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April 13, 2000

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FILED

APR 13 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

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

RE: Case No. EO-2000-580 – In the Matter of an Investigation into an Alternative Rate Option for Interruptible Customers of Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of a **STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION OF MEG INTERRUPTIBLES**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Steven Dottheim
Chief Deputy General Counsel
(573) 751-7489
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

FILED³

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

APR 13 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of an Investigation into an Alternative)
Rate Option for Interruptible Customers of Union)
Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE)

Case No. EO-2000-580

STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION OF MEG INTERRUPTIBLES

Comes Now the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff (Staff) in response to the Notice Setting Time For Response issued on March 23, 2000 in the instant case by the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission). Said Notice Setting Time For Response relates to the Application To Initiate A Docket For Consideration Of An Alternative Rate Option For Interruptible Customers Of Union Electric Company And For Approval Of An Interim Alternative Interruptible Rate (Application) filed on March 20, 2000 by Holnam, Inc., Lone Star Industries, Inc. and River Cement Company (MEG Interruptibles).

In response to said Application, the Staff states that the Stipulation And Agreement in Case No. EO-96-15 contains the language that "[n]o party to this agreement will object, on procedural grounds, to an application filed by any other such party to initiate a docket for consideration by the Commission of an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers, to be available no sooner than June 1, 2000." Thus, establishment of this case for consideration of an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers of Union Electric Company (UE) is not inconsistent with the Stipulation And Agreement entered into on April 30, 1999, filed with the Commission on May 3, 1999 in Case No. EO-96-15 (In the Matter of the Investigation into the Class Cost of Service and Rate Design for Union Electric Company) and approved by the Commission on November 18, 1999.

Although there is provision in the Stipulation And Agreement that no party to that Stipulation And Agreement will object, on procedural grounds, to an application filed by any other such party to initiate a docket for consideration by the Commission of an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers, to be available no sooner than June 1, 2000, there is no provision in the Case No. EO-96-15 Stipulation And Agreement for an additional alternative rate option going into effect on an interim basis. The Staff is unaware of any provision for the additional alternative rate option requested by MEG Interruptibles to go into effect on an interim basis.

The Staff would note that on April 30, 1999, pursuant to the terms of the Case No. EO-96-15 Stipulation And Agreement, UE filed with the Commission its Rider L – Voluntary Curtailment Rider, as an alternative rate option for Interruptible Power Rate 10(M). Said tariff sheets became effective for service rendered on and after June 1, 1999.

The Staff opposes or does not oppose the March 20, 2000 filing of MEG Interruptibles as follows:

- (1) The Staff does not oppose MEG Interruptibles' request that the Commission establish a case for consideration of an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers of UE.
- (2) The Staff opposes MEG Interruptibles' request that the an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers incorporating the terms and conditions set forth in the exhibit filed by MEG Interruptibles be made available on an interim basis (or on a permanent basis at this point) to the interruptible customers of UE commencing June 1, 2000.
- (3) The Staff does not oppose MEG Interruptibles' request that the Commission establish a schedule of proceedings to consider an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers incorporating the terms and conditions set forth in the exhibit filed by MEG Interruptibles. The Staff's non-opposition to the establishment of a schedule of proceedings to consider an additional alternative rate option for interruptible customers incorporating the terms and conditions set forth in the exhibit filed by MEG Interruptibles should not be construed as support for the MEG Interruptibles filing. The Staff suggests that the Commission schedule an

early prehearing conference to discuss a procedural schedule to be proposed to the Commission by the parties.

- (4) The Staff opposes MEG Interruptibles' request that the Commission make all parties to Case No. EO-96-15, parties to Case No. EO-2000-580 without the necessity of their filing for intervention. Instead, the Staff suggests that the Commission should set an intervention period.

Wherefore the Staff files this response to the March 20, 2000 filing of MEG Interruptibles, and, assuming that this case proceeds forward, requests that the Commission: (1) deny MEG Interruptibles' request that the Commission approve an interim additional alternative interruptible rate option, (2) set an intervention period and (3) schedule an early prehearing conference for the purpose of the parties proposing a procedural schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel



Steven Dottheim
Chief Deputy General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 29149

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 13th day of April 2000.



Service List for
Case No. EO-2000-580
April 13, 2000

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