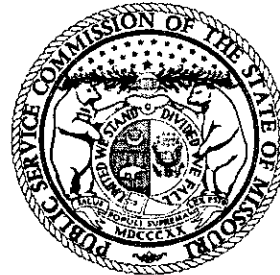


Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department:
All Parties in Case No. **EO-2002-351**
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Kelvin Simmons *KLS*
Commissioner Connie Murray *CM*
Commissioner Sheila Lumpe *SL*
Commissioner Steve Gaw *SG*
Commissioner Bryan Forbis *BF*



DATE: January 30, 2003

On December 27, 2002, we received the attached document from Robert Duncan. The Commission is currently considering the issues discussed in this document in Case No. **EO-2002-351**. **EO-2002-351** is a contested case. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Although communications from members of the public and members of the legislature are always welcome, those communications must be made known to all parties to a contested case so that those parties have the opportunity to respond. According to the Commission's rules (4 CSR 240-4), when a communication (either oral or written) occurs outside the hearing process, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it each member of the Commission and the parties to the case. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, we submit this report pursuant to the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2002

Dear Members:

Connie Murray

I am writing this letter to impress upon you the gravity of the decision you've been asked to make concerning the certificate of necessity and convenience for Ameren UE.

I know it's a tough call to make because there are a lot of things to consider. In the public hearing, you heard and saw a lot of evidence from both sides, and both sides made their points. But all of that was based on technical advances and cold hard facts. Now, I want you to warm up to the human side of this ordeal.

I and my neighbors are real people, just like all of you. I have a house payment, car payment, children who need things, just like you do, and my family is seeking what every family seeks: peace. I grew up in this area, as did my friends and family. We like it here. In fact, I can't imagine living anywhere else. But that doesn't apply strictly to this location. I'm talking about the lay of the land, the plush greens of our hillsides in the spring, the beauty of the natural setting that I have grown up with and love dearly.

All of us have land that is designed to give us a place to call our own as well as give animals a place of refuge. Do you know how peaceful it is to watch a deer graze from your window? It's like a Rockwell painting. Now, along comes Ameren UE and says they are going to put a giant electric line right through all of that. Does that seem fair to you?

Before you answer, consider this. Not one of UE's employees said they thought it was fair. At a public meeting in July 2002, our group, Concerned Citizens for Farms and Family Heritage had a chance to talk with the big wigs who run UE. Several times questions were asked of them about whether they would like having a power line running through their back yard. And not one of them said they would.

It seems to me what's good for the goose should be good for the gander. The cold-blooded, money driven faceless entity that is UE would heave our family treasures over the side if it meant adding a few dollars to their pockets. But the people who make up the thousands of parts of that killing machine come across almost as human as us. So where is this coming from? Do you suppose these people flip a switch when they go to work? One minute they understand the human experience, with all its moments of triumph and glory, and the next, they're automatons working strictly in the service of the machine? How do they sleep at night, knowing they were responsible for disrupting a person's life? How do they feel peace when they force families out of their homes?

For a long time, the utility companies have answered to very few. Of course, the bell they'll always heed is money. But life isn't just about who makes the most money. Tyrants gain and maintain control on the backs of those they would presume to lead. Ameren is no different. They are a multi-billion dollar a year industry that has built itself up on the backs of its customers. And if it costs us a broken home or a rip in our rural scenic setting, so be it, according to them.

Well, I am asking you to consider UE for what they really are: A giant, faceless company made up of people with the potential to care about us. Please deny their application. They have other means to get the job done with a lot less human suffering.

Ask yourselves this question: If they money was even on an alternative, would they take it? Would they let us live in peace and raise our families if they could find a feasible alternate corridor? From the answers they gave at our meeting, I'd say yes. Please help us live in peace by denying UE's application.

Sincerely,

Robert Duncan
Linn. Co.
65051