

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held at its office in  
Jefferson City on the 4th day of  
December, 2007.

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric	)	
Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority	)	
to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric	)	<b><u>Case No. ER-2008-0093</u></b>
Service Provided to Customers in the Missouri	)	Tariff File No. YE-2008-0205
Service Area of the Company.	)	

**ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS  
AND DIRECTING NOTICE**

Issue Date: December 4, 2007

Effective Date: December 4, 2007

On October 1, 2007, The Empire District Electric Company submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission certain proposed tariff sheets to implement a general rate increase for retail electric service to customers in its Missouri service area. The Commission opened case number ER-2008-0093 to address Empire's electric rate increase request.

On November 16, 2007, the Commission adopted with minor exceptions the procedural schedule jointly proposed by the parties. That procedural schedule, among other things, called for local public hearings to be held on March 12 and 13, 2008. Although the parties did not suggest any specific times or locations for the local public hearings, the Commission's October 16<sup>th</sup> order advised the parties that the Commission intended to schedule local public hearings in Joplin and Reeds Spring, Missouri, which are

the same locations that were used during Empire's last two rate proceedings.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the requisite facilities are not available in these locations on March 12 and 13, 2008. Accordingly, the Commission shall set public hearings in these locations on March 25 and 26, 2008.

On November 16, 2007, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a proposed customer notice and advised the Commission that no party objects to the proposed notice. The Commission will adopt the public notice recommended by Public Counsel with minor modifications and additions designed to provide additional information to the public.

For the first hearing, the Staff of the Commission will hold an informal question and answer session on March 25, 2008, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 9:00 p.m., or earlier if all persons present who wish to testify have done so. For the second hearing, the Staff of the Commission will hold an informal question and answer session on March 26, 2008, beginning at 11:30 a.m., the hearing will begin at 12:00 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m., or earlier if all persons present who wish to testify have done so. For the third hearing, the Staff of the Commission will hold an informal question and answer session on March 26, 2008, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 9:00 p.m., or earlier if all persons present who wish to testify have done so.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on March 25, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. until approximately 9:00 p.m., or until all persons who wish to testify have done so, whichever is sooner, and shall also hold a local public hearing on March 26, 2008, from 12:00 p.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m., or until all persons who wish to testify have done

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Case Nos. ER-2006-0315 and ER-2004-0570.

so, whichever is sooner, at the Missouri Southern State University, Webster Hall, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.

2. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on March 26, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. until approximately 9:00 p.m., or until all persons who wish to testify have done so, whichever is sooner, at the Tri-Lakes TCRC, University of Missouri Extension at Reeds Spring High School, ITV Room, 20277 State Highway 413 (in the South Wing of Reeds Spring High School), Reeds Spring, Missouri.

3. No later than ten days prior to the local public hearings, The Empire District Electric Company shall provide individual notice to each of its electric service customers including all or the relevant portions of the notice as set out below.

#### NOTICE

On October 1, 2007, The Empire District Electric Company filed revised electric service tariff sheets with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) which would increase the Company's Missouri jurisdictional annual gross revenues by approximately 10.1 percent. For a residential customer using approximately 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$9.75 each month.

Local public hearings have been set before the PSC as follows:

- At 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.
- At 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.
- At 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at the Tri-Lakes TCRC, University of Missouri Extension at Reeds Spring High School, ITV Room, 20277 State Highway 413 (in the South Wing of Reeds Spring High School), Reeds Spring, Missouri.

**\*A question-and-answer session will be held one-half hour before the beginning of each hearing.**

If you wish to comment or secure information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone (866) 922-2959, email [opcservice@ded.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@ded.mo.gov) or the Missouri

Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 800-392-4211, email [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov).

The Commission will also conduct an evidentiary hearing at its offices in Jefferson City during the weeks of May 12 through May 16, and May 19 through May 23, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The hearings and local public hearings will be held in buildings that meet accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

4. The local public hearings shall be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodation to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

5. The Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county in The Empire District Electric Company's service area.

6. The Public Information Office of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall send a copy of this order to members of the General Assembly and to the media that serve The Empire District Electric Company's service area.

7. The Empire District Electric Company shall place advertisements in the newspapers serving its service territory. The advertisements shall contain the information from the customer notice relevant to the customers in the newspaper's circulation area.

8. This order shall become effective on December 4, 2007.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a faint circular stamp.

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Davis, Chm., Murray, Clayton,  
Appling, and Jarrett, CC., Concur.

Voss, Regulatory Law Judge