BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

| In the Matter of Union Electric Company |) | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariff |) | |
| to Increase Its Revenues for Electric |) | Case No. ER-2014-0258 |
| Service |) | |

NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

Issue Date: April 24, 2015

This notice is being filed on behalf of all of the Commissioners at the Missouri Public Service Commission along with the attached letter from Norman S. Newmark, Secretary/General Counsel, Heat Up St. Louis, Inc., regarding the above captioned case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert S. Kenney Chairman

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William P. Kenney Commissioner

Scott T. Rupp Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri On this 24th day of April, 2015 Stephen M. Stoll Commissioner

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Daniel Y. Hall Commissioner

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April 23, 2015

Via E-mail

Hon. Robert Kenney, Chairman

Hon. Scott Rupp

Hon. Daniel Hall

Hon. Stephen Stoll

Hon. William Kenney

Commissioners

Missouri Public Service Commission

200 Madison St.

PO Box 360

Jefferson City MO 65102-0360

Re: Noranda Aluminum Proposed Rate Cut

Dear Commissioners:

As secretary of the board and general counsel for Heat Up St. Louis, Inc., a Missouri non-profit corporation ("HUSTL"), I write on behalf of the board concerning the proposed electricity rate reduction for Noranda Aluminum.

As you are no doubt aware, HUSTL advocates for area seniors, disabled and low income persons with respect to energy prices including electricity rates. HUSTL understands (based upon press reports) that Noranda is seeking a reduction to its bills while simultaneously arguing that Ameren Missouri can make up for lost revenues with increases on other customers, presumably including those who least can afford those increases. What's more, HUSTL has reviewed the press release issued by Governor Nixon, who is evidently attempting to use undue influence on the PSC on behalf of Noranda at the expense of others. In its fifteen (15) years of existence, HUSTL is not aware of any similar request of a government official. The PSC is supposed to be free of political interference.

In any case, as a matter of public policy, HUSTL believes each business customer should pay its bills at the approved rates. It is simply a matter of public trust in government institutions like the PSC. In this case, an approval of the Noranda rate reduction will feed the public's perception that the wealthy and powerful can exert undue

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influence upon elected officials (like Governor Nixon) to obtain corporate welfare or other benefits at the expense of ordinary citizens. That will diminish the public's confidence in, and standing of, the PSC, and hence its ability to conduct ordinary operations, including approval of *necessary* rate changes from time to time.

HUSTL understands that Noranda argues the potential loss of jobs outweighs these concerns, but such is always the case for any business. If Noranda is concerned about its costs, then no doubt there are many energy saving measures it can implement without forcing Missouri's other citizens and businesses to cover its profit shortfalls. That's just good business. In fact, a PSC vote in favor of the rate reduction may influence other well connected businesses to ask for similar handouts and hence set a very bad precedent at the expense of the public at large. It may also harm Ameren's long term ability to service all of its Missouri customers.

Time was when businesses *contributed* to society without thinking of asking for a public handout. Each business, large or small, competed on an even playing field and the country prospered just fine. So should it ever be.

To summarize, this special deal for Noranda is unfair for, and harmful to, Missouri and its citizens at large, and will set a very bad precedent for years to come. HUSTL asks the PSC to decline the proposed rate reduction so that Noranda pays at the same rate as previously approved. Otherwise your actions will come off as a "greed-fest" which may smack of unfairness and harm the integrity of the current commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman S. Newmark, JD, LLM Secretary/General Counsel

Heat Up St. Louis, Inc.