



STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JEFFERSON CITY May 17, 2000

CASE NO: EM-96-149

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

Sincerely, Hole Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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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

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Case No. EM-96-149

ORDER DIRECTING FILING OF DIRECT TESTIMONY AND PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On February 21, 1997, the Commission issued a Report and Order approving a Stipulation and Agreement entered into by the parties on July 12, 1996, which in part, established a second Experimental Alternative Regulation Plan (Second EARP) for an additional three years beginning July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2001. The first sharing period of the Second EARP ended on June 30, 1999.

Section 7.f.iv of the Stipulation and Agreement required Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE) to file a preliminary earnings report, along with the proposed sharing report, within 90 days after the conclusion of the sharing period and a final earnings report and a proposed sharing report within 105 days after the end of the sharing period. Litigation of the first Experimental Alternative Regulation Plan in Case No. EO-96-14 caused delay in the filing of the earnings reports for the first year of the Second EARP. On February 17, 2000, AmerenUE filed its final earnings report for the first sharing period of the Second EARP relating to the period beginning July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999.

Section 7.f.x requires the other signatory parties to the Stipulation and Agreement to provide notice to the Commission within 30 days that there may be areas of disagreement not previously brought to the attention of the Commission that need to be resolved. On April 25, 2000, the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and the Staff of the Commission (Staff) each filed their notice identifying areas of disagreement with AmerenUE's final earnings report and proposed sharing report.

Public Counsel stated that the potential areas of disagreement between Public Counsel and AmerenUE which they believe the Commission should be advised of include:

- A. accrual of environmental expenses,
- B. consultant costs related to nonregulated activities, and
- C. AmerenUE energy software costs.

Public Counsel also stated that it plans to continue its discovery through written data requests and visits to company facilities. Public Counsel stated that it anticipates additional discussions with AmerenUE. Public Counsel recommended that the Commission establish a deadline for filing prepared direct testimony or on about May 30, 2000.

Staff stated that as of the date of the filing of this report, it characterizes as areas of disagreement between Staff and AmerenUE the following:

A. advertising,

B. targeted separate plan,

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Office of the Public Counsel and the Staff of the Public Service Commission shall file its prepared direct testimony in support of their areas of disagreement on or before May 30, 2000.

2. That a proposed procedural schedule shall be filed by the parties on or before May 30, 2000.

3. That this order shall become effective on May 30, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hole Hredy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

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Shelly A. Register, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 17th day of May, 2000.

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 <u>17th</u> day of May 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

