

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

In the Matter of an Investigation into Whether)
Ratepayers are being Held Harmless from the) Case No. ER-2008-0015
Taum Sauk Disaster)

STAFF’S THIRD STATUS REPORT AND REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO LATE-FILE

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) in response to the December 26, 2007 Order Directing The Staff Of The Missouri Public Service Commission To File Status Reports And Directing The Office Of The Public Counsel To File A Position Statement. In said Order the Commission directed the Staff to file a Third Status Report on April 16, 2008. In response, the Staff requests leave to late-file this Third Status Report and states as follows:

1. In the Staff’s First Status Report, undersigned Staff counsel related that Staff had submitted to Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE) interrogatories and requests for the production of documents.¹ (Undersigned Staff counsel noted that due to the busy schedule of filings, hearings and holidays in the remainder of 2007 and early 2008, which the Staff and others faced, he was delayed in submitting to Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE) interrogatories and requests for the production of documents.) AmerenUE has responded to all of the Staff’s interrogatories / requests for the production of documents.

¹ In part, the Staff drafted the interrogatories and requests for the production of documents based on input from the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel). The Staff sought Public Counsel’s input in an effort to address the concerns which caused Public Counsel to raise Taum Sauk regulatory capacity as an issue in AmerenUE’s rate increase case, Case No. ER-2007-0002. On August 31, 2007 the State of Missouri filed an Application To Intervene in this proceeding. As a consequence, the State of Missouri has contacted the Staff on several occasions and the Staff has attempted to be of assistance to the State of Missouri.

2. In attempting to timely address the concerns raised by the Public Counsel, the Staff has faced the considerable demands of the various other cases (rate cases, rulemakings, financing applications, resource planning cases, etc.) pending before the Commission. These cases have greatly challenged the Staff's resources and prevented the Staff from being as far along as it had hoped to be respecting the instant matter.

3. There has always been the matter of if the Staff's investigation ever ultimately resulted in some ratemaking consequence being sought, whether that ratemaking consequence could be reflected in any manner outside the context of a rate proceeding. Additionally, although the Staff will let the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) speak for itself since Public Counsel initiated this formal case, the Staff did not anticipate that AmerenUE would file a general rate increase case as soon after Case No. ER-2007-0002 as AmerenUE has done. Thus, Case No. ER-2008-0318, the recently filed general rate increase case of AmerenUE, offers a vehicle for the investigation requested by Public Counsel that had not been anticipated by the Staff to be available so early.

4. This date the Staff is filing a Motion To Consolidate this investigation with the recently filed Case No. ER-2008-0318. Because of the pendency of AmerenUE's general electric rate increase case before this Commission, the Commission can endeavor to ensure that AmerenUE's general electric rates are set at a level to ensure ratepayers are held harmless from the "Taum Sauk disaster." The consolidation of the instant investigation with Case No. ER-2008-0318 will promote the efficient use of resources, prejudice no party, and will position both cases so that the parties and the Commission may seek to render effective and meaningful relief.

5. Undersigned counsel apologizes for the delay and the inconvenience caused by late-filing the instant Staff Third Status Report.

Wherefore the Staff files the above information as its Third Status Report respecting its investigation of whether AmerenUE's ratepayers are being held harmless from the "Taum Sauk disaster" with regard to lost Taum Sauk regulatory capacity sales and requests leave to late-file the instant Third Status Report.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven Dottheim

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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 23rd day of April 2008.

/s/ Steven Dottheim