(case no. ER-2007-0002)

* I do not belive Ameren UE needs to increase it's prices. High costs only adds more burdens for the poor. Costs can be held down with Renewabe Energy and it costs far less to save a kilowatt an hour than it does to produce one. Efficiency improvement and renewables represent a more certain, more affordable, cleaner energy.

* AmerenUE has announced that they are considering building a new nuclear power plant in mid-Missouri's Callaway County. It's a bad idea. It sets a bad example for other nations wanting nuclear power plants. To get a handle on weapons proliferation, we must phase out, not expand, nuclear power.

- A typical nuke contains withinits core the radiological equivalent of 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. They can accidentally contaminate large areas and impact the lives of milions of people. And they routinely release "permissible" amounts of radiation. Radiation at any dose level can cause cancer, leukemia and genetic damage. Also, clean ups of these accidents are extremely costly.

  Sixty years into the nuclear age, we still don't know how and where we can safely isolate the deadly radioactive waste for the thousands of years they will be hazardous. Consider the nuclear waste stored presently in Texas which will be returned to St. Louis because of the time limit Texas will allow us to keep it there. It was orginally refused and returned to St. Louis by the North.

* Even with subsidies, nuclear power is more expensive than wind power, and unlike wind and solar, it is non-renewable. It costs far less to save a kilowatt hour than it does to produce one. Efficiency improvements and renewables represent a more certain, more affordable, cleaner and faster way to end our dependence on fossil fuels. Both the nuclear fuel production chain and the construction of the plants require vast amounts of fossil energy.

* Renewables are: Wind Power, Solar Power, Hydrogen from Renewables, Biomass, and Net Metering. If we start adding the costs of coal and nuclear (paid by taxpayers) into any assessment of energy costs, renewables would become very attractive.

  We the people, wish to convince AmerenUE to choose a safer, more sustainable path.

Public Hearing
St. Louis Community College
ER-2007-0002
GR-2007-0003

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Missourians for Safe Energy on Renewable Energy

To ensure a renewable and clean future, we must change a closed-market system that favors coal and nuclear power. Renewable Portfolio Standards require utilities or the federal and state governments to get a percentage of their electricity from renewable sources, ensuring demand and rapid penetration of the electrical market by sustainable technologies. 20 states have RPS policies.

Wind Power-- New Missouri wind maps show enough wind speeds in the northwest to power industry-sized wind turbines. AmerenUE has started exploring areas to build a wind farm. Wind farms require open land, which many energy companies lease from farmers. Large amounts of skilled and unskilled labor are required in the wind industry. With low prices, few external costs, little unrecycable waste (the long-term nightmare of nuclear waste disposal), benefits to farmers and great potential for new jobs, wind is win in MO

Solar Power--We can power our homes with a few solar panels, batteries and converters, often at less cost than building power lines. Pre-heating water with solar instead of electricity will save energy for any homeowner. We can use smaller panels for powering water pumps, electric fences, security lights and others.
We can also include extra insulation, large windows on the south with night insulation, thermal mass--such as concrete or brick--to store daytime heat and proper placement of trees, such as an evergreen windbreak on the north and deciduous shade trees on the south.

Hydrogen from Renewables--We currently create hydrogen fuel using natural gas, but in the future we could electolyze water using renewable energy. Burning hydrogen in air, while releasing some nitrogen oxides, pollutes far less than burning fossil fuels. In addition, by investing in transportation pipelines, we can make renewable-sourced hydrogen a major part of the 21st century economy.

Biomass--This is living or recently living materials used for fuel. Waste-to-energy plants burn 15 percent of the country's solid waste from about 40 million people providing enough electricity to supply 2.4 million households. Likewise, we can burn animal waste on farms to provide energy, a viable alternative for Missouri farmers. In our homes, we can burn wood in clean-burning technology fireplaces and stoves as an alternative to electrical heating. Burning biomass results in fewer polutants than burning fossil fuels.

Net metering allows homeowners generating their own electricity to connect to the electrical grid, eliminating the need for expensive storage batteries. Currently in Missouri, homeowners must purchase additional equipment and insurance to sell electricity back to the grid which prevents us selling power back.

If we start adding the costs of coal and nuclear (paid by taxpayers) into any

assessment of energy costs, renewables would become very attractive.

We the people, wish to convince you to choose a safer, more sustainable path.

rate increase in surcharges

It affects the poor first and formost