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June 9, 2000

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

FILED²
JUN 09 2000
Missouri Public
Service Commission

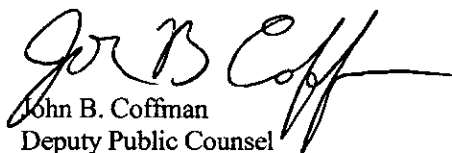
**RE: The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission
Complainant
v.
Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE,
Respondent
Case No. EM-96-149**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced case please find the original and eight copies of **Response to Proposed Procedural Schedule**. I have on this date mailed, faxed, and/or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record. Please "file" stamp the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John B. Coffman
Deputy Public Counsel

JBC:jb

cc: Counsel of Record

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

FILED²
JUN 09 2000
Missouri Public
Service Commission

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission)
Complainant,)
v.)
Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE,)
Respondent.)

Case No. EM-96-149

RESPONSE TO PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Comes Now the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Response to Procedural Schedule states as follows:

1. On May 31, 2000 the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed the following Proposed Procedural Schedule:

Staff and Public Counsel File Direct	May 30, 2000
Prehearing Conference	June 23, 2000
UE File Rebuttal	July 18, 2000
List of Issues to be Heard, Order of Witnesses And Order of Cross-Examination	August 8, 2000
Statements of Positions	August 18, 2000
Staff and Public Counsel File Surrebuttal	August 24, 2000
Evidentiary Hearings	September 27-29,2000

2. Public Counsel supports Staff's Proposed Procedural Schedule and does not recommend that the Commission extend the Schedule any further. The sharing credits that are in dispute do not accrue interest during dependency of this matter,

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and the longer it takes for this case to be resolved, the fewer AmerenUE consumers which deserve credits will actually receive those credits.

3. Public Counsel is also concerned that the proposed procedural schedule not be extended in such a way that it creates an undue hardship for its Public Counsel accounting witness Mr. Ted Robertson. Mr. Robertson is an important witness in this case and is also preparing testimony for the ongoing AmerenUE Natural Gas Rate Case, Case Number GR-2000-512.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the Staff's proposed procedural schedule as described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE Public Counsel

By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document has been either faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered to the following on this 6th day of June, 2000:

General Counsel
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