# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of Noranda Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for Revisions to Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Large Transmission Service Tariff to Decrease its Rate for Electric Service

Case No. EC-2014-0224

## JOINT STATEMENT OF CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Come now the Office of Public Counsel, the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers, the Missouri Retailers Association and the Consumers Council of Missouri ("Consumer Representatives"), and in support of the procedural schedule proposed by Complainant Noranda Aluminum, Inc. ("Noranda") state as follows:

1. On February 12, 2014, Noranda filed its complaint and supporting testimony in this case. Noranda's complaint includes a request for expedited treatment and a proposed procedural schedule.

2. On February 13, the Commission issued its Notice of Complaint, Order Establishing Time to Respond and Order Establishing Time to Apply to Intervene, setting an a deadline of March 7 for applications to intervene and March 17 for Ameren's Answer and for responses to applications to intervene.

3. Each of the Consumer Representatives is a customer, or represents customers, of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri ("Ameren Missouri"), and each has an interest in keeping electric rates just and reasonable.

4. The Office of Public Counsel is a party to this case. The other Consumer Representatives have not yet been granted intervention, and do not yet have the status of parties to this case. However, due to the urgency of the requested relief, the Consumer Representatives wish to state their support at this time for an expedited decision and procedural schedule in this case.

5. The Consumer Representatives believe that an expedited schedule is in the public interest because, as explained in the testimony of Noranda President and CEO Kip Smith, without an expedited decision in this matter, Noranda will begin the process of winding down its smelter operations for imminent closure. That closure, according to the testimony of Maurice Brubaker, would cause rates to increase for all Ameren Missouri customers by an amount greater than if Complainants obtain their requested relief. Also, according to the testimony of numerous other witnesses, Missouri's economy will be harmed by Noranda's closure. A Commission decision that is untimely would not serve to avoid the harm that is asserted in the testimony of these witnesses.

6. The Consumer Representatives support the request set forth in Noranda's complaint for a Commission decision expediting the resolution of these issues and allowing any potential new rates resulting from this case to take effect on or before July 31, 2014.

**WHEREFORE,** the Consumer Representatives state their support for the expedited procedural schedule requested by Noranda in this case and their support for an effective date of July 31, 2014 for any potential new rates resulting from this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

## BRYAN CAVE LLP

By: /s/Diana Vuylsteke

Diana Vuylsteke #42419 BRYAN CAVE LLP 211 North Broadway Suite 3600 St. Louis Missouri 63102 (314) 259-2543 Facsimile: (314) 259-2020 E-mail: <u>dmvuylsteke@bryancave.com</u>

Edward F. Downey #28866 221 Bolivar Street, Suite 101 Jefferson City, MO 65109 (573) 556-6622 Facsimile: (573) 556-7442 E-mail: <u>efdowney@bryancave.com</u>

# ATTORNEYS FOR THE MISSOURI INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSUMERS

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

By: <u>/s/Lewis R. Mills, Jr</u> Lewis R. Mills, Jr. #35275 Public Counsel P O Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-1304 Facsimile (573) 751-5562 E-mail: <u>lewis.mills@ded.mo.gov</u>

#### JOHN B. COFFMAN LLC

By:<u>/s/John Coffman</u>

John B. Coffman #36591 871 Tuxedo Blvd St. Louis, MO 63119 (573) 424-6779 E-mail: john@johncoffman.net

# ATTORNEY FOR CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF MISSOURI

#### BLITZ, BARDGETT & DEUTSCH

By:/s/Tim Schwarz\_\_\_\_

Thomas Schwarz #29645 308 East High Street, Ste 301 Jefferson City MO 65101 (573) 634-2500 Facsimile (573) 634-3358 E-mail: tschwarz@blitzbardgett.com

## ATTORNEY FOR THE MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been emailed this 19th day of February, 2014, to all attorneys of record.

By: <u>/s/Diana Vuylsteke</u>