



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2018

Contact: Jim Chilsen
(o) 312-263-4282, (c) 312-513-1784

STATEMENT BY CUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID KOLATA ON AMEREN RATE HIKE

“Ameren Illinois has asked the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for an electric delivery rate increase of \$71.75 million. This is on top of the company’s \$46.6 million natural gas increase proposed earlier this year, so Ameren customers could get hit with a double whammy of gas and electric hikes in 2019. CUB’s legal team will carefully analyze Ameren’s electric rate-hike request and we will fight any excessive spending that we uncover, as we challenge Ameren to live up to its promise of building a more efficient and more affordable power grid.”

Background:

*Ameren filed for a \$71.75 million rate-hike request on Monday, April 16. If approved, it would take effect in January of 2019.

*This proposal for new delivery rates is in accordance with the state’s 2011 "Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Act," or the "smart-grid bill." The new law uses a formula to determine Ameren rates each year to pay for about \$625 million in system upgrades.

*The rate hike affects delivery charges—what customers pay to have the electricity delivered to their homes. Those charges take up about a third to a half of the bill. (The rest of the bill is taken up by the cost of the electricity itself.) Since this increase involves delivery rates, all customers will pay the higher rates—even those with an alternative electricity supplier.

*Illinois’ new way of setting electric rates limits how much consumer advocates and regulators can reduce rates, but each year CUB works to secure the lowest rates possible by reviewing Ameren’s spending, and protesting unjustified capital and operational expenditures. The consumer watchdog also is pushing the utility to live up to its promise to build a more affordable power grid that reduces inefficiency, improves reliability and gives customers the chance to save money by making their homes more efficient and taking part in money-saving electricity programs.

CUB is Illinois’ leading nonprofit utility watchdog organization. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$10 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds over the years. For more information, call CUB’s Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB’s award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

###