

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON ATTORNEY GENERAL

### JEFFERSON CITY 65102

P.O. Box 899 (573) 751-3321

June 24, 2002

Public Service Commission Truman State Office Building Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission v. Union Electric

Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, Case No. EC-2002-1

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and 9 copies of The State of Missouri's Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony of Anita C. Randolph. Please stamp "filed" on the extra copy for my files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON

Attorney General

SHELLEY A. WOODS

Assistant Attorney General

SAW:pah Enclosure

c: Counsel of Record

Exhibit No.:

Issues: Commitment to Provide Low or No

Cost Weatherization Assistance to AmerenUE Low-Income Customers and

Energy Efficiency Services to

Residential and Commercial Customers.

Witness:

Anita C. Randolph

Sponsoring Party:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Outreach and Assistance

Center, Missouri Energy Center

Type of Exhibit:

Testimony

Case No.:

EC-2002-1

#### AMEREN UE EARNINGS COMPLAINT CASE

#### **CROSS-SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

OF

#### ANITA C. RANDOLPH

## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

#### **ENERGY CENTER**

June 24, 2002

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
TESTIMONY OF
ANITA C. RANDOLPH
DIRECTOR
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENERGY CENTER

#### **CASE NO. EC- 2002-1**

1 2 Q. Please state your name and address. A. My name is Anita C. Randolph. My business address is Missouri Department of Natural 3 4 Resources, Energy Center, 1659 East Elm Street, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 5 65102-0176. O. By whom and in what capacity are you employed? 6 7 A. I am employed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as the director of the Missouri Energy Center, a division of state government with its executive office located in 8 9 Jefferson City, Missouri. 10 Q. On whose behalf are you testifying? 11 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, a state 12 department. The state of Missouri is an intervenor in these proceedings. O. Have you filed previous testimony in this case? 13 14 A. Yes. I am the same Anita Randolph who filed, on behalf of the Missouri Department of 15 Natural Resources, Rebuttal Testimony with the Missouri Public Service Commission on May 20, 2002. 16 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony? 17 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the Rebuttal Testimony of Richard J. Mark, Vice 18 19 President of Customer Service at AmerenUE, filed with the Missouri Public Service 20 Commission on May 10, 2002 that describes the Company's proposed Low Income 21 Customer Assistance Program and provisions that would fund the program; the Rebuttal Testimony of Gary L. Rainwater, President and Chief Operating Officer of Ameren 22 23 Corporation and Craig Nelson, Vice President -- Corporate Planning of Ameren Services,

- that describe the Company's infrastructure investment needs and resource planning; and the
- 2 Rebuttal Testimony of Peter Fox-Penner, Ph.D., Chairman of the Brattle Group and Dennis
- 3 L. Weisman, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at Kansas State University that describe
- 4 incentive regulation.
- 5 Q. How will the Company's Alternative Regulatory Plan (Alt Reg Plan) provide funding for the
- 6 Low-Income Customer Assistance Program?
- A. As explained by Mr. Richard Mark's testimony, upon the approval of Ameren's proposed Alt
- Reg Plan, the Company will provide a one-time contribution of \$5 million for the program.
- 9 Thereafter, the program will receive additional funding based on the Company's
- performance each calendar year under the Alt Reg Plan. The program will receive \$1 million
- in any year when the Company's earnings under the Alt Reg Plan equal or exceed 10.5
- percent. In addition, the program will receive a total of 5 percent of the earnings between
- 12.5 percent and 15 percent, and 10 percent of the earnings, if any, above 15 percent. Mr.
- Mark further states that if the Company is successful in reducing its costs under the Alt Reg
- Plan, needy customers will be the beneficiaries.
- 16 Q. Please describe the Company's proposed Low Income Assistance Program.
- 17 A. Mr. Mark states that the Company's Low Income Assistance Program would provide low
- income customers with energy grants through the existing Dollar More Program
- administered by the United Way of Greater St. Louis.
- 20 Q. How does the Dollar More program assist low-income customers of Ameren?
- 21 A. The Dollar More Program is an existing energy assistance program that provides funds to
- 22 individuals and families in AmerenUE's service territory to assist them in paying their
- energy bills. Ameren customers contribute to the Dollar More Program by making a pledge

2 Company. Customers also contribute to the Dollar More by sending checks to Ameren, the

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- 3 United Way or the Ameren Corporation.
- 4 Q. When was the Dollar More Program established?
- 5 A. On October 19, 1982, Union Electric Company announced the creation of the Dollar More
- 6 Program. According to the Company's announcement, the Dollar More Program was
- 7 established to allow customers to help financially challenged customers by adding a \$1
- 8 contribution to their monthly utility bill payments. The money went into a fund to help low-
- 9 income customers pay their utility bills. Union Electric Company announced its program
- following the September 24, 1982 announcement by Laclede Gas Company of its newly
- formed non-profit group, Dollar-Help, Inc. (HELP standing for "Helping Elderly and Low-
- income People).
- 13 Q. What is the primary function of the Dollar More Program?
- 14 A. With the participation of area community service organizations, low-income energy
- 15 customers may apply for financial assistance in meeting their monthly utility bills. Funds
- from Dollar More are paid directly to the utility by the community service organization to
- help satisfy a portion of a low-income customer's monthly energy bill.
- 18 Q. Did the Company establish another energy assistance program when the Dollar More
- 19 Program was created?
- A. Yes. Union Electric Company announced its intent to contribute \$100,000 to help solve long-
- and short-term problems low-income utility customers had with paying their electricity bills.
- The three-part energy assistance program was called "Energy Aid".

- 1 Q. Please describe the three parts of the Energy Aid program established by Union Electric
- 2 Company.
- 3 A. The three-part program, as announced by Union Electric Company, included Project
- 4 Comfort, Operation Upgrade and an emergency fund to help pay utility bills during customer
- 5 emergencies.
- 6 Q. Please describe Project Comfort.
- 7 A. As announced, Union Electric Company was trying to solve long-term problems by
- 8 "improving energy efficiency where the poor live," according to company spokesperson Tom
- J. Dehner. Under Project Comfort, the Company set aside \$50,000 to add insulation to up to
- 10 150 qualified households to establish "comfort zones", a one-room area for use by members
- of the household during extreme cold and hot weather.
- 12 Q. Please describe Operation Upgrade.
- 13 A. Union Electric Company provided \$40,000 to upgrade 50 apartment buildings in North St.
- Louis. Under the program, landlords applied to the Northside Community Center, the
- program's coordinator, to have professional contractors install attic insulation in the
- apartment buildings. In return for this service, landlords were required to install storm
- windows and doors, add weather-stripping and caulk windows and doors.
- 18 Q. Please describe the third part of Energy Aid.
- 19 A. The final \$10,000 of the Company program was designed to help consumers pay their bills
- during emergencies in an effort to avoid utility shut-off. The money was distributed by
- Operation Weather Survival, an organization composed of local charities.
- Q. What is the significance of the Energy Aid program?

- 1 A. Although utility bill paying assistance is vitally important to low-income families, the
- 2 Energy Aid program was clearly created to address the need for utility-based energy
- 3 efficiency programs and services that improve energy use in homes, reduce energy bills over
- 4 the long-term and help more families be more self-sustaining. In the Company's
- 5 announcement, Mr. Dehner said Union Electric was emphasizing long-range solutions
- 6 because helping the poor was "temporary". According to Union Electric, "Bill payment is
- 7 important, but it really doesn't do as much if they're wasting energy, if their homes aren't
- 8 energy efficient."
- 9 Q. What is your perspective of the Company's offer of a one-time contribution of \$5 million to
- the Dollar More Program?
- 11 A. The Company should be commended for offering such support to low-income customers
- under its proposed Alt Reg Plan. However, since the Company's \$5 million dollar
- contribution is being offered from proceeds collected through current rates paid by utility
- customers, and the money will return to the company in utility bill payments, in effect, the
- 15 Company is not making any contribution. In my opinion, the Energy Aid Program as well as
- 16 the Experimental Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program administered by the
- 17 Company's natural gas division demonstrates that the Company recognizes the importance of
- long-range energy efficiency programs that have a permanent and positive economic impact
- on utility customers.
- 20 Q. What is the significance of a \$5 million contribution to assist low-income customers?
- 21 A. The contribution is significant in two ways. First, the Company recognizes the special needs
- of low-income utility customers and the difficulties they have in meeting their monthly

- energy bills. Second, a multi-million dollar contribution is a significant gesture and supports
- 2 the basic concept for the need to assist low-income customers as outlined in my testimony.
- 3 Q. What does the Company offer in support of energy efficiency programs for residential,
- 4 commercial and industrial customers?
- 5 A. The filed testimony of the Company does not offer any support for energy efficiency services
- or programs for any of its customer classes. Such services for general residential,
- 7 commercial and industrial customers are essentially ignored in the Company's filed
- 8 testimony. The principle focus of the company is to appear to be supportive of the needs of
- 9 low-income customers and their general inability to meet their monthly utility billing needs.
- 10 Contributions to the Dollar More Program will help low-income customers to pay their
- 11 utility bills, but it does not provide any long-term benefit to the customer or to the utility.
- Residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs provide sustainable, long-
- term benefits to utility customers and a method for the company to significantly reduce
- billing arrears and associated administrative expenses. It enhances the quality of life for the
- 15 Company's customers and contributes to a robust local economy by supporting local
- businesses that sell or install energy-related products. Utility customers that reduce their
- monthly energy bill can use more of their income to purchase goods, services or equipment
- or increase their workforce and production. Although low-income energy programs are
- important, the utility services other customer classes within its service territory. The
- 20 Company's focus should include energy efficiency services and programs to all customer
- 21 classes.
- 22 Q. What should the Company offer to support low-income weatherization services and energy
- 23 efficiency services or programs for residential, commercial and industrial utility customers?

- 1 A. The Company should establish a \$1.2 million low-income weatherization fund and a \$1.2
- 2 million residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency fund and contribute an
- additional \$1 million to each fund annually.
- 4 Q. Please explain how these energy efficiency programs for residential, commercial and
- 5 industrial customers would be planned?
- 6 A. The energy efficiency programs or services would be designed through a collaborative effort
- between AmerenUE, PSC Staff, Office of Public Counsel and the DNR' Energy Center with
- 8 participation by a variety of residential, commercial and industrial organizations.
- 9 Q. Does the Company consider energy efficiency programs in its resource planning?
- 10 A. There is no indication that the Company has considered energy efficiency programs as a
- strategy to meet its customers' demand. Mr. Nelson's rebuttal testimony states that
- "Regarding the resource planning process, AmerenUE has a strong need to add generating
- resources in the coming years." Mr. Nelson further states "In response to those customer
- needs, AmerenUE's strategy calls for additional generation capability achieved through a
- 15 combination of resources, including power purchases, generation additions and upgrades to
- 16 existing generation facilities."
- 17 Q. Should the Company consider energy efficiency programs in its resource planning process?
- 18 A. Yes. In my surrebuttal testimony, I explain the cost comparison of energy efficiency to new
- electric generation capacity and conclude that energy efficiency investments are more cost-
- 20 effective than building new generation. Energy-efficiency approaches are even more cost
- 21 effective when the benefits of reduced environmental pollution and reduced stress on the
- transmission and distribution system are included in the assessment.
- 23 Q. Are system benefits from energy efficiency investments relevant in this case?

1 A. Yes. Energy efficiency programs can ease transmission loads, reducing the need for 2 transmission and distribution line upgrades and delaying the need for new generation. 3 Mr. Rainwater states that "AmerenUE will need to expend nearly \$3 billion in infrastructure 4 investments over the next five years" and that "Without adequate revenues AmerenUE will 5 simply have to reduce or delay much needed infrastructure investments, including the 6 addition of new generating capacity to meet Missouri's growing energy demand." Mr. Rainwater further states that "this is not sound energy policy." I believe Mr. Rainwater's 7 8 assessment of sound energy policy is incomplete. I believe sound energy policy requires a 9 balanced approach to meeting Missouri's energy needs that includes both supply and demand 10 management options. Reducing the need for costly infrastructure investments by reducing 11 demand through cost-effective energy efficiency programs and distributed customer-owned generation from clean energy sources makes economic sense for the Company and 12 13 customers. R. Are there rate design issues that may affect the Company's consideration of energy efficiency 14 15 programs? 16 S. Dr. Fox-Penner and Dr. Weisman's testimony references incentive regulation and how it can 17 be used to motivate a firm's behavior to achieve "win-win" situations for both the company 18 and the customer. The Regulatory Assistance Project's December 2000 study "Performance-Based Regulation for Distribution Utilities" reports that traditional cost-of-service regulation 19 20 using volumetric prices creates a strong incentive to increase sales and a corresponding disincentive to engage in activities that reduce sales. Properly structured incentive regulation 21 plans can partially de-couple sales from revenues and profits to remove the disincentive to 22

reduce sales. Setting goals or performance measures can include encouraging investment in

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- 1 cost-effective distributed resources (end-use energy efficiency and small customer-owned
- 2 generation from clean energy sources).
- 3 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 4 A. Yes. Thank you.

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5 H:\WOODSS\AMERENUE\Cross Surrebuttal Testimony June 24, 2002 final.wpd

# STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Complainant, V. Union Electric Company, D/B/A AmerenUE, Respondent	) ) Case No. EC-2002-1 )
AFFIDAVIT OF ANITA O	C. RANDOLPH
STATE OF MISSOURI ) ss. COUNTY OFCOLE )	
Anita C. Randolph, being duly sworn on he participated in the preparation of the foregoing Cro and answer form; that the answers in the foregoing given by her; that she has knowledge of the matter such matters were true and correct to the best of he	oss-Surrebuttal Testimony in question Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony were s set forth in such answers; and that
<del>-</del> <u></u>	its Chandelph C. Randolph
Kay A. Johannpeter Notary Public  KAY A. JOHANNES  My commission expires: NOTARY PUBLIC GRANNES	TIER MISSOURI
My commission expires: NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MONITEAU COUNTY Commission Expires  Subscribed and sworn before me this 1940 day	1616580URI 177 8-4-2003 y of <u>Stull</u> , 2002.