

Witness: Mark Baker  
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony  
Issue: Noranda Economic  
Impact  
Sponsoring Party: Noranda Aluminum  
Inc.  
Case No.: ER-2008-0318

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION

AMERENUE

CASE NO. ER-2008-0318

PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
MARK BAKER

August 28, 2008

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union Electric )  
Company d/b/a AmerenUE for Authori- )  
ty to File Tariffs Increasing Rates )  
for Electric Service Provided to )  
Customers in the Company's Missouri )  
Service Area. )

ER-2008-0318

AFFIDAVIT OF MARK BAKER

STATE OF MISSOURI )  
COUNTY OF New Madrid ) ss

Mark Baker, of lawful age, on his oath states: That he has reviewed the attached written testimony in question and answer form, all to be presented in the above case, that the answers in the attached written testimony were given by him; that he has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; that such matters are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

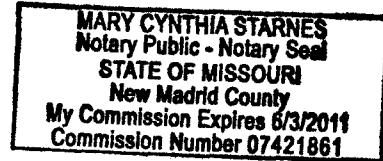
Mark Baker  
Mark Baker

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.

Mary Cynthia Starnes  
Notary Public

[SEAL]

My Commission expires: 6/3/2011



PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
MARK BAKER

1 **Q: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND YOUR POSITION.**

2

3 A: My name is Mark Baker and I am currently New Madrid County  
4 Commissioner. This is my 4th year in office. I won the  
5 August primary election and face no opposition in November.  
6 Therefore, in January 2009 I will start a second term in that  
7 position.

8

9 **Q: IN NEW MADRID COUNTY DO THEY HAVE JUST A SINGLE COMMISSIONER**  
10 **OR IS IT SEVERAL PERSONS ON A BOARD?**

11

12 A: There are three commissioners. There is one from the south  
13 end of the County, District 2, and there is one from the north  
14 end of the County, District 1, which is what I am, and then we  
15 have a commissioner that is over the whole County -- that is  
16 elected by the whole county, the Presiding Commissioner.  
17 Three all together.

18

19 **Q: I AM AN OLD MISSOURIAN. IS THIS WHAT WE USED TO CALL THE**  
20 **COUNTY COURT?**

21

1 A: Yes. County Court, County Judges, yes, those were the names  
2 for them.

3

4 **Q: COMMISSIONER BAKER, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING BESIDES BEING**  
5 **COMMISSIONER?**

6

7 A: I am a farmer as my main line of work.

8

9 **Q: COMMISSIONER BAKER, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH NORANDA ALUMINUM?**

10

11 A: Yes, I am.

12

13 **Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PLANT AND ABOUT HOW THE PEOPLE**  
14 **THERE OPERATE IT AND SO ON?**

15

16 A: I think the plant is vital to not only New Madrid, but to New  
17 Madrid County and southeast Missouri as a whole. I think  
18 there's about 1,100 people that work there, I am not sure of  
19 exactly the number, but 1,100 - 1,200. I know some of those  
20 people live right here in New Madrid City, New Madrid County,  
21 but also every County in the Boot Heel and I am sure there are  
22 a few out of state as well. Noranda is a vital employer for  
23 southeast Missouri.

24

1 Q: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE NORANDA AS A CORPORATE CITIZEN IN THE  
2 LARGER COMMUNITY?  
3

4 A: I think Noranda is a good corporate citizen. I know that every  
5 cause -- worthy causes or whatever you might call it --  
6 approaches Noranda about funding or donations. I don't know  
7 what the policy is, but I know they fund lots of activities  
8 not only in New Madrid but also Sikeston and other communities  
9 in the Boot Heel.  
10

11 Q: FROM ALL OF THAT I TAKE IT THAT YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE  
12 IMPORTANT TO YOU AS A PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE, A PUBLIC  
13 OFFICIAL, THAT NORANDA CONTINUE ITS OPERATIONS THERE IN THE  
14 SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE STATE?  
15

16 A: Yes. It is absolutely vital that Noranda be there as an  
17 employer in this part of the state. I couldn't even begin to  
18 imagine the effect that not having Noranda or losing Noranda  
19 would have on the economy for several communities in our area.  
20

21 Q: HAS BEING A COUNTY COMMISSIONER GIVEN YOU A DIFFERENT  
22 PERSPECTIVE ABOUT NORANDA THAN YOUR PREVIOUS POSITION OF NEW  
23 MADRID MAYOR?  
24

1 A: Well, I would say it does because one of the biggest concerns  
2 as a commissioner is the budget that we have to operate our  
3 County government off of. That is derived from several  
4 sources but mostly sales tax and property tax. I would hate  
5 to think about losing Noranda and the revenue that is  
6 generated due to Noranda being in this area. Especially the  
7 County and the County government - not to mention the payrolls  
8 that are taken home by all those employees and the number of  
9 dollars that money represents as far as how many times those  
10 dollars turn over in our economy in the Boot Heel. Noranda  
11 has 21% of the county's total assessed value for 2007.  
12 Noranda also paid \$3,285,002.46 in county tax in tax year  
13 2007.

14  
15 **Q: DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

16  
17 A: Yes it does.