

Exhibit No.:
Witness: Representative Kent Hampton
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Issue: Noranda Economic Impact
Sponsoring Party: Noranda Aluminum, Inc.
Case No.: EC-2014-_____

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

In the Matter of Noranda
Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for
Revisions to Union Electric
Company d/b/a Ameren
Missouri's Large Transmission
Service Tariff to Decrease its
Rate for Electric Service

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) Case No. EC-2014-_____
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Direct Testimony of Kent Hampton

On behalf of

Noranda Aluminum, Inc.

December 5, 2013

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Noranda
Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for
Revisions to Union Electric
Company d/b/a Ameren
Missouri's Large Transmission
Service Tariff to Decrease its
Rate for Electric Service

Case No. EC-2014-01__

STATE OF MISSOURI)

COUNTY OF COLE)

) SS

Affidavit of Kent Hampton

Kent Hampton, being first duly sworn, on his oath states:

1. My name is Kent Hampton. I am a Member of the Missouri House of Representatives, representing the 150th District. My address is 21561 County Rd. 122, Malden, MO 63863.

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. _____.

3. I hereby swear and affirm that the testimony is true and correct.


Kent Hampton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of December, 2013.



LINDA E. ARMSTRONG
My Commission Expires
January 1, 2017
Cole County
Commission #12452811


Notary Public

1 **Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.**

2 A Kent Hampton - My address is 21561 County Rd. 122, Malden, MO 63863.

3

4 **Q WHAT ELECTED POSITION DO YOU HOLD?**

5 A I am a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, and I represent the
6 150th District.

7

8 **Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVE?**

9 A I was first elected in 2010 and have served for 3 years.

10

11 **Q WHERE IS THE 150th DISTRICT?**

12 A The 150th district includes the center and southern parts of Dunklin County and
13 the southern portion of Pemiscot County in Southeast Missouri.

14

15 **Q DOES NORANDA ALUMINUM, INC., OPERATE A SMELTER IN THE
16 DISTRICT THAT YOU REPRESENT?**

17 A The Noranda Aluminum plant is located nearby in New Madrid County. The plant
18 is important to the entire southeast Missouri region, including my district.

19

20 **Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

21 A To provide information and stress the importance of the Noranda smelter to the
22 people of southeast Missouri.

23

24 **Q ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATIONS AT THE NORANDA PLANT IN
25 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI?**

1 A Yes. I am familiar with the Noranda plant. I enjoyed the opportunity to work at
2 this facility for 38 years before retiring. The employees of this facility are
3 scattered throughout southeast Missouri. The folks that work at Noranda are my
4 friends and constituents.

5

6 **Q DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS THAT YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE**
7 **WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
8 **REGARDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NORANDA'S OPERATIONS IN**
9 **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI?**

10 A The area where the plant is located is mainly row-crop farming and agricultural
11 land. Other plants and industry have left this area for one reason or another.
12 This facility serves folks and the economy in Southeast Missouri. There are over
13 900 families that are supported by jobs at Noranda, which provide a high rate of
14 wages along with benefits. This allows them to remain in an area they call home.
15 Noranda provides nearly 18 percent of the property taxes paid in New Madrid
16 County and around 28 percent of the taxes paid for New Madrid County R-1
17 School District. By doing this they provide not only good paying jobs, but a large
18 part of the taxes paid in New Madrid County. Noranda is an asset to our area and
19 must be able to remain profitable and continue to operate for many years to
20 come.

21

22 **Q HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR**
23 **ROLE AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE?**

24 Yes I have worked on Economic Development issues with Bootheel Regional
25 Planning Commission, Ozark Regional Planning Commission, MoDot, along with

1 the State of Missouri. I understand that attracting jobs is very challenging as we
2 compete in a global economy. Technological factors have made many jobs
3 obsolete. I also understand that creating and especially retention of jobs are
4 mandatory in ensuring quality of life in southeast Missouri. If these Noranda jobs
5 were lost it is very doubtful anything would fill this void, and the economic impact
6 would not only be felt in the region but also the state.

7
8 **Q WITH THAT EXPERIENCE, DO YOU HAVE A SENSE AS TO THE RELATIVE**
9 **IMPORTANCE OF MANUFACTURING JOBS SUCH AS THOSE THAT EXIST**
10 **AT THE NORANDA PLANT?**

11 **A** The employment opportunities at Noranda provide better pay along with benefits
12 that are generally not available in southeast Missouri. Manufacturing spurs job
13 growth in industries that provide products and services needed for their
14 production activities. The past 20 years have proved that it is increasingly difficult
15 to attract and keep industry in our area. The fact that over 900 families feel the
16 benefits of Noranda underscores the importance of these jobs, and the
17 importance of the company's ability to remain profitable.

18
19 **Q ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?**

20 **A** When I survey the southeast portion of the state and consider which companies
21 are making an impact, Noranda heads the list. With 970 good paying jobs, health
22 benefits and retirement plans, while pumping millions of dollars into the regional
23 economy, Noranda's ability to continue its operations and its profitability affect all
24 of southeast Missouri.

1 Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?

2 A Yes, it does. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my views on
3 this issue.

4