

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

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|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Noranda Aluminum, Inc., et al, |) | |
| |) | |
| Complainants, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | Case No. EC-2014-0223 |
| |) | |
| Union Electric Company, d/b/a |) | |
| Ameren Missouri |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

**AARP AND CONSUMERS COUNCIL’S OBJECTION
TO AMEREN MISSOURI’S REQUEST
TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW AARP and the Consumers Council of Missouri (“CCM”) in response to Union Electric Company’s, d/b/a Ameren Missouri’s (“Ameren Missouri’s”) Request to Modify Procedural Schedule, filed on May 5, 2014, to state a strong opposition to any further extension of the hearing dates as requested by the utility.

The undersigned attorney for AARP and for CCM (in fact, the only attorney for these parties in this case) has a work-related conflict with Ameren Missouri’s newly requested hearing dates of August 11-14, 2014. The undersigned attorney will be litigating on behalf of AARP at an evidentiary hearing in an Xcel electric rate case¹ at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on those very dates, and cannot be in Jefferson City at all that week.

Moreover, continued extension of the procedural schedule in this proceeding comes at a serious cost to consumers. The Missouri Public Service Commission’s

¹ Minn. PUC Docket No. E002/GR-13-868.

(Commission's) originally scheduled dates for the evidentiary hearing in this matter-- June 23-27, 2014—were reasonable and fair. But only one week after those dates were ordered, the Commission extended the evidentiary hearing dates by an additional month, to July 28-August 1, 2014, due to an unexplained “a conflict for the Commission”. The anticipated decision date in this case was extended accordingly from August 20, 2014 until September 26, 2014. As a consequence of the ban on retroactive ratemaking, this 37-day delay has already denied consumers the opportunity for rate relief dollars totaling \$6,771,000.²

If the Commission grants Ameren Missouri's latest request to further delay the resolution of this case by two weeks (from September 26, 2014 until October 10, 2014), consumers will be denied consumers an additional \$2,562,000.

Wherefore, AARP and CCM respectfully request that the Commission deny Ameren Missouri's Request to Modify Procedural Schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John B. Coffman

John B. Coffman MBE #36591
John B. Coffman, LLC
871 Tuxedo Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63119-2044
Ph: (573) 424-6779
E-mail: john@johncoffman.net

Attorney for AARP and for CCM

Dated: May 5, 2014

² Each day of delay requires Ameren Missouri's customers to pay \$183,000 more than is believed to be necessary for Ameren to earn a reasonable return on its investment.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing has been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the parties listed on the Missouri Public Service Commission's official service list of this proceeding on this 5th day of May 2014.

/s/ John B. Coffman
