

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

November 30, 2010

Jefferson City, Missouri

Volume 4

In The Matter Of:

Union Electric Company, d/b/a)	
AmerenUE's For Authority To)	
File Tariffs Increasing Rates)	Case No. GR-2010-0363
For Natural Gas Service)	
Provided To Customers In The)	
Company's Missouri Service)	
Area)	

KENNARD L. JONES, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

TERRY M. JARRETT
COMMISSIONER

REPORTED BY:

NANCY L. SILVA, RPR, CCR

TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 JUDGE JONES: Good evening.

2 My name is Kennard Jones. I'm the judge
3 presiding over this matter, and this is Case No.
4 GR-2010-0363 in the matter of Union Electric Company
5 doing business as AmerenUE for authority to file
6 tariffs increasing rates for natural gas service
7 provided to customers and companies in the Missouri
8 service area.

9 To my left is Commissioner Terry
10 Jarrett. Commissioner Jarrett, do you wish to say
11 anything?

12 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you, Judge.

13 Good evening, everyone. On behalf of all
14 of the commissioners, let me thank you for coming out
15 tonight. These public hearings are very important in
16 our process. I hope the question-and-answer session
17 was helpful for you. If you have any further
18 questions, feel free to get with our staff. We want
19 to make sure everybody gets any questions answered
20 that they have.

21 I am one of five commissioners. We're
22 stretched a little thin. We have a couple of other
23 cases that have local public hearings tonight, one in
24 Raytown. Some of the other commissioners are there,
25 so don't take the fact that I'm the only commissioner

1 here to be that we don't feel these are important.
2 we do. All of us do.

3 And you can rest assured that the
4 commissioners that are not here do read the
5 transcripts of these hearings, so we look forward to
6 your testimony and, again, thank you for coming out
7 tonight.

8 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Some of you may not
9 have noticed, but there was a sign-up sheet outside
10 of this room if you wanted to give testimony on the
11 record. Right now we have only one person signed up
12 to testify.

13 If after he testifies anyone else wishes
14 to give testimony on the record, you will have an
15 opportunity to do that.

16 And without delaying, let's go ahead and
17 get started. Is Leonard Steinman --

18 MR. OCHOA: Entries of appearance by
19 counsel.

20 JUDGE JONES: I'm sorry.

21 You can go ahead and come up to this
22 podium here.

23 Let's go ahead and get entries of
24 appearance from the parties represented here
25 beginning with the staff of the Commission.

1 MS. OTT: Jamie Ott, P.O. Box 360,
2 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

3 JUDGE JONES: And AmerenUE.

4 MS. TATRO: Wendy Tatro, 1901 Chouteau
5 Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

6 JUDGE JONES: Office of the Public
7 Counsel.

8 MR. POSTON: Thank you. Mark Poston,
9 attorney for the Office of Public Counsel.

10 JUDGE JONES: Okay. I don't see anyone
11 else here. I don't believe there are any other
12 parties, so Mr. -- is it Steinmand with a "D"?

13 MR. STEINMAN: Leonard Steinman, 110 North
14 Lincoln, Jefferson City, Missouri.

15 JUDGE JONES: Can you raise your right
16 hand.

17 LEONARD STEINMAN,
18 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

19 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, sir. You may
20 proceed.

21 MR. STEINMAN: It's not very likely, but
22 there's a lot of people that cannot afford this rate
23 increase just in my community alone -- they -- if you
24 figure \$556, and that's basically the minimum for
25 Social Security a year.

1 And the cities and the counties don't
2 ever come to those question-and-answer deals with the
3 Public Service Commission because they're on the
4 take.

5 The reason why I say they're on the take
6 is because they raise their taxes with whatever
7 equity taxes are involved. You take 8 percent,
8 roughly 8 percent, for taxes, the City gets a
9 percentage, the County gets a percentage, the State
10 gets a percentage of the taxes.

11 Every time there's a rate increase,
12 there's a tax rate increase. If you take people that
13 are making \$556 a month -- I'd sat down and tried
14 figuring it out, but it's roughly one-fifth of one
15 month's check. They're having a hard time just to
16 meeting food ends meets (sic). I would like to have
17 you consider that.

18 And that's my biggest proposal is the
19 consideration that we have people that cannot make
20 their adjustment pay and feed themselves, let alone
21 trying to keep energy into their household or
22 apartments or wherever they're living at.

23 At one time I lived in a cardboard box.
24 You can't do that in the state of Missouri, and it's
25 awful hard to live in a cardboard box when it rains,

1 but you have to figure that in consideration because
2 there's so many people out of work today, not in
3 Jefferson City, not in the surrounding area of
4 St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, because there is
5 a little bit of work there yet and the economy is
6 still grasping, but it's falling very quickly, if
7 you're paying any attention.

8 Jefferson City, we're starting to have
9 state layoffs. They're gonna be on the same equal --
10 all -- equal, and when they run out of unemployment
11 insurance, they're gonna be on the same equal as what
12 the people making \$556 a month for Social Security.

13 I've seen wastage in my lifetime. I've
14 seen scrap, that wasn't scrap, get throwed in the
15 scrap bins.

16 I was in the military. I -- I -- I put a
17 brand new D-8 dozer in 1973 in a hole with a dozer
18 that was ten years old because the federal government
19 wanted to have more money to tell them that they
20 needed more money -- to the federal government -- to
21 hide it. I just seen this happen in the last 16
22 weeks in Missouri with AmerenUE at a scrapyard, and
23 the material that they had throwed away didn't even
24 have stench gas on it, and I know what stench gas
25 smells like because I hauled propane for years.

1 They didn't even have a mark where you
2 could even -- put on the meters you could even say
3 there was a pipe hooked onto it, and they disposed of
4 it for 23 cents a pound. I know the meters cost
5 anywhere from 450 to \$600 to buy brand new, and I
6 would love to have the State and the Public Service
7 Commission observe what goes on with this because
8 it's wastage. That's all I have to say.

9 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Steinman.
10 Just a moment.

11 Commissioner Jarrett, do you have any
12 questions?

13 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: No, I don't have
14 any questions of Mr. Steinman, but I do thank you for
15 your testimony tonight.

16 MR. STEINMAN: Thank you.

17 JUDGE JONES: Is there anyone else that
18 would like to testify, on the record, by a show of
19 hands?

20 (No response.)

21 JUDGE JONES: Okay. I don't see anyone.
22 With that, then, we'll go off the record. I thank
23 you all for attending. I hope you got all your
24 questions answered.

25 (The hearing concluded.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Nancy L. Silva, CCR, within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.


Nancy L. Silva, CCR

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