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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PREHEARING CONFERENCE

August 28, 2000
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 3

In the Matter of Union Electric Company)
d/b/a AmerenUE for Authority to File)
Tarriffs Increasing Rates for Gas Service) Case No.
Provided to Customers in the Company's) GR-2000-512
Missouri Service Area.)

BEFORE:

BILL HOPKINS, Presiding,
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

REPORTED BY:

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A P P E A R A N C E S

RONALD K. EVANS, Attorney at Law
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FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service
Commission.

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

2 (Written Entries of Appearance filed.)

3 JUDGE HOPKINS: This is August 28th, 2000.
4 AmerenUE, Case No. GR-2000-512, Prehearing Conference.
5 10 a.m. Jefferson City, Missouri in the Governor's
6 Office Building.

7 Do we have the entries of appearance?

8 MR. EVANS: Ronald K. Evans appearing on
9 behalf of Union Electric Company, P.O. Box 66149,
10 St. Louis, Missouri 63166.

11 I also have with me today Tom Byrne and Susan
12 Knowles, K-N-O-W-L-E-S, as counsel for the company.

13 JUDGE HOPKINS: Behind the post there. If
14 they could raise their hands. They're the usual
15 suspects.

16 We have that reserved for some people, but I
17 don't think your name is on the list.

18 All right. Mr. Schwarz.

19 MR. SCHWARZ: Tim Schwarz together with Cliff
20 Snodgrass and Robert Franson, P.O. Box 320, Jefferson
21 City, Missouri 65102. Attorneys for the Staff of the
22 Missouri Public Service Commission.

23 JUDGE HOPKINS: Okay. Mr. Micheel.

24 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel appearing on
25 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the

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1 Public, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri
2 65102-7800.

3 MR. PETERSON: I'm Ed Peterson, and I want to
4 also enter the appearance of Stuart Conrad 3100
5 Broadway, Suite 1209, Kansas City, Missouri for the
6 Midwest Gas Users' Association.

7 JUDGE HOPKINS: All right.

8 Have each of you-all filled out one of those
9 written entries of appearance?

10 (No response.)

11 JUDGE HOPKINS: Make sure that you give it to
12 the court reporter, please, before you leave -- before
13 she leaves.

14 And we are having a prehearing conference
15 today on this rate increase. Basically -- sir, if
16 you'd like to start with AmerenUE's -- just tell us
17 briefly, we've already had two local public hearings on
18 this, but briefly, just for the record, tell us why you
19 filed this, what you're asking for, please.

20 MR. EVANS: Basically on February 18th of 2000
21 Union Electric filed a -- a request for an annual
22 increase in gas revenues of \$12.1 million. It's based
23 on a 12.875 percent return on equity and a
24 10.322 percent return on rate base.

25 Filing reflects a proposed rate design based

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1 on an allocated class cost of service. The file
2 includes revisions to its gas transportation service
3 tariffs, and it includes provisions as to gas supply
4 incentive plan. Nine witnesses have filed direct
5 testimony on behalf of Union Electric and the company
6 submits that that testimony and the ultimate record in
7 this proceeding will support the company's filing.

8 JUDGE HOPKINS: All right. Mr. Schwarz, do
9 you want to give us -- if -- if the Staff has a
10 position, what that is or if not --

11 MR. SCHWARZ: Well, Staff, of course, has
12 filed its direct testimony, both revenue requirement
13 and rate design. I could not tell you offhand what the
14 Staff's recommended revenue requirement is in this
15 case, but it is significantly different --
16 significantly less than the -- the company has
17 proposed, and if we can settle some issues this week,
18 we will do so. Otherwise the issues will be contested
19 during the hearing.

20 JUDGE HOPKINS: All right. Mr. Micheel.

21 MR. MICHEEL: We filed our testimony, Your
22 Honor, in both phases, the revenue requirement and the
23 rate design phase, and that testimony sets out our
24 positions on the issues.

25 JUDGE HOPKINS: And for MGUA, do you have a

1 position at this time?

2 MR. PETERSON: We have filed testimony on the
3 rate design issue only addressing in particular the
4 needs of transportation customers.

5 THE COURT: Okay. As you know this -- this
6 prehearing conference was for the purpose of defining
7 the issues, seeing if you could agree on anything, see
8 if you could settle anything. We're scheduled to go
9 for five days.

10 I will be here almost all of today. I've got
11 a hearing this evening in Columbia, and I may be gone
12 part of tomorrow and part of Wednesday. Otherwise I
13 will be here if you need to talk to me. Please consult
14 with me. If you can't get ahold of me, talk to Louis
15 Mills or Morris Woodruff, if you would, please.

16 Have I left off anybody? Is there anything
17 else we haven't --

18 MS. WOODS: Judge, my name is Shelly Woods and
19 I represent the Missouri Department of Natural
20 Resources.

21 JUDGE HOPKINS: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. WOODS: We have an application before you
23 to intervene.

24 JUDGE HOPKINS: Yes, ma'am. That is on the
25 agenda tomorrow morning.

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1 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

2 JUDGE HOPKINS: And I would appreciate it if
3 you would like to provisionally enter your appearance,
4 we'll -- we'll be happy to let you do that.

5 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

6 JUDGE HOPKINS: Have I missed anybody else?

7 (No response.)

8 JUDGE HOPKINS: All right.

9 If there's nothing further, I'll go off the
10 record and let you-all have at it.

11 Thank you very much.

12 WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of the
13 prehearing conference was concluded.

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