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RICHARD T. CIOTTONE

March 14, 2003

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**FILED**<sup>3</sup>

**MAR 14 2003**

**Missouri Public  
Service Commission**

**Re: Case No. ER-2002-424**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

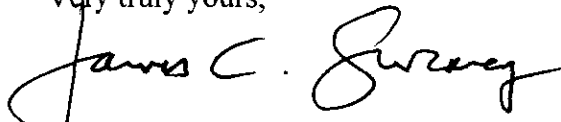
Enclosed for filing on behalf of The Empire District Electric Company, please find an original and eight (8) copies of a Status Report.

A copy of this filing will be provided to all parties of record.

Please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
James C. Swearngen

JCS/lar

Enclosure

cc: John Coffman  
Denny Frey  
Stuart Conrad

MAR 14 2003

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI****Missouri Public  
Service Commission**

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric Company     )  
of Joplin, Missouri, for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing    )  
Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the     )  
Missouri Service Area of the Company.                             )

Case No. ER-2002-424

**STATUS REPORT**

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), by counsel, and  
for its Status Report in the captioned-matter respectfully states as follows to the Missouri  
Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. Pursuant to the Report and Order issued by the Commission in the captioned  
proceeding on November 14, 2002, effective November 24, 2002, and paragraph 6 of the  
Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement approved thereby, Empire has refunded to its  
customers, with interest, approximately \$18.9 million, all in connection with its Interim  
Energy Charge.

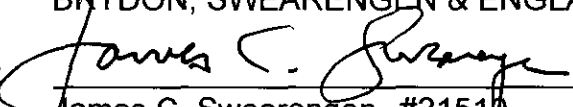
2. Said refunds took place through bill credits which commenced with bills mailed  
February 11, 2003 and ended with bills mailed on March 7, 2003.

3. Further, the disposition of any residual amounts resulting from the inability to  
locate former Empire customers will be as specified in the Unanimous Stipulation and  
Agreement approved by the Commission in Case No. ER-2001-299.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

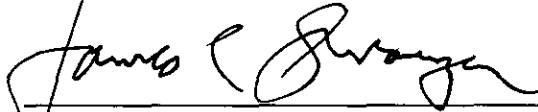
By:

  
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ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003, to all parties of record.

  
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