

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire District )  
Electric Company, The Empire District Gas Company, )  
Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp., and ) **Case No. AO-2017-0360**  
Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC for Approval of )  
Their Cost Allocation Manual )

**JOINT PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

**COMES NOW**, Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire Electric”), The Empire District Gas Company (“Empire Gas”), Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. (“Liberty Midstates”), and Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC (“Liberty Utilities”) (collectively, “Applicants”), the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”), and Midwest Energy Consumers Group (“MECG”), by and through their respective counsel, and for this *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule*, state in support:

1. On June 30, 2017, the Applicants filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of their Cost Allocation Manual (“CAM”). On July 3, 2017, the Commission set an intervention deadline of July 24, 2017, and on July 25, 2017, scheduled a procedural conference to be held on August 10, 2017.

2. At the August 10, 2017, procedural conference, the Commission directed the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule with the Commission no later than August 17, 2017. After the on-the-record proceedings, the parties discussed the significant undertaking that is the development of a Commission approved CAM, and determined that the best path forward is to delay the setting of a formal procedural schedule to allow for the parties to conduct a series of informal technical meetings. This

will allow the parties to work together towards the development of an agreed upon CAM without the constraints of impending deadlines or milestones. Despite the work that had been expended by Empire Electric and Empire Gas, Staff, and OPC in the past on a CAM<sup>1</sup>, those companies are now part of an entirely new and different corporate structure after their acquisition by Algonquin Power & Utilities Corporation. This new structure, with the inclusion of several new affiliates, requires the creation of a new CAM.

3. Due to a heavy schedule of other Commission proceedings in September, the Applicants will formally present their proposed CAM to the other parties in October 2017. Following that presentation, the parties will schedule technical meetings to be held at regular intervals to discuss any issues the parties may have.

4. The parties specifically request that the Commission issue an order requiring Staff to file a status report on or before December 17, 2017, (either individually or jointly with the other parties), detailing the progress being made by the parties in this docket, and identifying what issue areas remain unresolved, if any, that will require the Commission set a procedural conference for purposes of scheduling the filing of testimony and an evidentiary hearing.

5. Staff, the Applicants, OPC, and MCEG agree that the delay requested herein does not prejudice any party's right to make a filing prior to December 17, 2017, if a party believes that sufficient progress is not being made, and the delay of setting a procedural schedule should be lifted and a procedural schedule should thereafter be put in place to resolve this docket.

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. AO-2012-0062

**WHEREFORE**, Staff, the Applicants, OPC, and MECG respectfully request that the Commission issue its order delaying the setting of a procedural schedule through December 17, 2017, requiring Staff to file a status report by that date respecting the progress in this docket.

Respectfully Submitted,

**/s/ Mark Johnson**

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing were served electronically to all counsel of record this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.

**/s/ Mark Johnson**