

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

STATE OF MISSOURI

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

-----

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing Conference

August 9, 2001  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Volume 1

-----

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Union Electric Company )  
(d/b/a AmerenUE) for a Certificate )  
of Public Convenience and Necessity )  
Authorizing it to Construct, )  
Install, Own, Operate, Control, ) Case No.  
Manage and Maintain Natural Gas ) GA-2001-657  
Pipeline Facilities and a Gas )  
Distribution System for the Public )  
in the City of Flint Hill, Missouri, )  
and its Vicinity, as an Expansion of )  
its Presently Certificated Area. )

KEVIN A. THOMPSON, Presiding,  
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY JUDGE.

-----

REPORTED BY:  
  
MELINDA ADOLPHSON, CSR  
ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201

1 APPEARANCES:

2 RONALD K. EVANS, Managing Associate General Counsel  
3 Ameren Services  
4 1901 Chouteau Avenue  
5 P.O. Box 66149, MC1310  
6 St. Louis, MO 63166-6149  
7 314-554-2156

8  
9 FOR: AmerenUE.

10  
11  
12 MICHAEL PENDERGAST, Attorney at Law  
13 720 Olive Street  
14 St. Louis, MO 63101  
15 314-342-0532

16

17 FOR: Laclede Gas Company.

18

19 LERA L. SHEMWELL, Associate General Counsel  
20 Governors Office Building  
21 200 Madison Street  
22 P.O. Box 360  
23 Jefferson City, MO 65102  
24 573-751-3234

25 FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service  
Commission.

26

27 DOUGLAS E. MICHEEL, Senior Public Counsel  
28 Governors Office Building  
29 200 Madison Street  
30 P.O. Box 7800  
31 Jefferson City, MO 65102  
32 573-751-3234

33

34 FOR: Office of the Public Counsel and the  
35 Public.

36

37

38

39

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Good morning. My name is  
3 Kevin Thompson. I'm the Regulatory Judge presiding  
4 over this matter for Judge Mills. This is styled  
5 In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric  
6 doing business as AmerenUE for Certificate of  
7 Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to  
8 Construct, Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage  
9 and Maintain Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities and a  
10 Gas Distribution System for the Public in the City  
11 of Flint Hill, Missouri, and its Vicinity, as an  
12 Expansion of its presently Certificated Area, Case  
13 No. GA-2001-657.

14 Let's take oral entries of appearance,  
15 please, beginning with the Company.

16 MR. EVANS: Ronald K. Evans, appearing on  
17 behalf of Union Electric Company doing business as  
18 AmerenUE, P.O. Box 66149, St. Louis, Missouri  
19 63166.

20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

21 Staff?

22 MS. SHEMWELL: Thank you and good  
23 morning. Lera Shemwell, representing the Staff of  
24 the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office  
25 Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Public Counsel?

2 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel,  
3 appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public  
4 Counsel and the Public, P.O. Box 7800,  
5 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-7800.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.  
7 Intervenors?

8 MR. PENDERGAST: Michael C. Pendergast,  
9 appearing on behalf of Laclede Gas Company. My  
10 business address is 720 Olive Street, St. Louis,  
11 Missouri 63101.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

13 Do the parties have anything to bring to  
14 my attention at this time?

15 MR. EVANS: From the Company's standpoint,  
16 I think we're optimistic that we should be able to  
17 settle this case. Laclede and AmerenUE reached an  
18 agreement on somewhat related matters yesterday  
19 that I think will eliminate Laclede's concerns in  
20 this. And I'll let Laclede's counsel address that,  
21 but I think that will erase their concerns in this  
22 particular case. And hopefully the Staff and OPC  
23 have no difficulties with our proposals here, and  
24 we will be able to move forward without an  
25 evidentiary hearing, we hope.

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Very good.

2 MR. EVANS: I would mention that we do  
3 have a customer that is near -- that is requesting  
4 service in Flint Hill that is near completion of  
5 their church, and so we're hoping to get that done  
6 before winter hits.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Very well.

8 Mr. Pendergast?

9 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. I would just echo  
10 what Mr. Evans said. We have worked together to  
11 try and come up with an arrangement that resolves  
12 our concerns and is acceptable to AmerenUE, and  
13 we're hopeful that it will be acceptable to Staff  
14 and Office of Public Counsel as well.

15 We would anticipate at least hopefully  
16 being able to file a stipulation and agreement that  
17 we recommend that the Commission approve the  
18 authorization that AmerenUE has requested in this  
19 case. And we would also reference this arrangement  
20 that we've agreed upon, and at least from the two  
21 companies' perspective, indicate that we believe  
22 that provides a blueprint for how utilities ought  
23 to be providing service in the future in that neck  
24 of St. Charles County, and recommend to the  
25 Commission that we would file something to initiate

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201

1 a separate docket to obtain approval for that  
2 territorial division that we would recommend. And  
3 with that, I think that's all I have. Thank you.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.

5 Mr. Micheel? Nothing?

6 MR. MICHEEL: Sounds good to me, your  
7 Honor.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Good.

9 Ms. Shemwell?

10 MS. SHEMWELL: Thank you, Judge. Staff  
11 would like to take a look at this. I think that we  
12 would be interested in seeing an agreement between  
13 these companies somewhat beyond filings every year  
14 for small bits and pieces of this county. In terms  
15 of the particular case, we're still looking at it,  
16 but do not anticipate that a hearing will probably  
17 be necessary. And would suggest that perhaps a  
18 filing of a procedural schedule could be delayed a  
19 couple of weeks giving the parties the opportunity  
20 to finalize their agreements and file something  
21 with the Commission.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: There's not any operation  
23 of law date in this case, is there?

24 MR. EVANS: No, there isn't.

25 MS. SHEMWELL: No.

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201

1                   JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, at the risk of  
2     irritating Judge Mills, I'm going to go ahead and  
3     set the filing date for the procedural schedule  
4     back to September 15. I don't know if that's a  
5     business day or a weekend or what, but let's just  
6     pick that date out of the air. That will give the  
7     parties time to continue their discussions without  
8     the need to create a procedural schedule that's not  
9     likely to ever be needed.

10                  You have this room for the remainder of  
11     the day, and hopefully you will be able to continue  
12     your discussions now in a fruitful manner, reach  
13     settlement on every conceivable issue. If you can  
14     think of some other cases that you're not here on  
15     that you can settle, too, that would be a good,  
16     good thing. Thank you-all for coming down today,  
17     and we will be adjourned.

18                  WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of  
19     the prehearing conference was concluded.

20

21

22

23

24

25

ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(573) 636-7551 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
(573)442-3600 COLUMBIA, MO 65201