

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

January 20, 2010

Julia Davis Regional Branch Library
St. Louis, Missouri

Volume 12

In the Matter of Union) File No. ER-2010-0036
Electric Company, d/b/a) Tariff Nos. YE-2010-0054
AmerenUE's Tariffs to) and YE-2010-0055
Increase the Annual)
Revenues)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, PRESIDING
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
ROBERT CLAYTON, III, Chairman
TERRY JARRETT, Commissioner
KEVIN GUNN, Commissioner

REPORTED BY:

Patsy A. Hertweck, C. C. R.
Midwest Litigation Services

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: My name is Morris
3 Woodruff. I am one of the judges with the Commission.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Would you like to
5 stand, please.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I will do that.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't see you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. I was kind of
9 hiding behind the podium.

10 Well, as I say, my name is Morris Woodruff.
11 I'm one of the judges with the Commissioner here, and I
12 welcome you here to our local public hearing. I apologize
13 we didn't have a little bit larger room, but we've had a
14 much larger turnout than we were expecting. So --

15 I want to, first of all, introduce the
16 Commissioners who are with us here. The chairman of the
17 Commission, Robert Clayton.

18 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you. Thank
19 you, Judge.

20 Good evening, folks. My name is Robert
21 Clayton. I am from Hannibal, Missouri, and I am chairman
22 of the Missouri Public Service Commission. I am one of
23 five commissioners appointed by the governor that have to
24 deal with the very difficulty issues associated with
25 utility cases and utility rate increase -- rate increase

1 cases.

2 There are five members of the Commission.

3 To my right is one other member of the Commission,

4 Commissioner Robert Kenney, is here.

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Good evening,
6 everybody.

7 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: And just to let you
8 know, the reason why you don't have all five commissioners
9 sitting across the front is that we have other hearings
10 going on tonight. And in fact, if you -- we have passed
11 the word outside that because of the overflow nature of
12 this crowd, we also are having a hearing going on with
13 other commissioners at the University of Missouri St. Louis
14 in the Millenium Student Center.

15 So if folks live close to that area, there
16 are only a handful of people there. This is where it's at
17 for tonight for our local public hearings because there's
18 no one up at UMSL. So if you don't want to wait, that
19 would be the place to go.

20 The reason we're here is to take public
21 testimony, public comment on the Ameren rate increase
22 request. This is, I believe, our sixth or seventh hearing
23 we've had in the Metro St. Louis area. Today we were in
24 West County. We'll be in Jefferson County tomorrow night.

25 We've had hearings that we've tried to

1 schedule to give as many people an opportunity to testify.
2 I apologize that we don't have a bigger space. Normally
3 when we're in -- in the city, we're at the Wohl Community
4 Center. I think it's under reconstruction or remodeling
5 right now. It just wasn't available. Beautiful building.
6 It's just not quite big enough.

7 So we ask your patience as we work through
8 this. We have a lot of people who have signed up, and the
9 library has told us we got to be out by 9:00. So try to be
10 as concise as possible in your comments, and if you hear
11 someone say something that -- that you agree with, feel
12 free to say I agree with that person, and we'll get your
13 name on the record. If you want to add further comments,
14 that perfectly appropriate.

15 So without further ado, we appreciate you
16 coming. We also want to say that there are lots of people
17 outside, so if you are making comments and -- and you're
18 willing to give up your seat for other folks so they can
19 come in, we'd certainly appreciate that as well.

20 Thanks for being here.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman.

23 The procedure tonight is I'll have a list of
24 the people who signed up to testify. I'll call you up here
25 to testify at the podium. I'll swear you in, and ask you

1 to tell me your name and spell your name, and then you can
2 go ahead and tell us what you want to tell us.

3 And as the Chairman indicated, we are very
4 crowded tonight. So if you could please limit your
5 comments to about five minutes or so so that -- keep in
6 mind the people that are behind you that want to testify
7 also.

8 Before we call the first witness, I'll ask
9 for the attorneys who are here for the parties to identify
10 themselves. First of all, is there an attorney here for
11 AmerenUE?

12 MR. BURKE: Yes, your Honor. I'm Tom
13 Burke, Attorney for AmerenUE. My address is 1901 Chouteau
14 Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is there an attorney
16 for the staff?

17 MS. KLIETHERMES: Thank you, Judge.
18 Sarah Kliethermes, staff counsel. My address is Public
19 Service Commission, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City,
20 Missouri 65102.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: She is the attorney
22 for the staff. Giving the court reporter her address.

23 All right. Is there anyone here from the
24 Office of Public Counsel? The Office of the Public Counsel
25 is the state agency that represents you, the residential

1 customers. His name is Lewis Mills, and I believe he's up
2 at UMSL tonight. And he indicates that he regrets that he
3 couldn't be at both places, but he's just one man.

4 So with that, we will call the first
5 witness, and that would be Charles Watkins. Thank you, Mr.
6 Watkins. Would you please raise your right hand.

7 (Thereupon, Witness Charles Watkins was
8 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
9 testified as follows:)

10 And would you tell us your name and spell
11 your last name?

12 MR. WATKINS: Sure. Charles A.
13 Watkins, Jr. Last name is spelled W-A-T-, like Tom,
14 -K-I-N-S.

15 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Go ahead.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead.

17 MR. WATKINS: Due to the, as you said,
18 the amount of people here, I'll try to be brief. I want to
19 make approximately five points.

20 The first point being that the proceedings
21 before the Commission, the rates are set to give the
22 utility company an opportunity, not a guarantee, to earn a
23 reasonable return on its investment.

24 I'd like to make my first point by stating
25 that that is exactly what we, the taxpayers, the utility

1 users, are expecting, an opportunity for them to get a
2 reasonable return on their investment, not a guarantee from
3 the Commission that they can get exactly what they want.

4 Number two, it says according to the
5 company, nearly half of the request is driven by
6 investments made to continue system-wide reliability,
7 improvements, and what have you. I won't read it all
8 because it's here.

9 My point again is this, what justification
10 is there to be able to ensure that these so-called
11 investments were made judiciously and prudently. When you
12 ask for 200 -- over \$250 million for investment, how are we
13 as the utility users to be assured that these investments
14 were necessary, that you actually have correct
15 documentation to show that these investments were made
16 wisely, and that they actually contribute to the better
17 relationship as far as the customer with the utility
18 company with reliability to your services?

19 Point number three, and I heard Mr. Mark say
20 that AmerenUE has no authority over the amount of the rate
21 that's paid by industrial customers as opposed to
22 residential customers.

23 I would like it on the record that something
24 needs to be done. When residents are paying 7 cents, and
25 those that can afford it even more are paying anywhere from

1 3.2 cents to 4 cents.

2 Point -- again, 63 percent of what they are
3 asking for is based on what we have to rely on, their
4 honesty, their truthfulness, and frankly, with the bailout
5 that was just given to Wall Street, I myself have some
6 concerns about 63 percent of a rate increase going for
7 investments that was supposedly have been made already.
8 Okay.

9 Make issue return on excess. The staff is
10 recommending a mid point of 9.35 percent. AmerenUE is
11 seeking 11.5 percent, which is about 2.15 percent
12 difference.

13 I have worked on a regular job ever since I
14 was 16 years old. I started off as a stockboy at High-Low
15 Food Store in Chicago, Illinois part-time after school. In
16 all my years of working, I have never been afforded the
17 privilege of getting any more than a 1 percent rate
18 increase at any time.

19 Payroll and benefits, issue value 17 million
20 difference. I heard Mr. Mark say that some decisions were
21 made concerning, I guess, the early retirement of staff or
22 elimination of positions, and I applaud him on that. But
23 I'd like to go on the record as saying that that's not good
24 enough, not when you're asking for an 18 percent rate
25 increase when we as the taxpayers, as the utility users are

1 suffering in one of the worst economies since the Great
2 Depression.

3 I thank you.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. All right.
5 The next name on the list is Lindzel Lofton. Lindzel
6 Lofton.

7 Linda Burton. Is there a Linda Burton?
8 Linda Burton?

9 All right. Myron Hite or Hit -- H-I-T-E.

10 MR. HITE: Hite.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Hite, okay. Good
12 evening, sir. Would you please raise your right hand.

13 (Thereupon, Witness Myron Hite was
14 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
15 testified as follows:)

16 Thank you. Would you tell us your name and
17 spell your last name.

18 MR. HITE: My name is Myron Hite. My
19 name is spelled H-I-T-E.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. HITE: Okay. The gentleman that
22 was before me said about everything we needed to be said,
23 except for this is a personal thing for me because I have a
24 mother who is a senior. She's 76 years old, or will be in
25 March the 1st.

1 And I remember when the ice storm came
2 through Missouri, and I remember when she called UE to come
3 out and cut her -- cut the trees back that was running
4 along the median. So the lines were falling on the wires
5 coming to her house.

6 UE said that the sent someone out to look at
7 it and it didn't need cut because it wasn't prohibiting the
8 usage of their wires that went up and down the median.

9 You know, it surprises me that lay people,
10 people that pay your rates, which is a residential
11 customers, are not afforded the sensitivity or cooperation
12 from a company such as yours, as large as yours is.

13 Now, the vice president over here said you
14 all spent \$52 million for tree trimming. My mother called
15 for six years to UE to come trim those trees back there on
16 the median where her lines was coming from and the power
17 lines are running through. And they never came out to trim
18 them trees, except for when that snow storm came. Well,
19 the power was out for five to seven days with some of your
20 residential customers.

21 Do you all realize how that affected
22 customers, fixed incomes, people with medical -- they
23 needed medical care, gas -- I mean, air supplies and stuff
24 like that. The sensitivity of these big companies now is a
25 shame because you don't care about the residential com- --

1 residential customer. You say you do, but you don't.

2 Nobody asked the residential customer what
3 they could afford with this rate increase, but you asked
4 for 18. Nobody, nobody that works for a living with their
5 hands, at least I know of, gets 18 percent interest -- or
6 18 percent increase on their money that they're making on a
7 salary raise. You know, on an hourly wage.

8 I don't understand this about America. This
9 is America. We are Americans. Why is every time we turn
10 around, we're paying for something somebody else wants, big
11 business?

12 I don't understand it. I'm a veteran, and I
13 don't understand. That's all I have to say.

14 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Mr. Hite?

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Hite, we have a
16 question for you.

17 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Mr. Hite, I had a
18 couple of questions that I just -- first of all, I wanted
19 to mention I'm not sure you were saying you all are asking
20 for 18 percent increase. We don't work for Ameren, so I
21 just want to be clear before I'm accused of being that.

22 MR. HITE: Well, this is what we're in
23 here about. This is what this Commission is for.

24 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Absolutely.

25 Absolutely.

1 MR. HITE: Okay?

2 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Everything you
3 talked about --

4 MR. HITE: I didn't say the Commission
5 asked for. I said Ameren.

6 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: I just wanted to
7 make sure. The question I wanted to ask you about is the
8 tree trimming and the snow storm.

9 First of all, your -- your mother was
10 affected by the snow storm?

11 MR. HITE: Yes, she was.

12 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: And that was what,
13 2006?

14 MR. HITE: Everybody was affected by
15 the snow storm, and electricity in St. Louis and St. Louis
16 County.

17 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: How much time was
18 she out?

19 MR. HITE: I don't know, but I think it
20 was seven to five -- five to seven days.

21 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Five to seven days.
22 Now, after that storm, did you all call again to get the
23 trees trimmed?

24 MR. HITE: No, we didn't. We took it
25 upon ourselves, me and my brothers, to trim the trees.

1 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So Ameren never cut
2 the trees? They never cut the trees that were in the back?

3 MR. HITE: UE cut the trees and cut
4 those -- what they did, they cut for themselves. They did
5 not cut for the customer. So they could get back there to
6 fix their wires that were broke or bent or whatever. They
7 didn't do it for the customers. They did it for
8 themselves.

9 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Okay. Thank you.

10 (Off-the-record announcement by the
11 library personnel.)

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the
13 list is Brow Ellie. B-R-O-W, Ellie. Next name then is
14 Tyeast Frank.

15 If you would please raise your right hand.

16 (Thereupon, Witness Tyeast Frank was
17 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
18 testified as follows:)

19 Please state your name and spell it for the
20 court reporter.

21 MS. FRANK: My name is Tyeast Frank.
22 F-R-A-N-K.

23 MS. REPORTER: Would you spell your
24 first name for me.

25 MS. FRANK: T-Y-E-A-S-T.

1 MS. REPORT: Thank you.

2 MS. FRANK: Good evening. My name is
3 Tyeast Frank. I am an outreach supervisor for the Low
4 Income Home Energy Assistance Program for the Human
5 Development Corporation of Metropolitan St. Louis.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: You need to pull
7 that mike down closer.

8 MS. FRANK: Do you need me to start
9 over?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

11 MS. FRANK: Can you hear me now?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes.

13 MS. FRANK: Thank you.

14 Good evening. My name is Tyeast Frank. I'm
15 -- I am an outreach supervisor for the Low Income Home
16 Energy Assistance Program for the Human Development
17 Corporation of Metropolitan St. Louis.

18 I would like to speak to the impact that an
19 18 percent increase will have on those families who are in
20 need for adequate protection. According to the 2000
21 census, 27.7 percent, approximately 83,000 individuals, in
22 the St. Louis City households live at or below the current
23 poverty index, earn \$1,338 per month for a family of three.

24 This year 17,200 families in the St. Louis
25 City have already received assistance from LIHEAP compared

1 to last year 15,200 families had received assistance for
2 the entire year program. LIHEAP has assisted 2,000 more
3 recipients than last year, and the program has not even
4 ended.

5 LIHEAP has assisted -- at Human Development
6 Corporation, we are servicing more under-employed people,
7 working people, and an overflow of new families to the
8 program. We have had to deny a great deal of new families
9 because of the guidelines of the LIHEAP program.

10 Although the poverty guideline is 135
11 percent, the rate increase will directly affect those
12 families whose income is near the LIHEAP guidelines but
13 does not qualify for the program.

14 Many of these families are the working poor
15 who are struggling to survive on low or minimum wages.
16 Last winter families at the state's median income paid
17 approximately 6 percent of their income to utilities, while
18 the average low income family in Missouri paid 16 to 26
19 percent of their income to utilities.

20 Poor housing stock and lack of
21 weatherization often cause this energy burden to be even
22 higher for those who can least afford to pay. As a result,
23 families are choosing between the necessities such as
24 medication, food, transportation to work and paying
25 utilities. It has also put many more families in a

1 continual cycle of cutoffs and restoration, where the
2 service is disconnected as soon as the cold weather rule
3 protection ends.

4 Any rate increase will be an added burden on
5 the most vulnerable customers. I ask that you as
6 commissioners take the steps necessary to protect the
7 health and safety of all low income individuals in Missouri
8 by considering an affordable program and to consider to
9 expand the weatherization program.

10 Thank you for your time and consideration.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am. Any
12 questions?

13 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Ms. Frank, thank you
14 for your testimony. We do appreciate it and your
15 participation of yours is an integral part of the process,
16 and thanks for taking the time to come out.

17 You said that -- the HDC had to turn away a
18 number of folks that were near the guidelines but didn't
19 quite qualify?

20 MS. FRANK: Uh-huh.

21 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Would you be able to
22 estimate what the number of those families or people were
23 that you had to turn away?

24 MS. FRANK: Thirty-two hundred.

25 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: And -- and was I

1 clear that you're at 17,000 already this year, --

2 MS. FRANK: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- in January?

4 MS. FRANK: Uh-huh. That's October to
5 today.

6 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Okay. And that's a
7 2000 family or 2000 individual increase over last year's
8 funding?

9 MS. FRANK: Yes. Last year for the
10 entire program, we only serviced 15,200. So as of today,
11 we have serviced 17,200 families.

12 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: And as an outreach
13 supervisor at HDC, do you have occasion to actually
14 directly interact with people from Ameren on behalf of the
15 clients that you serve?

16 MS. FRANK: I do. Also I'm a vendor
17 contact, and what that means is when I get an application
18 for a client, then I negotiate the price that they accept
19 to keep the client on. And the bills that I see range from
20 2,000 to 6,5000.

21 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Does that usually
22 represent some amount of arrearage?

23 MS. FRANK: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: How far back? How
25 many months does that represent?

1 MS. FRANK: A year. Most times the --
2 the client that we can assist, we assist them more in the
3 cold weather rule cycle, and then once the cold weather
4 rule has ended, then their service is ended. And we are no
5 longer able to help them due to the limited funding.

6 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you very much
7 for your -- the work that you do, and thanks for coming out
8 tonight.

9 Ms. Frank, can you talk about the funding
10 levels? How -- how are they right now? Do you all still
11 have money, or is the money gone?

12 MS. FRANK: We still have money. We
13 encourage everybody who has not applied, apply. Even if
14 you think your income is over the guidelines, please still
15 do apply because we occasionally get different private
16 funding. So please apply.

17 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Well, I heard that
18 in the lobby funding coming down from Washington was
19 approved earlier, I think, than -- than usual, or maybe it
20 was approved full part or something. I just wasn't sure
21 whether the dollars were still available for people, you
22 know, outside of the capital.

23 So you obviously -- you still have some --

24 MS. FRANK: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- some money to

1 distribute. Can I ask, have any of the programs relating
2 to weatherization that have been put out by the stimulus
3 program out of Washington, have they made -- did they come
4 through your agency, or do you -- do you participate in any
5 way with helping people weatherize and try to reduce their
6 bills that way?

7 MS. FRANK: As an out- -- as a outreach
8 supervisor, one of my responsibilities to teach energy
9 workshops, and I try to get out twice a month. And I have
10 a -- it's a workshop where clients can attend, and I teach
11 them how to weatherize their homes, some of the things they
12 can do in the home. And then once the class is over, I
13 gift them with simple things that they can use like
14 plastic, timers, outlet covers, and weatherization tape.

15 And they're more than welcome to come to any
16 weatherization.

17 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Do you -- do you get
18 cooperation from the utility, or is there more that the
19 utility or the Commission could do to help you with what
20 you do?

21 MS. FRANK: It would be more help from
22 the Commission if you could help step in, because sometimes
23 when we have a client that may have supplemented in getting
24 power to keep themselves warm or safe, then the utility
25 company is more reluctant to cut on because they have

1 obtained those services.

2 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you very much
3 for coming tonight.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

5 The next name on the list is Delores
6 McMillan. While Ms. McMillan is coming forward, I'll
7 indicate that Ms. Frank handed me a letter that I'll mark
8 as Exhibit 1, and it will be received into evidence.

9 (Thereupon, evidence was marked for
10 identification and admitted into evidence as
11 Exhibit No. 1.

12 Thereupon, Witness Delores McMillan was
13 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
14 testified as follows:)

15 Please state your name.

16 MS. McMILLAN: My name is Delores
17 McMillan.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Could you spell it for
19 the court reporter, please.

20 MS. McMILLAN: D-E-L-O-R-E-S McMillan.
21 M-C-M-I-L-L-A-N.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. You can
23 tell us what you want. You can put your hand down too.

24 MS. McMILLAN: Okay. You know what,
25 first I would like to tell my age. And you know what, I --

1 I would like to be facing the audience, because you know
2 what, I applaud all of you all for coming out here tonight.

3 Because you know what, I am 64 years old,
4 and I'm tired of looking at all these monopolies ruining
5 people's lives and killing people in their homes because a
6 lot of people have died because Union Electric has cut
7 their lights off, and Laclede Company has cut their gas
8 off.

9 And it's not necessary to take advantage of
10 poor people because you all want to be filthy rich. And
11 I'm glad all you are out here. Keep coming because I am
12 tired, but I keep on coming. I don't give up.

13 Okay. Now, do you know what we can do? We
14 need to have some solution here. Instead of coming here
15 and meeting these folks and going through these same
16 routine that I go through whenever I come to Laclede Gas
17 Company, the water company, the sewer district and Union
18 Electric, we need to come to some solution.

19 First of all, Union Electric, Laclede Gas
20 Company needs some competition.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: That's right.

22 MS. McMILLAN: We don't need no one
23 source, one source for this and one source for that. But
24 you know what, the worst thing in the whole world is
25 Wal-Mart, and the next thing is these utilities companies

1 in your neighborhood. Do you understand?

2 This has got to stop, and you know what, you
3 can write politicians, go to their office, do everything.
4 These politicians are not for you. I have contacted Claire
5 McCaskill. I have contacted Kit Bond. I have contacted
6 Obama, and I asked him what was he going to do for the
7 poor, the homeless, the veterans that come home, and don't
8 have nobody to turn to.

9 And I want to know also what they're going
10 to do for the elderly people that's catching hell in these
11 nursing homes, because they are catching hell. You
12 understand me.

13 This is what I want to know, but getting
14 back to the solution. You need some competition for all
15 these monopolies. Do you hear me. And then the next thing
16 you need to do is boycott all you all. You understand me.
17

18 All you all shouldn't be making no
19 six-figure salary and we're catching hell out here, and you
20 all keep on raising our utilities up. And I do believe one
21 thing, that 8 percent is not the truth. There's going to
22 be more of that, so watch your bills. You understand.

23 Whatever they said is going to be a certain
24 certain, it ain't going to be that. It's going to be more.
25 So watch your bill. You understand me.

1 And the next thing they need to do, we need
2 to get a good lawyer, or a group of lawyers to sue all
3 these utility companies for killing all these people that
4 they have killed in the past. They're going to kill some
5 more people if we don't stop this foolishness going on
6 here.

7 And I am tired. I'm 64 years old. I am
8 tired of all you monopolies, you understand. All of you,
9 I'm tired of you.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the
11 list is Robertha Howard. Robertha Howard? Okay.

12 Arthur Coop- -- I'm sorry. Ms. Howard?

13 MR. COOPER: Yeah, my name's Cooper.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, the next
15 name then is Arthur Cooper. Is that Ms. Howard behind you
16 there?

17 MR. COOPER: Yeah.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Come on up.
19 Good evening.

20 (Thereupon, Witness Marla Howard was
21 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
22 testified as follows:)

23 Thank you. State your name and spell it for
24 us, please.

25 MS. M. HOWARD: I'm Marla Howard.

1 H-O-W-A-R-D.

2 I just come up here and speak on everybody
3 else's behalf of what they said. You know what I'm saying.
4 You all raising lights up, which I figure first and
5 foremost, everything should be adjusted to a round circle,
6 and it should all qualify with income, because a lot of us
7 don't have jobs. And it's a whole lot of elderly people
8 already that's in the houses.

9 And even though everything that you all say,
10 always equal up in the wintertime to where they got the
11 cold weather rule thingy. You know what I'm saying.

12 But again, when that's gone, their lights
13 get -- still don't have it because of your backed up
14 payments. You know what I'm saying. Then you got to go to
15 some other sources in order to have -- to get utilities
16 paid because it does end up to where they have to come up
17 with money that they don't have. You know what I'm saying.

18 Little bitty babies already into these
19 houses, and this is a community of low income people just
20 period. Little bitty babies, they -- their lights get cut
21 off. They're folks is working when they come in and wonder
22 why.

23 And there's people already not really able,
24 and then you -- things are just just out here so crazy, and
25 then you all wonder why we -- I love my people -- we as

1 black people, you know, what I'm saying. It's a lot that
2 we have to maintain that because you're not giving us
3 nothing. Everything we do out here we have to work for on
4 our own, you know what I'm saying, and then you want to
5 raise stuff up so high what we can't even catch it.

6 You know what I'm saying. It's crazy to me.
7 You know what I'm saying, because got all these people out
8 here on Social Security. You want to cut them because of
9 whatever. You know what I'm saying. Then you got the --
10 didn't even go to high school, can't even afford their
11 doggone medicine. You know what I'm saying.

12 I mean, things out here are like real crazy,
13 and I'm not understanding because it's a bunch of bull
14 crap. You know what I'm saying.

15 It's just crazy, you know what I'm saying.
16 It's crazy. I mean, I -- I figure everything is just even
17 up. If you've got electric, okay, everything is going to
18 be based on an income. You know, what I'm saying.

19 When God created the world, God said let
20 there be light. He didn't tell Adam, hey, you go out there
21 and tell them to rake up the taxes on these so you can pay
22 me back. You know what I'm saying. This is real crazy.
23 It ain't what God did, you know what I'm saying.

24 Come on, man. You all just got things just
25 all -- I better go on before I get to preaching up here.

1 Thank you. Thank you.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

3 Next name on the list is Margaret Fairchild.

4 Margaret Fairchild?

5 MR. COOPER: Did you forget about me?

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I -- there's another
7 one before you, but she's not here, so Arthur Cooper.

8 MS. FAIRCHILD: I'm here.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Oh, I'm sorry.

10 MS. FAIRCHILD: I did not sign up.

11 MS. R. HOWARD: I didn't either. Did
12 you say Robertha Howard?

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's what I said,
14 yeah. Is that you?

15 MS. R. HOWARD: I'm Robertha Howard.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm sorry. Did you
17 want to speak?

18 MS. R. HOWARD: That's okay. That lady
19 was Howard. She said enough.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, if you don't
21 want to testify, that's fine.

22 MS. FAIRCHILD: No, we didn't know we
23 were signing up for that. We were mislead.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's fine.

25 MS. R. HOWARD: But that's okay. I

1 don't have a problem with that. Yeah. That's okay. I'm
2 fine with that. I would be up there.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Arthur Cooper.

4 All right. Please raise your right hand.

5 (Thereupon, Witness Arthur Cooper was
6 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
7 testified as follows:)

8 Very good. Tell us your name.

9 MR. COOPER: My name is Arthur Cooper.
10 Last name is C-O-O-P-E-R.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

12 MR. COOPER: I'm a Viet Nam veteran. I
13 was a registered nurse for a number of years, and I got
14 disabled. I went from making \$35 an hour to getting \$900 a
15 month.

16 I have no qualm about you all raising the
17 rates, but now that I'm on a fixed income, it's real
18 serious. My wife -- my wife used to -- used to work.
19 She's been disabled, and the State of Missouri didn't want
20 to pay her after getting hurt on the job.

21 So I'm sitting here looking at you. I've
22 never seen any of you all before and you never saw me. And
23 you all get to ask questions, but we don't get to ask you
24 all any questions.

25 Okay. I see Ameren, we got lawyers, I mean,

1 what is -- what is the purpose of all this lawyers, you
2 people?

3 You live in Hannibal, right?

4 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: (Nodding.)

5 MR. COOPER: So you have no idea what's
6 going on here in St. Louis. I know you're from St. Louis,
7 but I don't know you. I know a lot of people in St. Louis.
8 I try to call my politicians and stuff.

9 We have one heck of a time getting to our
10 politicians because you're always busy or I'll get to you.
11 I went to get my DD214 from the VA the other day. This was
12 last Monday. They told me for a copy it would take three
13 hours, I could come back.

14 I said, well, what else? Said well, we'll
15 mail it to you in seven days. That's ten days ago, and I
16 got to go back out there. I ain't got well enough to try
17 to go back to work because I'm going to have to go back to
18 work. Me and my wife, we're set to lose our home,
19 especially if you all get that 18 percent increase.

20 And the other thing about this is I'm not so
21 pissed off about that increase. What bothers me is is when
22 they recoup their money, you all are going to leave the
23 rate right there, and then you'll be back in two years with
24 another rate increase. But our income tax on it. I wonder
25 what you commissioners see -- see -- see us, these people,

2 You know, I don't understand. If you all
3 are mediators, then I don't see how you can justify giving
4 them an 18 percent increase.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And
6 questions for Mr. Cooper?

7 The next name on the list is Joan Lane.

8 (Thereupon, Witness Joan Lane was sworn
9 on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and testified as
10 follows:)

11 Thank you.

12 MS. LANE: My name is Joan Lane.
13 L-A-N-E.

14 Okay. I am a retired person, and I can say
15 my income is not that bad, thank the Lord, but for you to
16 ask for 18 percent increase, we think it's ridiculous for
17 the utilities to do that. They should hold around 9
18 percent, no more, or 5 percent, because whenever we get a
19 raise, it's 2.5.

20 And this year we're not going to get
21 anything on Social Security or retirement because things
22 are just tough. And so we're -- I'm very much against the
23 increase of 18 percent, and I'm also against anything over
24 10 percent. So I want that to go on the record.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you,

1 ma'am. Any questions?

2 Next name on the list is Reginald Patton.

3 (Thereupon, Witness Reginald Patton was
4 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
5 testified as follows:)

6 Thank you.

7 MR. PATTON: The name is Reginald,
8 R-E-G-I-N-A-L-D, last name Patton, P-A-T-T-O-N.

9 I would like the Commission to really take a
10 look at the figure because when you look at the \$4.2
11 million that they're talking about, and they explained in
12 the meeting that two -- a half of it, which would be \$2.1
13 million is for the cost of material and labor.

14 When you actually think about how much the
15 company can charge for labor and material, it's based on
16 their own standards. So if they're going to say \$2.1
17 million is their standard, it means that they have raised
18 the -- raised the level to exceed a higher level or
19 standard for 2010; whereas, they should be realistic.
20 Because of the economy and what we are experiencing right
21 now, the standard should be based on 2006.

22 So I would truly like to -- and the other
23 part of the other half of the two million -- \$2.1 million
24 is for salaries, and we've heard a lot about Obama having
25 to come and implement this new tax law on large companies,

1 the banks because of taxing bonus.

2 Now, nobody is telling us what bonuses that
3 they're getting at utility companies. We know they're
4 getting bonuses. Now, if we can't get simple bonus like
5 cost-of-living raises, why can't at the same time the
6 standard that they're using, and I did hear him say his was
7 frozen. These standards be implement because, you know, we
8 have to be realistic in the environment that we're living
9 in.

10 We're talking about industry and saving, but
11 we're not talking about the standard of living for the
12 individual. I'm a Baby Boomer, yeah, which means this is
13 my time in life where I have to live off of half of what I
14 basically made. This is -- this means -- this particular
15 -- particular time the elements that are affecting all of
16 us need to be considered more realistically.

17 So all I'm asking you to do is just be
18 realistic as we are trying to be because, as the one lady
19 said, they're going to come back again and again. And so
20 the riches company in the world, 18 percent, 2 point
21 million for salaries and 2 point million for manufacturing
22 and producing something. Please, please do not raise the
23 18 percent.

24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. The

1 next name on the list is Phyllis Mason. Phyllis Mason?

2 Okay. Albert Williams. Good evening, sir.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
5 right hand.

6 (Thereupon, Witness was sworn on his
7 oath by Judge Woodruff, and testified as
8 follows:)

9 Thank you.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Albert
11 Williams, spelled A-L-B-E-R-T W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

12 One thing I want to put to question is: Is
13 Commissioner another word for lobbyist?

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We don't generally
15 answer questions, but I will answer that. The answer is no
16 in the sense. The reason I can answer is because it's not
17 involving Ameren.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: The reason I asked that
19 is because from my understanding they said Ameren has to go
20 through the Commissioner (sic) to see if they can get an
21 increase or pass -- have an increase passed on to the
22 consumer. So this is why I wanted to know if that's
23 another word for lobbyist.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, let me -- let me
25 explain what the Commission is.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: There are five
3 commissioners. Two of them are seated right here. I'm not
4 a commissioner myself. I'm just one of the judges hired by
5 the Commission. And the commissioners are appointed by the
6 governor and confirmed by the senate to serve on the Public
7 Service Commission.

8 And we hear requests from the various
9 utilities in the state to increase their rates, as well as
10 a lot of other things involved in utilities.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, okay. Well, now
12 when Ameren comes to the Commission to ask for these rates,
13 if you -- if the Commission denies these rates -- let me
14 see if I'm getting right -- if they deny these rates, how
15 would they go about getting their money?

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: They would have to
17 come back and ask us again. They don't get the money. So
18 the Commission decides how much of an increase they get.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: So then, therefore, the
20 Commission has to see something within Ameren or Ameren is
21 doing something with the commissioners in order for them to
22 get that money?

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What will happen --
24 happen after we've done all these local public hearings
25 here with the public, we'll have what they call evidentiary

1 hearing, and it's in Jefferson City in March. At that
2 time, all the lawyers will come in and present all their
3 evidence about what the costs of the company are and what
4 the Commission should be considering on that.

5 And so that -- after we hear all that
6 evidence, then the Commission will make a decision.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Are the people invited
8 to that meeting?

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It's a public meeting,
10 but we won't take testimony like this at those meetings.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. The next thing I
12 would like to say is I'm unemployed right now, and you're
13 asking me for 18 percent, and that's not your fault for me
14 being unemployed. But you're asking me for 18 percent, and
15 if I don't be able to pay -- I can't pay my light bill now.

16 Yet, you're asking me to give -- Ameren is
17 asking me to give 18 percent more. Now, if I can't pay it
18 now and I'm not -- I'm behind, what's going to happen when
19 they get that other 18 percent on there. All I can see
20 them doing is shutting my lights off, and not caring how,
21 when, where, how I do it as far as after my lights is off.

22 So my thing is they want us to do something
23 for them, but what are they really doing for us except
24 making us pay for something that they want, and they're
25 going to get a reimbursement off of it because I just heard

1 them say you -- you give them this 18 percent, and that's
2 an investment. That means that's money that's going to
3 come back to them.

4 But in the meantime, the poor people, as we
5 sit here, what do we get? We're paying for something that
6 they going to be able to live off of. And we don't really
7 get anything out of it, other than the fact that we use
8 their lights, and they can cut them off any time they get
9 ready.

10 So what are we doing? I say tonight, please
11 to not -- do not let them do this to us. If you've got
12 that power to shut them down, shut them down, because I
13 believe they're making enough money. I mean, there's too
14 many people -- look at all these people in here paying
15 these light bills. I don't think they're going broke. I
16 don't think they're really in no -- in no serious trouble.
17 I think they're just wanting some more money to see how
18 much more that they can squeeze out of the people.

19 And if you allow them to do this, then I
20 consider you being in their back pockets, and I don't need
21 no home. They don't need it, and I can't afford to pay it.

22 That's all.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. The next
24 name on the list is Yolonda Henderson. Good evening.

25 MS. HENDERSON: Good evening.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
2 right hand.

3 (Thereupon, Witness Yolonda Henderson
4 was sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
5 testified as follows:)

6 Thank you. State your name, please.

7 MS. HENDERSON: My name is Yolonda
8 Henderson. H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

9 I have sat back here and listened to many
10 residents. Some I agree with; some I don't agree with. I
11 mean, you all know a politician. I'm from the City of
12 Jennings. I did receive a phone call to come here. Now I
13 find out it was at UMSL.

14 Anyway --

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It's at both.

16 MS. HENDERSON: I didn't know, but you
17 know, I love this. This is totally great. My problem is I
18 represent over near 3,000 people in the City of Jennings
19 because I'm in Ward 1. And during our ice storm in the
20 wintertime, we lost power.

21 In the City of Jennings, we were on -- we
22 were on the map as the biggest loss of light coverage.
23 Now, I would like to know where we at with the tree
24 trimming, because we have a lot of trees in the City of
25 Jennings, and one said they cut back on that.

1 Now you're asking us to do an 18 percent
2 increase, but the trees are still just overwhelming. In
3 one of my areas of the City of Jennings, they say every
4 time a storm come or whatever, they go, oh, Lord, here we
5 go, there go the lights.

6 And I asked them have you called them? And
7 they said yeah, they come out, but they don't do anything
8 about that particular line.

9 Okay. In another area also in the City of
10 Jennings, because I have to speak on Jennings, we're -- I'm
11 getting a lot of phone calls. People need help with their
12 lights. They need help with their mortgage, and right now
13 I am getting doors slammed in my face because I cannot help
14 these residents. And that hurts my heart because I do what
15 I can for the residents there.

16 Now what am I to tell the residents that now
17 we got to do an 18 percent increase in lights. Now, I did
18 go to one of the meetings that helped me help them save on
19 energy. Okay. I found some stuff. That's good. But what
20 am I to do with the residents, because I know they are
21 going to be calling me and saying, Yolonda, what should we
22 do to stop this.

23 Like I said, this is -- you know, we got --
24 why now? That's the whole key. Why now? Especially with
25 the economy the way it is. People have lost their jobs.

1 They don't know where their other meals are coming from.
2 They're cutting here, they are cutting there, and then all
3 of a sudden I get this phone call to tell me come to a
4 meeting. They want to go up on your rate 18 percent.

5 Where did the 18 percent come from? Can it
6 be lower, you know, or why now? I'm asking you, please --

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not nothing at all.

8 MS. HENDERSON: Thank you. I totally
9 agree with this young lady. Why now? I mean, if you're
10 going to do it right now, just can't you do it later?

11 The economy -- I have a friend of mine that
12 works for the Missouri Works. He tells me people are in
13 here just like this for unemployment. And you're asking
14 them an 18 percent increase. I think that is too much.
15 That is too much. I say don't do it at all.

16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

18 Ma'am, we've got a question.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Ms. Henderson,
20 thank you for coming out and representing the constituents
21 in Jennings. What's -- what's your elected role in
22 Jennings?

23 MS. HENDERSON: My name is Councilwoman
24 Yolonda Fountain Jen- -- my name is Yolonda Fountain
25 Henderson, Ward 1.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: While we are not
2 able to answer questions because of the nature of the
3 process, we sit in a quasi-judicial role, and this is --
4 we're taking this testimony under oath, and it's being
5 transcribed, and it will become a part of -- your testimony
6 and everybody else's testimony will become a part of the
7 record. And just as if you were in court, you wouldn't ask
8 -- the judge wouldn't be able to answer questions.

9 We're not able to answer questions either,
10 but we do have representatives from our staff, and there
11 are also, I think, representatives from AmerenUE that may
12 be able to provide some assistance or answer your questions
13 with regard to the tree trimming issues that you.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: And you may be
16 able to find the name of a person that you can contact in
17 the future that will be able to provide you some guidance
18 when you get those phone calls from your constituents about
19 the tree trimming.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you again
22 for coming and -- and sharing your thoughts with us.

23 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Coun- -- is it
24 Councilwoman?

25 MS. HENDERSON: Councilwoman Yolonda.

1 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Yeah, councilwoman.
2 I wanted to ask about the -- the tree trimming
3 specifically. How long have you been in office?

4 MS. HENDERSON: I've been in office or
5 I'm going on my fifth year.

6 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Fifth year, so you
7 were in office starting the outages of '06 --

8 MS. HENDERSON: Oh, yes.

9 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- and '07?

10 MS. HENDERSON: Oh, yes.

11 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Have you seen any
12 change in tree trimming activities? Have you seen any
13 change in reliability of the electricity for your -- for
14 your citizens?

15 MS. HENDERSON: Well, I saw Ameren come
16 out to like replace some of the wiring, but the tree
17 trimming we did see some, some. It's just a certain area
18 of my ward that we do have a problem with. It is, like I
19 say, when a storm hits, they say, oh, well, the lights are
20 about to go out.

21 That's what I wanted to stop because I used
22 to be a constituent. Every time something goes down, and
23 Lord, behold, I hate when my mother's lights go out because
24 she's not that far from me because I got to hear it, but
25 there's nothing I can do.

1 But the tree trimming is -- we have a lot of
2 trees.

3 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So have you seen
4 improvement since those outages?

5 MS. HENDERSON: I've seen some.

6 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Some?

7 MS. HENDERSON: Some.

8 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: But not enough?

9 MS. HENDERSON: Not enough.

10 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: All right. Thank
11 you very much.

12 MS. HENDERSON: Thank you.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I do want to advise
14 everybody. I've been handed a note here saying that the
15 library staff is going to require this hearing end at 8:30.
16 But we're moving along fairly quickly, and everybody is
17 being very precise. So we'll do our best.

18 The next name is Cinian Lane, I believe.
19 Cinian Lane? All right.

20 Next name then is Dolly Jones. Is there a
21 Dolly Jones here?

22 Mona Johnson.

23 (Thereupon, Witness Mona Johnson was
24 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
25 testified as follows:)

1 Thank you. Would you tell us your name and
2 spell it for us.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Mona Johnson.
4 J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Well, I'm here tonight
7 because 18 percent. I'm a single woman in this City of St.
8 Louis, and you know, 18 percent in my budget will take away
9 from food, take away from activities. I mean, you know,
10 it's just hard to try to keep up with the utilities that we
11 have right now on top of insurance, car insurance, our
12 mortgage.

13 I mean, I think it's just a little bit too
14 high, and I'm hoping that you would consider not letting
15 AmerenUE give us an 18 percent rate hike. Not -- not at
16 all, nothing. Let AmerenUE shareholders take their costs.
17 They get enough money. I believe they're given enough
18 bonuses, incentives. They can take that increase for us.

19 We have people out here that are not
20 employed. My brother is not employed. My brother is
21 homeless right now, and there's the different agencies out
22 there that helps them. They're struggling too. They have
23 been.

24 So I don't believe that Ameren needs the --
25 the rate hike, and I -- I'm here to oppose it at all --

1 whatever they decide to do. They don't need it. I don't
2 need it to be taken out of my budget, because I'd like to
3 have some kind of recreation during the week.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd like to eat.

5 MS. JOHNSON: I'd like to eat. Thank
6 you. I mean, right now, I can't even pay my electric bill
7 right now. It's late, and the reason why it's late is
8 because food is expensive. My insurance went up. I got a
9 car note. I know Ameren don't care about that, but I don't
10 -- you know, because I'm not making a salary Ameren
11 executives make, and I know they're making it because I
12 looked at their perspective. And their bonuses is way
13 beyond, you know.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What do they get
15 bonuses for in the first place?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Supposedly to be helping
17 us, but I just wanted to let you know to really consider
18 that because of my budget. You know, I'm not saying that I
19 can't pay it, but I'm saying that it would take away from
20 other things that we ought to be able to have comfort in,
21 you know, in our life than to always pay bills. All of us
22 don't have six-figure salaries, four-figure salaries. You
23 know, salary don't mean --

24 But I just wanted you to know, you know, we
25 get all this information when there is a threat to increase

1 when an increase comes. Now, where is this information
2 prior to the increase? You know, I mean, I'm going to read
3 this stuff, but I would rather have it prior to you trying
4 to get in my pocket right now.

5 And I'm just wanting for you guys to really
6 think about it. When that court reporter gives you that
7 transcript, I mean, this is coming from my heart really.
8 Please read it and consider not giving Ameren a rate
9 increase, --

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Period.

11 MS. JOHNSON: -- period.

12 Thank you. That's me. I'm saying nothing.
13 Don't give them nothing. We're trying to pay our bills
14 now. That's all I have to say.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

16 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the
18 list is Sally Simmons. Sally Simmons. Okay. James Terry.
19 James Terry. Keith Taylor. Is Keith Taylor here?

20 Laverne Laney. Good evening. Would you
21 please raise your right hand.

22 (Thereupon, Witness Laverne Laney was
23 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
24 testified as follows:)

25 Thank you.

1 MS. LANEY: I'm here for a couple of
2 reasons.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Could -- first, please
4 tell us your name and spell the last name.

5 MS. LANEY: I'm Lavern Laney. It's
6 L-A-V-E-R-N-E. Laney, L-A-N-E-Y.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

8 MS. LANEY: I work for a home-care
9 company. My client's electric is off, and I'm talking
10 about burnt. Not -- and it's not just them. I work every
11 day, but it's hard for me to pay my bills. I live in
12 Northwood, and like the lady was saying earlier, our
13 electric goes off at -- I mean, the wind blow hard, the
14 electric is off.

15 Trees are falling. I had my whole -- the
16 box on the side of the house, the tree fell, it took the
17 whole thing off. We were out for 14 days. That's a long
18 time to be in the cold, and it doesn't make sense. And you
19 guys are asking for more money, and there's no money we're
20 getting.

21 The last time I had a raise was three years
22 ago because the economy is just that bad. You guys need to
23 think about it. Even if you do a role play, tomorrow if
24 you went to work and you didn't have a job, guess what.
25 You'd be in the same situation as all of us.

1 So you guys really need to think about no on
2 this 18 percent. Right now is the wrong time. Nobody is
3 working, and if people are working, are struggling very
4 hard. I'm taking care of my mother, and it is hell paying
5 for medicine. I'm taking 17 pills a day. She's taking 25.

6 This goes on. Pain killer because my back
7 has been injured on the job. I'm steady paying, but I'm
8 trying to get out. I don't want to be on disability. I
9 want to work as long as I can, and you people need to think
10 hard and long about what's going on out here. It is not a
11 picnic.

12 I do not have recreation because when I get
13 off of my job, I'm at home taking care of my mom. And it's
14 because I can go out. She's partially blind, so that means
15 my lights have to stay on so she can see a little bit.

16 And then I mean, the whole neighborhood.
17 We're just going through a lot of things. There's no
18 money. People are on these incomes, and the money is not
19 that much coming in. I'm with a client now that I had to
20 -- we had to call the office and try to get these people
21 out to get her electric back on right before winter.

22 I mean, winter was up on us the day it came
23 back on. She got her electric on, and that was a blessing.
24 But just think about all these seniors that's not having
25 the electric on and they're using space heaters. And

1 they're catching on fire. These people are dying.

2 It's a shame. You people need to really
3 think about it seriously.

4 And that's all I have to say.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Any
6 questions?

7 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Ms. Laney, thank you
8 very much for your testimony. I appreciate that. I want
9 to talk about the outage, the 14-day outage piece.

10 Was that back in 2006 --

11 MS. LANEY: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- when the really
13 big storm --

14 MS. LANEY: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So -- but you still
16 say that the lights go out when the wind blows?

17 MS. LANEY: Yes. It's the trees.

18 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So you haven't seen
19 any improvement?

20 MS. LANEY: All right. We have -- it's
21 Northwood, and that means so that means we have trees
22 everywhere.

23 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Since it's been
24 established that I'm not from St. Louis, give me an idea
25 where Northwoods is. Is it close by, is it --

1 MS. LANEY: It -- it's close by. I'm
2 at Lucas -- right between Lucas & Hunt and Jennings Station
3 Road.

4 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Okay.

5 MS. LANEY: And the municipality is
6 Northwoods. Trees are everywhere. The tree that fell into
7 my box on the side of the house, the tree was all in. When
8 they called earlier and said what can we do about the
9 trees, it's all Northwoods, they came out and said there
10 was nothing wrong with the trees.

11 When that storm hit, that big tree took
12 loose the whole neighborhood. The whole neighborhood.

13 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Wait, was that in
14 2006 --

15 MS. LANEY: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- when it went
17 down? So have things improved? Do you see tree trimming,
18 do you see any maintenance, do you see any work being done?

19 MS. LANEY: I see tree trucks and
20 they're maybe there ten minutes. So they're not doing
21 anything. You're coming out and looking. What is looking?
22 We need some action to be going on.

23 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Do the lights turn
24 off now regularly when the wind blows?

25 MS. LANEY: No, we got a new --

1 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Transformer.

2 MS. LANEY: -- transformer. We got a
3 new transformer, so it's pretty favorable. We still have
4 these huge trees everywhere, which need to be trimmed back.
5 And I don't think we're asking too much for AmerenUE to
6 come out and trim back the trees off of the lines. They're
7 just hanging everywhere.

8 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Okay. Thank you
9 very much for your testimony.

10 MS. LANEY: You're welcome.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Next name
12 on the list is Turgot Austin.

13 Please raise your right hand.

14 (Thereupon, Witness Turgot Austin was
15 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
16 testified as follows:)

17 Thank you.

18 MR. AUSTIN: All right. Well, first I
19 would like to say really I'm not on anybody's team here. I
20 think they should get that 18 percent increase. Let them
21 have it. You understand?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

23 MR. AUSTIN: No, just let them have it
24 because the only thing it's going to do is it's going to press
25 that free energy they got out here they've been hiding and

1 trying to pay millions and billions to keep hidden from all
2 you all in this room here today.

3 Yes, you can have free electric, you, you,
4 you, you all. All you all can have free electric because
5 the knowledge is out there. They just won't let you have
6 it. The last three people who designed the product that
7 could give you free electric, they killed the last three.
8 And it was just these guys that they were trying to help
9 get the 18 percent from. It was oil companies killing
10 them.

11 All right. Now, I can make one and ain't
12 charge no -- but I got a guy -- no. But I got a design
13 that basically can put everybody here where you need to be.
14 You know, it's fallen it can fix that too. All right.

15 If you're tired of paying high food prices,
16 it can fix that too. All right. Because the cost of them
17 to take the transport say a can of apples to your house
18 goes away. Free energy. If you go to the internet, and
19 you Google for energy, look up about perpetual motion. You
20 know, it's real. They ain't going to let you have it
21 because they have to ultimate nerve.

22 So let them have the 18. They're going to
23 say no you can't have 18. They're going to give them 12 or
24 13. They're going to get something. And that's the same
25 token. They do get it. I got to make those utilities.

1 All right. We the people. That's who we
2 are, right? We the people. All right. You got to tell
3 them you're going bury these lines. Don't cut another tree
4 down.

5 Let it fall on my house, and the insurance
6 company can pay. Don't bury -- bury the wire in your
7 neighborhood so you don't got to worry about no trees when
8 the wind blows and knock them down. Stop telling them to
9 chop down trees. Tell them bury these wires. You got 20
10 brothers here who ain't working who would be more than
11 happy to take a shovel at \$10 an hour. Serious. And put
12 those wires in the dirt.

13 Then same thing for that -- that point in
14 your backyard when it comes up to your house, you run it
15 all the way up there. And they would love to dig these
16 ditches. People right now ain't got nothing to do. They
17 would be more than happy to dig ditches to put wires in the
18 ground.

19 And also let them have the 18 percent so
20 that if they do get a big power outage, let them train two,
21 three thousand people in this area. So if you do get a
22 power outage, you can get it back on like in about a day,
23 no later than a day. They can do that. They got the money
24 for it. And they're talking about maintenance. That is
25 part of the maintenance. It's called preventive

1 maintenance.

2 That's what I do and for a living, I do new
3 products. All right.

4 And a thing I was talking about people not
5 heating their homes and stuff. I've been in a lot of
6 people's houses this year and apartments and everything,
7 and it is a sad thing to say that we so ornery people. We
8 so ornery that we're scared to block off the one room you
9 don't be in say 24 hours or 23 hours out of 24-hour day.
10 You don't want to shut that vent in that room because
11 you're scared somebody might come home and say it's cold in
12 this room.

13 Close those vents off. Take some tape, some
14 plastic, take that vent out of the ground, out of the
15 ceiling, and tape it up. Put it back on place, and when
16 spring comes, you can take it down. All right. Block that
17 -- tape the window up, then close the door and seal it off.

18 The less space you have to heat, the less
19 your bills are going to be taking from you. My bills are
20 cheap every month. Eighteen percent ain't going to touch
21 me. I got three kids on disability that I take care of.

22 They told me they're not going to give me a
23 hike in my pay just because I made this. Ain't nobody
24 taking on -- like that is a necessity. It's free. What
25 you paying for it. How do you help get it in your home?

1 You go on the internet, you see some new programs you see.
2 That's all that's important. Send them two, three, five,
3 six million dollars. Send them the 18 percent they're
4 asking for, but you don't have to pay them for real.

5 Help these -- help these people put this
6 product on the market. All right. And you can have your
7 free energy because it ain't nothing but liquid nitrogen on
8 an earth magnet with a -- with a lithium --lithium ion
9 inside. It's going to conduct its own energy.

10 You understand they put that on a wheel and
11 then spin it fast. Boy it'll outlast everybody in this
12 room. It's real. This is inside of "Earth Magazine."
13 What they going to regulate? Power your own house. Power
14 your own block.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I ain't got that much
16 time though.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the
18 list is Antoine Adams. Antoine Adams?

19 Please raise your right hand.

20 (Thereupon, Witness Antoine Adams was
21 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
22 testified as follows:)

23 Would you state your name, please.

24 MR. ADAMS: Antoine Adams.

25 A-N-T-O-I-N-E. Adams. A-D-A-M-S.

1 We the people. Sounds good, doesn't it? We
2 made it together. We haven't been together in a long time.
3 I'm a residential owner, commercial owner. I'm in touch
4 with a lot of people.

5 Everyone I've known or knows someone that
6 has had their lights cut off. It's so bad that sometimes
7 they have to put it in their kids' name, and we all know
8 that. You guys might not know that, but we know that.
9 We're struggling every day. This is a monopoly. There
10 should be another company that should actually be able to
11 give affordable rates to everyone sort of offset everything
12 that's going on.

13 We also need to do more renewable, more
14 efficient forms of energy. And we the people shouldn't
15 have to pay for it.

16 If this continues, the city, the state, this
17 country will never progress. Also we need to do -- put the
18 power lines underground to make sure it's more efficient,
19 more usage to eliminate further issues.

20 Thank you.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. The next
22 name on the list is Marjorie Lee. Marjorie Lee? Okay.

23 Norma Williams. Norma Williams here?

24 The next name is Nadur Reign or Rise. I'm
25 not sure about the --

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Spell it.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, if I could spell
3 it, I could pronounce it. It's hard to read the writing.
4 It's from 4240 East Moffit. Okay. There you are.

5 MS. RICE: Nadine Rice. R-I-C-E.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Nadine Rice, okay.

7 MS. RICE: I made a mistake and I wrote
8 it on the wrong line.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Now that you say it, I
10 can read it.

11 MS. RICE: Yeah.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Please
13 raise your right hand.

14 (Thereupon, Witness Nadine Rice was
15 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
16 testified as follows:)

17 Please tell us your name and spell it for
18 us, please.

19 MS. RICE: Nadine. N-A-D-I-N-E. And
20 the last name is Rice.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

22 MS. RICE: R-I-C-E. My reason for
23 being here tonight and I got the call about the increase in
24 the utilities to 18 percent. I am a retired senior,
25 legally blind, but still the Lord has blessed me to be able

1 to take care of myself.

2 And what happened to me on last year, year
3 before, in 2008, they discontinued my blind pension after
4 19 years. Well, because they thought I was over income
5 because I had little small bank accounts, and they began to
6 look into them. They said do you have any little more --
7 any more little bank accounts, Ms. Rice, because I was
8 putting 200 here and there.

9 And also a two-time cancer patient. A
10 survivor. And then on this year they said no increase in
11 our Social Security. They also said on the television this
12 morning that it had been recommended that all seniors under
13 \$50,000 would not have to pay income tax.

14 That's no longer. We got to pay tax. So
15 you got to pay tax, you don't get a cost-of-living
16 increase, and now you have an 18 percent electric increase.

17 Now, the Lord has blessed me to be able to
18 keep intact because I started dropping my pennies in a cup,
19 and then I went from pennies to nickels, and then to
20 quarters for this day. For the 18 percent increase, if
21 they are going to not give us a tax break, take our
22 cost-of-living increase, for me and others, then there's no
23 income on jobs.

24 What is UE giving up? If they're going to
25 take mine, are the staff giving up anything? Is the CEO

1 giving up his bonus? Is the person that comes out, cuts
2 your gas, cuts your lights off, is he still getting the
3 same amount for coming out and cutting your lights off?

4 So it looks like if they're going to take
5 mine away from me, they're going to take my blind pension
6 away, which took away my Medicaid, which means I haven't
7 been to a doctor in three years simply because I was scared
8 to go. Because at the time that I went, I had Medicare A
9 and B, and Medicaid. And I had an emergency ambulance to
10 take me to Barnes in 2006.

11 In 2007, I was in a car accident, also had
12 to use an ambulance service. I still had the same Medicare
13 A-B and Medicaid, and later on I got a bill for all of
14 those treatments. Then when I began to question that,
15 that's when I lost my Medicaid, along with my blind
16 pension, because I questioned why I was getting all of
17 these bills. And out of all these years, and during that
18 time I had a job.

19 I worked for the City of St. Louis, and I
20 paid my taxes, but because I saved my money and put it in
21 little bitty bank accounts, I lost my pension, which means
22 I lost my Medicaid. And now I'm not getting -- I'm only
23 Social Security benefits, and don't get that cost-of-living
24 rate. And I'm not the only one that's in this place, but
25 I'm blessed to be able to maintain. I don't have my cane

1 with me. I'm legally blind. Went to school for the blind
2 for four months, trained as a blind person to be totally
3 blind, but I've been blessed to maintain part of my sight
4 to take care of myself.

5 But that's what I want to know, is Ameren
6 giving up anything, is anything being taken away from them,
7 are their salaries being frozen, are they giving up part of
8 their bonus for them to keep lights on. You know, how do I
9 supplement my income because I'm not eligible for SSI. I'm
10 not on food stamps, and I'm a single person by myself. I'm
11 a Rice. Never been anything but a Rice.

12 You know, how am I to maintain the rest of
13 my living. I'm 69 years old, and the Lord blessed me on
14 this past week to feed 100 and some people a night at Mary
15 Rice New Life Evangelist. I did my own cooking and bought
16 all the food, and I fed that many people, that many men.
17 And on last night, I fed 130, some 35 women by myself.

18 But I had to give back some of what's been
19 taken from me, and that's one way the Lord has blessed me,
20 because I'm trying to give back what I've been blessed to
21 have since 19 years that I got blind pension.

22 So that's what I want to know. Is Ameren
23 going to take from me what has already been taken from me,
24 and if they're going to give up something for what they're
25 taking.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Next name

4 on the list is Joanne Morris. Joanne Morris?

5 Joseph Hardaway. Joseph Hardaway? All

6 right.

7 Earline Walker.

8 MR. WALKER: Joseph Walker.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Oh, okay. Come on.

10 MR. WALKER: Pass me up.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He said come back to

13 him.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Linda --

15 Linda Red?

16 MR. REDD: Andrea.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Andrea.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You called Earline

19 Walker before that.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Oh, I'm sorry. I did

21 call Earline Walker. I didn't see her.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Please

24 raise your right hand.

25 (Thereupon, Witness Earline Walker was

1 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
2 testified as follows:)

3 Please state your name.

4 MS. WALKER: My name is Earline --
5 E-A-R-L-I-N-E -- Walker. And my concern tonight is
6 communications, communication with AmerenUE.

7 I have an aunt who is a senior citizen, and
8 this year I contacted AmerenUE to request that someone
9 would come out and give her some training to assist here in
10 weatherizing her home so that she could possibly reduce her
11 bill because she's on a fixed income.

12 I was told that because her bills have
13 always ran late and she received notices, not disconnected,
14 but because they were late, it was considered a credit
15 risk. So therefore, she was not entitled to that service.

16 I'm very concerned about the sensitivity and
17 the social commitment that AmerenUE has towards seniors and
18 people that are on fixed incomes. If you can't pay your
19 bills in a timely manner because you're on a fixed income
20 and your bills come at a certain time of the month, and
21 your income may not cover that month at that time of the
22 month. So if you're receiving your income the 20th of the
23 month, and your bill is due on the 14th of the month, you
24 can't help but to be late with your bill if that's your
25 only resource of paying your bill.

1 And to be denied the opportunity to try to
2 be more efficient in the paying process because you're
3 paying your bills late, I have concern, and I think that
4 that's an area where communication and sensitivity can be
5 improved.

6 I think that with the budgets that you have
7 to work with, that consideration could be given to
8 individuals of that magnitude.

9 My second concern is the use of medical
10 equipment. AmerenUE is sensitive to individuals who are
11 disabled and that are on medical equipment. They allow you
12 to complete an application, and your physician has to
13 complete a portion of the application and submit that.

14 When you initiate the application process,
15 they do not tell you that each year you must contact them
16 and renew that application on an annual basis. They'll
17 tell you that if you did not renew it, they'll send you a
18 letter and say we can no longer put you on the medical
19 list.

20 But you did not communicate that to us. I
21 think that in my opinion, that your employees need to be
22 trained more efficiently to communicate to the consumer
23 more effectively so we will know what the guidelines are
24 once we try to utilize your services. I'm hoping that you
25 do have the resources to do that.

1 With respect to the 18 percent increase, I
2 think that that is going to be somewhat overwhelming for us
3 as a community. I have a friend who used to live in the
4 community with me. She recently relocated to St. Peters.
5 She told me last week, you really need to move out here.
6 You know my electric bill last year was \$300 a month. Now
7 my bill is \$90 a month.

8 I understand that her housing may be more
9 energy efficient because she was living in an older home
10 versus a new home now. There are probably a lot of
11 amenities that she may have now that help her to save on
12 her energy.

13 But the reality is that I can't see that
14 much of a variation of \$200 a month. That's a real diverse
15 variation. So it makes me think sometimes a city resident,
16 whether or not the residents of the City of St. Louis are
17 being redlined as we have in so many other areas, such as
18 our insurance, our -- our housing, our loans.

19 It's very difficult for us to utilize the
20 resources that we have because we are sometimes asked to
21 pay three times of that of other communities. So I think
22 that the AmerenUE company really needs to do some type of
23 study to see whether or not there is abuse in the
24 distribution of the utilities for those residents of
25 low-income families.

1 And that's all I have to offer.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Questions?

3 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Ma'am, I want to
4 follow up on a couple of the points that you made.

5 On the communication issue, on the -- on the
6 -- well, I guess let me start with the medical equipment,
7 the renewal. What would be the best way for that process
8 to work? If -- if the company feels like they want to -- I
9 think the renewal is just to make sure people are still at
10 the same address. I'm not sure why the rule was set.

11 MS. WALKER: No, that's not the
12 process. The process is you have to resubmit an
13 application which is similar to the initial application.
14 You have to have the physician document that the condition
15 currently exists, and that the electricity is still needed
16 in order to maintain that equipment.

17 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: What would be --

18 MS. WALKER: That's the process.

19 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Excuse me. I'm
20 sorry. What would be a -- what would be an improved
21 process?

22 MS. WALKER: In my opinion, an improved
23 process would be is for the individual whose services you
24 initial would explain the guideline upon the implementation
25 of the medical listing. If you do not tell an individual

1 that each year you must submit this application, then that
2 individual does not know that.

3 And then you take them off the list and put
4 them at risk, and that's when they find out, when they're
5 at risk. That should not occur, in my opinion.

6 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: The second thing I
7 was going to mention is on the weatherization piece, have
8 you ever called -- have you tried to contact the Public
9 Service Commission before for assistance on weatherization
10 or accessing any programs for weatherization or --

11 MS. WALKER: The Urban League has a
12 program for low income families that will assist you based
13 upon your income levels, if you fall within that category.
14 But that is something that just came out as the blanket
15 program that they introduced this year.

16 But this is something that I had contacted
17 for my aunt because she's limited in many areas, and I try
18 to assist her and that was the response that I received,
19 that her bills are not being paid on time. So she does not
20 have a right to that service.

21 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: What I wanted to
22 suggest is if you go out the door and to the left, the
23 Public Service Commission staff is --

24 MS. WALKER: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- is right out

1 there. That's where the sign-up sheet was. It's, I think,
2 by the rest rooms, right around to the left. You may want
3 to touch base with them because there may be other programs
4 that are out there. I think it may -- may be helpful to
5 you to -- to make a contact with the staff, and may be able
6 to help with finding out assistance if it is out there.

7 The last thing I wanted to ask is on the
8 change in residence, this is your third point. The change
9 in residence, the friend or relative that moved to St.
10 Peters, who is their provider of electricity in St. Peters?

11 MS. WALKER: AmerenUE.

12 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Ameren. So it was
13 the same --

14 MS. WALKER: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- same company and
16 their electricity dropped?

17 MS. WALKER: Right.

18 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: The rate shouldn't
19 be the same in the two communities.

20 MS. WALKER: They should not, is that
21 what you said?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: They should be.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: They should be the
24 same.

25 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: They should be the

1 same, yes. What did I say?

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You said they
3 shouldn't be the same.

4 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: They should be the
5 same. I think I messed up in saying they shouldn't be
6 different.

7 MS. WALKER: Okay. I can see maybe a
8 variation in taxes because --

9 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Right.

10 MS. WALKER: -- municipalities, they
11 allocate their taxes differently. But once again, a \$200
12 monthly variation, that's, you know, somewhat extreme.

13 And then in the literature that you provided
14 tonight, you stated that you were the lowest -- well,
15 Ameren because you're not Ameren. You're commissioners.

16 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you.

17 MS. WALKER: That Ameren was the lowest
18 utility -- electric company in the nation. You -- they
19 charge less for their utilities than any other electric
20 company in the United States, and it made me think. If
21 this is an effort to be competitive, or is there a need for
22 this 18 percent?

23 Is it because electric company A is making
24 18 percent more than AmerenUE, and that Ameren says now I
25 need to be on the same level because I'm providing the same

1 service?

2 It just made me think, you know. So the
3 truth is the truth, and only God knows the truth, and I
4 won't be able to find that out tonight because he didn't
5 tell me.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name is
7 Andrea Redd. Please raise your right hand.

8 (Thereupon, Witness Andrea Redd was
9 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
10 testified as follows:)

11 Thank you. Please state your name, please.

12 MR. REDD: My name is Andrea Redd.
13 That's A-N-D-R-E-A and as in red, R-E-D-D.

14 First of all, I would like to say thanks to
15 the lady that spoke before me because she definitely spoke
16 the truth when she told you that the electric bills are
17 different. They're different right here in the city with
18 over here on this north side, the electric bill is
19 definitely higher than what it is on the south side of the
20 city. Okay. You need to know why Ameren has it like that.
21 I don't know, but it's like that.

22 And then also as far as the meetings were
23 concerned, I kept up with the TV to know where to come. I
24 knew I had to come to Julia -- to Julia Davis Center here
25 at the library to discuss this with you. And I stayed with

1 the TV. It showed me every place, including north side
2 city Julia Davis.

3 People tell me when I got here that they had
4 one at UMSL. I live in North County, which is a straight
5 shot from my house to UMSL. UMSL was not on TV. No, it
6 was not.

7 Now, to me, that was a reason to cut down
8 having us here.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let me explain that
10 because actually it was my decision as the -- as the judge.
11 When we started having these hearings, we started having
12 much, much more larger response than we had ever
13 anticipated. As you can see this room isn't very large, so
14 just last week we added the UMSL as an overflow so that we
15 could have something else to go forward.

16 It certainly wasn't to try and bring down
17 attendance overall. It was to try to get the people
18 another place to testify.

19 MR. REDD: So then that's telling you
20 something, isn't it?

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes, it is.

22 MR. REDD: It's telling you that this
23 study thing that's going on with UE is a bunch of bunk, if
24 you get this many people steady showing up. All black
25 people, we don't go to meetings, but I do believe we are

1 here in numbers as you had to get another place.

2 Now, I'm not against any man making a living
3 because I retired from my -- after I retired, I got sick.
4 I'm a Viet Nam veteran like one man said. Uncle Sam takes
5 very good care of me. They don't take real good care of
6 me. Every time I look around, there's an increase on in my
7 house as far as my taxes, because I'm on a fixed income.

8 Every time I look around, the electric
9 company is going up, because I'm still on a fixed income.
10 And then all of a sudden, oh, we're going to give you this
11 stimulus check. They give me these two checks. Then tell
12 me I ain't giving you no more money, but I'm going up on
13 your bill with the electric company.

14 Also we're going to stick you with the
15 credit card. Oh, they really got us in the hole, you know,
16 right now. But we're not here about the credit card. I'm
17 hoping they do get somewhere about them because I got some
18 words for them too, you know.

19 But the point of AmerenUE to me, at one time
20 years ago, was a good company. I could go to them, I could
21 talk to them, and they took care of business. Years ago,
22 Union Electric. Oh, wow, we changed the name. Too we put
23 new prices on all.

24 All right. Well, what can I say, because I
25 could go to them and get anything done. Now I get an

1 electric bill. Say I got a electric bill yesterday. I'm
2 looking for the cutoff notice tomorrow, you know. But the
3 bill ain't due yet, but I got a cutoff notice in the mail,
4 you know.

5 So I mean, here you're telling me you need a
6 rate increase. How you need a rate increase and you
7 getting extra money from me right quick? And then you got
8 your people that you call and talk to on the phone there.
9 I still ain't gave my name because you might be offended.
10 You know, they laying on you so they can say yeah, that's
11 one of them, you know. That's one of them, going to make
12 sure when he calls what we going to do for him.

13 But I said I would take that chance because
14 to give you that -- that rate increase, not you, I'm just
15 saying that, but to give them that rate increase, you're
16 not helping me. So I'm not trying to knock nobody out of
17 making any money. The point is that don't try to take
18 everything from me. Like I said before, I like activities
19 too, but my main activity, I like to eat.

20 You know, and things are rough all over. We
21 really need to think about this 18 percent rate increase,
22 you know, and think about all the people that are asking
23 you, because there's a lot of people asking you turn them
24 down.

25 I would appreciate it greatly if you pray

1 about it, think hard about it, and make sure that the
2 people up there that you're going to see because has our
3 lawyer showed up yet? He still ain't got here, has he?
4 Yours is still here. See, because that's what I'm saying.
5 You represented. We ain't, you know. So just think about
6 that. We're the little people. You know, help us out.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Next
10 name on the list is Marguerite Morrow.

11 MS. MORROW: Hello, my name is
12 Marguerite Morrow. And my spelling is Marguerite.
13 M-A-R-G-U-E-R-I-T-E. Morrow. M-O-R-R-O-W.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I don't think I swore
15 you in.

16 MS. MORROW: What?

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Did I swear you in?

18 MS. MORROW: No.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. I have to swear
20 you in.

21 MS. MORROW: That's okay.

22 (Thereupon, Witness Marguerite Morrow
23 was sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
24 testified as follows:)

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

1 MS. MORROW: Thank you to my
2 predecessor that spoke before me. I truly appreciate it,
3 and everybody made some valid points.

4 As we know, AmerenUE has due diligence to
5 the community to keep the power running efficiently.
6 However, due to the problems with some of the lines, this
7 diligence process has not happened. We the people feel
8 that we are being penalized in terms of increased rates and
9 charges. In these times we need to come to an agreement on
10 how to allocate these increases where the community is not
11 being impacted by taking away from our needs in terms of
12 food, supplies, health care and housing.

13 In the past, we the customers have asked for
14 reliability in terms of our electric power. However,
15 Ameren has listened and responded by making sufficient
16 reliability improvements. Largely through our power on
17 program and those advances are working while these programs
18 are in place, to contribute to the past problems of
19 electrical outage that have occurred in the past.

20 However, the people of Missouri cannot stand
21 another increase in their bills at this time. While our
22 current rates are in range with Nebraska and Wyoming, as an
23 overall outage, we fall in the normal level of rates. Now
24 I ask you during these tough recession times, why submit
25 our community to more heartache and let-downs from the

1 system?

2 Again, the lower income homes have not
3 received a cost-of-living increase for this fiscal year,
4 and also due to the increase in unemployment rates, this
5 would make the decision to increase their electrical bill
6 by 18 percent determined -- detrimental to all.

7 And the President notes that widening costs
8 to meet customers' expectation for reliability as well as
9 federal and state requirements for renewable energy and
10 clean air are going to continue to drive up energy costs.
11 However, we the people feel that these investments should
12 not be pulled out of our pockets, but this cost should be
13 allocated from bonuses of the CEO or other state programs
14 to help stimulate the economy in terms of natural
15 resources.

16 In conclusion, there should be some
17 allocation of increases, rates; however, we the people have
18 just had an increase in July, and the community adjusted
19 accordingly.

20 What I propose to allow the economy time to
21 heal from the negative effects from the recession in terms
22 of high unemployment rates, down-sizing company closing,
23 inclining in house marketing, and unforeseeable situations.
24 AmerenUE needs to reallocate the funds to hire engineers to
25 focus on the overloads of electrical energy boxes that

1 service the community, and cut back on other programs by
2 pulling a team together to brainstorm on a smart energy
3 program.

4 Also Ameren should work harder, not harder
5 in terms of figuring out how not to switch the cost to the
6 community.

7 In summary, on the community issue, our main
8 points are as follows:

9 First, the community cannot stand another
10 increase.

11 Second, the lower income homes have not
12 received a cost-of-living increase for this fiscal year.

13 Lastly, due to the increase in unemployment
14 rates, this would make the decision to increase the
15 electric bill by 18 percent detrimental to all of us.

16 Please, I know that they need some increase,
17 but let's not do it now. Let's take a chance and do this
18 thing later, once we have healed from our recession.

19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

21 Next name on the list is Mark Keith Scott.

22 MR. SCOTT: Good evening, my name is
23 Mark Keith Scott.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I need to swear you in
25 first.

1 (Thereupon, Witness Mark Keith Scott
2 was sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
3 testified as follows:)

4 Thank you. Now go ahead.

5 MR. SCOTT: As everybody spoke before
6 is talking about how bad that we as a people struggling
7 just to pay our bills, a lot of us are living in that type
8 of lifestyle month to month, all to pay -- just to pay
9 bills.

10 With the recession and everything that's
11 transpiring in this country as it relates to finance and
12 the job market, to -- to come down here in this little
13 bitty place to address the entire city about an 18 percent
14 rate hike is -- is really -- it's heartless, it's thought-
15 -- it's really thoughtless. Really what it was.

16 I mean, look at this little place. The City
17 of St. Louis can't fit here. If you was addressing the
18 City of St. Louis to raise anything on us, it should have
19 -- it should have been at a place big enough to at least
20 accommodate us. This is a lack of respect to the people
21 who are in the City of St. Louis to put us in a little
22 place that the fire code here probably is about 150. About
23 150 is allowed to be in this room according to the law
24 probably.

25 And you are here to talk to the city. The

1 city is telling our government to tell our service provider
2 we do not want no 18 percent. I will not patronize you to
3 tell you we need a -- we don't need no hike at all. We
4 need help, period. We need help. We need cutbacks. We
5 need to cut back on some of these outages and however
6 you're reading the meter to come up with the financial
7 systems that you do.

8 We need that right there, cutting back. If
9 you look around the City of St. Louis, I mean, there's not
10 very much left to do to this city, serious. Everything
11 that you can think that can be did has already -- it's been
12 did. It's been did, and now you're talking about an 18
13 percent rate hike.

14 Well, we need to tell our government, since
15 the government is supposed to be for the people and by the
16 people, we need to tell the government to tell Ameren --
17 not to tell Ameren anything. We need to tell our
18 government we need other service providers to choose from.
19 Maybe if there's competition, then Ameren wouldn't be
20 strong enough to address us and then ask us for more money.

21

22 They say a monopoly is illegal in certain
23 aspects of business. What they're saying that AmerenUE has
24 a monopoly here in the city of St. Louis because they're
25 the only service provider we have. So I mean, well, I

1 don't know if you're asking us for an 18 percent hike, or
2 you telling us there's going to be a 18 percent hike.

3 Whatever it is, we telling you all, the
4 government officials, we don't want it. That was you all
5 as our -- representing us, you need to be telling them that
6 we do not want it. But you also need to look into and we
7 need to get some type of drive going for us to get more
8 providers here in the City of St. Louis that we can get
9 electric from, because if the hike don't come today, it'll
10 be tomorrow. And they'll never stop coming because we're
11 at Ameren's feet because they are the only service
12 providers.

13 So we -- we're going to have to go
14 accordingly. This is just formality, and it's very
15 disrespectful because the City of St. Louis can't see at no
16 Julia Davis library. This wasn't even well thought out, as
17 far as I'm concerned. And that's a wonder why you got
18 lawyers standing around. For what?

19 Why do AmerenUE need lawyers? This is just
20 a public meeting. We need to tell our city officials, and
21 we need to get some type of campaign here in the City of
22 St. Louis to try to get other service providers that we can
23 have a choice. Ameren say they are the lowest. How do we
24 know? You're the only one.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

1 Next name on the list is Gary Kennedy.

2 (Thereupon, Witness Gary Kennedy was
3 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
4 testified as follows:)

5 Thank you.

6 MR. KENNEDY: All right. My name is
7 Gary Kennedy, Gary S. Kennedy. And you know, there's --
8 I've been listening, you know, this whole time here.
9 Everybody has said so much and they're so eloquent,
10 particularly Ms. Rice and the things that she had to say.

11 I do want to address something real quick to
12 the Chairman, Mr. Robert Clayton, as an out-of-town guest.
13 The City of St. Louis, no. The utility companies in the
14 City of St. Louis have had a long history of marginalizing
15 the people here.

16 That's no -- you know, that's -- we all know
17 this, and it isn't just the utility companies. As a -- as
18 a life-long resident of the City of St. Louis for 55 years,
19 save for the time that I spent in the Army, I happen to
20 know -- I happen to know these things. We all feel it.
21 We've all gone through that, and just so that there is no
22 question, the resounding -- you know, I don't have a
23 question to ask you. I want to make sure that you all
24 don't have any questions.

25 We are saying no.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, we said no.

2 MR. KENNEDY: We don't want to pay no
3 more money. Ameren -- we're not talking about Laclede Gas.
4 I'll just talk about Ameren right now. Ameren owes us.
5 Okay. Whether we are employed or not. If we're not
6 employed, we still pay taxes, all of our lives here. While
7 we were employed, and if we're not -- you've never been
8 employed, you're going to pay it in some kind of sales tax.
9 They're going to get it from you somewhere, you know.

10 The people of City of St. Louis call -- call
11 this state St. Louis, "Misery" rather than St. Louis,
12 Missouri. We understand what it's like to grow -- you
13 know, to live in this kind of environment, and it is true
14 that there are areas of this city, areas of this metro- --
15 the metropolitan area where the citizens are made to pay
16 more for everything.

17 I live in this community. I don't live in
18 North County, I don't live in West County, South County or
19 the Metro East. I live on the North Side, and I've been
20 here, like I said, for the last 55 years. And that's --
21 that has been -- that has been the law of the land.

22 So many people I've gone to high school with
23 are no longer here. They're with -- I went to Los Angeles
24 once. They took me to a little place in South Central they
25 call Little Louis. There was everybody there that I

1 graduated from high school with. They call them St. Louis
2 rescue teams that move to those kinds of places.

3 I'm here because the fight is here, and I'm
4 so glad that I was able to see you all tonight so I could
5 come here so you could here.

6 First of all, I wasn't sure how things were
7 going to go. I sure am glad that right now I'm just
8 another echo saying that the word is no. Whatever language
9 you -- you choose, niet in Russian, no in French, Spanish
10 and English, no, you know. Whatever you want. You know,
11 nein is no. We don't want to pay it.

12 In fact, we would like to have a 25 percent
13 decrease, and I think that's pretty resounding. I'm glad
14 you all here to hear this, take it right back to them.
15 Everyone that talk to the folks to Ameren to ourselves and
16 not just you all. So we need to talk with them, and we
17 need to be able to speak with them. Not call them on the
18 phone and get well you're wait time is going to be 20
19 minutes, then we have to go to work or something like that.

20 We'd like to let them know. Please let them
21 know for us. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Sir, can I -- can I
23 ask you a question. I didn't mean to interrupt the
24 applause.

25 I do make it a point of coming to the St.

1 Louis every opportunity that I get because we regulate
2 throughout the state of Missouri, not just Hannibal, not
3 just other communities. So I try to get here to hear the
4 testimony that comes up. We were at Harris Stowe
5 yesterday. We were out in the county at noon today. We're
6 all over. I think we're coming back for some more hearings
7 later on.

8 The question that I have is that you said, I
9 think you said, Ameren marginalizes people.

10 MR. KENNEDY: Yeah. All the utility
11 companies do.

12 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Tell me what you
13 mean by that. Give me more explanation.

14 MR. KENNEDY: Sure. I'll just expound
15 on what I heard some of the other people say. Marginalize
16 -- red-lining is one thing. Well, I'm just going to deal
17 with Ameren then.

18 My bill -- my utility bill is going to be
19 higher than someone who lives in St. Louis County. And
20 when I say St. Louis County, I don't mean the -- the
21 close-in suburbs like Jennings or our neighbors. Those
22 have become urban suburbs, if you will. I mean West County
23 and across the Missouri River, what's that, St. Charles
24 County, St. Peters, O'Fallon, Wentzville. The newly -- the
25 newly developing areas out there.

1 They marginalize black people, and they've
2 been doing it for a long time. I've been black all my
3 life, and I mean my parents have been getting that. Okay.
4 And now they're deceased, and I'm getting that. You know,
5 I don't want my grandson and my granddaughter to be getting
6 those too, because I got grandchildren, you know.

7 So like I said, the fight is here. Yes,
8 they do marginalize. We're going to pay. We are going to
9 pay more. And another way that they do it is that any of
10 you -- you all seen it. You go up around in our
11 communities, and the lights in the streets are out in the
12 areas that they don't need to be out.

13 We need to have illumination when our
14 children are waiting on bus stops because the deseg program
15 is 5:00 or 5:30 in the morning. We're the ones that suffer
16 those, you know. I've gone out twice and stopped fights on
17 the side of my house from these kids. I keep my porch
18 light on, and I'll keep it on as long as Ameren, you know,
19 doesn't raise, you know, ain't got to raise the thing. But
20 I'll keep it on so that, you know, they don't get mugged
21 while they're waiting, you know, in sub-zero temperatures
22 at 5:00 and 5:30 in the morning for a school bus.

23 You know, we need out lights on. We get
24 these brownouts or blackouts summer and winter all over the
25 city, all over North St. Louis anyway. I see it a lot, you

1 know. There's one right across the street from my house,
2 which blinks on and goes out, blinks on and goes out. You
3 call Ameren, they'll certainly take the complaints.
4 Whether they come out and do something about it, I don't
5 know. I've never seen them. I work a lot, but I haven't
6 seen it -- I haven't seen it. And Ameren is responsible
7 for our street lights. Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you very much
9 for coming tonight. I appreciate it.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

11 The next name on the list is Dorothy James.
12 Is there a Dorothy James here? Okay. Diana Oleskevich.
13 Barbara Jennings. I think we had her earlier. Okay.

14 MS. JENNINGS: Hello.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Hello. Please raise
16 your right hand.

17 (Thereupon, Witness Barbara Jennings
18 was sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
19 testified as follows:)

20 Thank you.

21 MS. JENNINGS: I represent -- my name
22 is Barbara Jennings. I represent 15 institutional
23 shareholders of Ameren. And we believe that -- in fact, I
24 was just talking to some of the gentlemen outside that
25 there has been a salary freeze at Ameren among all the

1 people on the job, keep people on their electricity. Thank
2 you for being here.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

4 The next name on the list is Charlotte
5 McFarland Strong.

6 MS. OLESKEVICH: Can I go? I was out
7 of the room speaking to Mr. Mark when my name was called
8 earlier.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Oh, okay.

10 MS. OLESKEVICH: Or do I need to wait?

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: No, I'll -- what is
12 your name?

13 MS. OLESKEVICH: Diana Oleskevich.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Come
15 forward. Please raise your right hand.

16 (Thereupon, Witness Diana Oleskevich
17 was sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
18 testified as follows:)

19 You need to spell your name first.

20 MS. OLESKEVICH: My name is Diana
21 Oleskevich. D-I-A-N-A O-L-E-S-K-E-V-I-C-H.

22 I recently had a conversation, just out in
23 the hall, and I thank you very much for taking me in my
24 turn because I was out speaking to -- to Mr. Mark, Senior
25 Vice President to Energy Delivery, AmerenUE, and I

1 appreciate his compassion and his listening, as I
2 appreciate yours as well.

3 I too am a shareholder in Ameren, and there
4 are a couple of proposals that -- that I would like to say
5 and echo. I unfortunately was out in the lobby with
6 several hundred people and was unable to come in during the
7 question and answer period. So if these questions have
8 been addressed, I ditto them for you.

9 I would like to propose first of all that --
10 that the rate increase be incremental, that -- that Ameren
11 consider. We've had several rate increases in the last few
12 years, and I would like to say that instead of an 18
13 percent increase, which is clearly a hardship during these
14 economic times, that -- that if a rate increase is needed
15 and that it be proposed maybe 3 percent for six years,
16 maybe 5 percent for three years.

17 I think that's to be negotiable. I think
18 that would be a lot more compassionate for people rather
19 than 18 percent.

20 I would also secondly like to propose that
21 top management and leadership of the corporation would be
22 willing to take an 18 percent pay cut, including a pay cut
23 on their stock shares, their dividends and their -- and
24 their bonuses. I know that they've been frozen, and that's
25 a step in the right direction.

1 I believe that corporations have a
2 responsibility and a duty to be good corporate citizens,
3 and that AmerenUE not only has to provide a reliable
4 product, but it has to care for people before -- before
5 profit. And therefore, I'm going to propose that
6 shareholders also be asked to take some of this cut that
7 the company is spending in advance and then needs to pay
8 back.

9 That stockholders who took a cut in
10 dividends last year be asked to take more of a cut; that --
11 that shareholder prices and dividends don't need to be as
12 high as they are; that we need to care as much for the
13 little people in the world as we do for the rich people in
14 the world.

15 Thank you.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

17 Next name on the list is Charlotte McFarland
18 Strong. Charlotte McFarland Strong? James Houston.

19 Raise your right hand.

20 (Thereupon, Witness James Houston was
21 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
22 testified as follows:)

23 Thank you. State your name, please.

24 MR. HOUSTON: My name is James Houston.

25 I'm the community organizer with St. Louis ACORN. And I'm

1 here basically to say that an 18 percent increase will be
2 real ridiculous at this economic crisis that we're
3 suffering at this current time.

4 We see a rise of unemployed rising over 10
5 percent right now. We see more foreclosures day by day.
6 Let alone, let's not forget about the lower moderate income
7 people, those who are on fixed income, those elderly,
8 disabled.

9 Just think about what Ameren says to them
10 when they call. They say hey, did you -- have you went on
11 line and pulled up our beautiful billboards on line? No,
12 they haven't went on line. They can't even afford internet
13 service.

14 Then just think, they fail to realize that
15 the systems that these people really need, they can't
16 really find it. And in times when they can find it, then
17 -- at the times when they can find it, it's a month or two
18 later when they, you know, when they actually really need
19 it or whatever. But when they really find it, it would be
20 very much appreciated.

21 There is no need for me to refer them to
22 Ameren for Ameren to call different organizations or other
23 companies because I already gave them these numbers that
24 Ameren has got to give me or give them. You know, I had to
25 do more research to go to local churches and things of this

1 sort to find people different assistance.

2 They didn't say -- when Ameren posted Clean
3 Slate program, they didn't say, you know, that program came
4 and sent real quick. You know, my phone blew up everyday
5 on somebody saying hey, I need this bill paid or I need
6 assistance on util- -- or I need utility or foreclosure
7 assistance or things of that sort.

8 It's been a few times when members have come
9 up to me and I have not been able to help them, and you
10 know, that does not feel good. There's been times when I
11 went to people's homes, they had candles, flares, lights,
12 you know, because they couldn't pay their bill. Let alone,
13 you know, waiting for two or three months till their bill
14 is able to be paid.

15 During the summer months, people visit
16 friends, family members, even go to different stores to
17 just stay cool, just stay out of their home because they're
18 not able to cut on their central air. And half of them
19 don't even have central air to cut on.

20 This should make you wonder because people
21 are trying to make ends meet with what they have. Some of
22 them are eating brea- -- some of them are not eating
23 breakfast, lunch because they have to have dinner for their
24 kids.

25 Ameren needs to cut -- Ameren needs a

1 program to cut costs. They need a low assistance program
2 that could basically help people to cut down their bills,
3 not -- not just assistance program for elderly and
4 disabled. But they need that program and a program for low
5 assistance to cut people's bills down to reduce their bills
6 in times of need.

7 Because even with the elderly and disabled
8 program, this allows them not to cut off their service, but
9 they still have this -- they still have a bill. They are
10 not able to pay it, you know, so some people -- I go to
11 different ones houses. They might have a bill \$4,000, you
12 know what I mean. And you know, they just -- what can they
13 do? You know, we just do what we can do.

14 So all I'm asking for Ameren to take a close
15 look, for you all to take a close look at really digging
16 deep to Ameren, you know, with CEO making 5 million a year,
17 Ameren making over 50 million a month, basically on some
18 cutbacks. They need to take some CEO and top job cutbacks
19 at the same time where is there incentives to help out the
20 community as far as low assistance programs and cut down
21 the bills.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the
25 list is Kim Rose. Please raise your right hand.

1 money when I'm paying rent, and then I got to pay my
2 electric, and then I got to bum a ride. I got to give
3 people gas money. I buy a bus pass. That's \$65 a month.
4 When I moved that -- when I'm finished paying all of my
5 electric and my rent, I am down to \$8.

6 I have no personal life because I don't have
7 anything else to do. I can't do anything. I can't say
8 come on let's go, take my kids to a movie with \$8. It's
9 \$10 for me to go to the movie. It's \$8 additional for them
10 to go to the movie, you know.

11 So I'm here to say please no. Please no.
12 H-E-L-L no. We -- we cannot afford this. I myself cannot
13 afford this. Okay. So as far as my adjustment goes, I
14 have to borrow money, or I have to say -- tell my
15 girlfriends at work let me borrow this. By the time I get
16 my check, I owe half my job, I owe my mom. My mom's on a
17 fixed income.

18 You know, right now, it's a recession. I'm
19 not going to keep saying it's a recession because you guys
20 know that as well as we do. Okay.

21 Now who am I or where am I to pull this
22 extra money from? My entire two-bedroom house is taped up.
23 I can barely enjoy the sunlight because I got so much tape
24 and plastic up at my windows. I have insulation on all of
25 my doors. I have blankets that I have to go to the thrift

1 store and purchase at tack up at the windows. I have no
2 sunlight whatsoever. Okay.

3 I understand what the lady was saying about
4 medical usage because my daughter is a chronic asthmatic.
5 Lord forbid if she has an asthma attack on this 18 percent
6 and I have to plug up her machine. Okay.

7 I -- I have masking tape, duct tape, weave
8 glue, whatever I can to put up to keep this plastic up at
9 the windows so I don't have any air coming through. I live
10 right around the corner. I walked over here, you know.

11 My thermostat on my house right now is set
12 on 88. My house is reading 69. I'm still freezing. Okay.
13 And I got -- I refuse to take this -- like I said, I
14 refused to take the assistant manager program. I refused
15 to ask my mom or fall back on my mom because I'm -- I'm an
16 adult now. I want my mom to fall on me. You know, I don't
17 want to keep falling and running to my mom.

18 So that's all I got to say. Oh, and by the
19 way, in 2007, I lived -- I always lived in the City of St.
20 Louis, St. Louis City. My mom lives in Olivette. My
21 sister lives in U City. I too live in St. Louis City
22 because I love my people. My people love me.

23 In 2007 I was in that ice storm, and my
24 electric was off for ten days. Not seven days, ten days.
25 You know what they did? Ameren Electric trucks came

1 through out alley and cut down the branches just over the
2 lines.

3 I called AmerenUE. I called St. Louis City,
4 where this big raggedy tree that people throw garbage in
5 and everything. They never came out to cut down anything.
6 The tree is still standing. Lightning done hit the tree.
7 They've never came out to cut it.

8 You know what Ameren told me? I need to
9 contact the property owner. No one lives in that house. I
10 call St. Louis City. St. Louis City tells me to contact
11 AmerenUE, you know. So I kept getting nickeled and dimed,
12 nickeled and dimed. So me and my husband and his brothers
13 came up. I know you live in Hannibal, Missouri. They live
14 in Gobbler, Missouri. Came up and cut the tree down, and
15 the City tried to charge me for that.

16 So that's all I got to say, is we can't
17 afford this hike at all. And I pray to God that you all
18 understand that, or just put yourself in my shoes, 7.75 an
19 hour. I can't even clock 30 hours because right now we
20 don't have a lot of business. So that's it.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Ms. Rose.

22 The next name on the list is Felicia Moore.
23 Felicia Moore? Rolanda Cruze? Kiana Skinner.

24 (Thereupon, Witness Kiana Skinner was
25 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and

1 testified as follows:)

2 Thank you. State your name, please.

3 MS. SKINNER: Kiana Skinner.

4 S-K-I-N-N-E-R. Ameren do need the money so they can cut
5 down the trees that's on their property. In between
6 everybody's house, there's a gap that Ameren tree poles sit
7 on, and they're responsible for each one of the trees.

8 They do need the money to cut down the
9 trees. They also do need some money so they can make
10 programs to assist people who's on welfare, disability and
11 everything else the people are on. So I'm not sure exactly
12 how much they need, but they do need something. They need
13 to put those programs and those things in position when
14 they ask for the money.

15 They did get an increase last year. How
16 many more increases are they going to get? How many more
17 increases are they allowed? Because they've gone up 8
18 percent last year and another 18 this year, that's getting
19 kind of outrageous. You know, I'm not sure when -- what it
20 was, but it's like when does it all stop, how much more we
21 going to lose.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

23 The next name on the list is Dawud Muhammad
24 from Energy Solutions, Incorporated. Thank you, sir. If
25 you'd please raise your right hand.

1 (Thereupon, Witness Dawud Muhammad was
2 sworn on his oath by Judge Woodruff, and
3 testified as follows:)

4 State your name.

5 MR. MUHAMMAD: My name is Dawud
6 Muhammad.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. If you could
8 spell it for the court reporter.

9 MR. MUHAMMAD: It's D-A-W-U-D.
10 Muhammad. M-U-H-A-M-M-A-D.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. What
12 would you like to tell us?

13 MR. MUHAMMAD: Yes, I'd like to first I
14 wanted to second a motion when the lady came up with the
15 great idea of 18 percent pay cut for -- for the corporate
16 executives.

17 I think that hearing testimony, especially
18 this one just previously behind me, it is very touching.
19 At one point I wrote an article one time, and it was called
20 "When Do a State-Funded Regulated Monopoly Become a Moral
21 Issue?"

22 And when I say that is how -- you know, when
23 I think about a state-run regulated monopoly, it becomes a
24 moral issue when you start hearing about people's lives.
25 And not only just looking at it from the economic aspect of

1 it, but when looking at it that we need open transparency
2 and research that will reveal that some of these rate
3 increases also have an impact on the foreclosures in our
4 community. We're talking about in the housing industry as
5 well.

6 Recently, about last year or a couple of
7 years back, Ameren -- as a matter of fact, Anheiser-Busch
8 and Boeing Aircraft Company came forth in December's "Post
9 Dispatch" and stated that if they had any rate increases,
10 it would create a problem for them to be able to compete in
11 a global margin. And that is something to think about when
12 a big corporation is speaking, and here it is you're
13 hearing from -- also from the income brackets that we're
14 hearing from right now coming from the community as we
15 speak.

16 So my concern is, is that I need to ask
17 Ameren about how much is Ameren collecting in late fees
18 based upon population? We'd like to have open -- vocal
19 report to be revealed about exactly how much are they
20 collecting in late fees and what that -- what that number
21 is and versus population and income. That needs to be open
22 to the public.

23 Another thing is that if the utility rates
24 increases, impact residents in many different areas, but
25 not only just that. But we're looking at the prediction on

1 the natural gas. We understand that Ameren is trying to do
2 something toward the green because of the national energy
3 -- what they call the electrical liability standards. And
4 so the cost of that electrical liability standards, we know
5 that Ameren has to fulfill that on a national level.

6 But the coal industry has been influencing
7 the competition that is going on in the industry. Now that
8 we have the natural gas, we understand that this is the
9 direction that Ameren's plan is supposed to go. There is
10 an issue to be concerned with.

11 One is that there has been some new
12 projections stated within the next three years, natural gas
13 costs is going to shoot sky high. If you even just think
14 about this -- the new technology. I was up in Washington,
15 D. C. now too long ago. I flew up and came back, then up
16 in Chicago.

17 You think about it, you see it, these new
18 transportations now using natural gas. We're talking about
19 public transportation using natural gas. That's something
20 to think about. Then you go down somewhere in the south,
21 down in Texas, they're talking about using natural gas for
22 transportation.

23 This is going to have another impact effect.
24 What we need, I'm thinking -- I'm thinking that, you know,
25 what is that projected -- what is that predicted natural

1 gas impact is going to mean. Now, I'm talking about on the
2 utility rates.

3 So those rates we're looking at right now --
4 I think they was something like 8,000 per cubic feet or
5 something like that on natural gas. They're projections
6 are looking at 17 to 18 percent. Eighteen dollars I'm
7 talking about. Sorry. That's -- that's just a projected
8 research for it.

9 So now in reality we need competition like
10 we've been hearing all the time. Well, I came up with a
11 proposal. I'd like to -- and I really am serious about
12 this proposal when I bring it up.

13 If by chance that the Commission is looking
14 at these rate increases, would even on top of that,
15 whatever it is, even though this 18 percent you might
16 decide to go down to 5, 2, 3 or whatever it might go,
17 whatever -- whatever number you decide on. If you do, we
18 would like to propose, if possible, that -- we know that
19 Ameren has done some great things and some new stuff just
20 came out.

21 We would like Ameren to be able to provide
22 more information about alternative energy. We talk about
23 these solar rebate program they just got, just came out on
24 the 8th. They explained more about the net metering laws
25 so that the people could understand about that as well.

1 We feel that in addition to that, the
2 proposal I'd like to do is mention that the proposal is to
3 take whatever is collected from Ameren and would they be
4 interested -- would the Commission be interested in
5 creating another financial vehicle or taking 50 percent of
6 what they collect and put it in the form of a financial
7 program that will be to low and moderate -- or for the
8 low-interest loan program for solar to be implemented.

9 We would like to propose that 50 percent or
10 30 percent, whatever, you know, the numbers you come up
11 with. And we want whatever they collect that it goes
12 toward for to be providing low-interest loans and -- and
13 not based on the standard credit rating standards that they
14 normally have. Make it affordable for low-income
15 homeowners and for small business owners to be able to
16 compete.

17 And last the thing that I'm concerned with
18 after we see what happened to Haiti, I think that we need
19 more creative models at this point. A centralized
20 electrical grid system would only mean that we're going to
21 be more volatile (sic) to natural disasters on top of what
22 we -- what we see when we see rate increases due to market
23 fluctuations.

24 That's a natural -- a man-made disaster, but
25 -- but when we're talking about natural disasters, we need

1 to be able to look at decentralizing immediately, as soon
2 as possible, systems that cities need to be looking at that
3 what we can do to implement this new technology.

4 And so if there's -- you know, if there's
5 any questions from you guys have to say or anything like
6 that, I'd be answering your questions. But we would like
7 to propose that money -- of that money -- a portion of that
8 money to go toward a financial program to put -- to
9 implement solar. Because right now the state of Missouri
10 is ranked -- well, it was ranked 47th in the nation behind
11 in regards to renewable energy. And it's understandable.
12 We have the coal industry, and then you have this process
13 where you had to make the conversion over to natural --
14 natural gas because you got the pollution standards and all
15 that stuff you got to deal with.

16 Now, what we really need to think about also
17 is the American Clean Energy bill which was called at one
18 point Cap and Trade, but we -- you know, and the other
19 thing we know there's a lot of pros and cons with that as
20 well. What can mean also if the rates -- they're showing
21 reports now on -- on the internet, Ameren is showing rates
22 at 8 -- below 8 percent back in 2007.

23 Now the highest rates that we're showing is
24 round about 24 percent. We know it was higher at 37
25 percent in California. Then what we -- what are we really

1 looking at? If the -- you know, the people can only --
2 there's a point where I call there is a point to human
3 resiliency. I'm talking about there is a point that the
4 human being can be able to withstand.

5 And so -- and so we -- you know, we can be
6 resilient in so many different ways, but now it's on your
7 leadership. We're talking about we understand how problems
8 between business and consumer market, that's where you guys
9 -- that's your job, to come in and be a mediator between
10 the two to bring some balance to this issue.

11 But we know that -- that since they now just
12 created the law that -- I'm talking about that they have
13 the new rebate program, they now have the new net metering
14 laws which is supposed to be retail rate and all this
15 stuff, but this state -- this state is 47th in the nation.

16 That means that it's been far behind for a
17 long, long time. So we need to catch up, and the only way
18 to do that some of the proposals that I just outlined will
19 be a key so that we can be able to really jump start this
20 thing. And also looking at what is happening with climate
21 change, if that's real, whatever people think about it.
22 But we can be in the jump start in the new economy to
23 create and jobs in this -- in the city and in the state.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
25 questions?

1 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: No.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. That was
4 actually the last name on the list. We've got five
5 minutes, according to the library here.

6 Any body else would like to testify? I
7 don't see anybody coming forward. So then I'll thank you
8 all for coming out, and with that, we are adjourned.

9 (Thereupon, the proceedings were
10 concluded 8:24 p.m.)

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