

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

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

**JOINT STATEMENT OF CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES
IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Come now the Office of Public Counsel, the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers, the Missouri Retailers Association, and the Consumers Council of Missouri (“Consumer Representatives”), and in support of the procedural schedule proposed by Complainant Noranda Aluminum, Inc. (“Noranda”) state as follows:

1. On February 12, 2014, Noranda filed its complaint and supporting testimony in this case. Noranda’s complaint includes a request for expedited treatment.
2. On February 13, the Commission issued its Notice of Complaint, Order Establishing Time to Respond and Order Establishing Time to Apply to Intervene, setting an a deadline of March 7 for applications to intervene and March 17 for Ameren’s Answer and for responses to applications to intervene.
3. Each of the Consumer Representatives is a customer, or represents customers, of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri (“Ameren Missouri”), and each has an interest in keeping electric rates just and reasonable.
4. The Office of Public Counsel is a party to this case. The other Consumer Representatives have either not yet applied for intervention or have applied but have not yet been

granted intervention, and do not yet have the status of parties to this case. However, due to the urgency of the requested relief, the Consumer Representatives wish to state their support at this time for an expedited decision and procedural schedule in this case.

5. The Consumer Representatives believe that an expedited schedule is in the public interest because, as explained in the testimony of Noranda witness Greg Meyer, customers are currently paying higher than just and reasonable rates. While a utility-initiated rate proceeding takes approximately eleven months to process, typically five months of that time is devoted to allowing parties to audit the utility's books and records and respond to the utility's rate increase request. In this case, Ameren Missouri is intimately familiar with its own books and records, and its own earnings situation, so a considerable amount of time can be saved. Because it does not have to investigate and audit its own books, Ameren Missouri should be able to file responsive testimony a few weeks after receiving the complaint.

6. The Consumer Representatives support the request set forth in Noranda's complaint for a Commission decision expediting the resolution of these issues. The Consumer Representatives will work with the other parties to develop a specific procedural schedule once intervention requests have been ruled upon.

WHEREFORE, the Consumer Representatives state their support for the request for expedited treatment contained in Noranda's complaint filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been emailed to parties of record this 21st day of February, 2014:

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