

Ameren Services

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April 24, 2002

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS



Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, Suite 100
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: MPSC Case No. EM-96-149

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, in the above matter, please find an original and eight (8) copies of its **Response to Staff Procedural Schedule Proposal**.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this filing by stamping a copy of the enclosed letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James J. Cook".

James J. Cook
Managing Associate General Counsel

JJC/vww

Enclosures

15881

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

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

RESPONSE TO STAFF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

COMES NOW Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE (“the Company”) and in response to the Staff’s filings of April 15, 2002 wherein Staff proposed a procedural schedule for the Third Sharing Period of the Second Experimental Alternative Regulation Plan, (6th Sharing Period), and its Complaint filing (EC-2002-1025), the Company states as follows:

1. The Company opposes the Staff’s proposal as unrealistic, given the concurrent schedule in the pending Rate Complaint Case (EC-2002-1) (“Complaint Case”).
2. The Staff has filed testimony recommending over \$50 million in sharing credits, a difference of over \$40 million from the Company’s calculations. The Staff’s proposed schedule calls for the Company to prepare its rebuttal to these issues during the next eight weeks. While eight weeks may appear to be enough time to prepare rebuttal, it is not in this case.

3. The first four weeks will be taken up entirely with the final preparation of the Company's rebuttal filing in the pending Complaint Case. That case, which calls for the largest revenue reduction for any electric utility in the State's history, will continue to require a significant portions of the time of the Company personnel who would be responding to the 6th Sharing Period testimony. Staff's proposal to reduce the Company's revenues by over \$250 million annually will take precedence over everything else.

4. Then, on May 10, along with the Company's rebuttal filing, the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), and Intervenors will be filing testimony in the Complaint Case, to which the Company will need to respond. The schedule calls for that response to be filed on June 24. Therefore, the remaining three weeks after the filing of the Company's rebuttal in the Complaint Case, before the proposed Company filing in the 6th Sharing Period case, will also require significant Company personnel attention to respond to the OPC and Intervenor Complaint filings. In addition, during this three week period, the same personnel will be expected to participate actively in the scheduled Pre-Hearing Conference in the Complaint Case, scheduled for May 28 – 31.

5. Staff's proposal calls for the Company's testimony in the 6th Sharing Period case, to be filed on June 10. Staff's surrebuttal in the Complaint Case is to be filed on June 24. Hearings in the Complaint Case are then scheduled for virtually all of July (July 11-August 2); yet Staff suggests it will file its 6th Sharing Period surrebuttal testimony on July 31. Hearings are then suggested for the 6th Sharing period case, beginning on August 19, about the time that initial briefs in the Complaint Case will be being prepared.

6. Moreover, it is expected that OPC will file testimony in this 6th Sharing Period Case, but they have not yet filed. A schedule cannot be meaningfully considered until that testimony is filed, or a date for that filing is set.

7. The Company suggests that a more realistic schedule for this matter would be the following (assuming the OPC files its testimony soon):

Company Rebuttal	August 23, 2002
Staff/OPC Surrebuttal	September 13, 2002
Statement of Positions	September 23, 2002
Hearings	September 30, 2002

This schedule allows the Company to have a more reasonable amount of time to respond to the claims raised by the Staff and expected to be raised by the OPC. Anything less than this will simply be inadequate and will not allow the Company adequate time to prepare.

WHEREFORE, the Company requests that the proposed schedule, submitted by the Staff be rejected, and the schedule suggested above be adopted in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

By: 

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DATED: April 24, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served via Federal Express or U.S. Mail on this 24th day of April, 2002, on the following parties of record:

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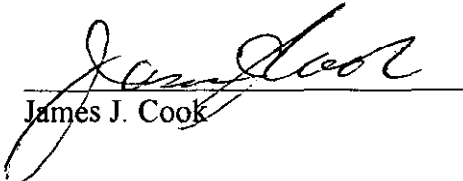
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