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March 31, 2003

HAND DELIVERED

Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: Tariff Filing

Dear Sir:

RECEIVED³
MAR 31 2003
Records
Public Service Commission

On behalf of The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), enclosed please find for filing an original and three copies of the following proposed tariff sheets:

PSC MO. No. 5, Sec. A, 16th Revised Sheet No. 1;
PSC MO. No. 5, Sec. 4, 3rd Revised Sheet No. 9;
PSC MO. No. 5, Sec. 4, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 10;
PSC MO. No. 5, Sec. 4, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 11.

The subject tariff sheets carry an issue date of March 31, 2003, and an effective date of April 30, 2003.

These tariff sheets represent an Experimental Low Income Program as was approved by the Commission in Case No. ER-2002-424. The enclosed tariff sheets have resulted from the collaboration of interested parties. It is Empire's belief that the program is consistent with those guidelines contained in the Case No. ER-2002-424 Stipulation and Agreement.

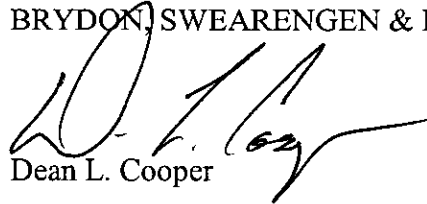
Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
March 31, 2003
page 2

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:



Dean L. Cooper

DLC/tli
cc: Denny Frey
John Coffman
Stuart Conrad
Terry Oliver
Roger Colton
Dee Lynn Davey

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Sec. A 16th Revised Sheet No. 1
Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. 5For ALL TERRITORYNo supplement to this tariff will be issued except
for the purpose of cancelling this tariff.Sec. A 15th Revised Sheet No. 1
Which was issued 11-15-02TABLE OF
CONTENTS

SHEET NUMBER

SECTION B - DESCRIPTION OF TERRITORY

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Territory Maps | 1-7 |
|-------------------------|-----|

SECTION 1 - RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Residential Service, Schedule RG | 1 |
| 2. Reserved for Future Use | 3 |

SECTION 2 - GENERAL SERVICE

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Commercial Service, Schedule CB | 1 |
| 2. Small Heating Service, Schedule SH | 2 |
| 3. General Power Service, Schedule GP | 3 |
| 4. Large Power Service, Schedule LP | 4 |
| 5. Electric Furnace Primary Service, Schedule PF | 5 |
| 6. Feed Mill and Grain Elevator Service, Schedule PFM | 6 |
| 7. Total Electric Building Service, Schedule TEB | 7 |
| 8. Reserved for Future Use | 8 |
| 9. Special Transmission Service Contract: Praxair, Schedule SC-P | 9 |
| 10. Reserved for Future Use | 10 |
| 11. Reserved for Future Use | 11 |
| 12. Reserved for Future Use | 12 |
| 13. Special Transmission Service, Schedule ST | 13 |
| 14. Reserved for Future Use | 14 |

SECTION 3 - SPECIAL SERVICE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Municipal Street Lighting Service, Schedule SPL | 1 |
| 2. Private Lighting Service, Schedule PL | 2 |
| 3. Special Lighting Service, Schedule LS | 3 |
| 4. Miscellaneous Service, Schedule MS | 4 |
| 5. Credit Action Fees, Schedule CA | 5 |
| 6. Other Sales and Services, Schedule OS | 6 |

SECTION 4 - RIDERS

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Special or Excess Facilities, Rider XC | 1 |
| 2. Reserved for Future Use | 2 |
| 3. Reserved for Future Use | 3 |
| 4. Interruptible Service, Rider IR | 4 |
| 5. Average Payment Plan, Rider AP | 5 |
| 6. Cogeneration Purchase Rate, Schedule CP | 6 |
| 7. Residential Conservation Service, Rider RCS | 7 |
| 8. Promotional Practices, Schedule PRO | 8 |
| 9. Experimental Low Income Program, Schedule ELIP | 9 |
| 10. Reserved for Future Use | 15 |
| 11. Reserved for Future Use | 16 |
| 12. Optional Time of Use Adjustment | 18 |
| 13. Empire's Action to Support the Elderly, Rider EASE | 20 |

SECTION 5 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Sec. 4 3rd Revised Sheet No. 9
Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. 5For ALL TERRITORYNo supplement to this tariff will be issued except
for the purpose of cancelling this tariff.Sec. 4 2nd Revised Sheet No. 9
Which was issued 11-25-96**EXPERIMENTAL LOW INCOME PROGRAM
("ELIP")****March 24, 2003 APPLICATION:**

This Experimental Low Income Program is applicable for service billed under Schedule RG, Residential Service, to qualified customers. The ELIP will, on a pilot basis, provide up to 1,000 participants with a fixed credit on their monthly bill (ELIP credit). Customers participating in the ELIP program shall receive the credit for a period up to 12 months from the billing cycle designated by the Company (EDE) as the participants first month until the billing cycle designated as the participants last for ELIP. At the end of the 12 month period, a customer may reapply to participate further in the program. This experimental program was approved by the Missouri PSC in Case No. ER-2002-424.

DEFINITIONS:

Qualified Customer - An EDE customer receiving service under Schedule RG who is classified as low-income by the Missouri Department of Social Service criteria and whose annual household income is no greater than 100% of the federal poverty level, as established by the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902 (2).

Applicant - A qualified customer who submits an ELIP application form for the ELIP credit.

Participant - An applicant who agrees to the terms of the ELIP and is accepted by EDE.

Program Funds - Annual ratepayer funding for the ELIP is \$150,000.00 based upon the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. ER-2002-424. Ratepayer funding shall be matched dollar for dollar by EDE. The \$300,000.00 annual sum of ratepayer funding and the EDE matching funds shall be the "program funds".

Agencies - The social service agencies serving EDE's service territory that qualify and assist ELIP customers pursuant to written contract between EDE and the Agencies.

AVAILABILITY:

Service under this rate schedule shall be available to up to one thousand participants in the EDE service area who satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

1. Participant must be an EDE residential customer receiving service under the RG rate.
2. Participant's annual household income must be verified initially, and annually thereafter, as being no greater than 100 percent of the federal poverty level.
3. For purposes of determining the level of the ELIP credit to be received, the participants will be categorized as follows:
 - a. Group A - Participants whose annual income has been verified as being from 0 to 50 percent of the federal poverty level.
 - b. Group B - Participants whose annual income has been verified as being from 51 to 100 percent of the federal poverty level.
4. Participants shall be required to enroll in EDE's Average Payment Plan, (Rider AP) with adjustments to said plan limited to once per year.
5. Participants who have outstanding arrearages shall enter special pay agreements through which the arrearages shall be paid over a period of 12 to 24 months as mutually agreed to by both the Participant and the Company.

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Sec. 4 2nd Revised Sheet No. 10
Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. 5For ALL TERRITORYNo supplement to this tariff will be issued except
for the purpose of cancelling this tariff.Sec. 4 1st Revised Sheet No. 10
Which was issued 11-25-96EXPERIMENTAL LOW INCOME PROGRAM
("ELIP")

6. Participants must provide, via an interview or questionnaire, information related to their energy use and program participation. Any information provided in these interviews or questionnaires that is later made public will not be associated with the participant's name.
7. Any provision of the Company's rules and regulations applicable to the Company's RG customers will also apply to ELIP participants.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE:

1. Participants who have not previously completed an application for a LIHEAP ("Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program") grant agree to apply for a LIHEAP grant when such grants become available. EDE, through the Agencies, shall assist ELIP participants with completion of LIHEAP application forms when such assistance is requested.
2. Applicants agree to apply for any other available energy assistance programs identified by the Company, including any available weatherization programs.

CREDIT AMOUNT:

Participants will receive the ELIP credit for up to 24 months so long as the participant continues to meet the ELIP eligibility requirements.

Up to 1,000 participants shall receive the ELIP credit in the following amounts (not to exceed the participant's fixed monthly Rider AP payment):

- Group A – Up to a maximum of \$40 per month.
- Group B – Up to a maximum of \$20 per month.

DISCONTINUANCE AND REINSTATEMENT:

EDE may discontinue a participant's ELIP credit for any of the following reasons:

1. If EDE, through the Agencies, determines the participant no longer meets the eligibility requirements set forth in this tariff.
2. If the participant submits a written request to EDE asking that the ELIP credit be discontinued.
3. If the participant does not conform to EDE's rules and regulations as approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission, and as a result the participant has Schedule RG service discontinued by EDE.

Reinstatement of the ELIP credit following discontinuance in the above circumstances and after the participant again meets the eligibility requirements will be at the discretion of EDE.

If participant voluntarily leaves the ELIP, that customer shall be ineligible for participation in the ELIP for remainder of the term of this experimental program.

MISAPPLICATION OF THE ELIP CREDIT:

Providing incorrect or misleading information to obtain the ELIP credit shall constitute a misapplication of the ELIP credit. If this occurs EDE may discontinue the ELIP credit and rebill the account for the amount of all ELIP credits received by the participant. Failure to reimburse EDE for the misapplication of the ELIP credits may result in termination of customer's electric service pursuant to EDE's rules and regulations. However, nothing in this experimental tariff shall be interpreted as limiting EDE's rights under any provisions of any applicable law or tariff.

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Sec. 4 2nd Revised Sheet No. 11
Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. 5For ALL TERRITORYNo supplement to this tariff will be issued except
for the purpose of cancelling this tariff.Sec. 4 1st Revised Sheet No. 11
Which was issued 11-25-96**EXPERIMENTAL LOW INCOME PROGRAM
("ELIP")****OTHER CONDITIONS:**

The ELIP program has been designed so that EDE neither profits from nor incurs losses as a result of offering this experimental program.

Costs of administering the program, including those costs charged by the Agencies, shall be paid from the program funds.

Participation may be limited so that the projected expenditures of the program should equal the projected revenue from the program funds; however, the program will not be limited to fewer than 200 participants from Group A and 200 participants from group B.

EDE will gather and maintain participant data on usage, arrears, payments and other relevant factors to be used in the evaluation of the program.

EDE shall make non-confidential data, as well as any and all program evaluations that are conducted, available to the parties to Case No. ER-2002-424.

Pursuant to a Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. ER-2002-424, this experimental program may be evaluated in EDE's next rate or complaint case, but in any event, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the first two years of this experiment shall be initiated no later than thirty (30) months from the date that these tariff sheets become effective. The evaluation shall be conducted by an independent third party evaluator under contract with EDE, that is acceptable to EDE, Commission Staff and the Public Counsel. The costs of the evaluator shall be paid from the program funds.

If any program funds in excess of actual program expenses remain at the end of the ELIP program and evaluation, EDE shall contribute the excess funds to Project Help.