

Exhibit No.:	
Issue:	Noranda Impact
Witness:	Mark Baker
Type of Exhibit:	Direct Testimony
Sponsoring Party:	Noranda
Case Number:	EA-2005-0180
Date Testimony Prepared:	Dec. 21, 2004

AmerenUE

Case No. EA-2005-0180

Prepared Direct Testimony of

Mark Baker

On behalf of

Noranda Aluminum, Inc.

December 2004

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Application of Union Electric Company)
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and)
Necessity authorizing it to construct, install,)
own, operate, control, manage and maintain)
electric plant to provide electric)
service in New Madrid, County, Missouri, as an)
extension of its existing certificated area)

EA-2005-0180
Case No. CP-2005-_____

Affidavit of Mark Baker

State of Missouri)
County of New Madrid) ss

Mark Baker, of lawful age, on his oath states: that he has reviewed the attached written testimony in question and answer form, all to be presented in the above case, that the interest in the attached written testimony were given by him; that he has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; that such matters are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Mark Baker
Mark Baker

Subscribed and sworn before me this 16th day of December, 2004

Mary Cynthia Hunter
Notary Public

[SEAL]

My Commission expires: 6/3/07

Mary Cynthia Hunter
Notary Public - Notary Seal
County of New Madrid
State of Missouri
My Commission Expires:
June 3, 2007

Before the
Missouri Public Service Commission

AmerenUE

Case No. EA-2005-0180

Prepared Direct Testimony of Mark Baker

1 **Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND YOUR POSITION.**

2 A My name is Mark Baker and I am currently the Mayor of New Madrid. This is my
3 ninth year in office and I will be resigning at the end of the year because I am
4 the New Madrid County Commissioner elect. On January 1, 2005 or right after I
5 will be sworn in as a County Commissioner for New Madrid County.

6 **Q IN NEW MADRID COUNTY DO THEY HAVE JUST A SINGLE COMMISSIONER OR IS**
7 **IT SEVERAL PERSONS ON A BOARD?**

8 A There are three commissioners. There is one from the south end of the
9 County, District 2, and there is one from the north end of the County, District
10 1, which is what I will be, and then we have a commissioner that is over the
11 whole County -- that is elected by the whole county. Three all together.

1 **Q I AM AN OLD MISSOURIAN. IS THIS WHAT WE USED TO CALL THE COUNTY**
2 **COURT?**

3 **A Yes. County Court, County Judges, yes, those were the names for them.**

4 **Q MAYOR BAKER, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING BESIDES BEING MAYOR?**

5 **A I am basically a farmer as my main line of work and I have worked part time for**
6 **the New Madrid County Health Department. I will be leaving that job as well.**

7 **Q MAYOR BAKER, YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY FAMILIAR WITH NORANDA ALUMINUM?**

8 **A Yes, I am.**

9 **Q WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PLANT AND ABOUT HOW THE PEOPLE**
10 **THERE OPERATE IT AND SO ON?**

11 **A I think the plant is vital to not only New Madrid, but to New Madrid County and**
12 **southeast Missouri as a whole. I think there's about 1,100 people that work up**
13 **there, I am not sure of exactly the number, but there's a lot of them. And I**
14 **know some of those people live right here in New Madrid City, New Madrid**
15 **County, but also every County in the Boot Heel and I am sure there are a few**
16 **out of state as well. Noranda is a vital employer for southeast Missouri.**

17 **Q HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE NORANDA AS A CORPORATE CITIZEN IN THE**
18 **LARGER COMMUNITY?**

19 **A I think Noranda is a good corporate citizen. I know that every cause -- worthy**
20 **causes or whatever you might call it -- approaches Noranda about funding or**

1 donations. I don't know what the policy is, but I know they fund lots of
2 activities not only in New Madrid but also Sikeston and other communities in
3 the Boot Heel.

4 **Q FROM ALL OF THAT I TAKE IT THAT YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT**
5 **TO YOU AS A PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE, A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, THAT NORANDA**
6 **CONTINUE ITS OPERATIONS THERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE**
7 **STATE?**

8 **A** Yes. It is absolutely vital that Noranda be there as an employer in this part of
9 the state. I couldn't even begin to imagine the effect that not having Noranda
10 or losing Noranda would have on the economy for several communities in our
11 area.

12 **Q YOU'RE SHORTLY TO BE MOVING FROM BEING A MAYOR TO A LARGER AND**
13 **BROADER RESPONSIBILITY. DOES THAT GIVE YOU A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**
14 **ABOUT NORANDA THAN JUST BEING MAYOR OF NEW MADRID?**

15 **A** Well, I would say it does because one of the biggest concerns as a commissioner
16 is the budget that we have to operate our County government off of. That is
17 derived from several sources but mostly sales tax and property tax. I would
18 hate to think about losing Noranda and the revenue that is generated due to
19 Noranda being in this area. Especially the County and the County government -
20 - not to mention the payrolls that are taken home by all those employees and
21 the number of dollars that money represents as far as how many times those

1 dollars turn over in our economy in the Boot Heel.

2 **Q MAYOR BAKER, IN THIS PROCEEDING AMERENUE HAS FILED AN APPLICATION**
3 **AT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO ADD A LITTLE BIT TO THEIR**
4 **EXISTING SERVICE TERRITORY AND BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO**
5 **NORANDA. IS IT A FAIR STATEMENT OF YOUR POSITION THAT YOU WOULD**
6 **FAVOR THIS APPLICATION?**

7 **A Yes, I would. I am in favor of doing whatever that I can do to help Noranda**
8 **make it where it is possible to keep their doors open and keep going and keep**
9 **the business going. We just can't afford to have Noranda shut its doors and**
10 **leave here. And to me that means whatever it takes to help Noranda, to make**
11 **sure that Noranda is able to operate as efficiently as possible. I am in favor of**
12 **it.**

13 **Q DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME, MAYOR BAKER?**

14 **A Yes it does.**