHAM: Commissioner, do you have?

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, I don't.

15 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you,  
17 Ms. Payton.

18 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much,  
19 Ms. Payton --

20 MS. PAYTON: Thank you.

21 JUDGE GRAHAM: -- for sharing your views.  
22 Thank you.

23 MS. PAYTON: Thank you for your time.

24 JUDGE GRAHAM: The next witness on the  
25 list is Naomi Stevenson. Ms. Stevenson, if you would

1 state your full name and spell it, then I will swear  
2 you in.

3 MS. STEVENSON: Okay. It is  
4 Naomi Stevenson, spelled N-A-O-M-I Stevenson,  
5 S-T-E-V-E-N-S-O-N.

6 JUDGE GRAHAM: All right. Thank you very  
7 much Ms. Stevenson. I notice that I am old and deaf  
8 but I notice that you speak in a civilized tone. And I  
9 am going to ask you to shout at me and everyone, like I  
10 am shouting at you because I am not sure that your  
11 voice is going to carry back there. If you will raise  
12 your right hand, I will swear you in.

13 Ms. Stevenson, do you solemnly swear or  
14 affirm that the comments that you are going to share  
15 with us tonight are the truth, the whole truth, and  
16 nothing but the truth? Boom it out.

17 MS. STEVENSON: Sure.

18 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much. You  
19 may proceed.

20 MS. STEVENSON: All right.

21 JUDGE GRAHAM: And you might just turn in  
22 that direction.

23 MS. STEVENSON: I just really want to have  
24 a comment and I was trying to get an understanding when  
25 they was explaining about the flat rate and the usage

1 rate. And after it was, kind of, explained to me, then  
2 I, kind of, understood what was going on. To my  
3 understanding, to do the flat rate would just give  
4 Ameren a permanent amount of money, every month.

5 Okay. That was my understanding. Because  
6 I am low usage and that is because I try to conserve my  
7 energy. I don't think if Ameren needs a \$2 increase,  
8 then they must not be doing something right on their  
9 end. Okay?

10 I mean, that's how I see it. I -- you  
11 want to raise me up? I got to live on my fixed income,  
12 on whatever amount it is, I got to live on that. Okay.  
13 So I feel if Ameren should make adjustments,  
14 financially within their corporation, whatever those  
15 adjustments needs to be, so that they don't put that  
16 burden on the consumer.

17 I don't believe they should get that \$2  
18 rate increase and I understand the difference between  
19 the rate increase and the usage, in terms of how that  
20 balances off, to be a benefit to them.

21 So maybe they can explain that to me, how  
22 that might be a benefit. I don't understand how that  
23 equates itself out. To do a \$2 raise in the flat rate,  
24 other than that gives them a guaranteed amount of  
25 money, every month, from the consumer.

1                   And then based on what your usage is, they  
2 want to take that price down. So I don't see how that  
3 is balancing out. So maybe somebody can enlighten me.

4                   JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Is that your  
5 testimony, Ms. Stevenson?

6                   MS. STEVENSON: That's my testimony.

7                   JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Well, thank you very  
8 much. Don't go away just yet. Does Ameren UE have any  
9 questions for Ms. Stevenson?

10                  MR. BANKS: No, thank you, Your Honor.

11                  JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. The staff?

12                  MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge.

13                  JUDGE GRAHAM: Office of Public Counsel?

14                  MR. HALL: No, thank you.

15                  JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the Commissioner?

16                  COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yes.

17                  Hi, Ms. Stevenson.

18                  MS. STEVENSON: Hi.

19                  COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Would you tell me  
20 how you heard about tonight's meeting?

21                  MS. STEVENSON: Well, in my bill, came one  
22 of the pamphlets.

23                  COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay.

24                  MS. STEVENSON: About the different dates  
25 that you were having the hearings. And so I decided

1 let me go, get involved because I don't like all of  
2 these rate increases, when I'm not getting a rate  
3 increase. If I was getting one, fine. But I'm not, so  
4 when you all want -- corporations want rate increases,  
5 then somehow, we got to balance that out, so that it  
6 doesn't put a burden on the consumer.

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you so much  
8 for coming tonight.

9 MS. STEVENSON: Okay.

10 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much for  
11 your testimony.

12 MS. STEVENSON: Okay.

13 JUDGE GRAHAM: You are excused.

14 Third witness is Darleen Hall.

15 Ms. Hall, would you state your full name,  
16 spell both of your names and then I will swear you in?

17 MS. HALL: Okay. Darleen Hall,  
18 D-A-R-L-E-E-N Hall, H-A-L-L.

19 JUDGE GRAHAM: I think again, your voice  
20 may be kind of soft.

21 MS. HALL: I talk loud.

22 JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay.

23 MS. HALL: I can get loud enough.

24 JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Well, I just -- you  
25 know, we all sound loud to ourselves.

1 MS. HALL: Okay.

2 JUDGE GRAHAM: If you will raise your  
3 right hand, I will swear you in.

4 MS. HALL: Okay.

5 JUDGE GRAHAM: Ms. Hall, do you solemnly  
6 swear or affirm that the comments that you are going to  
7 share with us tonight are the truth, the whole truth,  
8 and nothing but the truth?

9 MS. HALL: Yes.

10 JUDGE GRAHAM: You may proceed.

11 MS. HALL: Okay. Well, I want to say that  
12 I'm against the \$2 raise. The reason why is because  
13 I'm trying to understand what they trying to do but my  
14 thing is that they raise -- they want to go -- where is  
15 my thing at?

16 They want to do a fixed rate and when you  
17 do a fixed rate, that means it is set. So if a person  
18 don't use it, then they have to get charged anyway and  
19 I disagree with that.

20 And then I look at that, like, people with  
21 big houses, their electric is like \$200 a month and  
22 then a person, like me, in a small community, that  
23 stays in the city, our bills run \$400 to \$500 a month,  
24 even if we are not using that much but Ameren says we  
25 does.

1           But then they also have, like, Urban  
2 League and different agencies that's supposed to help  
3 us and they only help certain people, because you have  
4 to be eligible to get that help from Ameren -- I mean,  
5 from Urban League.

6           So, and if you -- one person, you may go  
7 with \$3,200, you are not eligible. So now, you are  
8 stuck with a \$1,000 bill that you have from Ameren UE,  
9 from when their bill is running from \$300 to \$500 a  
10 month.

11           And to me, it's like, I am not  
12 understanding how Ameren do their bills because on  
13 their usage, they -- they charge you so much. They  
14 charge you for St. Louis municipal charge, they got the  
15 fuel adjustment charge.

16           They got -- well, I got outdoor lighting,  
17 to keep the light out there. Then they got electric  
18 customer charge. Then they got the energy charge.  
19 They got so much charges. And then they add your bill  
20 up. Like now, my bill is \$1,189.90 and it's nobody but  
21 me.

22           And I have -- if I run three heaters or  
23 something and then my bill is right at \$400 or \$500 a  
24 month. Then you all wanting to get a raise and put a  
25 fixed income -- put a fix on there but you are hurting



1 a low person like me. I'm disabled, for real. I'm  
2 supposed to wear my boots but I was trying to hurry up  
3 and get here. I didn't have time to put my ankle  
4 braces on.

5 But that hurts a person, people like me,  
6 you know, that's not able to pay \$400 or \$500 for  
7 something that I'm not using. So I'm not quite  
8 understanding what they trying to do, a rate or  
9 something.

10 And then they are not helping the people.  
11 And then the agency is not helping people like me  
12 because if I make a dollar more, then I'm stuck with a  
13 \$500 bill, that I'm struggling, trying to pay.

14 Then I go on budget billing. Budget  
15 billing is so high. Then after they do budget billing,  
16 at the end of the day, they still say that you owe  
17 them.

18 Because I -- the reason I went before and  
19 I had to talk to the judge, to get this, kind of, to  
20 mediate between Ameren and I, because they was charging  
21 me \$2,000 for a bill that I wasn't even there.

22 So it's -- it's -- it's, kind of,  
23 confusing. I don't know what Ameren is trying to do  
24 but Ameren was going to be for the people. They  
25 changed from Union Electric to Ameren.

1 I don't know why they changed it but  
2 something -- they changed the name. But Ameren needs  
3 to understand that they are hurting the low class  
4 people.

5 When I say low class, I mean, people like  
6 me, that's on disability, that's trying real hard to  
7 make it. Once my check -- and we work a little  
8 part-time job.

9 We got to pay for our medicine, we got to  
10 pay for this but then you come and you raise this, then  
11 we -- we can't afford it. And older people is dying  
12 because they want to -- like, my mom.

13 She died on February 4th, 2014 because her  
14 electric was so high, she wouldn't even run her  
15 electric. And she had -- she take blood thinners. And  
16 she wound up dying because her blood got -- she  
17 actually got so cold, to where her blood thicken up on  
18 her.

19 And she wound up dying because she didn't  
20 want to run her furnace or do anything because the bill  
21 was so high and she couldn't pay it.

22 She said I'd rather have lights, and cover  
23 up and don't have no heat than to be in the dark and be  
24 warm. Do you know what I'm saying? So it's -- it was  
25 hard for me to deal with that, you know, knowing that

1 her bill -- and then when I come in -- when she died, I  
2 moved into her house and then my bill, I called Ameren,  
3 I'm like, why my bill \$500?

4 Well, the person that stayed there, that  
5 bill was \$500. What does that got to do with me? So  
6 they -- they like, they going from one person to the  
7 next and billing people on what another person that  
8 stayed in their house and that's not fair.

9 But then they also want to raise up  
10 something that they're not doing fair anyway. So I'm  
11 not understanding what -- what they trying to do here,  
12 when they hurting us anyway. You know what I'm saying?  
13 We suffering.

14 Like now, I'm suffering, I'm suffering. I  
15 have blood thinners and I can't be cold. If I get too  
16 cold, I'm going to die, just like my mom. You know  
17 what I'm saying?

18 So I got to watch my heat, because I'm  
19 running a \$300 bill, \$400 bill, \$500 bill. So I'm  
20 trying to like, cut this off, cut that off. Don't put  
21 no lights on. Walk in the dark. You know, how can you  
22 live like that?

23 Everybody else ain't living like that.  
24 You all got your lights on. You all got the Christmas  
25 lights on. I didn't even put Christmas lights up. You

1 all got all of this on but people like me don't have  
2 nothing and we cannot do nothing. Only thing we can do  
3 is try to call Ameren. They say what they want to say  
4 and that's it.

5 And we supposed to agree with it because  
6 we don't have nobody speaking for us. So we have to  
7 come and speak for ourselves.

8 And the reason why I came tonight is  
9 because I wanted to speak to Ameren and talk to the  
10 Commissioner and let you all know it's unfair, for them  
11 to try and raise something and they not helping the  
12 people, like myself, you know, to live.

13 And you know how hard it is to live, when  
14 you can't use your lights when you want to? You can't  
15 put the TV on and watch when you want to. You can't do  
16 what you want to because Ameren going to have your bill  
17 \$500. So I don't have a choice.

18 So I sit in a quiet house. I don't run my  
19 radio. Don't run my TV. Cut my heat down. Put on me  
20 some clothes. See, I wear that in the house,  
21 turtleneck shirt, another shirt, sometimes a coat.

22 Why? Because I don't want to turn my heat  
23 on and Ameren going to charge me \$400. I don't have  
24 \$400. Then they -- I got so many disconnection notices  
25 from Ameren. Man, I don't know what to do.

1                   Then I go to Urban League. They don't  
2 help me because I maybe make \$2 more than they allow  
3 for one person. So that's not fair.

4                   And Ameren needs to really think about  
5 when you all are asking for something, think about low  
6 -- the little people, like me. You all are living in  
7 big houses. You got nice things.

8                   Doing something for the people that's  
9 struggling every day, just trying to live comfortably,  
10 you know, before the last of our days. That's all I  
11 have to say.

12                   JUDGE GRAHAM: So yes, Ms. Hall, I was  
13 going to ask you. So is your -- basically, your  
14 testimony is that you have suffered enough?

15                   MS. HALL: Yeah.

16                   JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Well, thank you very  
17 much.

18                   And does Ameren have any questions for  
19 Ms. Hall?

20                   MR. BANKS: No, thank you, Your Honor.

21                   JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the staff have any  
22 questions for Ms. Hall?

23                   MR. PRINGLE: Ms. Hall, are you aware of  
24 the Commission's complaint process?

25                   MS. HALL: Yeah. And I have done that. I

1 have called them. But you know what the Commission  
2 does? They go along with Ameren. And I have to write  
3 them back and call them back. I have to record the  
4 conversation and I have to do that.

5 It took me so long to get to the judge,  
6 that one time, because Ameren had charged me \$2,000  
7 when I wasn't staying there. And I had proof that I  
8 wasn't living there and that my brother was.

9 And so I had to show them that and give  
10 them that. They still wanted to charge me. Then after  
11 they did that, I should have gone on with the judge but  
12 Ameren agreed to take the \$2,000 off.

13 And guess what they did after then? After  
14 then, Ameren started billing \$400 or \$500 a month. I  
15 got every bill. I got all of my bills, from way back,  
16 since I have been at my mom's house, when I bought it.  
17 And all of my bills are a thousand dollars. I ain't  
18 seen, not one bill, that wasn't -- any year, I am  
19 paying \$1,000 something or more.

20 MR. PRINGLE: And you said just the one  
21 time, you filed a complaint with the Commission?

22 MS. HALL: No. I complained a lot of  
23 times. I got a lot of papers at home, where I filed  
24 with the Commission but the Commission don't really do  
25 nothing. The only thing they do is they go along with

1 Ameren. What Ameren says it is, it is. Wait a minute.  
2 Why did I call you for? You know what I'm saying? You  
3 are not even hearing my side of the story. You are not  
4 even trying to investigate, to see if what I am saying  
5 is true.

6 You are going on what Ameren is saying.  
7 And what Ameren says, that's what you go with. That's  
8 how the Commission seems to me. Do you know what I am  
9 saying?

10 And I write them letter and I have written  
11 them letters. I have called several times. And I have  
12 called several times. The Commission is for Ameren.  
13 They not for the people.

14 And that's how I feel about the Commission  
15 and I get so frustrated with the Commission because  
16 they not -- they are not for the people. They are not  
17 being fair.

18 Because whatever Ameren say, that's what  
19 they go by. They don't go by what I say or try to  
20 investigate. Well, let me listen to Ms. Hall. Let me  
21 investigate this.

22 Ms. Hall says this. Let me go back --  
23 they are like, the bill is right. They say you used  
24 this. They say you used that, so it's right. How is  
25 that right?

1           Look at my house and see how my house  
2 looks, how small it looks. I have a one-bedroom house  
3 and a basement and you are telling me that my bill is  
4 \$500, \$400 every month. Be serious.

5           So the Commission goes along with Ameren.  
6 They don't go along with the people. They don't try to  
7 help us. And I call the Commission all of the time and  
8 they don't do that.

9           The only reason I got that done, with the  
10 \$2,000 was because I push it, until I got to the judge.  
11 When Ameren seen that I went -- got to the judge --  
12 which I should have went on and had that hearing, with  
13 the judge.

14           But since Ameren saying they was going to,  
15 you know, take care of it, take it off and do right by  
16 me, then they started messing with me and making my  
17 bill higher every month, which was already high and  
18 they just make it even higher.

19           So I've been struggling with everything.  
20 I have been in the house. My mom died on August 3rd of  
21 2015 -- 2014. She died in 2014. Since 2014, I've been  
22 in her house and I have been struggling with Ameren  
23 every -- every year and I am still struggling with  
24 Ameren. Trying to keep my lights off. Because I have  
25 a pacemaker and I can't be without my -- I got a heart



1 monitor at home. So if my heart -- if my pacemaker  
2 shut down my heart, I got to use that, immediately. Do  
3 you know what I'm saying?

4 And I have -- I had to send them my  
5 thing, showing that I have a pacemaker and that I need  
6 that. And then they send me a letter saying, hey, if  
7 you don't pay this amount of money, we are going to  
8 shut you down. So you can only use this, this and  
9 this.

10 So that means I was only allowed to use  
11 the pacemaker. I can't use the stove, I can't use the  
12 refrigerator. They shut me all the way down and I  
13 won't be able to use the electric. How can a person  
14 live like that?

15 So the Commission, they are not for the  
16 people. They are for Ameren. They say they not but I  
17 have dealt with the Commission office. I called there  
18 and I have got everybody there, that I have spoken  
19 with.

20 I write them down, the dates and  
21 everything. And you know, the Commission is not for  
22 the people. You know, they don't -- they don't,  
23 really, recognize the people, like they -- like they  
24 should.

25 JUDGE GRAHAM: Ms. Hall --

1 MS. HALL: Okay.

2 JUDGE GRAHAM: -- should we see if the  
3 Office of Public Counsel has any questions for you?

4 MR. HALL: Ms. Hall, thank you for coming  
5 out today and providing your story. I have no  
6 questions.

7 MS. HALL: Okay.

8 JUDGE GRAHAM: Commissioner?

9 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yes.

10 Ms. Hall, how did you hear about tonight's  
11 meeting?

12 MS. HALL: It might have come in my bill,  
13 because I got a sheet of paper that was saying that  
14 they have a meeting and I wanted to go to the closest  
15 one, that was near me. This was the one that was  
16 closest, than going out, everywhere else.

17 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you for  
18 coming. I got that same notice in my bill.

19 MS. HALL: All right. Thank you.

20 JUDGE GRAHAM: Ms. Hall, thank you very  
21 much for your testimony.

22 MS. HALL: Thank you.

23 JUDGE GRAHAM: That's all of the folks  
24 that I have on the list. Is there anyone else out  
25 here, that wishes to come forth and make some comments?

1 Yes. Come on up. I can't see.

2 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: It's too dark to  
3 see, isn't it?

4 JUDGE GRAHAM: Yes. I was going to go  
5 right on.

6 Ma'am, would you like for us to move the  
7 podium?

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: She's coming.

9 MS. MOTEN: Good evening.

10 JUDGE GRAHAM: Could you -- before we  
11 swear you in, could you give me your full name and  
12 spell it?

13 MS. MOTEN: Charlotte Moten,  
14 C-H-A-R-L-O-T-T-E Moten, M-O-T-E-N.

15 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much,  
16 Ms. Moten. Would you raise your right hand and I will  
17 swear you in? Ms. Moten, do you solemnly swear or  
18 affirm that the comments that you are going to share  
19 with us tonight are the truth, the whole truth, and  
20 nothing but the truth?

21 MS. MOTEN: Yes.

22 JUDGE GRAHAM: You may proceed.

23 MS. MOTEN: I just have a brief comment.  
24 I work with an organization that provides  
25 community-based services with adults with chronic

1 mental illness and most of them only get Social  
2 Security supplemental benefits, which is about \$700 a  
3 month. They simply cannot afford an increase. That is  
4 just ridiculous.

5 And the fact that we are \$800,000 to  
6 \$65,000,000 apart is also ridiculous. There has got to  
7 be a way to work those numbers, so that people are more  
8 in line with one another.

9 I'm thinking that perhaps if Ameren was  
10 more interested in conserving energy than just selling  
11 energy to the public, like the public should be more  
12 interested, as well, in conserving energy and I think  
13 the public is going that route, to begin to -- as they  
14 see climate change all over the world, the fires in  
15 Australia and fires in California are just -- just so  
16 bad.

17 And so if Ameren would concentrate on  
18 energy conservation and not so much energy service, I  
19 think that would make a difference. And that is my  
20 comment.

21 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much,  
22 Ms. Moten.

23 Does the company have any questions?

24 MR. BANKS: No, thank you, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the staff?

1 MR. PRINGLE: No question, Judge.

2 JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the Office of Public  
3 Counsel?

4 MR. HALL: None. Thank you.

5 JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the Commissioner?

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Ms. Moten, did you  
7 hear about the meeting, also through your notice from  
8 Ameren, in your bill?

9 MS. MOTEN: No, actually from the Sierra  
10 Club.

11 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you  
12 very much.

13 MS. MOTEN: Uh-huh.

14 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much,  
15 Ms. Moten, for your testimony.

16 Is there anyone else that would like to  
17 come up and share some comments with us?

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yes. There is  
19 someone.

20 JUDGE GRAHAM: We have two hands out  
21 there, at least two. Ladies first.

22 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: She was just  
23 calling your attention to --

24 JUDGE GRAHAM: She was pointing to you?

25 MR. DOWNS: Yes.

1 JUDGE GRAHAM: Yes, sir. Would you state  
2 your name?

3 MR. DOWNS: Sure. David Downs.

4 JUDGE GRAHAM: And spell it.

5 MR. DOWNS: D-O-W-N-S.

6 JUDGE GRAHAM: And first name, even though  
7 it seems fairly obvious.

8 MR. DOWNS: D-A-V-I-D.

9 JUDGE GRAHAM: And that is D-O-W-N-S or  
10 E-S?

11 MR. DOWNS: Correct. No E.

12 JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Mr. Downs, would you  
13 raise your right hand and I will swear you in?  
14 Mr. Downs, do you solemnly swear or affirm that the  
15 comments that you are going to share with us tonight  
16 are the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the  
17 truth?

18 MR. DOWNS: Yes.

19 JUDGE GRAHAM: You may proceed.

20 MR. DOWNS: The earlier comments, I think  
21 the idea for a fixed charge for customers, a low fixed  
22 charge makes more sense to more people. If I use more,  
23 I pay more. If I use less, I pay less.

24 I also have to add to the previous  
25 comment. It seems almost comically large, the gap

1 between \$64,000,000 and \$800,000. I hope that if this  
2 is the normal process, that that number will meet  
3 somewhere in the middle.

4 I also want to make the comment that I  
5 hope that Ameren, as the state's largest investor in  
6 utility would make continued efforts -- specifically,  
7 although I have solar on my home and I work for a solar  
8 company.

9 I know that Ameren has, I think, two wind  
10 farms currently. There was a terrific book last year  
11 called Superpower, about a company that was building  
12 wind farms in the panhandle of Oklahoma, which is some  
13 of the windiest territory in the country.

14 And they were going to build high voltage  
15 DC lines, which I think most people have no idea,  
16 that's the biggest challenge in renewables, is getting  
17 the power where people are using it.

18 This company did the hard work, all of the  
19 right way, to build these high voltage DC power lines.  
20 And what they really needed was a buyer.

21 And at the end of the book, they were  
22 talking to Southern Company, one of the largest  
23 utilities in the country. And the offer for that power  
24 was 2.9 cents. Now, on my bill, my avoided rate, I  
25 believe is either 2.8 or 2.9 cents.

1           So if Ameren, as a large investor in  
2 utility, could purchase that power, to save avoided  
3 cost, would purchase it by the gigawatt and have it be  
4 completely clean wind power, I don't have a financial  
5 background but that seems to make sense to me.

6           Why couldn't we switch to a larger -- make  
7 a dramatically large commitment to renewable power at  
8 the same cost that we charge people for their avoided  
9 cost today and become a leader in the country, as an  
10 investor in utility, by making that commitment to a  
11 much greater renewable power commitment?

12           JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much.

13           And does Ameren have any questions for  
14 Mr. Downs?

15           MR. BANKS: No, thank you, Your Honor.

16           JUDGE GRAHAM: Does the staff?

17           MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge.

18           JUDGE GRAHAM: The Office of Public  
19 Counsel?

20           MR. HALL: None, thank you.

21           JUDGE GRAHAM: Commissioner?

22           COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yes. Two  
23 questions, Mr. Downs.

24           MR. DOWNS: Uh-huh.

25           COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: First of all, I



1 missed your very first sentence, where you talked about  
2 fixed charges. Would you tell me what your opinion was  
3 again, there?

4 MR. DOWNS: Sure. That there should be a  
5 lower fixed charge, instead of the \$2 increase.  
6 Because I think that a lower fixed charge, for  
7 customers who are energy efficient, they will pay less.

8 For customers who use more, they will pay  
9 more, by that higher energy charge, not fixed charge.

10 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. And how  
11 did you hear about tonight's meeting?

12 MR. DOWNS: I think via the Sierra Club.

13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you  
14 very much.

15 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much.

16 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: We appreciate you  
17 being here.

18 MR. DOWNS: Uh-huh.

19 JUDGE GRAHAM: Anyone else? As you  
20 figured out, I can't see very well. So if there is  
21 someone --

22 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: You just can't see  
23 in the dark well.

24 JUDGE GRAHAM: She did it. I thought we  
25 would get through --

1 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: You saw pretty well  
2 earlier.

3 JUDGE GRAHAM: I thought we were going to  
4 get through this hearing with no comment about the fact  
5 that we are talking in the dark.

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: You overestimate  
7 me.

8 JUDGE GRAHAM: Is there anyone else that  
9 would like to come forward?

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It sounds pretty good  
11 idea to me, what that last gentleman just said,  
12 David Downs and the other two ladies I heard, it sounds  
13 like a good idea to me, what --

14 JUDGE GRAHAM: Well, sir --

15 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Would you like to  
16 come up?

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's all I have to  
18 say.

19 JUDGE GRAHAM: All right.

20 I would like to thank all of our  
21 participants tonight for their comments. If anyone has  
22 additional comments that they think of later or you  
23 didn't want to come up and share them or if someone  
24 could not be present here tonight, that would like to  
25 make a comment, that you know about or reads the

1 record, you may make written comments by contacting the  
2 Office of Public Counsel or by going to the Public  
3 Service Commission's website.

4 This hearing is now adjourned. Have a  
5 good evening and safe travel, wherever you are going.  
6 We are off the record.

7 (The hearing concluded at 7:10 p.m.)

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- REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE -

I, SARA E. TOM, a Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was present at the Wainwright State Office Building Gallery, 111 N. Seventh Street, in the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri, on the 16th day of January, 2020; that thereafter, a hearing was held, commencing at the hour of 6:00 in the evening; that all proceedings which transpired were then reduced to writing by me; and that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcript of the record of proceedings made by me at that time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Sara E. Tom  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SARA E. TOM CCR #1234  
Certified Court Reporter within  
and for the State of Missouri

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