

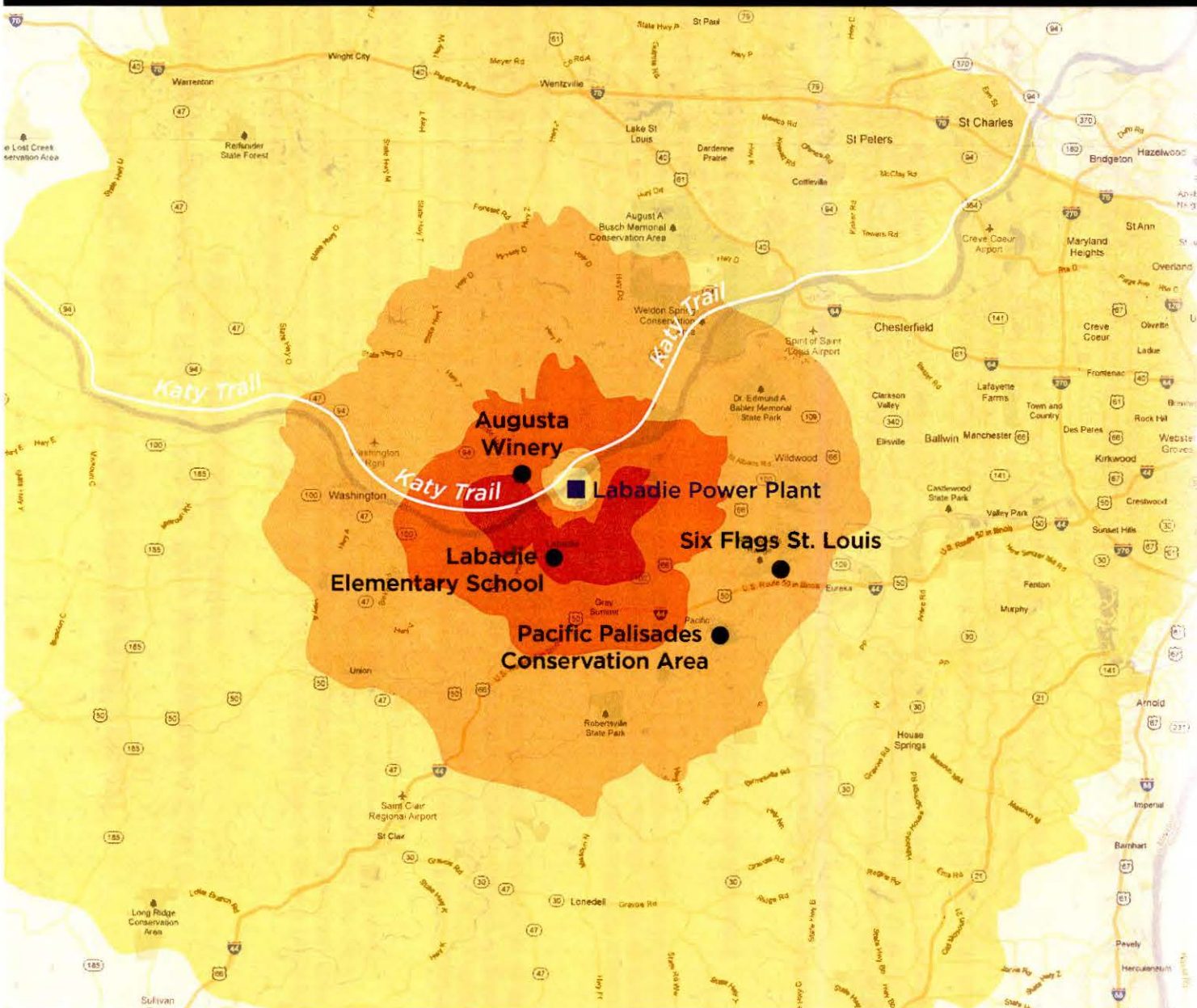
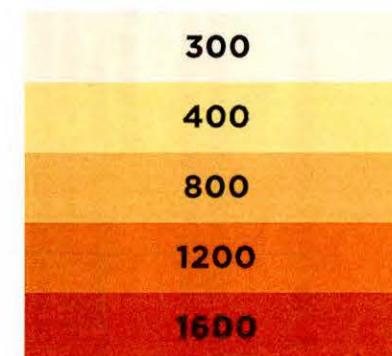
Ameren's Labadie plant and its coal pollution toxic plume

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SEP 12 2012

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

1-hour SO₂ concentrations
(ug per cubic meter). All
colored areas are harmful to
public health.



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Date 8-22-12 Reporter SB
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Securing a Clean Energy Future in Missouri

Ameren Missouri Raising Rates to Pay for Dirty and Expensive Coal is a Waste of Missourians' Dollars

What do these maps mean for our health in Franklin County?

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) pollution threatens public health by putting citizens at risk of more asthma attacks, severe respiratory problems, lung disease and heart complications. **According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the safe limit for SO₂ pollution is 196 micrograms per cubic meter.** When that number goes beyond 196 micrograms per cubic meter, it becomes a health risk for thousands living within the SO₂ plume. As you can tell from the map, SO₂ levels threatening Franklin County far exceed the safety threshold of 196 micrograms per cubic meter.

Recognizing a lack of pollution monitoring or controls around Ameren's Labadie coal-fired power plant in Franklin County, the Sierra Club gathered the publicly available data needed to build a plume map to illustrate the severity of SO₂ pollution in Franklin County, caused by Ameren's Labadie plant. **According to a report by the Environmental Integrity Project, Ameren's Labadie plant is one of the country's worst offenders in terms of premature deaths attributed to its air pollution. The report links Labadie to up to 290 premature deaths in 2011 alone.**

What's at stake at the Public Service Commission's (PSC) Rate Case Hearings?

Ameren Missouri proposed \$376 million electricity rate increase – roughly an extra \$14 on an average customer's electric bill. Ameren currently operates some of the most dangerous coal plants in the country. Ameren's Labadie plant, located on the banks of the Missouri River, lacks all pollution controls and has been found to have a negative value, causing more harm than the value of its electricity is worth.

The PSC will use testimony at the rate case hearings to ultimately decide how much rates will go up for bill payers.

Where does Ameren Missouri get its electricity now?

Currently, 85% of Ameren's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants, which emit dangerous levels of sulfur dioxide into the air surrounding their power plants and toxic levels of mercury into the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

According to a recent report by Clean Energy Action, the delivered cost of coal to Missouri utilities has increased 87% in just the last seven years. As coal prices continue to rise, Ameren's rate increase asks bill payers to pay more for a fuel source that will only continue to get more expensive rather than investing in cleaner, cheaper options like wind and solar.

Missouri currently lags behind the rest of the country, which on average only draws about 40 percent of its electricity from coal. Missouri deserves clean air, clean water, and the jobs that come with a clean energy economy. As the PSC considers Ameren's request to increase the cost of electricity due to its continued reliance on coal, it should scrutinize every dollar spent on an aging coal plant and determine whether Missouri rate payers are getting a fair deal.

What will the rate increase pay for?

According to Ameren Missouri, more than \$103 million of the proposed rate increase will go toward higher net fuel costs. For Ameren, this means purchasing more coal, which has seen dramatic price increases in the last seven years. That trend shows no signs of abating.

A portion of the rate increase will also invest in energy efficiency programs for Ameren's bill payers.

What is the best way forward with Energy Efficiency?

Energy efficiency is one of the simplest, cheapest ways that Missouri can meet its energy needs. If approved by the PSC, the recent Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act settlement agreement between Ameren, the Sierra Club and other clean energy allies will create significant reductions in the need for generating capacity, further reducing the need for Ameren's aging and polluting Meramec coal-fired plant. In addition, the energy efficiency created by the agreement will generate savings for Missouri residents who pay their bills to Ameren.

But, it is only one piece of the puzzle. Coal is a bad investment to make as bill payers, and the current schedule of PSC rate case hearings is the best opportunity to push Ameren Missouri to expand its resource portfolio to include clean energy solutions for the future.

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