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Exhibit No.: 757
Witness: Robert Mayer
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Issue: Noranda Economic
Impact
Sponsoring Party: Noranda Aluminum
Inc.
Case No.: ER-2008-0318

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION

AMERENUE

CASE NO. ER-2008-0318

PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT MAYER

August 28, 2008

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Noranda
Exhibit No. 757
Case No(s) ER-2008-0318
Date 12-10-08 Rptr RT

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union Electric)
Company d/b/a AmerenUE for Authori-)
ty to File Tariffs Increasing Rates)
for Electric Service Provided to)
Customers in the Company's Missouri)
Service Area.)

ER-2008-0318


AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT MAYER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF Stoddard)

Robert Mayer, of lawful age, on his oath states: That he has reviewed the attached written testimony in question and answer form, all to be presented in the above case, that the answers in the attached written testimony were given by him; that he has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; that such matters are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

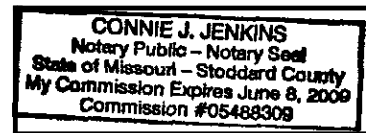

Robert Mayer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of August, 2008.


Notary Public

[SEAL]

My Commission expires: 6-8-09



PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT MAYER

1 Q: Please state your name and business address.

2

3 A: My name is Robert Mayer and my business address is 21 Vine
4 Street in Dexter, Missouri.

5

6 Q: I understand that you are a Missouri State Senator, is that
7 correct?

8

9 A: Yes. I am a Member of the Missouri Senate representing the
10 25th Senatorial District here in Southeast Missouri.

11

12 Q: How long have you been in this position Senator?

13

14 A: I have served as State Senator for four years and prior to
15 that I served in the Missouri House of Representatives for
16 four years.

17

18 Q: Your constituent area encompasses the Noranda Aluminum plant
19 does it not?

20

21 A: Yes it does encompass Noranda. There's seven counties in my
22 legislative district, Ripley, Butler, Wayne, Stoddard,

1 Dunklin, and New Madrid and of course Noranda's located in New
2 Madrid County.

3

4 Q: So you're familiar with the operations at Noranda and the
5 surrounding area.

6

7 A: I am very familiar with the operations of Noranda and even
8 prior to my legislative tenure, I was familiar with Noranda.

9

10 Q: Do you have any comments that you might like to share with the
11 members of the Public Service Commission regarding the
12 economic impact that Noranda's operations have in the area of
13 your constituents.

14

15 A: Well, in the Bootheel, Noranda with its 1,100 high quality
16 jobs has a major impact on our economy. These Noranda
17 employees are spread out through Southeast Missouri and
18 actually four other states. Each of the counties that I
19 represent have several Noranda employees who reside there in
20 those counties and these employees are some of our top
21 citizens and certainly enjoy a high rate of pay and benefits
22 because of their good employer, Noranda.

23

1 Noranda also generates almost 25 percent of the total taxes
2 that are paid in New Madrid County and about one-third of the
3 taxes paid for the New Madrid County Center R1 School District
4 so not only do they provide 1,100 excellent paying jobs but
5 also pay a good deal of taxes there in New Madrid County and
6 for the local school system there in New Madrid. Here in
7 Southeast Missouri, and particularly in the Bootheel, we have
8 had challenges over the years in creating job opportunities
9 for our citizens. Noranda is the crown jewel of our
10 manufacturing community in the Bootheel and it is very
11 important that they continue to operate here in Southeast
12 Missouri and remain profitable for years to come.

13

14 **Q: Senator, do you become involved at all with economic**
15 **development activities in your constituent area?**

16

17 **A:** Well I always have a keen interest in economic development for
18 our region and from time-to-time I get called by economic
19 developers and local and county leaders to assist them in
20 helping some of our area businesses and industries.- I know
21 that job creation and economic development play a big part in
22 creating a good quality of life here in the Bootheel of
23 Missouri so any time that I can lend assistance to one of our
24 existing businesses or industries or can play a part in

1 working with the Department of Economic Development and other
2 state agencies to assist our local businesses and employers, I
3 do get involved and want to be involved.

4

5 Q: Senator, with that background, do you have a sense as to
6 relative importance of manufacturing jobs such as those that
7 exist at Noranda?

8

9 A: I believe that our manufacturing jobs are generally better
10 paying jobs with more benefits and they create other jobs that
11 supply products and services to the manufacturers.
12 Furthermore, we've seen over the last 20 years it has become
13 more difficult to attract and keep manufacturers in our area,
14 like other areas of the country have experienced. The
15 difficulty is we are now in a worldwide economy, and the
16 competition for these jobs is vicious and oftentimes the
17 playing field is not level. Additionally, with the
18 advancement in technology and more efficient manufacturing
19 processes, there are fewer of these type jobs. With the 1,100
20 good paying manufacturing jobs you can understand why Noranda
21 is so important to our economy and why we want to keep them
22 here in Southeast Missouri.

23

1 Q: Senator, you mentioned the local school districts. Why is
2 that an important criteria in your view?
3

4 A: Education is a vital tool for our people to possess. Without
5 a first-class education, most of our citizens will not enjoy
6 the quality of life they desire. Without that education, they
7 won't find the jobs they need to provide for their families
8 and themselves. We depend on our local businesses and
9 industries to pay local property taxes which go directly to
10 our schools. We have an excellent school in New Madrid County
11 with some of the best facilities and educators in the state.
12 They have good facilities and good teachers because Noranda
13 provides about a third of the taxes that help run the New
14 Madrid County Central R1 School District.
15

16 Q: I appreciate your time this afternoon Senator. Just in
17 summary, are there any additional comments you'd like to
18 share?
19

20 A: The Bootheel of Missouri has a lot of challenges and certainly
21 job creation has been one that is at the top of the list. To
22 create and maintain job opportunities for the citizens of the
23 Bootheel is an ongoing challenge. When reviewing our
24 manufacturing community, I can again say that Noranda is the

1 crown jewel of our manufacturing community. They provide
2 1,100 good paying jobs with health benefits, including
3 retirement plans and they pump millions of dollars into the
4 regional economy. It is imperative that Noranda continue to
5 operate here in this area and that they remain profitable for
6 years to come.

7

8 Q: Does this conclude your testimony at this time?

9

10 A: Yes it does.