

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 18, 2001

CASE NO: EM-96-149

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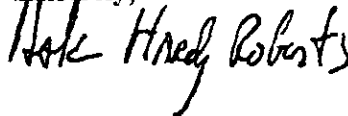
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Enclosed find certified copy of an NOTICE in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric Company)
for an Order Authorizing: (1) Certain Merger Transactions)
Involving Union Electric Company; (2) The Transfer of)
Certain Assets, Real Estate, Leased Property, Easements,)
and Contractual Agreements to Central Illinois Public)
Service Company; and (3) In Connection Therewith, Certain)
Other Related Transactions.)

Case No. EM-96-149

ORDER GRANTING STAFF LEAVE TO LATE-FILE ITS
MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE
AND ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF FILING DATE

This order grants the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission leave to late-file its Motion for Extension of Deadline for filing its Notice of Areas of Disagreement, grants Staff's Motion for Extension of Deadline, and directs Staff to file its Notice of Areas of Disagreement no later than February 19, 2002.

On November 21, 2001, Staff filed its Motion for Extension of Deadline to File Notice of Areas of Disagreement and its motion for leave to late-file its motion. Staff stated that the Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, filed its Final Earnings Report for the third credit sharing period of the Second Experimental Alternative Regulatory Plan (Second EARP) on October 17, 2001. Pursuant to the Stipulation and Agreement approved in this case on February 21, 1997, AmerenUE was required to file a final earnings report and a proposed credit sharing report 105 days after each of three credit sharing periods ending June 30. For this third credit sharing period ending June 30, 2001, the date for filing the Final Earnings Report was October 13, 2001. The Stipulation and Agreement approved by

the Commission on February 21, 1997, also required the signatory parties to file notice of any areas of disagreement not previously brought to the attention of the Commission for resolution within 30 days after AmerenUE's Final Earnings Report was filed on November 16, 2001.

On November 15, 2001, the Office of the Public Counsel filed its Notice of Areas of Disagreement in compliance with paragraph 7.f.x. of the Stipulation and Agreement approved by the Commission on February 21, 1997. Public Counsel identified 22 separate areas of disagreement to be brought to the Commission for resolution. Public Counsel also stated that further discussion and discovery efforts will likely narrow or otherwise alter the areas of disagreement listed in its pleading. Public Counsel reserved the right to address additional issues that may arise subsequently during this case.

In its Motion for Extension of Deadline, Staff stated that it commenced monitoring the third year of the Second EARP during its earnings/revenues audit of AmerenUE. Staff stated that due to the presently pending Laclede Gas Company rate increase case in Case No. GR-2001-629, the rate increase case filing of Citizens Electric Corporation in Case No. ER-2002-217, and depositions and other work required in Case No. EC-2002-1, Staff's excess earnings/revenues complaint case against AmerenUE, as well as other Commission business, Staff has not been able to complete its review of the third and final sharing period of the Second EARP. Due to the required events on all of these cases, Staff believes that it cannot complete its review of the third and final sharing period of the Second EARP and *identify areas of disagreement with AmerenUE before February 19, 2002, when surrebuttal testimony and schedules are due to be filed under Staff's proposed schedule in Case No. EC-2002-1.* No objections to Staff's request were received.

The Commission finds that Staff has shown good cause for extending the deadline for filing its notice of areas of disagreement. Further, the Commission will grant Staff leave to late-file its Motion for Extension of Deadline in this case because Staff's delay in filing this motion was not intended to consciously delay the completion of the review of the third and final year of the Second EARP, but was caused by the other work related to cases currently before the Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Motion for Extension of Deadline to File Notice of Areas of Disagreement and For Leave to Late-File Instant Motion, filed by Staff on November 21, 2001, is granted.
2. That Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file its notice of areas of disagreement no later than February 19, 2002.
3. That this order shall become effective on December 28, 2001.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

(SEAL)

Shelly A. Register, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

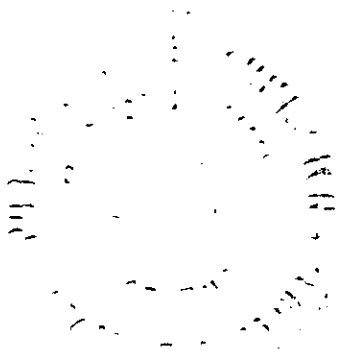
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 18th day of December, 2001.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 18th day of Dec. 2001.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge