

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Petition of The Empire District )
Electric Company d/b/a Liberty to Obtain a )
Financing Order that Authorizes the Issuance of ) Case No. EO-2022-0040
Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds for )
Qualified Extraordinary Costs )

In the Matter of the Petition of The Empire District )
Electric Company d/b/a Liberty to Obtain a )
Financing Order that Authorizes the Issuance of ) Case No. EO-2022-0193
Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds for Energy )
Transition Costs Related to the Asbury Plant )

FINANCING ORDER

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**FINANCING ORDER**

This Financing Order addresses the petitions of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or the “Company”) under Section 393.1700 of the Missouri Electricity Securitization Law (the “Securitization Law”)<sup>1</sup> to finance the recovery of (i) energy transition costs incurred related to closing the Asbury Power Plant (“Asbury”) as part of its long-term plan to retire coal-fired power plants and (ii) qualified extraordinary costs incurred during the anomalous weather event of February 2021 (“Winter Storm Uri”) through an issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds.

On January 19, 2022, and March 21, 2022, Liberty submitted petitions for financing orders to finance certain energy transition costs and qualified extraordinary costs (collectively referred to herein, as securitized utility tariff costs) plus certain other upfront financing costs associated with the proposed financing. As discussed in this Financing Order, the Commission finds that Liberty’s petition for approval of the financings should be approved to the extent provided in this Financing Order. The Commission also finds that the financings approved in this Financing Order meets all applicable requirements of the Securitization Law.

In accordance with the terms of this Financing Order, the Commission approves the recovery of approximately \$362,419,908.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> All statutory citations are to the Missouri Revised Statutes (2016), as amended.

<sup>2</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(h).

To approve the financing of the energy transition costs and qualified extraordinary costs, the Commission must: (1) determine the amount of securitized utility tariff costs to be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds and whether that recovery of such costs is just and reasonable and in the public interest; (2) describe and estimate the amount of financing costs that may be recovered through securitized utility tariff charges; (3) specify the period over which such securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs may be recovered; (4) determine whether the proposed issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the imposition of a securitized utility tariff charge are (a) just and reasonable; (b) in the public interest; and (c) expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers as compared to recovery of the components of securitized utility tariff costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds (referred to herein as the “quantifiable benefits test”);<sup>3</sup> and (5) determine that the proposed structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and the terms of the financing order (referred to herein as the “lowest charges standard”).<sup>4</sup> The quantifiable benefits test and the lowest charges standard are collectively referred to herein as the “Statutory Requirements”.

Liberty submitted evidence demonstrating that the proposed securitization will meet each of the Statutory Requirements set forth in the Securitization Law to finance energy transition costs and qualified extraordinary costs.<sup>5</sup>

Liberty provided a general description of the proposed transaction structure in its petitions and in the evidence submitted in support of its petitions. The proposed transaction structure uses only approximations of certain costs and requirements. The final transaction structure will depend, in part, upon the requirements of the nationally-recognized credit rating agencies which will rate the securitized utility tariff bonds and, in part, upon the market conditions that exist at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are taken to the market in order to satisfy the Statutory Requirements.

In view of these obligations, the Commission has established certain criteria in this Financing Order that must be met in order for the approvals and authorizations granted in this

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<sup>3</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)b.

<sup>4</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)c.

<sup>5</sup> See §393.1700.2(2).

Financing Order to become effective. This Financing Order grants authority to issue securitized utility tariff bonds and to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges and to obtain periodic adjustments only if the final structure of the securitization transaction complies in all material respects with these criteria. The authority and approval granted in this Financing Order are effective as to each issuance upon, but only upon, Liberty filing with the Commission an issuance advice letter demonstrating compliance of that issuance with the provisions of this Financing Order. If market conditions make it desirable to issue the securitized utility tariff bonds in more than one series, then the authority and approval in this Financing Order is effective as to each issuance, but only upon Liberty filing with the Commission a separate issuance advice letter for that issuance demonstrating compliance with the provisions of this Financing Order.

### I. Discussion and Statutory Overview

In recognition of the significant rate impact that costs associated with retiring electrical generating facilities like Asbury and Winter Storm Uri would have on retail electric utility customers in Missouri, the Missouri legislature enacted the Securitization Law during the 2021 legislative session which was signed into law by the Governor on August 28, 2021. With Commission approval, this new mechanism allows for the financing of certain energy transition costs and qualified extraordinary costs through securitized utility tariff bonds provided that the utility demonstrates that the issuance of the bonds “...are expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers.”<sup>6</sup> In this proceeding, Liberty has demonstrated that the costs it incurred associated with retiring Asbury are “energy transition costs” and Winter Storm Uri are “qualified extraordinary costs” as contemplated by the Securitization Law, and that issuance of a Financing Order, consistent with the Securitization Law, will provide a more economical way to finance these costs so as to minimize the burden on its customers.”

The Legislature provided this option to electrical corporations for financing securitized utility tariff costs. As a precondition to the use of securitization, the Legislature required that the Commission must find that the proposed structure and issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds meet the Statutory Requirements.

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<sup>6</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)b.

Under the Securitization Law, the financing costs eligible for securitization by Liberty include costs incurred by Liberty to obtain the financing order and bring the securitized utility tariff bonds to market. In addition, these up-front financing costs include those costs incurred by the Commission to hire a financial advisor. Upfront financing costs are recovered from the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds. After the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued, the ongoing financing costs are those costs incurred to maintain the structure and are recovered through the collection of securitized utility tariff charges.

The Securitization Law requires that a financing order issued by the Commission to an electrical corporation include the following elements: (a) the amount of securitized utility tariff costs to be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds and a finding that recovery of such costs is just and reasonable and in the public interest; and a description and estimate of the amount of financing costs that may be recovered through securitized utility tariff charges, as well as the period over which securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs may be recovered;<sup>7</sup> (b) a finding that the proposed issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the imposition and collection of a securitized utility tariff charge are just and reasonable and in the public interest and are expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers as compared to recovery of the components of securitized utility tariff costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds;<sup>8</sup> (c) a finding that the proposed structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and the terms of the financing order;<sup>9</sup> (d) a requirement that, for so long as the securitized utility tariff bonds are outstanding and until all financing costs have been paid in full, the imposition and collection of securitized utility tariff charges authorized under a financing order shall be non-bypassable and paid by all existing and future retail customers receiving electrical service from the electrical corporation or its successors or assignees under Commission-approved rate schedules except for customers receiving electrical service under special contracts on August 28, 2021, even if a retail customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electric supplier

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<sup>7</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)a.

<sup>8</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)b.

<sup>9</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)c.

following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in the State of Missouri;<sup>10</sup> (e) a formula-based true-up mechanism for making, at least annually, expeditious periodic adjustments in the securitized utility tariff charges that customers are required to pay pursuant to the financing order and for making any adjustments that are necessary to correct for any overcollection or undercollection of the charges or to otherwise ensure the timely payment of securitized utility tariff bonds and financing costs and other required amounts and charges payable under the securitized utility tariff bonds;<sup>11</sup> (f) the securitized utility tariff property that is, or shall be, created in favor of an electrical corporation or its successors or assignees and that shall be used to pay or secure securitized utility tariff bonds and approved financing costs;<sup>12</sup> (g) the degree of flexibility to be afforded to the electrical corporation in establishing the terms and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds, including, but not limited to, repayment schedules, expected interest rates, and other financing costs;<sup>13</sup> (h) how securitized utility tariff charges will be allocated among retail customer classes;<sup>14</sup> (i) a requirement that, after the final terms of an issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds have been established and before the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds, the electrical corporation determines the resulting initial securitized utility tariff charge in accordance with the financing order, and that such initial securitized utility tariff charge be final and effective upon the issuance of such securitized utility tariff bonds with such charge to be reflected on a compliance tariff sheet bearing such charge;<sup>15</sup> (j) a method of tracing funds collected as securitized utility tariff charges, or other proceeds of securitized utility tariff property, determining that such method shall be deemed the method of tracing such funds and determining the identifiable cash proceeds of any securitized utility tariff property subject to a financing order under applicable law;<sup>16</sup> (k) a statement specifying a future ratemaking process to reconcile any differences between the actual securitized utility tariff costs financed by securitized utility tariff bonds and the final

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<sup>10</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)d.

<sup>11</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)e.

<sup>12</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)f.

<sup>13</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)g.

<sup>14</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)h. “The initial allocation shall remain in effect until the electrical corporation completes a general rate proceeding, and once the commission's order from that general rate proceeding becomes final, all subsequent applications of an adjustment mechanism regarding securitized utility tariff charges shall incorporate changes in the allocation of costs to customers as detailed in the commission's order from the electrical corporation's most recent general rate proceeding.”

<sup>15</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)i.

<sup>16</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)j.

securitized utility tariff costs incurred by the electrical corporation or assignee provided that any such reconciliation shall not affect the amount of securitized utility tariff bonds or the associated securitized utility tariff charges paid by customers;<sup>17</sup> (l) a procedure that shall allow the electrical corporation to earn a return, at the cost of capital authorized from time to time by the Commission in the electrical corporation's rate proceedings, on any moneys advanced by the electrical corporation to fund capital accounts established under the terms of any indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing documents pertaining to the securitized utility tariff bonds;<sup>18</sup> (m) a procedure for the treatment of accumulated deferred income taxes and excess deferred income taxes in connection with the retired or abandoned or to be retired or abandoned electric generating facility, or in connection with retired or abandoned facilities included in qualified extraordinary costs;<sup>19</sup> (n) an outside date, which shall not be earlier than one year after the date the financing order is no longer subject to appeal, when the authority to issue securitized utility tariff bonds granted in such financing order shall expire;<sup>20</sup> and (o) any other conditions that the Commission considers appropriate and that are not inconsistent with the Securitization Law.<sup>21</sup>

Before the securitized utility tariff bonds may be issued, Liberty shall submit to the Commission an issuance advice letter following the determination of the final terms of such series of securitized utility tariff bonds no later than one day after the pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds. The Commission shall have the authority to designate a representative or representatives from Commission Staff to provide input to Liberty and collaborate with Liberty in all facets of the process undertaken by Liberty to place the securitized utility tariff bonds to market so the Commission's representative or representatives can provide the Commission with an opinion on the reasonableness of the pricing, terms, and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds on an expedited basis. Neither the designated representative or representatives from the Commission

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<sup>17</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)k.

<sup>18</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)l.

<sup>19</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)m. “The accumulated deferred income taxes, including excess deferred income taxes, shall be excluded from rate base in future general rate cases and the net tax benefits relating to amounts that will be recovered through the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds shall be credited to retail customers by reducing the amount of such securitized utility tariff bonds that would otherwise be issued. The customer credit shall include the net present value of the tax benefits, calculated using a discount rate equal to the expected interest rate of the securitized utility tariff bonds, for the estimated accumulated and excess deferred income taxes at the time of securitization including timing differences created by the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds amortized over the period of the bonds multiplied by the expected interest rate on such securitized utility tariff bonds.”

<sup>20</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)n.

<sup>21</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)o.



Staff nor any financial advisors advising Commission Staff shall have authority to direct how Liberty places the securitized utility tariff bonds to market although they shall be permitted to attend all meetings convened by Liberty to address placement of the securitized utility tariff bonds to market. The form of such issuance advice letter, which shall indicate the final structure of the securitized utility tariff bonds and provide the best available estimate of total ongoing financing costs, is set out in Appendix A to this Financing Order. The issuance advice letter shall report the initial securitized utility tariff charges and other information specific to the securitized utility tariff bonds to be issued, as the Commission may require. Liberty may proceed with the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds unless, prior to noon on the fourth business day after the day of pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the Commission issues a disapproval letter directing that the securitized utility tariff bonds as proposed shall not be issued and the basis for that disapproval. Should Liberty cause the issuance of more than one series of securitized utility tariff bonds pursuant to this Financing Order, Liberty must submit to the Commission an issuance advice letter for each series that complies with the Statutory Requirements and terms of this Financing Order.<sup>22</sup>

Securitized utility tariff charges constitute securitized utility tariff charges as defined in Section 393.1700.1(16) of the Securitization Law<sup>23</sup> and will be collected by an electrical corporation, its successors, an assignee, or other collection agents as provided for in this Financing Order from all existing or future retail customers receiving electrical service from the electrical corporation or its successors or assigned under Commission-approved rate schedules, except for customers receiving electrical service under special contracts<sup>24</sup> as of August 28, 2021, even if a retail customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electricity supplier following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in the State of Missouri.<sup>25</sup> Securitized utility tariff charges will be allocated to customers in the same manner as the corresponding facilities relating to the securitized utility tariff costs and related expenses are allocated in a utility's current base rates (i.e., the same allocation as is set forth in existing Commission orders regarding Liberty's service area).<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(h).

<sup>23</sup> See §393.1700.1(16).

<sup>24</sup> See §393.1700.1(19).

<sup>25</sup> See §393.1700.1(16).

<sup>26</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)h.

The rights to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges (including all other rights of an electrical corporation under this Financing Order) are only contract rights until such rights (which may relate to the entire amount authorized to be securitized or, if more than one series of securitized utility tariff bonds are issued due to market conditions, to a portion of the total amount authorized to be securitized) are first transferred to an assignee or pledged in connection with the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds.<sup>27</sup> Upon the transfer or pledge of those rights, they become securitized utility tariff property and, as such, are afforded certain statutory protections to ensure that the charges are available for bond retirement.

This Financing Order contains terms, as it must, ensuring that the imposition and collection of securitized utility tariff charges authorized herein must be non-bypassable.<sup>28</sup> It also includes a mechanism requiring that securitized utility tariff charges be reviewed and adjusted at least annually to correct any overcollections or undercollections during the preceding 12 months and to ensure the expected recovery of amounts sufficient to timely provide all payments of debt service and other required amounts and charges in connection with the securitized utility tariff bonds.<sup>29</sup> In addition to the required annual reviews, interim reviews are mandatory semi-annually (and quarterly beginning 12 months prior to the final scheduled payment date of the last tranche of the securitized utility tariff bonds of a particular series) to ensure that the amount of the securitized utility tariff charges matches the funding requirements approved in this Financing Order. Additional interim true-up adjustments may also be made under the circumstances set forth in this Financing Order. These provisions will help to ensure that the amount of securitized utility tariff charges paid by retail customers does not exceed the amounts necessary to cover the costs of this securitization. To encourage utilities to undertake securitization financing, other benefits and assurances are provided.

The State of Missouri and its agencies, including the Commission, have pledged and agree with the bondholders, the owners of the securitized utility tariff property and other financing parties that they will not take any action that would alter the provisions the Securitization Law, take or permit any action that impairs or would impair the value of securitized utility tariff property or the security for the securitized utility tariff bonds or revises the securitized utility tariff costs for

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<sup>27</sup> See §393.1700.1(18) and §393.1700.5(3)(c)

<sup>28</sup> See §393.1700.1(16).

<sup>29</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(g).

which recovery is authorized, in any way to impair the rights and remedies of the bondholders, assignees, and other financing parties, or, except for the charges made pursuant to the formula-based true-up mechanism expressly authorized by the Securitization Law, reduce, alter or impair securitized utility tariff charges that are to be imposed, billed, charged, collected, and remitted for the benefit of the bondholders, any assignee, and any other financing parties until any and all principal, interest, premium, financing costs and other fees, expenses, or charges incurred, and any contracts to be performed, in connection with the related securitized utility tariff bonds have been paid and performed in full.<sup>30</sup>

Securitized utility tariff property constitutes a present property right for purposes of contracts concerning the sale or pledge of property, and the property will continue to exist for the duration of the pledge of the State of Missouri as described in the preceding paragraph.<sup>31</sup> In addition, the interests of an assignee or pledgee in securitized utility tariff property (as well as the revenues and collections arising from the property) are not subject to setoff, counterclaim, surcharge, or defense by the electrical corporation or any other person or in connection with the reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency of the electrical corporation or any other entity.<sup>32</sup> The creation, perfection, priority, and enforcement of liens and security interests in securitized utility tariff property are governed by the Securitization Law and not by Missouri Uniform Commercial Code.<sup>33</sup>

The Commission may, at the request of an electrical corporation, commence a proceeding and issue a subsequent financing order providing for the refinancing, retiring, or refunding of securitized utility tariff bonds issued pursuant to the original financing order only upon making a finding that the subsequent financing order satisfies all of the criteria specified in Section 393.1700.2(5). Liberty has not requested and this Financing Order does not grant any authority to refinance the securitized utility tariff bonds authorized by this Financing Order.

To facilitate compliance and consistency with applicable statutory provisions, this Financing Order adopts the definitions in Section 393.1700.1.

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<sup>30</sup> See §393.1700.11.

<sup>31</sup> See §393.1700.1(18).

<sup>32</sup> See §393.1700.5(1)(e).

<sup>33</sup> See §393.1700.5(2)(a). See §400.

## II. Description of Proposed Transaction

A description of the transaction proposed by Liberty is contained in its petitions and the evidence submitted in support of the petitions. A brief summary of the proposed transaction is provided in this section. A more detailed description is included in Section III.C, titled Structure of The Proposed Securitization and in the petitions and evidence submitted in support of the petitions.

To facilitate the proposed financing, Liberty has proposed that (depending on whether more than one series of securitized utility tariff bonds are issued) one or more bankruptcy-remote special purpose entities (each referred to as BondCo) be created to which Liberty will transfer the rights to impose, bill, charge collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges along with the other rights arising under this Financing Order including the right to obtain periodic adjustments to such charges, in each case allocable to the series of securitized utility tariff bonds the BondCo is issuing. Upon transfer to a BondCo (in connection with the issuance of the particular series of securitized utility tariff bonds), these rights will become securitized utility tariff property as provided by the Securitization Law. If securitized utility tariff bonds are issued in more than one series, then the securitized utility tariff property transferred as a result of each issuance must be only those rights associated with that portion of the total amount authorized to be securitized by this Financing Order which is securitized by a particular bond issuance. The rights to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges, along with the other rights arising under this Financing Order including the right to obtain periodic adjustments to such charges and as they relate to any portion of the total amount authorized to be securitized that remains unsecuritized, must remain with Liberty and must not become securitized utility tariff property until transferred to a BondCo in connection with a subsequent issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds.

Liberty reserves the right to create a separate BondCo for the issuance of a particular series of the securitized utility tariff bonds; and the rights, obligations, structure and restrictions described in this Financing Order with respect to BondCo are applicable to each such purchaser of securitized utility tariff property to the extent of the securitized utility tariff property transferred and sold to it and the securitized utility tariff bonds issued by it. BondCo will issue securitized utility tariff bonds and will transfer the net proceeds from the sale of the securitized utility tariff bonds to Liberty in consideration for the transfer of the corresponding securitized utility tariff property. BondCo will be organized and managed in a manner designed to achieve the objective of

maintaining BondCo as a bankruptcy-remote entity that would not be affected by the bankruptcy of Liberty or any other affiliates of Liberty or any of their respective successors. In addition, BondCo will have at least one independent director or manager whose approval will be required for certain major actions or organizational changes by BondCo.

The securitized utility tariff bonds will be issued under an indenture and administered by an indenture trustee.<sup>34</sup> The securitized utility tariff bonds will be secured by and payable solely out of the securitized utility tariff property created under this Financing Order and other collateral described in Liberty's petitions. That collateral will be pledged to the indenture trustee for the benefit of the holders of the securitized utility tariff bonds and to secure payment of certain financing costs.

The servicer of the securitized utility tariff bonds will collect the securitized utility tariff charges and remit those amounts to the indenture trustee on behalf of BondCo. The servicer will be responsible for filing any required or allowed true-ups of the securitized utility tariff charges. If the servicer defaults on its obligations under the servicing agreement, the indenture trustee may, on behalf of the holders of securitized utility tariff bonds, appoint a successor servicer. Liberty will act as the initial servicer for the securitized utility tariff bonds.

Securitized utility tariff charges will be calculated to ensure the collection of an amount sufficient to service the principal, interest, and related charges for the securitized utility tariff bonds and in a manner that allocates this amount to the various classes of retail customers in the same manner as its most general rate proceeding. The securitized utility tariff charges will be calculated in accordance with the methods and terms described in this Financing Order and included the Company's Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC to be filed with the Commission. A form of the Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC will be attached to the Issuance Advice Letter. In addition to the annual true-up required by Section 393.1700.2(3)(e), interim true-ups must be performed semi-annually (and quarterly beginning 12 months prior the final scheduled payment date of the last tranche of the securitized utility tariff bonds of a particular series) if the servicer determines that a true-up adjustment is necessary to ensure that the expected recovery during the

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<sup>34</sup> If more than one series of securitized utility tariff bonds are issued, each series will be issued under a separate indenture and be subject to its own set of basic agreements (e.g., securitized utility tariff property purchase and sale agreement, securitized utility tariff property servicing agreement, administration agreement). For purposes of this Financing Order, the description of the securitized utility tariff bonds applies to each series of securitized utility tariff bonds.

succeeding 12 months of amounts is sufficient to pay scheduled principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds, the ongoing financing costs and amounts necessary to replenish the draws on the capital subaccount and may be performed at other times as provided in this Financing Order. In the event the methodology for true-up adjustments included in Liberty's Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC is revised, the servicer shall request a non-standard true-up adjustment as described in this Financing Order. If securitized utility tariff bonds are issued in more than one series, then each series will be subject to a separate true-up under the Securitization Law and this Financing Order; provided, however, that more than one series may be true-up in a single proceeding.

The Commission determines that Liberty's proposed structure for the securitized utility tariff charges should be utilized. This structure provides for substantially levelized annual revenue requirements over the expected life of the securitized utility tariff bonds. This structure offers the benefit of not relying upon customer growth and will allow the resulting securitized utility tariff charges to remain level or decline over time, if billing determinants remain level or grow. Further, Liberty's proposed securitized utility tariff charge applies consistent allocation factors across rate classes, subject to modification in accordance with the true-up mechanisms adopted in this Financing Order.

A fixed interest rate is necessary to assure that customers benefit from the securitization. Although the benefits of fixed rates can be achieved through a combination of floating-rate bonds and interest-rate swaps, state utility commissions in prior securitizations in other states have concluded that the possible benefit of floating-rate bonds did not outweigh the cost of preparing for and executing interest-rate swaps and the potential risks swaps would impose on customers. As a result, the financing orders in those proceedings prohibited the use of swaps and thus, effectively, the issuance of floating-rate bonds.

Liberty requested approval of securitized utility tariff charges sufficient to recover the principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds plus ongoing financing costs and other charges as described in this Financing Order and Appendix B attached hereto. Liberty requested that the securitized utility tariff charges be recovered from retail customers, and that the amount of the securitized utility tariff charges be calculated based upon the allocations used in its most recent rate case. To implement the securitized utility tariff charges and billing and collection

requirements, Liberty will prepare a Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC to revise Liberty's tariff.

Liberty requested authority to finance and to cause the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed the sum of (1) energy transition costs (consisting of (i) net book value of the Asbury, (ii) incurred and estimated costs associated with environmental compliance and (iii) anticipated costs to decommission Asbury), (2) plus qualified extraordinary costs incurred by Liberty in connection with Winter Storm Uri, (3) plus carrying costs at the date of issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds calculated at the relevant weighted average cost of capital ("WACC") approved by this Commission in Case No. ER-2021-0312 plus (4) its actual upfront financing costs of issuing, supporting, and servicing the securitized utility tariff bonds (collectively referred to herein as the "securitizable balance"). Liberty provided an illustrative analysis of the costs and benefits of securitization using its estimate of the December 31, 2022 securitizable balance. Liberty proposed that these amounts be updated in the issuance advice letter to reflect the actual issuance date of the securitized utility tariff bonds and other relevant current information as permitted by this Financing Order, and that Liberty be authorized to securitize the updated securitizable balance and upfront financing costs as reflected in the issuance advice letter.

Liberty requested in the petitions that its upfront and ongoing costs of issuing and maintaining the securitized utility tariff bonds be recovered respectively through the securitized utility tariff bonds and securitized utility tariff charges approved in this Financing Order. Liberty estimated that its upfront financing costs, not including any costs incurred in connection with the Commission hiring a financial advisor and/or legal counsel, would total approximately \$6.9 million, while ongoing financing costs of servicing and maintaining the securitized utility tariff bonds would total approximately \$754,000 per year for each year of the term of the bonds. The estimates were based on assumptions regarding a number of variables that will directly affect the level of upfront and ongoing financing costs including (1) the total securitizable balance will be approximately \$362.4 million, (2) only one series of securitized utility tariff bonds will be issued, (3) the financing order proceeding will not be contested, (4) the financing order will not permit use of interest rate or foreign currency hedges, floating rate bonds, or bonds denominated in foreign currencies, and (5) Liberty acts as servicer.

The Commission finds that Liberty should be permitted to finance its upfront financing costs of issuance in accordance with the terms of this Financing Order. As set forth in ordering paragraph 17 of this Financing Order, upfront financing costs, not including any costs incurred in connection with the Commission hiring a financial advisor, are estimated to be \$6.9 million. In the issuance advice letter, Liberty must report the actual upfront financing costs to be recovered.

Liberty is authorized to recover directly through the securitized utility tariff charges its actual ongoing financing costs of servicing the bonds and providing administrative services to BondCo. Ongoing financing costs, other than the servicer and administrative fees charged by Liberty when it is the servicer and administrator are estimated in Appendix B. The estimated ongoing financing costs should be updated in the issuance advice letter to reflect more current information then available to Liberty. In accordance with the terms of this Financing Order and subject to the approval of the indenture trustee, the Commission will permit a successor servicer to Liberty to recover a higher servicer fee if Liberty ceases to service the securitized utility tariff property.

### **III. Findings of Fact**

The Commission makes the following findings of fact.

#### **A. Identification and Procedure**

##### **1. Identification of Petitioner and Background**

1. The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty is a Kansas corporation with its principal office and place of business at 602 Joplin Street, Joplin, Missouri. Liberty is qualified to conduct business and is conducting business in Missouri, as well as in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Liberty is engaged, generally, in the business of generating, purchasing, transmitting, distributing, and selling electricity in portions of the referenced four states. Liberty's Missouri operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission as provided by law.

##### **2. Procedural History**

2. On January 19, 2022, Liberty filed a petition for a financing order under the Securitization Law to recover costs that it incurred during Winter Storm Uri (File No. EO-2022-0040). On March 21, 2022, Liberty filed a second petition for a financing order to recover costs associated with closing the Asbury Power Plant as part of its long-term plan to retire coal-fired power plants (File No. EO-2022-0193). On April 27, 2022, the Commission issued



an order consolidating the cases for purposes of the procedural schedule and hearing, utilizing the procedural schedule established for File No. EO-2022-0040. In its petitions, Liberty submits its costs associated with closing the Asbury Power Plant for a determination that they are “energy transition costs” as contemplated by the Securitization Law, and the Winter Storm Uri costs for determination that they are “qualified extraordinary costs” as contemplated by the Securitization Law. Liberty seeks approval to finance the securitizable balance of such costs, including upfront financing costs. The petitions include exhibits, schedules, attachments, and testimony.

**B. Financing Costs and Amount of Securitized Utility Tariff Costs to be Financed**

**1. Identification**

3. Energy transition costs are defined in Section 393.1700.1(7) to include (a) pretax costs with respect to a retired or abandoned or to be retired or abandoned electric generating facility that is the subject of a petition for a financing order filed under this section where such early retirement or abandonment is deemed reasonable and prudent by the Commission through a final order issued by the Commission, include, but are not limited to, the undepreciated investment in the retired or abandoned or to be retired or abandoned electric generating facility and any facilities ancillary thereto or used in conjunction therewith, costs of decommissioning and restoring the site of the electric generating facility, other applicable capital and operating costs, accrued carrying charges, and deferred expenses, with the foregoing to be reduced by applicable tax benefits of accumulated and excess deferred income taxes, insurance, scrap and salvage proceeds, and may include the cost of retiring any existing indebtedness, fees, costs, and expenses to modify existing debt agreements or for waivers or consents related to existing debt agreements; and (b) pretax costs that an electrical corporation has previously incurred related to the retirement or abandonment of such an electric generating facility occurring before August 28, 2021. Qualified extraordinary costs are defined in Section 393.1700.1(13) to include costs incurred prudently before, on, or after August 28, 2021, of an extraordinary nature which would cause extreme customer rate impacts if reflected in retail customer rates recovered through customary ratemaking, such as but not limited to those related to purchases of fuel or power, inclusive of carrying charges, during anomalous weather events plus carrying

costs incurred on such costs. Together with energy transition costs, these costs are both securitized utility tariff costs as defined in Section 393.1700.1(17).

Financing costs are defined in Section 393.1700.1(8) to include: (i) interest and acquisition, defeasance, or redemption premiums payable on securitized utility tariff bonds; (ii) any payment required under an ancillary agreement and any amount required to fund or replenish a accounts established under the terms of any indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing documents pertaining to securitized utility tariff bonds; (iii) any other cost related to issuing supporting, repaying, refunding, and servicing securitized utility tariff bonds, including servicing fees, accounting and auditing fees, trustee fees, legal fees, consulting fees, structuring adviser fees, administrative fees, placement and underwriting fees, independent director and manager fees, capitalized interest, rating agency fees, stock exchange listing and compliance fees, security registration fees, filing fees, information technology programming costs, and any other costs necessary to otherwise ensure the timely payment of securitized utility tariff bonds or other amounts or charges payable in connection with the bonds, including costs related to obtaining the financing order; (iv) any taxes and license fees or other fees imposed on the revenues generated from the collection of securitized utility tariff charges, in any such case whether paid, payable, or accrued; (v) any state and located taxes, franchise, gross receipts, and other taxes or similar charges, including Commission assessment fees, whether paid, payable, or accrued; (vi) and any costs associated with performance of the Commission's responsibilities under the Securitization Law in connection with approving, approving subject to conditions, or rejecting a petition for a financing order, and in performing its duties in connection with the issuance advice letter process, including costs to retain counsel, one or more financial advisors, or other consultants as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

4. The actual upfront and ongoing financing costs of issuing and supporting the securitized utility tariff bonds will not be known until the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued, and certain ongoing financing costs relating to the securitized utility tariff bonds may not be known until such costs are incurred.

5. Liberty seeks to recover its energy transition costs incurred in connection with retiring Asbury, a 200-megawatt (MW) coal plant, on March 1, 2020.<sup>35</sup> Prior to its retirement, Asbury had become uneconomic with a net capacity factor that had dropped significantly from 2010 to 2019. Had it stayed in operation, Asbury would have required significant environmental upgrades to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's coal combustion residuals rules ("CCR"). Liberty undertook an analysis of Asbury's economics in both 2017 and 2019, finding in its 2019 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") that retiring Asbury would result in significant savings for Liberty's customers. Making investments required for Asbury to meet the CCR standard did not make economic sense to Liberty given a lower cost way to serve its customers was available and consistent with Missouri's Energy Policy. In retiring Asbury, Liberty was responding to a combination of market signals. Aside from the plant's declining economics, the retirement also reflected Liberty's awareness of the trends in both federal and state policy away from coal generation. As a result, Liberty was directed to establish a regulatory asset or liability account, beginning January 1, 2022, to reflect the impact of the closure of Asbury. As shown in the testimonies of Company Witnesses Doll, Olsen and Rooney, these costs were prudently incurred. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the testimony of Company Witness Emery, if Liberty were to recover the amounts in connection with the retiring of Asbury through traditional method of financing, it would need to recover approximately \$207 million over the projected 13-year period.
6. Additionally, Liberty seeks to recover its extraordinary qualified costs incurred February 2021 during an extreme weather event involving unreasonably cold temperatures which led to rolling electrical blackouts and extreme natural gas price spikes. Winter Storm Uri presented an event that was unpredictable and unexpected. Utility service and underlying gas markets throughout the region experienced a profound crisis arising from the unusually cold and unusually persistent winter weather, resulting in increased demand for electric power on Liberty's local distribution system and increased demand for natural gas in the region. The dramatic escalation in demand caused gas prices to rise on the spot and daily index accordingly, placing temporary but severe constraints on Liberty's ability to obtain

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<sup>35</sup> See §393.1700.2(1)(a).

adequate nature gas fuel supply to satisfy customer needs. As a result, Liberty sought recovery of approximately \$182 million in extraordinary fuel costs arising out of Winter Storm Uri in its pending rate case. As shown in the testimonies of Company Witnesses Dolland Olsen. Likewise, as demonstrated by the testimony of Company Witness Hall, if Liberty were to recover the amount in connection with Winter Storm Uri through customary ratemaking, it would need to recover approximately \$328.9 million over the projected 13-year period.

7. The quantifiable benefit to the customers on a net present value basis from the use of securitization to recover Liberty's total securitized utility tariff costs, consisting of both the energy transition costs and the qualified extraordinary costs is expected to be approximately \$73.4 million over the same 13-year period.
8. Liberty intends to use the proceeds from the sale of the securitized utility tariff property to recover (i) the energy transition costs incurred by Liberty in response to retiring Asbury and (ii) the qualified extraordinary costs incurred by Liberty in response to the anomalous weather event Winter Storm Uri, including purchases of fuel or power, carrying charges, deferred legal expenses and upfront financing costs.
9. Liberty seeks to finance approximately \$362,419,908, consisting of the securitizable balance of (i) \$140,774,376 of securitized utility tariff costs incurred following retiring Asbury, plus (ii) \$221,645,532 of securitized utility tariff costs incurred relating to Winter Storm Uri. The securitizable balance includes (1) carry costs<sup>36</sup>, (2) deferred legal costs, and (3) approximately \$6.9 million of upfront financing costs.<sup>37</sup> The recovery of such costs is just and reasonable and in the public interest. It is appropriate that Liberty recover such amounts through the imposition of securitized utility tariff charges. Liberty proposed that the securitized utility tariff charges related to a series of securitized utility tariff bonds will be recovered over a scheduled period of 13 years, but not more than 15 years from the date of issuance of that series of the securitized utility tariff bonds but that amounts due at or before the end of that period for securitized utility tariff charges allocable to the 15 year

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<sup>36</sup> Carrying costs through December 31, 2022 and 6.77% WACC from ER-2019-0374 are currently estimated to be \$28,975,981

<sup>37</sup> Upfront financing costs are estimated for purposes of the petitions, and do not include an estimate of the costs of the Commission or any legal or financial advisor hired by the Commission. The final amount of upfront financing costs will be included in the Issuance Advice Letter provided to the Commission in accordance with the Securitization Law and this Financing Order.

- period may be collected after the conclusion of the 15-year period; provided, however, the proposed recovery period of the securitized utility tariff charges may be longer if deemed necessary to obtain the best possible credit ratings.
10. The securitized utility tariff charges that Liberty proposes are just and reasonable, in the public interest and are expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers as compared to recovery of the components of securitized utility tariff costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds. It is appropriate that Liberty be authorized to impose and collect securitized utility tariff charges.
  11. The proposed structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and the terms of this Financing Order.
  12. For so long as the securitized utility tariff bonds are outstanding and until all financing costs have been paid in full, the imposition and collection of securitized utility tariff charges authorized under this Financing Order shall be non-bypassable and paid by all existing and future retail customers receiving electrical service from Liberty or its successors or assignees under Commission-approved rate schedules except for customers receiving electrical service under special contracts as of August 28, 2021, even if a retail customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electric supplier following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in the State of Missouri.
  13. Liberty proposes a formula-based true-up mechanism for making, at least annually, expeditious periodic adjustments in the securitized utility tariff charges that customers are required to pay pursuant to this Financing Order and for making any adjustments that are necessary to correct for any overcollection or undercollection of the charges or to otherwise ensure the timely payment of securitized utility tariff bonds and financing costs and other required amounts and charges payable under the securitized utility tariff bonds.
  14. The securitized utility tariff bonds will be secured by securitized utility tariff property that shall be created in favor of Liberty or its successors or assignees and that shall be used to pay or secure the securitized utility tariff bonds and approved financing costs. The

- securitized utility tariff property principally consists of the right to receive revenues from the securitized utility tariff charges.
15. It is appropriate that Liberty be authorized to establish the terms and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds, including, but not limited to, repayment schedules, expected interest rates, and other financing costs.
  16. Liberty proposes to initially allocate the securitized utility tariff charges in accordance with its most recent general rate proceeding.<sup>38</sup>
  17. After the final terms of the securitized utility tariff bonds have been established and before the issuance of such bonds, it is appropriate for Liberty to determine the resulting initial securitized utility tariff charge in accordance with this Finance Order, and that such initial charge be final and effective upon the issuance of such securitized utility tariff bonds with such charge to be reflected on a compliance tariff sheet bearing such charge.
  18. Liberty proposes a method of tracing funds collected as securitized utility tariff charges, or other proceeds of securitized utility tariff property, which shall be used to trace such funds and to determine the identifiable cash proceeds of any securitized tariff property subject to this Financing Order under applicable law.
  19. In accordance with the Securitization Law, Liberty shall earn a return, at the WACC authorized from time to time by the Commission in Liberty's rate proceedings, on any moneys advanced by Liberty to fund capital accounts established under the terms of the indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing documents pertaining to the securitized utility bonds. This return shall be included as an ongoing financing cost to be collected through securitized utility tariff charges.
  20. It is appropriate that Liberty shall be authorized to issue securitized utility tariff bonds pursuant to this Financing Order for a period commencing with the date of this Financing Order and extending 24 months following the later of (i) the date on which this Financing Order becomes final and no longer subject to any appeal; or (ii) the date on which any other regulatory approvals necessary to issue the securitized utility tariff bonds are obtained and no longer subject to any appeal. If, at any time during the effective period of this Financing Order, there is a severe disruption in the financial markets of the United States, the effective

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<sup>38</sup> See §393.1700.2(3)(c)h.

period must automatically be extended to a date which is not less than 90 days after the date such disruption ends.

## 2. Quantifiable Net Present Value Benefits

21. In accordance with the Statutory Requirements under the Securitization Law, to approve the financing of the securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs, the Commission must determine: (1) the amount of securitized utility tariff costs to be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds and whether that recovery of such costs is just and reasonable and in the public interest; (2) whether the proposed issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the imposition of a securitized utility tariff charge are just and reasonable; in the public interest; and expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers as compared to recovery of the components of securitized utility tariff costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds (quantifiable benefits test); and (3) that the proposed structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and the terms of the financing order (lowest charges standard). The quantifiable benefits test and the lowest charges standard are collectively referred to herein as the “Statutory Requirements”.
22. Ensuring the financing provides quantifiable benefits to customers greater than would be achieved absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds can only be determined using an economic analysis to account for the time value of money. An analysis that compares in the aggregate, over the expected life of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the present value of the revenue requirement associated with recovery of the securitizable balance through rates reflective of conventional utility financing, with the present value of the revenue required under securitization, is an appropriate economic analysis to demonstrate whether securitization provides economic benefits to customers.<sup>39</sup>
23. The financial analysis presented by Liberty indicates that financing the recovery of the securitizable balance and other financing costs through securitization as requested by Liberty would result in approximately \$73.4 million of quantifiable economic benefits to customers on a present-value basis if the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued at a

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<sup>39</sup> See Ex. 7, Emery Dir., pp. 19-20 and Ex. 6, Hall Dir., pp. 9-10.

weighted average interest rate of 6.77% allowed by this Financing Order and with a 13-year expected life. This estimate uses Liberty's securitizable balance of approximately \$362.4 million, and assumes that actual upfront and ongoing financing costs will be as shown on Appendix B to this Financing Order. The benefits for retail customers set forth in Liberty's evidence are fully indicative of the benefits customers will realize from the securitization approved in this Financing Order; however, the actual benefit to customers will depend upon market conditions on the date of issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the actual scheduled maturity of the securitized utility tariff bonds, and the amount actually securitized. Liberty will be required to provide an updated quantifiable benefits analysis in its issuance advice letter to verify that this Statutory Requirement is met.

### **3. Balance to be Financed**

24. It is appropriate that Liberty be authorized to cause securitized utility tariff bonds to be issued in an aggregate principal amount equal to the securitizable balance at the time of issuance plus upfront financing costs as described in ordering paragraph 2.
25. It is appropriate for Liberty to recover the annual ongoing servicing fees and the annual fixed operating costs directly through securitized utility tariff charges. It is also appropriate to impose additional limits to ensure that the servicing fees incurred when Liberty serves as servicer do not exceed 0.05% of the initial principal balance of the securitized utility tariff bonds and that the administrative fees incurred when Liberty is the administrator do not exceed \$50,000 per year for each BondCo plus reimbursable third party costs as shown in Appendix B. The annual servicing fee payable to a servicer not affiliated with Liberty will not exceed 0.60% of the initial principal balance of the securitized utility tariff bonds unless such higher rate is approved by the Commission. Ongoing costs other than the servicer and administrative fees charged by Liberty when it serves as servicer and administrator are estimated in Appendix B to this Financing Order.

### **4. Issuance Advice Letter**

26. Because the actual structure and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds will not be known at the time this Financing Order is issued, following the determination of the final terms of the series of securitized utility tariff bonds and before such securitized utility tariff bonds may be issued, Liberty must provide to the Commission an issuance advice letter no later than one day after the pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds. The issuance



advice letter will include Liberty's best estimate of total upfront financing costs for such issuance. The Commission shall have the authority to designate a representative or representatives from Commission Staff, who may be advised by a financial advisor or advisors contracted with the Commission, to provide input to Liberty and collaborate with Liberty in all facets of the process undertaken by Liberty to place the securitized utility tariff bonds to market so the Commission's representative or representatives can provide the Commission with an opinion on the reasonableness of the pricing, terms, and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds on an expedited basis. Neither the designated representative or representatives from the Commission Staff nor one or more financial advisors advising Commission Staff shall have authority to direct how Liberty places the securitized utility tariff bonds to market although they shall be permitted to attend all meetings convened by Liberty to address placement of the securitized utility tariff bonds to market. The form of such issuance advice letter, which shall indicate the final structure of the securitized utility tariff bonds and provide the best available estimate of total ongoing financing costs, is set out in Appendix A to this Financing Order. The issuance advice letter shall report the initial securitized utility tariff charges and other information specific to the securitized utility tariff bonds to be issued, as the Commission may require. Liberty may proceed with the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds unless, prior to noon on the fourth business day after pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the Commission issues a disapproval letter directing that the securitized utility tariff bonds as proposed shall not be issued and the basis for that disapproval. Should Liberty issue more than one series of securitized utility tariff bonds, Liberty must submit to the Commission an issuance advice letter for each series that complies with the Statutory Requirements and terms of this Financing Order.

27. If the actual upfront financing costs are less than the upfront financing costs included in the principal amount securitized, the periodic billing requirement, defined below, for the first annual true-up adjustment must be reduced by the amount of such unused funds (together with interest, if any, earned on the investment of such funds). If the actual upfront financing costs are more than the upfront financing costs included in the principal amount securitized, Liberty may request recovery of the remaining upfront financing costs through a surcharge to Liberty's rates for distribution service.

28. Liberty will submit a draft issuance advice letter to the Commission Staff for review not later than two weeks before the expected date of commencement of marketing each series of securitized utility tariff bonds. With agreement the Commission's designated representative from Commission Staff, the actual date of the commencement of marketing may be a date other than the expected date. Within one week after receipt of the draft issuance advice letter, Commission Staff will provide Liberty comments and recommendations regarding the adequacy of the information provided.
29. The issuance advice letter for a series of securitized utility tariff bonds must be submitted to the Commission not later than the end of the first business day after the pricing of such series of securitized utility tariff bonds. Commission Staff may request such revisions of the issuance advice letter as may be necessary to assure the accuracy of the calculations and that the requirements of the Securitization Law and of this Financing Order have been met. The initial securitized utility tariff charges and the final terms of the securitized utility tariff bonds set forth in the issuance advice letter must become effective on the date of issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds (which must not occur before the fifth business day after pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds) unless before noon on the fourth business day after pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the Commission issues a disapproval letter directing that the securitized utility tariff bonds as proposed shall not be issued and the basis for that disapproval

### **C. Structure of the Proposed Securitization**

#### **1. BondCo**

30. For purposes of this securitization, Liberty will create one or more BondCos, a special purpose securitized utility tariff funding entity (each of which referred to as BondCo), each of which will be a Delaware limited liability company with Liberty as its sole member. If more than one series of securitized utility tariff bonds are issued, Liberty may create a separate BondCo for the issuance of a particular series of securitized utility tariff bonds and the rights, structure and restrictions described in this Financing Order with respect to BondCo will be applicable to each such purchaser of securitized utility tariff property to the extent of the securitized utility tariff property sold to it and the securitized utility tariff bonds issued by it. BondCo will be formed for the limited purpose of acquiring securitized utility tariff property, issuing securitized utility tariff bonds in one or more tranches (and

in one or more series if Liberty elects to pursue such a structure), and performing other activities relating thereto or otherwise authorized by this Financing Order. BondCo will not be permitted to engage in any other activities and will have no assets other than securitized utility tariff property and related assets to support its obligations under each series of securitized utility tariff bonds. Obligations relating to the securitized utility tariff bonds will be BondCo's only significant liabilities. These restrictions on the activities of BondCo and restrictions on the ability of Liberty to take action on BondCo's behalf are imposed to achieve the objective that BondCo will be bankruptcy remote and not affected by a bankruptcy of Liberty. BondCo will be managed by a board of directors or a board of managers with rights and duties similar to those of a board of directors of a corporation. As long as the securitized utility tariff bonds remain outstanding, BondCo will be overseen by at least one independent director or manager to ensure that it only takes actions consistent with its obligations as the holder of the equity interest of the securitized utility tariff bonds. BondCo will not be permitted to amend the provisions of the organizational documents that relate to bankruptcy-remoteness of BondCo without the consent of the independent director or manager. Similarly, BondCo will not be permitted to institute bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or to consent to the institution of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings against it, or to dissolve, liquidate, consolidate, convert, or merge without the consent of the independent director or manager. Other restrictions to facilitate bankruptcy-remoteness may also be included in the organizational documents of BondCo as required by the rating agencies.

31. The initial capital of BondCo is expected to be not less than 0.50% of the original principal amount of the securitized utility tariff bonds issued by BondCo. Adequate funding of BondCo at this level is intended to protect the bankruptcy remoteness of BondCo. A sufficient level of capital is necessary to minimize this risk and, therefore, assist in achieving the lowest securitized utility tariff charges possible.

**2. Statutory Requirements**

32. BondCo will issue one or more series of securitized utility tariff bonds consisting of one or more tranches. The aggregate amount of all tranches of all series of securitized utility tariff bonds issued under this Financing Order must not exceed the principal amount approved by this Financing Order. BondCo will pledge to the indenture trustee, as collateral for

payment of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the securitized utility tariff property, including BondCo's right to receive the securitized utility tariff charges as and when collected, and certain other collateral described in Liberty's petitions.

33. Concurrent with the issuance of any of the securitized utility tariff bonds, Liberty will transfer to BondCo all of Liberty's rights under this Financing Order related to the amount of securitized utility tariff bonds BondCo is issuing, including rights to impose, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges approved in this Financing Order. This transfer will be structured so that it will qualify as a true sale within the meaning of Section 393.1700.5(3) and that such rights will become securitized utility tariff property concurrently with the sale to BondCo as provided in Section 393.1700.2(3)(d). By virtue of the transfer, BondCo will acquire all of the right, title, and interest of Liberty in the securitized utility tariff property arising under this Financing Order that is related to the amount of securitized utility tariff bonds BondCo is issuing.
34. The use and proposed structure of BondCo and the limitations related to its organization and management are necessary to minimize risks related to the proposed securitization transactions and to minimize the securitized utility tariff charges. Therefore, the use and proposed structure of BondCo should be approved.

**3. Credit Enhancement and Arrangements to Enhance Marketability**

35. Liberty should be permitted to recover the ongoing costs of any credit enhancements and arrangements to enhance marketability, provided that such credit enhancements are consistent with Statutory Requirements. If the use of de minimis original issue discount, credit enhancements, or other arrangements is proposed by Liberty, Liberty must provide the Commission's designated representative copies of all cost-benefit analyses performed by or for Liberty that support the request to use such arrangements. This finding does not apply to the collection account or its subaccounts approved in this Financing Order.
36. Liberty's proposed use of credit enhancements and arrangements to enhance marketability is reasonable and should be approved.

**4. Securitized Utility Tariff Property**

37. Under Section 393.1700.1(18), securitized utility tariff property constitutes all rights and interests of an electrical corporation or successor or assignee of the electrical corporation under a financing order, including the right to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive

securitization utility tariff charges authorized under a financing order and to obtain periodic adjustments to such charges, and all revenues, collections, claims, rights to payments, payments, money, or proceeds arising from the rights and interests specified in a financing order, regardless of whether such revenues, collections, claims, rights to payments, payments, money, or proceeds are imposed, billed, received, collected, or maintained together with or commingled with other revenues, collections, rights to payments, payments, money or proceeds.

38. If securitized utility tariff bonds are issued in more than one series, then the securitized utility tariff property transferred as a result of each issuance must be only those rights associated with that portion of the total amount of energy transition costs and/or qualified extraordinary costs authorized to be financed by this Financing Order which is securitized by such issuance. The rights to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges along with the other rights arising under this Financing Order as they relate to any portion of the total amount of energy transition costs and/or qualified extraordinary costs authorized to be financed that remains unsecuritized must remain with Liberty.
39. Securitized utility tariff property and all other collateral will be held and administered by the indenture trustee under the indenture, as described in Liberty's petitions. This proposal will help satisfy the Statutory Requirements and should be approved.

**5. Servicer and the Servicing Agreement**

40. Liberty will execute a servicing agreement with BondCo. The servicing agreement may be amended, renewed or replaced by another servicing agreement. The entity responsible for carrying out the servicing obligations under any servicing agreement is the servicer. Liberty will be the initial servicer but may be succeeded as servicer by another entity under certain circumstances detailed in the servicing agreement and as authorized by the Commission. Under the servicing agreement, the servicer is required, among other things, to impose and collect the applicable securitized utility tariff charges for the benefit and account of BondCo, to make the periodic true-up adjustments of securitized utility tariff charges required or allowed by this Financing Order, and to account for and remit the applicable securitized utility tariff charges to or for the account of BondCo in accordance with the remittance procedures contained in the servicing agreement without any charge, deduction or surcharge of any kind (other than the servicing fee specified in the servicing

agreement). Under the terms of the servicing agreement, if any servicer fails to perform its servicing obligations in any material respect, the indenture trustee acting under the indenture to be entered into in connection with the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds, or the indenture trustee's designee, may, or, upon the instruction of the requisite percentage of holders of the outstanding amount of securitized utility tariff bonds, must, appoint an alternate party to replace the defaulting servicer, in which case the replacement servicer will perform the obligations of the servicer under the servicing agreement. The obligations of the servicer under the servicing agreement and the circumstances under which an alternate servicer may be appointed will be more fully described in the servicing agreement. The rights of BondCo under the servicing agreement will be included in the collateral pledged to the indenture trustee under the indenture for the benefit of holders of the securitized utility tariff bonds.

41. The obligations to continue to provide service and to collect and account for securitized utility tariff charges will be binding upon Liberty and any other entity that provides electrical services to a person that is a retail customer located within Liberty's service area as it existed on the date of this Financing Order, or that became a retail customer for electric services within such area after the date of this Financing Order, and is still located within such area. The Commission will enforce the obligations imposed by this Financing Order, its applicable substantive rules, and statutory provisions.
42. To the extent that any interest in the securitized utility tariff property created by this Financing Order is assigned, sold or transferred to an assignee,<sup>40</sup> Liberty will enter into a contract with that assignee that will require Liberty to continue to provide electrical services to Liberty's customers. This provision does not prohibit Liberty from selling, assigning or otherwise divesting its transmission and distribution system or any part thereof so long as the entity acquiring such facilities agrees to continue operating the facilities to provide electric services to Liberty's customers.

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<sup>40</sup> The term assignee means any corporation, limited liability company, general partnership or limited partnership, public authority, trust, financing entity, or other legally recognized entity to which an interest in securitized utility tariff property is transferred, other than as security, including any assignee of that party. See §393.1700.1(2).

43. The provisions described in finding of fact numbers 39 through 42 are reasonable, will reduce risk associated with the proposed securitization and will help satisfy the Statutory Requirements and should be approved.

**6. Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds**

44. BondCo will issue and sell securitized utility tariff bonds in one or more series consisting of one or more tranches. The legal final maturity date of any series of securitized utility tariff bonds will not exceed 15 years from the date of issuance of such series. The legal final maturity date of each series and tranche within a series and amounts in each series will be finally determined by Liberty with input from the Commission's designated representative, consistent with market conditions and indications of the rating agencies, at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced, but subject to ultimate Commission review through the issuance advice letter process. Liberty will retain sole discretion regarding whether or when to assign, sell, or otherwise transfer any rights concerning securitized utility tariff property arising under this Financing Order, or to cause the issuance of any securitized utility tariff bonds authorized in this Financing Order, subject to the right of the Commission to issue a disapproval letter to the issuance advice letter. BondCo will issue the securitized utility tariff bonds on or after the fifth business day after pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds unless, before noon on the fourth business day following pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the Commission issues a disapproval letter directing that the securitized utility tariff bonds as proposed shall not be issued and the basis for that disapproval.

45. The Commission finds that the proposed structure—providing for substantially levelized annual revenue requirements over the expected life of the securitized utility tariff bonds—is in the public interest and should be used. The approved structure is reasonable and should be approved, provided that the issuance advice letter demonstrates that the Statutory Requirements are met.

**7. Security for Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds**

46. The payment of the securitized utility tariff bonds and related charges authorized by this Financing Order is to be secured by the securitized utility tariff property created by this Financing Order and by certain other collateral as described in the petitions. Each series of the securitized utility tariff bonds will be issued under an indenture administered by the

indenture trustee. The indenture will include provisions for a collection account for the series and subaccounts for the collection and administration of the securitized utility tariff charges and payment or funding of the principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and other costs, including fees and expenses, in connection with the securitized utility tariff bonds, as described in Liberty's petitions. In accordance with the indenture, BondCo will establish a collection account as a trust account to be held by the indenture trustee as collateral to ensure the payment of the principal, interest, and other costs approved in this Financing Order related to the securitized utility tariff bonds in full and on a timely basis. The collection account will include the general subaccount, the capital subaccount, and the excess funds subaccount, and may include other subaccounts.

**a. The General Subaccount**

47. The indenture trustee will deposit the securitized utility tariff charge remittances that the servicer remits to the indenture trustee for the account of BondCo into one or more segregated trust accounts and allocate the amount of those remittances to the general subaccount. The indenture trustee will on a periodic basis apply moneys in this subaccount to pay expenses of BondCo, to pay principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds, and to meet the funding requirements of the other subaccounts. The funds in the general subaccount will be invested by the indenture trustee in short-term high-quality investments, and such funds (including, to the extent necessary, investment earnings) will be applied by the indenture trustee to pay principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and all other components of the periodic payment requirement (as defined in finding of fact number 58), and otherwise in accordance with the terms of the indenture.

**b. The Capital Subaccount**

48. When a series of securitized utility tariff bonds is issued, Liberty will make a capital contribution to BondCo for that series, which BondCo will deposit into the capital subaccount. The amount of the capital contribution is expected to be not less than 0.50% of the original principal amount of each series of securitized utility tariff bonds, although the actual amount will depend on tax and rating agency requirements. The capital subaccount will serve as collateral to ensure timely payment of principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and all other components of the periodic payment requirement. Any funds drawn from the capital account to pay these amounts due to a



shortfall in the securitized utility tariff charge remittances will be replenished through future securitized utility tariff charge remittances. The funds in this subaccount will be invested by the indenture trustee in short-term high-quality investments, and such funds (including investment earnings) will be used by the indenture trustee to pay principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and all other components of the periodic payment requirement. Liberty will be authorized to receive a return on the capital contribution at the WACC authorized in Case No. ER-2021-0312. The required revenue, if any, to provide the annual return at the pre-tax equity return established in Liberty's most recent base-rate case is an ongoing financing cost. Upon payment of the principal amount of all securitized utility tariff bonds and the discharge of all obligations that may be paid by use of securitized utility tariff charges, all amounts in the capital subaccount, including any investment earnings, will be released to BondCo for payment to Liberty. Investment earnings in this subaccount may be released earlier in accordance with the indenture.

**c. The Excess Funds Subaccount**

49. The excess funds subaccount will hold any securitized utility tariff charge remittances and investment earnings on the collection account in excess of the amounts needed to pay current principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and to pay other periodic payment requirements (including, but not limited to, replenishing the capital subaccount). Any balance in or allocated to the excess funds subaccount on a true-up adjustment date will be subtracted from the periodic billing requirement (as defined in finding of fact number 59) for purposes of the true-up adjustment. The money in this subaccount will be invested by the indenture trustee in short-term high-quality investments, and such money (including investment earnings thereon) will be used by the indenture trustee to pay principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and other periodic payment requirements.

**d. Other Subaccounts**

50. Other credit enhancements in the form of subaccounts may be utilized for the transaction provided that the use of such subaccounts is consistent with the Statutory Requirements. For example, Liberty does not propose use of an overcollateralization subaccount. Under Rev. Proc. 2002-49, as modified, amplified and superseded by Rev. Proc. 2005-62 issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the use of an overcollateralization subaccount is

not necessary for favorable tax treatment nor does it appear to be necessary to obtain AAA ratings for the proposed securitized utility tariff bonds. If the Commission's designated representative and Liberty subsequently agree, however, that use of an overcollateralization subaccount or other subaccount are necessary to obtain AAA ratings or will otherwise increase the quantifiable benefits of the securitization, Liberty may implement such subaccounts to reduce securitized utility tariff bond charges.

**8. General Provisions**

51. The collection account and the subaccounts described above are intended to provide for full and timely payment of scheduled principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and all other components of the periodic payment requirement. If the amount of securitized utility tariff charges remitted to the general subaccount is insufficient to make all scheduled payments of principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds and to make payment on all of the other components of the periodic payment requirement, the excess funds subaccount and the capital subaccount will be drawn down, in that order, to make those payments. Any deficiency in the capital subaccount due to such withdrawals must be replenished to the capital subaccount on a periodic basis through the true-up process. In addition to the foregoing, there may be such additional accounts and subaccounts as are necessary to segregate amounts received from various sources, or to be used for specified purposes. Such accounts will be administered and utilized as set forth in the servicing agreement and the indenture. Upon the maturity of the securitized utility tariff bonds and the discharge of all obligations in respect thereof, remaining amounts in the collection account, other than amounts that were in the capital subaccount, will be released to BondCo and equivalent amounts will be credited by Liberty to customers. Amounts remaining in the capital subaccount at that time will be released to BondCo for payment to Liberty. In addition, upon the maturity of the securitized utility tariff bonds, to the extent the capital subaccount is not depleted below its original amount, any subsequently collected securitized utility tariff charges shall be distributed to retail customers.
52. The use of a collection account and its subaccounts in the manner proposed by Liberty is reasonable, will lower risks associated with the securitization and thus helps meet the Statutory Requirement, and should, therefore, be approved.

**9. Securitized Utility Tariff Charges—Imposition and Collection, Nonbypassability, and Alternative Electric Suppliers**

53. In the event the State of Missouri permits third party billing, the securitized utility tariff charges must continue to be collected by a third party biller and remitted to BondCo.
54. Securitized utility tariff charges will be separately identified on bills presented to other entities obligated to pay or collect securitized utility tariff charges.
55. If any customer does not pay the full amount it has been billed, the amount will be allocated to the securitized utility tariff charges in the same proportion that such charges bear to the total bill. The first dollars collected would be attributed to past due balances, if any. If cash collections are not sufficient to pay a customer's current bill once those balances are paid in full then the cash would be prorated between the different components of the bill.
56. Liberty will collect securitized utility tariff charges from all existing or future retail customers receiving electrical service from Liberty or its successors or assignees under Commission-approved rate schedules, except for customers receiving electrical service under special contracts<sup>41</sup> as of August 28, 2021, even if a retail customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electricity supplier following a change in regulation of public utilities in Missouri. Any such existing or future retail customer within such area may not avoid securitized utility tariff charges by switching to another electrical corporation, electric cooperative, or municipally owned utility on or after the date this Financing Order is issued.
57. Liberty's proposal related to imposition and collection of securitized utility tariff charges is reasonable and is necessary to ensure collection of securitized utility tariff charges sufficient to support recovery of the securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs approved in this Financing Order and should be approved. It is reasonable to require that Liberty's Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC be filed before any securitized utility tariff bonds are issued under this Financing Order.

**10. Allocation of Financing Costs Among Missouri Retail Customers**

58. The periodic payment requirement is the required periodic payment for a given period (e.g., annually, semi-annually, or quarterly) due under the securitized utility tariff bonds. Each periodic payment requirement includes: (a) the principal amortization of the securitized

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<sup>41</sup> See §393.1700.1(19).

utility tariff bonds in accordance with the expected amortization schedule (including deficiencies of previously scheduled principal for any reason); (b) periodic interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds (including any accrued and unpaid interest); and (c) ongoing financing costs consisting of the servicing fee, rating agencies' fees, trustee fees, legal and accounting fees, other ongoing fees and expenses, and the costs, if any, of maintaining any credit enhancement. The initial periodic payment requirement for the securitized utility tariff bonds issued under this Financing Order should be updated in the issuance advice letter.

59. The periodic billing requirement represents the aggregate dollar amount of securitized utility tariff charges that must be billed during a given period (e.g., annually, semi-annually, or quarterly) so that the securitized utility tariff charge collections will be sufficient to meet the periodic payment requirement for that period, given: (i) forecast usage data for the period; (ii) forecast uncollectibles for the period; and (iii) forecast lags in collection of billed securitized utility tariff charges for the period.
60. The securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs that will be recovered through the securitized utility tariff charges authorized by this Financing Order are allocated among the customer classes using an approach based on the rate classes established by the Class Cost of Service Study, referred to as the periodic billing requirement allocation factors (PBRAFs) to be approved in Case No. ER-2021-0312. In accordance with Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)h, Liberty proposes that its initial allocation shall remain in effect until it completes a general rate proceeding, and once the Commission's order from that general rate proceeding becomes final, all subsequent applications of an adjustment mechanism regarding securitization utility tariff charges shall incorporate changes in the allocation of costs to customers as detailed in the Commission's order from Liberty's most recent general rate proceeding. This approach is reasonable and the allocation factors calculated in accordance with it should be adopted.

61. Under the approach described in finding of fact number 60, the Commission adopts the following allocation factors:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Allocation Factors</u>
Residential	45%
Commercial	9%
Small Heating	2%
General Power	18%
Transmission	1%
Total Electric Building	8%
Feed Mill	0%
Large Power	16%
Misc. Service	0%
Street Lighting	1%
Private Lighting	1%
Special Lighting	0%
Total/Average*	100%

\*Totals may not add due to rounding

**11. True-Up of Securitized Utility Tariff Charges**

62. Under Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)e, the servicer of the securitized utility tariff bonds will use a formula-based true-up mechanism to make periodic, expeditious adjustments, at least annually, to the securitized utility tariff charges to:

- (a) correct any undercollections or overcollections that may have occurred and ensure that BondCo receives payments that are required to satisfy the debt obligations and other required amounts, including without limitation any caused by defaults, during the preceding 12 months; and
- (b) ensure the billing of securitized utility tariff charges necessary to generate the collection amounts sufficient to timely provide all payments of scheduled principal and interest (or deposits to sinking funds in respect of principal and interest) and any other amounts due in connection with the securitized utility tariff bonds (including ongoing fees and expenses and amounts required to be deposited in or allocated to any collection account or subaccount, trustee indemnities, payments due in connection with any expenses incurred by the indenture trustee or the servicer to enforce bondholder rights and all other payments that may be required

under the waterfall of payments set forth in the indenture) during the period for which such adjusted securitized utility tariff charges are to be in effect.

With respect to any series of securitized utility tariff bonds, the servicer will make true-up adjustment filings with the Commission annually, and if the servicer forecasts undercollections, semi-annually.

63. True-up filings will be based upon the cumulative differences, regardless of the reason, between the periodic payment requirement (including scheduled principal and interest payments on the securitized utility tariff bonds) and the amount of securitized utility tariff charge remittances to the indenture trustee. True-up procedures are necessary to ensure full recovery of amounts sufficient to meet the periodic payment requirement over the expected life of the securitized utility tariff bonds. To assure adequate securitized utility tariff charge revenues to fund the periodic payment requirement and to avoid large overcollections and undercollections over time, the servicer will reconcile the securitized utility tariff charges using Liberty's most recent forecast of electricity deliveries (i.e., forecasted billing units) and estimates of ongoing financing costs. The calculation of the securitized utility tariff charges will also reflect both a projection of uncollectible securitized utility tariff charges and a projection of payment lags between the billing and collection of securitized utility tariff charges based upon Liberty's most recent experience regarding collection of securitized utility tariff charges.
64. The servicer will make true-up adjustments in the following manner, known as the standard true-up procedure:
  - (a) allocate the upcoming period's periodic billing requirement based on the PBRAFs approved in this Financing Order
  - (b) calculate undercollections or overcollections, including without limitation any caused by defaults, from the preceding period in each class by subtracting the previous period's securitized utility tariff charge revenues collected from each class from the periodic billing requirement determined for that class for the same period;
  - (c) sum the amounts allocated to each customer class in steps (a) and (b) to determine an adjusted periodic billing requirement for each securitized utility tariff charge customer class; and

- (d) divide the amount assigned to each customer class in step (c) above by the appropriate forecasted billing units to determine the securitized utility tariff charge rate by class for the upcoming period.

**12. Interim True-Up**

65. In addition to these annual and semi-annual true-up adjustments, true-up adjustments may be made by the servicer more frequently at any time during the term of the securitized utility tariff bonds to correct any undercollection, as provided for in this Financing Order, in order to assure timely payment of securitized utility tariff bonds based on rating agency and bondholder considerations. Further, the servicer must make an interim true-up adjustment quarterly beginning 12 months prior to the final scheduled payment date of the last tranche of the securitized utility tariff bonds:

- (a) if the servicer forecasts that securitized utility tariff charge collections will be insufficient to make all scheduled payments of principal, interest, and other amounts in respect of the securitized utility tariff bonds on a timely basis during the current or next succeeding payment period; or
- (b) to replenish any draws upon the capital subaccount.

66. In the event an interim true-up is necessary, the interim true-up adjustment must use the methodology utilized in the most recent annual true-up and be filed not less than 30 days before the first billing cycle of the month in which the revised securitized utility tariff charges will be in effect.

**13. Additional True-Up Provisions**

67. The true-up adjustment filing will set forth the servicer's calculation of the true-up adjustment to the securitized utility tariff charges. The Commission will have 30 days after the date of a true-up adjustment filing in which to confirm the mathematical accuracy of the servicer's adjustment. Any true-up adjustment filed with the Commission should be effective on its proposed effective date, which must be not less than 30 days after filing. Any necessary corrections to the true-up adjustment, due to mathematical errors in the calculation of such adjustment or otherwise, shall be corrected and refiled.

68. The true-up procedures to be contained in the Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC are reasonable and will reduce risks related to the securitized utility tariff bonds, resulting

in lower securitized utility tariff bond charges and greater benefits to customers and should be approved.

**14. Non-Standard True-Up Provisions**

69. The servicer may also submit for approval a non-standard true-up adjustment to propose revisions to the methodology in the Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC. The Commission will have 60 days to review any non-standard true-up adjustment. Absent a resolution that modifies or rejects the non-standard true-up adjustment, the servicer may implement the adjustments 60 days after the date of its submission.

**15. Designated Representative**

70. To ensure, as required by Section 393.1700.2(3)(h), that the structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds result in the lowest securitized utility tariff bond charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility bonds are priced and the terms of this Financing Order, the Commission finds that it is advisable for the Commission or its designated representative, who may be advised by a financial advisor, to provide input to Liberty and collaborate with Liberty in all facets of the process undertaken by Liberty to place the securitized utility tariff bonds to market so the Commission's representative or representatives can provide the Commission with an opinion on the reasonableness of the pricing, terms, and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds on an expedited basis. Neither the designated representative or representatives from the Commission Staff nor one or more financial advisors advising Commission Staff shall have authority to direct how Liberty places the securitized utility tariff bonds to market although they shall be permitted to attend all meetings convened by Liberty to address placement of the securitized utility tariff bonds to market.
71. For each series, the Commission or its designated representative may require a certificate from each bookrunning underwriter confirming that the structuring, marketing, and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds resulted in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions and the terms of this Financing Order.
72. Liberty stated that it expected the following transaction documents to be executed in connection with each series of securitized utility tariff bonds issued under this Financing Order: administration agreement, indenture, limited liability company agreement,



securitized utility tariff property servicing agreement, and securitized utility tariff property purchase and sale agreement.

**16. Lowest Securitized Utility Tariff Charges**

73. Liberty has proposed a transaction structure that is expected to include (but is not limited to):
- (a) the use of BondCo as issuer of the securitized utility tariff bonds, limiting the risks to securitized utility tariff bond holders of any adverse impact resulting from a bankruptcy proceeding of its parent or any affiliate;
  - (b) the right to impose and collect securitized utility tariff charges that are non-bypassable and which must be trued-up at least annually, but may be trued-up more frequently under certain circumstances, to assure the timely payment of the debt service and other ongoing financing costs;
  - (c) additional collateral in the form of a collection account that includes a capital subaccount funded in cash in an amount equal to not less than 0.50% of the original principal amount of the securitized utility tariff bonds and other subaccounts resulting in greater certainty of payment of interest and principal to investors and that are consistent with the IRS requirements that must be met to receive the desired federal income tax treatment for the securitized utility tariff bond transaction;
  - (d) protection of securitized utility tariff bondholders against potential defaults by a servicer that is responsible for billing and collecting the securitized utility tariff charges from existing or future retail customers;
  - (e) benefits for federal income tax purposes including (i) the transfer of the rights under this Financing Order to BondCo not resulting in gross income to Liberty and the future revenues under the securitized utility tariff charges being included in Liberty's gross income under its usual method of accounting, (ii) the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds and the transfer of the proceeds of the securitized utility tariff bonds to Liberty not resulting in gross income to Liberty, and (iii) the securitized utility tariff bonds constituting obligations of Liberty; and
  - (f) the securitized utility tariff bonds will be marketed using proven underwriting and marketing processes, through which market conditions and investors' preferences, with regard to the timing of the issuance, the terms and conditions, related

maturities, and other aspects of the structuring and pricing, will be determined, evaluated and factored into the structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds.

74. Liberty's proposed transaction structure is necessary to enable the securitized utility tariff bonds to obtain the highest possible bond credit rating, ensures that the structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds will result in the lowest charges standard.
75. To ensure that customers receive the quantifiable economic benefits due from the proposed securitization and so that the proposed securitized utility tariff bond transaction will be in accordance with the quantifiable benefits test set forth in Section 393.1700.2(3)(c), it is necessary that (i) the issuance advice letter demonstrates that the proposed issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the imposition of a securitized utility tariff charge are just and reasonable; in the public interest; and expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers as compared to recovery of the components of securitized utility tariff costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds, (ii) the scheduled final payment of the last tranche of securitized utility tariff bonds will not exceed 13 years (although the legal final maturity of the securitized utility tariff bonds may extend to 15 years) unless deemed necessary to obtain the best possible credit rating, (iii) the amortization of the securitized utility tariff bonds is structured to be in accordance with finding of fact numbers 44 and 45, and (iv) Liberty otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Financing Order.
76. To allow the Commission to fulfill its obligations under the Securitization Law related to the securitization approved in this Financing Order, it is necessary for Liberty, for each series of securitized utility tariff bonds issued, to certify to the Commission that the structure and pricing of that series results in the lowest charges standard, if additional credit enhancements or arrangements to enhance marketability or reduce interest rate risks were used, to certify that they are expected to provide benefits in excess of their cost as required by finding of fact numbers 21 through 23 of this Financing Order.

#### **IV. Conclusions of Law**

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law.

1. Liberty is an electrical corporation, as defined in Section 393.1700.1(6).
2. Liberty is entitled to file the petitions for a financing order under Section 393.1700.

3. The Commission has jurisdiction and authority over Liberty's petitions under Section 393.1700.2.
4. The Commission has authority to approve this Financing Order under Section 393.1700.2.
5. Notices of Liberty's petitions were provided in compliance with Section 393.1700.2(3)(a)b.
6. The Securitization Law allows an electrical corporation to finance its securitized utility tariff costs, including its energy transition costs and its qualified extraordinary costs.
7. BondCo will be an assignee as defined in Section 393.1700.1(2) when an interest in the securitized utility tariff property created under this Financing Order is transferred, other than as security, to BondCo.
8. The holders of the securitized utility tariff bonds and the indenture trustee will each be a financing party as defined in Section 393.1700.1(10).
9. BondCo may issue securitized utility tariff bonds in accordance with this Financing Order.
10. The securitization approved in this Financing Order satisfies the Statutory Requirements<sup>42</sup> mandating that (1) the amount of securitized utility tariff costs to be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds be just and reasonable and in the public interest; (2) the proposed issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the imposition of securitized utility tariff charges are just and reasonable; in the public interest; and expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits to customers as compared to recovery of the components of securitized utility tariff costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds; and (3) the proposed structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and the terms of the financing order.
11. Consistent with fundamental financial principles, the quantifiable benefits test set forth in Section 393.1700.2(3)(c) can only be determined using an economic analysis to account for the time value of money. An analysis that compares the net present value of the costs to customers that are estimated to result from the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the costs that would result from the application of the traditional method of financing

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<sup>42</sup> §393.1700.2(3)(c)b. and c.

- reflecting the energy transition costs and the application of the customary method of financing reflecting the qualified extraordinary costs, collectively, in retail customer rates, demonstrating that the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds and the imposition of securitized utility tariff charges, is an appropriate economic analysis to demonstrate whether securitization provides quantifiable net present value benefits to customers.
12. Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)l. specifies that securitized utility tariff costs include the electrical corporation's cost of capital authorized from time to time by the Commission in the electrical corporation's rate proceedings, on any moneys advanced by the electrical corporation to fund capital accounts established under the terms of any indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing documents pertaining to the securitized utility tariff bonds. As a result, for purposes of the Statutory Requirements, it is necessary to compute the revenue requirements associated with non-securitized rates reflecting conventional utility financing using a WACC last approved in a Liberty general rate proceeding. That amount, updated from time to time in future rate cases, may be included in the securitized utility tariff charge as an ongoing financing cost.
  13. BondCo's issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds approved in this Financing Order in compliance with the criteria established by this Financing Order satisfies the lowest charges standard of Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)c. prescribing that the structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds will result in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and the terms of this Financing Order.
  14. The amount approved in this Financing Order for securitization does not exceed the present value of the revenue requirement over the life of the securitized utility tariff bonds approved in this Financing Order that are associated with the costs sought to be securitized, as required by Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)b.
  15. This Financing Order adequately details the amount to be recovered and the period over which Liberty will be permitted to recover non-bypassable securitized utility tariff charges in accordance with the requirements of Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)a.
  16. The method approved in this Financing Order for collecting and allocating the securitized utility tariff charges satisfies the requirements of Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)h.

17. As provided in Section 393.1700.2(3)(f), this Financing Order, together with the securitized utility tariff charges authorized by this Financing Order, is irrevocable and not subject to amendment, modification, termination, reduction, impairment, postponement, or adjustment by further act of the Commission, except for the true-up procedures approved in this Financing Order, as required by Section 393.1700.2(3)(e).
18. As provided in Section 393.1700.2(3)(d), the rights and interests of Liberty or its successor or assignee under this Financing Order, including the right to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive the securitized utility tariff charges authorized in this Financing Order and to obtain periodic adjustments to such charges as provided in this Financing Order, are assignable and will become securitized utility tariff property when they are first transferred to BondCo.
19. The rights, interests, and property conveyed to BondCo in the securitized utility tariff property purchase and sale agreement and the related bill of sale, including the irrevocable right to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges and the revenues and collections from securitized utility tariff charges, are securitized utility tariff property within the meaning of Section 393.1700.1(18).
20. Securitized utility tariff property will constitute an existing, present intangible property right or interest therein for purposes of contracts concerning the sale or pledge of property, even though the imposition and collection of the securitized utility tariff charges depends on further acts by Liberty or others that have not yet occurred, as provided by Section 393.1700.5(1)(a).
21. All revenues, collections, claims, rights to payments, payments, money, or proceeds arising from the rights and interests specified in this Financing Order, regardless of whether such revenues, collections, claims, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds are imposed, billed, received, collected, or maintained together with or commingled with other revenues, collections, rights to payment, payments, money or proceeds, resulting from the securitized utility tariff charges will constitute proceeds only of the securitized utility tariff property arising from this Financing Order, as provided by Section 393.1700.1(18).
22. Upon the transfer by Liberty of securitized utility tariff property to a BondCo, the BondCo will have all of the rights, title, and interest of Liberty with respect to such securitized

- utility tariff property, including the right to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive the securitized utility tariff charges authorized by the Financing Order.
23. The securitized utility tariff bonds issued under this Financing Order will be securitized utility tariff bonds within the meaning of Section 393.1700.1(15), and the securitized utility tariff bonds and holders thereof are entitled to all of the protections provided under Section 393.1700.11.
  24. Amounts that are required to be paid to the servicer as securitized utility tariff charges under this Financing Order or the tariffs approved hereby are securitized utility tariff charges as defined in Section 393.1700.1(16), and the amounts collected from retail customers with respect to such securitized utility tariff charges are securitized utility tariff charges as defined in Section 393.1700.1(16), whether or not such charges are set out as a separate line item on the retail customer's bill.
  25. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(1)(e), the interests of an assignee, the holders of securitized utility tariff bonds, and the indenture trustee in securitized utility tariff property and in the revenues and collections arising from that property are not subject to setoff, counterclaim, surcharge, or defense by Liberty or any other person or in connection with the reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency of Liberty or any other entity.
  26. The methodology approved in this Financing Order to true-up the securitized utility tariff charges satisfies the requirements of Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)e.
  27. The issuance advice letter process, including the role of Commission staff, is consistent with the requirements of Section 393.1700.2(3)(h).
  28. If and when Liberty transfers to a BondCo the right to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive the securitized utility tariff charges and to issue the securitized utility tariff bonds, the servicer will be able to recover the securitized utility tariff charges associated with such securitized utility tariff property only for the benefit of the BondCo and the holders of the securitized utility tariff bonds in accordance with the servicing agreement.
  29. If and when Liberty transfers its rights under this Financing Order to a BondCo under an agreement that expressly states that the transfer is a sale or other absolute transfer in accordance with the true-sale provisions of Sections 393.1700.5(3)(a) and (b), then, in accordance with that statutory provision, that transfer will be a true sale of an interest in securitized utility tariff property and not a secured transaction or other financing

arrangement and title, legal and equitable, to the securitized utility tariff property will pass to the BondCo. As provided by Section 393.1700.5(3)(b), this true sale must apply regardless of whether the purchaser has any recourse against the seller, or any other term of the parties' agreement, including the seller's retention of an equity interest in the securitized utility tariff property, Liberty's role as the collector of securitized utility tariff charges relating to the securitized utility tariff property, or the treatment of the transfer as a financing for tax, financial reporting, or other purposes.

30. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(2)(b), a valid and binding security interest in the securitized utility tariff property in favor of the holders of the securitized utility tariff bonds or a trustee on their behalf will be created at the later of the time this Financing Order is issued, a security agreement is executed and delivered by the debtor granting such security interest, the debtor has rights in such securitized utility tariff property or the power to transfer rights in such securitized utility tariff property, or value is received for the securitized utility tariff property. The security interest will attach automatically from the time that value is received for the securitized utility tariff bonds and, on perfection through the filing of notice with the secretary of state in accordance with the rules prescribed by the secretary of state under Section 393.1700.5(2)(c), will be a continuously perfected security interest in the securitized utility tariff property and all proceeds of the securitized utility tariff property, whether accrued or not, will have priority in the order of filing and will take precedence over any subsequent judicial or other lien creditor.
31. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(3)(c), the transfer of an interest in securitized utility tariff property to an assignee will be perfected against all third parties, including subsequent judicial or other lien creditors, when this Financing Order becomes effective, transfer documents have been delivered to that assignee, and a notice of that transfer has been filed in accordance with the rules prescribed by the secretary of state under Section 393.1700.7. The transfer to a BondCo of Liberty's rights under this Financing Order will be a transfer of an interest in securitized utility tariff property for purposes of Section 393.1700.5(3)(c).
32. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(3)(d), the priority of a security interest perfected in accordance with Section 393.1700.5(3) will not be impaired by any later change in the securitized utility tariff charges under Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)e. or by the commingling

- of securitized utility tariff charges with other amounts, and any other security interest that may apply to those amounts will be terminated when they are transferred to a segregated account for an assignee or a financing party.
33. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(3)(d), if securitized utility tariff property is transferred to an assignee, any proceeds of the securitized utility tariff property will be treated as held in trust for the assignee.
  34. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(2)(f), if a default or termination occurs under the securitized utility tariff bonds, the financing parties or their representatives may exercise the rights and remedies available to a secured party under part 6 of article 9 of the Missouri Uniform Commercial Code, and, upon application by or on behalf of the financing parties, the Commission may order that amounts arising from the related securitized utility tariff charges be transferred to a separate account for the financing parties' benefit, to which their lien and security interest may apply.
  35. As provided in Section 393.1700.5(2)(f), if a default occurs under the securitized utility tariff bonds, on application by or on behalf of the financing parties, a district court of Jasper County, Missouri, must order the sequestration and payment to those parties of revenues arising from the securitized utility tariff charges.
  36. As provided by Section 393.1700.9, the securitized utility tariff bonds authorized by this Financing Order are not a debt or a general obligation of the State of Missouri or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, nor are they special obligations or indebtedness of the State of Missouri or any agency or political subdivision, and are not a charge on its full faith and credit or taxing power.
  37. Under Section 393.1700.11, the State of Missouri and its agencies, including the Commission, have pledged for the benefit and protection of bondholders, the owners of the securitized utility tariff property, other financing parties and Liberty, that it will not take or permit any action that would impair the value of securitized utility tariff property, or, except pursuant to the true-up adjustment mechanism in this Financing Order, reduce, alter or impair the securitized utility tariff charges that are to be imposed, billed, charged, collected, and remitted for the benefit of the bondholders, any assignee, and any other financing parties, until any and all principal, interest, premium, financing costs and other fees, expenses, or charges incurred, and any contracts to be performed, in connection with



the securitized utility tariff bonds have been paid and performed in full. A BondCo, in issuing securitized utility tariff bonds, is authorized under Section 393.1700.9 and this Financing Order to include this pledge in any documentation relating to the securitized utility tariff bonds.

38. This Financing Order will remain in full force and effect and unabated notwithstanding the bankruptcy of Liberty, its successors, or assignees.
39. Liberty retains sole discretion regarding whether or when to assign, sell, or otherwise transfer the rights and interests created by this Financing Order or any interest therein, or to cause the issuance of any securitized utility tariff bonds authorized by this Financing Order, subject to the right of the Commission, to issue a disapproval letter directing that the securitized utility tariff bonds as proposed not be issued as a result of the issuance advice letter process.
40. This Financing Order is subject to judicial review only in accordance with Sections 386.500 and 386.510, pursuant to Section 393.1700.2(3)(a)c. The finality of this Financing Order is not impaired in any manner by the participation of the Commission through its designated representative in any decisions related to issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds or by the Commission's review of or issuance of an order related to the issuance advice letter required to be filed with the Commission by this Financing Order.
41. This Financing Order meets the requirements for a financing order under Section 393.1700.
42. The true-up mechanism, and all other obligations of the State of Missouri and the Commission set forth in this Financing Order, are direct, explicit, irrevocable, and unconditional upon issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds and are legally enforceable against the State of Missouri and the Commission in accordance with Missouri law.

## V. Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following orders:

### A. Approval

1. **Approval of Petitions.** The decision of Liberty to retire Asbury was reasonable and prudent and the costs incurred or to be incurred in connection with the retirement of Asbury were reasonable and prudent. The costs incurred by Liberty with respect to Winter Storm

Uri were reasonable and prudent. The petitions of Liberty for the issuance of a financing order under Sections 393.1700 are approved, as provided in this Financing Order.

2. **Authority to Securitize.** Liberty is authorized in accordance with this Financing Order to finance and to cause the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds with a principal amount equal to the securitizable balance at the time the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued that includes upfront financing costs, including, but not limited to (i) underwriters discounts and commissions, (ii) legal costs, (iii) the cost of original issue discount, credit enhancements and other arrangements to enhance marketability as discussed in ordering paragraph 22, (iv) rating agency fees, (v) United States Securities and Exchange Commission registration fees, (vi) the cost of the Commission's financial advisor and its legal counsel, if any, and any additional costs incurred by Liberty to comply with the requests and recommendations of the Commission's financial advisor and/or legal counsel, and (vii) any costs incurred by Liberty if this Financing Order is appealed. The securitizable balance as of any given date is equal to the balance of energy transition costs plus qualified extraordinary costs plus carrying costs accruing on that balance at the WACC authorized in Case No. ER-2021-0312 through the date the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued. If the actual upfront financing costs are less than the upfront financing costs included in the aggregate principal amount of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the periodic billing requirement for the first annual true-up adjustment must be reduced by the amount of such unused funds (together with interest, if any, earned from the investment of such funds). If the final upfront financing costs are more than the upfront financing costs included in the aggregate principal amount of the securitized utility tariff bonds, Liberty may request recovery of the remaining upfront financing costs through a surcharge to Liberty's rates for electrical service.
3. **Recovery of Securitized Utility Tariff Charges.** Liberty must impose on, and the servicer must collect from, other entities serving all existing and future retail customers located within Liberty's service area as it exists on the date of this Financing Order and such other entities which, under the terms of this order or the tariffs approved hereby, are required to bill, pay, or collect securitized utility tariff charges, as provided in this Financing Order, securitized utility tariff charges in an amount sufficient to provide for the timely recovery

- of its aggregate financing costs detailed in this Financing Order (including payment of principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds).
4. **Third Party Billing.** If the State of Missouri or this Commission decides to allow billing, collection, and remittance of the securitized utility tariff charges by a third-party supplier within Liberty's service territory, such authentication will be consistent with the rating agencies' requirements necessary for the securitized utility tariff bonds to receive and maintain the targeted triple-A rating or as described in finding of fact number 53.
  5. **Provision of Information.** Liberty must take all necessary steps to ensure that the Commission or its designated representative is provided sufficient and timely information as provided in this Financing Order in order to fulfill its obligations as described in finding of fact numbers 70 and 72.
  6. **Issuance Advice Letter.** For each series of securitized utility tariff bonds issued, Liberty shall submit a draft issuance advice letter to the Commission Staff for review not later than two weeks before the expected date of commencement of marketing the securitized utility tariff bonds. With the agreement of the Commission's designated representative from Commission Staff, the actual date of the commencement of marketing may be a date other than the expected date. Within one week after receipt of the draft issuance advice letter, Commission Staff shall provide Liberty comments and recommendations regarding the adequacy of the information provided. Not later than the end of the first business day after the pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds and before issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds, Liberty, in consultation with the Commission acting through its designated representative, shall provide the Commission an issuance advice letter in substantially the form of the issuance advice letter attached as Appendix A to this Financing Order. As part of the issuance advice letter, Liberty, through an officer of Liberty, shall provide a certification worded precisely as the statement in the form of issuance advice letter approved by the Commission. The issuance advice letter must be completed, must evidence the actual dollar amount of the initial securitized utility tariff charges and other information specific to the securitized utility tariff bonds to be issued, and must certify to the Commission that the structure and pricing of that series results in the lowest securitized utility tariff charges consistent with market conditions at the time that the securitized utility tariff bonds are priced and with the terms set out in this Financing

Order. In addition, if more than de minimis original issue discount, credit enhancements, or arrangements to enhance marketability are used, the issuance advice letter must include certification that such original issue discount, credit enhancements, or other arrangements are reasonably expected to provide benefits as required by this Financing Order. All amounts which require computation must be computed using the mathematical formulas contained in the form of the issuance advice letter in Appendix A to this Financing Order and the Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC. Electronic spreadsheets with the formulas supporting the schedules contained in the issuance advice letter must be included with such letter. The Commission's review of the issuance advice letter must be limited to the arithmetic accuracy of the calculations and to compliance with the Securitization Law, this Financing Order, and the specific requirements that are contained in the issuance advice letter. The initial securitized utility tariff charges and the final terms of the securitized utility tariff bonds set forth in the issuance advice letter must become effective on the date of issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds (which must not occur before the fifth business day after pricing) unless before noon on the fourth business day after pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds, the Commission issues a disapproval letter directing that the securitized utility tariff bonds as proposed shall not be issued and the basis for that disapproval.

7. **Approval of Tariff.** Before the issuance of any securitized utility tariff bonds under this Financing Order, Liberty must file compliance tariff sheets that conform to the tariff provisions in this Financing Order, but with rate elements left blank. With its submission of the issuance advice letter, Liberty shall also submit a compliance tariff sheet, bearing an effective date no earlier than five business days after its submission, containing the rate elements of the securitized utility tariff charge. That compliance tariff sheet shall become effective on the date the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued with no further action of the Commission unless the Commission issues a disapproval letter as described in ordering paragraph 6.

#### **B. Securitized Utility Tariff Charges**

8. **Imposition and Collection.** Liberty is authorized to impose on, and the servicer is authorized to collect from all existing and future retail customers located within Liberty's service area as they existed on the date this Financing Order is issued and other entities

which, under the terms of this Financing Order or the tariffs approved hereby, are required to bill, pay, or collect securitized utility tariff charges, securitized utility tariff charges in an amount sufficient to provide for the timely recovery of the aggregate periodic payment requirements (including payment of principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds), as approved in this Financing Order. If there is a partial payment of an amount billed, the amount paid must first be apportioned ratably between the securitized utility tariff charges and other fees and, other than late fees, and second, any remaining portion of the payment must be allocated to late fees.

9. **BondCo's Rights and Remedies.** Upon the transfer by Liberty of the securitized utility tariff property to a BondCo, the BondCo must have all of the rights and interest of Liberty with respect to such securitized utility tariff property, including, without limitation, the right to exercise any and all rights and remedies with respect thereto, including the right to authorize disconnection of electric service and to assess and collect any amounts payable by any retail customer in respect of the securitized utility tariff property. If securitized utility tariff bonds are issued in more than one series, then the securitized utility tariff property transferred as a result of each issuance must be only those rights associated with that portion of the total amount authorized to be securitized under this Financing Order, which is securitized by such issuance. The rights to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges along with the other rights arising under this Financing Order as they relate to any portion of the total amount authorized to be securitized utility tariff that remains unsecuritized must remain with Liberty and shall only become securitized utility tariff property upon the transfer of the securitized utility tariff property to a BondCo and its pledge to secure an issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds.
10. **Collector of Securitized Utility Tariff Charges.** Liberty or any subsequent servicer of the securitized utility tariff bonds must bill a customer or other entity, which, under the terms of this Financing Order or the tariffs approved hereby, is required to bill or collect securitized utility tariff charges for the securitized utility tariff charges attributable to that customer.
11. **Collection Period.** The securitized utility tariff charges related to a series of securitized utility tariff bonds must be designed to be collected over the scheduled life of the securitized utility tariff bonds of 13 years. However, to the extent that any amounts are not

recovered at the end of this period, Liberty may continue to recover them over a period ending not more than 15 years from the date of issuance of that series of securitized utility tariff bonds. The proposed recovery period of the securitized utility tariff charges may be longer if deemed necessary to obtain the best possible credit rating.

12. **Allocation.** Liberty must allocate the securitized utility tariff charges among rate classes in the manner described in this Financing Order.
13. **Nonbypassability.** Liberty and any other entity providing electrical services to any retail customer within Liberty's certificated service area as it existed on the date this Financing Order is issued are entitled to collect and must remit, in accordance with this Financing Order. The Commission will ensure that such obligations are undertaken and performed by Liberty, any other entity providing electrical services to Liberty's retail customers.
14. **True-Ups.** True-ups of the securitized utility tariff charges must be undertaken and conducted as described in this Financing Order. If securitized utility tariff bonds are issued in more than one series, then each series will be subject to separate true-up adjustments under the Securitization Law and this Financing Order, provided, however, that more than one series may be trued-up in a single proceeding.
15. **Ownership Notification.** Any entity that bills securitized utility tariff charges to retail customers must, at least annually, provide written notification to each retail customer for which the entity bills securitized utility tariff charges that the securitized utility tariff charges are the property of BondCo and not of the entity issuing such bill.

### C. Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds

16. **Issuance.** Liberty is authorized through one or more BondCos to issue one or more series of securitized utility tariff bonds as specified in this Financing Order. The securitized utility tariff bonds must be denominated in United States Dollars.
17. **Upfront Financing Costs.** Liberty may finance upfront financing costs in accordance with the terms of this Financing Order, which provides that the total amount for upfront financing cost, including, but not limited to (i) underwriters' discounts and commissions, (ii) legal costs, (iii) the cost of original issue discount, credit enhancements and other arrangements to enhance marketability as discussed in ordering paragraphs 6 and 22, (iv) rating agency fees, (v) United States Securities and Exchange Commission registration fees, (vi) the cost of the Commission's financial advisor and its legal counsel, if any, and

any additional costs incurred by Liberty to comply with the requests and recommendations of the Commission's financial advisor and/or legal counsel, and (vii) any costs incurred by Liberty if this Financing Order is appealed.

18. **Ongoing Financing Costs.** Liberty may recover its actual ongoing financing costs through its securitized utility tariff charges set forth in finding of fact number 25 and Appendix B to this Financing Order. Ongoing financing costs also include an annual return at the authorized pre-tax return on equity determined in Liberty's most recent base-rate case on the capital contribution as discussed in finding of fact number 48. The amount of ongoing financing costs is subject to updating in the issuance advice letter to reflect a change in the size of the securitized utility tariff bond issuance and any decision to issue the bonds in more than one series and other information available at the time of submission of the issuance advice letter. As provided in ordering paragraph 31, a servicer, other than Liberty, may collect a servicing fee higher than that set forth in Appendix B to this Financing Order, if such higher fee is approved by the Commission and the indenture trustee.
19. **Collateral.** All securitized utility tariff property and other collateral must be held and administered by the indenture trustee under the indenture as described in Liberty's petitions. BondCo must establish a collection account with the indenture trustee as described in finding of fact numbers 46 through 51. Upon payment of the principal amount of all securitized utility tariff bonds authorized in this Financing Order and the discharge of all obligations in respect thereof, all amounts in the collection account, including investment earnings, other than amounts in the capital subaccount, must be released by the indenture trustee to BondCo for distribution in accordance with ordering paragraph 20.
20. **Distribution Following Repayment.** Following repayment of the securitized utility tariff bonds authorized in this Financing Order and release of the funds held by the trustee, the servicer, on behalf of BondCo, must distribute to retail customers, the final balance of the general, excess funds, and all other subaccounts (except the capital subaccount), whether such balance is attributable to principal amounts deposited in such subaccounts or to interest thereon, remaining after all other financing costs have been paid. BondCo or its successor in interest to the securitized utility tariff property must, to the extent the capital subaccount is not depleted below its original amount, also distribute to retail customers any subsequently collected securitized utility tariff charges.

21. **Funding of Capital Subaccount.** The capital contribution by Liberty to be deposited into the capital subaccount must, with respect to each BondCo and series of securitized utility tariff bonds, be funded by Liberty and not from the proceeds of the sale of securitized utility tariff bonds at an amount required by tax and rating agency requirements at the time of issuance. Liberty is authorized to receive a return on the capital contribution at the WACC authorized in Case No. ER-2021-0312. Upon payment of the principal amount of all securitized utility tariff bonds and the discharge of all obligations in respect thereof, all amounts in the capital subaccount, including investment earnings, and any amounts required to replenish the capital subaccount to the level of Liberty's capital contribution, and any unpaid authorized return on capital contributions for a series of securitized utility tariff bonds must be released to BondCo for payment to Liberty. Investment earnings in this subaccount and authorized return on capital contributions, if any, may be released earlier in accordance with the indenture.
22. **Original Issue Discount, Credit Enhancement.** Liberty may provide original issue discount or provide for various forms of credit enhancement, including letters of credit, an overcollateralization subaccount or other accounts, surety bonds, and other mechanisms designed to promote the credit quality or marketability of the securitized utility tariff bonds to the extent not prohibited by this Financing Order. Except for a de minimis amount of original issue discount, any decision to use such arrangements to enhance credit or promote marketability must be made in conjunction with the Commission acting through its designated representative. Liberty may not enter into an interest rate swap, currency hedge, or interest rate hedging arrangement. Liberty may include the costs of original issue discount, credit enhancements or other arrangements to promote credit quality or marketability as financing costs only if Liberty certifies that such arrangements are reasonably expected to provide benefits greater than their cost and such certifications are agreed with by the Commission's designated representative. Liberty must not be required to enter any arrangements to promote credit quality or marketability unless all related costs and liabilities can be included in financing costs. Liberty and the Commission's designated representative must evaluate the relative benefits of the arrangements in the same way that benefits are quantified under the quantifiable benefits test. This ordering paragraph does not apply to the collection account or its subaccounts approved in this Financing Order.



23. **Recovery Period.** The Commission authorizes Liberty to recover the securitized utility tariff costs and financing costs over period not to exceed 15 years from the date the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued, although this does not prohibit recovery of securitized utility tariff charges for service rendered during the 15-year period but not actually collected until after the 15-year period.
24. **Amortization Schedule.** The securitized utility tariff bonds must be structured to provide a securitized utility tariff charge that is based on substantially levelized annual revenue requirements over the expected life of the securitized utility tariff bonds and utilize consistent allocation factors across rate classes, subject to modification in accordance with this Financing Order. The structure employing substantially levelized annual revenue requirements will allow the resulting securitized utility tariff charges to remain level or decline over time, if billing determinants remain level or grow. If the securitized utility tariff bonds are issued in more than one series, each series must meet the requirement of substantially levelized annual revenue requirements.
25. **Commission Participation in Bond Issuance.** The Commission, acting through its designated representative, which shall be a member of Commission Staff, may participate with Liberty in discussions regarding the structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds. The Commission's designated representative has the right to provide input to Liberty and collaborate with Liberty in all facets of the process undertaken by Liberty to place the securitized utility tariff bonds to market so that the Commission's designated representative can provide the Commission with an opinion on the reasonableness of the pricing, terms, and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds on an expedited basis. Neither the designated representative or representatives from the Commission staff nor one or more financial advisors advising Commission staff shall have authority to direct how Liberty places the securitized utility tariff bonds to market although they shall be permitted to attend all meetings convened by Liberty to address placement of the securitized utility tariff bonds to market.
26. **Use of BondCo.** Liberty must use BondCo, a special purpose securitized utility tariff funding entity as proposed in its petitions, in conjunction with the issuance of a series of securitized utility tariff bonds authorized under this Financing Order. BondCo must be funded with an amount of capital that is sufficient for BondCo to carry out its intended

functions and to avoid the possibility that Liberty would have to extend funds to BondCo in a manner that could jeopardize the bankruptcy remoteness of BondCo. Liberty may create more than one BondCo in which event, the rights, structure, and restrictions described in this Financing Order with respect to BondCo would be applicable to each purchaser of securitized utility tariff property to the extent of the securitized utility tariff property sold to it and the securitized utility tariff bonds issued by it.

**D. Servicing**

27. **Servicing Agreement.** The Commission authorizes Liberty to enter into the servicing agreement with BondCo and to perform the servicing duties approved in this Financing Order. Without limiting the foregoing, in its capacity as initial servicer of the securitized utility tariff property, Liberty is authorized to calculate, bill and collect for the account of BondCo, the securitized utility tariff charges initially authorized in this Financing Order, as adjusted from time to time to meet the periodic payment requirements as provided in this Financing Order; and to make such filings and take such other actions as are required or permitted by this Financing Order in connection with the periodic true-ups described in this Financing Order. The servicer must be entitled to collect servicing fees in accordance with the provisions of the servicing agreement, provided that, as set forth in Appendix B, the annual servicing fee payable to Liberty while it is serving as servicer (or to any other servicer affiliated with Liberty) must not at any time exceed 0.05% of the original principal amount of the securitized utility tariff bonds. The annual servicing fee payable to any other servicer not affiliated with Liberty must not at any time exceed 0.60% of the original principal amount of the securitized utility tariff bonds unless such higher rate is approved by the Commission under ordering paragraph 30.
28. **Administration Agreement.** The Commission authorizes Liberty to enter into an administration agreement with each BondCo to provide the services covered by the administration agreements. The fee charged by Liberty as administrator under that agreement must not exceed \$50,000 per annum per BondCo plus reimbursable third-party costs.
29. **Replacement of Liberty as Servicer.** Upon the occurrence of an event of default under the servicing agreement relating to servicer's performance of its servicing functions with respect to the securitized utility tariff charges, the financing parties may replace Liberty as

the servicer in accordance with the terms of the servicing agreement. If the servicing fee of the replacement servicer will exceed the applicable maximum servicing fee specified in ordering paragraph 27, the replacement servicer must not begin providing service until (i) the date the Commission approves the appointment of such replacement servicer or (ii) if the Commission does not act to either approve or disapprove the appointment, the date which is 30 days after notice of appointment of the replacement servicer is provided to the Commission. No entity may replace Liberty as the servicer in any of its servicing functions with respect to the securitized utility tariff charges and the securitized utility tariff property authorized by this Financing Order, if the replacement would cause any of the then current credit ratings of the securitized utility tariff bonds to be suspended, withdrawn, or downgraded.

30. **Amendment of Agreements.** The parties to the servicing agreement, administration agreement, indenture, and securitized utility tariff property purchase and sale agreement may amend the terms of such agreements; provided, however, that no amendment to any such agreement must increase the ongoing financing costs without the approval of the Commission. Any amendment that does not increase the ongoing financing costs must be effective without prior Commission authorization. Any amendment to any such agreement that may have the effect of increasing ongoing financing costs must be provided by BondCo to the Commission along with a statement as to the possible effect of the amendment on the ongoing financing costs. The amendment must become effective on the later of (i) the date proposed by the parties to the amendment or (ii) 31 days after such submission to the Commission unless the Commission issues an order disapproving the amendment within a 30-day period.
31. **Collection Terms.** The servicer must remit collections of the securitized utility tariff charges to BondCo or the indenture trustee for BondCo's account in accordance with the terms of the servicing agreement.
32. **Contract to Provide Service.** To the extent that any interest in the securitized utility tariff property created by this Financing Order is assigned, sold or transferred to an assignee, Liberty must enter into a contract with that assignee that requires Liberty to continue to operate its transmission and distribution system to provide electrical services to Liberty's customers; provided, however, that this provision must not prohibit Liberty from selling,

assigning, or otherwise divesting its transmission and distribution systems or any part thereof so long as the entities acquiring such system agree to continue operating the facilities to provide electric service to Liberty's customers.

33. **Federal Securities Law Requirements.** Each other entity responsible for collecting securitized utility tariff charges from retail customers must furnish to BondCo or Liberty or to any successor servicer information and documents necessary to enable BondCo or Liberty or any successor servicer to comply with their respective disclosure and reporting requirements, if any, with respect to the securitized utility tariff bonds under federal securities laws.

**E. Structure of the Securitization**

34. **Structure.** Liberty must structure the securitization as proposed in Liberty's petitions. This structure must be in accordance with finding of fact numbers 44 through 45.
35. [Reserved]

**F. Miscellaneous Provisions**

36. [Reserved]
37. **Continuing Issuance Right.** In accordance with Section 393.1700.2(3)(c)n, Liberty has the continuing irrevocable right to cause the issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds in one or more series in accordance with this Financing Order for a period commencing with the date of this Financing Order and extending 24 months following the later of (i) the date on which this Financing Order becomes final and no longer subject to any appeal; or (ii) the date on which any other regulatory approvals necessary to issue the securitized utility tariff bonds are obtained and no longer subject to any appeal. If, at any time during the effective period of this Financing Order, there is a severe disruption in the financial markets of the United States, the effective period must automatically be extended to a date which is not less than 90 days after the date such disruption ends.
38. **Binding on Successors.** This Financing Order, together with the securitized utility tariff charges authorized in it, must be binding on Liberty and any successor to Liberty that provides transmission and distribution service directly to retail customers in Liberty's certificated service area as it existed on the date of this Financing Order, any other entity that provides transmission or distribution services to retail customers within that service area, and any successor to such other entity. In this paragraph, a successor means any

- entity that succeeds by any means whatsoever to any interest or obligation of its predecessor, including by way of bankruptcy, reorganization or other insolvency proceeding, merger, consolidation, conversion, assignment, pledge or other security, by operation of law or otherwise.
39. **Flexibility.** Subject to compliance with the requirements of this Financing Order, Liberty and BondCo must be afforded flexibility in establishing the terms and conditions of the securitized utility tariff bonds, including the final structure of BondCo, repayment schedules, term, payment dates, collateral, credit enhancement, required debt service, interest rates, use of original issue discount, and other financing costs and the ability of Liberty, at its option, to cause one or more series of securitized utility tariff bonds to be issued.
  40. **Effectiveness of Order.** This Financing Order will become effective in ten days, given the need to provide for prompt resolution of any issues regarding this proceeding, as well as to allow Liberty flexibility in accessing the financial markets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no securitized utility tariff property is created hereunder, and Liberty is not authorized to impose, collect, and receive securitized utility tariff charges until Liberty's rights and interests under this Financing Order have been transferred to BondCo in conjunction with the issuance of the securitized utility tariff bonds.
  41. **Regulatory Approvals.** All regulatory approvals within the jurisdiction of the Commission that are necessary for the securitization of the securitized utility tariff charges associated with the costs that are the subject of the petitions and for all related transactions contemplated in the petitions are granted.
  42. **Payment of Commission's Costs for Professional Services.** Liberty must pay the costs of the Commission of acquiring professional services for the purpose of evaluating Liberty's proposed transaction, including, but not limited to, the Commission's outside attorneys' fees in the amounts specified in this Financing Order no later than 30 days after the issuance of any securitized utility tariff bonds. Such costs shall be upfront financing costs and payable only from the proceeds of an issuance of securitized utility tariff bonds.
  43. **Effect.** This Financing Order constitutes a legal financing order for Liberty under the Securitization Law. The Commission finds this Financing Order complies with the Securitization Law. A financing order gives rise to rights, interests, obligations, and duties

as expressed in the Securitization Law. It is the Commission's express intent to give rise to those rights, interests, obligations, and duties by issuing this Financing Order. Liberty and the servicer are directed to take all actions as are required to effectuate the transactions approved in this Financing Order, subject to compliance with the criteria established in this Financing Order.

44. **Further Commission Action.** The Commission guarantees that it will act under this Financing Order as expressly authorized by the Securitization Law to ensure that expected securitized utility tariff charge revenues are sufficient to pay on a timely basis scheduled principal and interest on the securitized utility tariff bonds issued under this Financing Order and ongoing financing costs and other required amounts and charges payable in connection with the securitized utility tariff bonds.
45. **Designated Representative.** The Commission designates Ducera Partners LLC to serve as its representative under this Financing Order until such time as the Commission designates a new representative. The Commission will notify Liberty if it designates a new representative.
46. **All Other Motions Denied.** The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief that have not been expressly granted.

**FORM OF ISSUANCE ADVICE LETTER**

\_\_\_\_\_ day, \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

Case Nos. EO-2022-0040 and EO-2022-0193

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**SUBJECT: ISSUANCE ADVICE LETTER FOR SECURITIZED UTILITY TARIFF BONDS**

Pursuant to the Financing Order adopted in *Petitions of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for a Financing Order*, Case Nos. EO-2022-0040 and EO-2022-0193 (the “Financing Order”), THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A LIBERTY (“Petitioner”) hereby submits, no later than the end of the first business day after the pricing date of this series of Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds, the information referenced below. This Issuance Advice Letter is for the 20[●] Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds, tranches A-1 through A-\_\_\_\_. Any capitalized terms not defined in this letter have the meanings ascribed to them in the Financing Order.

**PURPOSE**

This filing establishes the following:

- (a) the total amount of Securitized Utility Tariff Costs and Financing Costs being financed;
- (b) confirmation of compliance with issuance standards;
- (c) the actual terms and structure of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds being issued;
- (d) the initial Securitized Utility Tariff Charge for retail customers; and
- (e) the identification of the Special Purpose Entity (SPE).

**SECURITIZED UTILITY TARIFF COSTS AND FINANCING COSTS BEING FINANCED**

The total amount of Securitized Utility Tariff Costs and Financing Costs being financed (the “Securitized Costs”) is presented in Attachment 1.

**COMPLIANCE WITH ISSUANCE STANDARDS**

The Financing Order requires Petitioner to confirm, using the methodology approved therein, that the actual terms of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds result in compliance with the standards set forth in the Financing Order. These standards are:

1. The financing of Energy Transition Costs, Qualified Extraordinary Costs and Financing Costs will provide quantifiable net present value benefits to retail customers, greater than would be achieved compared to (a) the traditional method of financing with respect to the Energy Transition Costs and (b) the customary method of financing with respect to the Qualified Extraordinary Costs, collectively, in retail customer rates (See Attachment 2, Schedule D-1 and Schedule D-2);
2. The Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds will be issued in one or more series comprised of one or more tranches having a scheduled final payment of \_\_\_ years and legal final maturities not exceeding \_\_\_ years from the date of issuance of such series (See Attachment 2, Schedule A);
3. The Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds may be issued with an original issue discount, additional credit enhancements, or arrangements to enhance marketability provided that the Petitioner certifies that the original issue discount, additional credit enhancements, or arrangements to enhance marketability are reasonably expected to provide quantifiable net present value benefits greater than its cost; and
4. The structuring and pricing of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds is certified by the Petitioner to result in the lowest Securitized Utility Tariff Charges consistent with market conditions at the time the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds were priced and the terms of the Financing Order (See Attachment 4).
5. The amount of [Securitized Utility Tariff Costs] to be financed using Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds are \$\_\_\_\_\_.
6. The recovery of such [Securitized Utility Tariff Costs] is just and reasonable and in the public interest.
7. The estimate of the amount of Financing Costs that may be recovered through Securitized Utility Tariff Charges is \$\_\_\_\_\_.
8. The period over which the Securitized Utility Tariff Costs and Financing Costs may be recovered is \_\_\_ years.
- [9. Add other findings from Section 393.1700.2(3)(c).]



**ACTUAL TERMS OF ISSUANCE**

Securitized Utility Tariff Bond Series: \_\_\_\_\_

Securitized Utility Tariff Bond Issuer: [**BondCo**]

Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20[●]

Bond Ratings: [S&P AAA(sf), Moody's Aaa(sf)]

Amount Issued: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Securitized Utility Tariff Bond Upfront Financing Costs: See Attachment 1, Schedule B.

Securitized Utility Tariff Bond Ongoing Financing Costs: See Attachment 2, Schedule B.

Tranche	Coupon Rate	Scheduled Final Payment	Legal Final Maturity
A-1	__%	__	__

Effective Annual Weighted Average Interest Rate of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds:	[__]%
Life of Series:	__ years
Weighted Average Life of Series:	__ years
Call provisions (including premium, if any):	__
Target Amortization Schedule:	Attachment 2, Schedule A
Scheduled Final Payment Dates:	Attachment 2, Schedule A
Legal Final Maturity Dates:	Attachment 2, Schedule A
Payments to Investors:	Semi-annually Beginning __, 20__
Initial annual Servicing Fee as a percent of original Securitized Utility Tariff Bond principal balance:	[●]%

**INITIAL SECURITIZED UTILITY TARIFF CHARGE**

Table I below shows the current assumptions for each of the variables used in the calculation of the initial Securitized Utility Tariff Charges.

<b>TABLE I</b>	
<b>Input Values For Initial Securitized Utility Tariff Charges</b>	
Applicable period: from _____ to _____	
Forecasted retail kWh/kW sales for the applicable period:	\$ _____
Securitized Utility Tariff Bond debt service for the applicable period	\$ _____
Percent of billed amounts expected to be charged-off:	\$ _____
Forecasted % of Billing Paid in the Applicable Period:	\$ _____
Forecasted retail kWh/kW sales billed and collected for the applicable period.	\$ _____
Forecasted annual ongoing (Excluding Securitized Utility Tariff interest): transaction expenses Bond principal and interest):	\$ _____
Initial Securitized Utility Tariff Bond outstanding balance :	\$ _____
Target Securitized Utility Tariff Bond outstanding balance as of: _____ / ____ / ____:	\$ _____
Total Periodic Billing Requirement for applicable period:	\$ _____

Allocation of the PBR among customer classes: See Attachment 3.

Based on the foregoing, the initial Securitized Utility Tariff Charges calculated for retail users are as follows:

<b>TABLE II</b>	
<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>Initial Securitized Utility Tariff Charge</u>
Residential	\$ ____/kWh
Commercial	\$ ____/kWh
Small Heating	\$ ____/kWh
General Power	\$ ____/kWh
Transmission	\$ ____/kWh
Total Electric Building	\$ ____/kWh
Feed Mill	\$ ____/kWh
Large Power	\$ ____/kWh
Misc. Service	\$ ____/kWh
Street Lighting	\$ ____/kWh
Private Lighting	\$ ____/kWh
Special Lighting	\$ ____/kWh

**IDENTIFICATION OF SPE**

The owner of the Securitized Utility Tariff Property will be: \_\_\_\_\_ [BondCo].

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

In accordance with the Financing Order, the Securitized Utility Tariff Charge shall be automatically effective upon the Petitioner’s receipt of payment in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from [BondCo], following Petitioner’s execution and delivery to [BondCo] of the Bill of Sale transferring Petitioner’s rights and interests under the Financing Order and other rights and interests that will become Securitized Utility Tariff Property upon transfer to [BondCo] as described in the Financing Order.

**NOTICE**

Copies of this filing are being furnished to the parties on the attached service list. Notice to the public is hereby given by filing and keeping this filing open for public inspection at Petitioner's corporate headquarters.

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER**

The undersigned is an officer of Petitioner and authorized to deliver this Issuance Advice Letter on behalf of Petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
D/B/A LIBERTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**SCHEDULE A**

**CALCULATION OF SECURITIZED UTILITY**  
**TARIFF COSTS AND FINANCING COSTS**

Securitized Utility Tariff Costs to be financed:	\$ _____
Upfront Financing Costs	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL COSTS TO BE FINANCED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**SCHEDULE B**  
**ESTIMATED UPFRONT FINANCING COSTS**

<b>UPFRONT FINANCING COSTS</b>	
Legal Fees (Company, Issuer, and Underwriter)	\$ _____
Trustee's/Trustee Counsel's Fees and Expenses	\$ _____
Legal Fees for Counsel to the Commission, if any	\$ _____
Underwriters' Fees	\$ _____
Auditor Fees	\$ _____
Structuring Advisor	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
Consultants' Fees	\$ _____
Commission's Financial Advisor Fees and other fees and expenses	\$ _____
SEC Registration Fees	\$ _____
Rating Agency Fees	\$ _____
Printing/Edgarizing	\$ _____
Original Issue Discount	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL UPFRONT FINANCING COSTS FINANCED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Note: Differences that result from the Estimated Upfront Financing Costs financed being more than the Actual Upfront Financing Costs incurred will be resolved through the process described in the Financing Order. Differences that result from the Estimated Upfront Financing Costs financed being less than the Actual Upfront Financing Costs incurred may be resolved in a future proceeding as described in the Financing Order.**



**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**SCHEDULE B**  
**ONGOING FINANCING COSTS**

	<b>ANNUAL AMOUNT</b>
Servicing Fee (Liberty as Servicer) (0.05% of initial Securitized Utility Tariff Bond principal amount)	\$ _____
Independent Director or Manager's Fees	\$ _____
Administration Fee	\$ _____
Trustee's/Trustee's Counsel Fees and Expenses	\$ _____
Accountant's Fee	\$ _____
Legal Fees/Expenses for Company's/Issuer's Counsel	\$ _____
Rating Agency Fees	\$ _____
Return on Capital Account for Credit Enhancement (calculated at proposed WACC from ER-2021-0312)	\$ _____
Printing/Edgarizing Fees	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ONGOING FINANCING COSTS (with Liberty as Servicer)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
Ongoing Servicers Fee (Third Party as Servicer) (0.60% of principal amount)	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ONGOING FINANCING COSTS (Third Party as Servicer)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Note: The amounts shown for each category of operating expense on this attachments are the expected expenses for the first year of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds. Securitized Utility Tariff Charges will be adjusted at least semi-annually to reflect any changes in Ongoing Financing Costs through the true-up process described in the Financing Order.**



**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**SCHEDULE C**  
**CALCULATION OF SECURITIZED UTILITY TARIFF CHARGES**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Securitized Utility Tariff Bond Payments<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Ongoing Costs<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total Nominal Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Requirement<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Present Value of Securitized Utility Tariff Charges<sup>4</sup></b>
1	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
6	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
7	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
8	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
9	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
10	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
11	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
12	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
13	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
14	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

<sup>1</sup> From Attachment 2, Schedule A.

<sup>2</sup> From Attachment 2, Schedule B.

<sup>3</sup> Sum of Securitized Utility Tariff Bond payments and ongoing costs.

<sup>4</sup> The discount rate used is the weighted average effective annual interest rate of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds.

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**SCHEDULE D-1**  
**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 393.1700**

Quantifiable Benefits Test:<sup>5</sup>

	Traditional Financing with respect to Energy Transition Costs	Securitization Financing with respect to Energy Transition Costs <sup>6</sup>	Savings/(Cost) of Securitization Financing with respect to Energy Transition Costs
Nominal	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million
Present Value	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**SCHEDULE D-2**  
**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 393.1700**

Quantifiable Benefits Test:<sup>7</sup>

	Customary Financing with respect to Qualified Extraordinary Costs	Securitization Financing with respect to Qualified Extraordinary Costs <sup>8</sup>	Savings/(Cost) of Securitization Financing with respect to Qualified Extraordinary Costs
Nominal	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million
Present Value	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million	\$ _____ million

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<sup>5</sup> Calculated in accordance with the methodology cited in the Financing Order.

<sup>6</sup> From Attachment 2, Schedule C.

<sup>7</sup> Calculated in accordance with the methodology cited in the Financing Order.

<sup>8</sup> From Attachment 2, Schedule C.

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**INITIAL ALLOCATION OF COSTS TO SUTC CLASSES**

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
SUTC Class	PBRA <sup>9</sup>	Periodic Billing Requirement	Billing Requirement per SUTC Class	Forecasted Billing Determinants	SUTC Charge
	%	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____	\$ ____/kWh
	%	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____	\$ ____/kWh
	%	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____	\$ ____/Distribution Billing kW
	%	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____	\$ ____/Distribution Billing kW
	%	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____	\$ ____/kWh
Total	100.0000 %	\$ _____	\$ _____		

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<sup>9</sup> Determined in accordance with the methodology set forth in the Financing Order and Securitized Utility Tariff Charge Rider SUTC.

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**FORM OF PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION**

[Liberty Letterhead]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20[●]

Missouri Public Service Commission  
200 Madison Street  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Re: *Petitions of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for a Financing Order*, Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (the "Petitioner") submits this Certification Empire to Ordering Paragraph No. \_\_\_\_ of the Financing Order in *Petitions of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for a Financing Order*, Case Nos. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Financing Order"). All capitalized terms not defined in this letter have the meanings ascribed to them in the Financing Order.

In its issuance advice letter dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20[●], the Petitioner has set forth the following particulars of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds:

Name of Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds: \_\_\_\_\_

SPE: [**BondCo**]

Closing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Issued: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Amortization Schedule : See Attachment 2, Schedule A to the Issuance Advice Letter

Distributions to Investors (quarterly or semi-annually):

Weighted Average Coupon Rate: \_\_\_\_\_%

Weighted Average Yield<sup>10</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_%

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<sup>10</sup> The internal rate of return, calculated including all up-front and ongoing costs.

The following actions were taken in connection with the design, marketing, structuring and pricing of the bonds:

- [Included credit enhancement in the form of the true-up mechanism and an equity contribution of 0.50% of the original principal amount.]
- Registered the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds with the Securities and Exchange Commission to facilitate greater liquidity.
- Achieved preliminary Aaa(sf)/AAA(sf) ratings from at least two of the three major rating agencies with final Aaa(sf)/AAA(sf) ratings a condition of closing.
- Selected underwriters that have relevant experience and execution capability.
- Provided the preliminary prospectus by e-mail to prospective investors.
- Allowed sufficient time for investors to review the preliminary prospectus and to ask questions regarding the transaction.
- Arranged for the issuance of rating agency pre-sale reports during the marketing period.
- During the period that the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds were marketed, held daily market update discussions with the underwriting team to develop recommendations for pricing.
- Had multiple conversations with all of the members of the underwriting team before and during the marketing phase in which we stressed the requirements of the Financing Order.
- Developed and implemented a marketing plan designed to give each of the underwriters incentive to aggressively market the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds to their customers and to reach out to a broad base of potential investors, including investors who have not previously purchased this type of security.
- Provided potential investors with access to an internet roadshow for viewing on repeated occasions at investors' convenience.
- Adapted the Securitized Utility Tariff Bond offering to market conditions and investor demand at the time of pricing. Variables impacting the final structure of the transaction were evaluated including the length of average lives and maturity of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds and interest rate requirements at the time of pricing so that the structure of the transaction would correspond to investor preferences and rating agency requirements for AAA ratings, while meeting the requirements of the Financing Order. [After evaluation, incorporated the use of original issue discount to investors consistent with the expectation that it would provide greater benefit than its cost.]
- Worked with underwriters (and each of our respective counsels) to finalize documentation in accordance with established standards for transactions of this sort and the terms of the Financing Order.

**[Note: Foregoing bullet points are illustrative and will be modified to reflect actual activities in this transaction.]**

Based upon information reasonably available to the officers, agents, and employees of the Petitioner, the Petitioner hereby certifies that the structuring, marketing and pricing of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds, as described in the issuance advice letter, will result in the lowest Securitized Utility Tariff Charges consistent with market conditions at the time the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds were priced and the terms of the Financing Order (including the amortization structure, if any, ordered by the Commission), all within the meaning of Sections 393.1700.2(b) and (c).

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
D/B/A LIBERTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**FORM OF TARIFF**

[To be Included with IAL]

**ESTIMATED UPFRONT FINANCING COSTS**

<b>UPFRONT FINANCING COSTS</b>	
Legal Fees (Company, Issuer, and Underwriter)	\$ 3,800,000
Trustee's/Trustee Counsel's Fees and Expenses	\$ TBD
Legal Fees for Counsel to the Commission, if any	\$ TBD
Underwriters' Fees	\$ 1,390,038
Auditor Fees	\$ 400,000
Structuring Advisor	\$ 510,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 100,000
Consultants' Fees	\$ 270,400
Commission's Financial Advisor Fees and other fees and expenses	\$ TBD
SEC Registration Fees	0.00927%
Rating Agency Fees	0.1150%
Printing/Edgarizing	\$ TBD
Original Issue Discount	\$ TBD
<b>TOTAL UPFRONT FINANCING COSTS FINANCED</b>	<b>\$ 6,920,258</b>



### ONGOING FINANCING COSTS

	<b>ANNUAL AMOUNT</b>
Servicing Fee (Liberty as Servicer) (0.05% of initial Securitized Utility Tariff Bond principal amount)	\$ 181,210
Independent Director or Manager's Fee	\$ TBD
Administration Fee	\$ 100,000
Trustee's/Trustee's Counsel Fees and Expenses	\$ 10,000
Accountant's Fee	\$ 150,000
Legal Fees/Expenses for Company's/Issuer's Counsel	\$ 70,000
Rating Agency Fees	\$ 80,000
Return on Capital Account for Credit enhancement (calculated at proposed WACC from ER-2021-0312)	\$ 122,679
Printing/Edgarizing Fees	\$ 20,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 20,000
<b>TOTAL ONGOING FINANCING COSTS (with Liberty as Servicer)</b>	<b>\$ 753,889</b>
Ongoing Servicers Fee (Third Party as Servicer) (0.60 % of principal amount)	\$ 2,174,520
<b>TOTAL ONGOING FINANCING COSTS (Third Party as Servicer)</b>	<b>\$ 2,698,769</b>