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May 5, 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED³

MAY 05 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

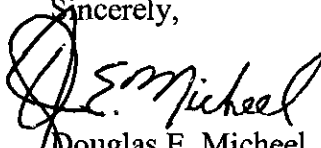
**RE: Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE,
Case No. GR-2000-512**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced case, please find the original and 8 copies of **Office of the Public Counsel's Request for Local Public Hearings**. Please "file stamp" the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office. I have on this date mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Douglas E. Micheel
Senior Public Counsel

DEM:kh

cc: Counsel of record

Enclosure

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

FILED³
MAY 05 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a)	
AmerenUE for authority to file tariffs increasing)	Case No. GR-2000-512
Rates for gas service provided to customers in the)	
Company's Missouri Service Area.)	

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S
REQUEST FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

COMES NOW, the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel") and respectfully requests the Public Service Commission ("Commission") to issue an order scheduling local public hearings in the above-referenced matter. In support of this request Public Counsel states:

1. That on February 18, 2000, Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE ("UE"), filed a general rate case with the Commission requesting an increase in rates for the Company's service area.
2. That UE's proposed tariffs, if adopted, would result in a rate increase of approximately \$12 million or fourteen percent. For the average residential customer, based upon average usage of 67 Ccf per month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$9.97 a month. For residential customers UE has proposed to increase the customer charge from \$8.00 per month to \$14.00 per month. If this charge is adopted it would be the highest customer charge in Missouri.
3. That as a result of the proposed rate increase by UE, the Commission should schedule local public hearings in order to allow members of the public in the Company's service area an opportunity to testify concerning the increase and the quality of service presently received.

4. Public Counsel requests that the local public hearings be scheduled in Columbia, Jefferson City, Mexico, Wentzville, and Cape Girardeau. As noted in the prefiled direct testimony of Richard J. Kovach these five communities are the larger communities served by UE. (Direct Testimony of Richard J. Kovach, p. 3.)

5. That in order to provide the public with adequate notice of the requested local public hearings, Public Counsel suggests that the following information regarding local public hearings be provided to the public:

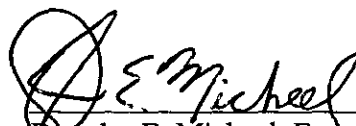
- a) That notice of the time, date and place of the local hearing with information regarding the amount of the proposed increase and the approximate percentage of the proposed increase, be given to each effected customer, by either an imprint on the customer's monthly bill, or bill insert, or a separate mailing, not more than 45 days or less than 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing;
- b) That the newspaper publishers, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri, in the relevant service areas be noticed regarding the proposed increase and the date, time and location of the local hearing not less then 10 days before the date scheduled for the hearing and be requested to publish such notice seven to three days before the hearing in each newspapers area;
- c) That similar notice be given to any radio and television stations in each area not less than three days before the public hearing.

Wherefore, Public Counsel requests the Commission issue its order scheduling local public hearings in the service areas of Union Electric, more particularly, the Columbia, Jefferson City, Mexico, Wentzville, and Cape Girardeau areas, providing adequate notice to the public as requested previously, and for any other relief the Commission deems proper.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY:


Douglas E. Micheel, Esq.

(Bar No. 38371)

Senior Public Counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been faxed, mailed or hand-delivered to the following counsel of record on this 5th day of May, 2000:

Thomas J. Schwarz
Deputy General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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Union Electric Company
P. O. Box 66149 (M/C 1310)
St. Louis, MO 63166-6149

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