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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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4	
5	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
6	Local Public Hearing
7	August 16, 2012
8	Wohl Community Center, St. Louis, Missouri
9	Volume 10
10	
11	In The Matter Of Union )
12	Electric Company d/b/a Ameren ) File No. ER-2012-0166
13	Missouri's Tariffs To Increase)
14	Its Revenues For Electric )
15	Service )
16	
17	
18	KENNARD L. JONES, Presiding
19	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
20	KEVIN D. GUNN, Chairman
21	ROBERT S. KENNEY,
22	COMMISSIONER
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	Page 3
1	PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE JONES: Good evening, my name is
3	Kennard Jones. I am the regulatory law judge
4	presiding over this local public hearing this evening
5	and to my right is chairman of the Commission,
6	Mr. Gunn and to my left is Commissioner Kenny.
7	Mr. Chairman?
8	COMMISSIONER GUNN: First of all, I want to
9	thank everybody for coming out tonight. We really
10	appreciate it. This is a very important part of our
11	process, so we look forward to hearing from you. A
12	couple of things, we do not put time limits on people
13	because we want to make sure that everybody that wants
14	to say something can say it. We just ask that people
15	be respectful of each other's time because we have a
16	lot of people that want to speak tonight, so if you
17	would just be respectful of their time but again, no
18	time limits.
19	There is nothing at the end of this hearing.
20	No information, no kind of wrap up, new information
21	you are going to get. So once you testify and get it
22	on the record you can feel free to leave. There is no
23	reason to stay around. You're welcome to stay around,
24	it's no problem, but we know everybody is busy and we
25	wouldn't want to necessarily hold anybody up. So

Page 4 there won't be any new information or anything like 1 2 that. 3 If you want to say something but you don't feel comfortable testifying in front of everybody 4 5 there are these forms that may have been handed out to you at the beginning or they're over at the table. 6 7 These are written comment forms and you can send these 8 in or you can fill them out here and leave them with 9 us and we will take them into account as well. So we know sometimes people are not as comfortable 10 testifying in front of everybody so if you would 11 12 rather have your comments written we can accept those 13 too but we would love to hear what you have to say. Everything you say is going to be 14 transcribed by a court reporter and then it will 15 become an official part of the record which will be 16 17 considered along with all the other evidence in the 18 case. 19 The hearing starts -- the evidentiary portion, the kind of trial portion, starts on 20 21 September 24th and that's going to run for about two weeks but we still have a bunch of local public 22 hearings to do. Again, your voice is very important. 23 We appreciate you coming out. Unfortunately, I know 24 it can be frustrating sometimes but because of the 25

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1	position we are in we are not allowed to answer your
2	questions. We may point you in the right direction
3	either to our staff, the Office of Public Counsel, the
4	Public Counsel Lewis Mills who is here tonight or some
5	of our folks over at the blue table over there but
6	just because the nature of the proceeding, means we
7	can't answer your questions. It's frustrating for us,
8	I know, because we would love to be able to but that
9	is the way the process works. So please understand
10	that. It's nothing personal, we are just not allowed
11	to do it but we may have questions for you. If you
12	bring up an issue we would like to talk to you a
13	little bit about we may have questions for you, so
14	before you leave the podium, if you wouldn't mind just
15	making sure that we don't have any questions for you
16	and try to get a little bit more detail on what you
17	have to say. With that, I will see if my colleague,
18	Commissioner Kenney, has anything to say but again, I
19	want to express my gratitude for you taking the time
20	out on a busy night, out of your busy lives, to give
21	us your input. Thank you.
22	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: The only thing I will
23	add to do that is my personal thanks for you taking
24	the time to come out on a rainy Thursday night and
25	making your voice a part of the process. Your voice

	Page 6
1	is a critical part of this process. It's an integral
2	part of the process and we take it very seriously.
3	Again, my name is Robert Kenney. I am one of the
4	Public Service Commissioners. There are typically
5	five of us. We are actually short one commissioner so
6	there are technically four of us. The other two that
7	aren't able to be here you should not take their
8	absence to mean that this isn't important to them as
9	well. As Chairman Gunn indicated, this is being
10	transcribed and will be made available to the other
11	two commissioners who will also take it into account
12	in their deliberations as we hear the full rate case.
13	So again, thank you for coming out tonight and lending
14	your voice to this very critical process.
15	JUDGE JONES: Okay. I have a list of people
16	who have signed up to testify. After I have gone
17	through the list if you have not signed the list and

through the list if you have not signed the list and T /you wish to testify I'll ask for a show of hands and 18 just call you according to the hands that I see. What 19 20 I will do is ask you to step up to the podium. I will 21 swear you in and if the spelling of your name may be unclear for the court reporter I will probably ask you 22 to spell your name and then you can go ahead and give 23 your testimony and after that you can see if there are 24 25 any questions for you and then have a seat and we will

Page 7 move onto the next person. At this time we'll take 1 2 entries of appearances from the parties who are 3 represented by attorneys here. Ameren Missouri? MR. BYRNE: Thank you, Your Honor. Tom 4 5 Byrne. I represent Ameren. My address is 1901 6 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. 7 JUDGE JONES: Staff of the Commission? MS. SLACK: Annette Slack, Staff of the 8 9 Commission, 200 Madison Street, post-office box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 10 JUDGE JONES: And the Office of the Public 11 12 Counsel? 13 THE AUDIENCE: What did she say? 14 JUDGE JONES: She just gave her name and 15 address. 16 THE AUDIENCE: What is her name? 17 JUDGE JONES: Her name is Annette Slack and she represents the Staff of the Missouri Public 18 19 Service Commission. MR. MILLS: My name is Lewis Mills. I am 20 21 the attorney representing the Office of Public Counsel and the public. My address is post-office box 2230, 22 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 23 JUDGE JONES: Okay. The first person on the 24 list is Tamara Curtis. 25

Page 8 COMMISSIONER GUNN: We have one mic, so we 1 2 will call the names and leave it up here so we can 3 hear you. JUDGE JONES: Raise your right hand, please. 4 5 Do you solemnly affirm that the testimony you are about to give is the truth? 6 7 MS. CURTIS: I do. 8 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed. 9 MS. CURTIS: Thank you. I want to thank the Commission for giving us an opportunity to testify 10 11 before you and there is a particular reason why I came 12 to this particular location, the Wohl Center, because 13 I felt that it would be a very interesting assembly. And I am a city kid. I'm from Illinois. I grew up in 14 15 Chicago, in major metropolises throughout the country, Los Angeles, et cetera, but that -- the first time 16 17 that I came to one of these hearings was the 26th of July at the JC Penny Center at UMSL and I learned a 18 lot there. But I was very encouraged by a young man 19 20 that was sitting here earlier as he explained the fact 21 that it was his grandmother and that most of the people here, as we see, the elders, our kindred, our 22 mothers, our grandmothers, our great grandmothers, our 23 24 great granduncles and such, is the fact that they very much have been void of proper representation. 25 I don't

Page 9 mean to say anything derogatory or any degradation in 1 2 regards to Mr. Mills because we find it to be very 3 admirable that you do stand as public counsel for someone's behalf such as ours. 4 5 But that there was a gentlemen many years ago who passed, I think it was in 1968, of June or 6 7 April I think. His name was Martin Luther King. I think we are all familiar with him, are we not? And 8 9 there was a quote that was very uplifting and that was 10 he stated that there comes a time when silence is 11 betrayal and we have to open our mouths and we have to 12 speak and we want to thank the opportunity granted to 13 us to be able to represent ourselves. And I have a grandmother. I stated this 14 earlier, that she has been paying her bills regularly 15 on time, year after year, month after month and in a 16 17 very methodical manner and she is being faced with this increase, in the event that it does go through, 18 which she's looking at the powers to be. So I am 19 20 saying and I am going to try to be as brief as 21 possible but I am saying so in the regard that I am here with all of you because we stand in a different 22 23 podium and a different method and a different approach 24 and that is there is a time to come forward, open our 25 mouths and speak without any degradation or disrespect

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1 to jolt any adverse reaction.

2	This Commission, Mr. Chairman, is summonsed
3	to make a most decisive judgment based on these truths
4	to be self-evident. It will be a Herculaneum effort
5	and responsibility which lie on your shoulders to read
6	up, down, side to side and dead center when
7	calculating the calibration of justice to the people
8	and all parties of interest but we ask that you take
9	caution in that the powers doesn't tilt the scale, so
10	that we don't hold all the weight for their progress
11	and interest.
12	The question is, as they say, how to divide
13	the pie? A rate design, customers, classes, invest,
14	infrastructure, recovering the investment, voluntary
15	separation plan with that of their employers,
16	everybody is looking at something here but the thing
17	is, as we see with no representation whatsoever, we
18	are the greatest and most honorable investors they
19	possess but they have not proven us to be inclusive.
20	They don't invest lucratively enough in our
21	communities or military families or our children with
22	whom we aspire to take hold of cutting edge technology
23	to advance America as a whole. They are too divisive
24	with their profits and separate us from mainstream
25	union.

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1	There was a lady at the hearing on July 26th
2	at the University of Missouri and she stated that a
3	question that she had and she simply asked, you know,
4	what if you have, for example, someone from the
5	community, a layman, come aboard with Ameren to curb
6	costs and provide employment to community residential
7	and it was not of interest really, that I was able to
8	see, to the executive answering the question. And I
9	pose that because of the fact that I learn and I was
10	looking at how many inventors, African American
11	inventors, have been a very vital part of the
12	infrastructure as far as their innovation towards
13	progress and saving costs for their employers, such as
14	Edison, such as Alexander Graham Bell. But they, that
15	is Ameren, it seems they will invest they say
16	\$200,000 here, \$100,000 there, \$600,000 here, that is
17	a mere microcosm compared to their astronomical
18	profits. They are telling us something, really
19	without saying a word. We are not seen as a vital
20	artery within their dominion. They must protect their
21	power and influence and their lobbyists, their
22	constituency, their families. But these men, for an
23	example Louis Latimer, who joined the Union Navy, an
24	African American during the civil war on the James
25	River in Virginia, after an honorable discharge in

	Page 12
1	1865 he found work with Crosby and Gold, a firm of
2	patent attorneys. He was hired as an office boy. He
3	cultivated drafting skills in his spare time until he
4	was qualified for blueprint work. In addition to
5	drawing plans for others other people's inventions,
6	Latimer brainstormed his own inventions and patenting.
7	In 1874, one was called, that is his invention, a
8	pivot bottom for water closets on trains. His
9	high-caliber draftsmanship impressed Alexander Graham
10	Bell, whose 1876 telephone blueprints were drawn up by
11	Latimer. In 1880 Latimer left Crosby and Gold to work
12	for inventor Hiram Maxim who ran the US Electric
13	Company in Connecticut. The previous year Thomas A.
14	Edison had invented the light bulb. The only thing I
15	am saying at this point
16	COMMISSIONER GUNN: We can come back. We
17	can come back and let you finish up at the end.
18	MS. CURTIS: I'm sorry. I apologize to
19	everyone.
20	COMMISSIONER GUNN: We will be here at the
21	end. You were at the July 26th meeting and we have
22	had a lot of people here today who have not had the
23	opportunity to testify, so we will come back to you.
24	JUDGE JONES: Next on the list is
25	Missouria Mass? Is there a Mass?

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1	CHAIRMAN GUNN: Missouria Mass?
2	JUDGE JONES: Is there a Ruth Hall?
3	CHAIRMAN GUNN: Ruth Hall?
4	JUDGE JONES: George Gholston? Raise your
5	right hand, please. Do you solemnly affirm that the
6	testimony you are about to give is the truth?
7	MR. GHOLSTON: Yes, I do.
8	JUDGE JONES: Spell your name, please.
9	MR. GHOLSTON: I am very confused about
10	Ameren UE in that I don't understand their marketing
11	techniques. They have a product that all of us need,
12	all of us want and it's a necessity, yet they do not
13	market that product correctly. They are not utilizing
14	the product. They are raising rates on a product when
15	they should be lowering the rates to encourage
16	individuals to use more of that product, so I don't
17	understand the marketing.
18	Another thing is they have 1.2 million
19	customers. They are the top dog and they can pretty
20	much make as much profit as they really want to if
21	they really want to. They can sell electricity on the
22	spot market to other power companies to municipalities
23	but they set their prices so high and a lot of times
24	companies, other utilities, don't want to come to
25	Ameren. It seems like they just don't understand

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1	marketing and they don't understand business.
2	I am going to give you an example right
3	quick. There is a luxury car dealer, sells 50 cars
4	per month. They make \$10,000 per car. That is
5	\$500,000 dollars in a month. There is another car
6	dealer only makes \$400 per vehicle but they sell 2500
7	vehicles per month. That works out to a million
8	dollars. It all has got to do with volume. Ameren
9	sells more electricity than anyone in the State of
10	Missouri. They supply more electricity. They should
11	have lower rates because they make more but they want
12	to whine about what other companies are getting as far
13	as rates, the rates that they are charging. Well,
14	that's because they don't have as many customers.
15	There are unintended consequences for rate
16	increases. I'm a prime example myself. In 2008 I
17	paid Ameren \$845 that year. In 2009 I paid Ameren
18	\$488 that year. 2010, I paid them \$394. 2011, \$276.
19	I am projecting that I am going to pay them this year
20	between 220 and \$225. I went to some extraordinary
21	means to reduce the amount of electricity I use
22	because Ameren kept raising their rates. I took the
23	position in 2008 as they go up, I go down. I turn off
24	lights. I turn off fans. I turn off TVs. I read a
25	lot. I use natural light during the day. But we have

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1	to learn how to counter Ameren's rate increases.
2	One thing we can do is to learn to read your
3	meter. It seems like it's a complicated device but it
4	really isn't. That meter is a cash register just like
5	when you go to the grocery store and you scan your
6	groceries that meter moves because you turn on a
7	light. You are using their energy. Learn how to read
8	your meter. Also, learn how to read your bills.
9	Learn what a kilowatt hour is. Learn the cost of a
10	kilowatt hour. You have to be smarter than Ameren and
11	that isn't hard to do, believe me.
12	You can go to a there is a website,
13	michaelbluejay dot com and on that website he can tell
14	you different ways of conserving energy. He can tell
15	you what your appliances cost to use them. There are
16	drop-down boxes where you can insert your type of
17	appliance, what you're paying per kilowatt hour. This
18	is a very good website, that's michaelbluejay dot com.
19	He also goes into how to use a how to read a
20	telephone I mean, excuse me how to read an
21	electric meter. These are things that we can do to
22	help take the sting out of these rate increases
23	because Ameren isn't going to stop.
24	I played high school football, Soldan High
25	School. The coach was Leon Anton, some of you might

	Page 16
1	remember him. And one thing Coach Anton said before
2	we went on the field, we are going to keep running a
3	certain play until they stop us and that's exactly
4	what Ameren is doing. They are going to keep coming
5	at us for rate increases until our legislators stop
6	them. Thank you very much.
7	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you.
8	JUDGE JONES: Next on the list is Andrew
9	Jones. Raise your right hand, please. Do you
10	solemnly affirm that the testimony you are about to
11	give is the truth?
12	MR. JONES: I do.
13	JUDGE JONES: Thank you, sir. You may
14	proceed.
15	MR. JONES: I will be real brief. My only
16	concern and consideration that I would like to present
17	to the Commission here has to deal with renewable
18	energy. My concern with renewable energy,
19	particularly when you look at the audience that sits
20	before you, if we are considering costs and impact of
21	costs and how it makes some of the people here suffer
22	because they can't pay bills with incremental
23	increases and I take that into consideration, I would
24	think I don't know if the other group here, the
25	other gentlemen that was here earlier, if he's an

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1	advocate for the poor or the indigent or the shut-in,
2	things of that nature, that they can take and consider
3	that when you really look at the ability of renewables
4	to be self-sufficient and sustain itself, there's no
5	case, that I am aware of, that it does.
6	Legislatively, I know that it has been
7	pushed through with proper efficiency and I don't know
8	if the people are fully aware of what that impact
9	would do. Even if that cost is in an incremental cost
10	to the whole picture, I still would like to see if
11	we're driving efficiencies, if we are looking at
12	trying to look at the bottom line to make sure that
13	everything is impacted and fully impact all the
14	people that are involved. Certainly I would think
15	that when you look at renewables, it is a technology
16	that can't sustain itself. It's not self-funded
17	well, it has to be subsidized in order to produce
18	itself and to be included within a portfolio and those
19	cost inevitably it's inevitable that those costs
20	would be passed onto the consumers. So certainly I
21	would not like to see any of these people here have to
22	get that incremental cost, no matter how small it is,
23	passed onto them. Some of us can't afford it.
24	Service is incremental, as I said before, but
25	renewables being part of that portfolio I know it's

	Page 18
1	a shell game. I know that it's political and I would
2	just hate to see people fooled by that.
3	So renewables, they don't pay for themselves
4	and the reason I brought it up, one gentlemen talked
5	about renewables. Solar, wind, there is nowhere in
6	Missouri that solar is possible. The wind doesn't
7	blow in Missouri. We have on I70 we have a I
8	think it's with all the construction up there it
9	never operates. It exercises when they put it in play
10	themselves and they have to pay for it to exercise
11	itself and to move and to keep it going and to
12	lubricate. But as far as the wind being a producer of
13	that, solar being a producer and paying for itself, it
14	doesn't work and the people are paying for it. I just
15	hate that no one stood up for the people or had a loud
16	enough voice. I know Ameren stood up against it and I
17	know that they don't want it part of their portfolio
18	and they don't want to publically say it and they
19	can't say it. But I would hope that the Commission or
20	other advocate groups would say something about it and
21	take it out of the portfolio. It doesn't need to be
22	in there. Everything else, gas, coal, nuclear, they
23	pay for themselves. Renewables doesn't pay for it and
24	these people are may paying for it incrementally.
25	JUDGE JONES: Gentry Trolla?

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1	MR. TROLLA: I'm affirming. I don't want to
2	raise my hand. Do you swear or affirm, which one do
3	you get. I don't want to if I affirm
4	JUDGE JONES: If you want to go through this
5	we can go through this.
6	MR. TROLLA: No, I'm just saying I want to
7	ask the definition because earlier before you got here
8	I have been on many commissions, do you affirm or
9	swear
10	JUDGE JONES: I affirm.
11	MR. TROLLA: Okay, then I'll do the affirm.
12	JUDGE JONES: Do you solemnly affirm that
13	the testimony you are about to give is the truth?
14	MR. TROLLA: Yes. My name is Gentry Trolla.
15	I am the founder of the Heat Up St. Louis and Cool
16	Down St. Louis and basically I came here today because
17	it's a very difficult task being without utilities.
18	It's a public safety issue and I think that from the
19	Commission's standpoint, one has to look at the whole
20	picture. You have to look at affordability and you
21	have to look at reliability, what we as customers are
22	concerned about and what we enjoy throughout the year.
23	One of the things we do, I just want to let you know,
24	at Cool Down St. Louis, is that we work with
25	organizations like Ameren UE. Ameren, since its

	Page 20
1	inception of Dollar More, has given over \$20 million
2	to help people, seniors and disabled people with their
3	utility bills. Cool Down St. Louis and Heat Up St.
4	Louis has received over \$10 million in donations where
5	100 percent of all of our money goes to help seniors
6	and the disabled in Missouri and Illinois. The bulk,
7	about 80 percent in Missouri. And I think it's
8	important from our standpoint that we understand that
9	we have obligations, all those people up against that
10	wall, they have to get paid and they have obligations
11	and I work with seniors every day. I get calls we
12	had over 35,000 seniors to call us this summer. I had
13	to deal with a lot of those calls. We had to deal
14	with many of them online. So I know what seniors are
15	going through. My mother is 85 years old, so I know
16	what she's going through when she has to send the
17	bill.
18	One of the things we did is we established a
19	program this summer to help with the heat-related
20	deaths and we work through Ameren and we work with
21	other organizations like the Missouri Foundation For
22	Health where we were able to Keep On The Air and Keep
23	On The Air is still in effect because I gave some of
24	these yellow forms to the people in the back and Keep
25	On The Air is to tell seniors who don't have a

	Page 21
1	disconnection notice because you know the process if
2	you have a disconnection you can get help. What we
3	did in July and August for seniors who have a fear of
4	the inability to pay their utility we can help them up
5	to \$250 and I think that is important for many of
6	these seniors because that will stop many of them from
7	not turning on the air. It will encourage them to
8	keep the air conditioner on. And one of the problems
9	is, you know, with those people who have been deceased
10	last summer, most of them had been alone and they were
11	seniors and they refused to turn on the air and that's
12	one of the things we try to do along with Check On
13	Your Neighbors. So there is a balancing act here of
14	what a company has to do to have reliability. What a
15	company has to do to maintain its business and there
16	is another opportunity there where they and other
17	people, can work together as a team which we did this
18	summer for the first time and that is work with Ameren
19	on utility assistance, which we did. And between
20	Laclede and Ameren, having done this 23 years for
21	Laclede, 12 years for Cool Down and Heat Up St. Louis,
22	natural gas is still the most expensive form of energy
23	assistance and no matter what we think, electric is
24	still I am not defending electric but it's still
25	cheaper by fact.

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1	One of the guys I went to a press
2	conference the other day, with the gentlemen they
3	moved to St. Louis, I forget the company. It's one of
4	the new investment companies Wells Fargo he
5	actually said the reason he moved from some place down
6	south and brought thousands of people to St. Louis to
7	Missouri was because the utilities were, in fact, and
8	specifically electric, was cheaper. So I'm not here
9	to debate which way you should go, I just know that
10	whichever way you go that we have an alternative to
11	provide utility assistance for these people and Ameren
12	is not sitting there not they are not by themselves
13	and we are not by ourselves, we are all networking
14	together. All the agencies, you know about the cap
15	agencies, which we're not, you know about the social
16	service agencies, which we're not. We are an advocacy
17	for public education, outreach, trying to work with
18	the seniors and the disabled people and work with the
19	ministers and the media to bring awareness of what you
20	need to do to get utility assistance. So we are here
21	for that and we are here for the people behind me and
22	we are here every day.
23	Unfortunately, when we started this program,
24	12 years ago, I thought we were just going to do Heat
25	Up St. Louis but then there was a need to do Cool Down

	Page 23
1	St. Louis. So we now we gave more air conditioners
2	away, which has nothing to do with you, you don't
3	regulate air conditioners, but we gave over 950 air
4	conditioners away so far and they were only to seniors
5	and disabled people. My concern is, as you guys move
6	forward five years ago when there was a different
7	administration at Ameren UE. Ten years ago when there
8	was a different administration, they were very
9	difficult to deal with. If you put them together with
10	Laclede and all the other organizations in Missouri,
11	eastern Missouri, which you regulate, we find them the
12	most cooperative in terms of what we are trying to do
13	to get help, to keep people from being disconnected
14	all summer long, to get people to get help, to get
15	seniors on the registers, you know about the
16	registers, to help them, to let them know. Many of
17	our seniors they don't know about the registers so
18	they can know not to be cut off and they know they can
19	get help. So that's what we have been doing and I
20	think it's important.
21	As you look at the dollars and cents for
22	running a business, we want you to look at the other
23	side, so if anybody says what are they doing, they are
24	contributing significantly and this summer alone it
25	was \$2 million for the Dollar More program, which you

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Page 24 know about, and another 900,000, almost a million for 1 2 another program and with our program and LIHEAP this 3 summer, the St. Louis area was able to get a significant amount of money to help people with their 4 5 utility bills. I think that the one thing that the media could do and the Public Service Commission could 6 7 do to help us is often people forget that it is the 8 seniors and the disabled but we have other people who 9 are low income and they need help too but the priority for the summer and the priority usually should be, 10 throughout the year, should be the seniors and the 11 12 disabled. They should be our priority because they 13 are the most frail and all of you know that the hot weather or cold weather it exacerbates whatever 14 physical or sometimes mental issues that they may 15 have. So we want our seniors to be warm and cozy in 16 17 the winter and we want them to be cool and safe and avoid heat-related illnesses and death in the summer 18 and from that standpoint -- you can clap -- thank you. 19 20 But from that standpoint I am saying that what we want 21 to do is there's that other pot, so when you are looking at business, don't forget that there is 22 23 utility assistance and you guys also have an 24 opportunity -- you opened up a program where you're talking about helping seniors with a special -- I know 25

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1 this is not the time to bring it up -- to helping 2 seniors with a special rate, seniors and disabled 3 people. And that is something that we need to talk 4 about.

5 I think it was in the paper, at the Post, I read your comments, that doesn't really relate to this 6 7 but I think you need to know that the seniors are not 8 out here by themselves, that they do have help if 9 there is a rate increase and that there are people helping and Ameren is not seated alone because when 10 we've knocked on their door and it has only been in 11 12 the last five years, when we've knocked on their door 13 they have responded. Prior to that there have been issues with the previous administration but with this 14 15 current administration we find ourselves working -helping to resolve problems and keeping people 16 17 connected, helping to find money and bundle money for all these people. Sometimes we go through -- and you 18 don't have that problem in the summer as much as you 19 20 have in the winter because you're looking in the 21 wintertime at those \$1200 bills, \$800 bills, where you 22 go and you take LIHEAP can only pay so much money, Dollar Help can only pay so much money, Dollar More 23 24 and Heat Up St. Louis. So at the end of that funding 25 pot we like to say that we are the safety net, so we

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1	just wanted you to be aware, as Commissioners, that
2	whatever decision you make there will be utility
3	assistance. And the federal government also, as
4	you know, LIHEAP provides, through the Obama
5	administration, they provide utility assistance as
6	well. We just I think everybody just needs to do a
7	better job of telling the seniors here and all
8	over the in the State of Missouri where they can
9	get help and how they can get help and that is all I
10	have to say.
11	COMMISSIONER GUNN: First of all, thanks for
12	your testimony, much appreciate it. I would invite
13	you you did mention that we did open up talks about
14	potential low-income rates and stuff like that, so I
15	would love to have your input as we have that
16	conversation.
17	MR. TROLLA: That would be seniors and
18	disabled?
19	COMMISSIONER GUNN: We don't know.
20	MR. TROLLA: You're just talking it through?
21	CHAIRMAN GUNN: We are talking about it and
22	we are trying to figure out what's the best way to do
23	it and do it thoughtfully and do it correctly, so I
24	would invite you to participate because we would love
25	to have the value of your experience.

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1	MR. TROLLA: Thank you very much.
2	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you for the work
3	you do.
4	MR. TROLLA: With the permission of the
5	Commission if anybody I have some more if
6	anybody else needs these cards if you are a senior or
7	low-income we are here to help you and we will give
8	you some cards and that will help you with if you
9	could take those and pass those back. I will give you
10	some more, yes, ma'am. Okay. Thank you.
11	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Next we have Kent
12	Taylor. Kent Taylor? Do you solemnly affirm the
13	testimony you are about to give is the truth?
14	MR. TAYLOR: Yes. I will probably only be
15	up here about two or three minutes because I know
16	there is other people who would like to speak. And to
17	the Commission, thank you for giving me this few
18	minutes that I am going to spend and I think I am
19	speaking for most of these people that I see out here
20	because I am one of these people sitting out here as
21	the guy said about the grandmothers and grandfathers.
22	I know over the last couple of years because of not
23	just Ameren UE, Laclede Gas, utilities in general can
24	come back almost every year and ask for increases. I
25	understand that they are here to make money, I get

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	Page 28
1	that. I understand that they need money. I
2	understand the investors want a return on their
3	investment but I also understand that the investors
4	don't want to get less than 10 percent. They can't do
5	5 like some of us who are not getting raises and at
6	only 3 and 4 percent, investors want 5 they don't
7	want 5, they want 10, 15, 20. When they keep coming
8	back asking for more money, especially year after
9	year, and there are some seniors out here on social
10	security who haven't seen a raise over two or three
11	years and that was 4 or 5 percent and before they got
12	it, it was actually spent and these utilities come and
13	ask you for more and more money every year. You are
14	not collecting money like that ever year, they're not.
15	And when utilities ask for it every year some of
16	these people will relate to what I am saying.
17	Pimps. I know what a pimp is. That is what
18	they are. Even though they say they need it for this
19	and that, that's fine. Everybody is still making
20	their money at Union Electric or Ameren UE, whatever
21	they call themselves, they're not taking any hits.
22	The investors aren't taking any hits. They're not
23	taking less of a profit margin but on the backs of
24	everybody that is out here. Some people working, some
25	people don't have a job, some people are only getting

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a certain amount of money every month and they are 1 2 still asking and as that gentlemen said about 46, 46 3 in a day, that was an insult to my intelligence and these people out here because that's \$150 regardless. 4 5 Some of these people didn't get \$150 raise for a year but they are expected to come up with another 150 that 6 7 they don't have now. 8 Food has went up. Gas for your car has went 9 up. Everything has went up. There is some people sitting out here right now, money didn't make it 10 11 through the month and you are asking them to give more 12 money and their money is not making it through the 13 month now. So I only have one other thing to say. You 14 quys on the Public Service Commission, do the public a 15 service and finally help these people, finally give us 16 17 a voice that we don't have to keep struggling trying to make ends meet because utility companies who are 18 making ends meet can come up and ask people who can't 19 20 make their ends meet now, to keep trying to make ends 21 meet because they need some more money. 22 As the one guy talked about, the lady talked 23 about earlier, she talked about the -- when I asked 24 about the energy efficiency program charge, that's

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money we are paying for in the past. They want some

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1	more. That means we are going to keep paying for in
2	the past. That is all we are doing. So like I said,
3	as the Public Service Commission, do the public a
4	service and don't just give these guys what you even
5	recommend they get. Give them a little less. Let
6	them take a hit because we are taking hits every day.
7	Thank you very much.
8	JUDGE JONES: Next is Ruth Hopkins? Is Ruth
9	Hopkins here? Michael Distaso? Do you solemnly
10	affirm that the testimony you are about to give is the
11	truth?
12	MR. DISTASO: Yeah.
13	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed.
14	MR. DISTASO: I guess I am just elaborating
15	on what this man said here. I never really worried
16	about, you know, these rate increases as long as I
17	could pay it. I have worked in manufacturing as a
18	maintenance machinist, used up all my GI bill going to
19	school so I could make as much as I could but ever
20	since this free trade agreement my wage has steadily
21	gone down, where I used to be able to make \$30 an
22	hour I mean, I worked for big companies. The last
23	one was Nestle and when they closed that up on us and
24	sent it down to Mexico and we had to train Mexico too,
25	matter of fact, so we could get our severance pay, you

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1	know, we are lucky now to barely get \$15 an hour. So
2	with you it's business as usual but with a guy like
3	myself, you know everything is going the opposite way.
4	You know, I am making less and less right now. You
5	know, right now I'm out of work and I just don't have
6	the money to pay the bill and the gas and the electric
7	are going up and like the guy was talking about, you
8	can get assistance but how often can you get
9	assistance? It's like a one-shot deal, you know, what
10	I mean. I am making separate comments. You know,
11	you're talking about, you know, utilities going around
12	and cutting trees down, you know, well, it was just
13	last week my power was out overnight and they had to
14	send an emergency crew out, two trucks, you know, four
15	guys. It seems to me the money could have been spent
16	better if they would have sent somebody around not
17	just to say well, we're going to cut trees down on
18	Shaftesbury this week, maybe send someone around
19	looking for hot spots. All this was vines that grew
20	up on the transformers. It just started raining.
21	There was no lightening or anything like that and it
22	came down on the transformer and that was it for that
23	transformer. You know, that could have been seen. I
24	mean, they could have people spending money to have
25	people that just do that, go around looking for hot

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1	spots, you know, rather than just cutting them down in
2	groups. Money would be better spent that way.
3	Like I said, the money, seems like the
4	people I know in manufacturing we just keep making
5	less money and you are acting like we keep getting
6	increases like you guys do, well, we don't anymore.
7	And like I said, if I had money to pay it, I would be
8	more than happy. Right now I am just using social
9	security because I can't find a job, you know, they
10	don't want to hire a guy 64 no matter how well trained
11	I am, you know, I got all kinds of trades now. So
12	that is basically my comment. We are going one way
13	and you're going another way. I have annuities but my
14	annuities are making less. My 401s are gone and you
15	are still asking for more money. You need to learn
16	how you are asking us to do, make it on less, you
17	know. Thank you.
18	JUDGE JONES: Next is David Estell. Raise
19	your right hand, please. Do you solemnly affirm the
20	testimony you are about to give is the truth?
21	MR. ESTELL: Yes. To be honest with you, of
22	course, I do live in a house. I live with my father,
23	of course
24	THE AUDIENCE: We can't hear you.
25	MR. ESTELL: Yes, I live in a house with my

	Page 33
1	father. I've never lived on my own but of course I
2	can't say I really understand but maybe like I
3	would like about maybe about with the bills
4	being raised. I hear these senior citizens on the
5	news. I have never experienced them in real life but
6	I do know those are somebody's experience, you know,
7	cutting their air conditioner off and because they
8	have died because they raised their rates up high or
9	in the wintertime like they died because they don't
10	want to have a problem with their heat and everything
11	and I know of course, and I'm not saying we should
12	you all should just have to just pity and just not
13	but we both each do what we have to do and everything
14	but, you know, maybe do not raise them but I hope that
15	we can do something so we just don't have to
16	constantly raise them up so high and everything, just
17	raise them up quite as much and everything, where we
18	can each do our part is what I say. That is all I
19	have to say. I don't have much but that is all I have
20	to say. Thank you very much.
21	JUDGE JONES: Thank you.
22	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Thank you.
23	JUDGE JONES: Faye Usher? Do you solemnly
24	affirm the testimony you are about to give is the
25	truth?

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1	MS. USHER: Yes.
2	JUDGE JONES: Thank you, ma'am. You may
3	proceed.
4	MS. USHER: I would like to say that I'm a
5	retired federal employee. Poor, hungry and sick and
6	tired. I worked for the government 25 years to only
7	get to retire and have Reagan tell me I took your
8	social security as long as you worked 25 years before
9	you came in the government but now that you're
10	retiring from the government you don't deserve your
11	social security, so he took it. So I get 20 percent
12	of my social security. I do get an annuity for
13	working 25 years but my gripe is this: I cannot buy
14	my medicine, eat food have food to eat and pay
15	utilities. My utilities are more than my rent.
16	Something is wrong with that. You guys have got to
17	help us. We don't have anybody to turn to because
18	Ameren don't care. All they want is money and that is
19	what they come after us for, money. They could care
20	less about how we eat and if we eat. And when you
21	talk about coming for assistance, you get it one time
22	a year. I've done that and I have also sat in my
23	house I have four walls. I have two bedrooms, a
24	living room and a dining room. I have sat in there
25	and froze because Laclede Gas cut me off. So I went

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1	and I borrowed some money so I could keep Ameren from
2	cutting me off. I made two loans last year so that
3	Ameren wouldn't cut me off. Where does it end? I am
4	old. I've paid my dues. Somebody has got to help
5	Faye Usher and all of the Faye Ushers out here because
6	we can't do it alone.
7	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Edwina Lindsey?
8	Raise your right hand, please. Do you solemnly affirm
9	the testimony you are about to give is the truth?
10	MS. LINDSEY: Excuse me, my son is wondering
11	when I am coming home and that's him now. That was my
12	youngest son. Both of my sons think I am ready to die
13	but I don't think so. Can you hear me?
14	JUDGE JONES: Yes.
15	MS. LINDSEY: Hold it like this?
16	JUDGE JONES: That's fine.
17	MS. LINDSEY: Can you hear me now?
18	JUDGE JONES: Yes, we can. But before you
19	start I need to swear you in.
20	MS. LINDSEY: All right.
21	JUDGE JONES: Do you solemnly affirm that
22	the testimony you are about to give is the truth?
23	MS. LINDSEY: Yes.
24	JUDGE JONES: Thank you, ma'am. You may
25	proceed.

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1	MS. LINDSEY: I would like to know what
2	about the hikes, is this a request from Ameren to come
3	into line with CEOs of other companies, of some other
4	industries and to do this on the backs of the poor?
5	And I feel like the lady that just left and the other
6	man that spoke, I've mentioned that. Number two, have
7	the blackouts come about this summer as a way to
8	bolster Ameren's request for this rate hike? Number
9	three, why would you hire outsiders and pay their
10	salaries then ask the ratepayers to pick up this tab
11	rather than the investors? They want more money, let
12	the investors pay for it. Number four, why is it that
13	every summer you are asking the ratepayers to pay more
14	to help the less fortunate? We are the less
15	fortunate. As a person on a fixed income, I have not
16	had a raise in my fixed income for years. Therefore,
17	I'm going to have to do without something, some one
18	thing or many more things. I am just coming out from
19	surgery. Number five, as the previous speaker said,
20	we must contact our state legislators often so that we
21	are not startled by another rate increase and I wanted
22	to ask you when is this next utility meeting you said
23	was going to be in September, when and where and can
24	the public attend?
25	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I think you are
Page 37 referring to the evidentiary part of this. It is 1 2 September 24th in Jefferson City and it's open to the 3 public. MS. LINDSEY: September 24th in Jefferson 4 5 City. 6 COMMISSIONER GUNN: It's the hearing part of 7 this. The company, the Public Counsel and the Staff and other folks will put on evidence. 8 9 MS. LINDSEY: September 24th? 10 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Yes, ma'am. If you have 11 access to a computer --12 MS. LINDSEY: Yes. 13 CHAIRMAN GUNN: -- you can watch it over the 14 Internet as well. 15 MS. LINDSEY: That may be what I will have to do. Now, will you send that out on a bill, with 16 17 the letters that you put out? Will you send that out so people can do that? 18 19 COMMISSIONER GUNN: It was on a notice but I think we can look at figuring out a way to notify 20 21 people of that as well. 22 MS. LINDSEY: All right. Thank you. 23 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Thank you, ma'am. 24 MS. LINDSEY: I have to go because my son has already checked on his mother. 25

Page 38 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Yes, ma'am, thank you 1 2 very much. 3 JUDGE JONES: Lynn Murphy? Do you solemnly affirm the testimony you are about to give is the 4 5 truth? 6 MR. MURPHY: I do. 7 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed. 8 MR. MURPHY: Yes. Some people in this 9 audience I have guessed they have been distracted when 10 they say making a choice between staying cool and 11 staying alive. But I have had some personal 12 experience with people in my family due to 13 heat-related illness actually have expired. 14 THE AUDIENCE: We can't hear you. 15 MR. MURPHY: Because some people in here there's probably a distraction about making a choice, 16 17 not only food versus medicine but also a problem that I have experienced personally with air conditioning 18 versus food. What I am saying is my mother is 86 19 20 years old. She got a bill the other day for \$188 a 21 month on a bill, on an electric bill. That translates this 14.6 percent increase that you all are 22 23 suggesting, that would be an extra \$27.44-something 24 cents a month. That 46 cents a day translates into 25 \$165 a year. What I am telling you all is for

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1	somebody that is on a fixed income, a social security
2	check, I think that is a predatorial rate increase and
3	I think for the sake of concern for our fellow human
4	beings that that increase should be rejected,
5	wholeheartedly. And the fact that you got also this
6	computerized gridlock systems that should make
7	electric supply be cost-prohibited, that doesn't seem
8	to be the case. Clean coal, our coal has been a
9	technology for some 20 some-odd years, so that
10	technology should have been paid for. They tell us
11	about Callaway Nuclear Reactor, that's supposed to
12	save on energy but how long has Callaway Nuclear
13	Reactor been in existence? It's been quite a while.
14	A couple of years ago they were talking about getting
15	some type of wind power, solar power from Iowa,
16	whatever happened to that? What I am saying is that
17	the TSA and Homeland Security was created to protect
18	the American people but there are people that are
19	unsafe in their homes because they can't afford to
20	turn on the air conditioner. It's a real problem.
21	It's not a distraction to me. My mother complains all
22	the time. I have to almost sneak and turn her air
23	conditioner on because that bill is exorbitant and I
24	think that's a predatorial rate increase and I think
25	we should work against it and I don't think that bill

Page 40 should be passed. That's it. 1 2 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. I can't read the 3 last name. Is there a Henrietta here? Rhonda? 4629 Korte Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63133. I can't read 4 5 your handwriting. 6 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Rhonda, is there a 7 Rhonda that wants to testify? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She left. 8 9 CHAIRMAN GUNN: She left? Okay, thank you. 10 JUDGE JONES: Ernestine Pettig? 11 COMMISSIONER GUNN: Ernestine Pettig? 12 Deidre Lewis? JUDGE JONES: Do you solemnly affirm the 13 testimony you are about to give is the truth? 14 15 MS. LEWIS: Yes. 16 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed. 17 MS. LEWIS: I just have one statement. I actually got wind of this meeting through a 18 telecommunication on my phone. 19 20 THE AUDIENCE: We can't hear you. 21 MS. LEWIS: This meeting today, it was an 22 electronic message on my phone, so my concern is I am kind of representing the working people. That was the 23 only -- if it wasn't for the fact that I stopped and 24 25 took the time to listen to it because normally, I will

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1	be honest, I delete stuff like that. I think it is
2	some kind of telemarketing thing. Luckily, I listened
3	to it and I decided to come but I talked to a lot of
4	my friends that work in professional environments and
5	none of them knew anything about this meeting or any
6	of the hearings before or after this meeting. So I
7	don't feel like this is a good sample mix for you all
8	to utilize to render an appropriate decision on what
9	the community feels about these rate increases. So I
10	would like to know, I know you said you can't answer
11	questions but I would at least like to see some
12	further types of active marketing so that people can
13	know and time frames that working class people can
14	come and speak their opinions regarding this rate
15	change.
16	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I can actually answer
17	that. You should have received a letter
18	MS. LEWIS: I did not.
19	CHAIRMAN GUNN: or notice if you're an
20	Ameren customer. It should have come to you and then
21	we so I don't know why you wouldn't have, I
22	apologize for that. We have 14 of these around town,
23	the list is pretty long. We do some at noon and we do
24	some at six o'clock to try to get some folks to
25	give people the option as to where to come and that

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1	list, the location is usually agreed upon by the
2	parties and we try to get a good cross section of
3	areas to try to make it as convenient as possible. I
4	take the fact that you weren't notified seriously
5	because we try to make these things
6	MS. LEWIS: Yeah, I am real big on reading
7	my mail and my bills especially.
8	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Absolutely and I
9	apologize for that. We do also try to put it out in
10	press releases so the TV and newspaper and radio will
11	report on the times the times, as well. So we do
12	our best that we are willing to do and we will take
13	suggestions. If you have a specific suggestion, the
14	people over there at that blue table, we will do a
15	review after we do this of locations and the times and
16	we have to make sure we are doing it as good as we
17	can. I will tell you we have had some pretty good
18	participation. We have had five is that five so
19	far or six and we have probably had close to 750
20	people total but I take those very seriously and I ask
21	that if you have any other suggestions about better
22	ways we will take those. Thank you.
23	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: We also have a website
24	that you make a good point about working folks not
25	being able to show up. We also have a website.

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1	MS. LEWIS: Again, my concern is I think
2	I didn't catch your name but the lady there on the
3	end, she kind of inferred that this was already going
4	to take place. Now, I reside in the city, University
5	City and I am actually on the committee in University
6	City so I kind of know a little bit about how this
7	works and she kind of inferred already that this is
8	going to happen. Let's just be honest, she inferred
9	that the money was the increase was going to occur
10	in 2013. So I understand money. I understand
11	investors, a return on investing, but 14 percent and
12	everybody else's like 401k is plummeting. I don't
13	think anybody is getting 14 percent on anything right
14	now. If you are going to increase it up I
15	understand they have a pretty much monopoly on
16	electric, I get all that but I just think that's a
17	little bit borderline usury, 14 percent, it's a little
18	high. It's kind of excessive in my opinion.
19	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thanks for coming.
20	JUDGE JONES: David Wade? Do you solemnly
21	affirm the testimony you are about to give is the
22	truth?
23	MR. WADE: Yes.
24	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed.
25	MR. WADE: Hello, community. I just want to

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1	be real brief about this. Who else do I have to turn
2	to other than Ameren for my electricity? And another
3	thing is why don't you educate us, me, myself and the
4	community, on the other alternatives as far as
5	utilities such as solar energy and things like that?
6	And reading the electric meter, of course it's simple
7	but we still have to educate our children to do the
8	same thing. You are never too old to learn and never
9	too young to know and these are the things that Ameren
10	should be putting back into the community, such as
11	education, educating our children and continuing to do
12	that and that is all I have to say. Thank you.
13	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you.
14	JUDGE JONES: Maureen Frigo? Do you
15	solemnly affirm that the testimony you are about to
16	give is the truth?
17	MS. FRIGO: I do.
18	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed.
19	MS. FRIGO: My name is Maureen Slatery
20	Frigo. I am a returning St. Louisian. I still
21	remember Laclede Gas and whatever the other one was,
22	Union Electric, I guess. So I am just getting used to
23	an all electric apartment and in December so it has
24	been a year and my bills, I didn't bring them, but it
25	is averaging pretty good because I have used

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1	everything I knew from living in a house and I kept my
2	bills low. But in December because I wasn't used to
3	the electric stove and I was cooking a lot, my bill
4	went up and I am on a fixed income like many people
5	here and I am in a disabled senior building and my
6	utilities are not included. So I ended up with a bill
7	that was I'm not going to say it because people are
8	going to say that's not that bad but for me being on a
9	fixed income and being semi-retired temporarily
10	because of the economy, I had to turn to St. Vincent
11	DePaul at my church. I got it together and started to
12	figure out how to use my thermostat better and I got
13	my bills down and I got current pretty quickly. It
14	only took me a month. I adjusted everything, I wore
15	sweaters and we had a mild winter and I pray for
16	another mild winter. I may have to move from my
17	building, which is a very good deal, because of the
18	rate increase. I'm looking at the grid information
19	and I'm going to try to estimate based on my bill now,
20	what my bill would be and whether I will be able to
21	afford it or not and in that case I might have to look
22	for an apartment that includes the heat and the
23	electricity.
24	In the summer of 2012 I will say that I
25	survived and did the air conditioning unlike the east

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	Pag
1	coast, so thank you Ameren, thank you grid. I did
2	turn off sometimes the air conditioning to keep my
3	budget and I went to the library to cool off. I'm
4	looking for more tips to save and my last bill was \$34
5	so I was pretty careful.
6	In Illinois deregulation and competition for
7	ComEd and Nicor Gas, where I lived for 20 years, is
8	assisting consumers in utility savings. There is
9	competition there. Ameren is the ballgame here, I get
10	that. No more Laclede Gas. No more none of that.
11	The law is the law in Missouri and I am within the
12	system and I am doing my best to work in the system
13	that is here for now.
14	If citizens want something different, if we
15	all want something different, we can work together for
16	change. I am personally checking in to what changes
17	are being considered in Missouri. I am researching
18	this on Google on the Internet. In the mean time I
19	use the computer at the library. I unplug my radio
20	and lamps. I watch the Olympics at the sports bar
21	down the street. I bake in the winter, not the summer
2.2	

22 and I pray for another mild winter. Thank you,

23 Ameren.

24 JUDGE JONES: Is there anyone else who would
25 like to testify who has not signed up? Raise your

	Page 47
1	right hand, please. Do you solemnly affirm that the
2	testimony you are about to give is the truth?
3	MS. HEIDELBERG: Yes.
4	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Can you please
5	state and spell your name for the court reporter?
6	MS. HEIDELBERG: My name is Rosalyn
7	Heidelberg, R-O-S-A-L-Y-N, H-E-I-D-E-L-B-E-R-G. I am
8	listening to the young lady and how cautiously we are
9	living and we are all I guess the focus is on
10	low-income or senior citizens, however, it's affecting
11	more than just that group. I work everyday so does my
12	daughter. In fact, she had to move in with me because
13	her utilities were totally outrageous to the point
14	that she could not afford to pay. The assistance is
15	only a one-time service, so she did take advantage of
16	that. So right now she is with me just so that we can
17	possibly try to live comfortable. With all our
18	techniques to lower the bills, turning off
19	everything in fact, I don't turn off. I just
20	literally unplug everything. The only thing that
21	stays operating is the refrigerator. Because of this
22	summer we have had our bills have already almost
23	tripled and this is with insulating the attic, weather
24	stripping the windows, doors, everything, so it's just
25	like what else can we do? This increase may be

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something that's needed but the amount that is being 1 2 asked is very unfair. We are saying 14 point this --3 it's 15. It's a 15 percent increase. And just as the senior citizens, minimum 4 5 wage individuals are having the same struggle. I work with an organization where I'm seeing low-income 6 7 individuals daily. They are forever coming into the 8 company asking for assistance. We have already robbed 9 the churches. We have taken advantage of the Ameren 10 UE Dollar program and some of the other organizations 11 that are out there but there are people that are still 12 struggling, just as the individual said, just to stay afloat. So the increase may be something but as we 13 stated, my salary has been frozen for five years so 14 15 this little increase of a -- you may get a salary 16 increase of one, two, three, possibly, but you are 17 asking for us to give you guys a 15 percent increase and I do think that's a bit much. Thank you. 18 19 JUDGE JONES: Do you solemnly affirm the 20 testimony you are about to give is the truth? 21 MS. MINOR: Yes. JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Will you please 22 23 state and spell your name for the court reporter? 24 MS. MINOR: My name is J, the letter J, 25 initial V and the last name is Minor, M-I-N-O-R. Т

Page 49 want the Commission to consider Ameren's increase but 1 2 are you going to consider every time the lights go out 3 for four days and your food spoils and you have no more money to buy no more food and we still have to 4 5 pay a bill because they don't take a decrease when we have 45 days -- my lights have been off every summer, 6 7 except for this year, for weeks at time. And you call 8 Ameren and say look, I only make this much money a 9 month and I spent all the money I had on groceries, so what can you do to help me and they tell you go to the 10 11 welfare office. Well, if you don't receive food 12 stamps you didn't get no assistance. So when you all 13 are considering giving them this increase, think about the people that don't have a whole lot of money, that 14 lights be off, their food spoils and then they have no 15 16 way of getting any other food. You can go to the food 17 pantries but if you are on a special diet like diabetics are -- I may not look it but I am 67 years 18 old and it is hard to go to a food pantry and get food 19 20 for what I have to eat. I can't eat everything. 21 JUDGE JONES: The gentlemen over there having a private conversation -- pardon me -- can you 22 all move outside, please. Go ahead. 23 24 MS. MINOR: So when you are all considering 25 this increase for Ameren UE, we say that we are a free

Page 50 country but we don't have freedom of choice as far as 1 2 what lights we get, what gas we get. A lot of times 3 you don't have freedom of choice where you live because of your income, so we need to consider this. 4 5 Seniors and disability people and people that are mentally challenged that are living on the street now 6 7 because they couldn't afford to pay their light bill 8 or their gas bill, when you think about the increase 9 that you are going to allow them to have, think about 10 the people that are dying because they are scared to 11 turn on this and turn on that. Yeah, it's easy to, 12 like the young lady said, turn this off and learn how 13 to bake when you need but a lot of people can't afford to do that. It's easy for us to sit here and say 14 Ameren has done so much for so many people, that may 15 be true in some cases but not all. It's easy for us 16 17 to stand here and sit here and say that Ameren UE gives assistance but that is once a year. I know that 18 has been said before but we need to drive this home. 19 20 Once a year is not going to help the average 21 individual that really needs help because after they 22 give it to you one time and you get behind, if your 23 medicine costs you \$875 a month and you only get 824, how are you supposed to survive? If you are going to 24 25 give me an increase in anything give me an increase so

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1	I can pay for my medicine. Give me an increase so I
2	can do something besides pay utility bills. I ask
3	that you all think, think hard and consider that it is
4	not just hurting the people that is unable to pay but
5	it is hurting all of us one way or the other. You,
6	because you might give a donation but it may not help
7	everybody. So when we get ready to vote for this
8	thing and to do this thing, let's consider who we are
9	and where we came from.
10	JUDGE JONES: Do you solemnly affirm the
11	testimony that you are about to give is the truth?
12	MS. PARRAM: Yes.
13	JUDGE JONES: Please state and spell your
14	name for the court reporter.
15	MS. PARRAM: Henrietta Parram, P-A-R-R-A-M.
16	I am already on the list. I would like to take this
17	time to tell you thank you for coming in our community
18	to hear our what we have to say about the increase.
19	This increase would be a hardship for everyone in this
20	community and, you know, I think it's disgraceful that
21	you are even asking for it. And it's a sin and a
22	shame because, you know, we represent the 1 percent.
23	You represent the 99 percent that has all the wealth.
24	Now, how do you think the 1 percent can pay when you
25	have all the money and you want us to pay all the

	Page 52
1	prices for this increase? We do not get most of us
2	get less than 5 percent and it may take three or four
3	or five years before we get it. So where do you think
4	we are getting the money from? Can you answer that?
5	No, you can't.
6	And then two, all the changes that you are
7	making, changes should give us some kind of benefit
8	and it should lower the costs but your changes over
9	the past 10 years or 20 years have not lowered the
10	cost of electricity but we constantly are undergoing
11	this increase all the time and in our neighborhood.
12	If you look around here, we don't have that much
13	maintenance. We still have electric poles slanting at
14	a 45 percent angle I mean a 40 degree angle in the
15	alley because of lack of maintenance. We have
16	electric poles that have caught on fire and you put a
17	new transformer up there on a pole that's burnt. That
18	don't make sense. I think UE need to use their money
19	better as far as improvements are concerned. I hope
20	that you would consider the population that we are
21	dealing with. We do not have the monies to pay for
22	this. I know I don't and I consider myself with a
23	good income. But at the rate that the utilities are
24	going up, electric and gas and water and the sewers,
25	it is disgraceful. I can't even afford to take a bath

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1	in my house. If it weren't for places like the Wohl
2	Center, where I can come up and do water aerobics and
3	take a shower and wash my hair, I couldn't afford it
4	in my house and it's sad that most of the young
5	elderly people in this community have to come up here
6	and sit maybe five or six hours and bring a little
7	lunch so they can be in a warm place or a cool place
8	in the summer. If it weren't for this Center these
9	people wouldn't even survive around here. We used to
10	have stores, we could go in stores and walk around and
11	kind of cool off or keep warm but we cannot continue
12	having these increases every other year. It's not
13	fair and when Ameren UE is constantly getting richer
14	and we are getting poor, I think it's unfair. That's
15	the one thing.
16	The other thing is personal. I have a
17	meter. The meter is reading zero but I get a bill. I
18	call Ameren UE and they tell me that that's okay, it's
19	a new meter. I don't see no indications, no dials. I
20	can't even read this meter. All I see is these three
21	0-0-0. I don't know what is happening. The
22	address is 6756A Page where this is happening.
23	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Ma'am, they'll be able
24	to after you're finished testifying if you go over
25	to that blue table they will be able to help you with

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1	that and hopefully you can have somebody do that
2	tonight, so make sure you check over there.
3	MS. PARRAM: I will do that but I hope that
4	you would reconsider and listen to some of the
5	complaints that you're hearing and no increase.
6	That's what we want to hear. I want to thank you.
7	JUDGE JONES: Thank you, ma'am. Is there
8	anyone else who would like to testify? Do you
9	solemnly affirm that the testimony you are about to
10	give is the truth?
11	MR. STOCKARD: I do.
12	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Please state and
13	spell your name for the court reporter.
14	MR. STOCKARD: My name is Ronald Stockard
15	S-T-O-C-K-A-R-D. And bottom line is I just think the
16	rates are ridiculous going up. I just think the rates
17	are going up and it's just ridiculous and I think it's
18	just the thing like Obama said when he said that the
19	rich should pay their fair share and I think that's
20	what Ameren UE should do. It's just the same thing.
21	And I hear on the news some seniors have even died
22	from this and it's just unfair. It's just really
23	unfair. But most of the questions I wanted to address
24	have been asked. And bottom line is you got the new
25	equipment and now you want us to pay for it and that's

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		Page
	1	ridiculous. I just find it all ridiculous, that's
	2	all. Like I said, most of my questions have been
	3	asked already, so thank you.
	4	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Is there anyone
	5	else? Ms. Curtis, did you want to finish up?
	6	MS. CURTIS: I am going to make for certain
	7	that I will be as brief as possible. I apologize
	8	earlier for getting a little lengthy in regards to
	9	some of the history but the focus point here was based
	10	on the fact that I was discussing that there is to be
	11	considered the community or this particular
	12	demographic microcosm compared to the enormous profit
	13	that Ameren UE receives and that they do not provide
	14	an adequate investment as far as an area in which, you
	15	know, the youth for example, can become interns or
	16	having their apprenticeship in which monies can be
	17	generated, so that, you know, they don't have such a
	18	hate with, you know, power or structure, you know,
	19	because of the fact that there is new technology that
	20	is taking place. And the families they want to make
	21	for certain that their children too can become a part
	22	of cutting edge technology and that as far as history
	23	has shown, that there are many people that have
	24	encountered enormous obstacles but the fact that there
	25	was perhaps someone or through their own innovation to
1		

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be able to further a process of innovation as a whole 1 2 and that is why I am mentioned things in terms of, you 3 know, like Louis Latimer or Granville T. Woods, you know, or people of this nature. 4 5 So I am just simply saying that if we are paying such an enormous amount and they are asking for 6 7 a 14 point three-quarters percent in the heights and they want for the infrastructure to be enhanced 8 9 because of the things and the demands and so forth 10 that the infrastructure as a whole needs to be 11 improved, why can they not place a -- place an 12 investment in the people that pay so much out and make 13 the greatest sacrifice? Why can they not do that? Why can they not say hey, we're going to put so many 14 15 millions into, say for example, this school or this group here is having a problem with the heating, you 16 17 know, the kids come to school and they're hungry and they can't really concentrate on their work because 18 their stomachs are growling, they are worried about 19 20 their conditions at home. But the power does not want 21 to recognize to make an investment in their parents. I'm talking about their kids, their people's desire to 22 want to be able to pay consistently and they are 23 24 sacrificing their own lives, they're dying. So is --

25 can there not by any type of equilibrium in which you

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1	make the sacrifice that Missouri Ameren can do the
2	same? Can they not do something for the people,
3	something for the community? We understand, you know,
4	\$200,000, \$600,000 but again, that is a very, very
5	small amount of money. Thank you very much.
6	JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Is there anyone
7	else that would like to give testimony? I don't see
8	anyone, so with that, we will go off the record and
9	this hearing is closed.
10	
11	(Public Hearing concluded at 8:32 p.m.)
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20		
21	(No Exhibits Marked.)	
22		
23		
24		
25		

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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	I, Suzanne M. Zes, Certified Court Reporter,
4	within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby
5	certify that the witness whose testimony appears in
6	the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; the
7	testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best
8	of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting
9	under my direction; that I am neither counsel for,
10	related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the
11	action in which this deposition was taken, and further
12	that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney
13	or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor
14	financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
15	the action.
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	Certified Court Reporter
21	
22	
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24	
25	

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