

August 11, 2009

Mr. Robert Clayton
Chairman
Missouri Public Service Commission
Government Office Building
200 Madison
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Re: Recent application from Ameren UE for an 18% rate increase

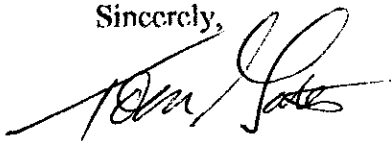
Dear Mr. Clayton:

The captioned rate increase application is beyond appalling. Obviously, AUE is aiming for a lower amount and using the old union trick of asking for more; however, ANY rate increase at this time is unconscionable. As you know, the company is a monopoly. It provides a service which is a necessity, not an option.

AUE seems to be unaware of current economic conditions. No one I know of is receiving income increases anywhere near 18%. Unemployment is increasing and most people are getting income REDUCTIONS. A recent general letter from the CEO of AUE indicated that its rates are "40% below the national average". Missourians do not care what the "national average" is. We budget and pay our bills based on our history with AUE, not what consumers in some other area pay.

We, as consumers, are totally reliant on your agency to protect us. I hope we can count on the MPSC to recognize the reality of current conditions and deny this obscene application.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Gates
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