



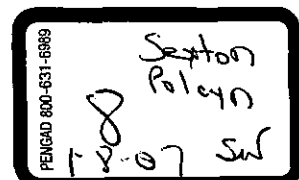
THE VOICE OF MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN

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FEB 05 2007

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

ER-2007-0002  
GR-2007-0003



Public Hearing  
Univ. of Mo. St. Louis

GATEWAY OWL CHAPTER STATEMENT  
ON REQUEST FOR UTILITY RATE INCREASE

JANUARY 8, 2007

The St. Louis Gateway Chapter of OWL (Older Women's League) thanks the Missouri Public Service Commission for the opportunity to express our view on AmerenUE's request for an increase in its electric revenues by approximately \$360.7 million dollars (which includes its request to implement a fuel adjustment clause) and its natural gas service revenues by approximately \$10.8 million dollars. We understand that, if approved by the Commission, the fuel adjustment clause (FAC) would allow AmerenUE to pass on to its customers any increase in fuel and purchase power surcharges as a separate item on a customer's bill.

OWL, is the only national, grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to providing a voice for mid-life and older women. We work to improve varying inter-related economic, social and health situations facing all women who live on fixed and limited incomes. The Gateway Chapter in St. Louis is one of 70 chapters nationwide.

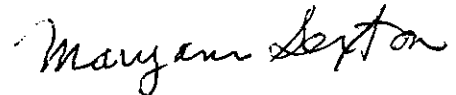
We are distressed and outraged that consumers, at this time, can be confronted with the possibility of an increase in their electric and gas utility rates. The most recent consumer outages – last summer and again in December-- have resulted in tangible and intangible costs to consumers. We believe that the cost of doing business should not be placed on the shoulders of consumers as projected by AmerenUE. We would point out that such costs are properly within the sphere of operations of a socially responsible corporation.

According to a recent release from the Attorney General's office, the taxpayers may also be confronted with the costs of a lawsuit stemming from the unbelievable Taum Sauk fiasco.

Absent a long range plan developed by an independent entity that would assure minimum and infrequent interruption of service, including a timely, smooth transition to underground lines as well as a cessation of ongoing reductions in its tree trimming workforce, we find it unconscionable that AmerenUE would persist in seeking a rate increase as well as implementation of an ill advised fuel adjustment clause. We are well aware that the Commission can take into account a utility's service and reliability to its customers in deciding to grant a rate increase.

Most older women (and men) live on fixed incomes and are constantly juggling tight budgets. Any increase in utility rates will impose an extreme hardship on this segment of the population. We, therefore, urge the Public Service Commission to: (1) not give any consideration to any rate increase, in fact, with new information brought to light, a rate decrease would more properly be in order and (2) not implement any rules that would permit AmerenUE to charge its customers an ill advised, unnecessary fuel adjustment clause which the courts, in the past, have overturned.

Mary Ann Sexton, President



Gateway Chapter OWL

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