

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

In the Matter of The Empire District)
Electric Company's Request for Authority)
to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric)
Service Provided to Customers in its)
Missouri Service Area)

Case No. ER-2019-0374

PUBLIC COUNSEL'S SUGGESTED LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE

COMES NOW the Office of Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and, after soliciting input from the parties followed by consultation with and input from the Commission's Staff and The Empire District Electric Company regarding the content of the notice, suggests that the Commission order Empire to adopt and provide individually to each of its customers notice of the local public hearings the Commission orders in this case in the form of the draft notice attached hereto. Public Counsel is not representing in this pleading that the Commission's Staff, Empire or any other party concur in the attached notice or this pleading.

Public comments are not evidence, unless the Commission admits them into the record. The attached notice of local public hearings is drafted based on the Commission not having ordered that public comments are admitted into the record in this case. Should the Commission issue an order that public comments are admitted into evidence in this case, then the suggested notice should be revised accordingly. Public Counsel suggests the following changes (highlighted) to the paragraph following the information on how to contact Public Counsel with comments or inquiries:

~~Generally, parties can see public comments, but making a public comment does not make that comment evidence before the Commission.~~ The Commission has ordered that comments are admitted as evidence.

Counsels for the following parties have authorized the undersigned counsel to inform the Commission that their clients oppose neither this pleading nor the attached draft notice: Midwest

Energy Consumers Group; National Housing Trust; and Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association; LLC Natural Resources Defense Council; Sierra Club and Renew Missouri.

WHEREFORE, Office of Public Counsel suggests that the Commission order Empire to adopt and provide individually to each of its customers notice of the local public hearings the Commission orders in this case in the form of the draft notice attached hereto.

Respectfully,

/s/ Nathan Williams

Nathan Williams
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 6th day of December 2019.

/s/ Nathan Williams

NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS ON EMPIRE’S ELECTRIC RATES

On August 14, 2019, The Empire District Electric Company, a Liberty Utilities Company, filed a general rate request with the Missouri Public Service Commission designed to increase Empire’s annual gross revenues from its Missouri electric retail customers by \$26.5 million, or approximately 4.93 percent. Empire is proposing to increase its fixed residential customer charge from \$13.00 per month to \$19.00 per month. Empire estimates that this increase will have the following bill impacts on its customers:

Customer Class	Average Annual Customer Impact	
	Bill Change \$	Bill Change %
RG-Residential	\$96.24	5.8%
CB-Commercial	\$125.82	5.2%
Small Heating	\$164.22	5.0%
GP-General Power	\$1,476.02	3.1%
SC-P Praxair Transmission	\$212,414.31	5.1%
TEB-Total Electric Building	\$1,172.45	3.0%
PFM-Feed Mill / Grain Elev	\$115.67	1.6%
LP-Large Power	\$81,320.65	5.2%
MS-Miscellaneous	\$282.94	5.8%
SPL-Municipal Street Lighting	\$29,358.47	9.4%
PL-Private Lighting	\$553.88	3.4%
LS-Special Lighting	\$72.13	6.9%

Empire is asking the Public Service Commission to continue its Fuel Adjustment Clause. Of the \$26.5 million increase, Empire attributes \$74,946 to Empire updating the energy costs used in its Fuel Adjustment Clause to determine its customers’ billed Fuel Adjust Charges. Empire estimates that this will increase the usage charges on a typical residential customer’s monthly bill by \$0.01 (based on 1,000 kWh of monthly usage). If the Commission approves Empire’s request to continue its Fuel Adjustment Clause, Empire will continue to adjust (credit or bill) its electric customers’ bills twice each year (Fuel Adjust Charge), on June 1st and December 1st, based on each customer’s electrical usage and the difference between Empire’s actual energy cost—the varying costs of fuel used to generate electricity at its generating units and electric energy it purchases on behalf of its customers—and its base energy cost during semi-annual periods.

The Public Service Commission has scheduled question and answer sessions followed by local public hearings, where anyone may offer evidence by appearing, testifying, and/or providing documents to the Commission for it to consider in this general electric rate case, at the following locations, dates, and times:

insert dates, times, locations

Anyone wishing to comment on, or inquire about, Empire's requests may do so as follows:

Contact the Public Service Commission's Staff by

- (a) Telephone at 1-800-392-4211;
- (b) Writing to Public Service Commission Staff, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102;
- (c) E-mail to pscinfo@psc.mo.gov, electronically (public comments only) at https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments (please reference case number ER-2019-0374); or

Contact the Office of the Public Counsel by

- (a) Telephone at 573-751-4857 or toll-free at 866-922-2959;
- (b) Writing to the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or
- (c) E-mail addressed to opcservice@opc.mo.gov.

Generally, parties can see comments, but making a comment does not make that comment evidence before the Commission.

The Public Service Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing during April 14-17 and 20-22, 2020, at 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, for parties in this case to present their evidence to the Commission for its decision. This hearing is open to the public, except portions the Commission may close to protect the dissemination of nonpublic information to the public.

The local public hearings and evidentiary hearing will be held in buildings that meet accessibility standards by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If someone needs additional accommodations to participate in or attend any of these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.