## OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Union Electric Company, d/b/a
AmerenUE's Tariffs to Increase Its Annual
Revenues for Electric Service
)

Case No. ER-2010-0036
)

## NOTICE REGARDING EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Issue Date: August 5, 2009

On August 4, 2009, we received the attached email from Joe Don Burton. Chairman Clayton's response to Mr. Burton is also attached.

Commissioner

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Clayton, III

Chairman

Kevin Gunn Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 5th day of August, 2009.

Re: Ameren UE Rate Increase

## Neuner, Joyce

From: Joe Don Burton [jdblfb@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 3:25 PM

To: Clayton, Robert; Davis, Jeff; Jarrett, Terry; Gunn, Kevin

Subject: FW: Ameren UE Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Clayton, Chairman, and the commissioners addressed: The enclosed e-mail was written by me in response to an article in the Southeast Missourian newspaper on August 4, 2009 regarding an Ameren UE request for a rate increase. As you can see, I am quite irate at the audacity of any public company asking for any rate increase given the magnitude of the request and considering the current economic situation. I feel that something is wrong with a public company as well as any commission that would entertain such a request. I am also surprised that the same commission gave an increase of 7.8% last year since the economy started this free fall in the late fall of 2007. It is my hope that the Public Service Commission will read my letter and give some thought to the content since the electorate is getting tired of the apparent negligence on the part of the oversight of public officials.

Joe Don Burton P.E.

From: Joe Don Burton [mailto:jdblfb@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 2:56 PM

To: 'Eggimann, Renda'

Subject: RE: Ameren UE Rate Increase

Mr. Joe Sullivan: Thanks for your quick reply. I checked the Missourian paper and found that you are correct. I copied the telephone number incorrectly. I have since called the correct number given and talked to Mr. Mike Dandino of that office. He was very cordial and agreed with me in all of my points. I have since gotten the e-mail address for the Public Service Commission as well as the name of the Chairman, Mr. Robert Clayton. It is my intention to send the my letter to them for their response.

Joe Don Burton

**From:** Eggimann, Renda [mailto:reggimann@semissourian.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 9:01 AM

To: Joe Don Burton

**Subject:** Re: Ameren UE Rate Increase

Mr. Burton: The number published in today's editorial is correct: 866-922-2959.

Joe Sullivan Editorial Page Editor Southeast Missourian

On 8/4/09 7:48 AM, "Joe Don Burton" < jdblfb@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

This letter was in response to an article on your editorial page of August 4, 2009.

From: Joe Don Burton [mailto:jdblfb@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 2009 7:36 AM

**To:** <u>'opcservice@ded.mo.gov'</u> **Subject:** Ameren UE Rate Increase

Re: Ameren UE Rate Increase

## Dear Public Service Commissioners:

This e-mail was written to address my profound disappointment at a public company that would ask for a rate increase under the present economic conditions. The public service commission should not even consider a rate increase for the following reasons:

- 1. Last year's increase of 7.8% was out of order when the nation was in the throws of the deepest recession since the great depression. The unemployment rate in Missouri was greater than 6% and headed upward at that time.
- 2. Now, the unemployment rate is even higher and the rate increase request of 18% is absurd. It is a travesty of major proportions for the Public Service Commission to even consider a rate increase now or in the near future.
- 3. The cost of living increase to the general public is zero and will be zero for quite awhile. The fixed income persons in Cape Girardeau are being asked to pay higher trash pickup and water tax increases which are not merited.
- 4. All Missourians on a fixed income cannot sustain a government which is so out of touch with one that would even consider an increase of 18%. Its time for a change alright.
- 5. A drop in rates is merited and should be considered by the Public Service Commission. What is the name of the persons on this commission? Are they of the same mindset as that of the management staff at Merrill Lynch, General Motors, Chrysler, GIC and others?

It is time for the public to elect public officials with **Common Sense**!!!

Joe Don Burton 1582 Parksite Drive Cape Girardeau, Missouri Tel. 573-922-2659

P.S. --- The telephone number (866-922-2659) given in the Southeast Missourian for a verbal reply to PCC was incorrect or not a viable number. What is going on here?

Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

ROBERT M. CLAYTON III

TELEPHONE 573-751-4221 FAX 573-526-7341 ROBERT.CLAYTON@PSC.MO.GOV

August 5, 2009

Joe Don Burton 1582 Parksite Drive Cape Girardeau MO 63701

Dear Mr. Burton:

Thank you very much for your e-mail of August 4, 2009, relating to the recent general rate case proceeding filed by AmerenUE.

I wanted to let you know that your letter has been duly filed in the rate case file. The Commissioners acknowledge receiving your input. Please be advised that the public will have additional opportunities to provide public comment on the rate increase request in the coming months through the standard local public hearings to be scheduled in the AmerenUE service territory. These will be scheduled in the near future and will be publicized through the local media as well as through bill inserts sent directly to customers.

Although I cannot provide a specific response to your inquiry, I wanted to pass along some basics of the rate making process. AmerenUE has filed their case through its initial filing with written direct testimony and supporting work papers, which starts the process. The Commission will eventually approve a procedural schedule that will include the timing for filing of rebuttal, surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony. Discovery will be conducted, including a complete, comprehensive audit by the PSC staff. Local public hearings will be set in the AmerenUE territory and an evidentiary, trial type hearing will be held sometime next spring. A decision by the Commission is required no later than June 21, 2010. All case documents can be found in our Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS) at <a href="https://www.psc.mo.gov">www.psc.mo.gov</a>, and you should refer to Case No. ER-2010-0036.

Thank you again for your e-mail.

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Clayton III Chairman

EFIS Case No. ER-2010-0036 cc: