# **BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

# OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE's Tariffs to Increase Its Annual Revenues for Electric Service

Case No. ER-2008-0318 Tariff Nos. YE-2008-0605

## ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SUSPENDING TARIFF, SETTING HEARINGS, AND DIRECTING FILINGS

Issue Date: April 7, 2008

Effective Date: April 7, 2008

### **Procedural History**

On April 4, 2008, Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE submitted tariffs designed to implement a general rate increase for electric service. AmerenUE indicates the new electric service rates are designed to increase its gross annual electric revenues by approximately \$251,000,000. The submitted tariffs carry a May 4 effective date.

### The Commission's Authority to Suspend Proposed Tariffs:

Section 393.150, RSMo 2000, authorizes the Commission to suspend the effective date of a proposed tariff for 120 days, plus an additional six months to allow for a hearing on the matter. So that it will have sufficient time to study the effect of the tariffs and to determine if they are just, reasonable, and in the public interest, the Commission will suspend the tariffs for a period of 120 days beyond the requested effective date. Furthermore, because a hearing on the tariffs cannot be concluded within 120 days, the tariffs will be suspended for an additional six months.

#### Test Year, True-up and Local Public Hearing Recommendations:

AmerenUE used a historical test year ending March 31, 2008, to be updated for known and measurable changes through June 30, 2008, for purposes of its rate case filing. To quickly resolve test year and true-up questions, the Commission will require the other parties to promptly state their positions regarding AmerenUE's test year proposal, as well as the need for a true-up.

In addition to test year and true-up recommendations, the Commission will direct the parties to file recommendations regarding the scheduling of local public hearings. Any party recommending local public hearings shall also offer recommendations regarding the number, date, time, and location of those hearings.

#### Hearing Dates, Customer Notice, and Prehearing Conference:

The Commission will schedule an evidentiary hearing in this order and will reserve dates for a true-up hearing. By establishing the hearing dates now, the Commission will ensure that this matter is heard as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, the early establishment of the hearing dates will allow ample time for notice to be sent to customers. The Commission will also set an early prehearing conference and require the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule. Staff will have primary responsibility for preparing the proposed procedural schedule, but should coordinate the proposed schedule with the other parties as much as possible.

#### Notice and Intervention:

The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commissions of the counties in AmerenUE's service area, as well as upon the governing body for the City of St. Louis. In addition, the Commission's Public Information Office shall

2

make notice of this order available to the media serving AmerenUE's service area and to the members of the General Assembly representing that area. The Commission will allow proper persons 20 days from the issuance of this order to file an application to intervene.

## IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The proposed tariff submitted under Tariff File No. YE-2008-0605, on April 4,

2008, by Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, for the purpose of increasing rates for electric service, is suspended for 120 days, from May 4, 2008, to September 1, 2008.

2. The proposed tariff suspended for 120 days in ordered paragraph 1, is suspended an additional six months beyond September 1, 2008, to March 1, 2009.

3. Any proper person or entity wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene no later than April 28, 2008, with:

Colleen M. Dale, Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

and send copies to:

James B. Lowery Smith Lewis, LLP P.O. Box 918 Columbia, Missouri 65205

Steven R. Sullivan Sr. Vice President, General Counsel, & Secretary Ameren Services Company P.O. Box 66149 (MC 1300) St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149

Thomas M. Byrne Managing Associate General Counsel Ameren Services Company P.O. Box 66149 (MC 1310) St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149 Attorneys for Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE

and to:

Office of the Public Counsel Post Office Box 2230 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230

4. Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, and any persons or entities requesting intervention shall file, on or before May 7, 2008, a pleading either indicating concurrence in AmerenUE's recommended test year or recommending alternatives to that test year.

5. Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, and any intervenors shall file, on or before May 7, 2008, a pleading offering a recommendation concerning a true-up.

An early prehearing conference shall be held on May 27, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.
The early prehearing conference will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building,
200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

The parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule on or before June 3,
Staff shall have the primary responsibility for preparing and filing the proposed procedural schedule.

8. The parties shall file recommendations as to the times, dates and locations for local public hearings regarding the proposed rate increase on or before June 3, 2008.

9. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for November 5 through 7, November 10, November 12 through 14, November 17 through 21, and November 24 through 26, 2008, beginning each day at 8:30 a.m. December 18 and 19, 2008, are reserved for a true-up hearing, if such a hearing is ordered. The evidentiary hearing will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

10. Because the deadline for completion of the hearing process is fixed by law,

4

the Commission is unwilling to continue the scheduled hearing at the last minute to allow the parties more time to negotiate a settlement. Therefore, the parties are put on notice that the Commission will not grant a motion for continuance of the hearing filed less than a month before the beginning of the hearing unless a unanimous stipulation and agreement is filed along with the motion for continuance.

11. Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE shall notify each affected customer of the scheduled hearings. The form and time of the notice shall be agreed upon by the parties and shall be filed for the Commission's approval no later than June 3, 2008.

12. The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county within AmerenUE's services area, and upon the corresponding governing body for the City of St. Louis.

13. The Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the members of the General Assembly representing AmerenUE's service area and to the news media serving AmerenUE's service area.

14. All hearings in this case will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in any hearing, please call the Missouri Public Service Commission's Hotline at 800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

5

15. This order shall become effective on April 7, 2008.

BY THE COMMISSION

Colleen M. Dale Secretary

(SEAL)

Morris L. Woodruff, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008.