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

Peter B. Howard,

Complainant,

v.

AmerenUE P.O. Box 6149 St. Louis, MO 63166-6149 **CERTIFIED MAIL**  File No. EC-2010-0285

Respondent.

## NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE AND ORDER DIRECTING FILINGS

Issue Date: April 13, 2010

Effective Date: April 13, 2010

The Commission is giving notice of a complaint and contested case, and directing the parties to make certain filings.

On April 13, 2010, the Commission received the complaint. The complaint alleges improper billing. The filing of a complaint requires the Commission to set a hearing.<sup>1</sup> The requirement of a hearing on such issues signifies a contested case.<sup>2</sup> A contested case is a formal hearing procedure, but it allows for waiver of procedural formalities and a decision without a hearing,<sup>3</sup> including by stipulation and agreement.<sup>4</sup>

As an alternative to the formal evidentiary hearing procedure, the Commission offers mediation. Mediation is a voluntary process in which a neutral person assists the parties in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Section 386.390.5, RSMo 2000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Section 536.010(4), RSMo Supp. 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Section 536.060, RSMo 2000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 4 CSR 240-2.115.

exploring opportunities for settlement. Upon a request for mediation, the Commission may suspend the schedule set forth in this order.

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 1. Respondent shall file an answer to the complaint no later than May 13, 2010.
- 2. The Commission's Staff ("Staff") shall conduct an investigation as to the cause of

the complaint and shall file a report of its findings no later than June 10, 2010.

3. This order is effective immediately upon issuance.

## BY THE COMMISSION

Steven C. Reed Secretary

(SEAL)

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

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2010.