

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

In the matter of The Empire Dis- )  
trict Electric Company of Joplin, )  
Missouri for authority to file )  
tariffs increasing rates for elec- ) **ER-2012-0345**  
tric service provided to customers )  
in the Missouri service area of the )  
Company )

**APPLICATION TO INTERVENE  
BY PRAXAIR, INC. AS PART OF MIDWEST ENERGY USERS' ASSOCIATION**

COMES NOW PRAXAIR, INC. ("Praxair") pursuant to 4 C.S.R. 240-2.075 and applies to intervene herein and become a party for all purposes through its participation in the Midwest Energy Users' Association ("MEUA") (that entity having previously submitted an Application to Intervene), all in respect to the rate increase filing by Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") on July 6, 2012. In support, Praxair states:

1. Praxair is a large industrial electric customer of Empire. Praxair operates a major air liquefaction and constituent gas separation facility near Neosho, Missouri. Praxair is the successor in interest to the Linde Division of Union Carbide Corporation.

2. Through Praxair's own prior interventions and those of its predecessor, Praxair's interests in proceedings affecting the rates, terms and conditions of electric service from Empire have been previously recognized by the Missouri Public Service Commission in permitting Praxair's intervention in

numerous rate design and electric rate proceedings concerning Empire.

3. Correspondence or communications regarding this application, including service of all notices and orders of this Commission, should be addressed to the same counsel as previously submitted an Application to Intervene on behalf of the MEUA, namely:

Stuart W. Conrad, Esq.  
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4. Praxair is interested in and will be directly affected by this proposed increase and in its impact on ratepayers generally and upon it specifically. As an interruptible customer of Empire, the impact on Praxair will be unique and different from that of the general public, and will not or cannot adequately be represented by any other party save through Praxair's participation with other members of the MEUA. Praxair will be directly affected by the proposed permanent and proposed interim increases. Therefore, it will aid the Commission and protect and advance the public interest that Praxair be permitted to intervene in this proceeding to protect its interest which no other party is in a position properly to protect.

5. For purposes of 4 C.S.R. 240-2.075(2), Praxair joins in the statement by MEUA that it opposes the discriminatory and non-cost-based pricing of electricity and related utility services. Analysis of Empire's rate filing has begun but Praxair counsel does not yet have access to information in the Empire filing that has been identified as "Highly Confidential." Praxair expects to later indicate a position with respect to specific aspects of the proposed increase pursuant to customary procedures through its participation in the MEUA.

6. In the previously-filed Application to Intervene of MEUA, undersigned counsel stated that he promptly would advise the Commission and other parties of the joinder of any additional participants in the MEUA upon receiving authorization. This pleading is intended to fulfill that undertaking.

WHEREFORE, Praxair requests: (a) that it be permitted to intervene herein and be made a party hereto with all rights to have notice of and participate in hearings to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, file briefs and participate in argument, should any be had through its participation in the MEUA; and (b)

for all other needful and proper relief appropriate in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, CONRAD & PETERSON, L.C.

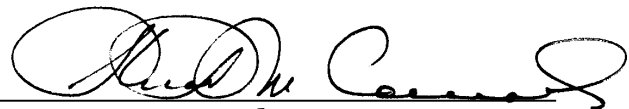


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ATTORNEYS FOR PRAXAIR and the MID-  
WEST ENERGY USERS' ASSOCIATION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the foregoing pleading by electronic means, by United States Mail, First Class postage prepaid, or by hand delivery to all known parties in interest upon their respective representatives or attorneys of record as reflected in the records maintained by the Secretary of the Commission.



Stuart W. Conrad

Dated: July 18, 2012