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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Volume 13

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Local Public Hearing

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August 22, 2012

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Union, Missouri

12

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In The Matter Of Union Electric Company

14

d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariffs To Increase

15

Its Revenues For Electric Service

16

File No. ER-2012-0166

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MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding

19

CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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21

TERRY M. JARRETT, Commissioner

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1 APPEARANCES:

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. MITTEN: Let the record reflect the
3 presence of Russ Mitten, Brydon, Swearngen & England,
4 312 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65102 on
5 behalf of Union Electric Company doing business as Ameren
6 Missouri.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And staff.

8 MS. KLIETHERMES: Sarah Kliethermes, Staff
9 Counsel's Office on behalf of the staff of the Missouri
10 Public Commission, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City,
11 MO.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for the public
13 counsel.

14 MR. MILLS: On behalf of the Office of
15 Public Counsel my name is Lewis Mills, Post Office Box
16 2230, Jefferson City Missouri 65102.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

18 All right. Then let's go ahead and call
19 the first witness which is Richard Schlemper.

20 Good evening, sir.

21 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And you are Richard
23 Schlemper?

24 MR. SCHLEMPER: Yes, sir.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Could you spell

1 your name please?

2 MR. SCHLEMPER: I have some comments to
3 make about labor efficiency. About two years ago, a
4 little more, transformer went out in front of our house.
5 They was efficient in getting there to work on it but
6 there was five trucks sitting there, one in our driveway,
7 one down about 100 yards and three blocking the road.
8 Two men were working, the other three was wasted labor in
9 my way of thinking.

10 And about two weeks ago there was a pole
11 broke off down in our pasture on Double O and set the
12 pasture on fire, fire department came and helped do it,
13 they replaced it, I don't have any problem with what they
14 did but there was seven vehicles setting in the pasture
15 down there. They had a pull truck as I understand, they
16 had an auger truck to dig the hole and then they probably
17 had some laborers but there was at least six, five or six
18 of them running around doing nothing most of the time.

19 As far as fuel efficiency one of the
20 service trucks was standing in the, on my son's driveway
21 with the motor running the whole time. Driver was gone,
22 he was down in the field. That's not labor efficiency
23 the way I'm thinking.

24 That's about all I have to say. I was
25 pretty disappointed in the way, there was so many

1 individuals running around doing nothing.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Does anyone have any
3 questions for Mr. Schlemper?

4 Thank you Mr. Schlemper.

5 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you.

6 MR. SCHLEMPER: May I have one more thing?

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sure.

8 MR. SCHLEMPER: When we was boys at home
9 we farmed with mules and when we went to the field our
10 dad told us boys take an ax with you, cut brush while the
11 mule are resting. That's labor efficiency.

12 Thank you.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you for that
14 perspective.

15 The next name is my list is Janice
16 Brennan.

17 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

18 MS. BRENNAN: Reportedly the CEO and other
19 Ameren officials receive millions in salary and
20 compensation packages. I'm wondering how their
21 exorbitant compensation is justified. I'm thinking about
22 my husband's salary being reduced more than a third in
23 the last two years despite working the same 50 plus hour
24 work week. Ameren has already increased their rates 36
25 percent in the last four years and want another 14

1 percent increase. I'm wondering with many people's
2 income declining as ours has how we are going to keep up
3 with the ever increasing costs? I'm thinking about the
4 recent and frequent commercials Ameren has been putting
5 out touting their improving service in power outages.
6 I've heard that tree trimming crews have been severely
7 cut back over the years and that it is cheaper for Ameren
8 to pay the fine to the regulatory commission for not
9 doing the required work than paying more crews to do the
10 work and maybe word is getting out and that is why Ameren
11 is possibly spending hundreds of thousands to tell us
12 otherwise. How many more crews could be put to work if
13 Ameren didn't spend money on advertising how great they
14 are or how much less money would they need to ask for if
15 they didn't give their CEO and other upper management
16 huge salary and compensation packages.

17 I'm also wondering why we customers must
18 continue to bear the brunt of beefing up Ameren's profits
19 so as to keep their shareholders happy. You're asking to
20 continue to take from the middle class and the poor,
21 those that are struggling to pay and get by in order to
22 line the pockets of the wealthy upper management and
23 shareholders.

24 I'm also wondering why we are continuing
25 to support and be dependent on dirty coal when we know

1 it's a heavy polluter. As long as dirty coal is allowed
2 its rate increases it will further our dependence.
3 Unless and until Ameren is willing to present more
4 evidence of cutting costs as the rest of us have had to
5 do in order to feed the beast, their shareholders and
6 upper management, you should not be allowed a rate
7 increase especially above the projected recovery cost of
8 the environmental and renewable energy regulations. This
9 is a vicious cycle that will continue to spiral downward
10 forcing people to choose between utilities or
11 medications, it's, while continuing to pollute and
12 destroy the health of our communities.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

14 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you Ms.
15 Brennan, appreciate your testimony.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the list
17 is Patricia I think it's Schuh, something along those
18 lines.

19 MS. SCHUBA: Schuba.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll apologize in
21 advance, sometimes it's hard to read people's signatures
22 on here.

23 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Spell your last name for
25 us please?

1 MS. SCHUBA: S-c-h-u-b-a.

2 My name is Patricia and I live very
3 locally, I live in Labadie, Missouri so unfortunately
4 we're the home of the 14th largest coal fired plant in
5 the nation and the largest in the state and that's the
6 Ameren plant that you're looking at giving a rate
7 increase to them for the production of their energy for
8 this state. And so I felt the need to come out tonight
9 and I'm happy that so many of us are here and that's
10 because you need to hear another story about the impacts
11 of burning coal in the state.

12 This is a location in the Labadie bottoms
13 floodplain right by the plant, you can see the plant in
14 the background and that's standing water, surface water,
15 in-ground water in July. This is a location where Ameren
16 is proposing to build at least a 400 acre coal ash
17 landfill, we're never quite certain what we're going to
18 get because permits change but that's what they
19 originally wanted at that site and I'm assuming that
20 would be rolled in to the next rate increase that we
21 would see.

22 They said tonight that the Sioux plant
23 had, how did they put it, increase in infrastructure
24 costs and costs due to EPA regulation. I'm a biologist
25 by training and so I feel like I need to speak to that

1 and we deserve clean air and clean water and to say that
2 these locations are good locations for placing toxic
3 waste and then asking rate payers to reimburse for the
4 cost of building those sites is ludicrous to me so I ask
5 that you as a regulatory body look very critically at
6 what Ameren wants in that 300 something odd million
7 dollar increase. We applaud the Public Service
8 Commission, or I do, I can't speak for other people,
9 there are people in the state who applaud the idea of
10 encouraging energy efficiency which means giving people
11 the resource to make their homes more efficient so we all
12 use less electricity. Some folks tonight said I'm using
13 less electricity and I'm paying more. In states that
14 have strong energy efficiency programs they pay less over
15 the long run. Ameren always touts its low cost of energy
16 in the state and our senators say we're wedded to coal
17 and I would say we need to look at the real facts and I
18 do have some documents I can leave with you but if you
19 look at the states that have the highest energy
20 efficiency standards and help consumers weatherize their
21 homes and have access to tax for dollars or money they
22 can improve the functioning of their homes and their
23 appliances those folks not only use less energy but they
24 pay much less so Missouri the average home uses about
25 1,000, 100 kilowatts of energy and we pay a given amount

1 for that, I think it's in the ball park of \$104.66 is the
2 average. Then you look at a place like North Dakota,
3 really cold winters, those folks use, have similar cost
4 per kilowatt hour and those folks only use, or pay \$91.16
5 per month. So we're talking about 14 to \$15 and we've
6 all acknowledged tonight that that adds up.

7 Just this past week I called a company
8 called Sun Vest and they do solar installations on homes
9 and commercial locations, we have five of them I believe
10 in Pacific, Missouri which if you go just a little bit
11 east you'll be in Pacific and they are willing to put
12 panels on homes as a lease. So zero up front and they
13 told us, they crunched the numbers on our little house
14 which is about 1,300 square feet and we can pay them less
15 than what we're paying Ameren right now to have
16 completely solar energy on that house. That's due to
17 some of the benefits that we're reaping from some of the
18 legislation in this state and so, and then that extra
19 energy goes back to the grid and that helps everybody.

20 So I think things that a regulatory body
21 could do to encourage energy efficiency, encourage that
22 we make smart decisions. This is not a smart decision.
23 We're not only going to pay to build that landfill,
24 millions of dollars to build this, that's going to be
25 offset to the folks behind me and people around Missouri

1 then we're going to pay as taxpayers to clean that mess
2 up some day and we shouldn't be asked to do that and on
3 top of it I have a niece and a nephew who live about a
4 mile from here, they can breathe that particulate matter,
5 they breathe that SO₂, there's maps in the room that one
6 of us can give to you, when they say the SO₂ numbers are
7 reducing around that plant they're extremely high and
8 they're high for miles around that plant. We have no
9 monitoring at that plant for air pollution, no monitoring
10 for ground water pollution and we don't have to say we're
11 paying less for energy, we're paying a lot for energy,
12 we're paying a lot in comparison to states that have
13 energy efficiency just as a number then on top of it
14 we're paying for disease and that isn't right.

15 So I ask you tonight to think of all the
16 factors and to minimize the reimbursement to this company
17 that's making poor business decisions for the communities
18 in which they operate, for the rate payers of Missouri
19 and for their stockholders.

20 Thank you very much for listening and we
21 appreciate you being here. We appreciate that for the
22 past I think two meetings you've made an opportunity to
23 come to our county and I think it's important because we
24 have the largest plant in the state.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You have some documents

1 you wanted to leave with us?

2 MS. SCHUBA: Yes, I do.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm going to go ahead and
4 mark this set of documents as Exhibit 1 and they would be
5 received in to the record and they would be made part of
6 the transcript for this hearing.

7 I do have a question for you also. About
8 the solar panels on your house, you said that they would
9 be leased?

10 MS. SCHUBA: Yes.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Can you explain that
12 further?

13 MS. SCHUBA: Yeah. It's the first time I
14 heard of it in Missouri but I think it's starting to
15 happen, I think perhaps even Micro Grid is doing it but
16 this small company I think just with a mind of reducing
17 dirty energy has made it work and under current
18 agreements Ameren has to pay a portion of that install
19 but most individuals, including myself, I mean I'm a
20 professional person, there are other people, they can't
21 afford 40, 50,000 in installation up front on their home.
22 This allows a company to pay that amount on your behalf
23 and then they got the rebate from the company which is
24 about half and then you pay the company a monthly bill
25 that's similar to what you pay for energy to Ameren and

1 actually in our case it's much lower and so you pay
2 toward that difference and the difference in our case is
3 roughly \$14,000, over 20 years you're able to pay that
4 off and if you choose to move that agreement can move to
5 the new homeowner.

6 JUDGE WOOTEN: Okay. So eventually after
7 20 years or whatever period you would own the system.

8 MS. SCHUBA: Exactly. And you can even
9 buy out the system earlier and it's really reasonable.
10 So I think we're getting to a point, I think the director
11 of the PV lab for the United States was in, or Colorado
12 was in St. Louis maybe about two, three months ago and
13 it's the only time I went to a zoo talk where it was
14 packed and it was like a Tuesday night and he said we are
15 on the brink of being able to provide really efficient
16 solar panels ironically made with silica which our county
17 is full of high grade silica so we could be building
18 strong local jobs, we could be using clean energy and we
19 could be moving forward so we want Ameren to be one of
20 those companies but we feel they're not moving forward,
21 they tell us we need to use coal and coal is cheap. It's
22 not cheap, it's not cheap for me, it's not cheap for the
23 next generation of kids growing up around the plant and
24 it's certainly not even cheap for the industry so we're
25 trying to push them to do some of these things and maybe

1 the regulatory body can do that too. Maybe making
2 information available on your bill, this is what you're
3 paying for, with energy efficiency this is what you're
4 saving, all those things are very helpful I think because
5 we all need to learn more. We keep believing what we're
6 told that it will be 2050 before we can make this switch.
7 It could happen right now. The guy told me he could put
8 the panels on in a matter of a month. That's happening
9 in Franklin County.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Are you going to do it?

11 MS. SCHUBA: Probably. We're going to
12 have a group of people come out to talk to us and several
13 people are having the numbers crunched on their homes,
14 tomorrow night a number of us including one local
15 candidate for our commission who did not win, he wants to
16 go to that talk too and he lives in the town that has
17 these five installations. Commercial groups are doing
18 this really quickly but it's really nice to see the
19 opportunity for residential but it's just such an outlay
20 up front and this helps defer that.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

22 Any questions?

23 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you very much
24 ma'am, appreciate your testimony.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on my list is

1 Randall Viehland.

2 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Could you spell your last
4 name for the benefit of the court reporter?

5 MR. VIEHLAND: V-i-e-h-l-a-n-d.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to
7 tell us?

8 MR. VIEHLAND: I was an electrician for 43
9 years and I've worked at Labadie power plant and one in
10 Meramec, I retired from IBEW Local 1, proud to be a
11 retired member of Local 1. Our electricians just took a
12 \$5 an hour pay cut about a year ago. Instead of getting
13 a pay increase we took a pay cut. We do probably the
14 largest part of the work for Ameren in the area. I
15 worked on some of these powerhouses and I have seen a lot
16 of waste. Not because of what the men did, not because
17 of what materials we had, it was basically because of
18 very poor engineering. Coal is a very expensive
19 commodity to handle, that's the biggest part of a power
20 plant is handling the coal and the biggest part of the
21 expense is probably what we were doing at the time was
22 putting in what they call scrubbers, we call them
23 precipitators. The coal is very dirty and from what I
24 understood and was told at the time in 1982 they bought
25 most of their coal from coal mines that they owned. In

1 fact at the time we was walking around there there were
2 tubes out of the boilers, I said what are these for, he
3 says, the foreman said those are tubes we took out
4 because the boilers were burning too efficiently and we
5 didn't burn enough coal.

6 Now back in last July, July 13th, they got
7 a rate increase, \$173 million and over the past five
8 years there was about four other rate increases and
9 they're always putting surcharges on like they talked
10 about a while ago. I called about that, fuel surcharges
11 and like the lady said before they're two different
12 surcharges and one of them they don't really want to talk
13 about too much and I guess I can go outside and find out
14 what it is.

15 Last month, I just pulled this up on the
16 Internet yesterday, August 3rd, 2012 Ameren's net income
17 for the last period was up to \$211 million or 87 cents a
18 share from \$138,000,000.57 a share from the period before
19 that which I guess included the mild winter. Well we
20 made up for it in the last month. They want to give
21 their shareholders a 10 percent rate of return and any of
22 us that invest money in a money market are lucky to get
23 one percent. They want 14 and a half percent overall.
24 Coal like I said is a very expensive fuel to use, nuclear
25 is a, he said a while ago is the cheapest plant they've

1 got, Fulton, and I have friends that are in the industry
2 that build gas fired powerhouses everywhere, you can
3 build one much smaller and much more efficient.

4 The executives for Union Electric I looked
5 up on the Internet, I tried to find Mr. Braxton's income
6 and I didn't see it, there's a fellow named Tom Voss who
7 makes \$4.7 million a year, that includes \$1 million bonus
8 and two and a half million dollar stock award and at that
9 rate of 87 cents a share that would be a pretty good
10 payday. Now they don't need as many employees as they
11 used to because we don't need as much electric.
12 Chrysler's gone, Ford's gone plus all the supporting
13 industries that helped those plants go so there's a whole
14 lot less kilowatt hours that need to be used, produced
15 now. And they're cutting benefits, I have a
16 father-in-law who retired from Union Electric that passed
17 away, when he retired he had full coverage on his medical
18 insurance. I have a friend that's retired, he pays most
19 of his medical insurance. They don't need as many
20 employees because they've got boom trucks now and pole
21 trucks and they get up there with one guy instead of
22 having several others, that's why they have offered that
23 severance package.

24 I just think it's time that they suck it
25 up a little bit like the rest of us had to do in these

1 tough times and not get near the rate increase that they
2 want.

3 Thank you.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone have any
5 questions?

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you very much
8 for your time.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is
10 Don Crecelius.

11 MR. CRECELIUS: I pronounce that
12 Crecelius.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. I'll let you spell
14 it in moment. First let's swear you in.

15 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you could, spell your
17 last name for the court reporter.

18 MR. CRECELIUS: C-r-e-c-e-l-i-u-s.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to
20 tell us?

21 MR. CRECELIUS: Well, I just represent
22 myself here.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Speak into the
24 microphone.

25 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I officially just

1 represent myself but I've got a list of some people that
2 I'd just like to talk to you about for a minute.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

4 MR. CRECELIUS: I guess my comments are
5 just kind of on cost and effect. I live off of Highway
6 BB off of Highway 50, about four miles west of Union. I
7 live in a moderately low ownership housing community.
8 All the houses there are owner occupied and I just, some
9 of these folks may be here, some of these folks I don't
10 know personally real well but I've just got a list of a
11 few people here. My about fourth or fifth neighbor west
12 of me Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jako, they're retired. The next
13 house is Lillian Hicks, older lady, lives by herself,
14 she's retired. The next house is Mrs. Flagg, an older
15 lady, she's retired. The next house Mrs. Hawkins, an
16 older lady, she's retired. Next house Dave and Cindy
17 Shelton, he's a construction worker, she's a school
18 teacher. That's the first one that's got a job. The
19 next house is Dorothy Klaus, she's 87 years old, she's
20 retired. Next is Ron Erback, he's a cancer survivor and
21 he's retired on disability or retirement. The next one
22 Myron Young, he's retired. The next one is Cleo Wright,
23 she's a widow, she's retired. Next one is Mr. and Mrs.
24 David Flagg, he's part of the Flagg Enterprises and I
25 think she works but I'm not real sure what her occupation

1 is. The next house is Mrs. Flagg's mother as old as I am
2 probably or so and retired. Out of that 10 or 11 houses
3 two of them have people working, making a living. The
4 next one on that list is myself, my wife and I have lived
5 out in that area now for about 20 years, I've been
6 retired since 1997, the only income I have is my little
7 Social Security check. For the first time in three years
8 I got a two or three percent increase on my Social
9 Security this year, had not gotten a penny increase for
10 the last couple of years. I'm trying to survive on that
11 little bit of income and pay the increasing costs
12 everywhere across the board. My medical bills have gone
13 sky high, groceries have gone up, gasoline has
14 skyrocketed, you all mentioned how little your costs went
15 up compared to some of these other costs, yes, you're
16 right, your costs have only gone up a little bit. The
17 fact is I don't get a 10 or 11 percent return on my
18 money, invested money that you people are wanting your
19 stockholders to get. Why in the world, I get a two to
20 three percent increase on my little Social Security check
21 do you people need 11 or 12 percent return on your
22 investors, your stockholder's money? I don't understand
23 that, it's greed, it's unnecessary, there's no reason for
24 the people to get that kind of money from the poor little
25 guy out here in the field trying to survive. Period.

1 Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you sir for
3 your testimony, I just have a couple questions.

4 First of all I don't work for Ameren, I
5 work for the Missouri Public Service Commission.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I don't either.

7 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: We both work for
8 the state, so.

9 MR. CRECELIUS: Well I direct that to
10 Union Electric. You're here mediating between.

11 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I understand your
12 testimony, I just had some questions. I wanted to ask
13 you a couple of questions because I assume that there is
14 several people that are in similar situations such as
15 yourself retired on fixed income and so I'm going to ask
16 you some questions, if you don't feel comfortable
17 answering them tell me and I won't push the matter.

18 Can you tell me how much is your Social
19 Security every --

20 MR. CRECELIUS: Pardon me?

21 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: How much is your
22 Social Security every month?

23 MR. CRECELIUS: Just barely over \$1,000.

24 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: All right. And how
25 much is your average utility bill every month?

1 MR. CRECELIUS: Well, that's another
2 thing, they're talking about \$14, they keep hocking \$14
3 increase, that's 14 percent. My last electric bill was a
4 little over \$200. We had all this heat and our air
5 conditioner ran more, we try to conserve as much as we
6 can but it still got a little over \$200 last month.

7 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: And you indicated
8 that you had other bills that were going up as well,
9 medical bills?

10 MR. CRECELIUS: I wrote a check Monday for
11 medicine that my insurance doesn't cover for my wife and
12 I was \$191. That's our copay above our insurance on just
13 basically a month's worth of medicine. We go to the
14 grocery store, we don't buy expensive elaborate food, we
15 buy mostly necessities, we cannot get out of the grocery
16 store for under \$100, we just can not do it.

17 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Now are you all
18 electric? You do heat electric?

19 MR. CRECELIUS: No, sir, we have an LP gas
20 furnace and an LP gas water heater.

21 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: So for lighting and
22 for air conditioning.

23 MR. CRECELIUS: Lighting and air
24 conditioning and, you know, we, we're not extravagant
25 people, we don't waste a lot of anything. You know, we

1 watch television in the evening a little bit and we have
2 a refrigerator and a freezer and basically the nights in
3 the house. TV.

4 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you sir, I
5 appreciate that. I just wanted to ask those few
6 questions because I know a lot of people are in your
7 situation and I wanted to get a little more on the
8 record.

9 MR. CRECELIUS: Our biggest expense is our
10 utility bill, we tried to cut our telephone bill down, we
11 economized that I guess you'd say, but we don't pay a
12 water bill, we have our own well, so, you know, our
13 telephone and electric and gas bill and that and that's,
14 the rest of it goes for food and medical bills and we're
15 not partiers, we don't drink, we don't dance, you know,
16 we can't afford to do any of that.

17 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you sir, I
18 appreciate your testimony.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on my list
20 is Pat McDonald.

21 Next name is Ellen Young.

22 Robert and Shelly Griffin?

23 Judith House. Good evening, ma'am.

24 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

25 MS. HOUSE: I'd like to address the

1 portion of the increase that deals basically with the
2 rate of return to the company.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm sorry, did I swear
4 you?

5 MS. HOUSE: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I missed it, I'm
7 sorry.

8 MS. HOUSE: The rate of return, I think
9 it's just absolutely unbelievable with the economy being
10 the way it is that a company would come forth first of
11 all and request a guaranteed return of income to a
12 certain expectation. Not only that, you know he
13 indicated, the gentleman who was speaking, indicated that
14 that rate is in keeping with most companies in the
15 country. That's blatantly not true. If you look at
16 small businesses and if you look at businesses of the
17 same volume of business that they do there are many
18 businesses who are not getting that kind of return in
19 today's marketplace. But I just think, and he said also
20 that, of course that all of these people who are doing
21 the basically coming forth about we have to be doing this
22 and doing that and try to present our issues and
23 everything to government officials in the state, he's
24 saying well that's not coming from the rate increase but
25 it is because we're paying for it when you give them a 10

1 percent guaranteed return to their stockholders. The
2 minute you do that we're paying for that, you're asking
3 us to take a guaranteed, the company stockholders a
4 guaranty of eight, nine, 10 percent. Nobody gets a
5 guaranteed eight or nine or 10 percent. Go to your bank
6 and try to get a 10 percent guaranty on the money you
7 have in your savings account. It's not happening and
8 like the gentleman said before, you know, why should we
9 be paying as a rate increase to guaranty that the
10 stockholders are going to get a guaranteed income, okay,
11 when we can't guaranty that to most of the people in this
12 country with jobs or anything else.

13 Thank you.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you ma'am.

15 Any questions?

16 Janice Feldman.

17 MS. FELDMAN: I don't need to, my sister
18 addressed what I needed to know.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Kathryn Holloway.

20 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

21 MS. HOLLOWAY: I'm not going to read the
22 first part of my statement simply because it's been
23 mentioned so many times about the \$5.7 million a year
24 that Mr. Thomas Voss makes and his pay raise this year of
25 \$150,000, I think everybody's aware that that's

1 ridiculous. But in my opinion one of the only reasons
2 that Ameren might need financial help from the consumer
3 would be all of the mishaps that have occurred with this
4 company. The Taum Sauk reservoir breach which cost \$450
5 million to repair with a \$15 million fine from the
6 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The fire at Taum
7 Sauk that cost Ameren \$10 million in repairs, in fact
8 Ameren was required to report this failure to the Public
9 Service Commission within one day and failed to do so for
10 eight days. Then it was discovered by the Public Service
11 Commission themselves. Ameren now plans to put a toxic
12 waste coal ash dump at all three of their electric sites
13 located in floodplains on both the Missouri and
14 Mississippi River, that's right, toxic waste dump located
15 in floodplains, you heard me correctly. We all hope this
16 doesn't happen because everyone is aware of the Kingston,
17 Tennessee breach that wasn't supposed to happen. That
18 breach cost \$1.2 billion to clean up and the water supply
19 downstream was contaminated.

20 Obviously Ameren is having trouble doing
21 things the right way and they want us to pay for their
22 mistakes. Nothing else adds up as to why they need these
23 rate increases. They need us to pay for the upcoming
24 failures of the toxic coal ash landfill that will
25 contaminate the water supply in our area and others that

1 are lucky enough to get one in their neighborhood.
2 Ameren not only needs to prepare for the flood breach in
3 these floodplains but they want us to pay for the
4 installation of these landfills and their irresponsible
5 failures up to this point. If coal is the real problem
6 why not try spending the money on more sustainable
7 energy, wind, solar, hydro, a combination. The planet
8 could use your help as could all of us.

9 Please, no rate hike.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

11 Any questions?

12 Next name on the list is Dorothy I think
13 it's Bonnerans.

14 Julie McCollum?

15 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

16 MS. MCCOLLUM: A lot of things have
17 already been said, I think the people are hurting in this
18 area really bad, the jobs are down, everything's gone up,
19 everything from property taxes to everything else and I
20 think they just can't afford the extra and what they're
21 going to do they're going to learn to cut things off or
22 cut back on their electricity. A lot of these senior
23 citizens here where we might start having more situations
24 like up in St. Louis where they can't afford air
25 conditioning so they're going to demise. So really I am

1 against the rate hike for that, I don't think people can
 2 afford it but another thing that gets to me about Ameren
 3 is this is the United States of America, I'm an American
 4 citizen, I love this country, I mean they have a
 5 monopoly, we don't have a chance to use another company.
 6 We don't have a choice to vote on this rate hike, I think
 7 people need more of a chance to have what they're going
 8 to spend out of their pocket. I'm not saying this very
 9 well because I'm not a good speaker but I think they're
 10 not being given a choice. If you say they're going to
 11 pay they're going to pay and they're going to have to cut
 12 back and switch off the air conditioning so they're not
 13 really going to get a hike because people are going to
 14 learn to do without. People are carpooling, there's a
 15 third of this country not even running cars anymore
 16 because they can't afford the gas. A lot of these people
 17 are on minimum wage and unemployed. It's got to stop.
 18 My 401K went down, I lost a lot of money on that, they
 19 can learn to suck it in.

20 Thank you.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the list
 22 is Bob I think it's Hillermann, 805 Clay Street.

23 MR. HILLERMANN: Yes.

24 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And if you would spell

1 your last name for the benefit of the court reporter?

2 MR. HILLERMANN: H-i-l-l-e-r-m-a-n-n.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would
4 you like to tell us?

5 MR. HILLERMANN: I have a few comments of
6 why I'm against this \$375 million.

7 To some of the people \$14 a month is not
8 much, to some of the other people it's a big amount and
9 people don't have any more money, with the economy the
10 way it is, people have lost their jobs, people go to food
11 stamps for help, subsidized housing, the food pantries,
12 welfare and without this they end up families will suffer
13 yet you people are coming along and asking for 14 percent
14 increase. I don't know where the people are going to get
15 the money. The money is gone, it's not there.

16 Now here you say it's 14 percent on 1,100
17 kilowatts. Now I don't know what 1,100 kilowatts is,
18 maybe you can explain what it is for a family of four so
19 maybe this is not \$14, it might be a lot more than \$14
20 and that's my comments why I'm against this because
21 there's no money left, it's gone. People are suffering
22 because of that.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For your specific
24 question about how much an average family uses for
25 electricity you can talk to people outside there, they

1 can probably give you more information as to how much
2 1,100 kilowatts would be.

3 Any other questions?

4 MR. HILLERMANN: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you sir,
6 appreciate it.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

8 The next name on the list is Judith Hunt.

9 And while Mrs. Hunt is coming forward I just want to
10 emphasize you really need to speak into the microphone,
11 apparently a lot of people are having a hard time
12 hearing.

13 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

14 MS. HUNT: Can you hear?

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I can hear.

16 Can you hear in the back? I see hands
17 going up that they can hear.

18 MS. HUNT: I would like to express a sense
19 of betrayal. I have been a defender of coal fired plants
20 because that is a large component of our economy and for
21 the foreseeable. I have been one of those signing
22 petitions against cap and trade and making phone calls,
23 cap and trade will wreck what economy we have left. Our
24 thanks for these activities from this company is a series
25 of rate increases. I think it should be a long time

1 before another rate increase is granted.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

4 Next name on the list is Chris Lane.

5 David Keller.

6 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And you are David Keller.

8 MR. KELLER: I am.

9 Ameren is a fairly arrogant company. I'm
10 sure that most of the people in the room would agree with
11 this. One of their little hijinks was HB 1316. That
12 bill was to provide us, us to provide \$115 million to buy
13 a power plant license for a nuclear power plant. Ameren
14 doesn't want to pay the cost of doing business. They
15 seem to be, they seem to like living high on the hog.
16 They want the best, their executives make lots of money,
17 there's a lot of, in fact I could probably imagine them
18 chanting more heat wave while we were in the heat wave.
19 My understanding is that their profits were up 56 percent
20 over the same period last year locally and up 59 percent
21 across the state. Now those are obscene profits folks
22 and they're going to counter and say well we had a mild
23 winter and didn't have as much electricity use and yadi,
24 yadi, yadi, yadi and that's crap. They've had three rate
25 increases in the last four years, in fact they look like

1 the blessed people from the Public Service Commission. I
2 don't know why they need another rate increase. Part of
3 what I read in a newspaper article was that part of this
4 is supposed to go to employee benefits. Now as -- there
5 are people out here with no health care, there are people
6 who can't make their entire month, especially people who
7 are on Social Security because there were no Social
8 Security raises in 2010 or 2011 and got a whole measly
9 three percent this year. In short what happens when a
10 rate hike goes in, people drop off the net. They stop
11 using electricity and there are groups, the Amish in
12 particular who never use electricity so you could live
13 off the grid. The mom has, people who have no jobs, no
14 shelter, you can do that. Other people live off the grid
15 with solar, some go off with wind turbines, some go off
16 with natural gas fired generators on the house so they
17 don't have to pay Ameren's rate.

18 The other thing that has been mentioned is
19 how many jobs have been lost because of those rate hikes.
20 How many small businesses have shut down, how many small
21 businesses have relocated to someplace else that's not
22 served by Ameren UE? How many large companies have taken
23 a look and said my electric rates are ridiculous, I need
24 to downsize and move someplace else. What does that do
25 to the economy. We have a 8.3 unemployment rate. That's

1 actually false. Unemployment includes only those people
2 who are seeking jobs. Under employed is people who have
3 stopped looking for jobs, they've been looking one, two,
4 three, four, five years and the condition they're in now
5 they probably couldn't get a job, there's no place to
6 take a shower, there's no toilet, there's no place to
7 shave, there's no place to brush your teeth, there's no
8 place to wash your clothes, you're living in the street
9 under an overpass and in this economic situation for the
10 Public Service Commission or Ameren UE, or Ameren for
11 that effect to expect rate hikes is ludicrous.

12 Thank you.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

14 The next name I think is Rog Gardner on
15 Indian Prairie.

16 MR. GARCIA: Is it Ray Garcia?

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Probably is.

18 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And you are Ray Garcia.

20 MR. GARCIA: Yes.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

22 MR. GARCIA: Thank you for giving me a
23 chance to talk. I have run a business, I went out of
24 business about four years ago, I did not receive a
25 bailout. When I asked my customers for an increase they

1 would laugh at me. When I opened up this business I paid
2 a little bit over \$19,000 to Ameren UE for the
3 installation for 180 volts, power to our building. We
4 were doing a lot of development work for the Dana
5 Corporation. Well when we went out of business that
6 money was not returned to us. They said that's the cost
7 of doing business when you're installing a line. And the
8 people who came behind me, they didn't have to pay any of
9 that money, we ate it all and I always felt that was a
10 bit unfair.

11 On the other hand there's the issue of
12 competition. In the industry that I was in which is
13 automotive there is always someone that you compete
14 against, especially if you're going to give a price but
15 in this case there is no one else to go to, this is the
16 only game in town, this is the American people and we
17 need to protect the American people. We cannot protect
18 these fat cats that are making millions of dollars in
19 salaries and then they expect people like the ones you've
20 seen here who testified before us that can hardly make a
21 living and give them these rate increases. They should
22 not be getting a rate increase, I am opposed to this rate
23 increase. If anything we need to roll it back. Their
24 mistakes, whenever we make mistakes in our business we
25 pay for those mistakes, we did not go out and ask our

1 customers gee we had a fire in the building or we had
2 problems with these parts that were produced improperly,
3 will you please pay for this. No, we ended up eating
4 those costs. So I'm asking you to not give them this
5 rate increase.

6 Thank you.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Keith Pelton.

8 MR. PELTON: My concerns have been
9 addressed.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.

11 Next name is Eric Reichert from Villa
12 Ridge.

13 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

14 MR. REICHERT: Good evening. I will
15 espound the truth as I understand it. I find it
16 interesting that Ameren management isn't sworn to tell
17 the truth when they speak. The hearing tonight is
18 nothing more than a ruse, a charade. This is to fool the
19 people to have them believe they are actually involved in
20 this process. The unnamed utility saying its name openly
21 is blasphemy, just ask the Franklin County commissioners
22 who's already submitted paperwork with figures and
23 everything. They have requested much more than the
24 Public Service Commission feels they need. This is a
25 consistent habit of the said utility. Makes one wander,

1 apparently they had to submit everything under oath but
2 the fact is that the PSC will give them the lower amounts
3 so this hearing is only an illusion, it has no force and
4 effect. If this hearing were truly significant we would
5 be able to shave additional revenue from the lessor
6 amount the PSC already has determined is due them.
7 Lowering those figures would be punishment for requesting
8 more than was truly required. Make the investors paying
9 for management's greed and how much is required. The
10 utility has to keep the profit margins up for the
11 stockholders, damn the rate payers but 10.75 percent is
12 fair? If questions were allowed one would be how much
13 additional increase is budgeted for advertising? Said
14 utility was a major local sponsor of the Olympics. Why
15 bother, this utility is a monopoly, money could have been
16 better spent funding programs to help people pay their
17 already outrageous bills. Does anybody wonder how much
18 revenue it takes to pay the salaries, bonuses and
19 benefits of the upper management and the argument that
20 our rates are cheaper is a red herring designed to
21 reflect the truth. The utility is a profit center so the
22 management and stockholders guaranty a positive return on
23 their investments and we can't reasonably boycott a
24 monopoly other than be in the dark and be very hot or
25 very cold. Everyone should remember that these constant

1 rate hearings are being held primarily because of former
2 senator John Griesheimer and his bill giving utilities
3 the opportunities to recoup all expenses. Now he is the
4 presiding commissioner of Franklin County and was
5 instrumental in allowing said utility to place a coal ash
6 landfill in the Missouri River bottoms at Labadie. And
7 the rate payers will obviously pay for the construction
8 of said landfill.

9 So there it is, the truth as I see it.
10 Request twice as much what you require and you will get
11 what you need. Most people will never figure it out.
12 Everybody on the PSC keeps a government job, the utility
13 gets everything it wants.

14 That's the rest of the story as someone is
15 famous for saying.

16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name is my list
18 starts with a G, the second name starts with an R on
19 Brinkman Road?

20 FROM THE FLOOR: That was me but he just
21 said some of the stuff so I don't have to talk.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

23 Maria Killian.

24 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

25 MS. KILLIAN: First off I'd like to say I

1 am very upset and aggravated that Ameren could come in
2 here and compare Missouri to the east coast and the west
3 coast, that's like apples and oranges I'm sorry to say.
4 The cost of living on each coast is much, much higher
5 than it is in our area. The people in our area are
6 suffering and have been since 2008 when the bottom fell
7 out of everything. The investors in Ameren UE have money
8 to invest while the people that are paying the bills for
9 Ameren have nothing and have less and less every day. I
10 deal with these people, I deal with the homeless, I deal
11 with people on fixed income, I deal with developmentally
12 disabled and they are suffering. There are more and more
13 homeless people in our community, in Franklin County that
14 can not keep up with the bills for medicine, for a roof
15 over their head much less utilities because everything's
16 gone up and jobs have gone away. Not only jobs but
17 businesses have gone, in my community you can go down the
18 highway and see 10 businesses absolutely gone. There are
19 people suffering and Ameren is coming in and saying we
20 need 14 percent more. They already got 36. How much can
21 you, how much blood can you get out of this turnip?
22 There is nothing left and the more people that are
23 suffering and they come in and tell us what a wonderful
24 job they're doing I'm sorry, I don't see it and it's
25 insulting. We have people not only now through the

1 summer insult to injury the hot weather now the farmers
2 have no hay to feed their crops or their animals. People
3 are suffering more and more for every which reason and
4 those who have been able to pay in the past are not able
5 to now. All the way down to the very self sufficient
6 agricultural community that we live in. Franklin County
7 is not the city, Franklin County is a major part of
8 Missouri and we need help. We don't need more increases
9 on bills we can't pay already.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You said you do a lot of
11 work with homeless people and so forth. Do you work for
12 an agency?

13 MS. KILLIAN: I volunteer for the St.
14 Vincent DePaul Society, I'm on their board and I work
15 with United Way and I do the assistance coordination for
16 the General Area Community Outreach which is the food
17 pantry.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

19 Kay Genovese.

20 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

21 MS. GENOVESE: While I have a great deal
22 of respect for big corporations and the benefits that
23 investors get from big corporations I deeply resent the
24 bullying that Ameren has been known to do. Many of us in
25 Franklin County are sick to death of the needs and wants

1 of Ameren UE. We have been dealing with this landfill
 2 situation for the last few years, Ameren has probably
 3 spent millions on attorney fees. I am appalled that
 4 Warren Baxter would stand up here in front of all of us
 5 and talk about the infrastructure that they're improving
 6 and you know Labadie indeed is their most profitable
 7 plant. It is also the second largest mercury polluter in
 8 the nation. When he says that, you know, they're in
 9 compliance at Labadie that is not a correct statement.
 10 That Labadie plant is spewing 50,000 gallons of coal ash
 11 sludge in to the Missouri River every single day because
 12 they have holes in their coal ash pile. My neighbor who
 13 lives up on a very high hill just to the east of me has,
 14 had a swimming pool and glass top tables on her patio for
 15 20 some years. The emissions coming out of that Labadie
 16 plant have done nothing but increase. Ameren has done
 17 nothing to take care of the problem. This is what in the
 18 past few years she sees floating on the top of her pool
 19 and wipes off of the top of the her glass top tables.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What you have there is a
 21 plastic bag --

22 MS. GENOVESE: It's a plastic bag with a
 23 paper towel in it that has a gray ashy dust on it. It's
 24 a film that sits on top of the water of her pool when the
 25 wind blows just the right way. As long as we are

1 inhaling this dirt Ameren does not deserve more of our
2 dollars.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

4 MS. GENOVESE: And I'm sorry, I have a
5 thing of the pollution from the plant.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What the witness has
7 handed me I'm going to go ahead and mark it as Exhibit 2.
8 It is a visual description of Ameren Labadie's plant and
9 its coal pollution toxic plume showing a map of the area
10 and the amount of SO2 concentrations. And that's marked
11 as Exhibit 2 and will be received in to the record.

12 Next name on the list is Karen Frick.

13 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Spell your last name
15 please.

16 MS. FRICK: F-r-i-c-k.

17 What I would like to talk about tonight is
18 the new power line that they've been putting in, I think
19 they call it Saddle Creek. It runs right through my
20 parent's farm and there was another one of these
21 Commission meetings where they had their maps out showing
22 the different routes and they decided to choose whatever
23 route they were going to choose probably before that even
24 happened and there is an arrogance with this company
25 because my mom has seen it. She's a widow and in going

1 through their farm, through the top and through the
2 bottom they could have gone along property lines and they
3 went along some property lines --

4 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: If you could speak
5 up.

6 MS. FRICK: They chose not to go through
7 my parent's farm, it's a working farm, it was a working
8 farm. All the big machinery that they had to bring in,
9 nothing grows there now. It's been very difficult. Not
10 only have they lost revenue and, not only have they had
11 to deal the with intrusion of all these big trucks coming
12 in, making roads where there wasn't a road, where it was
13 farmland, they were told by Ameren that they could go
14 wherever they wanted when they were told that they should
15 follow this because my mom was told by an Ameren
16 representative that they wouldn't even have to go on
17 their farmland, they could go along where the lines were
18 going to be put. When the Ameren trucks came in to bring
19 in all those very long poles that they used they went
20 wherever they wanted to go when my brother said you can't
21 go here you can go this way they said we can go wherever
22 we want to because that is the mentality, because they
23 believe that they can do whatever they want. They aren't
24 the only one here. If we want electric you will do what
25 they say and that is an arrogance that does not need to

1 be here. This is farm that's been in my family for over
2 100 years. They chose to not go along property lines but
3 instead put their line right through the middle of their
4 fields. And all the damage and destruction and through
5 all of that my parents haven't even been compensated
6 because it's still being fought over. So not only for
7 the last two years have they lost revenue from that,
8 they've incurred all this extra expense because of all
9 the trees that they knocked down, all of the erosion that
10 has occurred because of how they cut down all these trees
11 but they have incurred expense trying to fix it and all
12 of the disrespect that they've encountered along the way
13 is really, really a tragedy.

14 Thank you.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you ma'am.

16 Next name on the list is Karen Cortez? On
17 Adda Road in Labadie.

18 MS. CARTER: I've never heard it
19 pronounced that way. It's Carter.

20 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

21 MS. CARTER: I just want to make one quick
22 point about the previous rate increases from 2007 to
23 2011. My understanding it's been about approximately
24 \$30. We've got a substantial number of people at a
25 deficit this year and when you go back and look at each

1 person as an individual most of these people had AC it
2 just wasn't on. The St. Louis Post Dispatch even quoted
3 that one gentleman had an air conditioner removed because
4 of its expense, this is Lawrence Ditterman. That's
5 really, you know that's not acceptable. People that are
6 low income \$30 is a week's worth of food. I don't know
7 if you guys have ever been really, really broke, \$30 is a
8 lot and that's not including this \$14. I encourage you
9 to go back and look through these individual people who
10 have died this year and who had AC and who didn't.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Next name on my list is Dale Pelton.

13 (Whereupon, speaker was sworn)

14 MR. PELTON: I'd like to speak to the rate
15 increase and to why I think it should not be.

16 I managed a company in St. Louis of about
17 150 employees and for the last 10 years, or 12 years,
18 those employees have had two raises. Some of us haven't
19 had a raise in over 16 years. We're not able to pass the
20 cost of, increased cost of product on so that we can give
21 our employees a raise. Our employees have encountered
22 about a 400 percent increase in the last 23 years in the
23 price of gasoline to get to work and back. They've
24 encountered an increase of about 63 percent in their cost
25 to them of health care for their families. They've

1 knocked out on potential increase of three percent a year
 2 if we could give it even of 48 percent increase in wages
 3 which means that their pay has actually gone down in
 4 relationship to the cost of living and they've lost their
 5 401K match because the company can't afford it and for
 6 myself we talked about earlier this evening about having,
 7 doing measures to save energy. About three years ago I
 8 put in thermal windows and I insulated the house better
 9 and so on and so forth. My electrical bill went down
 10 from about 150 a month to 101 a month and now it's up to
 11 137 a month and with a 14 percent increase approximately
 12 be 156 a month. And I haven't had a raise in 16 years.

13 There are a lot of people throughout this
 14 state and not just in this area but throughout this state
 15 who are out of work, who have not had raises or increases
 16 in years, who have had cost of living increases all of
 17 those years, cost of benefit increases all those years
 18 and they have no way to keep paying and I would like to
 19 ask you to consider that when you make the decision on
 20 what to do with what Ameren UE is asking for.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

23 Dan Leslie.

24 Otis Schulte.

25 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

1 MR. SCHULTE: Some of the things that I
2 wanted to bring up have already been said but Ameren said
3 earlier that 300 and I believe 45 employees took early
4 retirement and that saved them approximately \$27 million
5 a year. That's about \$80,000 a person that those
6 employees are making. I have a family member that works
7 at Labadie, has a high school education, works all the
8 overtime and Saturdays and Sundays he can, never spends
9 much time with his family because I think it's greed,
10 with a high school education he makes about six figures a
11 year. I think that is just totally ridiculous. I have a
12 retail business of about 4,000 square feet store, my
13 electric bill runs between 3 and \$400 a month. If it
14 goes up that's going to be another 50 some dollars.
15 I cannot pass that on to my customers and raise my prices
16 because my customers would go elsewhere. I think it's
17 ridiculous, you know, Ameren needs to trim back some
18 things that I have seen. I needed an electric line run
19 one time for a house, Ameren had a pole right across the
20 highway, would not, it was going to cost me and this was
21 back in about 1980, was going to cost \$2,000 to set a
22 pole and run a wire across the highway in less than 100
23 feet. I contacted Crawford Electric who was servicing
24 parts of our industrial park, they set 12 poles down the
25 street, ran the wire, hooked up that house and there was

1 no fee.

2 Another thing, we was doing some curbing
3 and street work in our town, up in Gerald, there it was
4 guide wire in the way of the curbing. It needed to be
5 moved about two feet. Ameren had to send an engineer
6 from Jeff City down to drive a stake in the ground to
7 tell the local guys where they could move that wire and
8 they probably move them and do them every day and
9 probably know more than he does. They had that expense.

10 The advertising has been hit about the TV
11 and ball games, that money comes from somewhere, it does
12 come from stockholders, yeah, but we're still paying for
13 that.

14 I had another instance where -- okay. I
15 had a transformer was set on a pole, we needed electric
16 run to our house. I had to put the cable in the ground,
17 bury it in the conduit, wire was sticking up the top of
18 the conduit, really to be hooked to the transformer. Two
19 guys came out one day and they just stood around the
20 street and said it's getting close to quitting time we'll
21 come back tomorrow. They came three days to hook up that
22 transformer that I've been waiting on for a house and it
23 took them about 15 minutes to do it when they finally did
24 it. It's just a waste of money, they do not care because
25 they're getting their salaries, their money and one other

1 little instance we had a little business in town that we
2 put in, it was already electric there to a pole and the
3 guy came down from Jeff City, I met with him numerous
4 times on city things but he's very arrogant, I think he
5 retired now but he said well, we'll hook it up but you
6 may not have enough power here, you may have to set a
7 transformer. So if you have to set a transformer because
8 it's commercial you have to pay \$2,000 for the
9 transformer for me to give you electric. I said well I'm
10 not doing it, just hook it up the way it is we'll see if
11 we got enough. Well a local guy came to hook it up one
12 day and he said all we got to do is run from the
13 transformer across the street just put a bigger wire in,
14 it don't take nothing to do it. Well he told his boss
15 one day that he was going to go down there and do it, he
16 said no you're not, just hook it up the way it is, if
17 they need more power they got to pay for the transformer.

18 There's a little building next door to me
19 that's about 20 foot square that a guy owns that he made
20 into a little apartment house and there was not enough
21 electric to that pole to feed both of us so they came to
22 another pole about 50 feet away, but a transformer there,
23 hooked that house up and me, because it was a residence
24 it didn't cost anything and I would use a lot more
25 electric than he did being that I was commercial.

1 We had a situation where we put some
2 lighting in a Veteran's Memorial in our city park. They
3 came and looked at it and told us we could put a meter
4 base on this building and serve all this. We hooked it
5 all up with the meter base on it, nothing was said what
6 kind of base or anything we needed, put up, they came up,
7 plugged the meter in, hooked the wires up two days later
8 come back and said no, we got to unhook that because the
9 meter base they put up was a ring meter base and we want
10 a ringless. I said we already bought this it was 4 or
11 500 bucks and I said we're not going to buy another one.
12 He said then you just won't have electric. I said fine,
13 we're having a dedication, I'll put a sign up that says
14 we can't light this up because Ameren refuses to give us
15 electric. Five minutes later he calls back, if you'll
16 have your electrician take the meter base off the wall,
17 put a new base on, we'll hook it up and we will donate
18 the meter base. The meter base that we use is okay in
19 Gasconade county a mile and a half away but they didn't
20 want to use that in Franklin County. It's the same
21 electric, what is the big deal but some of their
22 attitudes and I don't, I think we ought to give them a
23 rate decrease instead of an increase because if they ask
24 for 10 and three quarter percent and you give them five
25 they're going to be smiling because that's what they're

1 expecting, about half of what they ask for and if you
2 take something away, they need to cut their costs. My
3 401K lost a lot of money over the years. I was not
4 guaranteed a 10 percent increase. If they want 10
5 percent increase if they're not happy with the stock they
6 got sell it and buy something else.

7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

9 That was the last name on my list. Is
10 there anyone else who didn't get a chance to sign up that
11 wants to testify now?

12 Yes, sir.

13 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Have a seat and tell us
15 your name please.

16 MR. HOGAN: My name is Curt Hogan.

17 H-o-g-a-n.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

19 MR. HOGAN: I live in Labadie.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to
21 tell us?

22 MR. HOGAN: I've got seven short points.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Go ahead.

24 MR. HOGAN: And I appreciate the
25 opportunity to have your ear.

1 I think Ameren if they're going to ask for
2 a rate increase they should also be putting in there
3 something for our future investors, we're the investors
4 in them, where they're doing a partial changeover in to
5 gas because gas is really going to make a difference and
6 that way they're investing in both fuels and they have
7 the best of both worlds but at some point you got to
8 start initializing that changeover, you're not going to
9 do it all at once but it would be nice if they were
10 looking to the future for that.

11 Two. I haven't heard anything about, I've
12 heard nothing but like my understanding is February 14
13 percent maybe. Why wouldn't incremental increases be
14 considered and hopefully you guys are considering that,
15 you know, whether it's five or seven or 10 or three
16 percent increase, it would be nice if it was incremental,
17 that's the way we buy our cars, little by little and not
18 all at once and just a bump 14 percent, that's just
19 really rough, I really worry about, you know, people that
20 are retired on a fixed income that's ridiculous to ask
21 them to do that.

22 I would ask the Commission, I guess that's
23 what you're called, to consider if we do, you're not
24 going to make your decision until February, right?

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: No, actually the decision

1 has to be made by January 2nd. That's when any new rates
2 would go in to effect.

3 MR. HOGAN: I would like you to consider
4 if we have a change from our socialist president who
5 obviously is totally against coal that you consider that
6 help to our utility companies to help ease the burden.

7 Another point I agree with what everybody
8 else has said about 10 percent is ridiculous for them to
9 have a guaranteed 10 percent, nobody gets this in the
10 stock market right now even if you have a broad, broad
11 funds that are taking lots of risks, you're not going to
12 get that right now. I'd think they would be tickled to
13 death if their shareholders were given a guaranty of five
14 percent the way the economy is right now. They ought to
15 be tickled to death with that and I'm not really
16 impressed with staff saying well eight percent is fair,
17 that's ridiculous. Nobody's making eight percent over
18 the last five years, whatever year. A lot of people are
19 losing for six months at a time. So 10 percent. Eight
20 percent is not reasonable, 10 percent is ridiculous. I
21 think five percent though ought to just be tickled to
22 death to get.

23 Where, statistics can be, you know, shown
24 the light in different directions and for this typical
25 \$14 increase I don't know if that's considering a lot

1 with a dust to dawn light in the middle mix there but I
2 got less than 1,200 square foot home and my bill's like
3 over 220 and it's not that old a house. You know,
4 economical windows, new furnace and that's just
5 ridiculous to look at that stat and that's fair to
6 consider for the average household.

7 I think tightening the belt is needed. On
8 one hand I've got friends that work for Ameren and they
9 go on storm duty and work for like 12 and 14 hours, it's
10 not safe for them but Ameren sends them on and expects
11 them to do that. That's not safe but on the other hand I
12 think you ought to look at what they're making for
13 overtime considering what everybody else makes and I
14 don't think it's reasonable, okay? But I think they
15 ought to be paid well and they ought to be able to be
16 safe and I think if they didn't work them so hard they'd
17 be happy to get less per hour working 10 hour shifts
18 instead of 12 and 14. Let's not say do it 20 days in a
19 row where a hurricane's gone through, it's ridiculous.

20 I think, my last point, you know, the
21 citizens of the U.S. are beat down. They are beat down.
22 They feel like they don't have a voice, they feel like
23 the fix is always in whether it's presidential election
24 or state election or rate increases with, you know, your
25 telephone bill or other utilities and I think a lot of

1 people think why come, it doesn't matter but you
2 gentlemen and whoever else is on your commission you can
3 change that because you guys can hear the public and make
4 a good decision that's fair given the economy, given
5 where people are at my understanding is in Franklin
6 County food pantries are tapped out, there's nothing left
7 to give and I think United Way costs are estimated like
8 really high, I'm wanting to say 40 percent higher than
9 last year because people are really hurting, really
10 hurting and you're talking about people on fixed incomes
11 and you can hear in the room people really hurting,
12 they're thinking this doesn't matter, you guys, you have
13 a chance to make a difference, to do what's fair.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

15 Anyone else wish to come forward and
16 testify?

17 FROM THE FLOOR: I'd like to ask if
18 anybody is swearing in on a bible or if you're swearing
19 to wide open spaces?

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You're swearing to
21 whatever you want to be swearing to.

22 FROM THE FLOOR: I just didn't know we got
23 God out of everything yet.

24 MR. BROCKMAN: My name is Billy Brockman.

25 (Whereupon, the speaker was sworn)

1 MR. BROCKMAN: I understand what everybody
2 said here and all that and I really ain't got much to add
3 to it but I have to add this, what you're going to end up
4 doing probably is you're going to end up giving them a
5 percentage increase and you're probably going to be in
6 the neighborhood of five to seven percent increase. None
7 of us get any of that, it's as simple as that. To be
8 fair, to be honest with this I met a gentleman here today
9 that I understand where he's coming from and really what
10 should be said here is you ought to tell Ameren like
11 everybody else says suck it up, we're going to do a two
12 percent reduction. We're going to have to give back to
13 the people. It's a simple, and it's just as easy to do
14 this. They are making millions of dollars. You had this
15 one gentleman up here he said, was asked about a profit
16 of \$500 million. They spent \$600 million they said in
17 infrastructure. Don't insult me with that figure because
18 it doesn't add up. How can you pay all your CEOs these
19 tens of millions of dollars if you had to pay out \$100
20 million more than what you got? It makes no sense. And
21 gentlemen I know what you're going to end up doing but
22 just to be on the record I say you should send a message
23 to them this is going to be the year you would do a two
24 percent decrease. And then we'll discuss this another
25 two years down the road.

1 That's really about all I can say. Thank
2 you for your time.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

4 Anybody else want to come forward and
5 testify?

6 I don't see any other hands going up.

7 The next step then after these local
8 public hearings are completed the Commission will hear
9 three weeks of testimony from expert witnesses at our
10 offices in Jefferson City, a decision will be coming out,
11 a written decision will come out probably some time in
12 December making the ruling.

13 With that then we are adjourned. Thank
14 you.

15

16 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 8:44 p.m.)

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I, SUZANNE BENOIST, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
do hereby certify that there came before me at East
Central College, 1964 Prairie Dell Road, Union, MO
63084, the above-referenced parties, that the proceeding
was translated and proofread using computer-aided
transcription, and the above transcript of proceedings is
a true and accurate transcript of my notes as taken at
the time of said event.

I further certify that I am neither attorney nor
counsel for nor related nor employed by any of the
parties to the action in which this examination is taken;
further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto or
financially interested in this action.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2012.

SUZANNE BENOIST, RPR, CCR, CSR-IL

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