

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Mike Bennett)
for Change of Electric Supplier.) **Case No. EO-2007-0199**

ORDER GRANTING CHANGE OF ELECTRIC SERVICE SUPPLIER

Issue Date: January 12, 2007

Effective Date: January 22, 2007

On November 28, 2006, Mike Bennett filed a verified application with the Missouri Public Service Commission for a change of supplier from Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, to SEMO Electric Cooperative, for electric service to his residence at 704 State Highway P, New Madrid, Missouri. Mr. Bennett cited numerous outages as the reason for the requested change. The application did not indicate that either electric utility had consented to the change. The Commission issued an order on November 29, 2006, adding AmerenUE and SEMO as parties to the case and setting a filing deadline December 29, 2006, for any responses to the application. In addition, the Commission directed its Staff to file its recommendation or a status report no later than January 8, 2007.

On December 5, 2006, AmerenUE filed its Response, which included the Verified Statement of its Vice President of Energy Delivery-Distribution Service. AmerenUE does not object to the requested transfer and believes that it is in the public interest for reasons other than rate differential. AmerenUE relates that Mr. Bennett's property is located at the end of a mile-long feeder which does not serve any other AmerenUE customer. AmerenUE states that the physical location of the property is such that it believes SEMO would be able to provide a more direct tie into a service line than Mr. Bennett currently has to AmerenUE,

and that this should result in fewer outages for the Bennett household. AmerenUE recommends that the Commission approve the change in supplier, but requests that the Commission's order (1) require AmerenUE to cut open the facilities serving Mr. Bennett's residence; (2) require SEMO to return to AmerenUE any and all transformers associated with Mr. Bennett's existing service; and (3) require SEMO to take title to all existing facilities serving Mr. Bennett's residence after said facilities are cut open by AmerenUE. AmerenUE states that these steps are necessary to permit SEMO to obtain maximum use of the existing facilities and to limit AmerenUE's ongoing liability.

SEMO filed a Statement of Position on January 10, 2007. SEMO takes no position on the merits of the requested change of supplier, but affirms its willingness and ability to provide electric service to Mr. Bennett and concurs with the manner of transfer proposed by AmerenUE in its Response.

On January 8, 2007, the Staff of the Commission filed its recommendation for approval of the application. Staff notes that because AmerenUE is using a mile-long feeder and associated poles to serve Mr. Bennett's residence, and because Mr. Bennett has experienced numerous outages and is the only customer being served by the feeder, the public as well as Mr. Bennett will benefit if Mr. Bennett's service provider is changed from AmerenUE to SEMO. Staff states that Mr. Bennett should experience fewer outages and AmerenUE and its customers will no longer incur the expense of maintaining a mile-long feeder to serve only one customer. Staff submits that these are reasons other than a rate differential to grant the requested change of supplier. Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order approving the application, subject to the conditions requested by AmerenUE.

Conclusion

Section 393.106.2, RSMo 2000, authorizes the Commission to order a change of electric supplier on the basis that it is in the public interest for a reason other than a rate differential. The Commission has considered the application, AmerenUE's response, SEMO's statement of position, and the Staff's recommendation, which are hereby admitted into evidence. The Commission finds that Mr. Bennett's request for a change of electric service supplier is in the public interest for a reason other than a rate differential and will approve the application. The Commission will condition the change of supplier as requested by AmerenUE and recommended by Staff.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The application filed by Mike Bennett for a change of electric service supplier for his residence located at 704 State Highway P, New Madrid, Missouri, from Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, to SEMO Electric Cooperative, is approved.
2. Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, shall cut open the facilities serving Mike Bennett's residence.
3. Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, is authorized to transfer to SEMO Electric Cooperative the pole where AmerenUE's electric service to Mr. Bennett's residence transitions from overhead to underground lines and the service conductors to the meter base serving Mr. Bennett's residence.
4. Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, shall retain any and all transformers and meters used to provide electric service at Mr. Bennett's residence.

5. This order shall become effective on January 22, 2007.
6. This case may close on January 23, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 12th day of January, 2007.