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Comments on request by Ameren to be heard

By The News-Gazette

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An upcoming forum will allow area citizens to tell the Illinois Commerce Commission what they think about Ameren's request to raise power delivery charges by almost a quarter of a billion dollars in November.

The hearing, set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the Champaign City Council chambers, 102 N. Neil St., is one of six the commission has scheduled around the state. Oral and written comments are welcome, the commission stated in a news release.

Ameren is seeking to charge an extra \$247 million a year— \$180 million for electricity customers and \$67 million for its gas customers.

According to company officials, the average annual electricity bill increase for a three-bedroom house (10,000 kilowatt-hours per year) in the AmerenIP service territory would be \$93. That would be offset by bill credits of about \$102 a year in 2008 and \$72 in 2009, which were part of the rate-relief settlement signed into law last summer.

For that same size house using 785 therms of natural gas per year, the average annual increase in the AmerenIP service territory would be \$104, according to company estimates.

Ameren said the higher delivery rates are needed to cover increased costs of doing business and to address infrastructure improvement needs, but the watchdog Citizen's Utility Board said it had not seen any evidence that the utility deserved another rate hike. The final decision is up to the commission

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Comments

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