		Page 417
1	STATE OF MISSOURI	
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
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6	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
7	Evidentiary Hearing	
8	February 25, 2015	
9	Jefferson City, Missouri	
	Volume 18	
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11		
12 In the Matte	er of Union)	
Electric Cor	mpany d/b/a)	
13 Ameren Misso	ouri's Tariff) File No. ER-2014-0258	
to Increase	Its Revenues)	
14 for Electric	c Service)	
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17	MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding,	
	CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.	
18		
19	ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman	
	STEPHEN M. STOLL,	
20	WILLIAM P. KENNEY,	
	DANIEL Y. HALL,	
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23 REPORTED BY:		
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Page 421 PROCEEDINGS 1 2 (WHEREUPON, the hearing began at 9:00 a.m.) 3 (MIEC EXHIBIT NOS. 513 AND 514 WERE 4 5 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're back for day 7 three of the Ameren rate case, ER-2014-0258. We'll be getting into a couple of new issues today. 8 First will be amortizations, and we'll start that with mini openings. Before we do that, is there 10 11 anything else anyone wants to bring up? 12 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, there are a 13 couple of things. The company released its earnings this morning, and therefore, I'm going to 14 15 ask that we declassify Mr. Moehn's testimony that he gave Monday regarding what the company's 16 17 earnings for 2014 were for the same reasons that Mr. Coffman, for example, has consistently argued. 18 We have actual surveillance results occurring 19 before the evidentiary hearing in the case had 20 21 already concluded, and those should be public at 22 least to give context to all the other surveillance 23 reports that folks are pointing to. So -- and also 24 that obviates the need to worry about going in camera about that today, which certainly would have 25

Page 422 1 come up. 2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, as I recall, 3 it was just a short period when we went in camera to give some numbers, wasn't it? 5 MR. LOWERY: He did. 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That will then be 7 reclassified as public. MR. LOWERY: And that surveillance 8 9 report does not need to be treated as highly confidential in the hearings. 10 The second issue is I would request 11 12 leave to take up our objection that we had filed, I guess it's Monday afternoon, to Mr. Meyer's and 13 Mr. Dittmer's testimony and ask to be heard on that 14 15 at this time, if it please the Commission. 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone object to 17 doing that? MR. DOWNEY: Judge, I do. Judge, I 18 think your prior ruling on this issue was that we 19 could take up objections to testimony when the 20 21 testimony is offered. I think we should stick to that ruling. That way we don't confuse the 22 objection to Meyer's testimony with the objection 23 24 to Dittmer's testimony. 25 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, as the

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- 1 motion indicates, there's a certainly a close
- 2 interrelationship between the two objections. It
- 3 doesn't make any sense for the argument, which is
- 4 the same in many respects on both of them, to have
- 5 to be made twice. Certainly I can do that, but
- 6 it's not very efficient for that to happen. The
- 7 testimonies are going to be offered today
- 8 obviously, and it seems --
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What is your reason
- 10 for doing it now rather than waiting 'til they're
- 11 actually on the stand?
- 12 MR. LOWERY: It seems to me that it
- 13 would be more efficient. If your Honor doesn't
- 14 agree with that, I'll make the argument at the
- 15 time. It in substance doesn't make any difference
- 16 to me. I was just trying to do it in a more
- 17 orderly fashion.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: We'll wait until the
- 19 testimony is actually offered then.
- 20 All right, then. For mini openings,
- 21 we'll begin with Ameren Missouri.
- 22 MR. LOWERY: Good morning, and may it
- 23 please the Commission again? It's good to see you
- 24 again this morning.
- There are two different sets of

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- 1 issues that we're taking up today. The first
- 2 involves two or three regulatory assets for which
- 3 amortization in rates is sought in this case. The
- 4 most notable of those are the mandated solar rebate
- 5 payments that the company has paid pursuant to the
- 6 Missouri RES statute or Renewable Energy Standard
- 7 statute -- I'm going to call it the RES statute for
- 8 short -- as was contemplated by the Commission-
- 9 approved stipulation approved in 2013 and ordered
- 10 by the Commission.
- 11 The second issue involves the
- 12 amortization of the regulatory asset created
- 13 pursuant to an AAO approved by the Commission that
- 14 arose out of the ice storm that caused Noranda's
- 15 load to drop substantially for about a year a few
- 16 years ago.
- 17 The first set of issues are going to
- 18 be taken up this morning, and the Noranda AAO issue
- 19 will be taken up separately later today. My
- 20 remarks are only going to address the first set of
- 21 issues, and Mr. Mitten will address the Noranda AAO
- 22 issues when he takes up that issue on his mini
- 23 opening a bit later.
- 24 The Staff and the company are in
- 25 complete agreement with respect to all the

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- 1 amortization issues in this case with the exception
- 2 of the Noranda AAO issues, so all the issues that
- 3 were taken up this morning, and there are three of
- 4 them. There are the solar rebates issue. There's
- 5 an issue about the amortization in rates of the
- 6 remaining regulatory asset that arose from the
- 7 company's pre-MEEIA energy efficiency programs, and
- 8 there's the issue of amortization of some mandated
- 9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission study costs that were
- 10 required by the NRC in the wake of the Fukushima
- 11 disaster in Japan a few years ago.
- Now, I spoke about the solar rebates
- issue at some length the other day, but I'd like to
- 14 delve a bit more deeply into the facts surrounding
- 15 these mandated rebate payments at this time.
- 16 As I believe you probably know, one
- 17 of the requirements of the Missouri RES statute is
- 18 that utilities pay a specified level of solar
- 19 rebates to customers that are eligible. Another
- 20 feature of the RES statute is that the utility
- 21 expenditures for renewables cannot cause rates to
- 22 increase by more than 1 percent. This is sometimes
- 23 called the 1 percent retail rate impact limitation,
- 24 as compared with what the utility's rates would be
- 25 if it did not make the expenditures for renewables

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- 1 in compliance with the statute.
- 2 In 2013 Ameren Missouri filed an
- 3 application, and the statute contemplates that such
- 4 applications would be filed, seeking a Commission
- 5 determination that it was going to breach the
- 6 1 percent retail rate impact limitation in 2013.
- 7 The primary driver were accelerating solar rebate
- 8 payments that we were seeing.
- 9 Consequently, the company was in a
- 10 position where it would need to cease paying solar
- 11 rebates before the year's end. The solar industry
- 12 was extremely concerned about this because starting
- 13 and stopping the rebate payments, which would have
- 14 been the consequence. Hit the 1 percent in '13,
- 15 you stop. You start back up in '14. Hit it again,
- 16 you stop. Created a lot of uncertainty for their
- 17 business, which I think is pretty understandable.
- 18 And there was another reason, and
- 19 that is because the RES statute had been changed so
- 20 that the amount of the solar rebates was going to
- 21 drop in mid 2014 and actually going to drop
- 22 substantively to where it was going to be phased
- 23 out. The solar industry obviously wanted the
- 24 rebates to continue unabated and they wanted them
- 25 to continue at the higher level because it would

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- 1 incentivize people to install more solar systems.
- 2 Ultimately, a stipulation was entered
- 3 into among the Staff, MIEC, the company and
- 4 representatives of the solar industry. Under the
- 5 stipulation, instead of stopping payment in a given
- 6 year because of the 1 percent retail rate impact
- 7 limitation, the company instead created a pool of
- 8 solar rebates, and that pool consisted of
- 9 \$91.9 million.
- 10 And the agreement was that the
- 11 company would continue to pay the solar rebates
- 12 until the pool was exhausted. This allowed solar
- installers to get as many systems installed as they
- 14 could before the amount dropped and prevented
- 15 interruption of their businesses.
- The signatories also agreed that
- 17 because the company would have to advance the cash
- 18 for the solar rebates, that a 10 percent adder to
- 19 cover carrying costs would be included. The
- 20 company specifically gave up the right to recover
- 21 the solar rebate payments through a RESRAM, through
- 22 a rider that would have adjusted rates outside of
- 23 rate cases.
- 24 Under the stipulation -- and in
- 25 exchange for giving that up, in exchange for giving

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- 1 up the right to require the Commission to make a
- 2 determination on the 1 percent, the company was
- 3 given authority to defer the solar rebate payments
- 4 plus the 10 percent adder to a regulatory asset.
- 5 The stipulation provided that the regulatory asset
- 6 was to be, quote, considered for recovery in a
- 7 general rate proceeding occurring after
- 8 December 31, 2013 in a general rate case. And the
- 9 specific amortization period to be used in that
- 10 rate case, three years, was also agreed upon.
- 11 Moreover, the signatories agreed that
- 12 the only means by which recovery of the solar
- 13 rebates and the 10 percent adder could be opposed
- 14 was if it was -- if it were alleged that the
- 15 company had imprudently paid the solar rebates,
- 16 paid the wrong amount, paid them to somebody not
- 17 eligible, something of that nature.
- 18 You might recall that at the same
- 19 time there were some significant, I'll call them
- 20 allegations taking place on the western side of the
- 21 state about whether KCPL in forming a subsidiary
- 22 that was installing solar systems, there were
- 23 issues about whether they had properly paid solar
- 24 rebates to a particular solar rebate installer,
- 25 those issues were going on, and there were claims

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- 1 that KCPL had not prudently managed it, how they
- 2 handled their solar rebates.
- Now, I'm not endorsing those claims.
- 4 I only mention them to provide context for the
- 5 specific agreement that was in the stipulation in
- 6 our case that the rebate payments could be
- 7 challenged on the basis of prudence.
- 8 The Commission held an on-the-record
- 9 session at that time. I was here, and the
- 10 Commission had, as I recall, quite a few questions
- 11 about the solar rebate stipulation, and then the
- 12 Commission approved it. The Commission in
- 13 approving it said that it independently -- or made
- 14 this finding: The Commission found, quote,
- 15 independently finds and concludes that such
- 16 stipulation is in the public interest and should be
- 17 approved. Found that the deferral was appropriate.
- 18 Found that recovery through a three-year
- 19 amortization was appropriate. Found that the only
- 20 challenge should be on the basis of prudence.
- Now, in reliance on the stipulation
- 22 and on its approval, the company then filed a
- 23 tariff, and that tariff provided for the pool that
- I spoke of a moment ago, and then the Commission
- 25 approved that tariff. So that tariff acquired the

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- 1 force and effect of law.
- 2 As of today, almost all of the pool
- 3 has been paid. This is the general rate proceeding
- 4 occurring after December 31, 2013 contemplated by
- 5 the stipulation. And as we have, and as the Staff
- 6 has done, we've included in our revenue requirement
- 7 a sum equal to one-third of the solar rebates and
- 8 the 10 percent. That total sum is about
- 9 \$96.9 million. So one-third is the amount of the
- 10 amortization that we're seeking in this case.
- 11 Now, as our motion that I didn't talk
- 12 about a few minutes ago but I filed earlier
- 13 indicated, MIEC and its colleague CCM asked you to
- 14 deny the amortization. They don't claim that the
- 15 company was imprudent in paying the solar rebates.
- 16 They acknowledge that the company had to pay them
- 17 under the RES statute and indeed under your order
- 18 approving the stipulation and the tariff that we
- 19 filed and you approved.
- 20 But in what I believe is a slight of
- 21 hand that baldly violates the Stipulation &
- 22 Agreement and the Commission's Order, they posit
- 23 the theory that they're not opposing, quote,
- 24 recovery of the solar rebates. They say this
- 25 because they say Ameren Missouri has already

Page 431 recovered them. 1 2 But there are two significant flaws 3 in this theory, in this attempt to end run around the stipulation. First of all, Ameren Missouri 4 5 hasn't already recovered anything. Ameren Missouri 6 has received payments for its cust-- from its 7 customers for the service that it provided them. 8 Those customers didn't pay the cost of these solar rebates any more than they pay the cost of the salaries that the company pays or any 10 more than they pay my invoices when I send an 11 12 invoice to the company for providing legal 13 services. The law is clear on this point. It's simply not true. 14 15 Second, no fair-minded person could read the Stipulation and the Commission's Order 16 17 approving it and come to the conclusion that it allows opposition to the amortization of these --18 of this regulatory asset created by these solar 19 rebates on any basis other than imprudence. 20 21 So let's take a look at the Stipulation's terms and the terms of your Order. 22 Judge, I should have got my act together before 23 I -- you're taking care of that for me? 24 25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm trying to.

Page 432 1 COMMISSIONER HALL: Do you have 2 copies for us? 3 MR. LOWERY: I do have copies of the exhibit. I'd be happy to take a minute to get them 4 5 for you. 6 COMMISSIONER HALL: I'd appreciate 7 that. MR. KEEVIL: Mr. Lowery, is that the 8 HC version or the NP version? 10 MR. LOWERY: It does have the HC attachment. I'm not going to refer to it. Your 11 12 Honor, I don't know if you want to go -- I 13 certainly am going to be talking about this as the day goes on. I don't know what our next exhibit 14 number is off the top of my head, if you want to go 15 16 ahead and mark it or --17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We can go ahead and mark it now and offer it later. 18 MR. LOWERY: Just for identification 19 at this point. 20 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For identification 22 then it would be Exhibit 55. MR. KEEVIL: Judge, I think it should 23 24 be 55HC. 25 MR. LOWERY: 55HC. We have a highly

Page 433 confidential attachment. 2 MR. KEEVIL: I know this because I 3 made copies myself last night. JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. It will 4 5 be 55HC. (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NO. 55 WAS MARKED 6 7 FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) MR. LOWERY: Candidly, I don't know, 8 your Honor, whether or not those figures are still 9 10 highly confidential, but I'd rather err on the side of caution. 11 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: I'd actually rather err on the side of disclosure. 13 14 MR. LOWERY: It's the calculations that show forecasted information that was an 15 illustration of the 1 percent calculation. And 16 17 Commissioner Hall, I can certainly find out, and if there isn't an issue with that, we can certainly 18 declassify it. It's just not something I have 19 20 been able to track down. 21 MS. TATRO: Mr. Lowery, it is still 22 confidential. 23 MR. LOWERY: It is? 24 COMMISSIONER HALL: And why is it 25 confidential?

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- 1 MR. LOWERY: Well, because it has
- 2 forecasted information about the company's
- 3 generation, costs and other parameters that has not
- 4 been released publicly. It might be material --
- 5 it's nonpublic information.
- 6 MR. KEEVIL: Do you need the
- 7 attachment? You could maybe remove the attachment
- 8 and then the stip would be public.
- 9 MR. LOWERY: We certainly could do
- 10 that. I don't need the attachment.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's do that.
- MR. LOWERY: Judge liked that answer.
- 13 I think there might be a couple of pages.
- 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I think Exhibit A
- 15 was the only thing that's -- I'm sorry. There's an
- 16 Exhibit A, two pages. Okay. So it's 55 not HC,
- 17 and everybody can dispose of the offending page.
- MR. KEEVIL: Pages.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Pages.
- MR. LOWERY: Thank you, your Honor.
- 21 I apologize for not having that straightened out
- 22 before I got here this morning.
- 23 May it please the Commission? I
- 24 wanted to look at a few provisions of the
- 25 stipulation. The first one is on page 3. What I

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- 1 want to highlight is, this is Ameren Missouri's
- 2 agreement not to suspend the solar rebate payments.
- 3 So Ameren Missouri will not suspend payments for
- 4 rebates in 2013 and beyond unless the solar rebate
- 5 payments reach an aggregate level of 91.9 million
- 6 incurred after the end of July in 2012. That's the
- 7 basic agreement that we made.
- If you turn to page 4, and it's going
- 9 to go over onto page 5, here's the exchange. Solar
- 10 amounts paid by Ameren Missouri after July 31,
- 11 2012, including the additional amount provided for
- 12 in the immediately following sentence, shall be
- 13 included in a regulatory asset to be considered for
- 14 recovery in rates after December 31, 2013 in a
- 15 general rate case. I'll talk about the considered
- 16 for recovery in just a moment.
- 17 Something else Ameren Missouri agreed
- 18 to. Ameren Missouri agrees that solar rebate
- 19 payments and the additional amount provided for
- 20 above -- and that's the 10 percent that I spoke of,
- 21 the additional amount -- will only be reflected in
- 22 a general rate proceeding and recovered in a
- 23 general rate case through a three-year amortization
- 24 and cannot be included in a renewable energy
- 25 standard rate adjustment mechanism, or RESRAM,

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- 1 which is a rider.
- 2 Going on down on page 6. The
- 3 signatories agree not to object to Ameren
- 4 Missouri's recovery in retail rates of prudently
- 5 paid solar rebates. And then there's a footnote
- 6 that explains what that means. And I'm not going
- 7 to read the entire thing to you, but it
- 8 specifically defines what prudently paid means or
- 9 doesn't mean.
- 10 Go to page 7. It is the intent of
- 11 the signatories that Ameren Missouri shall
- 12 ultimately bill customers for an amount as close as
- 13 reasonably practicable, and I'll skip the
- 14 parenthetical, to the total solar rebates paid plus
- 15 the additional amount provided in the subparagraph
- 16 above.
- 17 And what that reflects is a true-up
- 18 mechanism, which I've never seen in an AAO order
- 19 before. Essentially what it says is, we're going
- 20 to figure out if the billed amounts, because the
- 21 billing units could be different in a given period,
- 22 we're going to figure out if the billing -- amounts
- 23 billed is exactly 91.9 million or whatever the
- 24 number is, and even, the provision goes on to say,
- 25 if we have not paid all the solar rebates by the

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- 1 time we get to the first rate case, so that there
- 2 would be additional recording to a regulatory asset
- 3 later and we have a second rate case, we're going
- 4 to true that up as well. We're going to get this
- 5 right down to the penny when we're done.
- And then you approved that
- 7 stipulation, the finding I read a moment ago.
- 8 After reviewing the Stipulation & Agreement, the
- 9 Commission independently finds and concludes that
- 10 such Stipulation & Agreement is in the public
- 11 interest and should be approved. So that was the
- 12 deal that was reached.
- 13 Finally on this issue, MIEC and CCM I
- 14 believe misleadingly and inappropriately argue that
- 15 past per book surveillance results justify, because
- 16 they say it means we've already recovered these
- 17 rebates, denial of the amortization of the
- 18 regulatory asset.
- 19 The consequence that they seek is to
- 20 impose a ceiling on earnings between rate cases,
- 21 but of course they wouldn't support a corollary
- 22 floor. We know that because, for example, we've
- 23 had regulatory liabilities in past rate cases over
- the past few years when the per book earnings
- 25 received in that rate case were less than the

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- 1 allowed ROE, and they've been all too happy to
- 2 accept the lower rates that were reflected by those
- 3 amortization of the regulatory liabilities.
- 4 And even they agree that when the
- 5 Commission sets a return and uses that return to
- 6 figure out what the revenue requirement is in a
- 7 rate case and we spread it across the billing units
- 8 and we come up with a rate, they agree that
- 9 that's -- they agree it's not a ceiling and it's
- 10 not a floor. They agree it's only a target. They
- 11 agree that we almost certainly -- any utility will
- 12 certainly earn more or less.
- 13 You recognized that just a few months
- 14 ago in your Noranda earnings complaint order, and
- 15 you recognized just a few months ago and you've
- 16 recognized it many times that you can't look at
- 17 these surveillance results and draw the conclusion
- 18 that they directly relate to what regulated
- 19 earnings are or whether the rates are too high, too
- 20 low, whether they're unjust and unreasonable or
- 21 not. And that's true on the low side and it's true
- 22 on the high side.
- Now, Monday MIEC and others waved
- 24 around a chart from Mr. Meyer's testimony on a
- 25 number of occasions, but their use of it -- the

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- 1 data is accurate, but their use of it I would
- 2 contend is misleading. It's misleading because
- 3 they focus on a year or two, mostly impacted by
- 4 higher than normal earnings in 2012, and they try,
- 5 I believe, to prejudice you into thinking that
- 6 there is something unjust about Ameren Missouri's
- 7 earnings while it was paying these solar rebates,
- 8 but the picture they pain is an inaccurate one.
- 9 In December 2012 you approved a
- 10 \$260 million rate increase for Ameren Missouri.
- 11 You did that after a full cost of service, the kind
- 12 of complex undertaking that Mr. Cassidy talked
- 13 about in their earnings complaint a few months ago
- 14 and that you talked about in your Order.
- Now, the surveillance results at that
- 16 time were indicating that the company was earning
- 17 above its, quote, allowed ROE, but the surveillance
- 18 results were misleading because, in fact, the
- 19 company was in a revenue deficiency position. And
- 20 you granted a rate increase because of that, and
- 21 those rates took effect, they took effect on
- 22 January 2nd, 2013, but for all intents and purposes
- 23 they've been in effect for two full years.
- And that's -- if we're going to go
- 25 down this road, which we shouldn't be at all, but

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- 1 if we're going to go down this road, that's
- 2 certainly a much more relevant theory. Now, I
- 3 don't concede for a minute that the earnings above
- 4 the authorized return for 2013 and 2014 justify
- 5 MIEC's and CCM's position. They don't for the
- 6 reasons I've given. We're misusing these
- 7 surveillance results anyway.
- But since they talk a lot about them,
- 9 I'm going to talk about them for a minute as well.
- 10 For the entirety of 2013 -- and you can see this in
- 11 Mr. Meyer's own testimony -- Ameren Missouri's per
- 12 book earnings unadjusted, unnormalized, were
- 13 54 basis points above its authorized ROE, about
- 14 half a point. That equates to about 31 million.
- 15 Mr. Meyer has that figure in his testimony. That's
- 16 about 1 percent.
- So as it turned out, the per book
- 18 were about 1 percent off of what the normalized
- 19 prediction, if you can call it that, would have
- 20 been.
- For 2014, the company earned
- 22 9.71 percent, nine basis points under. So the
- 23 variance for the entire time that rates have been
- 24 in effect, two years since they've been in effect,
- 25 two years and a half and a month now, has been less

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- 1 than 1 percent.
- 2 And while they focus on a narrow
- 3 window of a year or two, the fact is that over time
- 4 the company has earned below, often much farther
- 5 below and for longer periods of time, its
- 6 authorized ROE and sometimes it's earned above.
- 7 And I'm going to -- that's shown on
- 8 this chart, which is from Mr. Reed's surrebuttal
- 9 testimony, I believe, and it was drawn before we
- 10 had calendar year 2014 results. So if we were to
- 11 add those, extend that red line out and we'd have a
- 12 bar under the red line over to the right.
- But what it shows is we've had long
- 14 periods of under-earnings that have been a lot
- 15 deeper than the short periods of overearning, if
- 16 you want to call it that. When I say overearnings,
- 17 I mean a variance from the authorized versus the
- 18 allowed.
- 19 And I would submit that this is the
- 20 way the system's supposed to work, and there's
- 21 certainly nothing wrong, and I think you recognize
- 22 this in your Noranda Order, with the system working
- 23 this way.
- 24 And the thing that makes the chart
- 25 that they're using misleading is, for example,

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- 1 they've got these what -- they look like they're
- 2 high results for March and June of '14. Looks
- 3 like the company's earning 12 percent. Well, the
- 4 company didn't earn 12 percent in 2014. The
- 5 company earned 9.71 percent.
- 6 You can't just take these
- 7 month-by-month results and say on a rolling
- 8 12-month basis the company earned this amount and
- 9 the rates are too high and they're unjust and it's
- 10 unfair that customers have to pay the amortization
- of the solar rebates, particularly when you have
- 12 a -- had a rate case and we have two calendar years
- 13 effectively since that rate case that show what the
- 14 actual results are.
- Now, in the end, I would submit that
- 16 this discussion of per book and surveillance is
- 17 irrelevant to this issue. We paid the solar
- 18 rebates as we were supposed to do. We have a
- 19 regulatory asset. You approved it. You
- 20 independently found that it was in the public
- 21 interest. And the issue should be resolved in
- 22 favor of the company's and, as I mentioned, the
- 23 Staff's position on this issue.
- 24 Finally and very briefly, for the
- 25 same reasons I've already discussed, the prior per

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- 1 book surveillance results do not justify ignoring
- 2 amortization of the rest of the regulatory asset
- 3 that arose from our pre-MEEIA energy efficiency
- 4 programs, nor does it just ignoring amortization of
- 5 the NRC-mandated flood study costs that had to be
- 6 incurred in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear plant
- 7 disaster and that have been properly accounted for
- 8 as the Uniform System of Accounts indicates they
- 9 should be.
- The Staff and the company's position
- 11 should be adopted on these amortizations, and
- 12 MIEC's and CCM's positions should be rejected. Be
- 13 happy to take any questions.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman.
- 15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Good morning,
- 16 Mr. Lowery.
- MR. LOWERY: Good morning.
- 18 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I just have a
- 19 couple of questions procedurally. Did Consumers
- 20 Council of Missouri, were they a signatory to that
- 21 stipulation?
- MR. LOWERY: They were not.
- 23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But MIEC was?
- MR. LOWERY: Yes.
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Is part of your

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- 1 argument that MIEC is barred from collateral--
- 2 well, let me back up.
- 3 Do you consider this to be a
- 4 collateral attack on our Order approving that
- 5 Stipulation?
- 6 MR. LOWERY: I do, and that's part of
- 7 the argument I was going to get into and I will
- 8 later. But yes, absolutely. I consider it to
- 9 maybe three things. Maybe the last two are the
- 10 same. One, it's clearly a breach of contract, and
- 11 I believe it's a breach of contract, and surely the
- 12 Commission won't sanction parties breaching their
- 13 contracts, their Stipulations & Agreements. That's
- 14 one issue.
- The second issue is your Order
- 16 approving the Stipulation specifically ordered the
- 17 parties to comply with it. So I believe it's a
- 18 violation of your Order. And even if it had not
- 19 said that, I believe it would be a collateral
- 20 attack of your Order approving the Stipulation.
- 21 Maybe the last two are two sides of the same coin,
- 22 but that is how we see it.
- 23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: CCM wouldn't be
- 24 bound by any of that?
- MR. LOWERY: Well, that's an issue,

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- 1 your Honor, and perhaps you haven't read our
- 2 written objection. But the facts are, and this is
- 3 evidenced by sworn deposition testimony of CCM
- 4 witness Dittmer and confirmed in part by MIEC
- 5 witness Meyer, MIEC procured CCM's witness for this
- 6 issue.
- 7 MIEC, we believe -- and I'll get into
- 8 this more when we actually have the argument. MIEC
- 9 is, we believe, and we believe the evidence shows,
- 10 is seeking to do indirectly what it can't do
- 11 directly through CCM. And for that reason we
- 12 believe CCM's testimony is also improper.
- 13 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So the testimony
- 14 might be improper, but I'm just saying as a matter
- of procedure, CCM wasn't a party and wasn't a
- 16 signatory to the Stipulation, so they wouldn't be
- 17 barred from making these arguments?
- 18 MR. LOWERY: I suppose Mr. Coffman
- 19 can stand up and make the arguments. I suppose
- 20 that's true. But I don't believe that MIEC can
- 21 indirectly procure a witness to advance its
- 22 position, which it did, because it was concerned
- 23 that our earlier motion to strike might ultimately
- 24 be sustained, and that's what the deposition
- 25 testimony shows. It's in our written objection,

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- 1 and again, I can talk about it more now, but I
- 2 intend to talk about it more later.
- 3 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So then let me just
- 4 ask a question about the regulatory asset that was
- 5 created for the solar rebates. That's a separate
- 6 account, right, into which that money is placed so
- 7 that it can be recovered outside of the test year?
- 8 MR. LOWERY: It is identified in
- 9 Account 182.3 as a regulatory asset, and yes, we
- 10 can identify exactly what it is. That's true.
- 11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And the intention
- 12 of that is so that those dollars stay segregated
- 13 and identifiable as payment for solar rebates?
- 14 MR. LOWERY: That is correct.
- 15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Then let me just
- 16 ask the Fukushima study. That was mandated by the
- 17 NRC?
- 18 MR. LOWERY: Yes. After Fukushima,
- 19 which as you recall was a tsunami that caused
- 20 horrible flooding, the NRC I think understandably
- 21 wanted to make sure that there weren't flood
- 22 hazards at nuclear plants in the US, so we were
- 23 required to do that study.
- 24 Had the study indicated that capital
- 25 investment, a project, whether it be build up a

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- 1 levee or install more generators or raise the
- 2 generators up higher, whatever it would have been,
- 3 we would have had to -- whatever it might have
- 4 been, spent 20 million, I don't know what it would
- 5 have been, we would have had to do that. And I --
- 6 I'd be shocked if when we came to rate base those
- 7 investments in a rate base there would be any
- 8 controversy about including them in rate base.
- 9 But, in fact, the study indicated --
- 10 and our engineers worked with the consultant --
- 11 indicated the hazard wasn't such that we needed to
- 12 do that, so we didn't have to make a capital
- 13 investment. Under FERC accounting, under the USOA
- 14 the Commission's adopted, actually the study costs
- 15 are actually a capital expenditure when you're
- 16 making them, and then the accounting is, under the
- 17 USOA they're transferred to this deferral account
- 18 and the deferral account contemplates recovery of
- 19 them. That's what the USOA says.
- 20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So the argument
- 21 with all these amortizations is essentially that
- 22 because there were periods of overearnings, they've
- 23 all already been recovered?
- 24 MR. LOWERY: That's the only argument
- 25 that's being made.

Page 448 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I don't have any 1 2 other questions. Thank you. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll? COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no 4 5 questions. 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 7 COMMISSIONER HALL: Yes. Good 8 morning. 9 MR. LOWERY: Good morning. 10 COMMISSIONER HALL: The last time we were all in this hearing room, we were listening to 11 arguments about -- arguments raised by Noranda and 12 13 MIEC and other consumer groups about overearnings by Ameren during a particular period in time. What 14 was that period of time, if you could refresh my 15 memory? 16 17 MR. LOWERY: Well, it shifted, I think. I think when the case was filed, Mr. Meyer 18 had looked at the 12 months ending September 2013. 19 He'll correct me if I'm wrong. He's shaking his 20 21 head in agreement. And then I believe he made some isolated adjustments for the 12 months ending March 22 of '14. And I believe the Staff did a very limited 23 24 study looking at calendar year '13. 25 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. I'm not

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- 1 sure I tracked all that. Let me ask you this: It
- 2 was during the -- it was within the time period
- 3 that you were paying solar rebates between August
- 4 of '18 (sic) and December of '14?
- 5 MR. LOWERY: Between August of '12
- 6 and December of '14. That is correct,
- 7 Commissioner.
- 8 COMMISSIONER HALL: In that hearing,
- 9 you and your co-counsel made a number of arguments
- 10 that the Commission should not look specifically at
- 11 the balance sheet during that time period, the raw
- 12 surveillance reports, because there were a lot of
- 13 other expenses that were not on those reports that
- 14 we should take into account when determining
- 15 whether or not there were overearnings; is that
- 16 correct? Amongst other arguments. I'm not
- 17 saying --
- 18 MR. LOWERY: No. Let me -- let me
- 19 try to return that to you and make sure that I'm --
- 20 we're communicating. The argument was that you
- 21 can't look at the surveillance results and conclude
- 22 whether a rate change is warranted or not
- 23 warranted, that you have to -- you have to do a
- 24 cost of service study. You have to figure that
- 25 out.

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- 1 COMMISSIONER HALL: Right. But one
- 2 of your arguments was that there were a number of
- 3 expenses that weren't showing up on those balance
- 4 sheets, in those surveillance reports that we
- 5 should take into account, we the Commission should
- 6 take into account before determining whether or not
- 7 there was, in fact, overearnings.
- 8 MR. LOWERY: Because you certainly
- 9 would -- and just a slight nuance, it would have
- 10 been items not shown up on the income statement.
- 11 Expenses for solar rebates were being deferred to
- 12 the balance sheet. But because if you did a cost
- of service study, you would have to take those into
- 14 account.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HALL: I mean, you're
- 16 going to exactly my question. We heard a whole lot
- 17 of evidence and analysis, argument about the solar
- 18 rebates in that overearnings case. Is that a fair
- 19 statement?
- MR. LOWERY: Yes. They were
- 21 discussed quite a lot, I agree.
- 22 COMMISSIONER HALL: Well, why were
- 23 they relevant in that rate case if -- and did you
- 24 know at that -- I'll just start with that question.
- 25 Why were the solar rebates relevant in that

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- 1 overearnings case?
- 2 MR. LOWERY: If you were going to
- 3 reset rates, whether to lower them -- wouldn't have
- 4 been a rate increase in that case because there was
- 5 no request -- then you would have studied the
- 6 actual cost of service, all of the adjustments.
- 7 You would have included, for example, solar
- 8 rebates, an amortization. I believe you would have
- 9 had to have included amortization of the solar
- 10 rebates that had been paid. So that's why they're
- 11 relevant.
- 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: Why were they
- 13 relevant if in the next rate case you were going to
- 14 request recovery of those -- of those amounts? In
- 15 the overearnings case we were trying to determine
- 16 whether there was overearnings during a specific
- 17 period in time, and if -- why were you including a
- 18 discussion of expenses during that period of time
- 19 that you were going to be seeking recovery of in
- 20 the next rate case regardless?
- 21 MR. LOWERY: Because they would have
- 22 had to be included in any rate adjustment that was
- 23 made in that case. That case also was a general
- 24 rate proceeding. An overearnings complaint is also
- 25 a general rate proceeding. So they would have had

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- 1 to be considered as well.
- I also -- I guess I'm going to
- 3 quibble a little bit with your -- that your task
- 4 was to determine whether there had been
- 5 overearnings during a particular period. That's
- 6 not the test for changing rates. There are
- 7 virtually always over or underearnings during any
- 8 period.
- 9 COMMISSIONER HALL: Right. We don't
- 10 need to recharacterize the consumers' complaint.
- 11 That's what they were arguing. That's what we were
- 12 determining.
- MR. LOWERY: I agree that's what they
- 14 were arguing.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HALL: I still -- I
- 16 still don't understand your answer to my question,
- 17 and I'm not saying you're wrong and I'm right or
- 18 vice-versa. I still don't understand the answer to
- 19 that question. It seems to me that if we were
- 20 going to make a determination on overearnings, we
- 21 should not take into account expenses that were
- 22 going to be covered in a later rate case.
- 23 And so I will sit here and wait to be
- 24 persuaded to the contrary by your witnesses or my
- 25 colleagues.

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1	MR. LOWERY: Fair enough.	
2	COMMISSIONER HALL: Thank you.	
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank	
4	you.	
5	MR. LOWERY: Thank you.	
6	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Opening for Staff.	
7	MR. KEEVIL: Thank you, Judge. May	
8	it please the Commission?	
9	I've always been a believer that the	
10	word mini in mini openings was m-i-n-i as in short	
11	rather than m-a-n-y as in numerous. So I'm going	
12	to try to keep this plus Mr. Lowery already said	
13	most of what I was planning to say anyway.	
14	The issue that's before you this	
15	morning is the amortization issue. The thing I'd	
16	like to point out there is Monday during the	
17	general openings, many of the people who mentioned	
18	amortizations lumped all four or lumped four	
19	amortizations into that general topic. We're not	
20	here on four. We're here on three.	
21	The outlier being the Noranda AAO	
22	issue. That's a separate issue, and I believe it's	
23	the next issue on your schedule. So you will hear	
24	that soon. But I just wanted to point that out.	
25	That's not part of what we're here about this	

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- 1 morning.
- 2 The three that we're here about this
- 3 morning, as Mr. Lowery indicated, you've got your
- 4 solar rebates amortization, you've got your
- 5 pre-MEEIA energy efficiency amortization, and
- 6 you've got the Fukushima study cost amortization.
- 7 On those three amortizations, like
- 8 Mr. Lowery indicated, Staff and the company have no
- 9 issue. The issue is between Ameren and some of the
- 10 intervenors. If you look at the reconciliations
- 11 which were passed out yesterday afternoon or the
- 12 one that was filed last week, you'll see under the
- 13 MIEC column how much each of these issues are
- 14 valued at, and you'll see a little dash mark in the
- 15 Staff column which indicates no disagreement on
- 16 those three between the Staff and the company.
- 17 If you do look at that
- 18 reconciliation, you'll see that the overwhelming
- 19 majority of the dollar value here is in the solar
- 20 rebate amortization. It's -- it dwarfs the other
- 21 two. And for that reason, I would just -- like
- 22 Mr. Lowery indicated, I would refer you back to the
- 23 Stipulation & Agreement in the ET-2014-0085 case,
- 24 which Mr. Lowery passed out as, I believe, now
- 25 Exhibit 55.

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- 1 Mr. Lowery did not go into detail on
- 2 the -- he mentioned a footnote, I believe it's
- 3 Footnote 7. He didn't read that entire footnote.
- 4 I think that footnote is very important. What the
- 5 footnote says is, given the signatories' agreement
- 6 that the specified amount should be paid, the only
- 7 questions in future general rate proceedings
- 8 regarding the recovery of solar rebate payments is
- 9 whether the claimed solar rebate payments have been
- 10 made and whether they were prudently paid under the
- 11 Commission's RES rules and Ameren Missouri's
- 12 tariffs. Prudently paid relates only to whether
- 13 Ameren Missouri paid the proper amount due to an
- 14 applicant for a rebate, paid it to the proper
- 15 person or entity, and paid it in accordance with
- 16 the Commission's RES rules and Ameren Missouri's
- 17 tariff.
- 18 That footnote, like I said, Staff
- 19 believes is very important, and that's -- we
- 20 believe Staff's treatment of this issue has
- 21 followed the stipulation by allowing the three-year
- 22 amortization of these solar rebates which
- 23 Mr. Lowery pointed out is also provided for in the
- 24 stipulation in the body of the document.
- Now, as I indicated earlier, the real

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- 1 dispute here is between company and the intervenors
- 2 rather than with Staff. However, Staff does have a
- 3 witness, Mr. John Cassidy, on this issue. He'll be
- 4 able to hopefully answer questions that you may
- 5 have concerning how Staff handled these three
- 6 groups of amortizations, the solar rebates, the
- 7 pre-MEEIA energy efficiency costs, and the
- 8 Fukushima flood study costs.
- 9 With that, like I said, Mr. Lowery
- 10 covered just about everything before that I was
- 11 going to cover, so I will leave it there and we'll
- 12 go. Thank you.
- 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks, Mr. Keevil.
- 15 Just do you agree with Mr. Lowery's assertions
- 16 that, as to MIEC, this is a breach of contract,
- 17 it's a collateral attack and a violation of our
- 18 order? I think those are the three bases.
- 19 MR. KEEVIL: Certainly I would agree
- 20 it's certainly -- at least we don't believe it's in
- 21 accordance with the stip and with the -- with the
- 22 Order. Is it a breach of contract? Probably. I
- 23 certainly -- I don't think the stipulation provided
- 24 for a signatory to the stipulation making the
- 25 argument that they're making at this time.

Page 457 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. That's the 1 2 only question I have. Thank you. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any other questions? COMMISSIONER HALL: You heard my 4 discussion with Mr. Lowery a moment ago? 5 6 MR. KEEVIL: Yes. 7 COMMISSIONER HALL: Would you be able -- I believe I understand what Staff's 8 position is on this issue, but could you attempt to persuade me as well on whether or not it was 10 appropriate to -- for Ameren to raise the solar 11 12 rebate issue in the overearnings case in the manner it did? 13 14 MR. KEEVIL: Commissioner, I heard you obviously ask Mr. Lowery that. I wasn't 15 involved in that case, so I don't know exactly what 16 17 Ameren's argument was. 18 I think -- to try to explain what I think I heard Mr. Lowery say, their position would 19 be that in that overearnings case, in order for you 20 21 to basically adjust their rates, it would have required the same sort of functions basically that 22 are gone through in a general rate case such as 23 24 this, which includes looking at all of their expenses and things that may not be showing up on 25

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- 1 those surveillance reports, which would have
- 2 included the solar rebate payments.
- 3 COMMISSIONER HALL: Let me give you a
- 4 hypothetical. Let's say that in that case we had
- 5 decided to adjust rates, and we had taken the solar
- 6 rebate amount, the \$91 million, into account when
- 7 we adjusted rates. Let's just assume we did that.
- 8 So now in this rate case, would it be appropriate
- 9 for us to order the \$91 million be included,
- 10 amortized over three years, et cetera?
- MR. KEEVIL: Well, you wouldn't do it
- 12 twice, but it would be -- the amortization --
- 13 COMMISSIONER HALL: You wouldn't do
- 14 it twice, explain that.
- MR. KEEVIL: First of all, if I
- 16 could, I'm not trying to quibble here, but the 91,
- 17 that's the total amount. For the amortization
- 18 purposes, I think it's being amortized at like 31
- 19 or 32.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HALL: Over three years?
- 21 MR. KEEVIL: Right. So you wouldn't,
- 22 as I understand it -- and I'm not an accountant.
- 23 You perhaps could address this to Mr. Cassidy when
- 24 he takes the stand later. But as I would
- 25 understand it, you wouldn't give them another

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- 1 amortization in this case, but you would continue
- 2 the amortization that you had allowed them in the
- 3 overearnings case.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HALL: All right. Thank
- 5 you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
- 7 MR. KEEVIL: Did I get that right?
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel?
- 9 MR. ALLISON: We waive opening.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Consumers
- 11 Council? I'm sorry. MIEC is before Consumers
- 12 Council.
- MR. DOWNEY: Good morning. May it
- 14 please the Commission? At age 60 I figured out how
- 15 to operate a computer, and I've learned to use
- 16 PowerPoint. I love it, so I think most of my
- 17 opening statements from now on will be PowerPoint.
- 18 Just I still struggle to find the file on the
- 19 computer.
- The print is kind of small on some of
- 21 these slides, so what I've done is I've had copies
- 22 made of the opening statement, and we're
- 23 distributing that to all counsel.
- Okay. Initially I'd like to just
- 25 address amortization of deferred expenses

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- 1 generally. The MIEC, my client, and at least one
- 2 other party maintain that the Commission should not
- 3 allow recovery of deferred costs if the costs were
- 4 incurred during periods when Ameren Missouri was
- 5 overearning by more than the amount of the costs.
- I know some of this may seem
- 7 elementary to you, but I've got it in the slide.
- 8 What is a deferral? First of all, it's a fiction.
- 9 For accounting purposes, we pretend that an expense
- 10 is not incurred when, in fact, it is incurred. To
- 11 quote this Commission, it is a, quote, mechanism to
- 12 defer an item which means to record an item to a
- 13 period outside of a test year for consideration in
- 14 a later rate case. That's from your ice storm AAO,
- 15 EU-2012-0027.
- So why do utilities like Ameren
- 17 Missouri seek deferrals? The answer may be
- 18 obvious, but the answer is they can collect more
- 19 money from ratepayers.
- 20 How does a deferral allow a utility
- 21 to recover more money from ratepayers? No. 1, when
- 22 a utility incurs expenses, its existing rates are
- 23 supposed to recoup those expenses plus allow the
- 24 utility a return on equity.
- Two, when those expenses are

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- 1 deferred, the deferral does not lower the
- 2 then-existing rates.
- 3 Three, but utilities expect to
- 4 recover those expenses, those past expenses in
- 5 future rates from tomorrow's ratepayers
- 6 Even though those expenses were not incurred to
- 7 serve tomorrow's ratepayers.
- 8 So why do consumers like the MIEC
- 9 frequently object to deferrals? The short answer
- 10 is that deferrals can increase future rates and are
- 11 unfair, and that unfairness is evident in this
- 12 case.
- 13 Even without the subject deferrals,
- 14 the MEEIA costs, solar rebate costs, Fukushima
- 15 study costs, Ameren Missouri still earned more
- 16 profit than its 9.8 percent authorized return on
- 17 equity. And that is a lot of what Mr. Meyer covers
- 18 in his testimony.
- In other words, Ameren Missouri's
- 20 existing rates at the time these costs were
- 21 incurred were already adequate for it to recover
- 22 all of its costs, its authorized return on equity
- 23 or profit, plus a little extra just for good
- 24 measure.
- Now, with the deferrals, Ameren

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- 1 argues that it should recover these costs from
- 2 tomorrow's ratepayers even though yesterday's
- 3 ratepayers already paid rates more than adequate to
- 4 cover these and all of Ameren Missouri's other
- 5 costs.
- 6 Utilities like Ameren Missouri
- 7 frequently argue to this Commission and to the
- 8 appellate courts that the decision to allow
- 9 deferral is not the critical decision because it's
- 10 not ratemaking. Indeed, this Commission in
- 11 granting deferral recently stated, quote, deferred
- 12 recording does not quarantee recovery in any later
- 13 rate action. Recovery may be granted in whole,
- 14 partially or not at all.
- 15 And that's in the Missouri Gas
- 16 Energy -- well, that cites the Missouri Gas Energy
- 17 case of the Court of Appeals, and you stated that
- 18 in EU-2012-0027. I believe that was the Noranda
- 19 AAO case.
- 20 But these assertions that the
- 21 critical decision for deferral occurs during a
- 22 ratemaking action is, in fact, belied by Ameren
- 23 Missouri's position in this case. Ameren Missouri
- 24 asserts that you must limit your ratemaking
- 25 decision to one issue. What is that issue? The

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- 1 issue is whether the deferred costs were prudently
- 2 incurred.
- 3 Assuming that this Commission when it
- 4 authorized these deferrals did not intend to limit
- 5 itself to considering only the prudence of deferred
- 6 costs, the question remains, and this is the
- 7 critical question in this case: What factors
- 8 should the Commission consider in determining
- 9 ratemaking treatment for deferrals?
- 10 And we would submit that the most
- 11 obvious factor to consider is whether, without
- 12 deferral, the utility would have earned its
- 13 authorized return on equity anyway.
- 14 Is there any authority for us in that
- 15 regard? And I would submit there is. The UCCM
- 16 case, Missouri Supreme Court decision from 1979, is
- 17 one such authority. It's the bible when it comes
- 18 to rulemaking, in my opinion. There the Court
- 19 said, and I quote, the Commission has authority to
- 20 determine the rate to be charged. Section 393.270.
- 21 In so determining, it may consider past excess
- 22 recovery insofar as this is relevant to its
- 23 determination of what rate is necessary to provide
- 24 a just and reasonable return in the future and so
- 25 avoid further excess recovery.

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- 1 Indeed, UCCM provides that, and I
- 2 quote again, the Commission must, of course,
- 3 consider all relevant factors, including the
- 4 utility's rate of return. I'd submit this embraces
- 5 much more than looking at the prudence of the
- 6 costs.
- 7 I would submit it's not just the
- 8 Missouri Supreme Court that provides some authority
- 9 in this regard. If you look at the Commission's
- 10 decision, ER-93-37, In Re Missouri Public Service,
- 11 dated February 25, 1994, the Commission addressed
- 12 an issue like this. And to be sure, the Commission
- 13 granted recovery of the deferral in that case, and
- 14 it was in the face of an overearnings claim like
- 15 we're making today.
- 16 But this Commission certainly did not
- 17 preclude consideration of that issue, and I'm going
- 18 to quote from the decision. The Commission finds
- 19 that there are other factors besides earnings which
- 20 must be considered in reaching a decision on the
- 21 recovery of deferred costs.
- 22 Of course the earnings level of a
- 23 company is the initial and primary focus. In this
- 24 case, though, the evidence indicates that the
- 25 period during which MPS was overearning, 1991, was

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- 1 a period when no AAO was in effect and no deferrals
- 2 were occurring. And I raise that point because in
- 3 this case I think the evidence is undisputed that
- 4 the overearnings occurred during the periods of the
- 5 deferrals.
- In addition, and I believe this is
- 7 also a case that Ameren Missouri will cite,
- 8 EO-91-358, December 20, 1991, In the Matter of
- 9 Missouri Public Service, this Commission addressed
- 10 the issue, and I quote from the decision. Staff's
- 11 emphasis on whether the utility was earning above
- 12 its authorized rate of return at the time of the
- 13 deferral, whether the expenditures are reasonable
- 14 and prudently incurred and whether to be -- or
- 15 whether to include carrying costs in the recovery
- 16 are rate case issues and best left for rate case
- 17 review.
- 18 Well, this is a rate case. To be
- 19 sure, prudence is an issue, we don't dispute that,
- 20 but so is past overearnings.
- I would submit all of the previous
- 22 slides apply to all three deferrals that we're
- 23 addressing this morning, solar rebate costs, MEEIA
- 24 costs and Fukushima study costs. However, I want
- 25 to spend a little time on the solar rebate issue

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- 1 because I believe it deserves special mention but
- 2 not for the reason that Ameren Missouri cites.
- 3 As you know, Noranda brought a rate
- 4 complaint case last year, the O223 case, and in
- 5 response to that complaint, Ameren Missouri argued
- 6 a number of things to support its claim that you
- 7 should deny rate relief, in other words, lower
- 8 rates for everybody. It wasn't just Noranda.
- 9 And it was in the face of
- 10 overearnings, but one thing that Ameren Missouri
- 11 repeatedly argued was that because it had spent
- 12 money on solar rebates during the, I'm going to
- 13 call it the de facto test year, and deferred those
- 14 amounts, that its earnings were inflated.
- In fact, the word solar rebates
- 16 appears at least 49 times in the 0223 transcript.
- 17 Those words appear six times in Ameren Missouri's
- 18 initial brief, and I would refer you to 19 page of
- 19 its initial brief as a particular instance, and
- 20 five times in its reply brief. And this Commission
- 21 cited the solar rebates in part as a basis for
- 22 denying rate relief, and I would refer you to the
- 23 Report and Order, page 13, paragraph 24.
- So it appears to us particularly
- 25 inappropriate to charge ratepayers for deferred

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- 1 solar rebate costs given that Ameren Missouri's
- 2 rates at the time of deferral were already adequate
- 3 without deferral and, additionally, because Ameren
- 4 Missouri in essence ignored the deferral in arguing
- 5 against a rate cut in the 0223 case.
- I suspect you might have questions
- 7 for me.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Chairman Kenney.
- 9 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Downey, thanks.
- 10 Just a few. I want to ask about deferrals
- 11 generally and make sure I understand your
- 12 arguments. Let me offer a hypothetical. So let's
- 13 say that a utility deferred \$200 worth of costs,
- 14 right?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yes.
- 16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And they have
- 17 overearned by let's say \$100. How would you know
- 18 to which costs you would allocate that overearnings
- 19 of \$100? I think that's your theory is because
- 20 they overearned during this period of time, that
- 21 that offsets particular deferrals.
- So if they had only overearned by
- 23 \$100 but had \$200 worth of deferred costs, how
- 24 would you allocate that? Let's say it was like \$25
- 25 for one thing and \$25, eight pots of \$25 worth of

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- 1 deferrals. How would you know which \$100 to
- 2 allocate that to?
- 3 MR. DOWNEY: I don't know the answer
- 4 to that question. It seems to me that they're
- 5 asking for a pot of money from ratepayers, and in
- 6 that circumstance, they should be allowed 100 of
- 7 the \$200 that they deferred.
- 8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But you wouldn't
- 9 know which \$100, or would it matter?
- 10 MR. DOWNEY: See, I don't know
- 11 that -- I don't profess to know whether it would
- 12 matter. From the ratepayers' perspective, \$100 is
- 13 \$100.
- 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And the reason I
- 15 offer the hypothetical is because it seems that we
- 16 allow deferrals for specific categories and for
- 17 specific types of costs. So let me ask you about
- 18 the stipulation to which MIEC was a signatory.
- 19 Why not include language in the stipulation that
- 20 contemplated this situation?
- 21 MR. DOWNEY: I'll be honest with you,
- 22 and I was involved in the process, no one at that
- 23 time knew that Ameren was going to be overearning.
- 24 I mean, we're constantly told that there's --
- 25 there's rate case -- I forget -- regulatory lag.

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- 1 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Yeah, but you had a
- 2 general idea that rates go up and down, that
- 3 there's period of overearning and periods of
- 4 underearning. You were generally aware of that
- 5 condition that a utility would generally find
- 6 themselves in. Revenues never match exactly what
- 7 their revenue requirement is, right? They're never
- 8 exact. There's periods of overearning. There's
- 9 periods of underearning. You're aware of that.
- 10 You guys have been litigating these cases long
- 11 enough. Why not have included some language in the
- 12 stip that contemplated that?
- MR. DOWNEY: Honestly, I don't think
- 14 it came up. I was involved, and it didn't -- I
- 15 didn't think of it. Our intention -- and to be
- 16 clear, our intention, the MIEC's intention was that
- 17 Ameren would be compensated for its expenditure.
- 18 And the issue is, I think as the Commissioners
- 19 recognize, whether Ameren has already been
- 20 compensated.
- 21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But you agree in
- the stipulation that the solar rebates will be
- 23 booked in a separate account, right?
- MR. DOWNEY: Correct.
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And that they'll be

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- 1 segregated dollars, is how I referred to it
- 2 earlier, to be recovered in future rate case. So
- 3 you know when you're signing this stipulation that
- 4 you're allowing for the recovery of dollars that
- 5 are going to be incurred outside the test year.
- 6 That's why you create the regulatory asset.
- 7 So I guess what I'm understanding is,
- 8 how is your argument here today not inconsistent
- 9 with your signing of the stipulation?
- 10 MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I will
- 11 say, this is an issue that I believe reasonable
- 12 minds can differ. And obviously you get three
- 13 lawyers in the room, they look at a document, we
- 14 have differing opinions on it.
- The particular language that
- 16 Mr. Lowery referred you to, elsewhere in this
- 17 agreement it talks about the signatories agree.
- 18 The particular language he referred you to says
- 19 Ameren agrees. Says Ameren Missouri agrees. It
- 20 doesn't say signatories agree.
- 21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Ameren Missouri
- 22 agrees what?
- MR. DOWNEY: Page 5, Ameren Missouri
- 24 agrees solar rebate payments in the additional
- amount provided will only be reflected in a general

Page 471 rate proceeding, et cetera, et cetera. 2 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: What's the 3 significance of that language? MR. DOWNEY: I mean, Mr. Lowery 4 5 throws that language out as evidence that the MIEC 6 agreed to a specific treatment for recovery, and I 7 would submit that's not the case. Had that been the case, the language would have said signatories 8 agree. And then you turn to the next page --10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Well, then what did 11 MIEC agree to? 12 MR. DOWNEY: We agreed that --CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I mean, if they 13 weren't agreeing to specific treatment of solar 14 15 rebates. 16 MR. DOWNEY: We agreed that Ameren 17 would be compensated. We expected that Ameren 18 would be compensated for the solar rebates. 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: That's all that is embodied in this agreement is Ameren would be able 20 21 to recover \$91 million, not that it would be 22 separately segregated into a regulatory asset to be recovered outside the test year in future rate 23 case? 24 25 MR. DOWNEY: Well, I think the

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- 1 expectation was that Ameren would not be
- 2 overearning. It's spending \$100 million roughly of
- 3 money, and, you know, with that expenditure it
- 4 still was overearning. Had it not been
- 5 overearning, we wouldn't be here arguing about
- 6 this. We wouldn't have objected to the
- 7 amortization. It was overearning during the period
- 8 it was paying the solar rebates.
- 9 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So procedurally,
- 10 then, why wouldn't this just constitute a
- 11 collateral attack on a Commission Order that
- 12 approved this Stipulation & Agreement?
- MR. DOWNEY: I believe it gets to the
- 14 question of what the agreement provides. Like I
- 15 said, reasonable minds can differ. We believe that
- 16 the agreement did not preclude us from making the
- 17 argument we're making, which is you should not be
- 18 allowed double recovery.
- 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So under MIEC's
- 20 theory, then, any time the utility books certain
- 21 costs in a regulatory asset or is given an
- 22 accounting authority order, if they overearn they
- 23 can never recover those costs that have booked as a
- 24 regulatory asset or they're separately segregated
- 25 dollars?

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- 1 MR. DOWNEY: I don't think I would
- 2 say that. What I would say is this, and I think
- 3 it's consistent with UCCM and a couple of
- 4 Commission decisions I cited. It is a factor that
- 5 you should consider in determining just and
- 6 reasonable rates. In fact, I think the UCCM case
- 7 says you have to consider that factor, but I'm not
- 8 suggesting it's the only factor.
- 9 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So we've got the
- 10 solar rebates and the pre-MEEIA costs and the
- 11 Fukushima study, the Noranda AAO I think is
- 12 correctly segregated separately. The Nuclear
- 13 Regulatory Commission mandated the study, and we
- 14 have public policies in Missouri that favor energy
- 15 efficiency and that instruct us to remove
- 16 disincentives for utilities to promote that. And
- 17 the solar rebates are legally mandated, and, in
- 18 fact, the statute contemplates that you can get a
- 19 renewable energy standard rate adjustment
- 20 mechanism, the RESRAM.
- 21 How does -- or how doesn't what
- 22 you're asking us to do conflict with all these
- other public policies, the Renewable Energy
- 24 Standard, the State's support of energy efficiency,
- 25 and a legal mandate from a federal agency? I guess

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- 1 that's not necessarily public policy. At least
- 2 with respect to the Renewable Energy Standard and
- 3 the energy efficiency, how does what you're asking
- 4 not frustrate those important public policies?
- 5 MR. DOWNEY: I would say that
- 6 these -- these costs are no different than any
- 7 other costs.
- 8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But they are.
- 9 MR. DOWNEY: The utility has to
- 10 provide safe and adequate service. That means it
- 11 has to build generating equipment. It has to have
- 12 transmission and distribution lines. It has to do
- 13 all those things. They're legally mandated to do
- 14 all those things. And in exchange for that
- 15 mandate, they're supposed to have just and
- 16 reasonable rates that allow them to recover those
- 17 costs and earn a return on equity.
- 18 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But I think -- I
- 19 guess I would take exception with the first part of
- 20 your statement that these are costs like every
- 21 other. I mean, I think we've got statutes that
- 22 tell us that they're not costs like every other,
- 23 and that's why we're instructed to treat them
- 24 differently.
- So I guess your argument to me is the

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- 1 energy efficiency costs and the renewable energy
- 2 costs aren't any different than every other cost
- 3 even though the statutes tell us that they are?
- 4 MR. DOWNEY: Well, I think the
- 5 statutes say that those costs should be recovered.
- 6 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And treated
- 7 differently?
- 8 MR. DOWNEY: And we're not disputing
- 9 that they should be recovered. We're only
- 10 disputing whether they have already been recovered.
- 11 Its really that simple. And our position here is
- 12 not really that novel. As the decisions I've cited
- 13 show, Staff has taken this position at various
- 14 times. So has OPC. It's just the issue is more
- 15 acute during a period when a utility is
- 16 overearning, which seems to be lately.
- 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I don't have any
- 18 other questions. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?
- 20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I don't have
- 21 questions.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney?
- 23 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Thank you.
- 24 So your argument -- I'm just trying to understand.
- 25 You're not against deferrals in general or --

Page 476 MR. DOWNEY: We are against 1 2 deferrals. 3 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: You're against deferrals in generally. So if Mr. Meyer's 4 5 testimony showed that Ameren underearned during the time period, would you say that they should be able 6 7 to recover deferred expenses from tomorrow's ratepayers if yesterday's ratepayers had not 8 already adequately paid rates to recover those 10 costs? MR. DOWNEY: I think I understand 11 12 your question, and my answer is that we would not 13 be here disputing this if Ameren had not been overearning and overearning by the amount of the 14 15 deferrals. We -- although we fought the deferrals in most of these cases, we wouldn't be challenging 16

- 18 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: So if you
- 19 thought that they were underearning, you would not
- 20 challenge this?

the recovery.

17

- MR. DOWNEY: And to be fair --
- 22 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Even though
- 23 it's tomorrow's ratepayers paying? Just reading
- 24 what you said, the fact that tomorrow's ratepayers
- 25 shouldn't be paying for something that if

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- 1 yesterday's ratepayers already covered that by
- 2 overearnings. So if they hadn't done that, if the
- 3 opposite were true, it would be okay for tomorrow's
- 4 ratepayers to pay for yesterday's rate expense?
- 5 MR. DOWNEY: If yesterday's rate
- 6 expense has not already been recovered from those
- 7 ratepayers, yes. And to be fair, if this were a
- 8 regulatory liability, in other words, if this were
- 9 a revenue that was deferred and Ameren Missouri had
- 10 been underearning during the period of the
- 11 deferral, we wouldn't be -- we wouldn't be
- 12 insisting on whatever the accounting term would be,
- 13 a credit.
- 14 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Even though
- 15 that chart shows that they go up and down?
- 16 MR. DOWNEY: You're referring to the
- 17 earnings chart?
- 18 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Yeah.
- MR. DOWNEY: I think what that chart
- 20 shows honestly is between '08 and about 2011 when
- 21 the economy was tanking throughout the United
- 22 States, Ameren was no different than every other
- 23 business. It was suffering. 2012, 2013 to pretty
- 24 much same extent 2014, it was overearning. And in
- 25 2014, I believe there was the testimony of the

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- 1 Ameren CEO that Ameren underearned by nine basis
- 2 points, which I believe is about \$5.4 million.
- 3 Keep in mind, they're asking for a \$200 million
- 4 rate increase, and their most recent FAC report
- 5 shows they underearned by 5.4 million.
- 6 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Well, yeah,
- 7 but the rate increase takes a lot more into
- 8 consideration than just earnings, wouldn't you
- 9 agree?
- 10 MR. DOWNEY: Yes, I would, but I
- 11 think that report doesn't help Ameren. I think it
- 12 actually hurts Ameren. I think it shows there is
- 13 a lack of need for 200 million in rate increases.
- 14 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: I haven't
- 15 gotten that far in the rate case.
- MR. DOWNEY: I understand.
- 17 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: We'll
- 18 discuss that later. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall?
- 20 COMMISSIONER HALL: Yes. Thank you.
- 21 Good morning.
- MR. DOWNEY: Good morning.
- 23 COMMISSIONER HALL: In the
- 24 stipulation in the solar rebate case that we've
- 25 been discussing, Ameren specifically gave up the

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- 1 opportunity to recover these costs through a
- 2 RESRAM; is that correct?
- 3 MR. DOWNEY: Yes.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HALL: So but for this
- 5 agreement and if the Commission had authorized it,
- 6 they could have recovered these costs in a rider?
- 7 MR. DOWNEY: I'm not going to dispute
- 8 that. I don't know.
- 9 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. And if
- 10 that had occurred, then we would not be here on
- 11 this issue today because that would be an item
- 12 already resolved?
- 13 COMMISSIONER HALL: I think you're
- 14 right.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HALL: I don't want to
- 16 put words in your mouth or arguments in your
- 17 briefs, but are you essentially arguing that
- 18 because Ameren relied upon the solar rebate expense
- 19 in the overearnings case, that there's some kind of
- 20 judicial estoppel?
- 21 MR. DOWNEY: No, I'm not suggesting
- 22 that. I'm suggesting that this Commission has a
- 23 duty to consider all relevant factors. I believe
- 24 that's one relevant factor. I think --
- 25 COMMISSIONER HALL: But aren't you

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- 1 saying that they took inconsistent positions in the
- 2 two cases before this Commission?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yes, I am. I am. I'm
- 4 not saying they're judicial estopped. Maybe I
- 5 should be saying that.
- 6 COMMISSIONER HALL: I don't even know
- 7 if judicial estoppel applies here, but the content
- 8 is certainly something that is relevant?
- 9 MR. DOWNEY: Absolutely. When you
- 10 were questioning Mr. Lowery, I agreed 100 percent
- 11 with the question. That's why I had a slide on
- 12 that. That is why we believe the solar rebate
- 13 deferral was a little different than the other two.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Would
- 15 you -- switching gears for a bit, would you agree
- 16 that ROE is neither a ceiling nor a floor?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yes.
- 18 COMMISSIONER HALL: What does that
- 19 mean?
- 20 MR. DOWNEY: That means it's a
- 21 target.
- 22 COMMISSIONER HALL: And what do we do
- 23 with that target? What should the Commission do
- 24 with that target?
- MR. DOWNEY: I think the Supreme

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- 1 Court in the UCCM case instructed you to look at
- 2 how that target has been working. Has the company
- 3 been meeting that target? Has the company been
- 4 exceeding that target? That is something that you
- 5 have been instructed to consider as a -- as a
- 6 factor in setting rates.
- 7 COMMISSIONER HALL: A factor to use
- 8 in setting rates going forward so as to insure that
- 9 the utility does not over- or underearn going
- 10 forward?
- 11 MR. DOWNEY: Correct. Prospective
- 12 only.
- 13 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: For Consumers
- 15 Council?
- 16 MR. COFFMAN: I'm going to wave this
- 17 around some more. Good morning. May it please the
- 18 Commission?
- 19 Mr. Downey covered a lot of the legal
- 20 arguments that I was going to cover, but I want to
- 21 talk about what is important about this issue from
- 22 the perspective of my client. Consumers Council of
- 23 Missouri was not involved in the AAO case that led
- 24 to the solar rebate credits. We're not here
- 25 challenging calculation of that deferral and the

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- 1 fact that the deferral occurred. We are
- 2 challenging whether or not recovery is proper now
- 3 in this rate case given the recent overearnings.
- 4 And we believe that the law in Missouri requires
- 5 you to consider these recent overearnings as a
- 6 relevant factor to offset potential recovery.
- 7 And as we talked about, this is when
- 8 the 0223 case, complaint case was filed, and the
- 9 decision was kind of right here at the end.
- 10 October 1st is when the Report and Order came out
- 11 to be effective October 31st. So much of that
- 12 case, although there's some dispute about exactly
- 13 what the test year was of that complaint case, was
- 14 generally looking at data from 2013 and up through
- 15 this period.
- We believe that there was clearly
- 17 sufficient revenues to cover those costs, but we
- 18 also believe that --
- 19 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Excuse me.
- 20 Are those months?
- 21 MR. COFFMAN: These are months.
- 22 These cover periods of the --
- 23 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: What's the
- 24 first day?
- MR. COFFMAN: Of the earnings

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- 1 surveillance reports that have been made public in
- 2 this case.
- 3 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: What's the
- 4 first date?
- 5 MR. COFFMAN: August of 2012 to
- 6 September of 2014. This is in Greg Meyer's
- 7 testimony. There's a variety of charts that show
- 8 it, and also you see the long --
- 9 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Just wanted
- 10 the start date.
- 11 MR. COFFMAN: Right. We believe the
- 12 more recent periods here are relevant. This
- 13 includes test year periods. But from our
- 14 perspective, it includes -- the most important
- 15 periods are the periods that were considered in the
- 16 overearnings complaint case.
- 17 Let me shift now to the whole policy
- 18 on deferrals, and I've been doing this long enough
- 19 that I remember when they first came about. I was
- 20 involved at least as early as 1990, maybe before,
- 21 when utilities started using this tactic of
- 22 requesting information.
- 23 The idea of a deferral is an
- 24 exception or goes against the basic foundational
- 25 cost of service regulation idea, the idea that you

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- 1 look at a test year and that you don't -- you don't
- 2 go backwards in retroactive ratemaking. It allows
- 3 for some costs in the past to be collected, and
- 4 then sort of dumps into a later test year, that it
- 5 mismatches it, but there have been a variety of
- 6 reasons advanced for that. You know, it used to be
- 7 only an act of God, and then it got -- the
- 8 Commission has been more liberal in allowing
- 9 certain other public policy reasons to do that.
- 10 And the Office of Public Counsel was
- 11 very concerned, the other consumer groups were very
- 12 concerned about that, to the point we even, you
- 13 know, appealed it through the Court of Appeals.
- 14 And at that time the main argument as far as why it
- 15 was bad public policy was the concern that there
- 16 might be overearnings and that this would be a huge
- 17 windfall to a utility because the time that the
- 18 expenses were incurred might coincide with
- 19 excessive earnings. We made that argument. That
- 20 wasn't often the fact situation at that time, but
- 21 that was the main reason that we opposed the idea
- 22 of these deferrals.
- 23 So this public policy concept has
- 24 been around a long time. It's been litigated a few
- 25 times. The Commission here has never found that

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- 1 the facts warranted a previous overearning
- 2 situation discounting the amount of the deferral.
- 3 But we think that there's a fact here
- 4 in this case that is fairly relevant, and that is
- 5 that consumers initiated a general rate case just
- 6 recently and it was during this period, and that
- 7 was the 0223 case initiated by consumers led by
- 8 Noranda Aluminum.
- 9 And consumers generally were sad
- 10 about the Commission's decision not to reduce rates
- 11 at that time. I think it had a lot to do with the
- 12 fact that this rate case was coming. Commission
- 13 Staff did not do a fuel audit, although they did do
- 14 a preliminary audit, and we can read that case.
- 15 You might recollect that the Staff's preliminary
- 16 audit showed overearnings in the area of 39 million
- 17 or maybe it was deduced to 25 million.
- 18 And then the solar rebate credits
- 19 were brought out, and Ameren Missouri aggressively
- 20 argued that even if you assume that there was, say,
- 21 somewhere between 25 and \$39 million of
- 22 overearnings based on Staff's preliminary audit,
- 23 the solar rebate credits would wipe that away.
- And so that was used as a defense by
- 25 Ameren Missouri aggressively, and the Commission

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- 1 cited it in its Order. Unlike -- it takes a
- 2 tremendous amount of expense and effort to bring an
- 3 earnings complaint case. The utility controls all
- 4 the information.
- 5 When these -- when you have a
- 6 situation that's opposite, when there's
- 7 underearnings, the utility files a rate case
- 8 immediately. They're able to time it
- 9 appropriately. They can -- to maximum economic
- 10 benefit to their own. In fact, there's even
- 11 provisions for emergency rate relief if it's a bad
- 12 enough situation.
- 13 It take a tremendous amount of effort
- 14 for consumers to file a complaint. The only rate
- 15 reductions I'm aware of have often taken much
- longer than the 11 months to be prosecuted. We
- 17 feel like consumers have lost their rights as of
- 18 this point, and it seems extremely unfair to us
- 19 that Ameren Missouri use the solar rebate credits
- 20 to effectively dodge a rate reduction and then now
- 21 in this case argue for those very same costs to
- 22 increase rates going forward.
- I know there have been a lot of cases
- 24 cited and a lot of USOA criteria and so forth, but
- 25 we believe that the case law that trumps all of

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- 1 that is the Missouri court cases, and the court
- 2 cases in the 1990s consistently have said that
- 3 accounting authority orders are not ratemaking,
- 4 they're only authorization to make an accounting
- 5 entry, and that all relevant factors will be
- 6 considered in the rate case later.
- 7 And this is -- and this is good. I
- 8 mean, we as consumers like that, that's Missouri
- 9 law, because we had been caught in this procedural
- 10 game that the utilities would play. I call it the
- 11 too early too late game. In the accounting
- 12 authority order cases we were, well, maybe utility
- 13 will overearn, maybe this would happen, and, oh,
- 14 these issues are not yet ripe. You can argue that
- 15 in the rate case later. It is far too early for
- 16 you to be arguing that. Don't worry your little
- 17 head, consumer groups, because there will be a
- 18 hearing. You'll have your due process rights in
- 19 the rate case to discuss that.
- 20 And then once we got to the rate
- 21 case, the argument changed and the utility lawyers
- 22 would be arguing, well, the Commission's already
- 23 pre-approved these costs. It's a collateral attack
- 24 to be arguing.
- 25 So somehow our rights were lost

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- 1 between not yet ripe and moot. We never had our
- 2 chance to argue. But we believe the Missouri law
- 3 is clear that this is our chance to argue those
- 4 issues. Deferral is what the deferral is. The
- 5 amounts we're not disputing, but we think that it
- 6 should be taken into account just as the UCCM case
- 7 says recent excessive earnings is one of the all
- 8 relevant factors that you must consider in
- 9 conjunction with all the others.
- 10 We think that there is far enough
- 11 excessive earnings to cover these, but I think that
- 12 there is room for some middle ground. If you were
- 13 to authorize the three-year amortization of the
- 14 solar rebates, at least give us credit for the fact
- 15 that it was used to deny a rate reduction to
- 16 consumers for some period, either when it began or
- 17 when the case was ordered and consider the
- 18 amortization to begin there. I think that might be
- 19 some compromise position that would be fair. And
- 20 that's all that we're asking for.
- 21 My clients do not come to you and ask
- 22 for accounting authority order liabilities or
- 23 deferrals going the other way. We could. Maybe
- 24 that's what the Commission would like us to do. We
- 25 don't think that that -- we think the fairest way

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- 1 is to decide rates in a general rate case, look at
- 2 all the books and records at one time. You have
- 3 all the information in front of you now. But give
- 4 us credit for what has happened in the past here.
- 5 And, I mean, I hesitate to even bring
- 6 up the allegations that Mr. Lowery has raised about
- 7 collusion, but I do take offense at that. My
- 8 client has been concerned about this solar rebate
- 9 issue from back in -- during the complaint case,
- 10 and the one silver lining that we took out of that
- 11 Report and Order which denied a rate reduction was
- 12 at least we felt like at least the solar rebates
- 13 would be discounted in this case. At least we
- 14 would get some credit for that. Even though we
- 15 didn't get a rate reduction, there was a
- 16 recognition of that. Sure enough, Ameren is here
- 17 asking for those same costs again.
- 18 So we would ask that you allow
- 19 recovery for those solar rebate costs but don't
- 20 allow more than 100 percent of those costs.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Questions?
- 22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks. Thank you,
- 23 Mr. Coffman. I think I understand the Consumers
- 24 Council's position with respect to deferrals
- 25 generally is that you don't favor them. That would

Page 490 be the same with trackers. 2 MR. COFFMAN: They tend to ratchet 3 things in the utility's favor. CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Can we speak of 4 5 trackers, AAOs, fuel adjustment clauses and 6 purchased gas adjustments, can we speak of those 7 altogether collectively as mechanisms? MR. COFFMAN: They do all have --8 what those all have in common is that they shift risk from the utility to consumers. 10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Are they all 11 12 mechanisms that CCM wouldn't favor? 13 MR. COFFMAN: Generally, yes. Not that we haven't agreed to some of them under 14 15 appropriate conditions and protections. 16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: That's my question, 17 under what appropriate conditions? MR. COFFMAN: Well, as to this 18 19 issue --20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just as a general 21 proposition. MR. COFFMAN: Well, as deferrals, I 22 23 guess one way you can look at it is, well, maybe 24 consumers should be coming raising cases to you on a frequent basis. Maybe we should ask for a work 25

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- 1 force reduction tracker, or maybe we should ask you
- 2 for depreciation AAO. We should ask for something
- 3 that covers the other costs that go down. It seems
- 4 as though all the accounting authority order
- 5 deferrals that are debated are things that involve
- 6 components, factors that go upwards for the utility
- 7 as opposed to those that go down.
- But if you're -- the other one -- the
- 9 other thing would be to simply recognize in
- 10 Missouri that -- as opposed to some other
- 11 jurisdictions, an accounting authority order is not
- 12 ratemaking determination at all. It is something
- 13 that merely preserves the issue, preserves the
- 14 right to argue for costs outside of the test year,
- 15 but that it should be taken into account.
- 16 And since you're reaching back, going
- 17 back retroactively and including costs that are
- 18 outside the test year, at least recognize when
- 19 those costs were incurred and whether or not the
- 20 utility already had excessive earnings.
- 21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So let me just
- 22 shift gears to the stipulation specifically. I
- 23 know CCM was not a party to it, but as a general
- 24 proposition, if, in fact, what you are proposing
- 25 and what MIEC is proposing would have been a

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- 1 protection for consumers, then why not include
- 2 language in stipulations like that that would have
- 3 accounted for --
- 4 MR. COFFMAN: Well, if I involved in
- 5 that case I might have suggested it, but I would
- 6 have relied, I think -- and I think parties would
- 7 have relied, I think investors would acknowledge
- 8 the court cases in Missouri from the Supreme Court
- 9 and Western District Court of Appeals that say that
- 10 that issue of matching that deferral against
- 11 overearnings is a right that you will have in a
- 12 rate case.
- 13 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So you're basically
- 14 saying the case law is settled to the point where
- 15 that didn't need to be mentioned in the
- 16 stipulation?
- 17 MR. COFFMAN: Perhaps. It might have
- 18 been a good idea, but I wasn't there in that case.
- 19 I would -- I think that case law trumps.
- 20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Let me ask you the
- 21 same hypothetical that I asked of Mr. Downey. If
- 22 we have \$200 of deferred costs and \$100 of
- 23 overearnings, how do you know which deferred costs
- 24 to allocate that overearnings to?
- MR. COFFMAN: Well, the hypothetical

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- 1 assumes that -- assuming all other things being
- 2 equal? I think to under-- to give you a proper
- 3 answer, you have to know all relevant factors. You
- 4 have to know all the other cost, investments in
- 5 that time period.
- 6 But assuming that those are the only
- 7 costs, I suppose a discount \$100 million would be
- 8 appropriate.
- 9 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I'm saying you've
- 10 got a pool of \$200 and eight pots of 25 individual
- 11 AAOs or 25 deferrals. How do you know which four
- 12 to pick and say we're going to offset that against
- 13 this \$100 of overearnings?
- MR. COFFMAN: Well, when you issue a
- 15 Report and Order in this case, I mean, you will be
- 16 setting rates at a just and reasonable level, not
- 17 necessarily saying that that is, you know, what
- 18 goes in. You can get to the final number without
- 19 having to specify which one. You could choose
- 20 which one. I think what matters is at the end of
- 21 the day, once you do all the pluses and minuses,
- 22 you know where the final number is.
- 23 And really all that we're saying
- 24 here, all that our witness Jim Dittmer is here to
- 25 say is that it is appropriate for you to consider

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- 1 overearnings during the period of deferral and all
- 2 the other relevant factors with the final revenue
- 3 requirement number.
- 4 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So to your last
- 5 point in your last argument that it would be
- 6 appropriate to discount some of the 91 million but
- 7 not all of it during the period of overearnings, so
- 8 how much -- what's your position?
- 9 MR. COFFMAN: I think you could do it
- 10 a variety of different ways. I think it would be
- 11 appropriate to tie it to some degree to the period
- 12 of time that was being referenced in the 0223
- 13 earnings complaint case where the solar rebates
- 14 were actually brought out. You could start maybe
- 15 January 2014, discount it by, you know, say a
- 16 year's worth of amortization. Maybe take a third
- 17 recovery out, recognizing that at least one-third
- 18 of that amount has already been recovered.
- 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Is your witness
- 20 going to testify to this?
- 21 MR. COFFMAN: I think he can -- you
- 22 can ask him questions about where you might be able
- 23 to delineate a discount as a compromised position,
- 24 yes.
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. Thank you.

Page 495 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll? 1 2 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Good morning. 3 In talking about the Renewable Energy Standard and the MEEIA law that was passed, did your 4 5 organization support the Renewable Energy Standard 6 or MEEIA, do you know? 7 MR. COFFMAN: Renewable Energy Standard, no. Consumers Council of Missouri did 8 not take a position. 10 MEEIA -- and I'm glad you asked that 11 question. I've got a lot to say about that. 12 yes, we did -- we did not oppose that legislation, 13 but it was based on a legislative bargain that we thought we had struck with utilities so that there 14 would not be any piecemeal surcharge in there. 15 16 We didn't believe that that was in 17 the law. That provision was removed. Perhaps you

language was taken out based on a legislative

agreement that we had.

remember when you were serving in the Senate, that

Later when the Commission was

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our bargain.

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- 1 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Yeah, I won't go
- 2 down that road. I think I'd already left the
- 3 Legislature by then.
- 4 MR. COFFMAN: I won't blame you.
- 5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Fortunately or
- 6 unfortunately.
- 7 MR. COFFMAN: The large industrial
- 8 customers got the benefit of their bargains. They
- 9 had been allowed to exempt themselves. Residential
- 10 consumers are still stuck.
- 11 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Do you see a
- 12 difference between a deferral that is required
- 13 by -- well, it's not required, but for the recovery
- 14 of costs that was passed by the people of the state
- 15 and/or a law that was passed by the Legislature, do
- 16 you find -- is there a difference between that kind
- 17 of deferral and another deferral?
- 18 MR. COFFMAN: Accounting authority
- 19 orders started off, at least in this state, as only
- 20 being referencing acts of God, ice storms and that
- 21 sort of thing. It quickly grew and expanded in
- 22 scope to include government mandates or other type
- 23 things.
- I think that's a slippery slope
- 25 because virtually everything that a utility does in

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- 1 some way is based on a statute. But I understand
- 2 what you're saying. I think it's important to
- 3 recognize, whenever you make a deferral, you are
- 4 making an exception to the test year. You're
- 5 agreeing that certain costs, more than 12 months
- 6 worth of costs can be dumped into a test year, a
- 7 mismatching period of time, and we would -- all
- 8 we're asking in this case is that when you do that,
- 9 make sure you at least match it up with the
- 10 earnings that occurred during the time that those
- 11 costs were incurred.
- 12 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Speaking of
- 13 that, if -- if, in fact, the Office of Public
- 14 Counsel and/or Staff felt that the company was
- 15 overearning, why -- do you have any idea why a
- 16 complaint case wasn't filed for overearnings?
- 17 MR. COFFMAN: Your Honor, I feel as
- 18 if a complaint case was filed.
- 19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I'm saying by
- 20 them. I know.
- 21 MR. COFFMAN: The law allows other
- 22 consumer parties to file.
- 23 COMMISSIONER STOLL: That is true.
- 24 That is true. But is that typically done? Does
- 25 someone other than Staff or OPC typically just --

Page 498 MR. COFFMAN: It's unusual, yeah, it 1 2 is. It hasn't happened very often, and --3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: So why didn't -any idea why Staff or --4 5 MR. COFFMAN: I think there were --Staff -- some of this is reading into what the 6 7 Commission put in its Report and Order, but I think 8 there was a time crunch. There was a -- you know, typically earning complaints have taken more than 10 11 months, which is not -- it was just not symmetrical even. That's another concern we have, 11 12 because a utility can get their rates within 11 13 months. 14 But it was actually a shorter time 15 period. The Staff felt like they for whatever reason, and I can't speak for them as to why they 16 17 didn't do a full audit, they only felt like they could do a preliminary audit. 18 We felt that there was still 19 sufficient evidence based on that audit and other 20 21 evidence in the case to set a revenue requirement and to lower rates. The Commission did not feel it 22 23 was enough. 24 Perhaps I disagree with Staff's legal 25 opinion. Staff didn't feel it was appropriate

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- 1 unless they had done a full audit. We can't
- 2 control the Staff. If they don't want to do a full
- 3 audit, that's -- there's not much we can do about
- 4 that.
- 5 But we felt like we had at least
- 6 lodged our rights as consumers and that we should
- 7 be allowed some recognition of the fact that we --
- 8 you know, we understand that actual earnings are
- 9 going to fluctuate around the target, but somewhere
- 10 along the line we felt like we should get
- 11 recognition because the -- there had been the
- 12 effort to file that case and to say as of this
- 13 point you're going forward, please adjust rates to
- 14 a more fair level.
- 15 And I think -- and I think that there
- 16 was the recognition in the mention in the Order
- 17 that this case had already been filed and that,
- 18 well, you know, the issues brought here could then
- 19 be addressed in the rate increase case.
- 20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: After complete
- 21 cost of study had been --
- MR. COFFMAN: And now you have it. I
- 23 don't think there's any argument that you don't
- 24 have all relevant factors now in this case. And we
- 25 would -- what we're saying is that please go back

Page 500 and if you're going to be including retroactive 2 costs, which the solar rebate costs are primarily, 3 also take a look back at what was happening with earnings during that period. 4 5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney? 7 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No 8 questions. Thank you. 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 10 COMMISSIONER HALL: No questions. 11 Thank you. 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp? 13 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No questions. 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. I 15 believe that's all the parties that wish to make opening statements. We'll take a short break 16 17 before we go ahead with the first witness. We'll come back at 10 minutes 'til 11. 18 19 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NOS. 30, 31 AND 32 20 WERE MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're back from our 22 23 break, and we're ready for the next witness,

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actually the first witness in this case. I wanted

to also address the questions the Commissioners may

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- 1 have about the Stipulation & Agreement we've been
- 2 talking about. My intention is to take that up as
- 3 soon as we finish this issue and before we go into
- 4 the Noranda AAO issue, whenever that might be.
- 5 All right. Ms. Moore has taken the
- 6 stand.
- 7 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. You may
- 9 inquire.
- 10 LAURA MOORE testified as follows:
- 11 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:
- 12 Q. Would you state your name for the
- 13 record, please.
- 14 A. Laura Moore.
- 15 Q. Ms. Moore, did you cause to be
- 16 prepared for filing in this docket direct, rebuttal
- 17 and surrebuttal testimony that's been marked for
- 18 identification as Exhibits 30 through 32?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any corrections to that
- 21 testimony?
- 22 A. No, I don't.
- 23 Q. If I were to ask you the questions
- 24 posed in those testimonies today, would your
- answers be the same?

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- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Is the testimony true and correct to
- 3 the best of your knowledge and belief?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, with that I
- 6 would offer Exhibits 30 through 32 into the record
- 7 and tender the witness for cross-examination.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: 30, 31 and 32 have
- 9 been offered. Any objection to their receipt?
- 10 MR. KEEVIL: Judge, I think on the
- 11 receipt part, I thought you were holding off until
- 12 she's done. And my understanding is that it was
- 13 discovered yesterday that there may be a need on a
- 14 different issue for Ms. Moore to return.
- So I would ask that you hold off on
- 16 those just until she's completely and positively
- 17 done with actually receiving the testimony. I have
- 18 actually no objection to it, but wait until the
- 19 other stuff, too.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Lowery?
- 21 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, this is not
- 22 a practice we've typically followed in these cases
- 23 unless there's some actual valid evidentiary
- 24 objection to the testimony. I'd also point out
- 25 that Ms. Moore has absolutely no testimony on the

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- 1 other issues that Staff has approached us about her
- 2 perhaps testifying on. So it seems like it's an
- 3 inefficient way to proceed. It's up to you, your
- 4 Honor, but it seems like unless there's an
- 5 evidentiary objection, the testimony ought to come
- 6 in.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Keevil, this
- 8 other issue that might be out there, does it have
- 9 anything to do with her prefiled testimony?
- 10 MR. KEEVIL: It's not my issue. I
- 11 was just told with regard to depreciation, your
- 12 Honor.
- 13 MR. LOWERY: Staff's indicated they
- 14 might have some questions about some data requests
- 15 that she answered in the course of the case.
- 16 Clearly it does not have anything to do with her
- 17 prefiled testimony.
- 18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Since it doesn't
- 19 have anything to do with the prefiled testimony,
- 20 I'll go ahead and admit the prefiled testimony at
- 21 this point. If she needs to be brought back, that
- 22 has nothing to do with the prefiled testimony, as I
- 23 see it.
- Mr. Keevil, you look pensive.
- MR. KEEVIL: Something Mr. Lowery

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- 1 said, I would disagree when he said that was not
- 2 the way this was normally handled. I believe it is
- 3 the way it's normally handled is to not receive the
- 4 testimony until the witness makes their final
- 5 appearance as it were.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: That is true, but
- 7 since this potential other issue on depreciation
- 8 does not involve her prefiled testimony --
- 9 MR. KEEVIL: Again, Judge, I don't
- 10 know. I don't know whether it does or doesn't
- 11 because I have nothing to do with depreciation
- 12 questions.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm going to go
- 14 ahead and admit 30, 31 and 32.
- 15 (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NOS. 30, 31 AND 32
- 16 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For
- 18 cross-examination, we begin with looks like
- 19 Consumers Council would be the first.
- 20 MR. COFFMAN: No questions, your
- 21 Honor.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel.
- MR. OPITZ: No questions, your Honor.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: MIEC.
- MR. DOWNEY: No questions.

Page 505 1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Staff. 2 MR. KEEVIL: Very briefly, Judge. 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL: Q. Good morning, Ms. Moore. 4 5 Α. Good morning. 6 Q. Now, you're here testifying in regard 7 to the solar rebate amortization, the Fukushima 8 study cost amortization and the pre-MEEIA energy efficiency amortization; is that correct? 10 A. That's correct. 11 Okay. Regarding the solar rebate Q. 12 amortization, were the solar rebates the subject of 13 a Stipulation & Agreement in a prior case? 14 Yes, they were. Α. 15 And would that be the Case Q. No. ET-2014-0085? 16 17 Α. Yes, that's correct. And I believe Mr. Lowery previously 18 Q. 19 had marked for identification purposes a copy of 20 the nonunanimous stipulation in that case, which 21 was marked as Exhibit 55. Is that your 22 understanding? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. Was that Stipulation & Agreement also 25 approved by Commission Order?

Page 506 1 Α. Yes, it was. MR. DOWNEY: Judge, I don't know --2 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Make sure you use your microphone. 4 5 MR. DOWNEY: I don't know if this is an objection so much, but it seems that the order 6 7 of the cross is not quite correct on this issue. 8 By taking us first and then letting a proponent of Ameren's position go last, you're denying us the opportunity to ask cross questions following 10 Mr. Keevil. 11 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I think that's fair, 13 and we'll let you respond to Mr. Keevil before we 14 come up to the Bench. 15 MR. DOWNEY: Thank you. 16 MR. KEEVIL: Thank you, Judge. 17 BY MR. KEEVIL: 18 Q. Question, the -- I forget what my 19 question was now, Ms. Moore. I believe you 20 indicated that the stipulation was approved by the 21 Commission; is that correct? 22 I did. Α. 23 Q. Okay. MR. KEEVIL: Judge, I would request 24 that both the Stipulation and the Order approving 25

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- 1 it from case ET-2014-0085, that the Commission take
- 2 official notice or we can do exhibits and pass out
- 3 exhibits. Whichever way you want to do it is fine
- 4 with me. I've got copies. But I want them both in
- 5 the evidentiary record.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: We've already marked
- 7 the Stipulation & Agreement as 55. It's not been
- 8 offered if it's only marked for --
- 9 MR. KEEVIL: That's correct. And
- 10 since it was Mr. Lowery that had it marked, I felt
- 11 a little funny offering Mr. Lowery's exhibit. If
- 12 you want me to do that, I'd --
- 13 MR. LOWERY: I'd be happy to have it
- 14 redesignated as a Staff's exhibit number and
- 15 Mr. Keevil can offer it. I was going to offer it
- 16 myself.
- 17 MR. DOWNEY: You could make it a
- 18 joint exhibit if you want.
- 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is anyone going to
- 20 object to the admission of 55? The easiest way and
- 21 clearest on the record is go ahead and admit 55.
- 22 (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NO. 55 WAS RECEIVED
- 23 INTO EVIDENCE.)
- MR. KEEVIL: That's fine with me.
- 25 Judge, I've also got the Order approving it. It's

Page 508 only a couple of pages long. Do you want to --2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead and mark 3 it. 4 MR. KEEVIL: What's Staff's next 5 number then? JUDGE WOODRUFF: Staff's next number 6 7 would be 243. You're offering 243? MR. KEEVIL: Yes, I offer 243. 8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any objections to 9 10 its receipt? Hearing none it will be received. 11 12 (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 243 WAS MARKED AND RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 13 14 MR. KEEVIL: And you received the 55? JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes. 15 BY MR. KEEVIL: 16 17 Q. Ms. Moore, let me switch gears on you just slightly here. On the pre-MEEIA energy 18 efficiency amortizations, are you familiar with how 19 20 those amortizations were handled in prior rate 21 cases? 22 A. Yes. They've been deferred and amortized in prior cases also. 23 24 Q. And my question is, to your 25 knowledge, is the manner in which they're being

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- deferred by Staff in this case consistent with the
- 2 manner in which Staff has treated them in past
- 3 cases?
- 4 A. It is consistent.
- 5 Q. Okay. On the Fukushima study cost,
- 6 when I first heard of that issue, that Ameren was
- 7 doing a study incurring costs to do a study of
- 8 tsunami possibilities in Callaway County, Missouri,
- 9 I was a bit surprised. Could you -- why did you do
- 10 that study?
- 11 A. The NRC mandated that we do that
- 12 study to ensure the safety of the Callaway Energy
- 13 Center.
- MR. KEEVIL: Thank you. That's all
- 15 I'd have, Judge.
- 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll give the other
- 17 parties who had earlier, any wish to further cross?
- 18 Okay. I'm seeing nods or head shakes
- 19 that they don't want to. All right. Then we'll
- 20 come up for questions from the Bench.
- 21 Mr. Chairman?
- 22 OUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY:
- Q. Ms. Moore, thank you. I just want to
- 24 ask about the solar rebates, because that's what
- you spent a lot of time in your testimony talking

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- 1 about.
- 2 A. Okay.
- 3 Q. So the argument goes that because
- 4 Ameren overearned during some slice of time or some
- 5 period of time, that that should offset the amount
- 6 that would be recovered as contemplated in the
- 7 stipulation?
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. And I know that Ameren disagrees with
- 10 that position, but you say that, in your testimony
- 11 that customers aren't paying the company's costs.
- 12 I'm not sure I understand that one. When they're
- 13 paying rates, what are those rates intended to
- 14 cover?
- 15 A. Customers pay a rate, not the actual
- 16 cost. The rates are set based off of the
- 17 historical test year and certain adjustments that
- 18 are made. But a customer, when they pay their
- 19 bill, they can't say, oh, this month I don't want
- 20 to pay for the solar rebates. They pay the rate
- 21 that they're being charged.
- 22 Q. To put it another way, an individual
- 23 dollar that a customer pays can't be allocated to
- 24 some specific cost?
- 25 A. That's correct.

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- 1 Q. Okay. So you can't -- because the
- 2 dollars are functional and the costs are functional
- 3 as far as the ratepayers' concerned?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I see. Okay. So is it the company's
- 6 position that by virtue of the fact that the
- 7 Stipulation & Agreement and the Order approving it
- 8 contemplated that these costs would be -- the solar
- 9 rebates would be accounted for differently, that
- 10 those costs are somehow treated separately from
- 11 other costs and aren't included in the rates that
- 12 customers have paid?
- 13 A. Well, the rates the customers have
- 14 paid up until now never included those solar
- 15 rebates because they are deferred per the
- 16 stipulation, and they're deferred on the accounting
- 17 books and set up as a regulatory asset. And per
- 18 accounting standards, we wouldn't be able to set up
- 19 that regulatory asset if we didn't have a
- 20 probability of recovery in future cases.
- 21 But the rates the customers have been
- 22 paying in the past never included those costs in
- 23 that rate, because your rates are set on historical
- 24 test year adjusted.
- 25 Q. So to your last point, though, about

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- 1 not being able to set up a regulatory asset unless
- 2 there's a probability of recovery, that's a
- 3 probability as determined how?
- 4 A. Okay. So for accounting standards,
- 5 the -- there's the accounting standard codification
- 6 980-340 which relates to regulatory operations, and
- 7 it says that first the company needs an action of
- 8 the Commission, so that would be an order granting
- 9 an AAO or an order approving a stipulation.
- 10 Then it needs a probability of
- 11 recovery. And the accounting standard, the
- 12 definition of probability for that is the future
- 13 event or events are likely to occur. And it's a
- 14 high threshold. It's 75 percent or higher. So we
- 15 have to a have 75 percent or higher probability
- 16 that we will get recovery of that before we can
- 17 even defer those costs on our books.
- So if we had some sort of earnings
- 19 standard or something where we had to go back and
- look, we would never be able to actually defer
- 21 those costs on our books.
- 22 Q. And what constituted the 75 percent
- 23 recovery? Is it the Stipulation & Agreement?
- A. It's a stipulation and it's actions
- of past commissions, historical precedents.

Page 513 1 CHAIRMAN: All right. I don't have 2 any other questions. Thank you. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll? COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no 4 5 questions. 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney? 7 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: I have no 8 questions. Thank you very much. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 9 10 COMMISSIONER HALL. Thank you. QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HALL: 11 12 It's my understanding that it's Q. 13 Ameren's position and yours as well that it is 14 inappropriate to look at any excess earnings during 15 a relevant time period to determine whether or not 16 to allow an amortization going forward in a new 17 rate case? 18 Α. Yes, I agree. That is correct. 19 But we've heard mention of case law Q. 20 that makes it very clear that we should take excess 21 earnings during prior time periods into account 22 when setting rates going forward. Is that not your understanding as well? 23 24 I don't know about the legal behind Α. that, but I do know in -- based on my knowledge, 25

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- 1 the Commission has never done that. So it might be
- 2 stated in some of those other orders, but the
- 3 Commission's never done that.
- 4 Q. So you would argue that excess
- 5 earnings during a prior time period are never
- 6 relevant in setting rates going forward?
- 7 A. They are not relevant when looking at
- 8 whether or not an amortization of a deferred asset
- 9 should be allowed.
- 10 Q. Okay. Well, I kind of moved beyond
- 11 that.
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. I'm trying to determine when you
- 14 believe it would be appropriate to look at excess
- 15 earnings during a prior time period when setting
- 16 rates going forward.
- 17 A. I think you set rates prospectively,
- 18 so I'm still not sure that you would look back.
- 19 Q. So excess earnings in a previous time
- 20 period are never relevant when setting rates going
- 21 forward, in your view?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 COMMISSIONER HALL: Interesting.
- 24 Thank you.
- THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

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1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?
2	COMMISSIONER RUPP: No, I'm good.
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone wish to
4	recross based on questions from the Bench?
5	Again, I'm seeing head shakes.
6	Redirect?
7	MR. LOWERY: No redirect.
8	JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. You can
9	step down.
10	(Witness excused.)
11	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next witness then
12	would be John Reed.
13	(Witness sworn.)
14	JUDGE WOODRUFF: You can proceed.
15	JOHN REED testified as follows:
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:
17	Q. Would you state your name for the
18	record.
19	A. Good morning. My name is John J.
20	Reed.
21	Q. Mr. Reed, did you cause to be
22	prepared and filed in this docket rebuttal
23	testimony and surrebuttal testimony marked as
24	Exhibits 40 and 41?
25	A. Yes, I did.

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- 1 Q. I understand that you have some
- 2 corrections to at least -- I think both of those
- 3 testimonies; is that true?
- 4 A. Yes, I do.
- 5 Q. And you have prepared an exhibit
- 6 which has been marked -- which I think I'd asked be
- 7 marked as Exhibit 56 called errata sheet, John Reed
- 8 rebuttal and surrebuttal testimonies; is that true?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And with one exception, that
- 11 accurately reflects all of the corrections that
- 12 need to be made to those testimonies?
- 13 A. Two exceptions actually.
- 14 Q. Well, let's put those aside. These
- 15 corrections need to be made; is that correct?
- 16 A. Yes. One of the corrections, if I
- 17 could, the second item which says rebuttal page 10,
- 18 footnote 10, that should read rebuttal page 17,
- 19 footnote 10.
- Q. With that correction, and putting
- 21 aside one other one I think you're going to tell us
- 22 about in a moment, these are all the corrections
- 23 that need to be made to your testimony as reflected
- in Exhibit 56 and as you just amended; is that
- 25 right?

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- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. As you indicated, I believe you
- 3 indicated to me you had one other correction. Can
- 4 you please direct the Commission to that
- 5 correction?
- 6 A. Yes. This is in my rebuttal
- 7 testimony, Exhibit 40, and it appears at page 10,
- 8 line 10, the name there Lynn M. Barnes should read
- 9 Laura Moore.
- 10 Q. With the corrections reflected in
- 11 Exhibit 56 as amended by you on the stand today and
- 12 the correction that you just testified to, is your
- 13 testimony accurate to the best of your knowledge
- 14 and belief?
- 15 A. Yes, it is.
- 16 Q. If I were to ask you the same
- 17 questions, would you give the same answers again as
- amended as you gave in that testimony?
- 19 A. Yes, I would.
- MR. LOWERY: With that, your Honor, I
- 21 would offer for admission Exhibits 40 and 41 and
- 22 also Exhibit 56 and tender the witness for
- 23 cross-examination.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: 40, 41 and 56 have
- 25 been offered. Any objection?

Page 518 MR. KEEVIL: Is this the only time 1 2 he's up, Jim? 3 MR. LOWERY: No. He's back on the Noranda issue in a couple of weeks. 4 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do we want to wait? 6 MR. LOWERY: If that's what you'd 7 like to do, your Honor, it's completely up to you. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is that what you 8 9 want to do? 10 MR. KEEVIL: Yeah, I think that would 11 be best, Judge. 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll tell you what. 13 I'm going to go ahead and -- well, I'll defer ruling on all three. 14 15 MR. LOWERY: We'll just reoffer them at that time, your Honor. 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That will be fine. 17 Actually, I don't have a problem with you offering 18 19 them at this point. I just want to give the other 20 attorneys a chance to object. 21 MR. LOWERY: Okay. Very well. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Since he's coming 22 back on another occasion, that will prompt us to 23 take a look. 24 25 MR. LOWERY: I'm going to go ahead

Page 519 and give them to the court reporter now, and you 2 can make a ruling at a later time. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That would be fine. (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NOS. 40, 41 AND 56 4 5 WERE MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For 7 cross-examination, this time we'll begin with Staff. 8 9 MR. KEEVIL: No questions on this issue. 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For Consumers 11 12 Council? MR. COFFMAN: Yes, I have a question. 13 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COFFMAN: 15 Good morning, Mr. Reed. Q. 16 A. Good morning. 17 Q. So you're not from Missouri, right? That's correct. 18 Α. 19 Q. And you're not an attorney, are you? 20 A. That's also correct. 21 But you did cite some court cases in 22 your testimony, and I'm assuming that you read 23 those court cases? A. Yes, I have. 24 25 Have you read the Utility Consumers Q.

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- 1 Council of Missouri case from 1979?
- 2 A. Is that cited in my evidence?
- 3 Q. It is cited, yes, on page 17, at the
- 4 bottom of a quote from another case.
- 5 A. So you're talking about the reference
- 6 in the footnote on line 10 of page 17?
- 7 Q. Well, yeah. The State ex rel Utility
- 8 Consumers Counsel of Missouri case that we've been
- 9 discussing this morning from 1979. Have you read
- 10 that foundational ratemaking case about cost of
- service regulation in Missouri?
- 12 A. I believe I have read the case,
- 13 although not for the purpose of this proceeding.
- 14 Q. But you cited it in your testimony?
- 15 A. No. I cite the Commission's decision
- 16 in the Noranda earnings complaint case, and that
- 17 decision cited the UCCM case.
- 18 Q. So you can't really give me any
- 19 opinion about that case; is that right?
- 20 A. I cannot provide you a legal opinion.
- 21 I certainly welcome any questions you may have
- 22 about questions on regulatory policy from that case
- 23 that may relate to my testimony.
- Q. I assume as far as law, you're
- 25 relying on your counsel to provide advice to you as

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- 1 to Missouri law?
- 2 A. I am not offering any opinions on
- 3 Missouri law.
- 4 MR. COFFMAN: That's all I have.
- 5 Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel?
- 7 MR. ALLISON: We waive.
- 8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: MIEC?
- 9 MR. DOWNEY: No questions.
- 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then we'll come up
- 11 for questions from the Bench. Mr. Chairman?
- 12 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY:
- 13 Q. Mr. Reed, thanks for being here. You
- 14 say in your testimony, I think on that same page
- 15 that Mr. Coffman was just questioning you about,
- 16 that you're not aware of any instance in which the
- 17 Commission has based recovery of amounts booked in
- 18 a regulatory asset on past earnings levels; is that
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. Would it be inappropriate for us to
- 22 **do so?**
- 23 A. I believe it would be. I believe it
- 24 would be inconsistent with your prior rulings that
- 25 rates are to be set prospectively and are not to be

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- 1 adjusted for past earnings levels.
- 2 I will -- just to clarify my prior
- 3 answer, I am aware that this issue has come up
- 4 three or four times before the Commission in the
- 5 past, and in each instance the Commission has
- 6 rejected such a proposal.
- 7 Q. Let me refer you to page 9 of your
- 8 testimony, on the bottom, line 23 continues on to
- 9 page 10, and it looks like it's a general
- 10 discussion about what a regulatory asset is and how
- 11 it arises and how it functions. And in the last
- 12 line on line 23 on page 9 reads, the Commission
- 13 must, and it continues on to line 1 of page 10,
- 14 approve the regulatory asset treatment which
- 15 provides the utility recovery in rates through
- amortization expense, et cetera, et cetera.
- Do you mean to imply by that that we
- 18 are required to allow the recovery of the
- 19 regulatory asset or the amounts that are booked in
- 20 the AAO?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 O. You use the word must.
- 23 A. Right. What I mean to say with that
- 24 sentence is the deferred asset or regulatory asset
- 25 cannot be created unilaterally by the company

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- 1 without evidence that the Commission will probably
- 2 allow recovery in the future.
- 3 Q. So with respect to the solar rebates,
- 4 the probability of allowing recovery in the future
- 5 was our order approving that stipulation?
- 6 A. Yes, on the stipulation itself.
- 7 Q. What creates the probability of
- 8 recovery with respect to the Noranda AAO? Because
- 9 I think we specifically said, you know, this
- 10 doesn't constitute any treatment for ratemaking
- 11 purposes.
- 12 A. Right. I think generally the
- 13 Commission's past practices. But I will also
- 14 acknowledge that the accounting for the Noranda AAO
- 15 was handled differently than for all of the other
- 16 deferrals at issue in this case.
- 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Is he testifying
- 18 now on that issue?
- MR. KEEVIL: No. That's later.
- MR. LOWERY: He's actually testifying
- 21 on that later.
- 22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Today, though,
- 23 right?
- MR. LOWERY: Yes, it is.
- 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I'll wait. I may

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- 1 ask you the same questions again.
- 2 BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY:
- 3 Q. So I guess would it be fair to say,
- 4 in your estimation when the Commission allows the
- 5 creation of a regulatory asset or an accounting
- 6 authority order of some sort, there is -- we're
- 7 forecasting or broadcasting some likelihood that it
- 8 will be recovered in rates just by virtue of the
- 9 fact that we allow the creation of the regulatory
- 10 asset?
- 11 A. I think to the financial community
- 12 the answer is largely yes. In order for the asset
- 13 to be booked and remain on the books pursuant to
- 14 the tests employed by the company's auditors,
- 15 recovery in a future proceeding needs to be likely
- 16 or probable. So, yes, I think that is the
- 17 understanding of the financial community.
- 18 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks. I don't
- 19 have any other questions.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?
- 21 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.
- 22 Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney?
- 24 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No
- 25 questions. Thank you.

Page 525 1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 2 COMMISSIONER HALL: Yes, just a few. 3 OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HALL: 4 Q. Good morning. A. Good morning. Do you believe that it is relevant in 6 Q. 7 a rate case such as this to take into account 8 excess earnings in a prior time period for any reason whatsoever? 10 Not that I can think of. I've made Α. the statement and it's -- actually, I've recited a 11 12 statement made previously by this Commission and 13 the US Supreme Court that consideration of past earnings is not a matter in terms of establishing 14 future rates. 15 But isn't it relevant in terms of --16 Q. 17 as a predictive measure? 18 Α. I think the predictive measure is actually handled through the establishment of the 19 20 test year. The test year, which is meant to be a 21 representation of future costs and revenue levels, 22 is how you established whether rates are adequate, just and reasonable going forward. I think that is 23 24 the appropriate measure for whether the company is overearning, underearning or requires any rate 25

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- 1 adjustment at all.
- 2 Past earnings, which are affected, of
- 3 course, by weather, by nonrecurring events, by many
- 4 other things, actual earnings are not the right
- 5 measure to determine whether a rate change is
- 6 required. In a rate case, that's what you're
- 7 trying to determine is is a rate change required.
- 8 That in my view should be based upon the test year
- 9 normalized and adjusted, as is usually the case in
- 10 any cost of service regulation.
- 11 Q. Well, I understand that it is
- 12 possible that there could be random events that
- 13 take place during a test year or during or prior to
- 14 a test year that could be the cause of
- overearnings, but there could also be something
- 16 structural, couldn't there? Couldn't there also be
- something in the ratemaking process, something in
- 18 the cost of service analysis, something, i.e., a
- 19 whole bunch of single-issue ratemaking mechanisms,
- 20 that are causing overearnings, and why should this
- 21 Commission look at that, take that into account
- when setting earnings going forward?
- 23 A. I think you're right that if there's
- 24 a structural issue it should be considered. That
- 25 structural issue, though, would presumably show up

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- 1 in the test year data and in the mechanisms that
- 2 you use to look forward to determine if rates
- 3 should be adjusted prospectively.
- I don't see that actual earnings are
- 5 a better measure of determining whether rate relief
- 6 is required than the traditional test year process.
- 7 Q. It may not be better, but isn't it a
- 8 factor we should take into account?
- 9 A. I don't have a problem with the
- 10 Commission taking consideration of past earnings
- 11 levels, especially when considering issues like
- 12 attrition or accretion, which is the opposite of
- 13 attrition, and the likelihood of that occurring in
- 14 the future.
- But in a rate case, you are setting
- 16 rates prospectively. The actual amount of earnings
- 17 as they are affected by all of the numerous events
- 18 that determine actual earnings should not be the
- 19 basis for setting rates going forward.
- You can take notice of it. I'm not
- 21 going to say that the information contained in the
- 22 surveillance reports is meaningless. It's meant to
- 23 be a very broad barometer of where things stand,
- 24 but it is not the basis for establishing rates
- 25 prospectively.

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1	COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Thank you.	
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?	
3	All right.	
4	Then any recross based on questions	
5	from the Bench? Redirect?	
6	MR. LOWERY: I don't think so, your	
7	Honor.	
8	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Then Mr. Reed	
9	can step down.	
10	(Witness excused.)	
11	JUDGE WOODRUFF: We will come up to	
12	Mr. Cassidy.	
13	(Witness sworn.)	
14	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.	
15	JOHN CASSIDY testified as follows:	
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL:	
17	Q. Would you state and spell your name	
18	for the record, please, sir.	
19	A. John Cassidy, J-o-h-n, C-a-s-s-i-d-y.	
20	Q. Mr. Cassidy, by whom are you employed	
21	and in what capacity?	
22	A. I'm a Utility Regulatory Auditor 5	
23	for the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff.	
24	Q. Now, are you or did you cause to be	
25	prepared in this case several exhibits?	

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- 1 MR. KEEVIL: Judge, this will take
- 2 longer than normal, which we'll go through here
- 3 individually.
- 4 BY MR. KEEVIL:
- 5 Q. Are you the John Cassidy who, as I
- 6 understand it, is sponsoring the Staff's Revenue
- 7 Requirement Cost of Service Report which has been
- 8 premarked or prenumbered as Exhibit 202?
- 9 A. Yes, I am.
- 10 Q. Both NP and HC versions, correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Do you have any corrections you need
- 13 to make to that at this time?
- 14 A. I do have corrections to my revenue
- 15 requirement cost of service report, but not the
- 16 testimony that's attached that's filed separate
- 17 from that.
- 18 Q. I'm talking about the report itself.
- 19 A. I do have corrections to that.
- Q. Would you go ahead and walk us
- 21 through those?
- 22 A. Okay. On page 120, line 9, replace
- 23 the date that says 2100 with 2010. On page 121,
- 24 line 6, replace the word earlier with later. On
- 25 page 122, line 4, insert the word a between the

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- 1 words included and ten-year amortization.
- 2 Page 122, line 28, place the word each with the
- 3 word three.
- 4 Q. You say replace the word each?
- 5 A. Yes. Page 122, line 13, insert the
- 6 words one -- on two of its three pot lines. I'm
- 7 sorry. On two of its three pot lines needs to be
- 8 inserted.
- 9 And then that's all I have for that
- 10 particular filing.
- 11 Q. Now, that was Exhibit 202, the Staff
- 12 Revenue Requirement Report?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. Now, are you -- did you also
- 15 cause to be prepared and filed in this case direct,
- 16 rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony of John Cassidy,
- 17 which has been prenumbered as Exhibit 209 for the
- 18 direct, 210 for the rebuttal and 211 NP and HC for
- 19 the surrebuttal?
- 20 A. I did.
- Q. Do you have any corrections you need
- 22 to make to any of those three pieces of testimony?
- 23 A. Just one correction to my rebuttal
- 24 testimony.
- Q. Okay. What is that?

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- 1 A. On page 6, line 2, insert the words
- 2 two of its three pot lines between shutdown and the
- 3 word gearing.
- 4 Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Cassidy, are you also
- 5 Staff's sponsoring witness for the accounting
- 6 schedules and the true-up accounting schedules
- 7 which -- let me -- I believe the Staff accounting
- 8 schedules have been premarked or prenumbered as
- 9 Exhibit 200, and the true-up schedules have been
- 10 premarked Exhibits 241. Are you the sponsoring
- 11 Staff person for those?
- 12 A. Yes, I am.
- 13 Q. Okay. And there are no additions or
- 14 corrections to those at this time, correct?
- 15 A. I have no corrections, no.
- 16 Q. Kind of as a -- just to cover all
- 17 bases here Mr. Cassidy, it's my understanding
- 18 you're also have authorship responsibility for a
- 19 portion of an attachment to the surrebuttal
- 20 testimony of Staff witness Sarah Kliethermes, which
- 21 has been marked as Exhibit 222; is that correct?
- 22 A. That is correct.
- 23 Q. And do you have -- just your portion
- 24 of that attachment, do you have any corrections?
- 25 A. I have no corrections to that.

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- 1 Q. Okay. Mr. Cassidy, were the
- 2 corrections that you have made here on the stand,
- 3 if I were to -- or are those the statements and
- 4 things stated in the Staff Report true and correct
- 5 to the best of your information, knowledge and
- 6 belief?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And regarding the testimony -- well,
- 9 let me say the same thing about the accounting
- 10 schedules. To the best of your information,
- 11 knowledge and belief, are the accounting schedules
- 12 true and correct and accurate?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And regarding the direct, rebuttal
- 15 and surrebuttal testimonies, if I were to ask you
- 16 the questions contained therein, would your answers
- 17 be the same here today?
- 18 A. They would.
- 19 Q. Are those answers true and correct to
- 20 the best of your information, knowledge and belief?
- 21 A. Yes.
- MR. KEEVIL: Judge, with that, I
- 23 would offer -- and it's my understanding, your
- 24 Honor, when you prenumbered the exhibits, you
- 25 included the -- all of the appendices to the Staff

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- 1 Reports all under the same number as the report
- 2 itself. So I'm not going to offer the appendices
- 3 separately.
- 4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That is correct.
- 5 MR. KEEVIL: But would offer
- 6 Exhibit 202, 200, 241, 209, 210, 211, with the
- 7 understanding that you will reserve ruling on those
- 8 since Mr. Cassidy is coming back later today on a
- 9 separate issue.
- 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. As
- 11 previously practiced, yes, we will defer ruling on
- 12 that. If anyone wants to voice objection at this
- 13 time, you can. I don't hear any objections.
- MR. DOWNEY: Judge, I just have a
- 15 question. Did you offer Exhibit 222?
- MR. KEEVIL: I didn't offer
- 17 Exhibit 222, because Mr. Cassidy is just sponsoring
- 18 a portion of the attachment to 222. I assume 222
- 19 will be offered at a later date when Kliethermes is
- 20 up.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: It was actually
- 22 offered the other day when Ms. Kliethermes
- 23 testified. We deferred ruling on it.
- MR. DOWNEY: Thank you.
- MR. KEEVIL: With that, Judge, then I

Page 534 would tender the witness for cross-examination. 2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. For 3 cross we'll begin with Ameren. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY: 5 Q. Good morning, Mr. Cassidy. Α. Good morning. 7 Q. You've been here all morning, 8 correct? Α. I have. 10 You heard the questions this morning, 11 I don't honestly recall if it was the Chairman or 12 one of the other Commissioners. I think it was the 13 Chairman asking Mr. Downey about if -- if your 14 position was, under the stipulation -- and I'm 15 paraphrasing. You tell me if I'm paraphrasing 16 accurately. But if your position under the 17 stipulation would have been that if the company per book earnings were more than the last authorized 18 return, if that meant the solar rebates would 19 20 already be recovered, then why didn't you put that 21 in the stipulation? Do you remember that question 22 or something to that effect? 23 Α. I do.

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there wasn't any expectation of overearning at that

And Mr. Downey's answer was that

Q.

24

25

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- 1 time. Do you recall that answer?
- 2 A. I do recall that.
- 3 O. And I think the record will reflect
- 4 this in some of the testimony in the record.
- 5 Mr. Reed has a chart, for example. But can you
- 6 tell me what the surveillance reports, the per book
- 7 earnings were showing at or near the time of the
- 8 entering into the solar rebate stipulation?
- 9 A. I believe they were showing that they
- 10 were above the authorized.
- 11 Q. Which is, I think as we've been using
- 12 those terms today, overearning simply means the
- 13 actual per book are above the authorized, and
- 14 underearning means the actual per book is under; is
- 15 that right?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 2. So would you say that it's -- it's
- 18 not fair to say that there was no expectation at
- 19 the time the solar rebates were being deferred of
- 20 that there actually, in fact, had been so-called
- 21 overearnings at that time?
- 22 A. I would say that's not fair to say.
- 23 I think surveillance had revealed that that problem
- 24 existed since the middle of 2012.
- 25 Q. And, in fact, that was going to be

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- one of my questions. In 2012, if you just looked
- 2 at per book results, and I'm not hypothesizing that
- 3 we should do this, but if you look at per book
- 4 results and you said you're over the authorized
- 5 return, that -- and if that was the test, then that
- 6 would suggest that the rates were too high, right,
- 7 if you just looked at per book results at that
- 8 time?
- 9 A. Yeah. Per book results have limited
- 10 value.
- 11 Q. But, in fact, the Staff conducted a
- 12 cost of service study and so did the company, and
- 13 other parties did some limited adjustments, and the
- 14 bottom line is that in December of 2012, despite
- 15 those per book returns being above the authorized
- 16 return, that the Commission granted a \$260 million
- 17 rate increase, correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Which is sort of some evidence as to
- 20 why those surveillance reports have limited
- 21 usefulness when it comes to setting rates. Would
- 22 you agree with that?
- 23 A. Generally, yes.
- 24 Q. I want to make sure there wasn't --
- and I don't think there was any intention to create

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- 1 a false impression by some of the exchange that
- 2 Mr. Downey had with Commissioners this morning, but
- 3 something that was said that made me think that a
- 4 false impression might have been created.
- 5 If an amortization is approved in a
- 6 rate case -- and let's just take the solar rebates.
- 7 Imagine that -- I'm going to make the math simple.
- 8 Imagine there were \$99 million of solar rebates and
- 9 the 10 percent adder in the regulatory asset as of
- 10 the end of the test year, just for hypothetical
- 11 purposes. Okay?
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. And it's not quite that much, but
- 14 it's close to that; isn't that right?
- 15 A. It's close.
- 16 Q. And so that means there would be
- 17 \$33 million accounted for in the revenue
- 18 requirement in this case, right?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. From an earnings perspective, as that
- 21 \$33 million is being amortized, that's going to
- 22 increase Ameren's rates -- or excuse me -- return
- 23 going forward because there will be corresponding
- 24 amortization expense on the income statement as the
- amortization occurs; is that right?

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- 1 A. Once it's implemented in rates, it
- 2 would reduce expense -- or it would increase
- 3 expense. I'm sorry.
- 4 Q. Right. So the \$33 million that
- 5 Ameren would get in the first year after rates are
- 6 set, if you could calculate what a return would be
- 7 in the absence of the amortization expense, the
- 8 return's not going to go up for this because there
- 9 is a dollar-for-dollar expense on the income
- 10 statement?
- 11 A. If all other factors are equal, yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. With that caveat. Are you
- 13 familiar with the solar rebates statute as it was
- 14 amended two or three years ago and the feature of
- 15 that statute that says if a solar rebate is paid to
- a customer, then the utility is entitled to the
- 17 renewable energy credits generated by that solar
- 18 system for the life of the system? Are you
- 19 familiar with that?
- 20 A. I am.
- 21 Q. And the reason I ask you about that
- 22 is, there was some discussion about deferrals.
- 23 There were deferrals in a past period, but then
- 24 they get -- they get built into rates if they -- if
- 25 we amortize them through rates in the future. So

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- 1 tomorrow's ratepayers are paying for the deferral,
- 2 but they arose from expense in the past. Do you
- 3 remember that
- 4 A. Generally, yeah.
- 5 Q. And I understand the concept that
- 6 those comments were being directed toward, but in
- 7 the case of -- at least in the case of solar
- 8 rebates, those renewable energy credits have value,
- 9 would you agree with that, to the utility in terms
- 10 of complying with the RES statute?
- 11 A. They do.
- 12 Q. And the utilities getting those, I
- don't know if it's getting them for free or not,
- 14 but they're not paying extra to get them. They
- 15 have to pay the same solar rebate whether they got
- 16 the RECs or not. Would you agree with that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And so that is benefiting the utility
- 19 going forward, and indirectly one would think
- 20 typically if we're going to have future rate case,
- 21 it's going to benefit customers by lowering the
- 22 utility's cost of compliance with the RES; isn't
- 23 that right?
- 24 A. Potentially it may.
- Q. Would you agree with Mr. Downey's

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- 1 characterization of the period that Mr. Meyer
- 2 looked at in the Noranda earnings complaint as
- 3 being a test year period?
- 4 MR. DOWNEY: Judge, I've got an
- 5 objection. I think the exact language I used was
- 6 de facto test period.
- 7 MR. LOWERY: I'll rephrase the
- 8 question.
- 9 MR. DOWNEY: It's in the slides, and
- 10 you-all have copies of the slides.
- 11 MR. LOWERY: I'll withdraw the
- 12 question and rephrase.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.
- 14 BY MR. LOWERY:
- 15 Q. Let me ask it this way: The MI-- or
- 16 Noranda I should say, and I guess it would be the
- 17 other consumers that were on the complaint with
- 18 Noranda, they asked the Commission to establish a
- 19 test year in that case, correct?
- 20 A. They did.
- 21 Q. And the Commission declined to do so;
- 22 isn't that right?
- 23 A. That is correct.
- 24 Q. And Mr. Downey had characterized the
- 25 period that Mr. Meyer looked at as a de facto test

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- 1 year -- I stand corrected -- did he not?
- 2 A. He did.
- 3 Q. But the fact is that not nearly all
- 4 of the adjustments and examinations that one would
- 5 make to develop a test year revenue requirement,
- 6 not nearly all of them were done in that case;
- 7 isn't that true?
- 8 A. That is true.
- 9 Q. I want to ask you about -- and I
- 10 apologize, Commissioner Hall, if I'm stealing your
- 11 thunder. But I want to ask you about the question
- 12 that Commissioner Hall asked me, because I'm
- 13 probably not qualified to answer it, but I suspect
- 14 you are.
- 15 You took -- I think it's fair to say
- 16 you took the same position that the company took in
- 17 the Noranda earnings case with respect to the
- 18 relevance of the solar rebates. Would you agree
- 19 with that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And I think you were asked about that
- during that case. I think maybe Mr. Downey asked
- 23 you. I apologize if it was another MIEC lawyer. I
- 24 think you were asked a similar question to the
- 25 question Commissioner Hall asked you.

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- 1 Let me just ask you straight out. Is
- your position now inconsistent with what you viewed
- 3 to be the relevance of solar rebates in the Noranda
- 4 earnings case?
- 5 A. I think for this issue, no.
- 6 Q. And can you explain to Commissioner
- 7 Hall and others why you say that?
- 8 A. Well, the heart of the matter of
- 9 this -- that case, the Noranda complaint case was
- 10 not all of the rel-- all relevant factors analysis
- 11 was not performed in that case, so we didn't take
- 12 into consideration all of those factors. And
- 13 because of that, we had a result that had a lower
- 14 degree of certainty that you would have when
- 15 conduct a full cost of service calculation as we've
- 16 done in this case.
- 17 So because of that, I don't think
- 18 because we took that into consideration in this
- 19 previous complaint, that has some bearing on what's
- 20 taken place in this all relevant factors analysis
- 21 in this rate case.
- 22 Q. I just want -- I want to confirm
- 23 something I said, which is in evidence, that the
- 24 company and the Staff -- and I'm ignoring the
- Noranda AAO because we don't agree on that one.

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- 1 The company and the Staff are in complete agreement
- on the treatment of all other regulatory assets in
- 3 this case; isn't that right?
- 4 A. Staff believes there's special
- 5 circumstances that exist with these three
- 6 particular amortizations that should require them
- 7 to be implemented in rates.
- 8 Q. And would you agree, you heard me try
- 9 to describe USOA 182.2 and how the accounting is
- 10 prescribed by the USOA and with respect to
- 11 Fukushima. Did I get it close enough that -- was I
- 12 accurate or would you amend anything that I said to
- 13 make it more accurate, or do you agree with my
- 14 description generally?
- 15 A. Generally, yes, it is in compliance
- 16 with USOA.
- 17 MR. LOWERY: May I approach, your
- 18 Honor?
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may.
- MR. LOWERY: And I'm not planning to
- 21 put these in evidence, your Honor. I'm just going
- 22 to ask some questions about a few of these.
- 23 BY MR. LOWERY
- Q. Mr. Cassidy, can you tell me what
- 25 I've just handed you?

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- 1 A. You have handed me a copy of my
- 2 rebuttal testimony from the EC-2014-0223 case.
- 3 Q. And that's the Noranda earnings
- 4 complaint that we've been talking about, right?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. Could you turn to page 28.
- 7 A. I'm there.
- 8 Q. And I'm looking at lines 22 to 26,
- 9 and I'm going to ask you if I read those -- if I'm
- 10 reading this correctly. You testified that those
- 11 new rates, and you were referring to what --
- whenever rates are reset for Ameren Missouri,
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. You testified those new rates will
- 16 need to include the impact of a three-year
- amortization of the level of solar rebate deferral,
- 18 plus a cost adder for carrying costs that Ameren
- 19 Missouri has recorded in compliance with the
- 20 Stipulation & Agreement that was approved by the
- 21 Commission in Case No. ET-2014-0085. Did I read
- 22 that correctly?
- A. You did.
- Q. Which is exactly what you're
- 25 recommending in this case, correct?

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- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. Then if you turn to page 29, line 7
- 3 to 10, you stated -- I'm starting with the sentence
- 4 that starts, in other words -- quote, in other
- 5 words, any new rates that are established by the
- 6 Commission must be designed to cover Ameren
- 7 Missouri's deferred balance of solar rebates and
- 8 cost adder because a prior agreement requires an
- 9 amortization of this balance must begin immediately
- 10 upon effectuation of -- any effectuation of new
- 11 rates. Did I read that correctly?
- 12 A. You did.
- 13 Q. And your position has not changed
- 14 about that; is that right?
- 15 A. It has not changed.
- 16 Q. Hand you another document,
- 17 Mr. Cassidy. Do you recognize that document?
- 18 A. It appears to be a motion to
- 19 declassify something I may have attached to my
- 20 testimony in the ER-2012-0166 case.
- 21 Q. Let me lay a little foundation for
- 22 it. Do you recall that the Staff filed a motion to
- 23 declassify a portion of your testimony that
- 24 referred to some surveillance results that had been
- 25 filed during the pendency of Ameren Missouri's last

Page 546 1 rate case? 2 Α. I do recall that. 3 Q. And do you now recognize this as being the company's response to that Staff motion 4 5 to declassify? 6 Α. I do now, yes. 7 And do you recall that the company Q. 8 agreed that the declassification was appropriate? Do you remember that? 10 Α. Yes. 11 And there's a page that has some Q. 12 numbers on it that's part of this response, and do 13 you recognize that as a page from Ameren Missouri's 14 surveillance report for the 12 months ending June 30, 2012? 15 16 Α. It is. 17 Q. And it showed an actual per book 18 earnings for that 12-month period of 10.53 percent, 19 right? 20 Α. Yes. 21 And the authorized return at the time Ο. was 10.2, if I remember correctly, and I believe I 22 23 do. 24 It is, and it's identified on that. Α. 25 Q. And as we talked about a moment ago,

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- 1 you believe that the Commission ultimately granted
- 2 the \$260 million rate increase in that case, right?
- 3 A. It did.
- 4 Q. Hand you another document. Ask you
- 5 if you recognize it.
- 6 A. Okay. I do.
- 7 Q. And am I correct that this is the
- 8 Staff's reconciliation that was filed shortly
- 9 before the hearing started in that case?
- 10 A. It is.
- 11 Q. And am I correct that the Staff's
- 12 recommendation at that time was that the company
- 13 was justified in receiving a \$202 million rate
- 14 increase?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Even though the surveillance results
- 17 at the time were on a per book basis showing more
- 18 than the last authorized return, right?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. And significantly more than the Staff
- 21 thought the return on equity in that case should
- 22 be, correct?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- Q. Hand you another document,
- 25 Mr. Cassidy, and ask if you could identify that,

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- 1 please.
- 2 A. Okay. This is the Commission's
- 3 Report and Order in the Noranda complaint case,
- 4 EC-2014-0223.
- 5 Q. Would you turn to page 7?
- A I'm there.
- 7 Q. Do you see the discussion in
- 8 paragraph 12 where the Commission is making note of
- 9 the surveillance results that are shown in the
- 10 table above, but then also making specific note of
- 11 the significant period of time where the company's
- 12 per book results were below its authorized rate of
- 13 return. Do you see that?
- 14 A. I do see that.
- 15 Q. And then tell me if I read this
- 16 correctly from paragraph 13 on page 8. After
- 17 looking at the so-called overearnings for a period
- 18 and underearnings for another period, the
- 19 Commission had this to say, quote, however, it is
- 20 important to understand that the earnings level
- 21 recorded in the surveillance reports are actual per
- 22 book earnings of the utility and cannot be compared
- 23 directly to an authorized return on equity to
- 24 determine whether or not a utility is overearning.
- 25 Did I read that correctly?

Page 549 You did. 1 Α. 2 And you agree with that statement, Q. 3 correct? 4 Α. Yes. 5 Q. And you testified in that case that 6 determining an appropriate cost of service is an 7 extremely complex and interactive exercise. Do you 8 recall saying that? Α. I do recall. 9 10 And the Commission, in fact, parroted Q. 11 that statement back in its Report and Order, did 12 they not? It was included in the Order. 13 Α. 14 Q. Hand you another document and ask you 15 if you recognize that. 16 Okay. This appears to be Α. 17 surveillance that was filed for the 12 months ending December 31, 2014. 18 19 Q. And I'm assuming you saw this when it 20 was submitted yesterday? 21 Α. I have seen this. 22 Q. And as I had indicated in opening statement, I think Mr. Moehn had testified to this 23 on Monday, for the 12 months ending December 2014, 24

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the company's actual earnings were 9.71 percent,

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Page 550 1 correct? 2 Α. That's correct. 3 Q. Which was nine basis point below its current authorized ROE, right? 4 5 Α. Yes. 6 And so just to confirm what I said Q. 7 this morning, for the entire time that rates have 8 been in effect, since they were last set at the beginning of 2013, actually January 2nd, actually, 10 the company was over by 54 basis points for '13 and under by 9 for '14; is that fair to say? 11 12 Α. That's fair. 13 Q. You have no concern that Ameren 14 Missouri hasn't been charging the rates that it was 15 authorized to charge since they were last set, do 16 you? 17 Α. No. We have made no allegation of that in our case. 18 19 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Mr. Cassidy. I don't have any further questions. 20 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. At this 22 point we are going to have to take a break to go up 23 to agenda. Let's plan on coming back at 1:30.

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JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're back from

(A BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

2.4

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- 1 lunch and from agenda. John Cassidy is still on
- 2 the stand, and we just completed cross-examination
- 3 from Ameren, so we go to Public Counsel.
- 4 MR. ALLISON: Waive cross. Thank
- 5 you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Consumers Council?
- 7 MR. COFFMAN: No questions, your
- 8 Honor.
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: MIEC?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yes.
- 11 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 12 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Cassidy.
- 13 A. Good afternoon, Mr. Downey.
- 14 O. I returned all the documents that
- 15 Mr. Lowery had shown you. They should be still at
- 16 the witness stand. In addition, I added two more,
- and I want to ask you some questions about those.
- 18 **Okay?**
- 19 A. That's fine.
- Q. The first is the Report and Order in
- 21 the 0223 case. I think that's already in front of
- 22 **you**.
- 23 A. Okay. I have that.
- 24 Q. All right. And I'd like you to read
- 25 the last sentence of paragraph 4, page 13. I'd

Page 552 like you to read it into the record. 2 MR. KEEVIL: Mr. Downey, do you have 3 another copy of that? MR. DOWNEY: It's what Mr. Lowery 4 5 gave him. 6 MR. KEEVIL: Oh, this is the one that 7 Lowery gave him? MR. DOWNEY: Yes. 8 9 MR. KEEVIL: Okay. 10 THE WITNESS: Okay. That sentence reads, in addition, Ameren Missouri's payment of 11 12 solar rebates in 2014 will likely increase the 13 company's revenue requirement by approximately 33.7 million. 14 BY MR. DOWNEY: 15 16 Q. All right. Thank you. Now, is your 17 rebuttal testimony in the 0223 case still up there? It is. 18 Α. 19 Q. I'd like you to turn to page 26. 20 I'm there. Α. 21 And what year did you use for 22 examining under- or overearnings of Ameren 23 Missouri? A. The Staff examined calendar 2013. 24 25 Thank you. And what year did Q.

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- 1 Mr. Meyer examine?
- 2 A. He originally examined the 12 months
- 3 ending September 30, 2013, and I believe he rolled
- 4 his analysis up in subsequent round-up testimony to
- 5 calendar 2013.
- 6 Q. Okay. So initially you-all used the
- 7 same 12-month period?
- 8 A. In the end we did, yes.
- 9 Q. Thank you. But you told Mr. Lowery
- 10 that labeling that year a de facto test year gives
- 11 a false impression, didn't you? That's just a yes
- 12 or no question.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Now, I put a copy of the Report and
- 15 Order in Case No. ER-2012-0166 up there. Do you
- 16 see it?
- 17 A. I do.
- 18 MR. DOWNEY: And, Judge, that's the
- 19 last Ameren rate case order, and I'd ask the
- 20 Commission to take official notice of it.
- 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You're talking about
- the Report and Order the 2012 rate case?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yes.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. The
- 25 Commission will take official notice of that.

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- 1 MR. DOWNEY: Thank you.
- 2 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 3 Q. Now, that last -- that Report and
- 4 Order you have in front of you, is that the Report
- 5 and Order for the last Ameren Missouri rate case?
- 6 A. It appears to be.
- 7 Q. What is PISA?
- 8 A. It was a proposal that Ameren
- 9 Missouri put forward in that case. That's an
- 10 acronym for plant in service accounting, and it was
- 11 some new regulatory mechanism that they had
- 12 proposed that would allow them to defer
- 13 depreciation and return on investment for
- 14 subsequent recovery in a subsequent rate case for
- 15 investment that was placed in service between rate
- 16 cases.
- 17 Q. Thank you. And would it, being plant
- 18 in service accounting or PISA, have increased rates
- 19 if it had been adopted?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And I'd like you to look at page 32,
- 22 paragraph 6 of that Report and Order.
- 23 A. I'm there.
- Q. And do you see in paragraph 6 where
- 25 the Commission said PISA could place a very heavy

Page 555 financial burden on ratepayers? 2 Α. I do. 3 Q. Did I read that correctly? Α. Yes. 5 And then on page 34 at paragraph 7, Q. the last sentence. 7 Α. I'm sorry. Page? I think it's 34. It's a continuation 8 Q. of paragraph 7. 10 Paragraph 7 starts on 32 and ends on Α. 11 33. 12 MR. DOWNEY: All right. I'm sorry. May I approach, Judge? 13 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may. 15 MR. DOWNEY: I only had this one 16 copy. I'm sorry. BY MR. DOWNEY: 17 18 Q. I meant page 33. Sorry about that. I'm there. 19 Α. 20 All right. And I'm going to Q. 21 paraphrase, but is it fair to say that the 22 Commission said that PISA would increase revenue 23 requirement by \$6.2 million a year? 24 A. Yes. That's what it says. 25 Q. And then later on that page in

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- 1 paragraph 8, that over 40 years that 6.2 million
- per year would total more than \$240 million?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. All right. Did the Commission adopt
- 5 PISA in that case?
- 6 A. It did not.
- 7 Q. All right. On page 35, paragraph 13,
- 8 let me know when you're there.
- 9 A. I'm there.
- 10 Q. Okay. Did the Commission, in fact,
- 11 say that PISA seems to be a solution in search of a
- 12 problem?
- 13 A. That is what it says in line 1 of
- 14 paragraph 13.
- 15 Q. All right. Now, page 35, paragraph
- 16 **15.**
- 17 A. Okay, I'm there.
- 18 Q. Would you please read into the record
- 19 that paragraph?
- 20 A. Indeed, a surveillance report that
- 21 Ameren Missouri supplied to Staff showed that for
- 22 the 12 months ended June 30, 2012, within the
- 23 true-up period for this case, Ameren Missouri's
- 24 actual earned return on equity was 10.53 percent,
- 25 which is above the 10.2 percent return on equity

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- 1 allowed in its last rate case. Ameren Missouri
- 2 attempted to dismiss that 10.53 percent return as
- 3 being attributable to warmer than normal weather
- 4 and to other anomalies, but there it is. Under the
- 5 circumstances, it is not clear that there is a
- 6 systematic problem that needs to be solved with
- 7 PISA.
- 8 Q. Thank you. And did the Public
- 9 Service Commission draw up a footnote for that
- 10 paragraph?
- 11 A. It did.
- 12 Q. And would you please read that
- 13 **footnote?**
- 14 A. Exhibit 237.
- 15 Q. Is Exhibit 237 at the witness stand
- 16 right now?
- MR. DOWNEY: Judge, may I approach?
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may.
- 19 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 20 Q. Do you see a document marked
- 21 **Exhibit 237?**
- 22 A. Yes, I do.
- 23 Q. Do you believe that's the document
- 24 that the Commission was referring to in that
- 25 **footnote?**

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- 1 A. Yes, it is.
- 2 Q. And is that the document that
- 3 Mr. Lowery showed you earlier today?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And what's the last page of that
- 6 document?
- 7 A. Well, the last page is a certificate
- 8 of service.
- 9 Q. I'm sorry. Before that?
- 10 A. Okay. It's the -- it's a page from
- 11 the FAC surveillance monitoring report that I had
- 12 attached to my surrebuttal testimony in that case.
- 13 Q. And what actual ROE does that page
- 14 show?
- 15 A. It showed an ROE of 10.53 percent.
- 16 Q. And for what period is that report?
- 17 A. That was for the 12 months ending
- 18 June 30, 2012.
- 19 Q. And what was the authorized ROE for
- 20 that period?
- 21 A. At that time it was 10.2 percent.
- 22 Q. Thank you. So would you agree that
- 23 the Public Service Commission considered that
- 24 report in denying plant in service accounting in
- 25 that case?

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- 1 A. That's what the Order reflected, yes.
- 2 Q. Now, up there at the witness stand I
- 3 have provided a copy of your surrebuttal in that
- 4 case. Do you see it?
- 5 A. I do.
- 6 MR. DOWNEY: And, Judge, I would
- 7 ask the Commission to take official notice of
- 8 Mr. Cassidy's surrebuttal in that case.
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any objection?
- 10 MR. LOWERY: Probably not. I haven't
- 11 looked at Mr. Cassidy's surrebuttal in two and a
- 12 half years, so I don't know what all is in there.
- 13 Would it be possible to at least reserve objection
- 14 and I'll listen to the questions that are being
- 15 made at this point?
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. I can do
- 17 that.
- 18 MR. LOWERY: Thank you.
- 19 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- Q. I'd like you to turn to page 6.
- 21 A. I'm there.
- 22 Q. Would you read into the record the
- 23 first full paragraph, that would be lines 1 through
- 24 8.
- MR. LOWERY: I apologize for

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- 1 interrupting. Your Honor, since I don't know what
- 2 the first full paragraph is going to say, if this
- 3 please the Commission, if Mr. Cassidy reads it
- 4 subject to me being able to object. When he reads
- 5 it's in the record, obviously, and I don't have an
- 6 opportunity to object.
- 7 MR. DOWNEY: May I suggest Mr. Lowery
- 8 just go read the paragraph?
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: He can do that too.
- 10 MR. LOWERY: Are you just going to
- 11 ask one question about his testimony?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yeah.
- 13 THE WITNESS: And I would point out
- 14 this is designated as highly confidential. I'm not
- 15 sure if it was ever declassified or not at this
- 16 point.
- 17 MR. LOWERY: Are you asking -- what
- 18 are you asking?
- MR. DOWNEY: I will suggest there's a
- 20 document in front of you that Mr. Lowery gave where
- 21 the company is indicating it no longer wants that
- 22 document kept highly confidential, the figures.
- 23 MR. LOWERY: Just this paragraph
- 24 here?
- MR. DOWNEY: Yeah.

Page 561 1 MR. KEEVIL: Let me see it, 2 considering it's my witness. 3 MR. LOWERY: That's true. That figure has not been declassified anywhere, right? 4 5 MR. DOWNEY: I don't think it's a 6 correct figure. 7 MR. LOWERY: It's not the right figure. We'd consider it to be highly 8 confidential. It's not the correct number. We consented to the actual correct surveillance report 10 being made public because it was accurate. But 11 12 that figure's not accurate. That's why it remains highly confidential, and I'm not agreeing to waive 13 that today. So I don't have an objection to asking 14 15 him about it, but it's going to have to be in 16 camera. 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Let's go in 18 camera then. 19 MR. LOWERY: And just for the record, the figure that he's going to ask him about is not 20 21 an accurate figure as reflected in the response to the Staff's motion to declassify part of 22 Mr. Cassidy's surrebuttal testimony that was filed 23 24 in 0166, and I guess at this point I'd ask the 25 Commission to take official notice of that filing

		Page 562
1	as well, since questions are being asked about an	
2	incorrect figure.	
3	MR. DOWNEY: Judge, just so there's	
4	no misunderstanding, it was not my intention to do	
5	anything other than have him read that paragraph	
6	and then correct his mistake so that it is	
7	consistent with the other documents Mr. Lowery has	
8	given.	
9	(REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point an	
10	in-camera session was held, which is contained in	
11	Volume 19, pages 563 through 565 of the	
12	transcript.)	
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Page 566 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're back in 1 2 regular session. 3 BY MR. DOWNEY: Now, Mr. Cassidy, you were later 4 Q. 5 informed that there was a corrected surveillance 6 monitoring report? 7 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri filed a corrected surveillance report subsequent to this 8 9 one. 10 Q. And the actual reported ROE dropped 11 to --12 MR. DOWNEY: Can I say the word 13 dropped, Jim? MR. LOWERY: That's fine. 14 15 THE WITNESS: The actual reported ROE 16 was 10.53. BY MR. DOWNEY: 18 Q. Thank you. And is that the ROE recorded in Exhibit 237? 19 20 A. Yes, it is. 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Now, Mr. Lowery, 22 you've gotten through that exchange. Is there 23 anything else you wanted? 24 MR. LOWERY: No, I don't have any objection to that testimony. Thank you for asking. 25

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- 1 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 2 Q. Now, I'd like you to focus on the
- 3 Ameren Missouri December 2014 FAC report. I
- 4 believe that's at the witness stand. I believe
- 5 Mr. Lowery gave you that.
- 6 A. I believe you're right. Let me see
- 7 if I can find it.
- MR. LOWERY: There's an e-mail,
- 9 Mr. Cassidy, with my name on the front of it, just
- 10 because I printed the e-mail.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Okay. I found it.
- 12 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 13 Q. All right. And am I correct that
- 14 Ameren Missouri reported an actual return on equity
- or ROE of 9.71 percent?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And that's nine basis points below
- 18 its authorized return on equity?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Can you convert that nine basis
- 21 points into dollars for us?
- 22 A. Well, roughly 10 basis points equals
- 23 6 million, so it's something a little under that.
- 24 I would say 9.-- or 5.4 million.
- 25 **Q.** 5.4 million?

Page 568 1 Α. Yes. 2 And how much of a rate increase is Q. 3 Ameren Missouri requesting in this case? Α. Their original request was for 4 5 approximately 264 million. 6 And where are they now? Q. 7 Α. I believe -- let me get that for you. I believe their case is based upon the most recent 8 stipulation. It's at 191.1 million. 10 Q. Thank you. Now, I'd like you to tell 11 me whether the report that Ameren Missouri is going 12 to file at the end of the first quarter of 2015 13 will show it earning an ROE above or below its current ROE of 9.8 percent? 14 15 Α. I don't know. 16 You have no idea? Q. 17 Α. I don't. 18 Q. And you review Ameren's surveillance 19 monitoring reports regularly, don't you? 20 Yes, on a quarterly basis. 21 And you review them pretty Q. thoroughly, don't you? 22 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. If you had to guess whether you 25 review them more often or more thoroughly than me,

Page 569 what would your guess be? 2 MR. LOWERY: Objection. Calls for 3 speculation. JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll sustain that. 4 5 You may want to rephrase your question. BY MR. DOWNEY: 7 Well, do you have an opinion? Q. 8 Α. Opinion about? 9 Q. About whether you review those 10 reports more than, say, I might. MR. LOWERY: Objection. It still 11 12 calls for speculation. He has no way to know what 13 Mr. Downey does or does not do. 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll overrule that 15 objection. 16 THE WITNESS: I don't know. BY MR. DOWNEY: 17 18 Would it surprise you that I might Q. not review them as thoroughly or as often as you? 19 20 MR. LOWERY: Objection. The question 21 is irrelevant as to whether Mr. Cassidy would be surprised about what Mr. Downey does. 22 23 MR. DOWNEY: Judge --24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll overrule the objection. You can go ahead and answer if you can. 25

Page 570 1 THE WITNESS: Mr. Downey, I don't 2 have any idea how often or how thoroughly you 3 review these documents. BY MR. DOWNEY: 4 5 Q. All right. You're an accountant, correct? 7 Α. Yes. 8 Q. And you are an accounting manager for the Staff; is that correct? 10 I'm a Utility Regulatory Auditor 5. Α. 11 All right. Now, when you told the Q. 12 Commission you had no idea whether Ameren's first 13 quarter 2015 report would report overearnings or underearnings, all right, were you being fair to 14 the Commission? 15 16 Α. I think weather can have a very 17 significant impact on earnings, and that could be reflected in this report. So generally normal 18 19 weather is abnormal. So I really can't offer an opinion about what the next quarter's report will 20 reflect. 21 22 I mean, were you being candid and 23 fair with the Commission when you told the Commission you really didn't know? 24

Fax: 314.644.1334

Α.

Yes.

25

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- 1 Q. All right. Just one more line of
- 2 questioning. When Mr. Lowery asked you questions
- 3 to opine on my candor in opening statement, do you
- 4 recall those questions?
- 5 MR. LOWERY: I'm going to object to
- 6 the characterization. I didn't say anything about
- 7 Mr. Downey's candor in any of my questions.
- 8 MR. DOWNEY: Judge, may I respond?
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You can certainly
- 10 respond.
- MR. DOWNEY: I believe the questions
- 12 were, was it fair to say and did it give a false
- 13 impression.
- MR. LOWERY: That's not suggesting
- 15 any intent on Mr. Downey's part whatsoever, and it
- 16 wasn't intended to.
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I think you prefaced
- 18 that by saying he did not intend to call into
- 19 question your candor. You can amend your question
- 20 without talking about candor. You can go ahead and
- 21 ask the question other than candor.
- 22 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- Q. All right. Did you have any idea
- 24 before you took the witness stand that you would be
- asked any questions about my opening statement?

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- 1 A. I did not come to the witness stand
- 2 with any expectation of what questions I might be
- 3 asked about you or about your opening statement.
- 4 Q. Asked by any counsel about my opening
- 5 statement?
- A. I wasn't expecting that, no.
- 7 MR. DOWNEY: Nothing further.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: We'll come up for
- 9 questions from the Bench. Mr. Chairman?
- 10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Cassidy, thanks
- 11 for being here. I don't have any questions.
- 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?
- 13 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I think just
- 14 kind of a couple of questions for my benefit, maybe
- 15 for some of us newer Commissioners.
- 16 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER STOLL:
- 17 Q. For what purpose is the surveillance
- 18 monitoring report, for what purpose was it created?
- 19 A. I believe it was implemented in
- 20 connection with the FAC, and it was to provide
- 21 Staff and other parties kind of a benchmark of
- 22 where Ameren Missouri was with regard to its book
- 23 earnings. The FAC offers Ameren Missouri
- 24 significant protection against changes in fuel
- 25 costs between rate cases, so they're shielded from

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- 1 a great deal of risk by having the FAC. So that
- 2 was something that I think the parties required of
- 3 Ameren Missouri, and they agreed to provide that
- 4 through the FAC, some FAC proceeding which I'm not
- 5 sure how it began.
- 6 Q. Does any -- does anything ever happen
- 7 regardless of what that surveillance monitoring
- 8 report shows? For example, if it showed that they
- 9 were well above their authorized ROE or --
- 10 A. Well, certainly that's something we
- 11 monitor, and if we see that it's a prolonged and
- 12 very significant overearnings, that would prompt us
- 13 to begin an investigation of whether or not a
- 14 complaint should be filed. But we have to look
- 15 into our, you know, future and assess what other
- 16 changes might be on the near-term horizon when we
- 17 do that.
- 18 Q. So you use that as part of the
- 19 investigation that you might use to determine
- whether or not to file a complaint and bring them
- 21 in for a rate case?
- 22 A. It would be a starting point, yes.
- 23 Q. I know they have to file the --
- 24 Ameren has to file reports with the Securities and
- 25 Exchange Commission. What's the nature of those,

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- in that are they comparable to the surveillance
- 2 monitoring report in showing their earnings and are
- 3 you familiar with that?
- 4 A. It's -- well, are you referring to a
- 5 10K filing or --
- 6 Q. I suspect I am.
- 7 A. Okay. Well, the surveillance
- 8 information is a little -- it gives information in
- 9 a little different light than what would be
- 10 reflected in a 10K. There's certainly more
- 11 information in a 10K, and I think the surveillance
- 12 information that we receive are more -- it's more
- 13 tailored to what we're interested in keeping a tag
- 14 on. So we would certainly look at both of those
- 15 sets of information.
- 16 Q. So do you look at the -- the SEC
- 17 report also?
- 18 A. SEC filings and whatever
- 19 presentations that they may make to investor groups
- 20 and that sort of thing.
- 21 Q. So prior to Ameren having a fuel
- 22 adjustment clause this -- the surveillance
- 23 monitoring report wasn't really necessary?
- A. Well, we had surveillance prior to
- 25 the FAC, but it was in a different format and

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- 1 structure. It was something I think provided in
- 2 connection with maybe cost of allocations, but I'm
- 3 not certain about that.
- Q. One other thing I was wondering is,
- 5 is this a common approach in other states? Do most
- 6 utilities have surveillance monitoring reports that
- 7 are -- that are filed?
- 8 A. I could only speculate. I would
- 9 think so, but I'm not certain to that fact.
- 10 Q. They may have some other method of
- 11 doing that?
- 12 A. They may have. I think there may be
- 13 some states that may have earnings caps or things
- 14 of that nature.
- 15 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay. I think
- 16 that's all for now. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney?
- 18 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No, thank
- 19 you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall?
- 21 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HALL:
- 22 Q. Good afternoon.
- 23 A. Good afternoon.
- 24 Q. Ameren's last rate case was decided
- in December of 2012; is that correct?

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- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And in that rate case, the ROE
- 3 was set at 9.8; is that right?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. And so that 9.8 ROE was for what time
- 6 period?
- 7 A. For what time period?
- 8 Q. Well, the effective date of that.
- 9 A. Oh, I got you. The ROE of 9.8 was
- 10 implemented with the effective date of rates, and
- 11 that was January 2nd, 2013.
- 12 O. And I believe there's a lot of
- 13 testimony on this, but I'm getting confused a
- 14 little bit. What is your position as to the ROE
- 15 that Ameren received in between January 2nd of '13
- 16 to the present? And if you need to break that up
- 17 by year, that's fine.
- 18 A. Are you asking my opinion about the
- 19 ROE that was allowed by the Commission or --
- Q. I'm asking if you're able to do an
- 21 analysis of the -- of Ameren's books or if you have
- done an analysis of Ameren's books between the date
- 23 that those rates were put in place and the present
- 24 and offer an opinion as to what that ROE Ameren
- 25 actually enjoyed --

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- 1 A. Well --
- 2 Q. -- or received?
- 3 A. Mr. Meyer has sponsored some
- 4 testimony that shows that on book earnings cases
- 5 it's been generally above that, in fact, I think
- 6 all but two months. And I'm not certain in this
- 7 last quarter, because they don't have monthly --
- 8 the last quarter of 2014, they no longer have those
- 9 monthly reports.
- 10 But generally on a fixed earnings
- 11 basis, it's been above that. But in terms of what
- 12 we -- what we've examined this case would be the
- 13 12-month period ending March 31 of 2013.
- 14 Q. Okay. So --
- 15 A. That's our test year in this rate
- 16 case.
- 17 Q. March 31st of '13 to March 31st of
- 18 **2014?**
- 19 A. It would be April 1st of '13 through
- 20 March 31 of '14.
- 21 Q. And what -- what do you believe the
- 22 ROE was during that time period?
- 23 A. We showed that they required a rate
- 24 increase, so they were below that authorized
- 25 return, based on our analysis.

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- 1 Q. Okay. Do you believe that there is
- 2 ever a reason to disallow a prior approved
- 3 amortization?
- 4 A. I think that you have to take
- 5 earnings into consideration, as the UCCN case calls
- 6 for, and I think that the booked earnings would be
- 7 something that -- the argument that both Mr. Ditmer
- 8 and Mr. Meyer have posited with regard to these
- 9 amortizations is very applicable to the Ameren AAO
- 10 that Ameren is seeking.
- 11 Q. Why wouldn't it be applicable to the
- 12 solar rebate amortization?
- 13 A. Well, the solar rebate amortization
- 14 is something that the Staff entered into a
- 15 Stipulation & Agreement, and Staff intends to abide
- 16 by that agreement. We haven't found any form of
- 17 imprudence in terms of their incurrence of those
- 18 solar rebate costs. They were paid to the right
- 19 customers. Customers amounts that weren't paid we
- 20 haven't included, that sort of thing.
- 21 Q. So you would only support
- 22 disallowance of the solar rebate amortization if
- 23 there was a showing of imprudence? That would be
- 24 the only basis?
- 25 A. In this particular set of

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- 1 circumstances, yes.
- 2 Q. And so in this particular set of
- 3 circumstances, whether or not Ameren overearned is
- 4 irrelevant in your view?
- 5 A. From Staff's --
- 6 Q. On this particular amortization?
- 7 A. From Staff's perspective, yes.
- 8 Q. Let me give you a hypothetical.
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. In the overearnings case, let's say
- 11 that Staff determined that -- that, in fact, Ameren
- 12 had received revenues \$90 million in excess of
- 13 their ROE. Taking expenses into account, there was
- 14 a \$90 million amount. And Ameren argued, well,
- 15 that's not really a \$90 million discrepancy because
- 16 there's \$90 million of expenses we're going to have
- 17 that are not reflected in this balance sheet.
- 18 A. Sure.
- 19 Q. Is that -- in your opinion, would
- that be an argument or a basis for the Commission
- 21 to say, they're not overearning?
- 22 A. Well, let me try to frame it two
- 23 ways. Let's say Staff had been able to conduct an
- 24 all relevant factors analysis as part of the
- 25 Noranda case.

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- 1 Q. I'll take that addition to my
- 2 hypothetical.
- 3 A. Okay. And let's say that with those
- 4 solar rebates included in that calculation with
- 5 some level of overearnings, then we could have made
- 6 some recommendation to reduce rates and then those
- 7 solar rebates would be --
- 8 Q. In my hypothetical there was
- 9 \$90 million overearnings, and Ameren says not
- 10 really because we're going to have 90 million in
- 11 expenses.
- 12 A. Some portion of that would have
- 13 already been recovered. There would be an argument
- 14 there that some portion of that 90 million had been
- 15 recovered.
- Q. What's that some portion?
- 17 A. It would depend, you know, when you
- 18 start that amortization and how much the
- 19 overearnings were. It's kind of circumstantial in
- 20 terms of what your hypothetical --
- 21 Q. Let's say they had not received
- 22 anything yet.
- 23 A. Well, then, you would have to take
- 24 those costs into consideration in that rate
- 25 calculation in that case.

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- Q. And would it be fair -- okay. Let's
- 2 say we took those into consideration. We decided
- 3 there's \$90 million in liabilities not reflected on
- 4 the BAM, on the balance sheet, and so we're going
- 5 to deny the consumers a rate reduction for this
- 6 time period, because all relevant factors includes
- 7 this \$90 million, which will be -- will be owed.
- 8 A. Absent the stipulation that we
- 9 entered into then, yes, I think that scenario would
- 10 work. But Staff has entered into a stipulation and
- 11 I feel like we're -- and I'm not an attorney here,
- 12 but I think we're bound by that agreement to give
- 13 them recovery. But absent the stipulation, then
- 14 that hypothetical scenario, yes, you could say that
- 15 they've recovered that cost.
- 16 COMMISSIONER HALL: I have no further
- 17 questions. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?
- 19 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then we will move on
- 21 back to recross based on questions from the Bench,
- 22 beginning with Ameren.
- 23 MR. LOWERY: I do have a few, your
- 24 Honor.
- 25 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:

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- 1 Q. Commissioner Stoll was asking you
- 2 about the surveillance reports that were part of
- 3 the FAC rules. Do you recall that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And you testified about this a little
- 6 bit, but isn't it true that after the earnings
- 7 complaint case back in 2001 time frame, that Ameren
- 8 Missouri agreed as part of that settlement that
- 9 they would -- I don't know if it was quarterly or
- 10 semi-annually, but it might have been quarterly --
- 11 would submit surveillance monitoring reports to the
- 12 Staff; is that right?
- 13 A. That is refreshing my memory, yes.
- 14 That's correct.
- 15 Q. And I suspect the format might be a
- 16 little different under the FAC ones, but my
- 17 recollection is that, in fact, Gary Weiss during
- 18 the FAC rulemaking was sort of one of the chief
- 19 persons working with Staff and other parties of
- 20 sort of taking what Ameren Missouri had been
- 21 providing as a surveillance report since 2001 time
- 22 frame and sort of codifying that that's the format
- 23 that is going to be used for all utilities that
- 24 have an FAC. Do you recall that?
- 25 A. I do remember reviewing those

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- 1 surveillance reports. They're not exactly like the
- 2 FAC surveillance reports.
- 3 Q. But in terms of here's the return on
- 4 equity that was actually earned, there's not really
- 5 a material difference between the result that you
- 6 were getting from back in 2001 forward and the
- 7 results that you've been getting since the FAC has
- 8 been implemented; is that fair to say?
- 9 A. Yeah, it's fair. We would get the
- 10 return. Some of the -- all of the numbers that go
- 11 into that aren't as detailed.
- 12 Q. But the returns are apples to apples,
- 13 essentially; is that not true?
- 14 A. That's true.
- 15 Q. Now, Commissioner Hall, I believe it
- 16 was, was asking you about per book returns
- 17 according to surveillance since the rates were set
- 18 in the last case?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you said something along the
- 21 lines that Ameren Missouri had -- correct me if I
- 22 use the wrong term -- had generally reported
- 23 earnings but for the surveillance above that
- 9.8 since that time, right?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 Q. Do you recall what the -- for the
- full year 2013, do you recall what that number was?
- A. I don't.
- 4 MR. LOWERY: Can I approach, your
- 5 Honor?
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may.
- 7 BY MR. LOWERY:
- 8 Q. You've read Mr. Meyer's testimony in
- 9 this case?
- 10 A. Yes, I have.
- 11 Q. Do you recognize this document as
- being Mr. Meyer's direct testimony?
- 13 A. I do.
- 14 Q. Do you remember his Table 1?
- 15 A. I believe it's his Table 2.
- 16 Q. I'm sorry. Table 2.
- 17 A. Okay. I see that now.
- 18 Q. So what was -- what did Ameren
- 19 Missouri earn on a per book unnormalized,
- 20 unadjusted basis for all of 2013?
- 21 A. I'm assuming these are 12-month
- 22 period ending numbers. Yeah, they are. So
- 23 10.34 percent is what he has identified in his
- 24 table.
- Q. And any of these numbers prior to

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- 1 that time that may show a higher figure are pulling
- in earnings before the new rates were set, correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. And we already testified -- it's been
- 5 put on the record several times that the earnings
- 6 for all of calendar year 2014 are actually, not by
- 7 as much, but below the authorized return, correct?
- 8 A. Slightly below.
- 9 Q. And if you take -- if you take the
- 10 amount above in 2013 and you couple it with the
- amount below in 2014, you're going to get something
- 12 less than 50 basis points over that entire period
- of time; is that fair to say?
- 14 A. That's fair.
- 15 Q. And I honestly don't remember if I
- asked you this morning, so I'm going to have to ask
- 17 it again. You agree that just because there's a
- 18 variance, there may be a variance over and it may
- 19 be a variance under, that that does not mean that
- 20 the rates in effect were unjust and unreasonable
- 21 during that time. You agree with that, don't you?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. That's not unusual at all, is it?
- 24 A. Weather alone can make it vary.
- 25 Q. And something less than 50 basis

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- 1 points on average over two years is not a very
- 2 significant variance in your experience, would you
- 3 agree with that?
- 4 A. I'm not sure I -- I'm not sure if I
- 5 would agree with that totally.
- 6 Q. Okay. Certainly didn't prompt Staff
- 7 to take any kind of action to reduce the company's
- 8 rates, did it?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Mr. Cassidy, I've handed you -- it's
- 11 a document. I'll represent to you that it's a --
- one page of a spreadsheet. Ask you a couple of
- 13 questions. You've reviewed Ameren Missouri's
- 14 true-up information that was provided a few weeks
- 15 ago, have you not?
- 16 A. Yes, I have.
- 17 MR. DOWNEY: Judge, I'd like to
- 18 object. I don't see how this is at all relevant to
- 19 the questions from the Bench.
- MR. LOWERY: Well, Commissioner Hall
- 21 was asking a lot of questions about a \$90 million
- 22 hypothetical and about whether things had been
- 23 already recovered or not and based upon earnings in
- 24 2013, and I think that what amount of solar rebates
- 25 were paid and when they were paid, which is what

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- 1 this shows, it shows a per month schedule of what
- 2 has been paid, is directly relevant to those
- 3 particular issues.
- 4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Overrule the
- 5 objection.
- 6 BY MR. LOWERY:
- 7 Q. Have you seen this work paper before?
- 8 A. I have, and it also matches Staff
- 9 Data Request 159 supplement the company provided in
- 10 response to that.
- 11 Q. And I'm not going to really ask you
- 12 any substantive questions other than to have you
- 13 confirm that this would tell the Commission what
- 14 amounts of solar rebates have been made per month
- from the end of July 2012 through December 31,
- 16 **2014**.
- 17 A. That's what this document reflects.
- 18 Q. And it also then calculates the
- 19 **10** percent adder, correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And according to Staff's position in
- 22 this case, that 32,315,488 is what should be
- 23 included in revenue requirement amortization in
- 24 this case?
- 25 A. That's what Staff is recommending.

Page 588 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor I guess this 1 2 to be Exhibit 57. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It would be 57. MR. LOWERY: 57. I'd like to offer 4 5 Exhibit 57 into the record, and I do have copies 6 for the Commissioners as well. 7 (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NO. 57 WAS MARKED 8 FOR IDENTIFICATION.) JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. 57 has 9 been offered. Any objection it to? 10 Hearing none, it will be received. 11 12 (AMERENUE EXHIBIT NO. 57 WAS RECEIVED 13 INTO EVIDENCE.) 14 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Mr. Cassidy. I don't have any further questions. 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any other recross? 16 17 MIEC -- I'm sorry. Mr. Coffman? 18 MR. COFFMAN: Yes, thank you. 19 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COFFMAN: 20 Mr. Cassidy, you were asked questions Q. 21 by Commissioner Stoll comparing the earnings 22 surveillance reports to the SEC 10K reports. And 23 just to be clear, would it be fair to say that if you only had the publicly filed SEC 10K filings for 24

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a utility, you would not be able to drill down to

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- 1 the numbers that tell us whether utilities' per
- book earnings are through the surveillance reports;
- 3 is that correct?
- 4 A. It would be very difficult to do that
- 5 with the SEC filings.
- 6 Q. Even with your knowledge and
- 7 experience, you wouldn't be able to get very close,
- 8 would you?
- 9 A. I think we could make an
- 10 approximation, but it wouldn't be as precise as
- 11 this surveillance report provides.
- 12 Q. Okay. Thank you. And I did hear you
- 13 say, in response to Commissioner Hall's questions,
- 14 that generally speaking, you do acknowledge that
- 15 taking previous overearnings into account is an
- appropriate thing to do when you're looking at
- 17 recovery of a deferred amount generally?
- 18 A. Yes. That is one of the relevant
- 19 factors that needs to be considered.
- Q. But as to this specific issue, you
- 21 feel as if Staff is restrained from raising that
- 22 argument due to the terms of the Stipulation &
- 23 Agreement in the 0085 case; is that correct?
- A. That's correct.
- 25 Q. But there was nothing in that

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- 1 particular stipulation that discussed the
- possibility of overearnings, did it?
- 3 A. It's not specifically mentioned in
- 4 there.
- 5 Q. Is it Staff's belief that other
- 6 parties are bound, nonsignatory parties are bound
- 7 by that Stipulation & Agreement?
- 8 A. The Staff believes the other parties
- 9 can take exception with that document. That's
- 10 their prerogative.
- 11 MR. COFFMAN: That's all I have.
- 12 Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: For MIEC?
- 14 MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Judge. Give me
- 15 just a second.
- 16 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 17 Q. I may be playing with fire here, but
- 18 I'll go ahead, asking an accountant about statutes.
- 19 Earlier I was saying how lawyers shouldn't be held
- 20 to a higher standard with numbers than accountants.
- 21 Commissioner Stoll asked you a number
- of questions about the point of these FAC reports,
- 23 and I'm going to hand you a copy of a statute,
- 24 386.266. All the lawyers in the room are really
- 25 familiar with this statute. I hope you are as

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- 1 well. Did I give you a copy that looks familiar to
- 2 you?
- 3 A. This is something I think I may have
- 4 looked at a long time ago, but it's been a while.
- 5 Q. Take a quick look, I mean,
- 6 particularly paragraph 4 of that statute. If you
- 7 can't answer, I'll understand.
- A. I've read it. I'm not sure that I
- 9 can shed much light on this, though.
- 10 Q. Okay. Commissioner Stoll was asking
- 11 you what's the point of the FAC reports.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Did you read anything in paragraph 4
- 14 or the subparts that would enlighten you as to the
- 15 point?
- 16 A. Well, it certainly does say -- this
- 17 is what paragraph 4 says: The Commission shall
- 18 have the power to approve, modify or reject
- 19 adjustment mechanisms submitted under
- 20 subsections 1, 2, 3 of this section only after
- 21 providing the opportunity for a full hearing in a
- 22 general rate proceeding, including a general rate
- 23 proceeding initiated by complaint. The Commission
- 24 may approve such rate schedules after considering
- 25 all relevant factors which may affect the costs or

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- 1 overall rates and charges of the corporation,
- 2 provided that it finds that adjustment mechanism
- 3 set forth in the schedules. Then it goes on to --
- 4 Q. And I'm just going to ask you to
- 5 focus on paragraph -- I don't know if you call them
- 6 subsections, paragraphs or whatever, but it's
- 7 paren 1. And it says, it's reasonably designed to
- 8 provide the utility with a sufficient opportunity
- 9 to earn a fair return on equity. Did I read that
- 10 correctly?
- 11 A. You did.
- 12 Q. What do you understand that
- 13 terminology to mean?
- MR. KEEVIL: Judge, I'm going to
- 15 object. He's asking Mr. Cassidy, who is an
- 16 accountant, to interpret a legal statute. I don't
- 17 think Commissioner Stoll asked Mr. Cassidy for his
- 18 legal interpretation like Mr. Downey is now doing.
- 19 So that would be my objection.
- 20 And as far as, I mean, if Mr. Downey
- 21 wants to quote the statute in his brief, he's
- 22 certainly free to do so and give his interpretation
- 23 in the brief. He doesn't need Mr. Cassidy to opine
- 24 as an accountant as to the legal effect of the
- 25 statute in order to brief or to use a statute. The

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- 1 statute says what it says.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Response?
- 3 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, could I -- I
- 4 join in that objection. My objection is, A, calls
- 5 for a legal conclusion. Mr. Cassidy's not a
- 6 lawyer. And, B, what Mr. Cassidy thinks that
- 7 statute means or doesn't mean is completely
- 8 irrelevant. It means what it means.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Response?
- 10 MR. DOWNEY: Well, I typically don't
- 11 take my direction on how I try my case from
- 12 opposing counsel. So the way I prefer to do this
- 13 is by asking the question. I believe that
- 14 terminology is terminology that the Staff is quite
- 15 familiar with. They know what it means. If he
- 16 doesn't know the answer, he can certainly tell me
- 17 that, and I can ask further questions.
- 18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, with the
- 19 understanding that Mr. Cassidy is not a lawyer and
- 20 he can't interpret the statute in any way provide
- 21 some enlightenment to the Commission, I think he
- 22 can give testimony about Staff's beliefs about how
- 23 that statute affects their investigation. So I'll
- 24 allow you to proceed with the -- with the
- 25 questioning.

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- 1 THE WITNESS: I guess I could -- the
- 2 only light I can really shed on this is that
- 3 there's no guarantee of a return on equity. It's
- 4 just a reasonable opportunity to earn what's been
- 5 authorized.
- 6 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 7 Q. I'll ask a more specific question.
- 8 I'm sorry I asked such a general question before.
- 9 But do you think it's important as a part of the
- 10 Commission's charge under this section to determine
- 11 whether the utility not only has an opportunity to
- 12 earn its ROE, but whether it' earning excessive
- 13 **ROE?**
- 14 A. I would say that's something the
- 15 Commission should take into consideration.
- 16 Q. And obviously you thought so in the
- 17 last rate case and that's why you offered the
- 18 surveillance monitoring report for the period
- 19 ending June of 2012, right?
- 20 A. The surveillance monitoring report
- 21 that I attached to my testimony was in response to
- 22 company's plant in service counterproposal and
- 23 Staff's concerns that all of these protections of
- 24 changes of cost in between rate cases would
- 25 exacerbate that problem or earnings could be

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- 1 excessive. It's offering too much -- offering too
- 2 much protection between rate cases for changes and
- 3 costs without corresponding reductions in return
- 4 for that reduced level of risk.
- 5 Q. But would you agree you obviously
- 6 thought one purpose of the report was for the
- 7 Commission to consider that actual ROE for purposes
- 8 of plant in service accounting?
- 9 A. Yes, I agree with that.
- 10 Q. And the Commission actually agreed
- 11 with you, did it not, in its Report and Order?
- 12 A. It did.
- 13 O. And it considered the actual ROE?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And it denied what the Commission
- 16 characterized as \$240 million of additional rates
- on ratepayers over 40 years?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 Q. Now, you mentioned in your discussion
- 20 with Mr. Lowery 50 basis points above ROE. I think
- you said since the effect of the current rates,
- 22 which became effective January 2nd of 2012?
- 23 MR. LOWERY: I'm going to object to
- 24 questions about his discussion with me. He can ask
- 25 questions based on questions from the Bench, but

Page 596 this isn't his witness.

- JUDGE WOODRUFF: This is recross
- 3 based on questions from the Bench.
- 4 MR. DOWNEY: All right.
- 5 BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 6 Q. Well, then I think it was
- 7 Commissioner -- it was either Commissioner Stoll or
- 8 Commissioner Hall asked you questions about the ROE
- 9 since the rates went into effect, and in fairness,
- 10 Mr. Lowery was asking you cross questions about
- 11 that as well. Do you agree?
- 12 A. I do recall questions about ROE.
- 13 Q. Okay. So I want to understand what
- 14 you said, though. You said 50 basis points above
- 15 the ROE since the current rates went into effect.
- 16 Did I understand that correctly?
- 17 MR. LOWERY: I'm going to object
- 18 again. He gave no such testimony about calendar
- 19 year 2013 in response to Commissioner Hall's
- 20 questions. Mr. Downey is clearly asking questions
- 21 based on my recross.
- 22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's overruled. I
- 23 believe it was in response to Commissioner Hall.
- MR. DOWNEY: And, Judge, I think I
- 25 can ask the same question on recross as Mr. Lowery.

Page 597 1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I've already 2 overruled the objection, unless you're trying to 3 convince me to change my mind. THE WITNESS: Mr. Downey, could you 4 5 repeat the question? BY MR. DOWNEY: 6 7 Certainly. How much did Ameren --Q. 8 just make me understand what -- what is the -- what you mean by 50 basis points above the ROE. 10 Well, I think the discussion I was --Α. 11 the questions I was answering for Mr. Lowery was 12 booked earnings were above authorized. 13 Q. Okay. And is that 50 basis points an 14 average per year or is it accumulative or what was 15 it? 16 Well, I think he was trying to do Α. 17 something where he was netting what the overearnings were in '13 or what the booked 18 19 earnings were in excess of authorized earnings for '13 and '14 together. 20 21 All right. But the rates went into 22 effect January 2nd of 2012, right?

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MR. DOWNEY: I'm sorry. I stand

No. They went into effect

Α.

January 2nd, 2013.

23

24

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- 1 corrected. You're right. And, Jim, you're right.
- 2 No further questions.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Then
- 4 redirect?
- 5 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. KEEVIL:
- 6 Q. Mr. Cassidy, very briefly, just
- 7 following up on what Mr. Downey was just asking
- 8 you, when you say that as of the '13 reports they
- 9 were overearning and as of the '14 reports they
- 10 were underearning, does that mean -- what does that
- 11 mean?
- 12 A. It means that on a booked basis,
- 13 their earnings were -- in '13 they were above their
- 14 authorized and in '14 they were slightly below
- 15 their authorized.
- 16 Q. Does that mean as of a specific date
- in '13 or '14 or throughout the period or what?
- 18 A. Those reports are on a 12-month
- 19 ending balance. So it's for the entire year.
- Q. Okay. But as of the end of the year
- 21 when the report is prepared?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So hypothetically if they were
- 24 underearning as of a specific report, does that
- 25 mean they were underearning or you can insert

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- 1 overearning for the entire year, every --
- 2 A. No. I mean, that's -- yeah. It
- 3 would vary from month to month apparently.
- 4 Q. Thank you. Now, Commissioner Hall, I
- 5 believe, was asking you some questions and you
- 6 referred to the stipulation, and Mr. Coffman also
- 7 asked you about this, and you indicated, I believe,
- 8 that as regards the solar rebate amortizations,
- 9 that Staff felt somewhat constrained when it was
- 10 developing its position on this issue due to the
- 11 stipulation; is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes, I remember that.
- 13 Q. Now, that would only apply to the
- 14 solar rebate amortizations?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What about the pre-MEEIA energy
- 17 efficiency amortization and Fukushima cost
- amortization, why are those different or are they
- 19 different than the type of amortization that
- 20 Commissioner Hall was asking you about?
- 21 A. It's different from the solar rebate
- 22 amortization. That's not -- there's not a
- 23 Stipulation & Agreement. But with the Fukushima
- 24 costs it's a mandate by the NRC that all utilities
- 25 with a nuclear power plant had to conduct that

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- 1 study nationwide. So, I mean, it's a mandatory
- 2 study, so that's -- we view it in that light.
- 3 And then with regard to the energy
- 4 efficiency or pre-MEEIA rider costs, we've
- 5 reflected that consistent with past Staff practice
- 6 of giving them a rate base inclusion and recovery
- 7 over six years, and it also meets the statutory
- 8 requirement that says a utility is allowed recovery
- 9 of reasonable and prudent expenditures for
- 10 cost-effective DSM program costs.
- 11 Q. And were you in here in the hearing
- 12 room earlier today when Chairman Kenney was
- 13 referring to -- paraphrasing here -- the state
- 14 policy to encourage recovery of energy efficiency
- 15 costs and --
- 16 A. Yes. I think that speaks to what
- 17 Mr. -- what Chairman Kenney had indicated earlier.
- 18 Q. So you believe the way that Staff is
- 19 treating those energy efficiency expenditures is in
- 20 line with that policy to encourage the recovery of
- 21 energy efficiency costs?
- 22 A. Yes.
- MR. KEEVIL: Thank you. That's all I
- 24 have, Judge. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Cassidy, you can

Page 601 step down. 1 2 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 3 (Witness excused.) JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next witness is then 4 5 Mr. Meyer. 6 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, while 7 Mr. Meyer is taking the witness stand, can I ask a procedural question? Since we haven't been 8 admitting testimonies until the witness takes the 10 witness stand for the last time and I believe Mr. Meyer's going to be back after today, if I'm 11 12 not mistaken, I don't know whether Mr. Downey plans 13 to offer his testimony today or not, but I certainly would like to be heard on our objection 14 15 before that happens or before he testifies and the bell cannot be unrung. So I would ask, I guess, to 16 17 be heard before he testifies today on our 18 objection. 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sure. The practice has been as they offer testimony, not necessarily 20 21 rule on it. I assume, Mr. Downey, you're going to be offering his testimony? 22 23 MR. DOWNEY: Yes, and I have no 24 objections to us addressing this issue right now. 25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Well,

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- 1 let's go through the formalities of I'll swear him
- 2 in and then you can ask your preliminary questions,
- 3 and when you offer your -- when you offer the
- 4 testimony, then we'll deal with the objection.
- 5 (Witness sworn.)
- 6 GREG R. MEYER testified as follows:
- 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DOWNEY:
- 8 Q. Mr. Meyer, good afternoon.
- 9 A. Good afternoon.
- 10 Q. Please state your name and your
- 11 business address.
- 12 Q. It's Greg R. Meyer, 16690 Swingley
- 13 Ridge Road, Suite 140, Chesterfield, Missouri
- 14 **63017**.
- 15 A. And are you a witness in this case?
- 16 A. I am.
- 17 Q. And did you file prefiled testimony
- 18 in this case?
- 19 A. I did.
- Q. And do you see Exhibits 513 and 514
- 21 at the witness stand?
- 22 A. 513 and 514?
- 23 **Q. Yes.**
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Is 513 your direct testimony in this

		Page 603
1	case?	
2	A. Yes.	
3	Q. And 514, is that your surrebuttal?	
4	A. Yes.	
5	Q. Do you have any corrections to those	
6	testimonies?	
7	A. No.	
8	Q. If I were to ask you the questions in	
9	those testimonies today, would your answers be the	
10	same?	
11	A. Yes.	
12	Q. Are they correct to the best of your	
13	knowledge and belief?	
14	A. Yes.	
15	MR. DOWNEY: I think Mr. Lowery may	
16	have an objection, Judge.	
17	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you offer 513 and	
18	514?	
19	MR. DOWNEY: Given that we are	
20	withholding offering, I wasn't sure. Do you want	
21	me to offer them now?	
22	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead and offer	
23	them.	
24	MR. DOWNEY: I offer those exhibits.	
25	JUDGE WOODRUFF: 513 and 514 have	

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- 1 been offered. Any objections?
- MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, there are
- 3 objections. And rather than me stating them
- 4 verbally, I would just incorporate by reference the
- 5 objection that we filed on Monday to Mr. Meyer's
- 6 testimony, and if it pleases the Commission, would
- 7 just like to amplify that for just a minute or two.
- 8 MR. COFFMAN: Your Honor, if I might
- 9 object to a certain degree to the objection.
- 10 The -- we reviewed the thing that was entitled an
- 11 objection filed on Monday by Ameren, and we've got
- 12 many concerns about the unfounded allegations in
- 13 that document.
- But procedurally, I wanted to lodge
- 15 an objection to the use of large segments of
- 16 transcripts from a deposition. We are here now in
- 17 the hearing. The witnesses involved are here and
- 18 can answer questions, if Mr. Lowery wants to offer
- 19 those, but I think it's improper to use a
- 20 deposition for the purpose that was in that written
- 21 document when the witness is here and can be asked
- 22 questions.
- 23 The reason is that in a deposition,
- 24 witnesses answer questions even if there have been
- 25 objections made, and I think that the proper thing

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- 1 is to allow those inquiries to be made through
- 2 questions here in open hearing.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: We'll let you
- 4 respond further after Mr. Lowery has made his
- 5 amplification.
- 6 MR. LOWERY: And in point of fact,
- 7 your Honor, I'm only lodging the objection to
- 8 Mr. Meyer's testimony at this point because
- 9 Mr. Dittmer's testimony has not been offered. So
- 10 to the extent that I address Mr. Dittmer's
- 11 testimony in that objection, I'm not incorporating
- 12 any objections with respect to Mr. Dittmer's
- 13 testimony at this time, only the objections with
- 14 respect to Mr. Meyer's testimony.
- 15 I'm not going to repeat all of the
- 16 bases for objecting to Mr. Meyer's testimony. I
- 17 believe, and I believe the stipulation is clear,
- 18 that Mr. Meyer is attempting to prevent the
- 19 recovery of the solar rebates through an
- 20 amortization as contemplated by the stip on a basis
- 21 other than prudence.
- He represents MIEC. That's not
- 23 disputed. MIEC is a signatory to this stipulation.
- 24 That's not disputed. And his testimony on this
- 25 issue for this reason is completely improper.

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- 1 Moreover, it's factually wrong.
- 2 Solar rebates were not at issue in
- 3 the last rate case as a factual matter. They could
- 4 not possibly have been taken into account in
- 5 setting rates in that case.
- 6 But that's beside the point as a
- 7 matter of law anyway because customers don't pay a
- 8 utility's cost. They pay for the service, the
- 9 electricity, the service trucks, the meters.
- 10 That's what they pay for. They don't pay a
- 11 utility's cost.
- 12 There's no credible argument legally
- 13 or factually that would allow MIEC to skirt the
- 14 deal that they made and defy the Commission's order
- 15 that required them to comply with the stipulation.
- 16 One final point I'd like to make, in
- 17 the response that was filed with the prior motion
- 18 to strike, MIEC cited to rulings, general rulings
- 19 about offers of proof, and cited to the MAPA
- 20 provision of Chapter 536 that essentially codify
- 21 the rule about offers of proof.
- I in no way would contend that they
- 23 can't make an offer of proof, that Mr. Meyer's
- 24 prefiled testimony shouldn't be preserved in the
- 25 record. The fact that it's in the Commission's

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- 1 case file and could be included in a legal file if
- 2 appeal is made already constitutes such an offer of
- 3 proof.
- 4 But none of those cases and nor does
- 5 the MAPA provision has anything whatsoever to do
- 6 with just allowing incompetent evidence into the
- 7 record. And so that provides absolutely no basis
- 8 for this testimony to be allowed.
- 9 On those grounds, we object to
- 10 Mr. Meyer's testimony coming into the record on the
- 11 solar rebate issue and any testimony from Mr. Meyer
- 12 on the issue.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone wish to make
- 14 any statements in support of Ameren's position?
- Okay. I don't hear anyone else. I'm
- 16 going to go ahead and make a ruling to short
- 17 circuit this process, because I'm going to rule
- 18 against Ameren. So I'm not going to ask for a
- 19 response from everybody else. The objection is
- 20 denied and the testimony is going to be admitted.
- 21 In doing so I'm not making any ruling
- 22 or finding about the legal effect of the
- 23 Stipulation & Agreement, nor am I deciding the
- 24 weight the Commission will give the testimony or
- 25 how persuasive the Commission may find that

Page 608 testimony. You can address those questions in your 2 briefs to the Commission. 3 At this point I'm just allowing the testimony to be admitted into the record and this 4 5 hearing can proceed along those lines. So your objection to the admission of the documents is 6 7 overruled. And I'm not actually going to admit them at this time because he will be testifying 8 subsequently. Everybody clear on that? 10 MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Judge. 11 MR. LOWERY: Thank you for the 12 opportunity, your Honor. JUDGE WOODRUFF: You're welcome. For 13 cross-examination, then, we begin with Public 14 Counsel. 15 16 MR. ALLISON: No cross. 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Consumers Council? 18 MR. COFFMAN: No questions at this 19 time. 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For Staff? 21 MR. KEEVIL: Nothing, Judge. 22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For Ameren? 23 MR. LOWERY: No questions. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman? 2.4 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: We're not doing the

		Page 609
1	Noranda AAO yet, right? I don't have any	
2	questions.	
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?	
4	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.	
5	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney?	
6	COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No	
7	questions.	
8	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall?	
9	COMMISSIONER HALL: No questions.	
10	Thank you.	
11	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?	
12	COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.	
13	JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. There	
14	were no questions from the Bench, so no need for	
15	recross. And there was no cross, so no need for	
16	redirect. And, Mr. Meyer, you can step down.	
17	(Witness excused.)	
18	JUDGE WOODRUFF: And Mr. Dittmer?	
19	(CONSUMER'S COUNCIL OF MISSOURI'S	
20	EXHIBIT NO. 910 WAS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY	
21	THE REPORTER.)	
22	(Witness sworn.)	
23	JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may inquire.	
24	JAMES R. DITMER testified as follows:	
25	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COFFMAN:	

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- 1 Q. Please state your name and who you
- 2 work for.
- 3 A. James R. Dittmer. I work for the
- 4 consulting firm of Utilitech Inc., which was in
- 5 turn retained by the Consumers Council of Missouri.
- 6 Q. So you were retained by the Consumers
- 7 Council of Missouri and no other party in this
- 8 case; is that correct?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. You have in front of you Exhibit 910,
- 11 which is your rebuttal testimony?
- 12 A. Yes. If my rebuttal testimony is
- 13 Exhibit 910, yes, I do have it in front of me.
- 14 Q. You understand, do you not, that this
- is now public in its entirety? It was originally
- 16 filed both in HC and NP versions, but has now been
- 17 reclassified as totally public?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And this was the only piece of
- 20 testimony that was prefiled from you, correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. If each of the questions contained in
- 23 Exhibit 910 were asked you again today, would your
- 24 answers be the same?
- 25 A. They would.

Page 611 MR. COFFMAN: I would offer 1 Exhibit 910 into the record and offer Mr. Dittmer 2 3 for cross-examination. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Exhibit 910 has been 4 5 offered. Any objection? 6 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, I'm going 7 to -- and I'll make this extremely brief. I object to Mr. Dittmer's testimony on the grounds set forth 8 in the motion that we filed on Monday. 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Very well. And anyone wish to state anything in support of that? 11 12 All right. Again, I'll overrule the 13 objection. 14 MR. KEEVIL: Is this his only issue? 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: This is his only 16 issue, I believe. 17 MR. COFFMAN: Correct. JUDGE WOODRUFF: At this point, I 18 will admit Exhibit 910. 19 20 (CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF MISSOURI 21 EXHIBIT NO. 910 WAS RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for cross-examination, well, I guess we begin with 23 24 Public Counsel. 25 MR. ALLISON: No questions.

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1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: MIEC?	
2	MR. DOWNEY: No questions.	
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Staff?	
4	MR. KEEVIL: No questions.	
5	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ameren?	
6	MR. LOWERY: No questions.	
7	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Questions from the	
8	Bench. Mr. Chairman?	
9	QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY:	
10	Q. Mr. Dittmer, thank you. You don't	
11	offer any opinion about the validity and the effect	
12	of the Stipulation & Agreement that was entered	
13	into, do you?	
14	A. The validity of the stipulation?	
15	Q. Your client wasn't a party to it?	
16	A. They weren't a party to it, no.	
17	Q. You haven't expressed an opinion	
18	about whether this Commission is bound by it, or	
19	have you?	
20	A. I guess I did express an opinion on	
21	that, saying that the stipulation in and of itself	
22	would not bind the Commission based on past	
23	Commission what the Commission has said in past	
24	orders about deferral accounting is not necessarily	
25	ratemaking. So in that respect I guess I did	

Page 613 object to part of the stipulation as being binding 2 on the Commission at this point. 3 Q. You don't know, do you? Α. I do not, no. 4 5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I don't have any 6 other questions. Thank you. 7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll? COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no 8 questions. 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney? COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No 11 12 questions. Thank you. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 13 14 COMMISSIONER HALL: I have no 15 questions. Thank you. 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Any 17 recross based on questions from the Bench? 18 Any redirect? 19 MR. COFFMAN: No, your Honor. 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Mr. Dittmer, 21 you can step down. 22 (Witness excused.) 23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And that concludes the amortization issue. Before we go on to the 24 next issue of the Noranda AAO, we wanted to give a 25

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- 1 few moments to ask some questions about the
- 2 Stipulation & Agreement that was filed earlier this
- 3 week. We'll take a break before we do that. We'll
- 4 come back at three o'clock.
- 5 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.)
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're going to go
- 7 off schedule a little bit right now to address
- 8 Commissioner questions about the Stipulation &
- 9 Agreement that was filed on Monday. We'll do this
- 10 informally. I'm just going to ask the
- 11 Commissioners if they have questions, and then they
- 12 can address questions to counsel or if there any
- 13 witnesses that want to come forward and provide
- 14 those answers, we'll swear them in.
- Mr. Chairman.
- 16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So does everybody
- 17 have a copy of it? Turn to page 3, paragraph 6.
- 18 This is one -- this is I think the only area -- I
- 19 have a couple areas, but this is the first and
- 20 primary one.
- 21 Paragraph 6 seems to grant an
- 22 accounting authority order to defer carrying costs
- 23 related to the Callaway relicensing process, which
- 24 in and of itself seems fine. And then you get to
- 25 the sentence that reads, Ameren Missouri will

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- 1 recover the deferred costs beginning with the first
- 2 rate case after the license extension is issued
- 3 consistent with the authority granted in this case.
- 4 That sentence seems to indicate that
- 5 we're saying that we're going to allow recovery of
- 6 amounts that are accrued under an accounting
- 7 authority order by approval of this Stipulation &
- 8 Agreement, and I don't know how we can do that.
- 9 This seems to be a discussion we've had quite a bit
- 10 about the difference between allowing for an AAO
- 11 and then how it's going to be treated for
- 12 ratemaking purposes.
- 13 And that sentence seems inconsistent
- 14 with everything that we've been talking about and
- 15 seems inconsistent with what I'm sure is the
- 16 boilerplate language in here that says we're not
- 17 making any ratemaking determinations. So can
- 18 somebody explain to me how we can improve this with
- 19 that sentence in there? Because I don't think we
- 20 can.
- 21 MS. TATRO: I think that sentence is
- 22 talking about what the parties, the signatories'
- 23 agreement is, and that is that Ameren Missouri will
- 24 recover the deferred costs beginning in the first
- 25 rate case.

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- 1 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But you guys can't
- 2 agree to that. That's a ratemaking determination
- 3 to be made in a future rate case. So the parties
- 4 can't agree to tell the future Commission what it's
- 5 going to do.
- 6 MS. TATRO: So if the language said
- 7 Ameren Missouri -- the parties agree Ameren
- 8 Missouri should recover the deferred costs, is the
- 9 will the concern that you're having? I'm trying to
- 10 make sure I address your concern, Chairman.
- 11 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Well, or you can
- 12 strike it altogether. I mean, I think we can
- 13 approve this and say that we will grant -- the
- 14 parties have agreed that there will be an
- 15 accounting authority order and we can approve that.
- I don't see how -- the Ameren will
- 17 recover and the costs will be amortized over the
- 18 life of the life extension, those are ratemaking
- 19 determinations that we will make in a future rate
- 20 case. Correct me if I'm wrong. Maybe my thinking
- 21 is incorrect.
- MS. TATRO: Well, striking the
- 23 sentence completely changes the bargain in Ameren
- 24 Missouri's viewpoint, because what Ameren Missouri
- 25 believes it is getting with this language is the

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- 1 parties' -- despite what just happened here, the
- 2 parties are supporting in the future they will
- 3 support recovery under this circumstance.
- 4 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So it's kind of
- 5 like the solar rebates where you-all are agreeing
- 6 that you should be allowed to recover in the future
- 7 and no party's going to object to your attempt to
- 8 recover, right?
- 9 MS. TATRO: Right.
- 10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So it's similar to
- 11 what you guys are fighting over with the solar
- 12 thing.
- MS. TATRO: Right.
- 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: But I don't think
- 15 that's what that says. I mean, what that
- 16 language -- the way that language reads, it seems
- 17 as if it's an attempt to bind a future commission.
- 18 MS. TATRO: It was intended, I
- 19 believe, and you can guys tell me if you disagree,
- 20 it was intended to represent the position of the
- 21 parties, not the Commission.
- 22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. That may be
- 23 your intention, but as I read it, that's not how it
- 24 reads. Maybe --
- MS. TATRO: I think we probably can

Page 618 amend that sentence to address your concern. 1 2 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: How would you go 3 about amending it? MS. TATRO: I think I would change it 4 5 to say the parties agree to support that Ameren 6 Missouri should recover the deferred costs 7 beginning in the next rate case, something to that 8 extent. 9 MR. THOMPSON: We can say we understand you will seek to recover it in the next 10 11 rate case and we can bind ourselves not to oppose 12 that. CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Which is 13 essentially what was done with the solar rebates. 14 15 MS. TATRO: I mean, if you want --16 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: You-all may want to 17 be careful about that since we're having all these problems with the solar rebates. Let me say this: 18 19 Is my thinking wrong? Does anybody agree with my interpretation of that, that if we approve it as 20 21 is --22 MR. THOMPSON: I do. 23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: You think I'm 24 wrong? 25 MR. THOMPSON: I think you're right.

Page 619 1 MR. ALLISON: I think you're right as 2 well, I have to say, and I'm chagrined to say it. 3 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So you guys will amend that? 4 5 MS. TATRO: We will fix that, yes. 6 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just so we're 7 clear, it's the two sentences, the Ameren Missouri will recover and then the costs will be amortized, 8 and it's the last sentence, too, the deferred 10 amounts will be included in rate base in a regulatory asset. 11 12 MS. TATRO: All right. We'll amend that. 13 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: My last question 15 about rate case expense is the agreement is to recover it in accordance with Ms. Sharp's 16 17 recommendation and our cost of service study. I'm not going to get into the details of the rate case 18 expense. But she makes a point in the discussion, 19 and it's on -- it's on page 105 of the cost of 20 21 service study. I'm sorry. Yeah, 105. And it's the paragraph of that begins, although Staff did 22 not specifically recommend disallowance of 23 consulting costs for performing a cash working 24

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25

capital lead lag study.

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- 1 How is that addressed in the
- 2 stipulation, the costs of the consultant for
- 3 performing the lead lag study, and what is your
- 4 thought about Ms. Sharp's assertion that you can
- 5 have that done in house and it seems to be
- 6 unnecessary to pay an outside consultant to do a
- 7 simple lead lag study?
- 8 MS. TATRO: We filed testimony
- 9 rebutting that. As part of resolving that, we've
- 10 agreed not to include that in rate case expense.
- 11 That should not be confused with agreeing with her
- 12 position.
- 13 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Should not be
- 14 confused with what?
- MS. TATRO: That we agree that it
- 16 should have been done in house, but it was a
- 17 settlement. So we agreed to withdraw that cost.
- 18 We are going to update rate case expense through
- 19 two weeks after reply briefs, I think is what it
- 20 is, and it will be amortized over 18 months.
- 21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: That's all I have.
- 22 Good job. Thanks.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?
- 24 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no
- 25 questions. Thank you.

		Page 621
1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney?	
2	COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Just in	
3	time. No questions.	
4	MS. TATRO: That's no fun.	
5	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall?	
6	COMMISSIONER HALL: Well, I'll give	
7	you some time. I'd like to talk about paragraph 3	
8	on page 2, rate case expense, and then I've got	
9	just a couple of mechanical questions first and	
10	then some larger issues I'd like discussed.	
11	First, there is there's an	
12	agreement in the stipulation that the costs of	
13	defending 0224 will not be included in rate case	
14	expense. What is the argument that the costs of	
15	litigating a separate case should be included in	
16	rate case expense?	
17	MS. TATRO: There is no argument.	
18	Ameren Missouri did not include them. But the	
19	Office of Public Counsel believed that they were,	
20	and so this sentence was added to make it	
21	absolutely clear to everyone that those costs were	
22	not.	
23	In fact, those costs, albeit they	
24	were very real costs, didn't fall in the test year,	
25	and legal expense is not a category that's updated.	

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- 1 So Ameren Missouri is not recovering the cost of
- 2 defending that case at all.
- 3 COMMISSIONER HALL: That makes sense.
- 4 Thank you. Okay. It's my understanding that, as
- 5 the Chairman noted and as it's indicated in the
- 6 stipulation, the parties are agreeing to Staff
- 7 witness Sarah Sharp's position as reflected in her
- 8 direct testimony, and that indicates that there is
- 9 \$1,104,706 in rate case expense normalized over 18
- 10 months; is that correct?
- 11 MS. TATRO: I think -- I don't have
- 12 that in front of me. Pull that page up. The
- 13 position was that it should actually be updated
- 14 through two weeks after reply briefs are filed.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HALL: I'll get to that
- 16 in a second. I'm trying to understand what's been
- 17 agreed to. Page 105.
- 18 MS. TATRO: Yes. She was saying that
- 19 as of the information she had at that time, I think
- 20 she thought that was what the rate case expense was
- 21 going to be, but her testimony says it should be
- 22 updated, and so that's what we're agreeing to. It
- 23 will be whatever it's going to be.
- 24 COMMISSIONER HALL: So the parties --
- 25 I quess I don't understand. There's been a certain

Page 623 amount of billing that has occurred to date. 2 MS. TATRO: Right. 3 COMMISSIONER HALL: What is that amount, and what has been agreed to as to that 4 5 amount? 6 MS. TATRO: I don't -- John, I don't 7 know if you know what that number is. MR. CASSIDY: I think it's something 8 booked below that number actual. 10 COMMISSIONER HALL: Somebody must know an actual dollar amount. 11 12 MR. CASSIDY: But it's not -- this 13 was a placeholder amount, and the intention is to reflect the actual amount once we get to two weeks 14 beyond the reply briefs. 15 16 COMMISSIONER HALL: So that 17 \$1 million is an irrelevant number? MR. CASSIDY: Yes. It's a 18 placeholder number right now. 19 20 COMMISSIONER HALL: So it -- so all 21 that the parties have agreed to and all you're -and what you're asking us to sign off on eventually 22 is that -- is whatever amount billed up until two 23 24 weeks after the briefing in this case, assuming 25 prudent, ratepayers cover? That's what you're

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- 1 saying that the parties have agreed to?
- MS. TATRO: Yes.
- 3 COMMISSIONER HALL: So at what point
- 4 in time will Staff or OPC or any of the other
- 5 consumer groups take a look at each of the billing
- 6 and decide whether or not that that was a prudent
- 7 expenditure?
- 8 MS. TATRO: I think at this point in
- 9 time -- and again, John, you can correct if I'm
- 10 wrong. I think at this point in time, that is a
- 11 data request that gets updated monthly. Is that
- 12 right, John?
- 13 MR. CASSIDY: I believe so.
- 14 MS. TATRO: So Staff is seeing that
- 15 information on a monthly basis.
- MR. CASSIDY: I think there's a
- 17 cutoff, and I don't have that date in front of me,
- 18 but there's a cutoff where they have to provide the
- 19 information.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HALL: This is crazy. I
- 21 mean, essentially what's being agreed to, I mean,
- 22 this is a blank check that ratepayers are going to
- 23 pay, that right now, as we sit here, we have a
- 24 stipulation that everyone signed off on but no one
- 25 knows the dollar amount. Everyone's agreed to a

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- 1 principle that we're going to look at this again
- 2 and true it up two weeks after the last brief is
- 3 filed.
- But as we sit here today, we have no
- 5 idea the dollar amount, and we have no process in
- 6 place for the Commission to look at any of these
- 7 billings to determine whether or not they were
- 8 prudently incurred. Is that correct?
- 9 MS. TATRO: Well, I would disagree a
- 10 little bit. I mean, Staff has seen --
- 11 COMMISSIONER HALL: I hope you
- 12 disagree a little bit.
- MS. TATRO: Staff has seen the
- 14 contracts with all the expert witnesses. They know
- 15 who all the expert witnesses are. Everyone in this
- 16 room knows who all the expert witnesses are. So
- 17 they -- and they've been looking at rate case
- 18 expense every time we update that data request.
- 19 So I think Staff and the other
- 20 parties do have an idea of what rate case expense
- 21 looks like. The one area that Staff had indicated
- 22 that they had concern with we withdrew as a way to
- 23 resolve it. So I understand that we don't know
- 24 what the final dollar is, but they understand the
- 25 process. They know where the bills are going to

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- 1 come from. They know that parties have to travel
- 2 to the hearing. So I don't see it as a blank check
- 3 at all.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HALL: At this point we
- 5 have no idea how the ultimate rate case expense
- 6 will compare to prior Ameren cases or other IOU
- 7 rate cases in Missouri, right? We don't know?
- 8 MS. TATRO: I think you can -- I
- 9 think Staff probably can speak to what they've seen
- 10 so far. So far I don't know if it's been vastly
- 11 different. It may end up being slightly higher
- 12 because you have kind of this Noranda case which is
- 13 almost like a second case within a regular rate
- 14 case.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HALL: Well, can Staff
- 16 respond to that?
- 17 MR. CASSIDY: Staff has received
- 18 invoices through, I believe, November at this point
- 19 in time, and the amount is not at my fingertips. I
- think it's somewhere in the neighborhood of 700,000
- 21 actually expended.
- 22 And this is -- we're just
- 23 implementing this consistent with what we did in a
- 24 recent Liberty Utilities rate case. That's the
- 25 same approach that we took in that case, and if

Page 627 there are problems with the costs, if they're

- 2 unreasonable or imprudent, we would certainly raise
- 3 a challenge against those costs.
- COMMISSIONER HALL: So procedurally 4
- 5 what would occur if Staff or OPC or any of the
- 6 intervenors determined that there was a particular
- 7 expense that they viewed as imprudent, what would
- 8 happen?
- 9 MR. THOMPSON: We would notify
- Ameren's attorneys, and we would meet and discuss 10
- the issue. And if we could not come to resolution 11
- 12 at that point, then we would file something
- 13 formally with the Commission.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HALL: I have a question
- 15 about the bold language on page 105. I believe
- it's highly confidential. I don't understand why 16
- 17 it's highly confidential, but it is. So do we need
- go in camera if I'm going to ask about it? 18
- 19 MS. TATRO: Please.
- 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We'll go in-camera.
- 21 (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an
- in-camera session was held, which is contained in 22
- Volume 19, pages 628 through 629 of the 23
- 24 transcript.)

25

Page 630 COMMISSIONER HALL: Let me -- how 1 2 many lawyers did Ameren have working on this case? 3 MS. TATRO: Several. MR. LOWERY: I think principally 4 5 there would be four, with some additional 6 assistance from two people in my office, but not --7 they don't have a significant role and haven't 8 spent a significant amount of time. And I think probably there were a couple people in Mr. Mitten's 10 office that also have not spent a significant amount of time but have spent some time. 11 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: What's the range in the hourly rate of those four attorneys? 13 14 MS. TATRO: I don't think I can tell you that. I can get that for you, but I don't know 15 that off the top of my head. 16 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: They're there. You guys are right there. They're sitting right there. 18 19 MR. LOWERY: Commissioner Hall, I did misspeak, Mr. Byrne reminds me, and not 20 21 intentionally, but we did receive assistance from 22 Mr. Seltzer on the income tax issues, was another lawyer, and we've engaged an Armstrong Teasdale 23 24 attorney to handle just the Noranda issues that are going to come up in a couple weeks. That was what 25

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- 1 Ms. Tatro was referring to.
- MS. TATRO: That's the reason I don't
- 3 know what they are. But you're right, Mr. Mitten
- 4 and Mr. Lowery are here.
- 5 MR. LOWERY: My office's rates are
- 6 effectively \$200 an hour for the lawyers that are
- 7 working on the case for my office.
- 8 COMMISSIONER HALL: And how many
- 9 consultants?
- MS. TATRO: The ones that filed
- 11 testimony, so I can think of six.
- 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: Can you give me
- 13 the range of the hourly rate for those six?
- 14 MS. TATRO: I will have to get that
- 15 for you. I don't know that off the top of my head.
- 16 COMMISSIONER HALL: How many
- 17 depositions did you take in this case?
- MS. TATRO: I took two.
- MR. LOWERY: Three.
- MS. TATRO: You took two. Without
- 21 going back and looking at transcripts, I can think
- 22 of six. Oh, Matt took three, all the ROE. So
- 23 that's nine.
- MR. LOWERY: And, your Honor, then on
- 25 strictly the Noranda issue, the financial need and

Page 632 those issues, I believe we've taken three. 1 2 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. 3 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: On top of the nine or was that included in the nine? 4 MS. TATRO: I would submit to you, 5 Commissioner Hall, this has been -- this has been a 6 7 big rate case, and so there's been more attorneys 8 than typically try cases. There's been more consultants than we needed in past cases, but it's because of the issues we were facing. I still 10 worked a lot of overtime. 11 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: Let me turn to turn to page 106 of Ms. Sharp's direct testimony, 13 and there's a discussion about a Staff Report in 14 AW-2011-0330. I guess I'll direct these questions 15 to Staff. It's noted that the Commission opened a 16 17 docket to look at rate case expense in 2011. 2013 Staff does an exhaustive 18 analysis of rate case expense, looks at a number of 19 20 other states, looks at the history of rate case 21 expense in Missouri, and issues a report. 22 report makes what I believe to be a very strong case for sharing of rate case expense. It's not --23 I didn't read it to mean that that is Staff's 24 position going forward, but I did read it to mean 25

Page 633 that sharing of rate case expense in Staff's 2 opinion was a -- was an issue that had significant 3 rationale. And my question first of all for 4 5 Staff is, why was that not pursued in this case? 6 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: Do I need to be 7 sworn in? JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes. 8 9 (Witness sworn.) 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Tell the court 11 reporter who you are. 12 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: My name is Mark L. Oligschlaeger, O-l-i-g-s-c-h-l-a-e-g-e-r. 13 14 I think this report was largely

- 15 triggered by the expenses incurred by a utility,
- 16 electric utility other than AmerenUE several years
- 17 back in which they had many millions of dollars of
- 18 rate case expenses. In the analysis you looked at,
- $19\,$ $\,$ we looked at all the companies, compared them on
- 20 both a total dollar basis, a per-customer basis, on
- 21 a number of different grounds.
- 22 And for Ameren in this case, our
- 23 conclusion was, at least based on the projection
- 24 what they were saying they were likely to spend,
- 25 they weren't out of line with what this company had

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- 1 spent in the past, and they didn't appear to be out
- 2 of line, in fact was probably below average in
- 3 certain respects in terms of what other companies
- 4 were spending.
- 5 COMMISSIONER HALL: So it's your
- 6 belief that rate case ex-- sharing of rate case
- 7 expense would only make sense in a situation where
- 8 you had a utility that had a very large rate case
- 9 expense? If it was rate case expense that was
- 10 within the range of what is usual, then there's no
- 11 policy rationale for sharing?
- 12 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: I think there --
- 13 you can make a policy rationale for sharing as a
- 14 general matter. I think, if I may say so
- 15 strategically, it probably makes sense to introduce
- 16 those kinds of concepts in a case where you're
- 17 seeing, I don't want to say abuses, but a lot of
- 18 money being spent, unusual amounts of money being
- 19 spent on rate case matters.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HALL: So I think you
- 21 used the word strategically it might make sense to
- 22 seek it in that kind of case. But from a
- 23 philosophical basis, from a policy basis, it really
- 24 doesn't matter the amount of the rate case expense
- 25 in terms of determining whether or not sharing is

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- 1 an appropriate mechanism.
- 2 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: That's one
- 3 argument. We do lay out various options in the
- 4 report where you might even give a company a
- 5 certain level of cost for 100 percent recovery and
- 6 start sharing above that. There's just a number of
- 7 ways to look at this.
- 8 COMMISSIONER HALL: What would you
- 9 characterize the policy rationale for rate case
- 10 expense sharing? How would you describe it?
- 11 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: The rationale for
- 12 why you might consider sharing?
- 13 COMMISSIONER HALL: Yes.
- MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: Okay. Rate case
- 15 expense, while a necessary cost under the
- 16 regulatory structure that these companies are
- 17 regulated under, it can be thought of as at least
- 18 in part primarily benefiting the company and its
- 19 shareholders in terms of the recommendations that
- 20 are made, in terms of the total dollar recovery.
- 21 I think history has shown typically
- 22 companies ask for more in many cases, considerably
- 23 more than what they actually receive in rate relief
- 24 from this Commission.
- 25 COMMISSIONER HALL: So another way of

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- 1 saying that is it is a business expense, but it's
- 2 different than other business expenses in that it
- 3 takes place in an adversarial environment where
- 4 there are ratepayers' representatives on the other
- 5 side of the rate case, and they are forced to cover
- 6 the cost of advocating a position that is on the
- 7 other side?
- 8 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: Well, yes, in a
- 9 case customers are being asked to pay to have their
- 10 rates increase. I might also add in terms of a
- 11 policy rationale, just having more or less a flat
- 12 policy of 100 percent recovery of what a company
- 13 spends does not provide them much incentive to
- 14 limit rate case expenses. That's another aspect to
- 15 consider.
- 16 COMMISSIONER HALL: Thank you. I
- 17 have a few other questions. Mr. Allison?
- MR. ALLISON: Yes.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HALL: It's my
- 20 understanding that at least in the last couple
- 21 Ameren rate cases and in other rate cases OPC
- 22 sought this mechanism.
- MR. ALLISON: Yes.
- 24 COMMISSIONER HALL: Why did it not
- 25 seek it in this case?

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- 1 MR. ALLISON: I have a two-part
- 2 answer for your question. In the first instance,
- 3 we have signed on to this, I think, recognizing
- 4 that there are larger conversations being
- 5 undertaken with respect to both revenue requirement
- 6 and rate design in the matter. And as a
- 7 downpayment on good faith in the context of those
- 8 larger conversations, we agreed to this document.
- 9 Did I -- do I like the document at
- 10 the end of the day? Well, I agreed to it, so it is
- 11 what it is. You know, the Commission will have to
- 12 make an independent assessment of its -- of the
- 13 benefit of the bargain and decide whether or not
- 14 it's something that you want to enter in place.
- 15 But sometimes you -- you hold your nose in the hope
- 16 of getting to something better at the end of the
- 17 day.
- 18 COMMISSIONER HALL: I would encourage
- 19 you going forward to consider this mechanism. I
- 20 believe that it -- there are a number of policy
- 21 rationales that support it, many of which we've
- 22 already identified this afternoon.
- 23 MR. ALLISON: I absolutely concur
- 24 with your assessment, and I had to make an
- 25 independent decision in the context of these larger

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- 1 discussions as to whether or not that's where I
- 2 wanted to put my foot in the ground, and that's
- 3 where I came down on it, but I absolutely
- 4 understand that the Commission may come to a
- 5 different conclusion.
- 6 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Do you mind if I
- 7 just jump in for a second? Not to belabor the
- 8 point, but I think Commissioner Hall's question
- 9 might have been slightly different. I think you
- 10 answered why did you sign off on the stipulation.
- MR. ALLISON: Right.
- 12 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: His question, I
- 13 think -- and maybe it it wasn't his question. It
- 14 will be mine. Why didn't you guys file testimony
- on this issue like you have in past issues?
- 16 Because Ryan Kind has filed testimony on this
- 17 specific issue advocating for a 50/50 split of rate
- 18 case expense. It's a little different.
- MR. ALLISON: Yeah. I hear you. I
- 20 think there have been -- we have a different set
- 21 of -- I'll just give you the very frank answer. We
- 22 have a different set of experts in the office now
- 23 than we had in the past. We've had a personnel
- 24 turnover. And we have, you know, we have different
- 25 experts focusing on different things. Just as at

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- 1 the end of the day, that's the answer, you know.
- I am aware of the Staff's report. I
- 3 concur with the conclusions in Staff's report from
- 4 that case. I'm personally aware of it. I'm
- 5 personally aware of our prior positions in those
- 6 cases, but I had to make a decision as to where
- 7 we're going to try to apply limited resources, and
- 8 those are the decisions I made. Folks can come to
- 9 different conclusions, and I can understand that.
- 10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Fair enough.
- 11 Sorry.
- 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: I think I've got
- 13 the information I was seeking. I think I made the
- 14 point I was trying to make. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?
- 16 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you, Judge.
- 17 I guess it was Mr. Oligschlaeger, it was your
- 18 comment in response to Commissioner Hall's question
- 19 that you had reviewed the cost of the rate case and
- 20 you thought it was in line with projections and
- 21 that it was a normal rate case.
- 22 That brings to mind to me that you
- 23 have a number in your head that you believe is a
- 24 number of which they will end up where you think it
- 25 is fine. Can you share that projected number where

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- 1 a range of where you thought allowable rate case
- 2 total expense would be?
- 3 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: For this company,
- 4 I think past rate case expenses associated with one
- 5 discrete general rate case have been somewhere
- 6 between one and a half million and two million
- 7 dollars. That is a higher number than some of our
- 8 other companies. However, Ameren has many more
- 9 customers in Missouri than other companies. On a
- 10 per-customer basis that in some cases compares
- 11 favorably with what other companies have spent for
- 12 rate case expense.
- 13 COMMISSIONER RUPP: And then
- 14 following along on this agreement, if the total
- 15 numbers come in far ahead of that 100,000, 200,
- 16 250,000, is Staff just agreeing to say, well, that
- 17 was the number that came in and we're fine with
- 18 that if the projections don't come to -- are higher
- 19 than or do not hit your projections and the numbers
- 20 are higher?
- 21 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: No. And I think
- 22 Ameren's counsel has indicated there may be some
- 23 reason to expect a slightly higher number in this
- 24 case than what they're expecting. We will take a
- 25 look at the actual numbers as they submit their

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- 1 bills, and to the extent we see something unusual
- 2 in any individual attorney or consultant's charges
- 3 or in total dollars spent, we would consider
- 4 bringing forward -- bringing forward any concerns
- 5 we have to the Commission.
- 6 COMMISSIONER RUPP: And then you
- 7 would be doing that in the recommendation that they
- 8 be disallowed or that the dollar amount above the
- 9 projection would be shared as one of the
- 10 recommendations in the 2013 study?
- 11 MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: I would
- 12 speculate -- well, not speculate. I would think in
- 13 this particular instance, if we have specific
- 14 concerns about dollars being spent, we would
- 15 probably make discrete adjustments as opposed to at
- 16 kind of the last stage in the rate case moving to a
- 17 sharing proposal. If we were to do that, I think
- 18 that's something that we would bring forward in a
- 19 future rate case in our direct filing.
- 20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: But you feel
- 21 comfortable with the hourly rates of all the
- 22 consultants and the attorneys that have -- you
- 23 currently know of that have brought on, you feel
- 24 comfortable with those charges?
- MR. OLIGSCHLAEGER: And I haven't

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- 1 individually looked at them. I know our Staff
- 2 witnesses and the Staff managers assigned to this
- 3 case have, and yes, they are.
- 4 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Okay. Thank you.
- 5 I guess my next -- it's not really a question.
- 6 It's more of a comment in line with Commissioner
- 7 Hall's questioning.
- 8 We had 13 public hearings in this
- 9 case, and a consistent theme of every person or
- 10 majority of the people that came was just it just
- 11 didn't sit well with them that they are paying
- 12 rates, then their rates are going to go up, and
- 13 that the company is going to then charge them for
- 14 coming in and asking for a rate case.
- They've come in every 18 months, and
- 16 it just -- from a policy standpoint, it's something
- 17 that I believe we should look at in this Commission
- 18 of some type of rate case expense sharing, because
- 19 the people are asking for it. It's not sitting
- 20 well with them. It's an image that I think
- 21 tarnishes good companies unnecessarily.
- 22 Although it would be an added expense
- 23 to them, to the company, to the shareholder, I
- 24 think possibly in the long term it would improve
- 25 the community relations with the company if they do

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- 1 come back, because when they learn there is --
- 2 there's no disincentive for them to come in every
- 3 time if their rate cases -- they're going to get
- 4 everything paid for and it's to the tune of
- 5 millions of dollars, for the average person out
- 6 there, that is difficult for them to comprehend.
- 7 MR. ALLISON: Well, and Commissioner,
- 8 I don't think that was a question submitted to me,
- 9 but I can quarantee you, based upon the comments of
- 10 the Commission today, that going forward that issue
- 11 will be contested. So I'm hearing what you're
- 12 saying, and so I -- and I will respond accordingly.
- 13 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you.
- 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman.
- 15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Kind of. Because I
- 16 think Mr. Oligschlaeger mentioned the fact we
- 17 opened that docket back in 2011 in response to
- 18 another rate case and the expenses associated with
- 19 that rate case, and that's -- that is correct. I
- 20 was here when we did it, and I questioned the
- 21 lawyers in that other case pretty extensively about
- 22 the amount of money that was spent.
- 23 And the notion of a 50/50 sharing
- 24 mechanism was something that I publicly said then
- 25 and I'll say it again, I found intriguing. It

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- 1 seemed consistent with the notion that shareholders
- 2 should bear those costs that benefit shareholders
- 3 and ratepayers should bear those costs that benefit
- 4 ratepayers.
- 5 And with respect to rate case
- 6 expense, there's a definite benefit to shareholders
- 7 by being able to hire very competent lawyers and
- 8 experts and make a robust case. You -- there's a
- 9 significant benefit that I think inures to the
- 10 benefit of the shareholders by being able to have
- 11 effective, zealous counsel and great advocates. I
- 12 think that's a point that Mr. Coffman has made, and
- 13 I think it's a point that the OPC has traditionally
- 14 made.
- So I'm encouraged by the interest
- 16 taken in the issue. Sounds like it might be an
- 17 area in which we can formulate a larger policy
- 18 outside of the context of a rate case and maybe
- 19 look at a rule. Anybody got any thoughts in that
- 20 regard?
- 21 MR. COFFMAN: Your Honor, Consumers
- 22 Council has taken that position in the past. I
- 23 think there would be a certain amount of elegance
- 24 to, say, a 50/50 sharing or some other approach
- 25 that would include sharing.

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- 1 You know, I acknowledge that rate
- 2 case expense does benefit ratepayers in a sense,
- 3 that rate cases are necessary to do a good thorough
- 4 review of all relevant factors, and it is a part of
- 5 doing business, but for the other reasons, I think
- 6 that that is a policy we'd like to see. We would
- 7 be very interested in helping with that.
- 8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I'm particularly
- 9 interested in Ameren's reaction.
- 10 MS. TATRO: I look forward to
- 11 discussing it with you in a rulemaking.
- 12 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. Fair enough.
- MS. TATRO: I would remind you,
- 14 Commissioner Hall, that our customers not only pay
- 15 whatever rate case expenses, but they pay for the
- 16 cost of the Commission and the Office of Public
- 17 Counsel. They're getting both sides.
- 18 MR. ALLISON: The customers'
- 19 interests are aligned with those of the Office of
- 20 the Public Counsel, and sometimes we make decisions
- 21 on their behalf. Hopefully -- not every customer
- 22 is always going to agree with our decisions, of
- 23 course, but hopefully generally they do. And so I
- 24 think because those interests are aligned, the
- 25 assessment funding for Office of the Public Counsel

Page 646 makes a lot of sense. 2 MS. TATRO: Just to be clear, I 3 wasn't saying it didn't. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Anything 4 5 else? Any other questions from the Commission? COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: I look 6 7 forward to the rulemaking also. CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks everybody. 8 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: At this point we'll move on to the Noranda AAO issue, and we'll have 10 mini openings for this one also, beginning with 11 12 Ameren. 13 MR. MITTEN: May it please the 14 Commission? 15 Fifteen months ago the Commission issued its Report and Order in File No. 16 17 EU-2012-0027, the case that considered Ameren Missouri's application for an accounting authority 18 order to cover fixed costs the company was unable 19 to collect when Noranda's New Madrid aluminum 20 21 smelter curtailed operations for 14 months following a massive ice storm that struck southeast 22 Missouri in January 2009. 23 24 In its Report and Order in that case, the Commission made numerous findings and 25

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- 1 conclusions of law that are germane to the issue
- 2 being tried today. I ask the Commission's
- 3 indulgence while I briefly recount those findings
- 4 and conclusions.
- 5 The Commission found that fixed costs
- 6 are part of the expenses Ameren Missouri incurs to
- 7 provide electricity to its customers. And as a
- 8 result of the damage caused by the 2009 ice storm
- 9 and the resulting curtailment of the smelter's
- 10 operations for a period of approximately 14 months,
- 11 Ameren Missouri was unable to recover from Noranda
- 12 revenues to cover fixed costs totaling
- 13 approximately 35 and a half million dollars.
- 14 The Report and Order further stated
- 15 that these unrecovered costs represented nearly
- 16 8 and a half percent of the company's net income
- 17 for 2009.
- In the Conclusions of Law section of
- 19 the Report and Order, the Commission determined
- 20 that under certain circumstances uncollected
- 21 revenue is an item that can be deferred and
- 22 considered for future ratemaking. The Commission
- 23 reached that conclusion based on its determination
- 24 that the 2009 ice storm and the resulting
- 25 curtailment of operations at the New Madrid smelter

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- 1 were extraordinary items as that phrase is defined
- 2 by the Uniform System of Accounts.
- 3 The Commission also concluded that
- 4 based on evidence presented in the AAO case, Ameren
- 5 Missouri had shown the 35 and a half million
- 6 dollars in fixed costs it was unable to collect
- 7 from Noranda was both extraordinary and material.
- 8 And the Commission further concluded
- 9 granting Ameren Missouri authority to include this
- 10 amount in a deferred account does not constitute
- 11 retroactive ratemaking.
- 12 Finally, the Commission concluded
- 13 recording Ameren Missouri's unrecovered fixed costs
- 14 in a deferred account was in the public interest
- 15 because doing so preserves that issue for
- 16 consideration in a future rate case where recovery
- 17 could be granted in whole, in part or not at all.
- Normally I wouldn't take up your time
- 19 describing decisions the Commission already has
- 20 made, but it was necessary to part from what I
- 21 normally do because for the most part the arguments
- 22 raised by Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel
- 23 and MIEC in opposition to Ameren Missouri's
- 24 proposal on this issue are the same arguments those
- 25 parties made and lost in the AAO case.

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1	For example, the AAO case determined
2	the Commission already has decided the deferred
3	items are revenues needed to cover the company's
4	fixed costs of providing service. They are not, as
5	some parties in this case have claimed, unrealized
6	profits.
7	There's also ample evidence in the
8	record in this case as to why recovery of the
9	deferred amounts through rates set in this case is
10	appropriate, and it's the same evidence the company
11	presented and the Commission considered in the AAO
12	case.
13	As for the argument the amounts at
14	issue here already were included in the
15	determination of Ameren Missouri's revenue
16	requirement in a past case, that's correct. But as
17	the company explained in the AAO case and explains
18	again in this case, it's the fact those amounts
19	were not collected from any customer following that
20	rate case that caused Ameren Missouri to seek an
21	AAO and caused the Commission to authorize one.
22	So the only issue the Commission
23	needs to decide in this case is whether Ameren

Missouri should be authorized to include in rates

the amount you already allowed the company to defer

24

25

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- 1 in the AAO.
- 2 Mr. Lowery explained in his opening
- 3 statement on Monday that we have been unable to
- 4 find any case during the past 50 years where the
- 5 Commission refused to allow full recovery of
- 6 amounts deferred through an AAO unless there is
- 7 evidence the utility was imprudent in connection
- 8 with the extraordinary event that gave rise to the
- 9 AAO or there is evidence the amount deferred was
- 10 incorrect.
- No party in this case alleges Ameren
- 12 Missouri acted imprudently in any way with regard
- 13 to the amounts that were deferred, and there is no
- 14 dispute as to the amount of the company's lost. In
- 15 fact, the amount deferred via the AAO was
- 16 stipulated by the parties in the AAO case.
- Our primary accounting witness on
- 18 this issue, Lynn Barnes, has filed testimony
- 19 regarding Ameren Missouri's need for rate
- 20 recognition of the deferred asset. Her testimony
- 21 further establishes the company did nothing
- 22 imprudent in connection with the loss of revenue
- 23 following the ice storm.
- 24 But if the Commission has further
- 25 questions about these matters, I invite you to ask

Page 651 Ms. Barnes when she's on the witness stand.

- John Reed is the company's expert
- 3 witness on regulatory policy, and if the Commission
- 4 has any questions regarding how other regulatory
- 5 commissions around the country deal with similar
- 6 deferrals, Mr. Reed is prepared to address those
- 7 questions. He also can explain why the change in
- 8 regulatory policy advocated by Staff, OPC and MIEC
- 9 in this case would be a major step in the wrong
- 10 direction for this Commission.
- 11 Ameren Missouri recognizes the
- 12 Commission has discretion to allow the company to
- include in rates the amounts it deferred that
- 14 related to the 2009 ice storm, the curtailment of
- 15 operations by Noranda's New Madrid smelter and the
- 16 resulting extraordinary loss of revenue necessary
- 17 to cover Ameren Missouri's fixed costs, but it
- 18 would be a major and severe departure from a half
- 19 century of consistently applied regulatory policy
- 20 in Missouri to deny recovery of the regulatory
- 21 asset at issue here based on the record in this
- 22 case.
- 23 Such a departure I'm afraid would
- 24 brand Missouri as an outlier regulatory
- 25 jurisdiction and would make it difficult if not

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- 1 impossible for utilities and their current and
- 2 potential investors to count on receiving in this
- 3 state the kind of regulatory support and protection
- 4 for adverse financial effects of extraordinary
- 5 events that is common elsewhere in the country and
- 6 has been commonplace in this jurisdiction for 50
- 7 years.
- 8 That concludes my opening statement.
- 9 I'll be happy to take any questions from the
- 10 Commissioners.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
- 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: Yeah.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HALL: Just so I'm
- 15 clear, your -- your understanding of Missouri law
- 16 is that the only basis by which we could disallow
- 17 this deferral is imprudence?
- 18 MR. MITTEN: My understanding of
- 19 again 50 years of Commission decisions and the
- 20 policy that that represents and the expectations
- 21 that those decisions represent for utilities is
- 22 that this commission has said that there are two
- 23 bases for rejecting deferrals or for including
- 24 deferrals in rates. One, that the facts underlying
- 25 the deferrals show imprudence on behalf of the

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- 1 utility, and the other that the amount of the
- 2 deferral is incorrect for some reason.
- 3
 It's my belief, Commissioner Hall,
- 4 that if the Commission departs from 50 years of
- 5 regulatory policy without a strong policy basis and
- 6 without competent and substantial evidence on this
- 7 record to support that departure, that you'd be
- 8 skating very, very close to an arbitrary and
- 9 capricious decision in this case.
- 10 COMMISSIONER HALL: But we do have
- 11 discretion?
- MR. MITTEN: You have some
- 13 discretion, yes, sir.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HALL: All right. Thank
- 15 you.
- 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Opening for Staff.
- 17 MR. THOMPSON: May it please the
- 18 Commission?
- 19 50 years of regulatory policy. I
- 20 don't know how many times Mr. Mitten said that. I
- 21 guess that was the refrain of the song that he was
- 22 singing. 50 years of regulatory policy. To me,
- 23 that has the same kind of cadence as heartbreak of
- 24 psoriasis, and I'll tell you, it's every bit as
- 25 relevant.

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1	Your decision will be reviewed on the
2	basis of lawfulness and reasonableness. Lawfulness
3	and reasonableness. Your decision is lawful if you
4	have the authority to do what you do. That's
5	lawful. Your decision is reasonable if the facts
6	as you find them support your exercise of the
7	authority that you have. So the facts and the law
8	have to support allowing this deferral into rates.
9	Now, you've heard a lot about
10	deferrals today already and a lot about
11	amortizations, and I'm story to have to subject you
12	to some more talk about that. None of the things
13	that supported the deferral of this amount has any
14	relevance now. None of those factors have any
15	relevance to the question of rate recovery.
16	There are certain factors, certain
17	principles that you consider when someone comes to
18	you and says we need an AAO, something terrible has
19	happened, please give us a deferral. And there's
20	certain factors that you review. Is it material?
21	Is it extraordinary? Was it within the company's
22	control?
23	There are many Commission cases
24	describing these factors and how you look for them
25	and analyze them. There are judicial decisions

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- 1 talking about them as well. But they are
- 2 irrelevant to the question of recovery.
- In fact, when deferral is challenged
- 4 in the courts, the courts generally throw -- brush
- 5 those challenges aside by saying, well, this isn't
- 6 ratemaking. a deferral is not ratemaking. Well,
- 7 now we are doing ratemaking. Now we're at the
- 8 ratemaking point.
- 9 The Missouri Supreme Court in what is
- 10 still the governing case on this said that the
- 11 setting of rates that permit a utility to recover
- 12 past losses or which require it to refund past
- 13 excess profits collected under a rate that did not
- 14 perfectly match expenses plus rate of return with
- 15 the rate actually established is illegal as
- 16 retroactive ratemaking. Retroactive ratemaking.
- Now, you have heard a lot of
- 18 testimony already in this case that revenues and
- 19 costs never do actually balance. The company may
- 20 earn more than the ROE that you set for it. It may
- 21 earn less. It varies from month to month as things
- 22 happen, right? That's the way the world is.
- So what happens when the company
- doesn't collect enough money to cover the cost of
- 25 the services that it sold? What if it doesn't

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- 1 collect enough money? Because as we've been told,
- 2 customers don't pay costs. They pay for service.
- 3 Well, can the company go back and say, gosh, I'm
- 4 sorry, I'm sorry but our costs were higher than we
- 5 expected. We need more money to cover that service
- 6 already sold. They can't do it. The Supreme Court
- 7 has said it's illegal. Rates are prospective in
- 8 Missouri. They're prospective in Missouri.
- 9 And so when it comes to allowing a
- 10 deferred amount into rates, the answer is always
- 11 more nuanced than what you have heard. Sometimes
- 12 you can do it and sometimes you can't, and it
- depends on what it is that you're doing.
- 14 If what you are doing is recovering
- 15 costs for a past period that were not in rates,
- 16 well, that's illegal. If what you are doing is
- 17 tweaking future rates because the occurrence of
- 18 this extraordinary event shows you that rates in
- 19 the future may need to be a little bit higher
- 20 because such things obviously happen from time to
- 21 time, you can do that. You can do that. Do you
- 22 see the difference?
- 23 You can not give them money to make
- 24 them whole for the revenue they did not collect
- 25 from Noranda however many years ago that was.

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- 1 That's retroactive ratemaking. You can tweak their
- 2 rates for the future because ice storms happen.
- 3 That's the difference. The one thing you can do.
- 4 The other thing you can't do. It's subtle. They
- 5 look a lot alike, but they're not the same.
- In fact, all of the test year
- 7 historical costs that you consider in this case are
- 8 presented to you for only one reason, and that is
- 9 to guide you in setting future rates that will be
- 10 adequate. To guide you in setting future rates.
- 11 Not to recover any particular amount of past costs,
- 12 but to guide you in setting future rates for
- 13 service that hopefully will match the cost of
- 14 service and allow a reasonable opportunity for the
- 15 company to earn a return on equity. That is what
- 16 you're supposed to be doing. That is what you can
- 17 do.
- 18 You cannot refigure the cost of
- 19 service already sold because the company sold it
- 20 more cheaply than it expected to.
- 21 When the ice storm disrupted service
- 22 to Noranda and that disruption lasted for, what, 14
- 23 months, 18 months, somewhere in that vicinity,
- 24 there was still power being sold to Noranda. There
- 25 was one potline out of three was still operating.

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- 1 So that customer, which happened to be the entire
- 2 and only customer in one class, that customer was
- 3 still taking service. They were still selling
- 4 electricity in that rate class. But guess what,
- 5 the costs assigned to that rate class were a lot
- 6 bigger than the revenues they were actually
- 7 realizing.
- 8 So if you give them this recovery,
- 9 what you're saying is, gosh, the rates then should
- 10 have been much higher. Then Noranda would have
- 11 paid enough to cover its actual cost of service.
- 12 There would be no fixed costs that were not
- 13 recovered.
- 14 What they're telling you, and I heard
- 15 Mr. Mitten say it while he was up here, their
- 16 revenues needed to cover the company's fixed costs.
- 17 Well, that was a past event. That was an emergency
- 18 that occurred years ago. You're fixing prospective
- 19 future rates. And they only have any relevance so
- 20 far as they inform you as to what those future
- 21 rates need to be.
- 22 You can not allow them recovery of
- 23 the revenues they did not earn in the past to cover
- 24 fixed costs that they incurred back in the past,
- 25 because effectively that's saying the rates for

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- 1 that class should have been higher. Should have
- 2 been higher. They did not perfectly match the cost
- 3 of service.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Questions?
- 6 Mr. Chairman.
- 7 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you. Thank
- 8 you, Mr. Thompson. The argument that you're making
- 9 now, that's essentially the argument for why we
- 10 shouldn't have granted the AAO in the first
- 11 instance, though?
- MR. THOMPSON: We opposed the
- 13 granting of the AAO, absolutely.
- 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And that's the
- 15 argument you made in opposing, that an AAO wasn't
- 16 the appropriate mechanism to recover lost revenues?
- 17 MR. THOMPSON: That's true.
- 18 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Well, let's assume
- 19 that the Commission has already determined that
- 20 these weren't lost revenues, that they are fixed
- 21 costs, I think is how Ameren characterized it.
- 22 Let's assume they're not lost revenues, and let's
- 23 assume that the AAO was the appropriate mechanism
- 24 for deferring these fixed costs.
- Is Mr. Mitten correct that we've

Page 660 never granted an AAO and then denied recovery of 2 that AAO in the rate case? 3 MR. THOMPSON: I'll be honest. I have not done that research. 4 5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: You've been around a while. To your mind, as you can sit here and 6 7 recollect today, are you aware of a case in which we have denied recovery of items that we have 8 allowed to be deferred in an AAO? 10 MR. THOMPSON: I cannot tell you honestly that I can recall a particular case. I 11 12 can certainly do that research and supply it to you in Staff's brief. 13 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I think you guys already answered the question in the initial 15 accounting authority order case. If you find 16 17 something, please feel free to brief it. 18 So what would be our legal basis, then? I mean, is it correct, as Mr. Mitten said, 19 that we need to find that the underlying 20 21 expenditure was imprudent or otherwise improperly 22 accrued in order to deny the recovery in the AAO? 23 MR. THOMPSON: I think he's wrong because the past amount, whether it was a revenue 24 25 or a cost or whatever it was, the past amount that

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- 1 was deferred to this case for consideration, its
- 2 importance and its relevance in this case is to
- 3 inform you as to how much revenue requirement they
- 4 need going forward. So it's not a one for one
- 5 recovery. It is instead, thinking about that ice
- 6 storm and thinking about the financial impact of
- 7 that ice storm on the company, what do we need to
- 8 do with rates, particularly for the LTS service
- 9 class, to reflect the reality that that ice storm
- 10 happened and had this impact? It's a going-forward
- 11 calculation.
- 12 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Well, but we allow
- 13 accounting authority orders because we are giving
- 14 the utility the opportunity to recover costs that
- 15 are incurred outside of the test year.
- 16 MR. THOMPSON: That's exactly right,
- 17 but we're not doing it -- I know it sounds bizarre,
- 18 but then so much about ratemaking a bizarre. I
- 19 think Woody explained it best one day in one case
- 20 when he said, you know, you have the test year for
- 21 all the normal costs. You've got your normalized,
- 22 annualized test year, and that's going to tell you
- 23 what everything costs on kind of an average basis
- 24 if nothing weird happens, and then you've got the
- 25 AAOs to remind you that weird things do happen.

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- 1 And each AAO has some amount in it
- 2 that reflects some particular extraordinary event,
- 3 and by extraordinary I mean the accounting sense of
- 4 extraordinary, which is not normal, some not normal
- 5 event that the annualized, normalized test year by
- 6 definition does not take into account. So let's
- 7 say --
- 8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: By granting the
- 9 AAO, haven't we already made the determination
- 10 about whether this was normal or abnormal?
- 11 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, you have made
- 12 that. That's one of the factors you considered in
- 13 granting deferral in the first place.
- 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So once we've
- 15 granted it and we're considering it now in the rate
- 16 case, what's the legal basis for denying the
- 17 recovery of those costs?
- 18 MR. THOMPSON: Because its only
- 19 importance is to inform you of what the rates need
- 20 to be in the future. So let's say -- let's say you
- 21 have testimony that this event, whatever it was,
- 22 was never going to happen again. Well, then the
- 23 facts would not support any recovery, because if
- 24 it's never going to happen again and you don't have
- 25 to tweak the rates going forward to take account of

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- 1 that particular non-normal event.
- 2 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: That seems to be
- 3 the argument for not having granted the AAO in the
- 4 first instance.
- 5 MR. THOMPSON: No. We opposed it in
- 6 the first place because we said -- well, I can't
- 7 even remember all the things we said. We opposed
- 8 it on every ground we could come up with, and one
- 9 of them, one of them certainly was that if you do
- 10 grant it, well, you'd never be able to give them
- 11 recovery of it because that's retroactive
- 12 ratemaking.
- And you're right, to that extent
- 14 that's exactly the argument I'm making now, and
- 15 this is the right time and place to make that
- 16 argument.
- 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: All right. I
- 18 thinks that's enough for me. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?
- 20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: As you were
- 21 talking, I was kind of curious about something.
- 22 What if an ice storm similar to the 2009 ice storm
- 23 happened today, would the results be the same?
- MR. THOMPSON: No, sir, it would not.
- 25 I'm glad you asked that question.

Page 664 COMMISSIONER STOLL: That's why I 1 2 asked it. 3 MR. THOMPSON: Ameren's tariff was revised following that ice storm and following 4 5 litigation about the sale, the off-system sales 6 that it made in an attempt to recoup the revenues. 7 It sold money off-system to AEP and Wabash, who were large power buyers out there somewhere, and 8 there was litigation about that. 10 The Commission held that that had to go through the FAC as off-system sales, which meant 11 12 only 5 percent of the revenue was available to 13 Ameren to put against what it had lost to the ice 14 storm. So it didn't work. 15 So after that, the tariff was changed, and the tariff now has a Factor N, it's 16 17 called, in the FAC, the Noranda factor, and that factor was particularly and specifically calculated 18 and placed in there so if this happens again, the 19 financial effect will not be the same. 20 21 Who can tell you what the financial effect would be? Not I, but perhaps we have an 22 accountant here or a fuel person who could do that. 23 COMMISSIONER STOLL: So the N Factor 24 25 is in the -- was put in the tariff, and that

Page 665 1 continues to this day? 2 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay. One other thing I was wondering. What if the -- if the 4 5 5 percent -- so they retain 5 percent. The 95 6 comes back to the --7 MR. THOMPSON: Is shared, yes. COMMISSIONER STOLL: Is there a 8 provision for a circumstance where the 5 percent does not make them whole, as I'll call it? 10 MR. THOMPSON: As far as I know, the 11 12 only provision is the N Factor, which I am sad to confess I can't tell you how it works. 13 14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: That's okay. 15 Okay. Thank you. 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney. 17 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Thank you, Judge. I just wanted clarification because I know 18 you keep saying that this -- if we use this AAO and 19 20 we put it into our rate base it's retroactive 21 ratemaking. Is that what you're saying? 22 MR. THOMPSON: I'm saying if you put it into rates in order to make them whole for the 23 24 revenue they didn't collect in the past, that that's retroactive ratemaking and is illegal. 25

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- 1 you put it into rates because you believe rates
- 2 need to be more in the future because this kind of
- 3 thing might happen, then that is legal and you can
- 4 do it.
- 5 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: What about
- 6 the fact that we do use AAOs and we have utilized
- 7 them, the Commission's been doing it, and that goes
- 8 into our future rates, doesn't it?
- 9 MR. THOMPSON: It is appropriate for
- 10 those deferrals to go rates, if at all, as I
- 11 said --
- 12 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: They were a
- 13 past expense, right, an AAO?
- 14 MR. THOMPSON: But they guide you as
- 15 to the kind of things that happened and that you
- 16 have to take thought of for the future.
- 17 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: But your
- 18 argument is that even though we've said that this
- 19 can be used as an AAO, you're saying you disagree
- 20 with it being used as an AAO?
- 21 MR. THOMPSON: I did disagree with it
- 22 being deferred, but that's past. That's done. It
- 23 was deferred.
- 24 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Okay.
- 25 What's the difference with this and another AAO,

Page 667 some other tracker or something?

- 2 MR. THOMPSON: Well, first of all,
- 3 here we're talking about recovery, putting it into
- 4 rates, not just deferring it for consideration.
- 5 Okay. That's one difference.
- And as far as how is it different
- 7 from any other AAO, well, they're all alike.
- 8 They're all a deferral from a past period into a --
- 9 of an out-of-test-year amount and bringing it into
- 10 ratemaking consideration even though the event
- 11 didn't occur in the test year. If it had occurred
- 12 in the test year, it would be in the test year
- 13 amount, unless it got normalized out.
- 14 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Explain that
- 15 to me again. You're saying -- I'm just trying
- 16 to --
- 17 MR. THOMPSON: Sure.
- 18 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: You agree
- 19 that we do use AAOs?
- 20 MR. THOMPSON: Not only do you use
- 21 them, you're authorized to use them. They're
- 22 lawful.
- 23 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: You're just
- 24 saying this isn't an AAO?
- MR. THOMPSON: This is an AAO, but

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- 1 we're finished with the deferral phase. Now we've
- 2 come to the recovery phase. Now we've come to the
- 3 point where the company is saying, okay, give us
- 4 that money. Give us that money that was deferred.
- 5 Now, we opposed the deferral, but that's done, and
- 6 now we're opposing the recovery.
- 7 Certainly I hope -- Staff never
- 8 intended to make it appear we oppose all AAOs
- 9 because we don't.
- 10 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: I understand
- 11 that, but you just oppose recovery of this?
- MR. THOMPSON: We oppose the recovery
- 13 of this if its intended make them whole for a past
- 14 loss.
- 15 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Okay.
- 16 You're calling it a past loss. They might call it
- 17 fixed cost or whatever.
- 18 MR. THOMPSON: Right. They'd call it
- 19 somebody else, but --
- 20 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: If you call
- 21 it something else, do you say -- if you were in
- 22 their shoes and it's a fixed cost, do you think
- 23 they could recover it?
- 24 MR. THOMPSON: If I was in their
- 25 shoes --

Page 669 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: If it's 1 2 classified -- okay. If I think it's a fixed 3 cost. --MR. THOMPSON: Right. 4 5 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: -- if I let them recover it, is that retroactive ratemaking? 6 7 MR. THOMPSON: If you let them 8 recover it because you believe that fixed costs in the future may be higher than Staff's cost of service report suggests, then I think that's lawful 10 and permissible. If you let them recover it 11 12 because you say, hey, they lost that money, they 13 need it, that I think is not permissible. 14 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Okay. Thank 15 you, Kevin. 16 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, sir. 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? COMMISSIONER HALL: So Staff is not 18 making the argument that we should not apply the 19 deferral to rates going forward because of any 20 21 excess earnings that Ameren may or may not have received during the period in question? That's 22 not --23 MR. THOMPSON: As Staff's attorney, I 24 am not making that argument. 25

Page 670 COMMISSIONER HALL: Will any of your 1 2 witnesses make that argument? 3 MR. THOMPSON: It may be in Mr. Cassidy's testimony. It was one of the bases 4 5 on which we opposed the the deferral. 6 COMMISSIONER HALL: But you're not 7 aware of any testimony where it's the basis for not applying it to rates apart from the deferral being 8 inappropriate? 10 MR. THOMPSON: You'd have to ask him. 11 COMMISSIONER HALL: All right. 12 MR. THOMPSON: I'm trying to keep 13 legal arguments separate from factual arguments, and I'm trying to keep legal arguments pointed at 14 15 the point in the process where I think they apply. 16 COMMISSIONER HALL: Well, I 17 understand your argument about retroactive ratemaking, and the Commission will need to 18 19 determine whether or not applying this deferral to rates constitutes retroactive ratemaking. 20 21 What I still don't really understand is your -- any other legal arguments you have for 22 why we should not apply this deferral to rates. 23 2.4 MR. THOMPSON: That's the only legal 25 argument I have.

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- 1 COMMISSIONER HALL: Let me ask you,
- 2 is another -- is there a policy argument that we
- 3 are charged with setting just and reasonable rates
- 4 and it would not be just and reasonable to put that
- 5 deferral into rates, or would that be arbitrary and
- 6 capricious?
- 7 MR. THOMPSON: Well, the principal
- 8 policy argument is that you do not allow
- 9 out-of-period costs to sneak into your ratemaking
- 10 consideration. In other words, that's why we use a
- 11 test year. That's why Staff's position is that
- 12 AAOs, while lawful, should be used sparingly,
- 13 right, because they always import an out-of-period
- 14 cost into the rate consideration. So there's the
- 15 first principle.
- As far as -- as far the factual
- 17 evidence goes, the facts before you show that an
- 18 ice storm did occur. The facts show you what the
- 19 financial impact of the ice storm was. The facts
- 20 show you how much of that financial impact Ameren
- 21 Missouri considers to reflect fixed costs that have
- 22 been assigned in the previous rate case to that
- 23 rate class. So those facts are before you.
- Another fact you need to think about,
- 25 I think, is how likely is this to happen again?

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- 1 When they say, for example, that you ought to put
- 2 it into rates and amortize it over five years, are
- 3 they saying because we can expect this to happen
- 4 every five years? What if it's only going to
- 5 happen every 50 years? Well, should it be
- 6 amortized over 50 years? Because, I mean, that's
- 7 fairness to the ratepayers, right? If they're
- 8 going to pay for this, maybe they should only pay
- 9 for the part of it that actually applies to the
- 10 bill they're paying at any given time.
- 11 So what's the support for a five-year
- 12 amortization? And if you look, what they say is,
- oh, that's a figure Staff uses. Staff does
- 14 five-year amortizations all the time. It's kind of
- 15 like their argument that every commission in the
- 16 country allows this recovery.
- 17 But what does Missouri law require?
- 18 That I think is the question in front of the
- 19 Commission.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HALL: Let me ask you
- 21 about prudence and a determination of whether or
- 22 not this is a prudently incurred expense. Are you
- 23 aware of any ways that Ameren could have mitigated
- this expense?
- MR. THOMPSON: I am not.

Page 673 1 COMMISSIONER HALL: Because the only 2 way they could have mitigated it is either by 3 charging more for the off-systems sales in those two contracts or selling more, I guess? 4 5 MR. THOMPSON: Or maybe negotiating Factor N earlier than they did. 6 7 COMMISSIONER HALL: Well, we're talking about the company, right, not talking about 8 their counsel. So who do you believe has a burden of proof on whether a particular expense is 10 imprudent? 11 12 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Imprudence, 13 there is a presumption of prudence. So all of the company's expenditures are presumed to be prudent 14 15 until someone brings forward a question. So while the burden of proof never shifts and it's always on 16 17 the company, the burden of production with respect to prudence is on the challenger. 18 19 And let me add that we're not saying there's any imprudence involved with this 20 21 particular item. 22 COMMISSIONER HALL: Thank you. 23 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. 2.4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp? 25 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you.

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- 1 Ameren made the case that the disallowance of this
- 2 cost recovery in rates would detrimentally hurt
- 3 their ability to attract capital in the financial
- 4 markets. Do you give any credence to that
- 5 possibility if we were to not allow them to
- 6 recover?
- 7 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I'm not a
- 8 financial guy, although I do the rate of return
- 9 issue in every rate case. I think that anything
- 10 you don't give them probably sends signals to
- 11 investors that make them frightened. Investors
- want a company to invest in that recovers every
- 13 cost and, if possible, over-recovers those costs.
- So is it realistic to say that not
- 15 allowing this recovery will impair their access to
- 16 capital? I suggest that that is an overblown
- 17 argument. I don't think it will significantly
- 18 impair their access to capital.
- 19 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Even if there is
- 20 a stark difference of all 49 other states on this
- 21 particular issue that on the surface, whether or
- 22 not they look at Missouri law and how it was
- 23 applied, but on the surface of it being different,
- 24 you don't think that would provide any --
- MR. THOMPSON: I think that, with all

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- 1 due respect to counsel for Ameren, I think that he
- 2 overstated that. I think that -- I mean, we have
- 3 one major electric company in this state that
- 4 doesn't have an FAC, and I haven't heard that
- 5 they've had any problem accessing the capital
- 6 markets.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
- 8 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel.
- 10 MR. OPITZ: May it please the
- 11 Commission? Good afternoon.
- 12 With this issue the company is simply
- 13 asking the Commission to set rates that will allow
- 14 Ameren to recover revenues that it did not recover
- 15 from a prior period. At its core, this request is
- 16 nothing more than an attempt to extract more money
- from customers and to insulate the company's
- 18 shareholders from any risk.
- 19 It is a well-accepted principle of
- 20 utility regulation that shareholders contribute
- 21 risk capital to the utility for which they receive
- 22 a rate of return. One of the risks that
- 23 shareholders take on for this added compensation is
- 24 the danger of an earnings shortfall, and that's
- 25 exactly what happened here.

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- 1 Consistent with that principle of
- 2 allowing the return on equity, the Commission sets
- 3 rates, as it did in 2008, for the ongoing cost of
- 4 service plus a return that is required to provide
- 5 service to the customers taking that service.
- 6 Sure, as we've heard, there is a
- 7 possibility that at times the company will
- 8 overearn, and there are times that it will
- 9 underearn. These are the risks inherent in the
- 10 regulatory process and are a normal part of doing
- 11 business as a utility in Missouri.
- 12 Mr. Thompson discussed at length
- 13 about the retroactive ratemaking, and I would just
- 14 add that Public Counsel's view is that when rates
- 15 are set to allow a utility to recover a specific
- 16 financial impact of a past event so as to make the
- 17 utility's shareholders whole for past financial
- 18 under-recovery, that is retroactive ratemaking, and
- 19 we agree that that is unlawful.
- 20 Frankly, the customers should not be
- 21 forced to guarantee that the company collects its
- 22 revenue requirement. In fact, uncertainty is the
- 23 exact reason why a return on equity is allowed and
- 24 built into rates.
- I would ask that each of you keep

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- 1 this principle in mind as you consider this issue,
- 2 and that is that shareholders should bear some
- 3 risk, and that's why they get a return on equity.
- 4 In the forefront of your minds, this is an
- 5 important issue when you're looking at examining
- 6 the money that Ameren is asking to recover.
- Now, as some background, the money at
- 8 issue here stems from an ice storm and the events
- 9 leading up to what is referred to as the Noranda
- 10 AAO. In 2009, an ice storm knocked out power to
- 11 Ameren Missouri's largest customer, which caused
- 12 damage to that customer's operations.
- 13 As a result, that customer purchased
- 14 significantly less power than Ameren had expected,
- 15 and so Ameren did not collect the revenues that it
- 16 had hoped it would. Again, this is a risk of doing
- 17 business that should be borne by the shareholders.
- Now, in a creative attempt to
- 19 insulate its shareholders from this loss, the
- 20 company sought and was granted an accounting
- 21 authority order, or AAO, that allowed it to defer a
- 22 specific amount of money to be considered for
- 23 ratemaking treatment in a future case.
- 24 However, despite counsel for Ameren
- 25 Missouri's comments about 50 years of history, the

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- 1 nature of this particular deferred amount, unearned
- 2 revenues, sets it apart from all previous ice storm
- 3 AAOs. In fact, I think that the fact that we're
- 4 taking it up as a separate issue from the other
- 5 amortizations seems to indicate that.
- In every other case in which OPC is
- 7 aware for ice storm AAOs, the costs authorized for
- 8 deferral were actually costs incurred related
- 9 directly to the repair of infrastructure, damage
- 10 that the utility actually incurred.
- Now, this AAO is different. Ameren
- 12 incurred no costs from the 2009 ice storm. The
- 13 company did not incur any infrastructure damage to
- 14 its system. In fact, the damage was to
- 15 transmission lines operated by Associated Electric
- 16 Cooperative and not Ameren.
- 17 Instead, what the company has
- 18 creatively done is seek to collect from customers
- 19 what it calls unrecovered fixed costs from a prior
- 20 period.
- 21 As Mr. Robertson in Public Counsel's
- 22 prefiled testimony has said, the company's use of
- 23 the term lost fixed costs to describe this amount
- 24 that's being deferred is nothing more than a
- 25 semantic mischaracterization of a previously un--

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- 1 of a previously authorized revenue requirement that
- 2 the company failed to meet.
- 3 Importantly, these fixed costs,
- 4 so-called fixed costs were already included in the
- 5 revenue requirement that had been authorized by the
- 6 Commission in Ameren Missouri's 2008 rate case.
- 7 I'll remind you now to think about, shareholders
- 8 should bear some risk. That's why they earn a rate
- 9 of return.
- 10 Ameren had the opportunity to recover
- 11 its fixed costs. It need not receive another one,
- 12 and certainly not at the cost of customers. Rather
- 13 than the customers, it's the company's shareholders
- 14 who should bear the risk of the company not
- 15 achieving its desired financial goals, just as they
- 16 receive the benefit of the company exceeding wits
- 17 financial goals.
- Now, I hope it's clear by now that
- 19 Public Counsel opposes the inclusion of this
- 20 amount. So what can the Commission do? The amount
- 21 has already been deferred in the Noranda AAO case,
- 22 0027, and so are we stuck with this now? I would
- 23 say absolutely not. I don't want you to be misled
- 24 into thinking that you must include this amount or
- 25 any of this amount in rates just because you

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- 1 allowed a deferral.
- I know that you already know this,
- 3 but I'm compelled to mention it because when it
- 4 comes to AAOs, there is sometimes a logic applied
- 5 that is a bait and switch. And to explain, so when
- 6 a company comes in for an AAO, the discussion tends
- 7 to be that this is merely a deferral of the amount
- 8 and it's not ratemaking, and of course the
- 9 Commission can evaluate this amount and decide on
- 10 the item later when they get to a rate case.
- 11 Then, as here, when the company seeks
- 12 to recover the amount in rates, the company asserts
- 13 that this amount must be recovered because the
- 14 Commission allowed deferral, and they say, well,
- 15 the company relied on this amount, and so we have
- 16 to have this deferral.
- 17 Again, this is a bait and switch and
- 18 results in a situation that, to borrow a term I
- 19 heard earlier, is heads the company wins and tails
- 20 the customers loss.
- 21 During opening statements on Monday,
- 22 Commissioner Hall, and again today, he has inquired
- 23 about the standard that should be applied when the
- 24 Commission considers whether to include an amount
- 25 that was deferred by an AAO in rates.

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- 1 In the first instance, Public Counsel
- 2 believes that allowing this item in rates is
- 3 unlawful because it is retroactive ratemaking. And
- 4 because of that, this item should not be included
- 5 in rates at all.
- 6 However, should the Commission decide
- 7 to go ahead and include any of this item, I suggest
- 8 that the standard that must be followed for this
- 9 item is not a prudence standard, but that the
- 10 Commission must consider all relevant factors when
- 11 setting rates, and that those rates must be just
- 12 and reasonable.
- Any attempt by the company to narrow
- 14 the Commission's review of this item to a
- 15 restricted prudency test is unfounded. It's a fact
- 16 that the deferral was allowed, and now that the
- 17 Commission is determining whether or not to give
- 18 this amount ratemaking treatment, it must consider
- 19 all relevant factors in order to reach rates that
- 20 are just and reasonable. That's the alternative
- 21 standard Public Counsel believes.
- 22 The Commission is well aware that in
- 23 its Order in the EU-2012-0027 case, they made clear
- 24 that it was simply to defer the amount. It did not
- 25 impose any special prudency presumptions for this

Page 682 item and did not otherwise inhibit its ability to 2 look at all relevant costs. 3 The Commission made clear in its order that ultimate recovery of any deferred amount 4 5 was not guaranteed. Quoting from the Order, 6 deferred recording does not guarantee recovery in 7 any rate or rate action. Recovery may be granted in whole, partially or not at all. 8 9 What's more, Ameren knows that the recovery of this deferral -- of this deferred 10 amount is less certain than they represent. 11 And at this time, Judge, I would ask 12 that we go in camera briefly. I'm doing to discuss 13 14 some highly confidential information. (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an 15 in-camera session was held, which is contained in 16 17 Volume 19, pages 683 through 584 of the 18 transcript.) 19 20 21 22 23 2.4 25

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1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: OKay. We're back in	
2	regular session.	
3	MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Judge.	
4	When recovery of an item is as	
5	uncertain as the amount deferred in the Noranda	
6	AAO, the company's attempt to impose a presumption	
7	of prudence on the item would of course be	
8	beneficial to the company, but no such burden is	
9	no such standard exists.	
10	As I mentioned, including this item	
11	would constitute retroactive ratemaking, and that's	
12	Public Counsel's position. However, if the	
13	Commission decides to go forward anyway, the	
14	Commission must consider all relevant factors in	
15	setting rates and that those rates that it	
16	ultimately comes up with most be just and	
17	reasonable.	
18	In conclusion, the Office of Public	
19	Counsel opposes this request because it is nothing	
20	more than an attempt to extract more money from	
21	customers and to insulate the company's	
22	shareholders from any financial risk that they	
23	properly bear as a result of getting a return on	
24	equity in rates.	
25	Thank you, and I'm happy to answer	

Page 686 1 your questions. 2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions? 3 Commissioner Kenney. COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Thank you. 4 5 Appreciate your testimony, or your opening. I've got a question. If this Commission, if we decided 6 that this was an AAO and if this -- and it could be 7 8 heard in this case and we make the decision just like you read our report, if this -- if this Commission decided that 30-whatever million dollars 10 was fixed cost that the Commission allocated 11 12 towards Noranda in the last rate case, couple rate 13 cases ago, that was not recovered, do you still think we would be retroactive ratemaking if we made that decision? 15 16 MR. OPITZ: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Thank you. 18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 19 COMMISSIONER HALL: Yes. A couple questions. If the Court of Appeals affirmed this 20 21 Commission's determination that an AAO was appropriate on this issue, what should -- what does 22 that determination -- how does that affect the 23 24 decision we have here today? 25 MR. OPITZ: Commissioner Hall, I dont

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- 1 believe that it impacts the decision you're making
- 2 here. The case that was on appeal and, in fact, I
- 3 believe is still on appeal, was related to the
- 4 granting of the AAO, and that is a separate case.
- 5 Right now, here today, we are discussing the
- 6 recovery of an amount, and that is ratemaking, and
- 7 that is not impacted by the ongoing appeal.
- 8 COMMISSIONER HALL: Right. I
- 9 understand that it's a somewhat different issue,
- 10 but it's related. There's a pretty extensive
- 11 discussion in the decision which I think pretty
- 12 clearly says that it was both reasonable and lawful
- 13 for the Commission to have issued that ruling
- 14 deferring that item. Is that your reading of that
- 15 case as well?
- MR. OPITZ: Commissioner, I'm not
- 17 aware that there was a published opinion so far in
- 18 that case. I think there may have been a
- 19 memorandum. But as I said, that is still being
- 20 appealed.
- 21 And, of course, if Public Counsel and
- 22 the other parties opposing that win that appeal,
- 23 there would be no item to consider for ratemaking.
- 24 So that's the only way that I see that particular
- 25 case impacting this one today.

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- 1 COMMISSIONER HALL: Let me ask you
- 2 this on a different topic. Is it relevant from
- 3 OPC's perspective what Ameren's revenues were
- 4 during the time period in question when Noranda was
- 5 offline as a result of the ice storm? Whether they
- 6 were meeting the revenue requirement, whether they
- 7 were -- whether they were -- whether they were
- 8 meeting the authorized ROE, whether they were
- 9 overearning, underearning, is any of that relevant?
- 10 MR. OPITZ: So if I may, in the first
- 11 instance, we would say that it's unlawful
- 12 retroactive ratemaking.
- But your question I believe gets to a
- 14 second point about the standard when you're talking
- 15 about all relevant factors if you were to consider
- 16 this, and I believe that their earnings would be a
- 17 relevant factor to consider.
- 18 COMMISSIONER HALL: How so?
- MR. OPITZ: Well, the UCCM case
- 20 discusses generally that all relevant factors
- 21 should be considered when you're setting rates and
- 22 that those rates must be just and reasonable. And
- 23 I think that the revenues that a company has earned
- 24 during the period of -- during the period of this
- 25 deferral or extraordinary mechanism would be one

Page 689 factor to consider. The weight that is given to that, I don't have an answer to that, but I would 3 say that it is a factor. COMMISSIONER HALL: Is there any 4 5 prudence argument at all on this issue from OPC's 6 perspective? 7 MR. OPITZ: Looking at --8 COMMISSIONER HALL: Is there any way that Ameren could have mitigated this expense? 10 MR. OPITZ: Could have -- could 11 Ameren have mitigated this expense, the deferred 12 item? COMMISSIONER HALL: Uh-huh. 13 14 MR. OPITZ: Not to my knowledge. COMMISSIONER HALL: I have no further 15 questions. 16 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp? 18 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No questions. 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. And for MIEC. 20 MR. DOWNEY: May it please the 21 Commission? Good afternoon. In the PowerPoint presentation that I 22 had this morning, there were two slides, last two 23 24 slides that address this issue. They largely cover what Mr. Thompson's already said, so I'm not going 25

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- 1 to pull them back up on the screen. I'm also not
- 2 going to repeat what Public Counsel has said. I
- 3 think we're all in agreement here. I would just
- 4 like to expand on one point.
- 5 Earlier I said that the bible for
- 6 ratemaking in Missouri is the UCCM case, and it is,
- 7 and I'd like to point out a couple parts of that
- 8 decision that I think are really relevant here.
- 9 Unfortunately, the copy of the case I have doesn't
- 10 have the page numbers.
- 11 But the Missouri Supreme Court said
- 12 this: It is for the Legislature, not the PSC, to
- 13 set the extent of the latter's jurisdiction. The
- 14 mere fact that the Commission has approved similar
- 15 clauses in the past or that other state permits
- 16 them is irrelevant if they are not permitted under
- 17 our statute.
- 18 A little later on in the case the
- 19 court talks about Section 393.270.4, and it talks
- 20 about all relevant factors. And a little later on
- 21 the court says this: The court has interpreted
- 22 that provision in a case addressing the method of
- 23 valuation of property in determining the utility's
- 24 proper rate of return. Quote -- this is a quote
- 25 within the quote -- the phrase among other things

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- 1 clearly denotes that the proper determination of
- 2 such charges is based upon all relevant factors.
- 3 So do we, the MIEC, think this is
- 4 retroactive ratemaking? Yes, we do. Do we also
- 5 contend that no one has offered to you a relevant
- 6 forward-looking factor that would justify charging
- 7 ratepayers \$35 million more in the cost to serve
- 8 them?
- 9 Commissioner Rupp, to your question,
- 10 you asked about risk on capital. We talk about
- 11 Factor N in the FAC clause. If this happens again,
- 12 there's no risk to Ameren. That's covered. So it
- 13 shouldn't affect the ability to attract capital.
- 14 It also shows there is no relevant factor for you
- 15 to consider going forward to include this cost.
- And Commissioner Hall, you asked
- 17 questions about the status of sort of the Court of
- 18 Appeals decision. OPC and the MIEC filed a motion
- 19 for rehearing a number of weeks ago, and we haven't
- 20 heard on it yet, and we do intend, if they deny
- 21 that motion, to take the matter to the Missouri
- 22 Supreme Court for two reasons.
- One, the Court of Appeals really
- 24 didn't answer the question in the case, in my
- 25 opinion. And No. 2, in its answer to the question,

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- 1 it cited one of this Commission's decisions, and it
- 2 totally misunderstood what this Commission said.
- 3 And I believe that was the Joplin tornado case.
- 4 So we really -- unlike just your
- 5 standard motion for rehearing or transferring, I
- 6 think there's some substance here, and I think the
- 7 Court of Appeals is probably looking at it now.
- 8 Having said that, I agree with OPC
- 9 that the issue before you is ratemaking, and you
- 10 made it very clear in the AAO decision, and I cited
- 11 that in the earlier slides presented this morning,
- 12 that just because you granted the AAO, you didn't
- 13 agree that you would grant rate relief.
- 14 Any questions?
- 15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just a quick
- 16 question, because I'm a little confused. If it's
- 17 your position that if we grant recovery of the
- 18 deferred amount, that it would amount to
- 19 retroactive ratemaking, right?
- MR. DOWNEY: Correct.
- 21 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: How is -- how is
- 22 any AAO not retroactive ratemaking then? Because
- 23 it's essentially bringing into the current rate
- 24 case items of expense that occurred in the past or
- 25 that were recorded outside of the test year. So by

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- 1 definition, how is any AAO not retroactive
- 2 ratemaking?
- MR. DOWNEY: Well, as you may know,
- 4 the MIEC takes the position that these deferrals
- 5 are enabling retroactive ratemaking, and they're
- 6 also single-issue ratemaking, and in both respects
- 7 violate UCCM.
- 8 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: So that's
- 9 consistent then. Your position then is all AAOs,
- 10 all deferrals, all such outside-of-the-rate-case
- 11 deferrals that are brought forward outside of the
- 12 test year are illegal under UCCM?
- MR. DOWNEY: That is correct.
- 14 However, I do believe you're past that issue here
- 15 and you're looking at ratemaking, and I think the
- 16 main argument we're making here is you need to
- 17 consider all relevant factors. And I can't think
- 18 of a relevant factor that would allow you to set
- 19 rates 35 million or whatever the amount is higher
- 20 than we know the costs are likely to be to serve
- 21 tomorrow's ratepayers.
- 22 This ice storm occurred. There's no
- 23 evidence in this record it's going to occur again,
- 24 certainly any time soon. If it does, you've got
- 25 this Factor N in the FAC that would protect Ameren

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- 1 Missouri.
- 2 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. I mean, I'm
- 3 not sure that the case law supports that notion,
- 4 because there's case that says that we can use
- 5 accounting authority orders and that they are
- 6 appropriate. I think as Mr. Thompson pointed out,
- 7 they are to be used sparingly because they are
- 8 bringing forward items that occurred outside the
- 9 test year, but there's good policy rationale for
- 10 doing that.
- 11 So I'm not sure that -- I'm not even
- 12 sure that the UCCM case says that all AAOs are
- 13 completely illegal. Maybe I need to reread the
- 14 case.
- 15 MR. DOWNEY: I think where -- I think
- 16 the UCCM case is clear. What is -- what we
- disagree on is when is something single-issue
- 18 ratemaking, when is something retroactive
- 19 ratemaking, and I'm not going to represent to this
- 20 Commission that the Court of Appeals has adopted
- 21 our position in all the appeals.
- 22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Okay. Fair enough.
- MR. DOWNEY: And there will be that
- 24 case where this issue makes it to the Missouri
- 25 Supreme Court and maybe we'll have closure.

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1	CHAIRMAN KENNEY: All right. Thank	
2	you.	
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll?	
4	COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.	
5	Thank you.	
6	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney?	
7	COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No, thank	
8	you.	
9	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall?	
10	COMMISSIONER HALL: Yes. It's my	
11	opinion that AAOs are legal and appropriate in	
12	specific narrow circumstances, and I believe I	
13	agree with the Chairman that I think the case law	
14	supports that.	
15	Is there any way for you to	
16	distinguish the deferral before us from your	
17	run-of-the-mill AAO that at least I think a	
18	majority of the members of this Commission believe	
19	is appropriate in certain circumstances?	
20	MR. DOWNEY: I think no one has	
21	offered a relevant factor for inclusion of the	
22	amount in this AAO in rates going forward.	
23	COMMISSIONER HALL: What do you	
24	believe relevant factors would look like?	
25	MR. DOWNEY: Well, there are a lot of	

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- 1 them. This morning I indicated that I think you
- 2 should look at earnings at the time the amounts
- 3 were deferred. I also think you need to look at
- 4 the issue of, you know, is the issue likely to
- 5 occur, basically what Mr. Thompson said, when you
- 6 set prospective rates. So if we had an ice storm
- 7 every year year, it certainly would be reasonable,
- 8 I suppose, for you to say we want to build
- 9 something into rates to cover that.
- 10 COMMISSIONER HALL: I guess I'm
- 11 confused by that. When you say Mr. Thompson says
- 12 that, we're not -- we wouldn't -- we didn't
- 13 normalize it. We amortized it. If we thought it
- 14 was going to happen every five years, we would have
- 15 normalized it. But we thought it was a rare event,
- 16 not likely to reoccur, and that's actually required
- 17 under the standard for setting an AAO, that it has
- 18 to be infrequent, rare, not likely to occur again
- 19 frequently, infrequent I think is the word.
- 20 So why -- why should we take that
- 21 into account at all, the likelihood that it's --
- 22 whether it's going to occur or not for ratemaking
- 23 purposes?
- 24 MR. DOWNEY: Well, I'm going to stick
- 25 with my reading of the UCCM case. I believe it

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- 1 compels it, and I believe -- unfortunately, I think
- 2 I'm going -- we're going to have to agree to
- 3 disagree on that.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HALL: All right. Thank
- 5 you.
- 6 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: May I inquire a
- 7 little further? I mean, is one difference perhaps
- 8 with this AAO that it wasn't to recover costs
- 9 associated with repairing wires or putting new
- 10 poles in the ground, and I think Mr. Thompson may
- 11 have touched upon this, that the AAO that we
- 12 granted or the different treatment that we allowed
- 13 with respect to Joplin's tornado was to replace
- 14 actual infrastructure. There was no actual
- 15 infrastructure replaced with these dollars that
- 16 Ameren is attempting to recover. This was just
- 17 lost revenues.
- 18 Is that in your mind a distinction
- 19 between an AAO for this purpose versus an
- 20 appropriate AAO for, say, the Joplin storm?
- 21 MR. DOWNEY: That was the issue in
- 22 the Court of Appeals, and that's the issue still
- 23 pending in the Court of Appeals.
- 24 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: And the Court of
- 25 Appeals didn't answer that to your mind?

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- 1 MR. DOWNEY: Correct. That's what we
- 2 state in our motion for rehearing. The question
- 3 under the accounting standards, Uniform System Of
- 4 accounts, is was there a charge resulting from an
- 5 extraordinary item, an extraordinary event? And
- 6 certainly if --
- 7 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: The event was
- 8 extraordinary, but the charges were not related to
- 9 that event.
- 10 MR. DOWNEY: Correct. What Ameren
- 11 Missouri identified in that case was its ordinary,
- 12 regular costs to provide service that were already
- 13 built into rates. What it identified was it didn't
- 14 sell as many units of power as it planned to its
- 15 load and had to sell them off-system, and so its
- 16 revenues were down. But it really never identified
- in my mind a charge. I realize that the Commission
- 18 concluded otherwise, and that's the issue before
- 19 the Court of Appeals.
- 20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I got you. Thank
- 21 you.
- 22 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Judge.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes, sir.
- 24 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Just on that
- 25 same topic, has this Commission in the past

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- 1 differentiated between different AAOs and said,
- 2 well, this AAO can go forward and this AAO cannot
- 3 go forward, cannot be included.
- 4 MR. DOWNEY: I'm going to give you
- 5 the same answer Mr. Thompson did. I don't know. I
- 6 have not researched all the cases.
- 7 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: I mean, I'm
- 8 sure there's some people here that probably know,
- 9 that if an AAO -- I mean, do we say, well, we
- 10 don't -- I can understand the Commission making a
- 11 decision we're not going to allow that AAO or we're
- 12 just making that decision, but I don't know that --
- 13 I mean, I would like to see where in the past
- 14 history that the Commission has differentiated
- 15 between one versus another and say, well, this one
- 16 fits, this one doesn't fit. I would think if it's
- 17 an AAO, it's an AAO. Maybe you like it or not.
- 18 We'll make that decision down the road.
- MR. DOWNEY: I understand. I had
- 20 some slides in the opening statement that I
- 21 presented this morning that include some language
- 22 from some of your decisions about the types of
- 23 things you should look at.
- 24 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Yeah, but
- 25 they were the types of things we should look at

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- 1 that go into an AAO. We've already made that
- 2 decision. Now, you appealed it, and the courts
- 3 concurred with us the first time. They may take it
- 4 back up or not. You're going to go further with
- 5 it. I understand that.
- 6 But what you were telling -- what I
- 7 thought you were in your slides this morning was
- 8 telling us what we should look at in those
- 9 situations, not -- what we've already done is what
- 10 we've already done. It's past.
- 11 MR. DOWNEY: If I gave that
- 12 impression, I didn't mean to. I believe those
- 13 slides address the recovery issue. I believe on
- 14 all the amortization issues we had this morning, I
- 15 believe those all have AAOs or deferrals already
- 16 allowed, and the question there is similar to the
- 17 one here, which is do we allow recovery of costs in
- 18 rates for future ratepayers. So I --
- 19 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Yeah, but
- 20 this morning it was more, yeah, the -- someone said
- 21 about tomorrow's ratepayers paying for -- or
- 22 yesterday's ratepayers paying for tomorrow's,
- 23 however. Now you made me forget what I was going
- 24 to say.
- MR. DOWNEY: It's close to

Page 701 dinnertime. We're all thinking hamburgers and 2 cheeseburgers. 3 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: I mean, this morning we were talking more about that was -- if I 4 5 remember right, your defense was the overearnings issues, so they'd already earned those -- they'd 6 7 already recovered those expenses or those expenses; 8 isn't that right? MR. DOWNEY: The cases first of all I 9 think address the issue that we're dealing with 10 this afternoon, which is recovery. Unfortunately, 11 12 I don't have numbered slides here, but there's one that cites --13 14 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: This one 15 right here (indicating)? 16 MR. DOWNEY: Yes. And the point I 17 was making this morning is, there are relevant factors that you're supposed to consider. You're 18 supposed to consider all relevant factors, and 19 overearnings during the period of the deferral is a 20 21 relevant factor. We're making essentially the same 22 23 argument here, and that is you need to consider all 24 relevant factors, and what is the relevant factor that tells you tomorrow's ratepayers need to pay 25

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- 1 this extra amount in order to provide service to
- 2 them?
- 3 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: So you'd
- 4 also argue the same thing as the overearnings one
- 5 on this one also, correct?
- 6 MR. DOWNEY: No. I don't think -- I
- 7 don't think our testimony in this case says that
- 8 Ameren was overearning during the period when it
- 9 did not recover these revenues.
- 10 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Okay. Do
- 11 you agree that this is the time for us to review
- 12 this, to look at this? Because when we made the
- 13 decision it was the first time that we had that
- 14 before us. I mean, the Commission had already
- 15 denied them one time. It went to the courts, came
- 16 back, and then we made that decision. No one's
- 17 asked that question yet. Do you think it was
- 18 improper for us to put that -- to allow them to
- 19 send that to an AAO at that time, just at that
- 20 time?
- 21 MR. DOWNEY: Are we talking about the
- 22 ice storm issue?
- 23 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Yeah. At
- 24 that time we did. Not the event, whether or not we
- 25 were right -- I know you don't think we should have

Page 703 put it in an AAO, but was that the right timing for 2 us to take that issue up? 3 MR. DOWNEY: Absolutely. COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Thank you. 4 5 MR. DOWNEY: The issue before you then was should you grant the AAO, and you made it 6 7 clear when you granted it that there will be the 8 next step. As I indicated in my second to last slide, this is the next step. 10 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Okay. Thank 11 you. 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you. MR. DOWNEY: Thank you. 13 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It's now five 'til 15 ten -- ten 'til five. Is there any reason we should not take up these witnesses tomorrow? I 16 17 think they're all going to be back tomorrow anyway. 18 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Reed is not going to be back, has a flight that leaves -- supposed to 19 leave this evening, but he cancelled it. Would it 20 21 be possible to at least take him up? 22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We can do that, if that's okay with everybody. Let's bring up 23 Mr. Reed then. 2.4 25 MR. MITTEN: Call John Reed to the

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- 1 stand, please. Judge, I think there was some
- 2 confusion because there is a footnote on the order
- 3 of witnesses that indicates he'll only take the
- 4 stand once. I think that was misstated in the --
- 5 in the Order, and we intend to bring back Mr. Reed.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, then,
- 7 Mr. Reed, you're still under oath.
- 8 MR. MITTEN: And we offer him for
- 9 cross-examination.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then beginning with
- 11 Consumers Council?
- MR. COFFMAN: Yeah. Maybe.
- 13 JOHN REED testified as follows:
- 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COFFMAN:
- 15 Q. Let me ask you this: Can I go back
- 16 to the original set of circumstances that led to
- 17 this AAO? Is it not true that this came out of a
- 18 fuel -- fuel adjustment clause and, in fact, the
- 19 very first instance that Ameren Missouri had been
- 20 allowed a fuel adjustment clause for about 30
- 21 years, and the fuel adjustment clause had just been
- 22 granted when this ice storm that led to the lost
- 23 fixed costs, or do you have information about that,
- 24 the fuel adjustment clause interaction with this
- 25 issue?

Page 705 A. I have some information about the 1 2 fuel adjustment clause's interaction. I cannot 3 verify the timing of the establishment of the fuel adjustment clause and whether it was just before 4 5 this case. 6 MR. COFFMAN: Okay. That's all I 7 have. 8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Then for 9 OPC? 10 MR. OPITZ: No questions, your Honor. 11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: MIEC? 12 MR. DOWNEY: No questions. 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Staff? 14 MR. THOMPSON: No questions. Thank you, Judge. 15 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Questions from the Bench. Chairman. 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions. 18 19 Thank you. 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll? 21 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no 22 questions either. 23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Commissioner Kenney? 24 25 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No

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1	questions. Thank you.	
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall?	
3	COMMISSIONER HALL: I have no	
4	questions either.	
5	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?	
6	COMMISSIONER RUPP: No questions.	
7	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then there's no need	
8	for recross based on questions from the Bench. Any	
9	redirect?	
10	MR. MITTEN: No redirect, your Honor,	
11	and since no redirect.	
12	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then you can step	
13	down and you can catch your flight.	
14	(Witness excused.)	
15	JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Do we	
16	expect more cross-examination of the other	
17	witnesses?	
18	MR. LOWERY: I was going to suggest,	
19	Judge, we might want to ask folks. I'm not at all	
20	sure there's really much cross. I could be wrong.	
21	Mr. Downey and others will tell me, but my sense is	
22	we can finish this issue in fairly short order.	
23	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's push on then.	
24	Bring up Ms. Barnes.	
25	(AMERENUE EXHIBIT NOS. 2, 3 AND 4	

Page 707 WERE MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 2 (Witness sworn.) 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may enquire. LYNN BARNES testified as follows: 4 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MITTEN: 6 Will you please state your name and Q. 7 business address for the record. Lynn Barnes, 190 -- Ameren Missouri 8 is my employer, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, 10 Missouri 63103. 11 Q. What is your current position with 12 Ameren Missouri? 13 Α. I'm vice president of business planning and controller for Ameren Missouri. 14 15 Ms. Barnes, did you write and cause Q. to be filed in this case direct testimony which has 16 17 been identified as Exhibit 2, rebuttal testimony that's been identified as Exhibit 3 and surrebuttal 18 19 testimony that's been identified as Exhibit 4? 20 A. Yes. 21 Was that prepared by you? Q. 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Do you have any changes or 24 corrections to any of the exhibits I just 25 identified?

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- 1 A. I do have two minor corrections. In
- 2 the rebuttal testimony, on page 21, line 3, there's
- 3 a parenthetical comment that says, reflected in
- 4 factors F, C and P in the FAC tariff. The P needs
- 5 to be PP.
- And then in my surrebuttal testimony
- 7 on page 17, line 20, the sentence reads as --
- 8 reads, as I described in my direct testimony. It
- 9 needs to say my rebuttal testimony. Those are the
- 10 only corrections.
- 11 Q. Ms. Barnes, with those corrections,
- 12 if I asked you the questions that are in your
- 13 direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimonies today,
- 14 would your answers be the same as reflected in
- 15 those filed documents?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. And is the information contained in
- 18 those answers true and correct to the best of your
- 19 knowledge?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 MR. MITTEN: I have no further
- 22 questions for Ms. Barnes. I would offer
- 23 Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 into evidence and tender the
- 24 witness for cross-examination.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: And I believe

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- 1 Ms. Barnes will be back again tomorrow. So we'll
- 2 defer ruling on the admission of those documents
- 3 until then.
- 4 MR. LOWERY: And one slight
- 5 amendment, your Honor. She will be back for the
- 6 fuel adjustment clause issue. The issues list is
- 7 incorrect. She's not the witness on vegetation and
- 8 infrastructure issue. Laura Moore is.
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Then for
- 10 cross-examination we'll begin with Consumers
- 11 Council?
- MR. COFFMAN: Thank you.
- 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COFFMAN:
- Q. Good afternoon.
- 15 A. Good afternoon. Hi.
- 16 Q. You and I have had debates over the
- 17 fuel adjustment clause quite a bit over the years?
- 18 A. I'm sure we will again. Looking
- 19 forward to it.
- 20 Q. And so you do -- I assume you recall
- 21 the various debates that led up to the initial fuel
- 22 adjustment clause in 2008 being granted by the
- 23 Commission?
- 24 A. Yeah. I wasn't the witness for that
- one, but I have been for all of the ones since.

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- Q. Were you employed by Ameren at that
- 2 time --
- 3 A. Yes, I was. I just wasn't the
- 4 witness.
- 5 Q. -- following the proceedings?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. So you were -- you recall the
- 8 Commission first in the first request denied Ameren
- 9 Missouri a fuel adjustment clause, but in the
- 10 subsequent, I think it was the 2008 case, did grant
- 11 a fuel adjustment clause in that case?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And at the inception of this new fuel
- 14 adjustment clause mechanism, how long after the
- 15 inception of it did the ice storm occur that led to
- 16 the dispute we're all talking about?
- 17 A. Yeah. The date is within days. I
- 18 think we got the order, and a day or two later was
- 19 when the ice storm hit.
- 20 Q. And isn't it fair that in the months
- 21 and years leading up to that first decision
- 22 allowing Ameren Missouri to have a fuel adjustment
- 23 clause, that one of the main policy arguments
- 24 advanced by Ameren Missouri was that the fuel
- adjustment clause would be fair to consumers

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- because it could go up or could go down, and that
- 2 the actual cost and experience of fuel costs less
- 3 off-system sales would be fairly recognized?
- 4 A. I do believe that that's the reason
- 5 for the FAC. I still believe that's the reason. I
- do not believe that the fuel adjustment clause
- 7 contemplated the extraordinary event that occurred
- 8 when that ice storm hit and knocked out our largest
- 9 customer for 14 months.
- 10 Q. But that was the actual experience,
- 11 was it not?
- 12 A. Yes, it was, ironically, and that's
- 13 why we asked for an AAO after trying many different
- 14 other ways to recover that cost, or to recover that
- 15 revenue, whatever you want to call it.
- 16 Q. Can you see from my perspective that
- it might seem somewhat asymmetrical and unfair?
- 18 A. Actually, again, for a normalized
- 19 operation, I would see your point. However, I
- 20 think this was a very extreme case. Our very
- 21 largest customer representing over 10 percent of
- 22 our revenues is out of power because of an ice
- 23 storm. I don't think any regulatory structure at
- 24 the time would have contemplated that happening or
- 25 that the mitigation attempts that we tried, and we

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- 1 tried several, would -- would result in where we
- 2 are today.
- 3 Q. If for some reason there was a global
- 4 event or some dramatic change in energy prices
- 5 that, say, caused your fuel prices to increase
- 6 tenfold, what would Ameren think if Consumers
- 7 Council asked that there be a waiver from that
- 8 particular price spike because it wasn't
- 9 anticipated?
- 10 A. I can't speculate on what we would or
- 11 wouldn't do in that hypothetical situation. All I
- 12 can talk about is the extraordinary event that
- 13 occurred that led to the request for the AAO that
- 14 we're talking about today.
- MR. COFFMAN: That's all I have.
- 16 Thanks.
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel?
- MR. OPITZ: Just a few, Judge.
- 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. OPITZ:
- Q. Good evening, Ms. Barnes.
- A. Good evening.
- 22 Q. I think you may have mentioned it in
- 23 a roundabout way to one of Mr. Coffman's questions,
- 24 but prior to the ice storm which occurred in 2009,
- 25 there was a rate case, correct?

Page 713 1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And when did those rates from that 3 case became effective? A. In early March is my recollection. 4 5 Again, I wasn't the witness on that case, so I don't recall the exact date. 7 Q. In March of? A. 2009. 8 Q. Thank you. 10 A. Uh-huh. 11 And when setting those rates, did the Q. 12 Commission consider the company's revenue 13 requirement? 14 Α. I presume so. Again, I wasn't a witness in that case. 15 16 Normally are fixed costs included in Q. 17 the revenue requirement of a company's rates? Yes, they are, and so are billing 18 Α. 19 determinants. 20 And what was the time period, if you Q. 21 know exactly, in which the deferred amount was either not recovered or lost revenue? 22 23 I believe the period where Noranda 24 was not at full load was approximately 14 months 25 between February 2009 and April of 2010.

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- 1 O. And the so-called fixed costs that
- were deferred, were those included in the revenue
- 3 requirement in that 2008 case?
- 4 A. They were -- the costs that were
- 5 allocated based on the rate design, using the
- 6 billing units -- the billing determinants, assuming
- 7 a fuel load for Noranda that were assigned to that
- 8 rate class, and Noranda is the only customer in
- 9 that rate class.
- 10 Q. So those fixed costs were included in
- 11 revenue requirement then?
- 12 A. Sure.
- 13 Q. And that amount that has been
- 14 deferred doesn't include anything additional that
- 15 Ameren Missouri spent as a result of the ice storm,
- 16 does it?
- 17 A. No, it does not.
- 18 Q. So you just didn't recover as much
- 19 revenue as you expected, correct?
- 20 A. So what we didn't recover, what we're
- 21 requesting is the shortfall as a result of the
- 22 billing rate design assuming a full load for
- 23 Noranda and not having a full load for 14 months.
- 24 And the fact that it's the largest customer that we
- 25 have and that it had such a significant impact on

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- 1 our financial statements made it an extraordinary
- 2 event, as I believe you-all concluded when you
- 3 granted the AAO.
- 4 Q. Ms. Barnes, so in other words, you
- 5 didn't recover the revenues that you had hoped?
- 6 A. Well, since we -- customers pay for
- 7 service and that's coming from rates, that's how we
- 8 record it as revenues.
- 9 Q. But during that time Noranda was not
- 10 taking the service that you were expecting?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. And so I guess the amount that was
- deferred is revenues that the company didn't earn?
- 14 A. It wasn't the total revenues. It's
- 15 just the portion that relates to the costs that
- 16 were allocated. We would have had a higher number
- 17 of revenues if Noranda would have been at full load
- 18 during that time frame.
- 19 Q. Had they purchased that energy, would
- 20 they have recovered those costs?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Thank you. On page 68 of your
- 23 rebuttal testimony, beginning at line 9 --
- A. Uh-huh.
- 25 Q. -- you list a number of grounds that

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- 1 you believe would be proper for opposing recovery
- of the deferred costs, correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And is that list exhaustive?
- 5 A. To not rehash the AAO, this is the
- 6 list that I believe would be present in determining
- 7 recovery of that AAO.
- 8 Q. And are you an attorney, Ms. Barnes?
- 9 A. No, I'm not.
- 10 Q. Still in your rebuttal on page 68,
- 11 line 14, you testify that the parties have not
- 12 shown that the deferred amount was improperly
- 13 calculated or that the loss was attributable to any
- improper actions by the company?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. And is it your testimony that -- that
- 17 the company only -- companies only experience
- 18 losses when there are improper actions taken?
- 19 A. My testimony is that we had an
- 20 extraordinary event that we requested an AAO from
- 21 this Commission. The AAO was granted by this
- 22 Commission, and now we're following the process and
- 23 requesting recovery of that AAO.
- Q. Ms. Barnes, on that particular
- 25 portion of your testimony that I mentioned, does

Page 717 the company only experience losses when there are 2 improper actions taken? 3 Α. No, but --MR. OPITZ: Thank you. Thank you. 4 5 That's all the questions I have. 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For MIEC? 7 MR. DOWNEY: No questions. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Then for 8 Staff? 9 10 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 11 12 Q. Good evening, Ms. Barnes. 13 Α. Good evening. 14 Q. How many times have you testified? 15 A. I don't know. A lot. 16 Q. You seem practiced. 17 A. Not lately. But, yes, thanks to 18 you-all. 19 Q. You're familiar with Ameren 20 Missouri's fuel adjustment clause? 21 Α. Since I'm the witness, I think yes, I have to answer yes to that question. 22 23 Q. I'm happy to hear that. So are you 24 familiar with Factor N in Ameren's fuel adjustment 25 clause?

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- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. What would happen if the ice storm
- 3 occurred tonight?
- 4 A. The way Factor N works is, if the ice
- 5 storm were to occur tonight and we had a loss of
- 6 load in Noranda of a certain level, and I forget
- 7 the exact level but it's not just any loss, it's a
- 8 significant loss, that we would be able to retain
- 9 the revenues from the off-system sales relating to
- 10 the generation that was not delivered to Noranda up
- 11 to the point where we would be made whole for that
- 12 loss, and then any excess revenues, and it's
- 13 revenues, not sales, so any excess revenues beyond
- 14 that that we made using that same generation would
- 15 go back to the customers through the FAC.
- 16 Q. So you would agree with me, would you
- 17 not, that in the future an ice storm of the sort
- 18 that struck in the past would not present the same
- sort of problem to the company?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Now, the revenue you did not receive
- 22 was supposed to come from Noranda in exchange for
- 23 sales, correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And you were unable to make those

Page 719

- sales because of the storm, correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Why have you not sought the revenues
- 4 from Noranda?
- 5 A. I don't believe the regulatory
- 6 process allows me to do that. I'm not familiar
- 7 with the provision that would allow me to back bill
- 8 Noranda for that.
- 9 Q. Have you been involved in any of the
- 10 Noranda-centered complaint cases that have been
- 11 heard in front of this Commission over the past
- 12 year?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And you would agree with me that
- 15 Ameren Missouri has expressed that its purpose in
- 16 opposing Noranda's attempt to seek special
- 17 treatment from the PSC is because it would be
- 18 unfair to other customers?
- 19 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 20 Q. But there's nothing unfair to other
- 21 customers about seeking recovery of these lost
- 22 revenues, I guess?
- 23 A. These are an extraordinary cost that
- 24 were granted through an AAO, and the process of how
- 25 AAOs are recovered would be to share that cost with

Page 720

- 1 all customers.
- Q. So do you view all the other
- 3 customers as insurers of Ameren's contract with
- 4 Noranda?
- 5 A. No, I don't think that's what we're
- 6 talking about here. I think if you think about
- 7 AAOs in general, and we tend to like to use ice
- 8 storms as examples, and I'd say that's probably the
- 9 prevalent practice when AAOs have been granted in
- 10 the past.
- 11 You know, a storm cost may occur in a
- 12 particular part of our service territory, but the
- 13 costs that are then incurred to restore that are
- 14 then run through an AAO get shared with all the
- 15 customers. So I don't think this is any different
- 16 than that situation.
- 17 Q. Thank you for bringing up storm
- 18 costs. There have been some spectacularly damaging
- 19 storms in St. Louis in the past several years;
- 20 isn't that correct?
- 21 A. I'm not sure which ones you're
- 22 speaking of.
- Q. Well, not recently, but on the
- 24 ten-year horizon wouldn't you agree there were at
- 25 least two unusually destructive storms in

Page 721

- 1 St. Louis?
- 2 A. Probably at least two. I live there.
- 3 I might recall something there.
- 4 Q. Well, do you or don't you?
- 5 A. Well, I'm not sure what you're
- 6 talking about spectacular, what your definition of
- 7 spectacular storms are. It rains and we have
- 8 lightning and ice and snow there, just like here.
- 9 Q. That's fair enough. I'm being vague,
- 10 and I apologize. Let me be more precise. As far
- 11 as you know, have there ever been storms in
- 12 St. Louis in which thousands of customers have lost
- 13 service as a result of the storm events?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And have there ever been storm events
- in St. Louis where several days were necessary for
- 17 service to be restored to all of Ameren's
- 18 customers?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And if you know, did Ameren consider
- those storm events to be extraordinary?
- 22 A. I believe we have an AAO or we did
- 23 have an AAO that we received after a storm in
- 24 January of 2007 that occurred in the southeast part
- of our service territory, and we were granted that

Page 722

- 1 AAO and I believe we recovered that over a
- 2 five-year period.
- 3 Q. Would you agree with me that public
- 4 policy supports ensuring that the company restore
- 5 service to customers as quickly as possible
- 6 following a major storm event?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. If you know, has Ameren Missouri ever
- 9 failed to recover any money that it has expended in
- 10 major storm restoration?
- 11 A. I couldn't say that with 100 percent
- 12 certainty.
- 13 Q. Thank you. Now, turning to this AAO
- 14 on page -- in your rebuttal testimony, in the first
- 15 question, you're asked to explain the circumstances
- surrounding the storm AAO, correct?
- 17 A. I just want to make sure.
- 18 Q. The ice storm AAO?
- 19 A. Sorry. You're talking about starting
- 20 on page 60?
- 21 Q. That would be on page 60.
- 22 A. Okay. Yes, that is in my testimony.
- Q. Okay. And at the top of page 61, you
- 24 say, do you not, as an additional consequence,
- 25 Ameren Missouri was unable to recover almost

Page 723

- 1 \$36 million of fixed costs that the Commission had
- 2 allocated to Noranda in a final rate case order
- 3 issued just days before the ice storm struck and
- 4 which would have been recovered from Noranda in the
- 5 absence of the ice storm?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7
 Q. That is your testimony?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And that is the amount that this AAO
- 10 concerns?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And that is what you're seeking
- 13 recovery of today?
- 14 A. I'm seeking recovery of the AAO that
- 15 was granted in November of 2013 for the
- 16 extraordinary event that occurred and that the
- 17 Commission determined was extraordinary by granting
- 18 the AAO.
- 19 Q. And is that the same one you're
- 20 talking about in the language you just read from
- 21 the top of page 61 of your rebuttal testimony?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Thank you. Later on that page you
- 24 state, in other words, only 5 percent of the
- 25 margins from those sales could be used to offset

Page 724

- 1 the company's lost fixed costs. Upon receiving
- 2 that decision in July 2011, Ameren Missouri
- 3 promptly filed its application for an AAO to allow
- 4 the company to defer its unrecovered fixed costs
- 5 and to permit it to seek recovery of those costs in
- 6 its next rate case; is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Thank you. On page 60 -- later on
- page 61, you ask yourself the question of whether
- 10 other parties were supportive of your AAO
- 11 application, correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And in fact, they were not; isn't
- 14 that true?
- 15 A. Yes. That's painfully evident today.
- 16 Q. On page 62, close to the top of the
- page, you testify Ameren Missouri pointed out the
- 18 total ungenerated revenues resulting from Noranda's
- 19 curtailment were much higher than the unrecovered
- 20 fixed costs the Commission assigned to Noranda's
- 21 rate class and which the company sought to defer.
- 22 Do you see that?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. So am I correct in understanding that
- 25 the actual amount of revenue that you lost because

Page 725

- 1 of the ice storm was much more than the amount
- you're seeking to recover today?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Before I go any
- 5 further and lose it, may I approach, your Honor?
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may.
- 7 BY MR. THOMPSON:
- 8 Q. Let me show you something, and I'll
- 9 ask you if you can identify that.
- 10 A. It is data request response to MPS
- 11 Data Request 0166.
- 12 Q. And were you involved in preparing
- 13 that data request response?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. So you're familiar with that?
- A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. Could you look through it and make
- 18 sure that all of it is what you prepared or are
- 19 familiar with?
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Okay. And that is the data request,
- 22 is it not, that Mr. Opitz was referring to in his
- 23 opening statement?
- A. I believe so, yes.
- MR. THOMPSON: Okay. What's our next

Page 726 exhibit number, Judge? 2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: 244. 3 MR. THOMPSON: I'm happy to report the elves have provided copies. 4 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And this is listed 6 as highly confidential. 7 MR. THOMPSON: This is highly confidential. This would be Staff's 8 Exhibit 244HC. And I'm only going to -- some of you guys probably want copies, right? 10 I will move the admission of Staff 11 Exhibit 244HC. 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: 244HC has been 13 offered. Any objection? 14 15 Hearing no objection, it will be 16 received. (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 244HC WAS RECEIVED 17 18 INTO EVIDENCE.) 19 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. BY MR. THOMPSON: 20 21 Q. Now, I'm still looking at your testimony, Ms. Barnes. 22 A. Uh-huh. 23 Q. I'm looking at the top of page 68. I 24 guess the bottom of page 67, the top of page 68, 25

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- where you state, and correct me if I read this
- wrongly, the relevant consideration, as the
- 3 Commission recognized when it granted the AAO, is
- 4 that Ameren Missouri was unable to recover these
- 5 costs due to the extraordinary impact of the 2009
- 6 ice storm.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Is that correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Thompson, can I
- 12 ask a question about this exhibit?
- MR. THOMPSON: Yes.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: There's a number of
- 15 pages that are blacked out. Is that intentional?
- MR. THOMPSON: That's how the
- 17 response came to us from Ameren Missouri.
- 18 THE WITNESS: I can explain that.
- 19 Essentially that memo that is used there was a memo
- 20 for all of the Ameren companies, and so the
- 21 redacted portions are ones that do not relate to
- 22 Ameren Missouri. They are issues that relate to
- 23 the other segments of Ameren.
- MR. THOMPSON: Thank you for that
- 25 explanation.

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- 1 BY MR. THOMPSON:
- 2 Q. Now, you say several times in your
- 3 testimony that you are not an attorney; isn't that
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. And yet you do state some legal
- 7 opinions in your testimony, do you not?
- 8 A. I believe I always preface that with
- 9 on advice of counsel.
- 10 Q. Okay. But nonetheless, there they
- 11 are?
- 12 A. There they are.
- 13 Q. Okay. Let me just go to the very
- 14 last part of your relevant testimony in your
- 15 surrebuttal. This would be on page 19 at the top.
- 16 You testify, indeed, the Commission's order in the
- 17 AAO case itself found as a matter of fact that the
- 18 approximately \$35 million that was deferred under
- 19 the authority of the AAO were, quote, unrecovered
- 20 fixed costs attributed to serving Noranda,
- 21 ellipses, closed quote; isn't that correct?
- 22 A. Yes.
- MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much.
- 24 I have no further testimony -- or questions. I
- 25 guess I was testifying.

Page 729 1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Freudian slip. 2 Mr. Chairman, any questions? 3 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just a few. QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY: 4 5 Q. Ms. Barnes, how are you? Α. I'm good. How are you? 7 I'm doing well, thanks. Q. So I want to ask about the 8 Α. characterization of these lost revenues as 10 unrecovered fixed costs. 11 Α. Okay. 12 Q. I heard somebody earlier say, and I think maybe you said, ratepayers don't pay costs, 13 14 they pay for service. 15 Α. Correct. 16 Q. How do you square that statement with 17 characterizing the \$35 million as unrecovered fixed costs if ratepayers don't pay costs, they pay for 18 19 service? A. So I think the way to think about 20 21 this -- and I'm not a rate design expert, so bear with me here, but the way we determine rates are a 22 combination of taking whatever we determine the 23 24 revenue requirement is and then allocating that to the customer classes. And by doing that, there is 25

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- 1 also an assumption that there is a particular
- 2 amount of load that each of those customer classes
- 3 is going to take.
- 4 And in a situation where -- say a
- 5 residential customer class, where there are
- 6 numerous customers, if one customer doesn't take
- 7 all the load that we expected, either another one
- 8 will or, you know, even if one takes zero, you
- 9 know, there's enough customers in that class, and
- 10 we as a company believe that we'll bear that risk.
- 11 We understand that.
- 12 I think the exception here and what
- 13 made this extraordinary was that in this case
- 14 you're allocating those costs to one customer in
- 15 that one customer class, and there was no means for
- 16 us to be able to recover those from another
- 17 customer when that customer didn't take the load.
- 18 And again, if it weren't so
- 19 significant, because it's Noranda and it's eight
- 20 and a half percent of our net income, then I don't
- 21 think we'd be talking about this. But because of
- 22 the unique structure and the unique fact pattern
- 23 around this being one large, very large customer in
- 24 a customer class with one customer where we
- 25 attempted to resell the power that we couldn't sell

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- 1 there and keep those revenues, and that was
- 2 determined to not be appropriate and we had to run
- 3 that through the FAC. That's fine. And I believe
- 4 in even those prudence review cases where that
- 5 decision was made, that there was a suggestion that
- 6 applying for an AAO may be the appropriate action,
- 7 which we then did very quickly after that decision
- 8 was made, and you granted that AAO.
- 9 And so, yeah, I think it's really
- 10 just the unique fact pattern of this and the
- 11 extraordinary nature of this that causes this to be
- 12 questioned and part of the AAO process.
- 13 Q. Now, I think maybe just even now you
- 14 referred to the money, the \$35 million variously as
- 15 revenues and fixed costs.
- 16 A. I guess the distinction I would make
- 17 there, as Mr. Thompson already testified with his
- 18 questions, had we sold this power to Noranda, we
- 19 would have had revenues in excess of the
- 20 \$36 million that we're asking for in this AAO.
- 21 This AAO is only the portion that we were unable to
- 22 recover from them based on the costs that were
- 23 allocated to that customer class.
- Q. Okay. It was the portion that was
- 25 not able to be recovered from Noranda that had been

Page 732 allocated to them? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. So let's go back to your original explanation about the process of ratemaking. 4 5 Α. Uh-huh. 6 I want to make sure we're thinking Ο. 7 about this the same way. Essentially we 8 established a revenue requirement? 9 Α. Yes. 10 Q. A bottom line of money? Yes. 11 Α. 12 Q. And then rates are designed to collect from the customer classes roughly their 13 14 cost to serve them? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. So that's how we design rates? 17 Α. Yeah. Again, I'm not a rate design expert. I do think we try to approximate that as 18 19 much as we can. 20 So each customer class's rates should Q. 21 roughly approximate its cost to serve that class? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. But once rates are set and the

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dollars begin to come in to the utility, they're

not segregated into specific accounts saying, these

24

25

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- 1 are the Ameren dollars, these are the Noranda
- dollars, these are revenue dollars and these all
- 3 fall in?
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. Once the money is coming in, it's all
- 6 revenue at that point, right?
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. Okay. So there's -- so you collected
- 9 money during the period of time that covered all of
- 10 your fixed costs, you just didn't collect the
- 11 \$35 million from Noranda specifically?
- 12 A. I'm not sure I'm following when you
- 13 say we collected all the money to cover our fixed
- 14 costs.
- 15 Q. Well, during the relevant time
- 16 period, were Ameren's fixed costs covered?
- 17 A. Again --
- 18 Q. During the 14 months when Noranda
- 19 wasn't taking service.
- 20 A. Right. We were collecting revenues
- 21 from our customers who were taking service from us.
- 22 We were not collecting from Noranda the amount,
- 23 the -- from a rate design perspective because they
- 24 weren't taking the load, so we weren't selling them
- 25 power. So there as a portion of those costs that

Page 734

- 1 were allocated to that customer class that we were
- 2 not receiving from anybody else. We couldn't
- 3 collect it from anybody else.
- 4 Q. Let me just ask a different question.
- 5 \$35 million that is in question --
- A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. The \$35 million that we're talking
- 8 about, was that to repair a transmission line or
- 9 some poles or anything that were damaged as a
- 10 result of the ice storm?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. You covered all those costs?
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. And you mentioned a major storm in
- 15 southeast Missouri for which you were granted an
- 16 **AAO?**
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. The AAO we granted for those costs
- 19 were specifically for costs that were associated
- 20 with repairing the wires and poles?
- 21 A. It was for the expense portion of
- 22 that. I mean, when we replace wires and poles, we
- 23 capitalize those expenditures and they go into rate
- 24 base. So it would have been for any O&M
- 25 expenditures that were over and above what would

Page 735 have been built into rates for that type of cost. 2 Specifically related, though, to Q. 3 repairing infrastructure? Α. 4 Yes. 5 As distinguished from this AAO, Q. 6 that's not money that's associated with the 7 repairing of infrastructure? That's right. But it --8 Α. 9 Q. Okay. That's good. Mr. Lowery may have follow-up questions to clarify. 10 11 No. Mr. Mitten. One of them. Α. CHAIRMAN KENNEY: One of them. So I 12 think that's all I have. Thank you. 13 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll? 15 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I have no 16 questions. Thank you. 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney? COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: No 18 19 questions. 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall? 21 COMMISSIONER HALL: Maybe just one. 22 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HALL: 23 What was the reduction in revenues Q. from Noranda that resulted from the 14 months of 24 being offline or partially offline? 25

Page 736 A. I don't know if that's highly 1 2 confidential or not. The revenues, the total 3 revenues? How can that possibly --4 Q. 5 MR. LOWERY: I don't think it is. THE WITNESS: Okay. Just checking. 7 MR. LOWERY: It's historical. THE WITNESS: It was about 8 \$58 million. BY COMMISSIONER HALL: 10 11 Q. Okay. And so whereby -- well, I 12 I have more questions. Okay. So as a 13 result of that reduction in the \$58 million, Ameren 14 tried to mitigate its losses by entering into two 15 contracts to sell that power? 16 A. That's correct.

- 17 O. And what was the revenue from those
- 18 two contracts?
- 19 A. My recollection was the revenue for
- 20 those two contracts was very close to the
- 21 36 million that we are requesting in this AAO. We
- 22 did not enter into contracts to recover the entire
- 23 58 million.
- Q. So those two contracts brought in
- 25 **36 million?**

		Pa	ge 737
1	Α.	Yeah, give or take. 36, 38.	
2	Q.	Well	
3	Α.	It was in the	
4	Q.	But then the company got to keep	
5	5 percent of	that?	
6	Α.	That's correct. Ultimately we did	
7	get to keep 5	percent.	
8	Q.	So 5 percent of the 36 or do we	
9	need to clari	fy that it was actually more or	
10	something?		
11	Α.	The 35 is the net of what we didn't	
12	recover.		
13		CHAIRMAN KENNEY: The 95 percent?	
14		THE WITNESS: Yeah.	
15	BY COMMISSION	JER HALL:	
16	Q.	95 percent of what?	
17	Α.	We already took out the 5 percent. I	
18	didn't double	e dip. I requested only what I was	
19	out.		
20		CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Sorry.	
21	BY COMMISSION	JER HALL:	
22	Q.	Okay. Well, Chairman? So what was	
23	the what w	was the contract amount with Wabash and	
24	XEP or		
25	Α.	It was AEP and Wabash, and I think	

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- 1 the total contract amounts -- I'd have to go back
- 2 and check testimony. I want to say it was closer
- 3 to \$42 million, and so we kept the 5 percent, and
- 4 then we requested the difference, the 95 percent.
- 5 Q. 95 percent of the 42?
- 6 A. Well, to complicate this, there was
- 7 another factor in the FAC and some rate case in
- 8 between there where we actually returned part of
- 9 those contracts back to customers.
- 10 Q. But what my understanding was, was
- 11 that the 36 million figure was a -- was what the
- 12 Commission allocated to Noranda in the last rate
- 13 case?
- 14 A. It was the portion of the costs that
- 15 we didn't recover from Noranda, because they were
- 16 taking some load. They just weren't taking load at
- 17 the same level that was assumed when rates were
- 18 set.
- 19 Q. What percentage were they taking?
- 20 A. I don't recall the exact percentage.
- 21 They had one potline running, so about one-third
- 22 might be the right way to think about that.
- 23 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp?
- 25 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No questions.

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- 1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I do have one
- 2 question.
- 3 OUESTIONS BY JUDGE WOODRUFF:
- 4 Q. The big ice storms down in the
- 5 bootheel in 2009, I think it was, that caused the
- 6 damage to Noranda, did Ameren obtain an AAO to
- 7 recover the expenses and so forth that weren't
- 8 associated with Ameren?
- 9 A. No. The expenses that we incurred,
- 10 and again, my recollection is a little fuzzy on
- 11 this, but the damage to our system wasn't as
- 12 significant. I think the issue that caused -- gave
- 13 rise to this is the -- the distribution line that
- 14 goes into Noranda is not ours. It is owned by a
- 15 coop. And so our transmission line actually was
- 16 restored rather quickly, but the distribution line
- 17 into Noranda was not.
- 18 And the damage had already been done,
- 19 as I understand how the smelter works, that once
- 20 they were out of power, even if we'd gotten the
- 21 power back -- or Associated would have gotten the
- 22 power back to them very quickly, I'm not sure it
- 23 would have mitigated the damage that had already
- 24 occurred at the plant, causing the issue for them.
- 25 Q. As I recall, the storm damage was

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- 1 also within the test year of the next rate case; is
- 2 that right?
- 3 A. Probably. We were doing test years
- 4 pretty frequently back then, so it probably was.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's all I have.
- 6 COMMISSIONER HALL: I do have one
- 7 more.
- 8 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HALL:
- 9 Q. Are you aware of anything that the
- 10 company could have done to mitigate that
- 11 \$36 million loss?
- 12 A. I think we tried. I mean, we tried
- 13 to sell the power and maintain the revenues from
- 14 those sales. And beyond that, again, I think in
- 15 the prudence order where we were asked to refund
- 16 the sales or run it through the FAC and refund that
- 17 back to customers, that it was suggested an AAO
- 18 might be the right direction to take. And so we
- 19 took that leave from the Commission and filed an
- 20 AAO. I'm not aware of anything else we could have
- 21 done to mitigate that loss.
- 22 We did -- I will say, we did right
- 23 after the Order was received and right after the
- 24 storm, as I recall, we did ask for some relief
- 25 immediately, like to relook at the -- at the FAC

Page 741 and to consider the N Factor or something like it before the rates were completely set in that case, 3 and that rehearing was all denied. So I think we took all the steps we 4 5 could possibly could take and we were out of 6 options at that point. 7 The rate that you charged in those Q. 8 two contracts that was market rate for --Α. Yes. 10 Q. -- wholesale? Yes. I believe so at that time. 11 Α. 12 COMMISSIONER HALL: All right. Thank 13 you. 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Recross based on questions from the Bench? Consumers Council? He's 15 16 not here. Public Counsel? 17 18 MR. OPITZ: No, your Honor. 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: MIEC? 20 MR. DOWNEY: No. 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Staff? MR. THOMPSON: Just one. 22 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 23 24 Q. If you prevail here today and this 25 amount of this AAO goes into rates, those will be

Page 742 1 charged to all ratepayers; isn't that correct? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. Including Noranda? Α. Yes. 4 5 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. 6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. 7 Redirect? 8 MR. MITTEN: Briefly your Honor. REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MITTEN: 9 10 Ms. Barnes, Commissioner Hall asked Q. 11 you some questions about the amounts that the 12 company deferred in this particular AAO. Do you recall that? 13 14 Α. Yes. 15 Q. In the AAO case, was there any 16 dispute among the parties to this case as to the 17 amount of fixed costs that were subject to deferral 18 in the AAO the company is requesting? 19 A. Not that I recall, no. 20 Q. Was that a stipulated amount? 21 Α. I believe so, yes. 22 Q. And Mr. Thompson asked you questions about storms that the company had experienced in 23 24 the past, and you indicated that the company had 25 requested and received an AAO for a 2007 ice storm

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- 1 in southeast Missouri; is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You indicated that the company
- 4 collected the amount of the deferrals under that
- 5 AAO in -- over a four- or five-year period; is that
- 6 right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Was that in subsequent rate cases?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So you collected costs that you had
- 11 incurred in the past in rates that were set in the
- 12 future?
- 13 A. Yeah. I mean, by definition that's
- 14 what an accounting authority order does. It takes
- out of period costs and allows you to consider
- 16 recovery in a future period.
- Q. Did Staff or any other party in this
- 18 case claim that was retroactive ratemaking?
- 19 A. I don't recall if they did at the
- 20 time. We obviously collected it, so I assume it
- 21 wasn't illegal. Not a lawyer.
- MR. MITTEN: I don't have any further
- 23 questions. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Then, Ms. Barnes,
- 25 you can step down.

		Page 744
1	(Witness excused.)	
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. It's now	
3	5:30 and we still have three more witnesses on the	
4	list, but I believe they will all be back tomorrow.	
5	Any objection to concluding for the night and	
6	proceeding tomorrow?	
7	MR. MITTEN: I don't have any	
8	objection, your Honor.	
9	JUDGE WOODRUFF: I think we would	
10	benefit from that. I didn't think you would.	
11	All right. We're going to go ahead and adjourn for	
12	the night, and we'll come back at 8:30 tomorrow.	
13	(WHEREUPON, the hearing was recessed	
14	at 5:31 p.m.)	
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2	CERTIFICATE	
3	STATE OF MISSOURI)	
) ss.	
4	COUNTY OF COLE)	
5	I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified	
6	Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest	
7	Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was	
8	personally present at the proceedings had in the	
9	above-entitled cause at the time and place set	
10	forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and	
11	there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had;	
12	and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct	
13	transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such	
14	time and place.	
15	Given at my office in the City of	
16	Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.	
17		
	Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR	
18		
19		
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