

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

In the Matter of the Application of The)	
Empire District Electric Company and)	
Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water), LLC d/b/a)	<u>File No. AO-2020-0237</u>
Liberty Utilities for Variances to Enable the)	Tariff Filing No. YE-2020-0133
Deployment of Advanced Metering)	Tariff Filing No. YW-2020-0134
Infrastructures for Electric and Water)	Tariff Filing No. YW-2020-0135
Customers)	

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and for its *Status Report*, states as follows:

1. On February 5, 2020, The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire”) and Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC (Liberty Water) (collectively “Liberty”) filed their *Application for Variance and Approval of Tariffs and Motion for Waiver* (“Application”), requesting a variance from Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.030(28), approval of various tariff sheets, and waiver of the 60 day notice requirement of Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1), to aid in Liberty’s deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in all of its electric and water service areas. The filed tariff sheets each bear an effective date of April 2, 2020, and allow for Liberty’s residential customers to opt out of AMI and for lesser disconnect and reconnect fees related to AMI. Liberty also requests a waiver of the 60 day notice requirement of Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

2. In the course of its review, Staff has issued several Data Requests to Liberty, which Liberty has responded to. However, Liberty’s responses led to further questions from Staff, which Staff followed up on with the company. However, Liberty was not available for a technical discussion until today, March 11, 2020.

3. While Staff believes its review of Liberty's Application is nearly complete, it requires additional time to finalize its Recommendation to the Commission. Staff anticipates being able to file said Recommendation no later than Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this *Status Report* for the Commission's information and consideration; and requests the Commission grant such other and further relief as it deems just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson, Mo. Bar No. 64940

Deputy Counsel

P.O Box 360

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Phone: (573) 751-7431

Fax: (573) 751-9285

E-mail: mark.johnson@psc.mo.gov

/s/ Nicole Mers

Nicole Mers Missouri Bar No. 66766

Deputy Counsel

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, MO 65012

Phone: (573) 751-6651

Fax: (573) 751-9285

Email: nicole.mers@psc.mo.gov

**Attorneys for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile, or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 11th day of March 2020.

/s/ Mark Johnson