

Exhibit No.:
Witness: Robert Mayer
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Issue: Noranda Economic Impact
Sponsoring Party: Noranda Aluminum, Inc.
Case No.: ER-2010-0036

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

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

)
) **Case No. ER-2010-0036**
)
)
)
)

Direct Testimony of Robert Mayer

On behalf of

Noranda Aluminum, Inc.

January 6, 2010

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

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

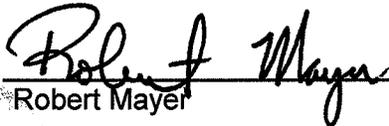
Case No. ER-2010-0036
Tariff Nos. YE-2010-0054
and YE-2010-0055

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
COUNTY OF STODDARD) SS

Affidavit of Robert Mayer

Robert Mayer, being first duly sworn, on his oath states:

1. My name is Robert Mayer. I am a Member of the Missouri Senate representing the 25th Senatorial District. My business address is 21 Vine Street in Dexter, Missouri 63841.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my direct testimony, which was prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in Missouri Public Service Commission Case No. ER-2010-0036.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that the testimony is true and correct.



Robert Mayer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of January, 2010.



LINDA E. ARMSTRONG
My Commission Expires
January 1, 2013
Callaway County
Commission #09452811



Notary Public

1 Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

2 A Robert Mayer. My business address is 21 Vine Street in Dexter, Missouri.

3

4 Q I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE A MISSOURI STATE SENATOR, IS THAT
5 CORRECT?

6 A Yes. I am a Member of the Missouri Senate representing the 25th Senatorial District
7 here in Southeast Missouri.

8

9 Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS POSITION, SENATOR?

10 A I have served as State Senator for five years and prior to that I served in the Missouri
11 House of Representatives for four years.

12

13 Q WILL YOU BE COMPENSATED FOR PROVIDING YOUR TESTIMONY?

14 A No.

15

16 Q DOES YOUR CONSTITUENT AREA ENCOMPASSES THE NORANDA ALUMINUM
17 PLANT?

18 A Yes, it does encompass Noranda. There are numerous counties in my legislative
19 district—Ripley, Butler, Wayne, Stoddard, Dunklin, and New Madrid, and of course,
20 Noranda is located in New Madrid County.

21

22 Q ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATIONS AT NORANDA?

23 A I am very familiar with the operations of Noranda and even prior to my legislative tenure,
24 I was familiar with Noranda.

25

1 **Q DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE**
2 **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING THE ECONOMIC**
3 **IMPACT THAT NORANDA'S OPERATIONS HAVE ON YOUR CONSTITUENTS?**

4 **A** Well, in the Bootheel, Noranda with its 900 high quality jobs, has a major impact on our
5 economy. Each of the counties that I represent have Noranda employees who reside
6 there and these employees are some of our top citizens and certainly enjoy a high rate
7 of pay and benefits because of their good employer, Noranda. Noranda also generates
8 almost 25 percent of the total property taxes that are paid in New Madrid County and
9 about one-third of the taxes paid for the New Madrid County Central R1 School District,
10 so not only does Noranda provide 900 excellent paying jobs, but also pays a good deal
11 of taxes there in New Madrid County and for the local school system there in New
12 Madrid. Here in Southeast Missouri, and particularly in the Bootheel, we have had
13 challenges over the years in creating job opportunities for our citizens. Noranda is the
14 crown jewel of our manufacturing community in the Bootheel and it is very important that
15 it continue to operate and remain profitable.

16
17 **Q SENATOR, ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN**
18 **YOUR COMMUNITY?**

19 **A** Well, I always have a keen interest in economic development for our region and from
20 time to time I receive calls from economic developers and local and county leaders to
21 assist them in helping some of our area businesses and industries. I know that job
22 creation and economic development play a big part in creating a good quality of life in
23 the Bootheel of Missouri, so any time that I can lend assistance to one of our existing
24 businesses or industries or can play a part in working with the Department of Economic
25 Development and other state agencies to assist our local businesses and employers, I
26 do get involved and want to be involved.

1 Q SENATOR, WITH THAT BACKGROUND, DO YOU HAVE A SENSE AS TO
2 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF MANUFACTURING JOBS SUCH AS THOSE THAT
3 EXIST AT NORANDA?

4 A I believe that our manufacturing jobs are generally better paying jobs with more benefits
5 and they create other jobs that supply products and services to manufacturers.
6 Furthermore, we've seen over the last 20 years that it has become more difficult to
7 attract and keep manufacturers in our area like in other areas of the country. The
8 difficulty is we are now in a worldwide economy, and the competition for these jobs is
9 vicious and oftentimes the playing field is not level. Additionally, with the advancement
10 in technology and more efficient manufacturing processes, there are fewer of these type
11 jobs. With the 900 good paying manufacturing jobs, you can understand why Noranda is
12 so important to our economy and why we want to keep Noranda in Southeast Missouri.

13
14 Q SENATOR, YOU MENTIONED THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. WHY IS THAT AN
15 IMPORTANT CRITERIA IN YOUR VIEW?

16 A Education is a vital tool for our people to possess. Without a first-class education, most
17 of our citizens will not enjoy the quality of life they desire. Without that education, they
18 won't find the jobs they need to provide for their families and themselves. We depend
19 on our local businesses and industries to pay local property taxes that go directly to our
20 schools. We have an excellent school in New Madrid County with some of the best
21 facilities and educators in the state. Those schools have good facilities and good
22 teachers because Noranda provides about a third of the taxes that help run the New
23 Madrid Central R1 School District.

24
25 Q ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

26 A The Bootheel of Missouri has a lot of challenges and certainly job creation and retention
27 are at the top of the list. When reviewing our manufacturing community, I can say that

1 Noranda is the crown jewel of our manufacturing community. It provides 900 good
2 paying jobs with health benefits, including retirement plans, and it pumps millions of
3 dollars into the regional economy. It is imperative that Noranda continue to operate and
4 remain profitable.

5

6 **Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?**

7 **A** Yes, it does.

8