Page 1 1 STATE OF MISSOURI 2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 3 4 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 5 6 7 Local Public Hearing 8 January 4, 2013 9 Reeds Spring, Missouri 10 Volume 7 11 12 In The Matter of the Empire District) Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri) 13 for Authority to File Tariffs) Increasing Rates for Electric Service) File No. ER-2012-0345 14 Provided to Customers in the Missouri) Service Area of the Company) 15 16 MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE 17 18 STEPHEN M. STOLL COMMISSIONER 19 20 21 22 REPORTED BY: DAWN A. CHAPMAN, RPR, CSR NO. 645 23 Midwest Litigation Services 24 25

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12	No. 1	January 4, 2013 Statement from	6
13		Todd Steinmann	
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1	(Proceedings commenced at 12:13 p.m.)
2	PROCEEDINGS
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Hello, we're on the record.
4	Today's Friday, January 4th, 2013. The Missouri Public
5	Service Commission has set this time for a local public
6	hearing in File No. ER-2013-0345 (Sic) which is captioned
7	as in the matter of the application of the Empire District
8	Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri Tariffs Increasing
9	Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the
10	Missouri Service Area of the Company. My name is Michael
11	Bushmann, I'm the Regulatory Law Judge that will be
12	presiding over today's hearing, and with me this afternoon
13	is Commissioner Stephen Stoll. Mr. Stoll, did you want to
14	make any opening comments?
15	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Just wanted to welcome
16	everyone, the citizens who are here, and the folks from
17	the the company and the various entities that are here
18	representing their their folks. And this is an
19	important part of the process, it's where the Public
20	Service Commission takes comments from citizens. And there
21	are four commissioners on the Missouri Public Service
22	Commission, we have we try to well, we almost always
23	have at least one commissioner at every meeting and, so, I
24	am here representing the Commission. And we also are
25	filming this, and we have a court reporter that's

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	Page 4
1	transcribing the proceedings, and I can guarantee you that
2	the other commissioners will look at the record. And this
3	is a quite lengthy process, this is we're kind of at the
4	beginning of it right now, and the judge will talk a little
5	bit more about that at the end of the session today. But
6	we are anxious to hear what you have to say, and we do take
7	it very seriously. And, again, welcome and thanks for
8	coming today.
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's begin by Counsel making
10	their entries of appearance. For the Empire District
11	Electric Company?
12	MS. CARTER: Diana Carter of Brydon,
13	Swearengen & England representing the Empire District
14	Electric Company.
15	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Office of the Public Counsel?
16	MR. MILLS: Lewis Mills, my address is
17	P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
18	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Staff for the Missouri Public
19	Service Commission?
20	MR. KEEVEL: Representing the PSC Staff, Jeff
21	Keevel, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
22	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Is there anyone here today
23	representing any of the Intervenors? Okay. Before we get
24	started, the first thing that's going to happen is I have a
25	list of names that have signed up to testify. And when I

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1	call your name I'd ask you to since it's a small room
2	you can just stand up where you are, and I'll ask you to
3	state your name for the record, and I'll put you under oath
4	and then you can make your comments to the Commission. The
5	first name that I have is Todd Steinmann. Mr. Steinmann,
6	can you just state your name and spell your last name?
7	WITNESS STEINMANN: Todd Steinmann,
8	S-T-E-I-N-M-A-N-N.
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you raise your right
10	hand?
11	TODD STEINMANN,
12	of lawful age, having been produced and sworn, testified as
13	follows:
14	JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may proceed.
15	WITNESS STEINMANN: And then I'll present this
16	when I'm through speaking; is that correct?
17	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay, you have an exhibit you
18	want to introduce?
19	WITNESS STEINMANN: Yes.
20	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay, we'll do that after you
21	speak.
22	WITNESS STEINMANN: Okay. As one of the
23	sub-grantees who administers the Empire Electric Low Income
24	Weatherization Program, the Ozarks Area Community Action
25	Corporation, OACAC, Weatherization Program is requesting

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1	that Empire Electric change their current allowable maximum
2	amount of dollar spent per home to be the same as the
3	Department of Natural Resources/Division of Energy. OACAC
4	Weatherization Program is also requesting that all rules
5	and regulations in the performance of the Empire Electric
6	Weatherization Program also be the same as DNR rules and
7	regulations, excluding work on gas appliances. And that's
8	my whole statement.
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And is that a that's a
10	copy of your statement, you wanted to have that
11	introduced
12	WITNESS STEINMANN: Yes, yes.
13	JUDGE BUSHMANN: into the record? Could
14	you give it to the court reporter
15	WITNESS STEINMANN: I can.
16	JUDGE BUSHMANN: for marking? Why don't we
17	mark that as Exhibit No. 1. Are there any objections to
18	Exhibit No. 1 being added into the record? Hearing none,
19	Exhibit No. 1 will be received into the record.
20	WITNESS STEINMANN: Thank you.
21	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, sir. Were there
22	any questions from Counsel for Mr. Steinmann?
23	MR. KEEVEL: Just real quick. Do you work
24	for
25	WITNESS STEINMANN: I do, I'm the

	Page 7
1	Weatherization Director for OACAC Weatherization, we're one
2	of the sub-grantees that administer this program.
3	MR. KEEVEL: Okay. That's all.
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mr. Stoll, did you have any
5	questions?
6	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Would it be appropriate
7	for me for ask him to elaborate a little bit on the
8	difference between
9	WITNESS STEINMANN: Yes.
10	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Empire and
11	WITNESS STEINMANN: Currently No. 1, we're
12	very grateful for everything that Empire does for for
13	low income Missourians who receive weatherization services.
14	The Difference is Empire puts a cap on how much you can
15	spend per home
16	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay.
17	WITNESS STEINMANN: which in the past has
18	not been a problem because we have plenty of DNR money,
19	which is really DOE money.
20	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay.
21	WITNESS STEINMANN: DOE money has been cut
22	drastically, so there's very little DOE money left. So if
23	we don't have DOE money to put with the Empire money we
24	cannot do the full package of weatherization to the home,
25	so we're asking them to raise their average to what DNR's

Page 8 average is so we can use it as a sole funding source to 1 2 weatherize these low income peoples' homes. 3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay. And then that way 4 be able to do what you --5 WITNESS STEINMANN: Correct. COMMISSIONER STOLL: -- determine to be the --6 7 WITNESS STEINMANN: Right, right. COMMISSIONER STOLL: -- adequate amount --8 9 WITNESS STEINMANN: Right. 10 COMMISSIONER STOLL: -- and so on? WITNESS STEINMANN: And what we do with the 11 12 energy out at the home, we only do the things that are cost effective to the home which means there has to be a payback 13 14 for the measures we put on. 15 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay, thank you. Thank 16 you for testifying. 17 WITNESS STEINMANN: You're welcome. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next name I have is Dennis 18 Robbins. Could you state your name and spell your last 19 20 name, sir? 21 WITNESS ROBBINS: Dennis M. Robbins, 22 R-O-B-B-I-N-S. 23 DENNIS ROBBINS, of lawful age, being produced and sworn, testified as 24 25 follows:

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: You may go ahead.
2	WITNESS ROBBINS: My name is Dennis Robbins,
3	I'm from Joplin, Missouri. I wasn't able to make it to the
4	meeting there last night, worked too late, so I drive up
5	here for this one. I realize this is a I'll keep it
6	short this time, I spoke at one about 18 months ago when
7	they had a rate hike here and I spoke for about 45 minutes
8	to an hour, so I'll keep it brief today because I realize
9	this is also an exercise in futility for me to be here but
10	I have to be here anyway, I couldn't sleep if I don't. I
11	own a small mobile home park south of Joplin, been down
12	this road before. Total electric, on Empire, and I've got
13	tenants out there whose incomes range from making
14	bringing home 800 a month to maybe 1600 a month lives in
15	this park, all good people, all either working people,
16	people on disability, barely struggling to get by. And
17	after the rate hike here here in 18 months ago, I had to
18	go out there and in order to make sure these people have a
19	roof over their head and a place to live, I lowered their
20	rents again, instead of raising rents like Empire raises
21	their rates, every time they raise a rate I lower mine,
22	then I offset it by going out and working more to help them
23	pay their electric bills so I here, again, I talked to
24	you guys a year and a half ago, I'm 50 years old then I'm
25	52 now, and I cut back to working 70 hours a week so that

	Page 10
1	the average person can survive in this economy, it's crazy
2	to me, guys, I just don't get it. I mean, you guys are
3	talking about a rate hike hearing requesting raising it
4	from 1,000 kilowatt hours, approximately \$6.60 I believe,
5	but the average person who lives in a total electric home
6	does not only use 1,000 kilowatt hours per month, the
7	average tenant out there in my mobile home park, their
8	bills range anywhere from 175, 225, 250 a month, and I have
9	to go hand them \$100 bills out of my pocket so that they
10	can stay there. So last year I lowered the rents \$6,000
11	for these people who were struggling, and they're all
12	working people, they all work, it's just they don't
13	there's no jobs out there to get more work, and then I pay
14	\$4800 out of my pocket in electric to Empire to make sure
15	they keep these places, guys, I mean, this is a small park,
16	I'm not a rich man, I'm a house painter. And I'm not
17	speaking just for me and these families, but my point is,
18	everybody out there on this electric service is a real
19	person, a real family who has real needs and and, guys,
20	there's just not enough money left at the end of the month
21	to go around, I'm telling you. You know, to Empire they're
22	saying it's a small amount, but some of these families that
23	have to come up with that extra 18, 20, \$25 a month, that's
24	a big burden, it really is. And what I've done since the
25	last hearing, I've worked with I'm not sure if it's the

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1	same group there in Joplin, but it was Rates and Plan, I've
2	paid money to well, the owner has to pay to have them
3	come in and offset the costs to weatherize two families who
4	qualify. A lot of these families don't qualify for
5	anything because the electric's in my name and, so, in a
6	loophole because I'm the landlord and the electric's in my
7	name, even if they're low income people they can't get the
8	help, Dennis gets stuck paying the bill. And I'm not
9	complaining for myself, I'm complaining because if I ever
10	give up, or if I ever get where I can't work then it
11	affects these people, not just me. And I do have a
12	question, who who's here representing Empire that's a
13	person to speak to for Empire, is there anybody here?
14	COMMISSIONER STOLL: There are some
15	representatives from Empire that you can speak to.
16	WITNESS ROBBINS: Well, I have a question
17	well, I have a question directly involved about the hearing
18	because I want to make sure that Empire wasn't
19	misrepresented in the Joplin Globe. Because what I gather
20	in laymen's terms in one of the comments in the Joplin
21	Globe was part of the reason you want this amount of a rate
22	hike is because when the tornado hit Joplin in May, 2011,
23	you lost a lot of residential and business customers so you
24	weren't able to collect money from these people because
25	they weren't using any electricity so you lost customers.

Page 12 So my question is, if that's the case, if I've got 12 1 2 mobile homes in my park, three tenants move out on January 3 1st of this year for whatever given reason and they're not paying rent, do I go to the other nine and say you guys all 4 5 kick in 35 extra a month to pay for the three that aren't 6 there that I'm not getting service to; I'm confused by that 7 analogy in the Joplin Globe of why they want some of this money because they lost customers who weren't able to pay 8 9 them for something they didn't receive, and then they're 10 wanting us to pick up the tab. I'm very confused by all this. I guess I'll keep it shorter today because I can go 11 12 on, guys, for hours about this, I'll be honest with you, I drove an hour and a half and I can go on for hours but I'll 13 stop here. Thank you. 14 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Any questions for 16 Mr. Robbins? 17 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I do want to thank you for taking your time, and we do take everyone's statements 18 like this seriously, and if you care to follow the process 19 20 it --21 WITNESS ROBBINS: I follow it every time all the way through. 22 23 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Do you; okay, good. WITNESS ROBBINS: Can I make one more comment 2.4 I forgot, it's important before I got off on that. 25 I did

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1	look into it after that hearing 18 months ago, guys, I've
2	looked into every every conceivable way to cut the bills
3	down for everybody out there, and even looked into all
4	those mobiles are total electric with central heat and air,
5	all units that I purchased in the since 2005. And at
6	the time they were the best you could get. Most energy
7	efficient, best heat pump, best electric systems I could
8	get. So I did go after the last hearing and had a heat and
9	air man come out, got estimates to replace the heating and
10	air units with more efficient, and it's going to be
11	\$92,000. And this is a park that brings in 20,000 a year,
12	so I there's just no way I can go borrow \$100,000 to
13	upgrade to more efficient heat and air unit for these
14	people either. Anyway, that's all I have to say about it.
15	Thank you.
16	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Robbins.
17	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.
18	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Is there anyone else who
19	would like to testify? Hearing none, Commissioner Stoll,
20	did you want to make any closing remarks?
21	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Just, again, to thank you
22	for coming out today, and we appreciate your input.
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: The evidentiary hearing is
24	scheduled to begin February 19th. And if you have internet
25	access you can actually watch that hearing on your computer

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1	since it will be webcast on the Commission's home page.
2	The final decision won't come out until sometime during
3	May. That concludes today's hearing, we're off the record.
4	Thank you all for coming.
5	(Proceedings concluded at 12:27 p.m.)
6	(Exhibit No. 1 was marked for identification
7	at the conclusion of the hearing.)
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1	CERTIE	FICATE OF REPORTER
	STATE OF MISSOURI)	
2) ss	
	COUNTY OF GREENE)	
3		
4	I, Dawn A.	. Chapman, a Registered Professional
5	Reporter, Certified Cou	art Reporter, do hereby certify that
6	the record of proceedir	ngs was taken by me to the best of my
7	ability and thereafter	reduced to typewriting under my
8	direction; that I am ne	either counsel for, related to, nor
9	employed by any of the	parties to the action in which this
10	record was taken, and f	Eurther, that I am not a relative or
11	employee of any attorne	ey or counsel employed by the parties
12	thereto, nor financial	ly or otherwise interested in the
13	outcome of the action.	
14		
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16		
17		Dawn A. Chapman, RPR
18		CCR-MO No. 645 / CCR-KS NO. 1414
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