## 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 for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers In the Company's Missouri Service Area.

Case No. ER-2007-0002 Tariff No. YE-2007-0007

## **APPLICATION TO INTERVENE BY AARP**

COMES NOW the AARP, by and through counsel, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075, and respectfully applies for intervention as a party in this general rate case initiated Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE ("AmerenUE") when it filed new proposed tariff sheets on July 10, 2006, requesting an additional rate increase of approximately \$360 million annually.

In support of this application, AARP states as follows:

1. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that advocates for people who are 50 years of age and older, seeking to promote their independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and to society as a whole.<sup>1</sup> AARP operates staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are approximately 755,000 AARP members currently residing in the state of Missouri.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In 1999, the "American Association of Retired Persons" changed its name to simply "AARP", in recognition of the fact that people do not have to be retired to be members. AARP is incorporated as a 501(c)(4) organization. Its affiliated AARP Foundation is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization.

AARP promotes the well-being of older persons through advocacy, education, and service on a number of priority issues. AARP has determined that advocacy for reasonable utility rates and service for seniors is one of these priority issues.

Correspondence, communications, orders and the decision in this matter should be addressed to:

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2. On July 11, 2006, the Commission issued an Order directing interested parties wishing to intervene to do so by July 31, 2006, and thus, this application is timely.

3. AARP has a long track record of professional participation before public utility commissions throughout the country, helping to provide a competent and substantial factual record in numerous cases. AARP has provided credible and persuasive testimony, assisting commissioners in crafting just and reasonable decisions on issues regarding rates and services for older utility consumers.

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4. AARP's interest in this matter relates to the proposed rates, terms and conditions of service for AmerenUE's residential electric customers. More specifically, AARP's interest in this matter relates to how these proposals may directly and adversely impact those Missouri seniors who are receiving electric service from AmerenUE. This interest is different than the general public interest. Seniors are particularly vulnerable to increases in energy prices. Seniors also devote a higher percentage of their total spending than do other age groups on residential energy costs. Seniors also have special needs with regard to access to electric service.

5. AARP is concerned by the enormous size of the electric rate increase proposed in AmerenUE's July 11, 2006 filing, especially in light of recent information suggesting that AmerenUE's rates are actually producing overearnings. AARP has already been granted intervention by the Commission in the ongoing formal investigation into AmerenUE's rates (Case No. EO-2006-0430) on May 31, 2006.

6. AARP is opposed to an unjust and unreasonable revenue requirement or a discriminatory rate design for AmerenUE's residential customers, and after further investigation, plans to provide the Commission with a more detailed position on the proposals and testimony submitted in this case. Accordingly, AARP believes that its intervention and participation in this proceeding would serve the public interest, and wishes to become a party to this case for all purposes.

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WHEREFORE, the AARP respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Application to Intervene, entitling it to fully participate in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John B. Coffman

MBE #36591

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Attorney for AARP

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or handdelivered to the following this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2006:

General Counsel's Office Missouri Public Service Commission P O Box 360 Jefferson City MO 65102 Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102

## James B. Lowery

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