

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

In the Matter of an Investigation into the Tree)
Trimming Policies of Union Electric Company,)
d/b/a AmerenUE)

Case No. EW-2004-0583

STAFF STATUS REPORT

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) in response to the Missouri Public Service Commission's November 5, 2004 Order Directing Filing and March 3, 2005 Order Granting Request For Additional Time To File Status Report And Order Directing Filing, and files its status report on the tree trimming policies and practices of Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE).

The Staff has discussed with AmerenUE vegetation management issues on several occasions since the Agenda Session on November 18, 2004 which included this matter. Most recently, the Staff met with AmerenUE on February 1, 2005 at the Ameren offices in St. Louis. As a result of these discussions, AmerenUE and the Staff have agreed to the Staff receiving the following:

- (1) AmerenUE Reports on Metro Tree Trimming Schedule and Other Area Tree Trimming Schedule – approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter – hard copy and electronic copy;
- (2) AmerenUE Reports on Missouri Vegetation Management O&M Budget, Missouri Overhead System Feeder Master File, Budget Dollar Amounts For Transmission & Distribution for the Next Year, and Actual Dollar Amounts for Transmission & Distribution for the Previous Year – approximately February 15 of each year – hard copy and electronic copy;
- (3) "High Level" Four Year Schedule of AmerenUE Vegetation Management Plan; and
- (4) Staff being invited to participate in field reviews – biannually, initially around May 15 and November 15 of each year.

See following letter from Warren Wood to Raymond M. Wiesehan.

Wherefore, the Staff submits this status report regarding AmerenUE's tree trimming policies and practices.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/Steven Dottheim
Steven Dottheim
Chief Deputy General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 29149

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 7th day of March 2005.

/s/ Steven Dottheim



Commissioners

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Chairman

CONNIE MURRAY

STEVE GAW

ROBERT M. CLAYTON III

LINWARD "LIN" APPLING

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ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

March 3, 2005

Mr. Raymond M. Wiesehan
Ameren Services
1901 Chouteau Avenue
PO Box 66149, MC 450
St. Louis, MO 63166-6149

Dear Mr. Wiesehan,

On July 5, 2004, AmerenUE experienced a series of thunderstorms that caused extensive damage to AmerenUE's distribution system in the St. Louis area. As a result of the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff's review of the restoration efforts of AmerenUE following this event, Staff issued a report on August 31, 2004, that listed five recommendations.

Staff and AmerenUE discussed these recommendations and possible mechanisms to implement them on several occasions. As a result of these discussions, AmerenUE issued a letter to the Staff on November 2, 2004, that detailed AmerenUE's response and proposed resolution of each of Staff's recommendations in the August 31, 2004 report. These responses and proposed resolutions were presented to the Commission in their agenda session on November 18, 2004. In that agenda session, the Commission requested that AmerenUE and Staff visit more to further refine the resolution of Staff's first recommendation related to vegetation management.

Staff and AmerenUE discussed vegetation management issues on several occasions and met in St. Louis in Ameren's office on February 1, 2005. In this meeting Ameren presented an overview of their vegetation management program, their organizational structure, the key points of Staff's and AmerenUE's agreements to date, their plan for vegetation management from 2005 to 2008, and what reporting requirements and joint audit procedures might be most convenient and still achieve the desired results.

As a result of these discussions in the February 1, 2005 meeting between Staff and AmerenUE the agreements outlined below were reached. Where a tab number is referred to, it is referring to the tab number given in the "Ameren – Missouri Vegetation Management MPSC Presentation February 1, 2005" notebook that was handed out in the February 1, 2005 meeting between Staff and AmerenUE personnel.

The following will be provided to Staff approximately 45 days after each quarter end (hard and electronic copy):

Tab # 2 Report, Metro Tree Trimming Schedule

Tab # 3 Report, Other Area Tree Trimming Schedule

A summary report will be provided to Staff approximately February 15th of each year that will include (hard and electronic copy):

Tab # 1, Sheet # 14 Report, AmerenUE Missouri Vegetation Management O&M Budget
Tab # 4 Report, AmerenUE Missouri Overhead System Feeder Master File
Budget Dollar Amounts for Transmission & Distribution for the Next Year
Actual Dollar Amounts for Transmission & Distribution for the Previous Year

In addition to the regularly scheduled submittals listed above:

Staff will receive a high level 4 year schedule of AmerenUE's vegetation management plan.

Staff will be invited to participate in field reviews, bi-annually initially around May 15th and November 15th of each year.

If you have any questions on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call me at (573) 751-2978.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren T. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Warren T. Wood, PE
Energy Department Manager

c: Wess Henderson, Interim Executive Director
Lena Mantle, Engineering Section Manager
Dan Beck, Engineer II, Energy Department
Steve Dottheim, Chief Deputy General Counsel