

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

USW Local 11-6

Complainant,

v.

Laclede Gas Company,

Respondent.

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Case No. GC-2006-0060

FILED²

JUN 05 2006

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT L. PETERSON

I, Robert Eugene (Gene) Peterson, declare and state:

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Q. By whom are you currently employed?

A. I am assistant business manager for a labor organization, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2 (Local 2), and I have held this position since 1996.

Q. On what do you base your testimony today?

A. I am competent to and can testify to the matters set forth herein based on personal knowledge and/or records kept by Local 2 in the ordinary course of its business.

Q. Who does Local 2 represent?

A. Local 2 represents gas workers, as well as electrical workers, who work for Ameren in the mid-Missouri areas that were previously owned by Missouri Power & Light and in the Rolla, Missouri area that was previously owned by Aquilla Gas.

Q. Does Ameren currently perform, or has it performed, change of service gas inspections known as "turn off/turn on" ("TFTO") inspections?

A. Ameren used to perform TFTO inspections. Over the last few years, Ameren has automated the meters in these areas by having Cellnet Technology, Inc. install automated meter reading ("AMR") devices. As a result, Ameren no longer

Exhibit No. 7
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performs change of service gas inspections known as "turn off/turn on" ("TFTO") inspections.

Q. What was Local 2's reaction to Ameren's decision to quit performing TFTO inspections?


A. Local 2 was concerned about the safety of Ameren ceasing to perform TFTO inspections. We filed a grievance over that and other issues involving implementation of AMR. I am not at liberty to discuss the resolution of that grievance.

Q. Did Local 2 address its safety concerns with the Public Service Commission ("PSC")? Why or why not?

A. No, we did not file a complaint with the PSC about our concerns because our experience has been that the PSC is not labor friendly and our complaint would be futile. This determination was based in part on the outcome of a prior PSC complaint in which we intervened on behalf of electrical workers we represent. We spent approximately \$42,000 in legal fees relating to that matter, but received short shrift from the PSC.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct and that I have personal knowledge of the facts contained herein and, if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

Executed on the 4th day of May, 2006.


Robert E. Peterson