

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a            )  
AmerenUE for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing        )  
Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers        )  
In the Company's Missouri Service Area.                )            Case No. ER-2008-0318

**STAFF SUGGESTION RESPECTING  
EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), through the General Counsel's Office, and files the instant pleading in response to the Commission's Notice Regarding Hearing Schedule issued last Thursday, October 23, 2008. In light of the Commission's Notice Regarding Hearing Schedule, the Staff suggests that the Commission consider substituting evidentiary hearing dates on December 10, 11, and 12, 2008 for the present evidentiary hearing dates on November 17, 18, and 19, 2008. In support thereof, the Staff states as follows:

1. On October 23, 2008, the Commission issued a Notice Regarding Hearing Schedule. The Commission requested that the parties not schedule the Fuel Adjustment Clause and Return On Equity issues for the first three days of the hearings November 17, 18 and 19, 2008.

2. In attempting to determine what issues to schedule during that period it has occurred to the Staff that the Commission might also desire that opening statements and policy witnesses also not be scheduled during that time period.

3. Given this circumstance and the general matter of attempting to determine which issues to schedule for November 17, 18 and 19, 2008, the Staff viewed the Commission's schedule for the week of December 8, 2008, the week immediately after the last day of

evidentiary hearings presently scheduled in this proceeding. Although Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge Woodruff and the Commissioners have an evidentiary hearing scheduled for December 8 and 9, 2008, neither Judge Woodruff nor the Commissioners have evidentiary hearings scheduled on December 10, 11, or 12, 2008.

4. The Staff inquired by e-mail or telephone call of all of the other parties in the case<sup>1</sup> whether any had an objection to the Staff suggesting to the Commission that it consider substituting December 10, 11, and 12, 2008 for November 17, 18, and 19, 2008 in the evidentiary hearings procedural schedule. The Staff has received e-mails or otherwise communicated with all of the parties in the case, and no party has objected to the Staff making this suggestion, other than several parties indicating that they would expect that conflicts that they have the week of December 10, 11, and 12, 2008 would be accommodated. Of course, the Staff would work with such parties and would expect all other parties would work with such parties when the schedule of issues is put together, which will occur very soon.

5. For the purpose of the Commission's deliberations on this matter, the Staff desires to be clear in its communication with the Commission that this case will not settle and the Staff expects that the case will require the number of days that have been set for the evidentiary hearings.

Wherefore the Staff suggests that the Commission consider substituting evidentiary hearing dates on December 10, 11, and 12, 2008 for the present evidentiary hearing dates on November 17, 18, and 19, 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, Office of the Public Counsel, Noranda Aluminum, Inc., State of Missouri, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Energy Group, Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers, AARP, Consumers Council of Missouri, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Union of Operating Engineers Locals, The Commercial Group, Laclede Gas Company, Missourians for Safe Energy and Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson

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### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 29th day of October, 2008.

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson