

# No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing

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## *Mayor Jenks has Hissy Fit Mayoral order forbids all talk of MoPEP contract!*

After Tracey Watson revealed the horrible truth about the MoPEP contract to the Rolla City Council and the public on July 16<sup>th</sup> Mayor Jenks said she had some mistakes. On August 6<sup>th</sup> the mayor told us what her mistakes were and he also *forbid all discussion of the MoPEP contract or the utility rates until somebody gives him a solution*. What he means is it has to be a solution he likes and one that doesn't involve getting out of his beloved MoPEP or reducing our utility rates. Other than that he's open to your ideas. He dared Tracey Watson to find some other electric supplier. In doing so he took another cheap shot at her. He and Stoffer behave like schoolyard bullies and Watson has never made personal remarks about either of them.... we have but she hasn't. The gratuitous insults tell us who has the weakest case. Since Watson blew up their other excuses for our rates their new excuse is that we have to keep buying from MoPEP because no one else will sell us power. They know because they asked someone years ago.

The mayor said she was wrong about the MoPEP IOU's. He says they are so worth money. What the mayor *did not refute* from Watson's presentation about the MoPEP contract was all the other ways we're being screwed by MoPEP and RMU. Our RMU mayor Jenks didn't say it wasn't a cost-plus contract, he didn't say it wasn't a perpetual contract, he didn't say MoPEP didn't have a 40-year lien on all our electric revenues, he didn't deny that over 50% of our monthly electric bills are loan payments on MoPEP's secret investments of over \$500,000,000. Jenks didn't dispute any of that because he couldn't...its all true and that's why he had the temper tantrum. He got caught.

During his hissy fit, the Little Colonel forbade all mention of the utility rates and the MoPEP contract *until someone comes up with a solution*. If you have no leadership abilities just bluster, get sarcastic and tell people to shut up until *they* come up with a solution. He wants a solution? OK, here's the only solution that will lower our rates.

**FIRST: Fire Watkins.** Watkins deserves to be fired for insubordination as well as more serious charges having to do with very expensive RMU equipment winding up as his personal property instead of in a public auction of city surplus property. There should be an investigation by the County Prosecutor or at least by the city council to see how far that kind of rot has spread among the overpaid RMU Millionaires Club and how many of them 'own' equipment that was covertly disposed of to favored employees. The council only has to give the order to the RMU board to fire Watkins and all

other criminal violators. The council should also *order that RMU's management wage scale will be rolled back to match the city wage scale* and that *RMU join the city's health insurance pool*. No wonder RMU attitudes are outrageous, it's because RMU salaries are outrageous. In the Kingdom of RMU, Watkins can make \$120,000 for no reason other than his willingness to collaborate in victimizing his fellow citizens while he hires his wives, children, brothers and other relatives and lives outside the city so he can pay cheaper Intercounty rates.

Watkins was dispatched to Columbia to "represent" us by the RMU board *but not by the council*. Watkins got to swan around with his cronies there. Watkins got to play in golf tournaments and eat, drink and make merry. Watkins got to wear the monogrammed green MoPEP Polo shirt *but Watkins failed to reports to the council that he was voting FOR the over Half Billion Dollars in high-risk investments that he knew would be added to our utility bills*. That's insubordination. Watkins failed to tell the council that his actions and his votes at the MoPEP and MJMEUC meetings in Columbia caused Rolla's contingent liabilities to shoot up by millions. That's insubordination. Watkins failed to tell the council that MoPEP would have a first lien on our electric revenues for the next 40 years and that the contracts they were voting for were the worst kind of investment for a municipality – "Take or Pay" contracts the kind where we pay the full 40 years of bond payments even if the plant is never built. That's insubordination. Watkins failed to do one single thing that would have alerted the council and the public that we were trapped in a rate squeeze which, if it continues, could bankrupt RMU. At a salary of \$120,000 a year the insubordinate Watkins was well compensated not to make those reports wasn't he?

**Councilman Walberg** scoffs at 'conspiracies.' What would he call Watkins' sneaking collaboration as the go-between for the RMU board and his comrades at MJMEUC/MoPEP while cutting the council out of all information about what they were planning to do to the citizens of Rolla? The council did not read the contract or ask questions – that was their duty and they failed us. Their job requires them to show a little healthy skepticism about these things, and examine 'deals' carefully, but RMU and Watkins had full knowledge an absolute duty to disclose - theirs was the greater failure.

**SECOND: Appoint a new MoPEP representative.** This time the council makes their own appointment and gives

him/her instructions to vote no on more revenue bond debt and report back to the council on what the hell MoPEP is doing. It has to be someone intelligent enough not to put on the green MoPEP Polo shirt and drink the MoPEP Kool-aid. A smart observer might learn things that would make our exit from MoPEP faster, less painful and much less expensive.

**THIRD: Give MoPEP the five-year notice immediately.** This is the no-brainer. We would at least know that if we can't find a quicker way out, at worst we would only be trapped and paying these rates for five more years.

**FOURTH: Hire an experienced law firm to get us out of MoPEP and their high-risk empire-building.** We said it before and we'll repeat it as often as necessary. There will be no whining excuses accepted from City Hall about how expensive it will be and how they don't have the money to sue if it takes a lawsuit to get out of MoPEP. City Hall is raking in a windfall of well over ONE MILLION DOLLARS a year, from their 5% backdoor tax on our utility payments. That's *our money* and they can spend it on lawyers to save us thousands on our utility bills! It's just a matter of priorities.

## Stoffer's academic fraud: his "Alliance Advantage" expert IS MoPEP

Stoffer can quit quoting "MAMU's Alliance Advantage" to back up his excuses because this is just another Stoffer fraud. The "Alliance Advantage" is nothing but MJMEUC/MoPEP's monthly propaganda newsletter. Stoffer and Bourne quoted the "MAMU Alliance Advantage" in slide after slide after slide (10 AA slides out of 92) to give us an 'expert' opinion on the state of the power industry. That is calculated deceit. Here's how it works: various MAMU staff members and "guests" such as **Dan Watkins**, write self-serving "news" stories for the newsletter loaded with the MoPEP party line and gloom and doom predictions. They cry "wolf" about rising prices and the awful effects of "deregulation." They print all this in their house organ, the "Alliance Advantage" which is mailed to a few hundred members and a lot of politicians. When they gave the council a copy of the 2005, "*Amended and Restated MoPEP Agreements*" to sign, the cover sheet was actually a page from the "Alliance Advantage" with an article by Director Duncan Kincheloe full of his usual alarmist rhetoric heavily underlined by Butz. If you can't find an expert to back up *your* opinion except a letter *you* wrote giving *your* opinion...

When Stoffer and Bourne do their 92 slides they either take Stoffer's own quotes out of context (13 of those) from RDN articles or they quote the Alliance Advantage "experts" to an audience that doesn't know the "Alliance Advantage" is a shill for MoPEP. Other "experts" they use are their own letters and other propaganda (7 of those). Stoffer makes much of his PhD and because he has a PhD he knows that in academic circles that practice is called "academic fraud."

Their priority is spending *our money* to build Brewer and RCDC (who pay no taxes) a private park; ours is getting out of MoPEP.

**No one will want us?** As for the RMU mayor's claim that we have to stay with MoPEP because no one else will supply us with electricity - that's just absurd. The statement shows either his desperation or his bad business judgment. Any commercial electric company would jump at the chance to make millions supplying a large hospital with an employee and patient population as large as most small towns where lights burn 24/7, a large university campus where lights burn 24/7, and a town of 16,000 people. Don't forget, before MoPEP and before the city council's 5% backdoor tax, RMU made so much money they had a reserve fund of over \$15 million (nearly as much as the whole city budget) and still had to throw over \$12 million of their surplus "profits" out the window to the city, RCDC and their other conflict-of-interest pork projects. No commercial electric company would want to make money like that would they? Sure they wouldn't.

**....and more fraud from the Public Service Commission.** Some of the July 9<sup>th</sup> audience of mostly RMU employees may have been impressed by the appearance of **Mr. Warren T. Wood**, an employee of the **Missouri Public Service Commission**, especially since Wood seemed to be there to back up all RMU's energy shortage and pricing excuses. Even though he denied that he was speaking for the PSC his 59 slides carried the PSC logo and he was introduced as an employee of the PSC. Mr. Wood bemoaned the high prices of energy and gave his own doom and gloom predictions which strangely echoed those of Duncan Kincheloe and Jim Stoffer. The mystery was cleared up in the August, 2007 edition of the "Alliance Advantage" where it was announced that **Warren T. Wood**, formerly of the Mo PSC, *would be joining Duncan Kincheloe's staff on August 13th* as Director of Governance and Member Relations. Wood was a ringer for MoPEP! No wonder he was pandering to MoPEP and RMU's viewpoint. How long has Mr. Wood been 'auditioning' for a job with Kincheloe by compromising his state employer's code of ethics and how many other moles has Kincheloe planted in the PSC?

**The RMU Millionaire's Club.** Congrats to **Rodney Bourne** the newest member of the RMU Millionaire's Club. He recently got a raise in pay to **\$100,000**. Now three RMU employees are paid more than City Administrator John Butz and all the city department heads. It must have been Bourne's reward for giving the most boring slide show ever held in Rolla on July 9th by reading aloud for two and a half hours a total of 92 slides to a presumably literate audience who could read the slides better and faster. This special meeting for RMU was hosted by the city council so RMU could have an

uninterrupted shot at brainwashing the council and the public. It was like attending a Watkins family reunion.

During the whole 2.5 hours not one word was said about the contents of the *cost-plus contract* or the **HALF BILLION DOLLARS** of secret MoPEP power plant debts. Nothing was said about the fact that if we don't get out of MoPEP we will be paying these prices for the *next 40 years*. The investments are all "Take or Pay" contracts which means if environmental lawsuits, labor strikes or other problems stop or delay construction *we have to pay off the bonds anyway* but they didn't explain any of this. Bourne also didn't explain why *MoPEP has a first lien on all RMU's electric revenues* for the next 40 years or why it's a *cost-plus commodity contract* with *no price for the commodity* or why RMU has accumulated **\$700,000 MoPEP "Capacity Credits"** that they never spend. He had the floor for 2.5 hours so he had plenty of time to explain all these things in the contract but he didn't. Why didn't he explain?

### *So what are they going to do about it?*

**Where's our Leadership?** This is the council's problem – it's their contract not RMU's contract. The council appointed the RMU board members who betrayed us when they sold us into perpetual MoPEP slavery. The council put the RMU board members in and they can take them out but only if they have the guts to do it. Some council members are furious but don't know what to do and the rest are siding with the RMU board members *against their own constituents* so they don't intend to do anything at all.

**Leadership from the Mayor?** We elect mayors to do more than preside at council meetings, cut ribbons and sign proclamations. However ineffectual they may be on a daily basis, when there is a crisis mayors are supposed to give us something extra called "leadership." They're supposed to act decisively, identify the problem and lead us to the solution. Our mayor just forbids all mention of the problem. Except for their unofficial plotting to manipulate people into paying more taxes for their pet pork projects so they can pay back the cronies who got them elected, Rolla mayors could be replaced by gum-popping checkout clerks. Next to getting pork for themselves and their friends, Rolla's mayors are primarily concerned about their "legacies" and hope someday their few remaining friends will commission a gen-u-wine oil portrait of them to hang in City Hall. Will "Colonel" Jenks step up to the plate in this crisis and give us the impartial decisive leadership we desperately need? Well, let's look at his record.

Jenks, the RMU mayor, has more ego at stake here than even Stoffer. It was **RMU board member Jenks** who presented the MoPEP contract to the council in 2005 as a great deal they didn't need to know much about. It was **RMU board member Jenks** who sent Watkins to the MoPEP meetings as the city's emissary without the city knowing it. It was **RMU board member Jenks** who failed to report to the city council that Watkins was at MoPEP meetings in Columbia voting us into a **HALF BILLION DOLLARS** debt that would secretly be added to our electric bills. It was **RMU board member Jenks** who, in his last minutes on the RMU

If these MoPEP investments were such a great idea why haven't they been bragging about them? Why haven't we been hearing all about the **\$330,000,000** they've invested in the **Plum Point** Plant in Arkansas or the **\$200,000,000** they've issued in revenue bonds to buy into the **Iatan 2** plant or the **\$8,400,000** they've borrowed to finance the **Laddonia Ethanol Co-Generation** plant? Why have they kept all these wonderful investments such a secret? Why hasn't this contract and the brilliant MoPEP deals had their own section in the RDN Progress Edition? Why hasn't RMU told the city auditor about these high-risk debts and how much of the **\$500,000,000** is Rolla's share of the debt? Either the auditor is helping with RMU's cover-up or those famous "clean audits" the council is always so happy about were only "clean" because they didn't contain all the information about Rolla's liabilities.

board, crammed in one more vote to raise our rates just hours before he was sworn in as mayor. It was **RMU board member Jenks**, along with **RMU board member Alfermann** who have both, as **RCDC** board members, been playing the double conflict-of-interest game all these years by voting to take millions out of the RMU treasury to give to themselves to spend on building RCDC's private land and building investments.

Mayor Jenks first budget had a \$990,000 deficit. He went along with the charade Butz had been using for two years that they would sell Buehler Park at any minute and have \$990,000 in new revenue. Having a so-called businessman as mayor is supposed to give us less amateurish money management wasn't it? Well it didn't. When the town was blacked out and buried under the worst ice storm in decades, Mayor Jenks was tucked up warm and safe in the Heavener Center having a meeting with his RREC friends on a scheme to finance Rolla West by raising our taxes. Our little 'Colonel' is no Rudy Giuliani.

This month, while we are counting our pocket change to see if we can pay our next utility bills, Mayor Jenks was getting his picture taken with the RREC, RCDC and other elites dedicating a new private park. He has arranged for us to pay to construct - and pay annually to mow and maintain - this private park so **Terry Brewer** and the other businesses in the industrial park - none of whom help support the community by paying their taxes - will feel loved and appreciated. Butz says there is no money in the budget to improve our parks - just Terry's park. Our little 'Colonel' doesn't live on the same economic planet as the other 16,000 people in Rolla. Jenks has been an establishment gofer for too many years. His constituents are the RCDC, RMU and RREC not the people in Rolla. If you're waiting for the mayor to stick up for "his people" forget it. "His people" are the ones who are sticking you with the MoPEP contract and who keep lying to us about why our electric rates went up.

If Jenks could set aside his old alliances and say that the MoPEP contract was a mistake, that his first duty now is

to all the citizens of Rolla, that he will take any steps necessary to relieve his constituents of the burden he and others laid on them, he would gain the admiration and respect of the whole community. But spiteful comments and forbidding all mention of the problem because he wants to protect his cronies and their corrupt actions only earns Jenks the contempt of the whole community.

**...or from a council member?** Sometimes when we have a weak mayor one or more members of the council will step up and fill the leadership gap. This won't be **Ward 3 Council Representative Sue Eudaly**. Sue said she's positively glad to make her monthly "contribution" to RMU because it will all (somehow?) enhance Rolla's quality of life. Sue's take on issues is always a few degrees off plumb. Just how having utility rates that are nearly double non MoPEP towns will improve our "quality of life" is a mystery to all but Sue. Maybe if Eudaly had to feed a family on two minimum wage jobs instead of a cat she'd comprehend the pain of her less fortunate constituents. Rolla has two new council members, **Mark Walberg** (Ward 6) and **Richard Morris** (Ward 5) who didn't vote on this in 2005. They have no ego investment in the issue yet so they could look at the contract objectively and suggest solutions. However, Walberg said last month that accusations aimed at RMU by rate-shocked residents were "conspiracy theories." Does your RMU bill feel like a conspiracy theory or does it feel like a real bill that you have

to pay with real money?

**...or from RMU?** How about ex-Judge Wiggins? Surely he can read a contract and see how bad the scam is. At the August RMU meeting **John Wiggins** said they need to "revisit the rates" but **Alfermann** shot the new boy down and told him it wasn't going to happen. Wiggins shut up.

Leadership would never come from Jim Stoffer. Stoffer is the worst kind of public official. He has never made a mistake – he's never been wrong. Everyone else is wrong, especially anyone who criticizes Herr Doctor Stoffer. Stoffer and his road-show, "Why We Aren't Responsible for Anything," is now exposed as a half-baked cover-up for the MoPEP investment scam. What kind of utility board members recommend that the council *sign a commodity contract that doesn't have a price for the commodity*? What kind of people commit 16,000 rate payers to a scheme to build a power investment portfolio of a Half **Billion** Dollars under the guise of buying electricity? The kind of people who would do that were: **Bill Jenks, Jim Stoffer, Maurice Alfermann** and **Dain Ward**. The overpaid **Dan Watkins** was the one sneaking off to Columbia to do the dirty MoPEP deeds for them.

As for the RMU board members...Stoffer and Alfermann hope you'll get used to the high prices and quit your griping because they're going to need to raise prices again soon. Do you think you'll get used to your RMU rates?

\*(See Watson's complete statement at: [http://www.rollanet.org/~rmu4you/#mopep\\_contract\\_defects](http://www.rollanet.org/~rmu4you/#mopep_contract_defects) or listen to a 14 minute recording at [http://www.rollanet.org/~rwnash/TW-2\\_email.htm](http://www.rollanet.org/~rwnash/TW-2_email.htm) Also check out the new RMU4U web site <http://www.rollanet.org/~rmu4you/> for up to the minute details on the MoPEP issue and the petition drive.)

**\*\*\*END\*\*\***

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