



Combing Through Ameren's Rate Increase Request

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Consumer Group Will Scour Ameren's Rate Hike Plans (Bloomington) -- The Citizens Utility Board is combing through Ameren's request to increase electric and natural gas delivery rates. Ameren started the eleven month process by filing the request with the Illinois Commerce Commission on Friday for a 226-million-dollar increase. CUB spokesman Jim Chilsen says they will fight every penny that isn't justified just like they fought the rate increase Ameren was granted last year. Chilsen says Ameren is seeking an exorbitant profit with the requested rate hike. CUB will examine the rate hike proposal to make sure Ameren isn't inflating its expenses or downplaying its revenue. Ameren last raised delivery rates last October. The proposed rates won't go into place until at least next May. Under the proposed rate plan, AmerenCIPS residential customers who use 10-thousand kilowatt-hours of electricity a year will pay 59 dollar more per year, and customers in the Metro East area will pay 65 dollars more per year; AmerenCILCO customers will pay 64 dollars more per year and AmerenIP customers will pay 97 dollars more per year. All AmerenCIPS residential customers who use 785 therms of natural gas annually will pay 60 dollars more per year, AmerenCILCO customers will pay 38 dollars more per year and AmerenIP customers will pay 55 dollars more per year.
