		Page 1
1	STATE OF MISSOURI	
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
3		
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
5		
6	Local Public Hearing	
7	January 13, 2015	
8	Mexico, Missouri	
9	Volume 5	
10		
11	In The Matter of Union)	
	Electric Company d/b/a)	
12	Ameren Missouri's Tariff To) File No. ER-2014-0258	
	Increase Its Revenues For)	
13	Electric Service)	
14		
15	DANIEL JORDAN, Presiding	
	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	
16		
	ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman,	
17	STEPHEN M. STOLL,	
	SCOTT T. RUPP,	
18	COMMISSIONERS	
19		
20	REPORTED BY:	
	AMANDA N. FARRAR, CCR	
21	MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES	
22		
23		
24		
25		

		Page 2
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		Page 3
1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(The hearing commenced at 7:01 p.m.)	
3	JUDGE JORDAN: And we are on the record.	
4	Good evening everyone. Commission calling the	
5	action in File No. ER-2014-0258. This is in the	
6	matter of Union Electric Company doing business as	
7	Ameren Missouri's tariff to increase its revenues	
8	for electric service.	
9	My name is Daniel Jordan. I'm the	
10	regulatory law judge assigned to run this	
11	proceeding. I'm not the regulatory law judge	
12	assigned to this action. The good fortune is that	
13	you have the Commission's most experienced judge on	
14	this matter.	
15	In this portion of this proceeding we	
16	will be taking testimony, taking testimony from the	
17	public on the proposed rate increases. When I say	
18	testimony, I mean testimony that's under oath. I	
19	will administer you an oath, or if religious	
20	convictions prevent you from taking an oath, then I	
21	will administer an affirmation. Just tell me one	
22	way or the other if you have a preference.	
23	When you come up to testify and I've	
24	administered the oath, I may ask you a few questions	
25	to get you started, make sure the court reporter has	

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- 1 your name spelled correctly, all that good stuff.
- 2 The court reporter is recording testimony, we're
- 3 also videotaping it so that those commissioners who
- 4 are not present can review a transcript and can even
- 5 see and hear you as you testify.
- 6 When you testify I'll ask you to be
- 7 precise, make your point, make your point fully, and
- 8 more importantly, make sure that you say what you
- 9 want the commissioners to hear during this part. In
- 10 other words, if you've expressed yourself during the
- 11 previous portions, that doesn't really count for the
- 12 commissioners' consideration. Make sure if you have
- 13 something to say, say it during this part.
- 14 If you simply agree with something that
- 15 someone's already said, you can come up and say
- 16 that. The Commission will want to know that too.
- 17 You don't have to repeat what they said. Just say I
- 18 agree with the previous statement and that will be
- 19 helpful. The Commission wants to hear that.
- There may be some clarifying questions
- 21 from me, from the parties, from the commissioners to
- 22 fully develop what your point is so that they
- 23 understand it a little better. So stay until you're
- 24 excused.
- 25 And do remember that in addition to this

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- 1 proceeding, you can still have input in writing,
- 2 your neighbors can still have input in writing if
- 3 they couldn't make it. And so you know to contact
- 4 staff and the Office of Public Counsel who you've
- 5 been introduced to previously.
- 6 Any questions about the proceeding, how
- 7 we're doing what we're doing? Okay.
- 8 I will be calling names from this list
- 9 and that's the order in which people will testify,
- 10 and maybe what you have to say has already been
- 11 satisfied and that's fine, just let me know that you
- 12 pass, and at the end I will probably have time for
- 13 further testimony if someone hasn't signed up but
- 14 something occurs to them. Okay? I'm going to --
- MR. THOMPSON: Taking entries?
- 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, I'm going to take
- 17 entries of appearance, I'm also going to introduce
- 18 the commissioners. We will begin with entries of
- 19 appearance from the applicants.
- MS. GIBONEY: For Ameren Missouri I'm
- 21 Sarah Giboney of Smith Lewis, LLP, 111 South Ninth
- 22 Street, Columbia, Missouri 65205.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. And from
- 24 staff.
- MR. THOMPSON: Kevin Thompson for the

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- 1 staff of Missouri Public Service Commission, Post
- 2 Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 JUDGE JORDAN: Counsel from the Office
- 5 of Public Counsel.
- 6 MS. BAKER: Thank you. Christina Baker,
- 7 P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102,
- 8 appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public
- 9 Counsel and the customers.
- 10 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Do we have
- 11 any interveners present? I don't think we do, so I
- 12 will introduce the commissioners. From Jefferson
- 13 City and beyond we have Commissioner Scott Rupp, we
- 14 have Commissioner Stephen Stoll, and we have the
- 15 chairman of the Public Service Commission Robert
- 16 Kenney. Any introductory remarks?
- 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Yes, Judge, just
- 18 briefly. Can everybody hear me at this volume?
- 19 Thank you for being here tonight at
- 20 6 p.m. on a Tuesday night. The fact that you're
- 21 here indicates how significant and important this is
- 22 to you and I hope that you will understand that we
- 23 think it's equally as significant and important, and
- 24 so we do appreciate you being here tonight.
- This is a local public hearing. There

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- 1 will also be an evidentiary hearing later in
- 2 Jefferson City.
- 3 As the Judge indicated, there are five
- 4 commissioners. Three of us are present tonight, and
- 5 you shouldn't read anything into the fact that the
- 6 other two are not able to be here. Your testimony
- 7 is being transcribed by the court reporter and even
- 8 videotaped and so the other two commissioners will
- 9 have an opportunity to review the transcript of your
- 10 testimony and take that into account as we
- 11 deliberate the merits of the case.
- 12 So, again, thank you for being here, we
- 13 appreciate the time that you've taken to participate
- 14 in the process, and we look forward to listening to
- 15 what you have to say.
- 16 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I would simply
- 17 welcome everyone here and tell you that we look
- 18 forward to your testimony this evening and we're
- 19 glad you came out.
- 20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: I too wanted to
- 21 welcome everybody and also use this opportunity to
- 22 make any comments about customer service that you've
- 23 received from the company that maybe doesn't have to
- 24 deal with the rate increase, but we do like to know
- 25 how the company is providing service to its -- to

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- 1 the ratepayers in this area. So if you have any
- 2 comments on previous, you know, experiences with the
- 3 company, we do like to hear that as well.
- 4 And just also one note is we are not
- 5 allowed to answer any questions that you pose to us.
- 6 We have to remain completely silent because that
- 7 could be considered prejudging the case or anything
- 8 if we were to make any comments. So if you do ask
- 9 us any questions, we are not able to respond;
- 10 however, we might ask you a few questions to just
- 11 clarify some of your comments.
- But we do appreciate you being here and
- 13 thank you very much. And Judge.
- 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Very good. The
- 15 Commission will now hear testimony. The first name
- on my list is Harold S. Enslen.
- MR. ENSLEN: That's me.
- 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Enslen, please come
- 19 forward.
- MR. ENSLEN: Sit right here?
- JUDGE JORDAN: Have a seat right here.
- 22 HAROLD S. ENSLEN,
- 23 was sworn to tell the truth, and testified as
- 24 follows:
- JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

Page 9 MR. ENSLEN: Are you going to ask me 1 2 where I got some of this information like newspapers 3 and things like that? Is that? JUDGE JORDAN: As best you understand 4 5 it. MR. ENSLEN: Okay. 6 7 JUDGE JORDAN: Please spell your name 8 for the court reporter. Please spell your name for the court reporter. 10 MR. ENSLEN: Harold S. Enslen, E-N-S-L-E-N, middle initial S. 11 12 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Enslen, are you a 13 customer of the utility? MR. ENSLEN: Yes, I am. 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, can you go ahead 15 and tell the Commission what you'd like them to 16 17 know? 18 MR. ENSLEN: Okay. Well, I've been to about every one of these hearings that you've had 19 around here in the last 20 years or so because I'm 20 21 interested in what's going on. I'm interested in the Public Service Commission and how they operate, 22 and also, as you can see, there's a lot of people 23 24 that are not here that are at home sitting by the fire tonight as cold as it is. 25

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- 1 And I've been on the city council over
- 2 the years, I've been on the school board, I've been
- 3 on the road district, I've been -- worked at AP
- 4 Green and retired before they closed, and I've just
- 5 retired from the civil legislature and also I'm
- 6 retired from Mid Missouri Legal Services, and I
- 7 still stay active in the church and Crime Stoppers
- 8 in the local area. So I'm interested in the
- 9 community. I'm interested in the folks that can't
- 10 be here tonight, that won't make an effort to be
- 11 here.
- 12 And the first thing they'll say, well,
- 13 you going to that thing, find out how much Public
- 14 Service Commission makes, what their salary is. I
- 15 said you got to get a blue book to read it. They're
- 16 not going to tell you. They don't put it in the
- 17 paper as far as I know.
- 18 I've also served on the Senior Center
- 19 board and I'm familiar with what the Senior Center
- 20 care coordinator does and the Central Missouri
- 21 Community Action and also the Help Center. Now, the
- 22 care coordinator, she is not able to get utilities,
- 23 money to pay the utilities when the low income and
- 24 to get out. Central Missouri Community Action, they
- 25 get the money and their procedure to go on that and

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- 1 most everybody knows how that works. It takes a
- 2 while. The Help Center, I talked to that gentleman
- 3 just the other day and they don't have any money.
- 4 They have food, but they don't have any money to pay
- 5 utilities, neither electric or gas. The care
- 6 coordinator is a -- when the utilities are cut off,
- 7 and there's a procedure to follow on that, they have
- 8 sometime in November that they don't come off, but
- 9 they still got to pay the utilities, if I
- 10 understand, and it's what.
- 11 There's folks that are sitting at home
- 12 tonight in this community and in other communities
- 13 that have the utilities, their utilities are on and
- 14 I know of people that have shut off the rest of the
- 15 house and put their bed in the kitchen and live that
- 16 way until it gets the weather changes in order to
- 17 pay their utilities.
- 18 I read in the Public Service Commission
- 19 web page that the Department of Social Services is
- 20 going to handle \$4 1/2 million of federal funds for
- 21 heat shut off and that is for people with an income
- 22 of 26,000 a year, a family of three and \$3,000 in
- 23 savings, and that's fine and dandy if everybody will
- 24 use that, but lots of people don't know it's
- 25 available. Some people do and some people don't.

Page 12 There's a communication gap over it. 2 I went to the Central Missouri Community 3 Action and the lady told me how that money comes into them and they have to -- the customer has to 5 get a form and it has to be mailed in and filled out -- filled out and mailed in and I guess that 6 7 works all right. I don't know. I never had to use 8 it. I'm able to pay my own, but I hope I'm able to till I move on. And so I'm concerned about the people that are not here that need help on their 10 utilities. 11 12 And this increase, 10 percent increase, 13 and that's the eighth increase we've had in the past nine years. I believe that's the information I was 14 15 given. I'll stand corrected if that's not correct. That's it. 16 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Any questions from the 18 parties? 19 MS. GIBONEY: No questions. 20 MR. THOMPSON: No questions. Thank you, 21 Judge. 22 MS. BAKER: No questions. Thank you. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: Commissioners, any 24 questions? 25 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: I don't have any

Page 13 questions, Mr. Enslen, but I thank you for taking --

- 2 I don't have any questions, but I thank you for
- 3 taking the time to be here.
- 4 MR. ENSLEN: All right.
- 5 JUDGE JORDAN: And I have no questions
- 6 either. I thank you.
- 7 Here's what I'm going to do as far as
- 8 cross-examination goes, I'll just ask the parties if
- 9 you have any and if you have any, speak up.
- 10 Otherwise, I'll just assume that you pass.
- 11 The next name on my list is Robin Acree.
- 12 Good evening.
- 13 ROBIN ACREE,
- 14 was sworn to tell the truth, and testified as
- 15 follows:
- 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Please state your name
- 17 and spell it for the court reporter.
- MS. ACREE: Sure. It's Robin Acree,
- 19 A-C-R-E-E, and Robin with an I, and I live at 628
- 20 West Love Street here in Mexico, Missouri 65265.
- 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. You may have
- 22 a seat, stand, whichever makes you more comfortable.
- MS. ACREE: I'll sit down.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Are you a customer of the
- 25 utility?

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- 1 MS. ACREE: Yes. I have been a customer
- 2 for a very long time. So, in fact, I've lived at my
- 3 home at 628 West Love Street, I just love getting
- 4 all this information from Ameren, I've lived there
- 5 for it will be 30 years in November, the same
- 6 residence. So, you know, I can be what might be
- 7 considered someone who has not moved around a lot
- 8 and who has had a lot of experience with Ameren and
- 9 maybe even before it was Ameren Missouri, so.
- I just wanted to disclose to you guys
- 11 too that I'm also the executive director of a
- 12 nonprofit group here in Mexico that has members
- 13 pretty much in the entire Ameren Missouri of this
- 14 area. We have some on the west side of the state as
- 15 well. But I also wanted to say that I'll be
- 16 speaking on behalf of that organization as well.
- 17 It's a nonprofit group that is made up of
- 18 predominantly people who have moderate to low
- 19 incomes or they're allies that work for them and
- 20 work for a common, common good. We've had a lot of
- 21 experience over the years speaking to the Commission
- 22 on behalf of things like the utility rate cases with
- 23 Ameren Missouri.
- I'm going to go on the record letting
- 25 you know that, you know, I don't think it takes

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- 1 people too long to figure out just how high
- 2 everything is now. My latest story to go on the
- 3 record is that chicken, a chicken fryer that I used
- 4 to buy, you know, because it was something that you
- 5 could cook and, you know, get a lot of meat and use
- 6 it over and over again. I went to the county market
- 7 and that costs regularly \$9.40 for a chicken fryer.
- 8 And when I go into the grocery store now, you know,
- 9 I not only think about my own, like trying to figure
- 10 out my own budget, but quite frankly it just
- 11 almost -- I almost can't even go to the grocery
- 12 store anymore. In fact, my daughter said you're
- 13 just going to have to quit going to the grocery
- 14 store because you're getting so upset, and because
- 15 I'm concerned.
- I just can't imagine someone like my
- 17 mother, who will not testify tonight but she gave me
- 18 permission that I can talk for her, Hazel Roberts,
- 19 who's on a very fixed income, right, making a choice
- 20 whether she heats or eats, and those things really
- 21 concern me.
- 22 So I also wanted to go on the record in
- 23 saying that Ameren Missouri is not hurting, okay. I
- 24 have not had an opportunity this year to really look
- 25 over all of their earnings over the past year, but I

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- 1 do know that they have consistently been able to
- 2 profit for their shareholders pretty well and they
- 3 do have some of those things like the luxury boxes
- 4 and things of that nature. So I don't think they've
- 5 really -- can really justify, you know, a three
- 6 digit, million dollar increase.
- 7 And it's pretty ironic that when they
- 8 were punished for their over-earnings back in 2001,
- 9 you know, they have consistently been back up asking
- 10 for more, an increase. I was told before this
- 11 started this is their sixth time asking for an
- 12 increase. Now, I have not gotten six increases in
- 13 the last as far as my earnings are concerned and I'm
- 14 on a -- I get paid salary and so whatever, however
- 15 many hours I work or however many kilowatt hours I
- 16 use I get paid that, right, and I do -- I don't
- 17 think there's anything that I can file on behalf of
- 18 consumers for an under-earnings complaint, but I can
- 19 definitely speak on behalf of the communities that I
- 20 work with and they have no choice. I mean, it's a
- 21 monopoly-owned business. So it's not like if I
- 22 don't like Ameren Missouri's prices, I can go and,
- 23 you know, find a better price.
- I also want to say that I get a little
- 25 fired up when it comes to, you know, our state

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- 1 legislature for example, and I do want to say that,
- 2 Commissioner Kenney and the commissioners that are
- 3 here tonight, it is just a breath of fresh air to be
- 4 able to know that you can still use the public
- 5 hearing process in the intention that it was meant,
- 6 because I can't even stomach what goes on in our
- 7 state legislature anymore and they've dismissed
- 8 public testimony pretty much as not necessary. So I
- 9 really want to thank you guys especially for coming
- 10 out into the communities that Ameren Missouri
- 11 serves. I wish more people would come out and
- 12 exercise their right to complain or not complain or
- 13 just their -- I just wish they would use democracy
- 14 for what it was intended.
- And my final thing that I will say
- 16 tonight is that, you know, I think a lot of times,
- 17 you know, as a consumer group we're perceived as
- 18 someone who doesn't, you know, that we're just going
- 19 to be against it, we're going to just be against it
- 20 kind of thing, but really I'm not against any
- 21 company making reasonable profit and I wish everyone
- 22 well, you know, in their endeavors; but quite
- 23 frankly, I just cannot in good conscious continue to
- 24 keep coming to these hearings because I know this
- 25 isn't my first one and more than likely it won't be

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- 1 Ameren's last rate increase, but every time it's
- 2 triple digits and then all the public people come up
- 3 and say no, they don't need a rate increase of that
- 4 nature, we have our Office of Public Counsel who,
- 5 thank goodness, steps in, but they still generally
- 6 get a rate increase, and I will challenge you all to
- 7 really look at the reality of it.
- I don't think they've proven their
- 9 burden to justify such a rate increase and I would
- 10 like to encourage you all this year to deny them an
- 11 increase because sometimes even, you know, when we
- 12 even love our children, you know, once in a while
- 13 you have to put out some tough love if you know what
- 14 I'm saying because you care about the whole and not
- 15 just that child's behavior.
- 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Any questions
- 17 from the parties? No questions.
- 18 Commissioners, clarifying questions?
- 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Just one. Ms. Acree,
- 20 thank you for being here.
- MS. ACREE: No problem.
- 22 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Can you tell me the
- 23 name of the nonprofit?
- 24 MS. ACREE: Sure. It's GRO, Grass Roots
- 25 Organizing. We were incorporated in 2000 and we are

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- 1 based here in Mexico, we have a headquarters here,
- 2 we also have an outreach office in Columbia,
- 3 Missouri, and we have more members statewide and new
- 4 members statewide.
- 5 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thanks for taking the
- 6 time to be here.
- 7 MS. ACREE: Thank you all for taking the
- 8 time to have me.
- 9 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I will also mention
- 10 and first thank you for being here tonight and, you
- 11 know, we do realize that there are a lot of people
- 12 who have an interest like you do that just can't
- 13 come out or don't want to on a cold night.
- MS. ACREE: Right.
- 15 COMMISSIONER STOLL: We try to have
- 16 these at different times. We have them during like
- 17 starting at noon and some at six. Six seems to work
- 18 best for those folks that are out working, but we
- 19 know the weather does play a part, but we appreciate
- 20 you coming out and making all this worthwhile.
- 21 MS. ACREE: Thank you. And like I said,
- 22 sometimes the public process does get dissed a
- 23 little bit, but everybody has that choice. You're
- 24 at least allowing people to make the choice tonight
- 25 whether they want to come out in the cold. Thank

		Page 20
1	you.	
2	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Yeah. This is one	
3	of 12	
4	MS. ACREE: I know.	
5	COMMISSIONER STOLL: public hearings	
6	we have, so.	
7	MS. ACREE: And you'll see some of our	
8	people out. You probably already saw some in	
9	Jefferson City and at the.	
10	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Yeah. Thank you.	
11	MS. ACREE: Thank you.	
12	JUDGE JORDAN: The next name on my list	
13	is Robert D. Martin. Do I have that right?	
14	MR. MARTY: That's close.	
15	JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Why don't you	
16	straighten that out.	
17	MR. MARTY: That's Robert H. Marty,	
18	M-A-R-T-Y.	
19	JUDGE JORDAN: T-Y.	
20	ROBERT H. MARTY,	
21	was sworn to tell the truth, and testified as	
22	follows:	
23	MR. MARTY: Welcome to Mexico. I've	
24	been Mr. Enslen and I have appeared for 30 years.	
25	Thirty years we've been coming to these hearings and	

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- 1 he's told me that even if we have to come in a
- 2 gurney, we're going to keep coming. We're close to
- 3 it, aren't we, Harold? Both Harold and I have been
- 4 mayor of the City of Mexico and he gave you a list
- 5 of other things. In other words, we're involved and
- 6 we care about the community.
- 7 I'm delighted to see three commissioners
- 8 here. I can't recall having that many people here
- 9 before. We're delighted and delighted to have the
- 10 chairman here, and I hope you all spend some money
- 11 here that should help the work here.
- 12 I want to tell you quickly some history.
- 13 As Ms. Acree said, the public hearing is very
- 14 important and we've had some success. When you've
- 15 been here 30 years, we carry some history with us.
- 16 In the 80's we were able to get -- by testimony made
- 17 in Mexico, Missouri we were able to get Ameren to
- 18 reduce their prices 5 percent because, it took them
- 19 11 months to think it over, but because we pointed
- 20 out they were the single shareholder of three other
- 21 companies which have a lot of white-collar staff,
- 22 and after that testimony they offered 200 people a
- 23 reduced rate 5 percent, long time ago.
- In the 90's we pointed out at another
- 25 hearing at a gas hearing that the unit that they

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- 1 wanted to charge per household was an excessive
- 2 increase, that it should be less because they're
- 3 reading it from the sky. They came back and said,
- 4 you know, we did ask for too much. When asked by
- 5 the papers why did you ask for the wrong number,
- 6 they said we used the old figures. So that always
- 7 worries me about the credibility of their figures.
- 8 Can I tell you some good news? This is
- 9 a success story from last week. We had a real
- 10 problem with gas in the Mexico Post Office and you
- 11 would think the post office would take care of it,
- 12 but they weren't and we were after them. Ameren UE
- 13 came several times, stopped gas leaks, still the
- 14 smell continued. Ameren came and they had to send
- 15 the fire department, the police and the building
- 16 inspector.
- 17 We found out that the louvers in the,
- 18 this is reported by Ameren, the louvers or the vents
- 19 weren't operating and they'd been burned out for
- 20 sometime, and the man's name who helped us --
- 21 Mr. Wood, I'm not appearing for you today, okay --
- 22 Greg Hatfield was aggressively pursuing this because
- 23 we were running up against the bureaucracy and he
- 24 was after it. Of course, the patrons were being in
- 25 some danger, but the people who worked there were in

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- 1 even greater danger. And Greg told me that on
- 2 Thursday or Friday when he finally tried the boiler
- 3 one more time they got a flame big enough to make a
- 4 boom. So we're talking about a serious issue that
- 5 Ameren responded to aggressively. Great man.
- I want to talk to you about
- 7 streetlights. We've always had a problem with
- 8 streetlights. We pay, we the City of Mexico, pay
- 9 for the streetlights, but Ameren doesn't care
- 10 whether they're on or not. They get paid whether
- 11 the lights are on or not. And when I was mayor I
- 12 tried to have people drive around and write down a
- 13 notice if the light was out. This is it from 20
- 14 years ago. That didn't work.
- Then I recommended we do a paper about
- 16 our city and in the city we talk about how to turn
- 17 in the lights if they're out, and this is what this
- 18 is and I'll give you all copies of it, and it still
- 19 didn't work. The post where the number is is 7 feet
- 20 in the air, it faces the road. To turn it in is
- 21 difficult and so people didn't really turn it in.
- 22 So finally the complaints continued
- 23 about the lights being off. Bear in mind we've
- 24 talked to Ameren about it. I suggested at different
- 25 times how about going around once a month and seeing

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- 1 what lights are out and fixing them. When I was on
- 2 the Mexico Housing Authority, out of 16 lights at
- 3 one time we had six out. I'd check to see if they
- 4 were by vandalism. Ameren said no, they were worn
- 5 out. Now, the City of Mexico owns the lights around
- 6 the square and they check them once a week to see if
- 7 they're out. Well, finally citizens complained
- 8 enough and they sent the police out within the last
- 9 month. I'll give you this, Judge.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Sure, yeah. I'll have
- 11 the court reporter mark these.
- MR. MARTY: Let me give you this, Judge,
- 13 too. And the commissioners like these or not? I
- 14 don't know. Are you sure? Okay. Can I get another
- 15 one? More, more and more. Do you want them all so
- 16 I don't have to take care of it?
- 17 So what I'm saying tonight is we need a
- 18 system from Ameren to take care of these lights and
- 19 we don't have one. You see the effort we've made
- 20 myself personally, plus the City of Mexico and we've
- 21 not seen Ameren get it done. I thought you ought to
- 22 give an award for everybody who turned in a light.
- 23 Give them 25 bucks off their electric bill if they
- 24 found a light, assuming they didn't put it out, but
- 25 anyway. Why not give an award? Mr. Wood, would you

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- 1 please make a note of that, if we turned in a light,
- 2 we could get ten bucks back on our bill.
- 3 The energy efficiency which I have been
- 4 reading about is talking about saving two plants if
- 5 you have energy efficiency. Well, you know, you're
- 6 not new to the game. Wisconsin Electric and
- 7 Wisconsin Power and Light or Wisconsin Power and
- 8 Light have been doing this for 30 or 40 years and
- 9 saving plants and this, of course, as you said,
- 10 Mr. Wood, is the most effective way to really save
- 11 money. This is clean energy.
- 12 So by coincidence I installed a boiler
- 13 this year and I'm up for a rebate and I'm talking to
- 14 somebody in Massachusetts. The rebate call center
- 15 gentleman is in Massachusetts. Surely there must be
- 16 a call center in Missouri that can be handling the
- 17 rebate. Well, I'd like to have the money -- they
- 18 must pay the call center, they must pay for rebates.
- 19 I'd like to be able to spend that money here in
- 20 Missouri. In fact, Mexico just in the last six
- 21 months has got a new call center. So I'm asking
- 22 Ameren to consider a call center in Missouri instead
- of going to Massachusetts. They're not too fast out
- 24 in Massachusetts, and just like my mother said a
- 25 couple years ago, you're just as slow as

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- 1 Massachusetts. I believe that's what she said.
- 2 About the rate itself, I can't see how
- 3 it should be increased. I think it should be
- 4 decreased. The price of coal is at a 10-to-20-year
- 5 low. There's almost no cost of borrowing money,
- 6 almost no cost of borrowing money right now. The
- 7 cost of copper is a multiyear low, copper used in
- 8 the wires. Steel is at a low, low price for several
- 9 years now. Gasoline which is used in their trucks
- 10 and vans and so forth are at new lows.
- I think if you don't ask them to take a
- 12 5 percent decrease, you should have them take their
- 13 bid and reassemble it on these new costs. I'm
- 14 afraid like they did on the gas thing they used old
- 15 figures, and there's new figures now. I'm asking
- 16 that you use new figures.
- 17 Also, Mr. Wood, you spoke about the
- 18 economy, should we lay people off. Did you say
- 19 that? I'm trying to remember what you said, but we
- 20 would -- the City of Mexico is an example, in the
- 21 last four or five years has reduced from 110 paid
- 22 staff to 86. They've made other ways to cut
- 23 expenses. All sorts of companies, as you read in
- 24 the paper, have done things to save expenses. We
- 25 would look at Ameren to be able to save money in the

Page 27 1 same way. 2 And if they want to make more money on 3 their return, the way to do it is reduce their expenses, not necessarily get it out of the 4 5 ratepayer. I'm not entirely convinced that, excuse me, the Public Service Commission is sophisticated 6 7 enough to know whether or not they are doing that, 8 and that doesn't mean I don't love you, but I worry about you. We know that major costs are reduced and they should be reflected in their rate. The 10 11 \$150 million part has disappeared. That's a big 12 part. I was hoping that you did that internationally, but we don't know. Do we know if 13 that was ever bid internationally? 14 15 Also one last comment. We hear a lot about the threat of the aluminum plant coming off 16 17 the grid, if it comes off the grid. A matter of fact, in one of the publications they gave us they 18 want money because the aluminum plant goes off for a 19 20 couple months due to an ice storm and they lost 21 rates and we have to make up for that. If I was that aluminum plant, I'd quit whining and crying and 22 start buying electricity from TWA or TBA which was 23 24 made to take care of aluminum plants or build my own power company. They probably could do a power 25

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- 1 plant. They probably could do electricity, gas,
- 2 electricity and hydro, and if they had extra, they
- 3 could sell it to the grid, and if they didn't have
- 4 enough, they could buy merchant electricity like the
- 5 City of Columbia does. The City has their own plant
- 6 and they buy merchant electricity.
- 7 I want to thank you again for the
- 8 courtesy of coming here to Mexico. I do wish you'd
- 9 buy dinner somewhere. I'm not buying, but I'd be
- 10 glad if you did, and I would like to see you again.
- 11 I thank you for being here.
- 12 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, sir. Any
- 13 questions from the parties for this witness?
- 14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
- 15 testimony.
- MR. MARTY: You're welcome.
- 17 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.
- 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Any clarifying questions
- 19 from the Commission? No. No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Well, one, Mr. Mayor.
- 21 Where would you recommend we have dinner?
- 22 MR. MARTY: There's three. There's
- 23 three or four places. There's three good Mexican
- 24 places. One right near here, one in the center of
- 25 town which is Vega's Burrito, it's my favorite, and

Page 29 there's one on the edge of Highway 22 is Dos Arcos, 2 which is also very good. I recommend all of those. 3 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you for your time. 4 5 MR. MARTY: Thank you for being here this evening. I really appreciate it. The first 6 7 time I saw a three spot. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, sir. I'm noting for the record that Mayor Marty's exhibits are recorded as Exhibit A, that is the notice of 10 correction of street lights, the newspaper article 11 12 is marked Exhibit B, and the newsletter for the City of Mexico marked Exhibit C. I will also note that 13 the commissioners have received copies of -- we have 14 extra copies of Exhibit C. 15 (Exhibits A, B & C were marked for 16 17 identification.) 18 HAZEL L. ROBERTS, was sworn to tell the truth, and testified as 19 follows: 20 21 JUDGE JORDAN: For the court reporter, Hazel is the conventional spelling, middle initial 22 L, Roberts. 23 24 And, Ms. Roberts, are you a customer of Ameren? 25

Page 30 MS. ROBERTS: I am. I have been for 1 2 many years. 3 JUDGE JORDAN: And then go ahead and tell the Commission what you'd like them to know. 4 5 MS. ROBERTS: Well, I have been a member of the community for a long time and I've been a 6 7 consumer for a long time. I raised most of my 8 family here and it's been tough being a single-income person and my income has decreased over the years. I am retired. I have a limited 10 11 income. My retirement account I had is greatly 12 reduced now. I'm mostly on Social Security. My 13 raise on Social Security was this much, I'm indicating a minuscule amount, and Ameren wants to 14 15 raise my electric rates again. I object to the amount they want to raise them. 16 17 I have been on budget billing for several years now and it goes up a little, down a 18 little. I manage to make it. They have no idea 19 what our bills have to cover, but if my electric 20 21 bill goes up higher, my air conditioner might go out, I can't afford to replace that if the bill goes 22 up, my furnace is getting old, it could go out, and 23 24 I replaced the water heater since I've lived where I I've replaced all those three things and if my 25

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- 1 income keeps going barely up and the rates keep
- 2 going up higher, I speak for a lot of people in my
- 3 same situation that we can't afford a big increase.
- 4 And if it's going to come up almost \$10 a month, our
- 5 increases on our Social Security checks won't cover
- 6 that.
- 7 My insurance went up last year. I have
- 8 Medicare and a supplement and that goes up. They
- 9 won't go down. I make, you know, a dollar more
- 10 probably than what I should to qualify for any
- 11 assistance, which is ridiculous too. I know several
- 12 other people in the same situation. You have an
- 13 asset, you have a couple dollars in the bank,
- 14 boohoo.
- So I think that these hearings are a
- 16 good thing. I think that we should have more people
- 17 here, but it's cold, it's late and it's not in town.
- 18 Ameren Missouri does not supply this service.
- 19 Ameren Missouri is inside the city limits of Mexico.
- 20 A cooperative does this and they do a good job.
- 21 So for the people that need to be here
- 22 tonight I'm speaking out. We cannot take a big
- 23 increase on electric or any other of our utilities.
- 24 We're doing our best to cut costs. We're trying to
- 25 save where we can. I have an old car, but it's like

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- 1 me, it keeps on working, thank goodness. But I
- 2 think that people in our situations have no way to
- 3 increase their income. I'm not able to work. Over
- 4 the years I had a job that was good income for a
- 5 woman. That's got to change too now days. Anyway,
- 6 I have a friend that gets a lot less income than I
- 7 do and she wanted to be here tonight, but she
- 8 couldn't come.
- 9 We have to stand up for the people in
- 10 this state that do not have the ability to adjust
- 11 their income to suit Ameren Missouri's income. They
- 12 make profit, yes, their profit is probably quite
- 13 adequate, but I don't think they need to increase
- 14 their profit by the amount they're requesting. I
- 15 think that's a good profit margin for any business.
- 16 I think their costs are not reflected well in what
- 17 they're requesting for the increase on the
- 18 electricity.
- I can't complain about the service
- 20 because it's been quite good. A few years ago a
- 21 pickup truck wiped out a utility pole next door to
- 22 me and they spent the night putting it back up for
- 23 us and getting us restored to service. I sleep with
- 24 a machine at night, so I couldn't sleep until it was
- 25 done. I appreciated that they had good service to

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- 1 do that.
- I don't think that everything that they
- 3 do is wrong, it's not, but they're a business trying
- 4 to make money, but they're also providing a monopoly
- 5 utility service, and us poor folks, I'm sorry, we
- 6 can't afford those increases. If you got to give
- 7 them a little, give them a little. If it's more
- 8 than that, I don't know what we're going to do.
- 9 It's not there, it can't be there, it's not going to
- 10 come in on us.
- I buy a lottery ticket occasionally and
- 12 someday maybe. I don't know. That's my one dream
- 13 to win the lottery, but until then I can't afford an
- 14 increase on anything. I do well to put gas in my
- 15 car. I do well to repair something that breaks.
- 16 And there's so many people in this situation.
- 17 I'm the president of the local AARP
- 18 chapter. There's people in my chapter that don't
- 19 have the income increases either. So on behalf of
- 20 all these people in the situations but with limited
- 21 income, no hope of increasing their income that you
- 22 keep this in line for the people out here that can't
- 23 afford to take these increases like this.
- 24 And the Dollar More Program, when I
- 25 worked I paid into the Dollar More Program. I

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- 1 thought it was a good idea, but I didn't personally
- 2 see anybody that benefited from it. I'm not saying
- 3 they didn't, but it wasn't something I got to see.
- 4 I got to where I said, hey, I'm doing well to pay my
- 5 dollars, so I had to stop that. I do things to help
- 6 other people that don't cost me money.
- 7 So I'm just hoping that they keep in
- 8 mind that there's a lot of people out here that
- 9 can't be here tonight and at the other hearings that
- 10 were hurting. The economy is hurting. So they can
- 11 hurt right along with us and take a little less
- 12 money from us. Thank you for letting me speak.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Any questions
- 14 from the parties?
- 15 Commissioners, any clarifying questions?
- 16 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
- 17 testimony.
- 18 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
- 19 Ms. Roberts.
- 20 JUDGE JORDAN: The last name on my list
- 21 is Pat McGuire. Pat McGuire going to testify?
- 22 Okay.
- Well, that's all the names that are on
- 24 my list. Would anyone else like to testify while
- you're here in the presence of the commissioners?

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1	MR. KENT: I'd like to make a brief	
2	statement.	
3	JUDGE JORDAN: Please come up.	
4	MR. KENT: My name is Ron Kent. I've	
5	lived in Mexico since the early 50's.	
6	JUDGE JORDAN: And is that Kent,	
7	K-E-N-T?	
8	MR. KENT: K-E-N-T. 1921 Summer Ridge	
9	Road, Mexico, Missouri.	
10	JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. I'll go ahead	
11	and swear you in.	
12	RON KENT,	
13	was sworn to tell the truth, and testified as	
14	follows:	
15	MR. KENT: I appreciate you guys coming	
16	out, taking the time to listen to everybody. I	
17	don't disagree with anything my neighbors have said.	
18	After having sold real estate in Mexico	
19	for over 50 years, built some subdivisions, dealt	
20	with Ameren both on the personal paying the bill	
21	side and building some of their facilities and	
22	turning it over to them, I probably made them a	
23	little money over the years by creating customers,	
24	building subdivisions. So I'm not here to find a	
25	lot of fault with Ameren. They have always served	

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- 1 me very well in all the years I've been here since
- 2 I've been paying the bills.
- 3 The only thing I'm concerned about is
- 4 and the reason I showed up tonight was it seems like
- 5 to me they're entering rate requests at a fairly
- 6 rapid rate over the last few years since we got into
- 7 the 2000's or about the time they built the nuclear
- 8 power plant. You know, that was a pretty big
- 9 project, so it cost them a lot of money. So I'm
- 10 very concerned that you all consider every single
- 11 thing in this rate increase, which I'm sure you're
- 12 going to try to do. Have your staff look at all the
- 13 possibilities. Do not grant them a bigger rate
- 14 increase than is absolutely necessary to keep them
- 15 going would be my request as a citizen.
- 16 I'm 72 years old, I'm on Social Security
- 17 plus a little other income, so I can see where the
- 18 people that are on just Social Security can't afford
- 19 a lot of increases. I mean, Social Security went up
- 20 2 or 3 percent, 4 percent or something.
- 21 One other thing that concerned me, and I
- 22 don't know if you want to take this into evidence,
- 23 you probably have seen this, but the Fair Energy
- 24 Rate Action Fund handed me this handout when I
- 25 arrived and reading down through it they say, "If

Page 37 approved, Ameren will have raised rates by 57 2 percent over the last seven years costing Missouri 3 families and business \$1.1 billion." Now, I have no evidence how they figured that, but you might want 5 to look into that. If that is true, that's too 6 much. 7 So that's really all I have to say and 8 thank you very much. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. Kent. 10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Mr. Kent. JUDGE JORDAN: Any questions from the 11 12 parties for this witness? 13 MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you. 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Commissioners? 15 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No, thank you. Thank 16 you, Mr. Kent. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, sir. 18 Anyone else would like to testify today? 19 Well, I'm not seeing anyone, so thank you all for your testimony and for your listening. 20 21 Thank you for coming out on this cold night, and on behalf of the Missouri Public Service Commission I 22 thank you for attending. We're adjourned and we are 23 off the record. 2.4 25 (The hearing concluded at 7:50 p.m.)

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17	(The exhibits were attached to the orig	inal	
18	transcript.)		
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER			
2	I, Amanda N. Farrar, a Certified Court			
3	Reporter for the State of Missouri, do hereby			
4	certify that the witnesses whose testimony appears			
5	in the foregoing transcript were duly sworn; the			
6	testimony of said witnesses was taken by me to the			
7	best of my ability and thereafter reduced to			
8	typewriting by me; that I am neither counsel for,			
9	related to, nor employed by any of the parties to			
10	the action in which this hearing was taken, and			
11	further that I am not a relative or employee of any			
12	attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto,			
13	nor financially or otherwise interested in the			
14	outcome of the action.			
15				
16				
17				
18	Certified Court Reporter			
19				
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21				
22				
23				

		<u> </u>		
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