

Exhibit No.:
Issue(s): Generation Plant – Non-
Callaway
Witness: Mark C. Birk
Sponsoring Party: Union Electric Company
Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal Testimony
Case No.: ER-2007-0002
Date Testimony Prepared: January 31, 2007

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. ER-2007-0002

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

MARK C. BIRK

ON

BEHALF OF

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

**St. Louis, Missouri
January, 2007**

1 **REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

2 **OF**

3 **MARK C. BIRK**

4 **CASE NO. ER-2007-0002**

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

6 A. My name is Mark C. Birk. My business address is One Ameren Plaza, 1901
7 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149.

8 **Q. Are you the same Mark C. Birk that filed Direct Testimony in this**
9 **proceeding?**

10 A. Yes, I am.

11 **Q. What is the purpose of your Rebuttal Testimony in this proceeding?**

12 A. The purpose of my Rebuttal Testimony is to provide estimated retirement
13 dates for each of AmerenUE's major coal-fired generating facilities to be used by AmerenUE
14 witness John Wiedmayer in calculating depreciation rates for these facilities.

15 **Q. Is there some degree of uncertainty involved in estimating the retirement**
16 **dates of these facilities?**

17 A. Yes. There are three major challenges regarding the continued, long-term,
18 economic operation of the existing AmerenUE coal-fired generating units. The first
19 challenge is the potential for increasingly stringent future environmental requirements that
20 may be placed on these existing units. The second is the potential for future development of
21 new generating technologies which may be more efficient and/or cleaner than the
22 technologies employed in existing units, and thus more commercially viable. The third is the
23 finite life associated with thick-walled components such as boiler drums and headers. The

1 aging mechanisms of most concern involve creep in the high temperature headers and fatigue
2 cracking in the drums, and thus some replacement of these heavy wall components can
3 reasonably be expected if unit lives of greater than 60 years are going to be obtained. These
4 issues make estimating precise retirement dates for these facilities very difficult. Other
5 factors which need to be considered in estimating retirement dates for each facility include
6 the age and condition of each major component, the service history of each facility and the
7 expected future service conditions, anticipated near term capital investment for each facility,
8 and the time and resources required to permit and construct replacement base load production
9 capacity.

10 **Q. Based on all of these considerations, what is your estimate of the**
11 **retirement date for each of these facilities?**

12 A. Taking all of these factors into consideration, my estimate of the retirement
13 dates for each of AmerenUE's coal-fired generating units is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Estimated Retirement Year</i>	<i>Approximate Age at Retirement</i>
Meramec Plant	2021	63 years
Sioux Plant	2027	60 years
Labadie Plant	2033	61 years
Rush Island Plant	2037	60 years

14

15 **Q. Does this conclude your Rebuttal Testimony?**

16 A. Yes, it does.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Union Electric Company)
d/b/a AmerenUE for Authority to File)
Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric)
Service Provided to Customers in the)
Company's Missouri Service Area.)

Case No. ER-2007-0002

AFFIDAVIT OF MARK C. BIRK

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
CITY OF ST. LOUIS)

Mark C. Birk, being first duly sworn on his oath, states:

1. My name is Mark C. Birk. I work in St. Louis, Missouri and I am employed by Union Electric Company as Vice President of Power Operations.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Rebutttal Testimony on behalf of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE consisting of 2 pages, which has been prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in the above-referenced docket.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached testimony to the questions therein propounded are true and correct.



Mark C. Birk

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30 day of January, 2007.



Notary Public

My commission expires: July 21, 2009

