

Exhibit No.:
Issues: Support for AmerenUE's
Proposed Rate Increase
From Union Employees
Witness: Leo A. Beishir
Local Union No. 1439,
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
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

LEO A. BEISHIR

ON

BEHALF OF

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

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

1 **REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

2 **OF**

3 **LEO A. BEISHIR**

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

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

6 A. My name is Leo A. Beishir. My business address is 2121 59th Street, St.
7 Louis, Missouri 63110.

8 **Q. By whom and in what capacity are you employed?**

9 A. I am employed by Local Union No. 1439, International Brotherhood of
10 Electrical Workers (“Local 1439”) as Business Manager.

11 **Q. Please describe Local 1439 and the employees that it represents.**

12 A. Local 1439 represents outside physical workers in the St. Louis
13 metropolitan area, as well as employees in the Company’s Potosi and Hayti Districts in
14 central and southern Missouri. Local 1439 also represents members in Iowa and
15 Arkansas.

16 **Q. How many AmerenUE employees does Local 1439 represent?**

17 A. Local 1439 represents approximately 790 employees at AmerenUE.

18 **Q. What roles do the employees represented by Local 1439 play in the**
19 **operations of AmerenUE?**

20 A. Those employees range from the people you may see restoring your
21 service during a storm to all of the support groups that are necessary to get that job done.

1 **Q. Please describe your duties on behalf of Local 1439.**

2 A. As Business Manager, I have responsibility for representation of
3 employees of several utility and municipal employers in Missouri, Iowa, and Arkansas.
4 My duties include contract negotiation and administration along with organizing the
5 unorganized workers in these industries.

6 **Q. Please describe your employment history and involvement in Local**
7 **1439 and your employment history with AmerenUE.**

8 A. I am currently on leave of absence from AmerenUE, where I have been
9 employed since 1970. Over those thirty plus years, I have been deeply involved in the
10 activities of our local union, including the following: held offices including shop steward
11 in several work groups; elected to the Executive Board twice to represent two different
12 work groups; elected Vice President, President, Business Representative and my current
13 position of Business Manager.

14 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

15 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide support for AmerenUE's
16 proposed rate increase and to express concerns about the impact of the proposed rate
17 reductions suggested of the Commission Staff ("Staff"), the State of Missouri through the
18 Attorney General's office, and certain other parties on AmerenUE, and also on the
19 AmerenUE employees represented by Local 1439. AmerenUE's proposed rate increase
20 to recover its cost of service and its large investments in utility plant will enable the
21 company to continue to provide quality service to its Missouri electric customers and also
22 to continue to provide jobs to the employees represented by Local 1439. The employees
23 of Local 1439 are proud of their accomplishments in working for a company that

1 provides quality service at one of the lowest rates in the region. It is my understanding
2 that this is the first rate increase AmerenUE has requested in nearly 20 years. Indeed,
3 even with the proposed rate increase AmerenUE's rates will still be among the lowest in
4 the country.

5 **Q. What is Local 1439's overall concern with the proposed reductions to**
6 **AmerenUE's rates?**

7 A. Such huge rate cuts would be a strange way to reward all of us who have
8 made AmerenUE such a successful, efficient supplier of electricity. Also, we are
9 concerned that reductions of this magnitude will jeopardize AmerenUE's ability to
10 provide quality service to its electric retail customers in Missouri. We are concerned that
11 such a dramatic rate reduction would not provide the Company with sufficient funds to
12 invest in much needed infrastructure improvements in generation, transmission and
13 distribution.

14 **Q. What is your understanding of the rate and revenue proposals which**
15 **AmerenUE is making in this proceeding?**

16 A. It is my understanding that AmerenUE is proposing to increase rates in
17 order to recover increases in its cost of service, including pay and benefits for our
18 members as well as billions of dollars of capital investments it has made in the State of
19 Missouri. A portion of the rate increase is also due to AmerenUE's proposal to enhance
20 its tree trimming practices to "harden" its system against damage from future storms like
21 the severe storms that hit the St. Louis area in 2006.

1 **Q. Does Local 1439 support AmerenUE's proposals?**

2 A. Yes, we do. Local 1439 supports AmerenUE's rate increase request
3 because it will allow not only our members, but all of us who are the men and women of
4 AmerenUE, to continue to provide the high quality service we have in the past, and more
5 than ever need to do in the future.

6 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

7 A. Yes, it does.

