

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED³

DEC 06 1999

Frank E. Dilley, et. al.
Complainant

v.

Union Electric Company
d/b/a Ameren UE
Respondent

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Missouri Public
Service Commission

Case No. EC-2000-63 et. al.

MOTION TO FILE COMMISSION ORDERED REPORT
AND REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and for its motion states:

1. Between August 2 and September 1, 1999 48 persons filed 43 formal complaints with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") against Union Electric Company ("UE"). On September 22, 1999, UE filed Answers in all 43 cases as well as a motion to consolidate those cases.

2. On October 12, 1999, the Commission issued an order that consolidated the complaint cases and directed the Staff to conduct an investigation and file a written report no later than December 6, 1999.

3. The Staff has conducted its investigation and the written report is attached as Appendix A. The concerns that gave rise to the complaints were regarding UE's quality of service in the area served by the Brumley substation. During June and July 1999, UE's customers in that area experienced several extended service interruptions.

4. UE has taken steps to improve the quality of service in this area and is continuing to address the underlying causes of the outages. While UE has made progress, UE does not anticipate completing the various repairs, maintenance, and upgrades for a number of months.

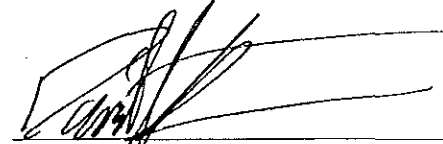
5. Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order requiring a filing by UE on February 1, 2000 and on May 3, 2000. These filings should address the status of current projects underway and projects planned for the Spring of 2000 to resolve the quality of service in the area served by the Brumley substation. These reports should also include information on any outage that occurs during the reporting periods involving the subject area.

6. The Staff will monitor the progress of the system upgrades and will file reports in response to the February 1, 2000 and the May 3, 2000 filings of UE, which are recommended by the Staff to be ordered by the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Staff's Motion and accept for filing the attached Report and request that the Commission issue an order requiring a filing by UE on February 1, 2000 and on May 3, 2000 to report to the Commission on UE's progress in improving the quality of service in the area served by the Brumley substation.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

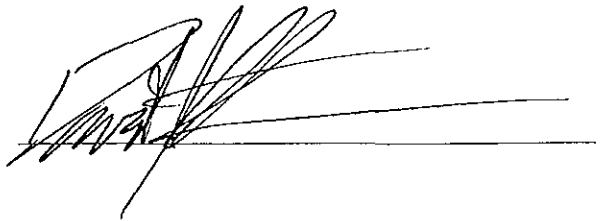


David J. Stueven
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 51274

Attorney for the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-6726 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 6th day of December 1999.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. EC-2000-63, et. al., Frank E. Dilley, et. al., vs. Union Electric Company

FROM: Jim Ketter, Electric Department

West Hendrick 12.3.99
Utility Operations Division/Date

Steven Doty 12/3/99
General Counsel's Office/Date

SUBJECT: Staff Report Concerning Commission Ordered Investigation

DATE: December 3, 1999

By its order dated the 12th day of October, 1999, the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) directed the Commission Staff (Staff) to investigate and to file a written report concerning the 43 formal complaints filed involving provision of electric service from Union Electric Company (UE or Company). Consumers in the area around Brumley, Ulman and Tuscumbia, in Miller County, Missouri filed formal complaints in response to numerous electrical outages.

The Commission consolidated the formal complaints under Case No. EC-2000-63 and an ANSWER OF RESPONDENT UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY was filed on September 22, 1999. In the response to the complaints, UE confirms that there were several extended service interruptions during June and July 1999 in the area served by the Brumley Substation. A list of the electric service outages during 1999, for a selected customer served by the Brumley Substation, is provided below.

Outage Summary

Date	Outage Time	Cause of Outage
	Hr Min	
11/22/99	4 28	34kV circuit crossarm on LKSD 75 failed (rotten wood)
8/24/99	3 51	Customer burning got out of control and caused outage
7/29/99	0 29	Failure of 34kV busing at Turkey Bend Substation
7/28/99	2 20	Transformer on feeder failed and caused feeder to trip
7/25/99	3 14	Primary wire sagged into span guy and primary came down
7/21/99	2 56	Recloser failed under heavy load; replaced
7/18/99	2 43	Recloser opened under heavy load
6/28/99	3 37	34kV circuit opened due to arrester failure-Major storm
6/27/99	4 35	34kV circuit opened due to failure of regulator-Major storm
3/09/99	2 34	Primary wire fell down
2/11/99	1 55	Transformer in overhead failed and caused feeder to open

The outage summary contains information on numerous interruptions of service in June and July 1999. During these two months, customers were without electric service for over 19 hours. This caused inconvenience, extended hours without essential services and disruption to farm operations.

During July 1999, UE made changes in the circuits serving the area in question by moving electrical load from a heavily loaded circuit (Feeder 129-51-A Phase) to other sources. This short-term shift of load helped to relieve the over-loading of the conductors, and with the benefit of cooler temperatures, electric service was only interrupted once in August and once in November. These outages are included in the previous list.

UE identifies the transmission line serving the Brumley Substation as Lakeside 75. This 34 kV line is the only supply to this substation. During 1998, UE hired an outside contractor to inspect and evaluate the poles on Lakeside 75. From this inspection, it was determined that 15 of the 350 poles were in need of replacement and this work is presently underway by a separate contractor. Lightning arresters on this circuit are also being inspected and replaced as necessary.

UE scheduled a portable substation in the Fall of 1998 to bypass the Brumley Substation in order to perform regular maintenance and to upgrade equipment. This work was not accomplished in 1998 because the portable substation was needed for an unscheduled outage at another substation. The Brumley Substation maintenance was completed last month, November 1999.

In response to the outages in this area, contract crews were dispatched to trim trees away from the conductors. UE reports that these crews are nearing completion of the tree-trimming project. UE also had an outside contractor inspect the distribution poles of the circuit along State Highway C. The final report from the contractor for this work is not complete, however seven poles have been identified as needing immediate attention. No completion date has been established.

The Staff concludes that UE is addressing problems that were previously identified and has discovered other items that require attention. A list of the work completed through November 26, 1999 in and around Brumley, and work scheduled for Spring 2000 is shown in Attachment A. Completion of these projects should improve reliability of electric service for UE customers served from the Brumley Substation.

Another item for UE to address is the heavy electrical load on the conductors serving the area. UE identifies this item on the schedule of work to be completed as the feeder relief project scheduled for Spring 2000. Although UE is scheduling crews to address this item, this project is not well defined by UE at this time. The Staff will review the progress of this phase of the improvements. The electrical load on the conductors serving this area has been above the normal conductors' rating during peak periods. This problem needs to be resolved to allow reliable electric service for the anticipated future peak loads. This project is still in the planning stages. Therefore, Staff cannot determine, at this time, if UE's proposed solution would resolve this issue.

The Staff has inspected the electric facilities of UE serving the Brumley area and visited with customers served from the Brumley Substation. The Staff has followed the upgrade and maintenance work accomplished at the substation plus inspected the facilities that serve customers. Further information was sought in a letter sent to each complainant, with particular interest in the quality of service after the completion of load switching in July 1999. The Staff perceives that the customers' general confidence in the electrical system, despite the improvements made and fewer outages, remains low due to the age of the facilities and the loading level on the conductors.

Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order requiring a filing by UE on February 1, 2000 and on May 3, 2000. These filings should address the status of current projects underway and projects planned for the Spring of 2000. These reports should also include information on any outage that occurs during the reporting periods involving the 34 kV supply to the Brumley Substation or either of the two distribution circuits (Feeder 51 or 52).

The Staff recognizes the improvements made to the facilities in and around the Brumley Substation by UE. These actions should help improve the reliability of electric service, but a permanent solution to the conductor loading is needed. A solution is in the planning stages and is scheduled for Spring 2000. The Staff will follow the progress of the system upgrades and will file reports in response to the February 1, 2000 and the May 3, 2000 filings of UE, which are recommended by the Staff to be ordered by the Commission.

Copies: Director - Utility Operations Division
Director - Utility Services Division
Director - Research and Public Affairs Division
General Counsel
Manager - Electric Department
Toni Messina - Staff
Office of the Public Counsel
Jim Cook - Union Electric Company
Complainants
Senator Larry Rohrbach
Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer

Attachment A

October 29, 1999

November 26, 1999 (*)

Feeder 129-051 Phase A
Brumley/Ulman Update

Note: An (*) indicates a revision since the last update

Brumley Substation

Feeder reclosers upgraded from 140 amp to 200 amp;
Transformer W LTC overhauled;
34kV switch insulators replaced;
34kV strain insulators replaced;
Failed 34kV regulator replaced;

(*) Lid on main tank of Transformer W leaking, regasketed-transformer and placed in-service;

(*) 34kV replacement regulator installed and energized; malfunctioning control panel to be replaced in next few weeks.

Lakeside 75 (34kV circuit)

(*) Reliability work including replacement of poles and arresters continuing; expected completion is late December 1999.

Brumley 129-051

(*) Tree trimming nearing completion;

(*) Pole inspection completed; seven poles to be replaced immediately - there are additional poles that will require replacement and will be identified in the forthcoming report by the contractor;

Miscellaneous recloser upgrades for winter peak scheduled for December;

Feeder relief project scheduled for Spring 2000.

Service List for
Case No. EC-2000-63
Revised: December 2, 1999

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

James J. Cook, Esq.
Ameren Services Company
One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue
P.O. Box 66149
St. Louis, MO 63166

Frank E. Dilley
312 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Marshall E. Humphries, III
109 Redbird Lane
Ulman, MO 65083

Donald L. Hibler
156 Ulman Ridge Road
Tuscumbia, MO 65082

Quentin Lupardus
P.O. Box 385
Ulman, MO 65083

John J. Williams II
154 Keyes School Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Georgette A. Patterson
Box 396
Ulman, MO 65083

Donald D. Patterson
P.O. Box 363
Ulman, MO 65083

William W. Patterson
199 Highway C
Tuscumbia, MO 65082

Joseph P. Aleksaites
217 County Side Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Mildred Aleksaites
9 Jackson Cemetery Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Herbert Nixdorf
337 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Linda Sue Nixdorf
328 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Joann Jeffries
22 County Side Road
Ulman, MO 65083

James Aleksaites
436 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Betty J. Drace
326 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

James M. Myers
361 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Lucretia Drace
326 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

David and Brenda Haley
216 Patterson Loop
Ulman, MO 65083

Paul and Rebecca Young
Ulman, MO 65083

Sharon Abbott
21 Opal Drive
Ulman, MO 65083

Gene S. Bax
P.O. Box 386
Ulman, MO 65083

Robert J. Sparrow
26 Howell Loop
Ulman, MO 65083

Pauline Hensley
217 Howell Loop
Ulman, MO 65083

Douglas Zeigenbein
324 Brushy Fork Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Paul R. Patterson
147 Redbird Lane
Ulman, MO 65083

Jimmy J. Myers
373 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Dustin J. Myers
509 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Stephanie S. Myers
509 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

James A. Pankey
356 Highway C
Ulman, MO 65083

Deitra Brouk
147 Dog Creek School Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Kenneth and Marilyn Carico
141 Highway JJ
Ulman, MO 65083

Lloyd E. Reed
154 Hawken Cemetery Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Randolph E. Shipp
264 Highway JJ
Ulman, MO 65083

Eddie Reed
158 Hawken Cemetery Road
Ulman, MO 65083

James and Melissa Carico
823 Pea Ridge Road
Brumley, MO 65017

Tammy Byrd
P.O. Box 403
17 Chikory Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Steve Byrd
P.O. Box 403
17 Chikory Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Buster McGowin
#47 Highway JJ
Ulman, MO 65083

Myna McGowin
#47 Highway JJ
Ulman, MO 65083

Steven D. Patterson
107 Sand Rock Road
Ulman, MO 65083

Ruby Otto
#69 Timber Trails Drive
Brumley, MO 65017

Lonnie Jeffries
#3 Timber Trails Drive
Brumley, MO 65017

James and Rita Jeffries
#31 Timber Trails Drive
Brumley, MO 65017

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DEC 17 1999

COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION