

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

Noranda Aluminum, Inc., et al.,	)	
	)	
Complainants,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	<b><u>Case No. EC-2014-0223</u></b>
	)	
Union Electric Company doing business	)	
As Ameren Missouri,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
Noranda Aluminum, Inc., et al.,	)	
	)	
Complainants,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	<b><u>Case No. EC-2014-0224</u></b>
	)	
Union Electric Company doing business	)	
As Ameren Missouri,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**STAFF’S CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULES**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through the Chief Staff Counsel, and for its *Reply to Ameren Missouri’s Response to Complainants’ Motion for Expedited Treatment*, states as follows:

1. On February 12, 2014, Noranda Aluminum Company and thirty-seven other electric customers (“Complainants”) of Ameren Missouri (“Ameren”) filed their *Complaints* commencing Case Nos. EC-2014-0223 and EC-2014-0224.
  
2. On March 28, 2014, the Commission convened a *Prehearing Conference* in these cases to discuss the development of a procedural schedule for each of these related cases.

3. Also on March 28, 2014, the Commission issued its *Notice of Rulings Made at Conference*, memorializing the direction given from the bench that the parties file their joint or separate proposed procedural schedules by April 1, 2014.

4. On April 1, 2014, the Complainants will file a *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule* in each case which they have circulated to the parties in draft and in which some parties have joined.

5. Staff concurs in the Complainants' *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule* filed in each case, but must make the conditions of its concurrence very clear. Staff's concurrence in these very abbreviated schedules is based on Staff's present understanding that its role in these cases will be limited. In particular, Staff does not now intend to conduct any audit, cost-of-service study, class cost-of-service study, or other extended or exhaustive analyses in either of these cases. The burden of proof is Complainants' to carry and Ameren Missouri has the burden of refuting Complainants' cases. Staff's only burden is to provide whatever input the Commission may request; and since the Commission has not yet requested any, Staff is able to concur with the abbreviated schedules proposed by Complainants. If the Commission requests input from the Staff that requires a significant involvement, Staff will by motion at that time advise the Commission of the interval that will be required to complete the work requested. For example, a rate case audit and cost-of-service report, class-cost-of-service report, and rate design generally takes four months. During this period, a team of Staff auditors examines the Company's books and records on site and a great many Data Requests are propounded and answered. Staff points out that, on information and belief, Ameren Missouri will initiate a general rate case by the file-and-suspend method

in July 2014 and Staff necessarily will conduct a full audit and cost-of-service study at that time.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff prays that the Commission will set appropriate procedural schedules in each of these cases; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Kevin A. Thompson**

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Missouri Public Service Commission

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served, either electronically or by hand delivery or by First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this **1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2014**, on the parties of record as set out on the official Service List maintained by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission for this case.

**/s/ Kevin A. Thompson**