

Exh. 1

To the Missouri Public Service Commission:

Ameren UE has this area locked down – we have little choice in where to buy electricity. The company has already raised rates by 6% this year, a year of financial hardship for many of us.

Our family is no exception. Since we retired, we have had a severely reduced, fixed income. Unlike the electric company, we get no raise this year from social security or anywhere else. Ameren gets some of its power from nuclear (no excess cost this year), some from hydropower (again, no raise in cost) and largely from coal, a greenhouse catastrophe.

Ameren has asked us to contribute per kilowatt hour to help them reach a mandated higher percentage of green energy. Much as we approve of using green energy, we can barely pay the bill as it stands. I don't think we are alone.

On our small fixed income, we have managed to handle excessive medical bills in the past three years for serious illness (not an unusual story for the elderly), and attempted to help grandchildren with college expenses. We have regularly contributed the "dollar more" for people who have trouble paying their bill. With a cost increase like the one Ameren is threatening (and especially with the threat of further increases without public hearings or notice at whim), we will not only find ourselves unable to continue this, we may have to request help in paying our bill. Just how generous is Ameren feeling at the moment?

Martha A Bartter & C. Andrew Hilgartner
2413 N. East St.
Kirksville, MO 63501

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