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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application)
of Union Electric Company, Farmers')
Electric Cooperative and Mr. Willie)
Hibner for an Order Authorizing the Sale,)
Transfer, and Assignment of Certain)
Electric Distribution Facilities,)
Easements, and Other Rights which)
Generally Constitute a Portion of Union)
Electric Company's Distribution System to)
Farmers' Electric Cooperative, which is)
Necessary to Provide Retail Electric)
Service to Mr. Hibner, Changing Hibner's)
Electric Service Provider from Union)
Electric Company to Farmers' Electric)
Cooperative.)

Case No. EO-98-416

ORDER AND NOTICE

On April 1, 1998, Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE), Farmers' Electric Cooperative (Farmers'), and Willie Hibner filed a joint application pursuant to Sections 393.106 and 393.190, RSMo 1994, seeking authorization of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) for the sale, transfer, and assignment of certain electric distribution facilities, easements, and other rights of AmerenUE to Farmers', and for a change of electric service provider for Hibner Sawmill, from AmerenUE to Farmers'.

The joint application states that the proposed sale of assets will not be detrimental to the public interest, and the change of electric service provider for Hibner Sawmill will be in the public interest. Applicants explain that Hibner Sawmill is currently served from an approximately 25-mile 34.5 kV line which serves no other customers, but that after the change to Farmers', the sawmill will be served from a three-

phase 13.2 kV distribution line in the immediate area. This line is at a standard voltage and will have considerably less exposure than the current line.

The negotiated sale price of the assets is \$100. However, applicants state that AmerenUE will realize an estimated savings of \$18,866 per year in operation and maintenance costs. The application is signed and verified by AmerenUE, Farmers' and Willie Hibner. Attached to the application as Exhibit C is a Contract for Purchase and Sale of Distribution Facilities, which more fully describes the proposed transaction. In addition, applicants state that the tax revenues of Livingston County will be reduced by approximately \$1,000 as a result of the sale of AmerenUE's facilities serving the Hibner Sawmill.

The Commission finds that the Commission's Information Officer should send notice of this order to the publisher of each newspaper located within Livingston County, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri and to members of the Missouri General Assembly representing Livingston County. In addition, the Records Department of the Commission should send a copy of this order to the county commission of Livingston County.

The Commission also finds that proper parties should be given an opportunity to intervene in this case. Applications to intervene shall be filed on or before May 28, 1998, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application to intervene shall be sent to:

William B. Bobnar
Ameren Services Company
One Ameren Plaza
1901 Chouteau Avenue
P.O. Box 66149 (MC 1310)
St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149

Victor S. Scott
Patrick A. Baumhoer
Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer
305 East McCarty Street
P.O. Box 1438
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1438

Willie Hibner
Route 1
Chillicothe, Missouri 64601

Any other interested parties with inquiries may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone number (573) 751-4857.

In the event no proper party files an application to intervene and neither the Commission Staff nor the Office of the Public Counsel requests a hearing, the Commission may act upon the verified application without a hearing. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Information Officer of the Missouri Public Service Commission is directed to send notice as described in the body of this order.

2. That the Records Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission is directed to send notice as described in the body of this order.

3. That any interested party wishing to intervene in this matter shall file its application to intervene on or before May 28, 1998, as described in the body of this order.

4. That this order shall become effective on April 30, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale H. Roberts

Dale H. Roberts
Chief Regulatory Law Judge/Secretary

(S E A L)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of April, 1998.

Bensavage, Regulatory Law Judge