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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
February 19, 2015
Joplin, Missouri
Volume 3

In the Matter of The Empire) File No.
District Electric Company For) ER-2014-0351
Authority To File Tariffs)
Increasing Rates For Electric)
Service Provided To Customers In)
The Company's Missouri Service)
Area)

KIM S. BURTON, Presiding,
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

WILLIAM KENNEY,
COMMISSIONER.

(Starting time of the proceedings: 6:35 p.m.)

REPORTED BY: KAREN VEST, Registered Professional
Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Certified
Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri

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A P P E A R A N C E S

For Empire District:

MS. DIANA C. CARTER
BRYDON SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND
312 East Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573.635.7166
dcarter@brydonlaw.com

For the Office of Public Counsel:

MR. TIMOTHY OPITZ
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573.751.5565
timothy.opitz@ded.mo.gov

For the Public Service Commission:

MR. ROBERT S. BERLIN
MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573.526.7779
bob.berlin@psc.mo.gov

Court Reporter:

MS. KAREN VEST, RPR, CCR No. 846
MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES
2422 East Madrid Road
Springfield, Missouri 65804
417.877.9700
kvest@midwestlitigation.com

Also Present:

MR. GREGG OCHOA, PSC STAFF

1 * * * * *

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED that this
4 hearing may be taken in shorthand by Karen Vest,
5 RPR, CRR, a Registered Professional Reporter,
6 Certified Court Reporter, and Certified Realtime
7 Reporter in the state of Missouri, and afterwards
8 transcribed into typewriting.

9 (Whereupon, proceedings began at
10 6:35 p.m. on Thursday,
11 February 19, 2015, with
12 appearances as noted.)

13 JUDGE BURTON: Let's go ahead and go on
14 the record in File Number ER-2014-0351 in the Matter
15 of the Empire District Electric Company For
16 Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates For
17 Electric Service Provided to Customers in the
18 Company's Missouri Service Area.

19 Good evening, everyone. My name is Kim
20 Burton. I'm a judge with the Missouri Public
21 Service Commission, and I have with me here one of
22 the commissioners, Mr. Bill Kenney.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Good evening. I
24 would like to welcome everyone here. Appreciate
25 your attendance.

1 This is the second of three public
2 hearings. We will have one tomorrow in Reeds
3 Spring, and then we will -- we will begin hearings
4 on this case, an evidentiary hearing beginning in
5 April. That's scheduled for two weeks.

6 I am one of five commissioners. And
7 just so you know, we have a court reporter here so
8 everything that is being said tonight can be
9 reviewed by our other four commissioners.

10 But again, appreciate your attendance.

11 JUDGE BURTON: Now how this will
12 proceed is that I will call your name if you put
13 your name down on the list, and I'll ask you to
14 please come forward and I'll swear you in and we'll
15 take your testimony.

16 This hearing is being recorded both
17 visually and with a court reporter, so that that way
18 it will be part of the record and the other
19 commissioners will have a chance to review your
20 testimony.

21 Now after you've provided your
22 statements, either myself, the commissioner, or the
23 attorneys for the parties may ask you some
24 questions. So I would ask you to please just stay
25 up here until we're done.

1 And also I know we right now just have
2 one person listed as wanting to testify. But if you
3 want to testify after that individual, I'll give you
4 an opportunity to.

5 So at this time I'm going to ask the
6 parties to enter their appearance, starting with
7 Empire.

8 MS. CARTER: Diana Carter with Brydon
9 Swarengen & England, PO Box 456, Jefferson City,
10 Missouri, 65102, for the Empire District Electric
11 Company.

12 JUDGE BURTON: All right. Thank you.
13 And for the Office of Public Counsel?

14 MR. OPITZ: I'm Tim Opitz, representing
15 the Office of the Public Counsel. My address is PO
16 Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

17 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. And for the
18 staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission?

19 MR. BERLIN: Yes. Thank you, Judge.
20 I'm Bob Berlin appearing on behalf of the staff of
21 the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office
22 Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

23 JUDGE BURTON: All right. Thank you.
24 And at this time would Travis C., I believe, please
25 step forward.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Creswell.

2 JUDGE BURTON: Creswell, yes.

3 (A witness is called to the stand
4 and is placed under oath by Judge
5 Burton.)

6 * * * * *

7 TRAVIS CRESWELL,

8 of lawful age, having been called as a witness and
9 being first duly sworn, was examined and testified
10 as follows:

11 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you. Would you
12 spell state and spell your name for the record.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Travis Creswell,
14 T-R-A-V-I-S, C-R-E-S-W-E-L-L.

15 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. Well,
17 first of all, thanks for the -- having this done in
18 Joplin tonight.

19 I would like to thank Empire for
20 generally having pretty good service. There's never
21 really been any complaints. I don't know what their
22 uptime is, but it's a good 99.9 percent.

23 My name -- I own a company called Ozark
24 Energy Services, and we are an energy efficiency
25 company. We specialize in doing stuff for a lot of

1 the business and churches around here.

2 So -- so one of the things that I
3 wanted to touch on was the -- the trend of utilities
4 asking for the largest percentage of their increase
5 in the base rate. And that's going to be somewhat
6 of a problem for people trying to reduce their
7 utility costs.

8 And of course, fast forward 20 years
9 from now if that trend continues, instead of having
10 10 percent of our current electric bill being in
11 the -- being in the base charge and 90 percent being
12 in the actual usage, we're going to have maybe even
13 a complete flip of that. So now things like energy
14 efficiency aren't really going to matter.

15 Now I've exaggerated, I'm sure, but the
16 point being is if that goes -- the more and more
17 that that happens, the harder it is going to be for
18 energy efficiency to take place. It's actually
19 going to discourage it, is -- is what I would see
20 happening.

21 I mentioned that we work for a lot of
22 non -- nonprofit entities. A lot of those include
23 churches. And so I think there could be a base rate
24 for them that could -- I mean a different utility
25 structure for them that help them to ignore the

1 charges that they have on the weekends. And we can
2 talk about that later. But -- well, but that's just
3 something I wanted to ask for.

4 I've also learned just in the last ten
5 minutes that part of this rate case Empire has asked
6 to eliminate their energy efficiency programs.
7 That's going to be a real problem for energy
8 efficiency.

9 We work for -- we work for a lot of
10 local small businesses that without this commercial
11 rebate program will not do efficiency.

12 It's -- it's -- right or wrong, people
13 just really want to be incentivized to invest in new
14 lighting, new HVAC, new building control systems.

15 And so we have -- I certainly could say
16 that without that, energy efficiency would be
17 greatly affected, would be what I would have to say.
18 And that would be all I have.

19 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you, Mr. Creswell.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

21 JUDGE BURTON: Any questions?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.

23 Thank you very much.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

25 JUDGE BURTON: Any questions from

1 Empire?

2 MS. CARTER: No questions. Thank you.

3 MR. BERLIN: No questions.

4 MR. OPITZ: No questions.

5 JUDGE BURTON: Thank you very much.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

7 JUDGE BURTON: Are there any other
8 individuals who would like to testify tonight?

9 Seeing no hands, I want to go ahead and
10 thank everyone for coming here and showing your
11 interest in our service, and I hope you all have a
12 good evening. We'll go ahead and go off the record.

13 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
14 concluded at 6:42 p.m. on
15 Thursday, February 19, 2015.)

16 (No exhibits were marked during
17 the course of these proceedings.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Karen Vest, Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was personally present at the taking of the proceedings as set forth in the caption sheet hereof; that I then and there took down in stenotype the proceedings had at said time; and that the foregoing is a full, true, and accurate transcription of such stenotype notes so made at such time and place, all to the best of my skill and ability.

Karen Vest, RPR, CRR,
Missouri CCR No. 846

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