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May 22, 2002

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Executive Secretary  
Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

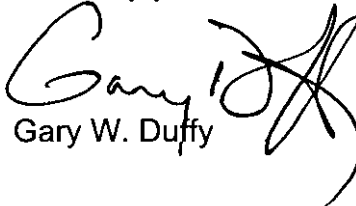
RE: Case No. ER-2002-424  
The Empire District Electric Company

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding please find an original and eight copies of a Motion to Extend Time for Response.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

  
Gary W. Duffy

Enclosures  
cc w/encl:

Denny Frey, Office of the General Counsel  
John Coffman, Office of Public Counsel  
Stuart W. Conrad  
Dave Gibson

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric )  
Company of Joplin, Missouri, for authority to ) Case No. ER-2002-424  
file tariffs increasing rates for electric service )  
provided to customers in the Missouri service )  
area of the Company. )

**MOTION TO EXTEND TIME FOR RESPONSE**

Comes now The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), by and through its counsel, and for its motion respectfully states as follows:

1. In its "Order Setting Time for Response" issued on May 14, 2002, the Commission directed that responses to Staffs motion to consolidate this case with Case No. ET-2002-1058 be filed no later than May 23, 2002. The purpose of this motion is to request an extension of that date to July 22, 2002 to give the parties approximately sixty days to attempt to reach a resolution of the issues among themselves.

2. Representatives of Empire, the Staff of the Commission, and the Office of the Public Counsel met on May 20, 2002, and discussed particulars of the proposal by Empire and alternative procedural avenues for Case No. ET-2002-1058. As a result of those discussions, the parties have agreed to some informal discovery and an additional meeting in early June in that case. This informal procedure and the additional time requested by this motion are designed to allow the parties to explore whether a resolution of the issues presented in that case is feasible.

3. Granting this extension will not prejudice anyone. If the parties do not

reach a successful resolution of the issues presented by that case by that or an earlier date, then Empire will file its response to the Staffs motion on July 22, 2002.

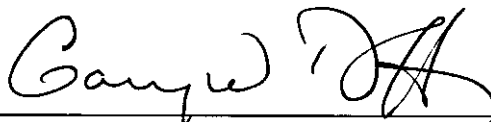
4. The Commission would then have more than thirty days to consider the response(s) to the Staff s motion and to issue an order before the August 23, 2002 scheduled filing date for tariffs and rate design testimony for parties other than Empire in Case No. ER-2002-424.

5. Empire therefore requests that the deadline for responses to Staffs motion to consolidate be postponed until July 22, 2002, sixty days from the original deadline. The parties to Case No. ET-2002-1058 mutually agreed to that date in their meeting on Monday, May 20.

6. Counsel for the Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel have reviewed this motion prior to its filing and consented to it being filed.

WHEREFORE, Empire requests that the deadline for responses to Staffs motion to consolidate be moved from May 23, 2002 to July 22, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

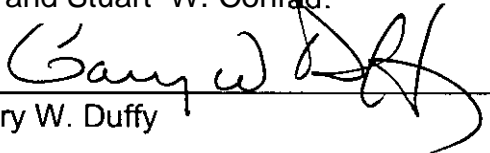
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary W. Duffy", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary W. Duffy MoBar #24905  
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ATTORNEYS FOR THE  
EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing motion was served by hand delivery this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2002 upon the ~~Office~~ *of the Public Public* Counsel, the Office of the General Counsel, and Stuart W. Conrad.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary W. Duffy