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Normalized Billing Units
Witness: James R. Pozzo
Sponsoring Party: Union Electric Company
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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. GR-2007-0003

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JAMES R. POZZO

ON

BEHALF OF

**UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a AmerenUE**

**St. Louis, Missouri
July 2006**

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1 **DIRECT TESTIMONY**

2 **OF**

3 **JAMES R. POZZO**

4 **CASE NO. GR-2007-0003**

5 **I. INTRODUCTION**

6 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

7 A. James R. Pozzo, Ameren Services Company (“Ameren Services”), One
8 Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

9 **Q. What is your position with Ameren Services?**

10 A. I am a Rate Engineer in Ameren Services’ Regulatory Policy Department.
11 My duties include assistance in the area of rate engineering, including work in the area of
12 weather normalization which is the subject of my direct testimony on this case.

13 **Q. What is Ameren Services?**

14 A. Ameren Services provides various corporate, administrative and technical
15 support services for Ameren Corporation and its affiliates, including Union Electric
16 Company d/b/a AmerenUE (referred to herein as "Company" or "AmerenUE").

17 **Q. Please describe your educational background, work experience and**
18 **duties of your position.**

19 A. I received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from
20 the University of Missouri-Rolla in December 1978.

21 I began working at Union Electric Company (“Union Electric”) in January
22 1979 in the Power Operations Department, working as an Engineer at the Ashley Plant for
23 two years and at the Meramec Plant for five years. During this time I was responsible for

1 operations and maintenance support for assigned plant equipment along with various other
2 projects as assigned.

3 I transferred into Union Electric's Rate Engineering Department in September
4 1985 and I assumed my current position with Ameren Services upon completion of the
5 merger of Central Illinois Public Service Company and Union Electric effective December
6 31, 1997.

7 My current duties and responsibilities include assignments related to the gas
8 and electric rates of Union Electric Company, now doing business as AmerenUE; Central
9 Illinois Public Service Company, now doing business as AmerenCIPS; Central Illinois Light
10 Company, now doing business as AmerenCILCO; and Illinois Power Company, now doing
11 business as AmerenIP. For each of these companies I participate in regulatory proceedings,
12 conduct rate analyses, develop and interpret the gas and electric tariffs, and perform other
13 rate or regulatory projects as assigned.

14 **II. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

15 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

16 A. The purpose of my testimony is to explain the development of the weather
17 normalized billing units for the Residential and General Service customer classes of
18 AmerenUE.

19 **Q. Why is it necessary to calculate a weather normalization adjustment to**
20 **test year gas usage?**

21 A. The weather normalization adjustment is calculated to modify actual test year
22 usage to reflect what the usage would have been if the weather had been normal. A normal
23 year is one in which the actual weather equals expected weather based on history. No year is

1 a perfectly normal year, so an adjustment will generally need to be made. In years where the
2 winter is colder than normal, gas usage will be higher than normal because customers will
3 run their furnaces more. If the winter is milder than normal, then customers will not use as
4 much natural gas to heat their homes. The weather normalization adjustment is used to make
5 natural gas usage more representative of normal operating conditions.

6 **Q. What test year is AmerenUE proposing in this case?**

7 A. As explained by AmerenUE witness Gary S. Weiss in his direct testimony, the
8 test year for this case is the twelve months ending June 30, 2006, consisting of nine months
9 of actual data and three months of forecasted data.

10 **III. WEATHER NORMALIZATION METHODOLOGY**

11 **Q. How was the weather normalized gas usage developed?**

12 A. I used regression analysis to determine the statistical relationship of billing
13 cycle gas usage and billing cycle heating degree days and then used such results to estimate
14 the weather normalized gas usage for the Residential and General Service customer classes
15 of the Company.

16 **Q. Please explain the general concept of regression analysis.**

17 A. Regression analysis is a statistical technique for modeling and investigating
18 the quantitative relationship between two or more variables. The analysis provides estimates
19 of the portion of the variation of the dependent variable associated with variations in the
20 independent variable. The variable being analyzed is the dependent variable. The variable
21 that is used to examine the movement in the dependent variable is the independent variable.

1 **Q. In your regression analysis, what are the dependent and independent**
2 **variables?**

3 A. The dependent variable is the billing cycle gas usage per customer. Gas usage
4 is measured in hundreds of cubic feet, abbreviated as “Ccf.” The independent variable is the
5 billing cycle heating degree day temperature measure.

6 **Q. Please explain the difference between billing cycle gas usage and calendar**
7 **month gas usage.**

8 A. Customer billing cycle usage is the accumulated gas consumed in Ccf
9 between meter reading dates. For each of the 21 scheduled meter reading cycles of a specific
10 Company billing month, a portion of the usage within each cycle usually occurs in the month
11 prior to the month in which the meter is read. For example, meters read in mid-January will
12 reflect customer gas consumption from mid-December to mid-January. Calendar usage for
13 January would be the accumulated usage from January 1st to January 31st, as if all customer
14 meters were simultaneously read at the beginning of January 1st and at the end of
15 January 31st.

16 **Q. Please explain the term “heating degree days.”**

17 A. A heating degree day is simply a measure of how cold a particular day is. It is
18 calculated by taking the average of the day’s high and low temperature and subtracting the
19 result from the 65. One heating degree day is accumulated for each whole degree that the
20 daily average temperature is below 65° Fahrenheit. For example, five (5) heating degree
21 days are incurred on a day having an average temperature of 60° Fahrenheit. If the difference
22 between the average and the base of 65 is a negative number, then zero heating degree days
23 are incurred.

1 **Q. How did you calculate the billing cycle heating degree days?**

2 A. I calculated billing cycle heating degree days by applying a weighting factor
3 to the heating degree days associated with each day in each billing month. I weighted the
4 heating degree days to account for the fact that the Company's meters are read at different
5 times throughout the billing cycle month. Finally, I summed the weighted heating degree
6 days for each billing cycle day to determine heating degree days associated with each billing
7 cycle month during the test year.

8 **Q. How did you calculate normal heating degree days?**

9 A. I obtained historical daily heating degree days from three weather stations in
10 the areas in which AmerenUE serves gas customers. For the portion of the Company's
11 service area supplied by Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company along Interstate 70, I
12 obtained the data from the Columbia Regional Airport. For the areas in Southeast Missouri
13 served by pipelines owned by the Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America and Texas
14 Eastern Transmission Corporation, I obtained the data from the Cape Girardeau Regional
15 Airport. For the area formerly served by Aquila, Inc. (AmerenUE's Rolla System), I
16 obtained the data from the Vichy Rolla National Airport. I used normal daily heating degree
17 days for each day provided by the National Weather Service for the thirty year period ending
18 2000. I then used the normal daily heating degree days, along with the billing cycle
19 weighting factors for the test year meter reading schedules, to calculate the normal heating
20 degree days for each test year billing month. Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company serves
21 the areas in and around Columbia, Jefferson City, Mexico and Wentzville. Natural Gas
22 Pipeline Company of America and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation serve the area in

1 and around Cape Girardeau. The Rolla area is served by Missouri Gas Company and
2 includes the areas around Rolla, Salem and Owensville.

3 **Q. What conclusions can be drawn from your regression analysis?**

4 A. There is a valid statistical relationship between the level of customer gas
5 usage and heating degree days for the Residential and General Service customer classes. The
6 R^2 (pronounced R squared) statistic, which ranges from zero to 1.0, indicates the degree of
7 correlation between the variables of a regression model. An R^2 value near zero indicates low
8 or poor correlation, whereas an R^2 value near 1.0 indicates a high or good correlation
9 between the variables being examined. The R^2 values which I calculated for the Residential
10 and General Service classes as a part of this regression analysis were sufficiently high (close
11 to a value of 1.0) to be considered statistically significant for these customer classes.
12 Schedule JRP-G1 shows the R^2 values for AmerenUE's Residential and General Service
13 classes for each region.

14 **IV. WEATHER NORMALIZATION STUDY RESULTS**

15 **Q. What adjustments for these customer classes resulted from your weather
16 normalization process?**

17 A. Test year usage for the Residential class was increased by 6,138,522 Ccf
18 (8.9%) and for the General Service class usage was increased by 2,740,934 Ccf (7.5%). Test
19 year revenue for the Residential class was increased by \$1,742,742 (5.3%) and revenue for
20 the General Service class was \$668,930 (5.3%) to reflect what the gas usage of these
21 customer classes would have been in the test year under normal weather conditions.
22 Schedule JRP-G2 shows the actual and normal sales and revenue for various rate classes.

1 **Q. What do these adjustments tell us about weather in the test year versus**
2 **“normal” weather?**

3 A. Because the adjustments increased the Ccf’s of gas consumed, this means that
4 the weather in the test year was slightly warmer than normal.

5 **Q. Did you adjust sales and revenue for the Transportation and**
6 **Interruptible customer classes using the weather normalization process?**

7 A. No. The Transportation and Interruptible customer classes consist of large
8 non-residential customers whose usage generally does not vary significantly with weather.
9 For this reason, it was not appropriate to weather normalize the usage or revenue for these
10 customer classes.

11 **Q. In what other ways did you use the results of your regression analyses?**

12 A. I used the results of these regression analyses along with the peak heating
13 degree day data for the test year to estimate the coincident peak day demands for the
14 Residential and General Service customer classes. Company witness William M. Warwick
15 will discuss the use of the peak day demand requirements for allocation factor development
16 in his direct testimony.

17 **Q. How were the coincident peak day demands of the various other rate**
18 **classes determined?**

19 A. The coincident peak day demand for the Interruptible class was assumed to be
20 the assurance level contracted for by such customers under the Company’s Interruptible
21 Service tariff. I determined the coincident peak day demand for the Transportation
22 customers by summing the individual customer usages for the maximum heating degree day
23 during the test year for each region.

1 **Q. How did you determine the non-coincident peak day demands for the**
2 **various classes?**

3 A. I assumed the non-coincident peak day demands for the Residential, General
4 Service and Standard Transportation to be the same as the peak day demands. The non-
5 coincident peak demands for the Large Volume Transportation was determined using actual
6 individual customer demands for the peak day for the Large Volume Transportation class. I
7 determined the non-coincident peak day demand for the Interruptible Service class by
8 dividing the maximum monthly use by the number of work days in the month.

9 **Q. Please state the results of your analysis.**

10 A. The results of my analysis show that the weather for the test year was warmer
11 than normal. The test year sales and revenue for the Residential and General Service classes
12 were increased by 8,879,457 Ccf and \$2,411,672 respectively.

13 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

14 A. Yes, it does.

AmerenUE
12 Months Ending June 2006
R² Values

<u>Class</u>	<u>R²</u>
Residential Panhandle Area	0.995
Residential Texas Eastern Area	0.990
Residential Rolla Area	0.986
General Service Panhandle Area	0.991
General Service Texas Eastern Area	0.985
General Service Rolla Area	0.947