

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

Craig Mershon,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
vs.)	File No. EC-2013-0521
)	
Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER DENYING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Issue Date: January 31, 2014

Effective Date: January 31, 2014

The Missouri Public Service Commission is denying the *Motion for an Injunctive Relief to Prevent the Sending of Threatening Disconnect notices*¹ (“the motion”).² Craig Mershon filed the motion on January 30. Ameren filed an expedited response on January 31.

The motion seeks a halt to the issuance of disconnect notices from Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri (“Ameren”) to Mr. Mershon. The Commission’s regulations allow utilities to send disconnect notices.³ Mr. Mershon alleges that disconnect notices put Mr. Mershon under undue stress and argues that the disconnect notices are threatening, very harsh, intimidating, and demanding.

Those considerations do not support halting disconnect notices because disconnect notices constitute the most recent possible statement of Ameren as to Mr. Mershon’s

¹ Electronic Filing and Information System (“EFIS”) No. 79 filed on January 30. All dates are in 2014.

² The motion does not allege any imminent disconnection and Mr. Mershon did not allege any imminent disconnection at the pre-hearing conference held on January 28. Ameren’s response states that it has issued disconnect notices, addressing amounts that are not the subject of this complaint, but the motion states that Mr. Mershon anticipated making a payment by January 24. Therefore, no disconnection appears imminent.

³ Section (3) of 4 CSR 240-13.055, the Cold Weather Rule. That regulation sets forth the process for discontinuing service during certain times of the year and bars discontinuance during certain weather conditions.

account, which is critical to both Mr. Mershon and the Commission. Disconnect notices tell Mr. Mershon when to seek relief from an imminent termination of service and help the Commission in resolving Mr. Mershon's complaint.

It is true that Ameren cannot disconnect Mr. Mershon over any amount that Mr. Mershon's complaint has put in dispute by charging a violation of a statute or a Commission regulation, tariff, or order ("violation"). That amount, as set forth in the response, is \$602. Mr. Mershon's complaint does not bar disconnection as to any amount that Mr. Mershon has not put in dispute by charging a violation. Those amounts, as set forth in the response, are \$162.76 billed in December and \$173.26 billed in January.

Therefore, the Commission will deny the motion.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The *Motion for an Injunctive Relief to Prevent the Sending of Threatening Disconnect notices* is denied.
2. This order is effective immediately upon issuance.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Daniel Jordan, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 31st day of January, 2014.