Missouri Public Service Commission

Exhibit No.:

Issue:

Witness: Type of Exhibit:

Sponsoring Party:

Case Number: **Date Testimony Prepared:**

604

Noranda Impact Harvey Cooper **Direct Testimony**

Noranda

ER-2007-0002 Dec. 29, 2006

AmerenUE

Case No. ER-2007-0002

Prepared Direct Testimony of **Harvey Cooper**

On behalf of

Noranda Aluminum, Inc.

December 2006

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)	Case No. ER-2007-0002
Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers)	
in the Company's Missouri Service Area.)	

Affidavit of Harvey Cooper

State of Missouri)	
County of Scott)	SS

Harvey Cooper, of lawful age, on his oath states: that he has reviewed the attached written testimony in question and answer form, all to be presented in the above case, that the interest in the attached written testimony were given by him; that he has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; that such matters are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Harvey Copper

Subscribed and sworn before me this 9 th day of December, 2006

Notary Public

[SEAL]

My Commission expires: 5/24/09

Before the

Missouri Public Service Commission

AmerenUE

Case No. ER-2007-0002

Prepared Direct Testimony of Harvey Cooper

7	Q	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.
2	A	My name is Harvey Cooper. I live in Sikeston, Missouri.
3	Q	MR. COOPER, BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND WHAT IS YOUR JOB THERE
4	Α	I am the Executive Director of Community Sheltered Workshop, Incorporated.
5	Q	CAN YOU DESCRIBE FOR US THE BUSINESS OF THE COMMUNITY SHELTERED
6		WORKSHOP?
7	A	Community Sheltered Workshop is one of 95 workshops across the State of
8		Missouri that is designed to be operated with employment of handicapped
9		individuals, people with mental disabilities.

1	Q	AND HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU EMPLOY AT YOUR LOCAL FACILITY?
2	A	Presently we employ 117 people.
3	Q	AND MOST OF THOSE ARE HANDICAPPED?
4	A	All of those are handicapped and plus we have 20 staff members.
5	Q	AND DO YOU SELL YOUR PRODUCT TO THE NORANDA SMELTER IN NEW
6		MADRID, MISSOURI?
7	Α	Yes we do. Noranda for the past 25 years has been our largest account. We do
8		custom pallet work for them, building wood products for them to ship their
9		product out on, their rod and their billets of aluminum go out on our wood that
10		we cut for them. As an example, we're heavy into the wood products part.
11	Q	IS NORANDA ONE OF YOUR LARGEST CUSTOMERS?
12	A	Yes. Presently our budget for sales in our woodworking industry there at the
13		workshop is around \$1,000,000 per year and Noranda is well over the 50
14		percent mark as far as our customer base goes so they provide at least 50
15		percent of the market that we send our products to.
16	Q	HAVE YOU LOST ANY LARGE CUSTOMERS IN RECENT YEARS?
17	Α	About two years ago we were notified that Essex Wire and Cable would be
18		shutting down in Sikeston and moving to Florence, Alabama and so we lost a

1 fairly substantial customer. That contract would have been around \$160,000 2 per year that we lost and so you know with Noranda being the size that it is and 3 with them taking up the slack on our base there for sales, there's just no 4 comparison to what Noranda means to our shop. WOULD IT BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU IF NORANDA WENT OUT OF BUSINESS? 5 Q Well, absolutely it would be a problem. Right now they're well over 50 percent 6 Α 7 of our sales base, probably around 30 percent of our workforce, mainly handicap, would have a real good chance of losing their jobs because we just 9 wouldn't be able to you know keep the product going with the same number of 10 people there. We'd cut back just like anyone else would. 11 MR. COOPER COULD YOU TELL US JUST A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE Q 12 AT THE WORKSHOP? 13 Α Well I started with Community Shelter Workshop in 1981. At that time we 14 started doing business with Noranda just almost immediately and so we've 15 been doing business with them for a long time, for those 25 years or so. 16 In that timeframe we have employed anywhere from 90 to 130 people. 17 At present we're at 117. Our people there at the workshop, being 18 handicapped, had not been able to experience a whole lot in life that most 19 people would in a normal sense. And to many of our folks there for the jobs

that we do for Noranda - the people have taken on the attitudes that they work for Noranda rather than for Community Sheltered Workshop because they take such an interest in getting the Noranda jobs out.

Our job at Community Sheltered Workshop is to provide a place for them to work and a safe atmosphere so they're not being injured and hurt on the job and allow them to fulfill their self-esteem. You know if we have them doing a job for Noranda -- I might do that job in an hour. It might take them three hours to do that same job and yet we are able to work with them and so that they can produce the same product that anyone who's non-handicapped could produce and yet we don't push them to that point of letting them go or firing them because they can't keep production up at the level that non-handicapped people can.

- 13 Q MR. COOPER I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT'S BEEN VERY

 14 HELPFUL.
- 15 A You are welcome.
- 16 Q DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?
- 17 A Yes it does.

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