

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of The Empire District Gas            )  
Company’s d/b/a Liberty Request to File        )  
Tariffs to Change its Rates for Natural Gas    )        **File No. GR-2021-0320**

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**COME NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), and The Empire District Gas Company d/b/a Liberty (“EDG”), and for their response to the Commission’s November 10, 2021, *Order to File Recommendation Regarding Local Public Hearings*, states as follows:

1. Staff and EDG have reviewed the local public hearing attendance and participation numbers for EDG’s most recent prior gas general rate case:

**Case No. GR-2009-0434**

11/05/2009	Nevada	3 attended	(3 testified)
11/09/2009	Chillicothe	13 attended	(5 testified)
11/12/2009	Sedalia	15 attended	(unknown)
11/12/2009	Jefferson City	(unknown)	(8 testified)

2. Staff and EDG have also considered the benefits and risks of conducting public hearings in person and virtually in this pending case. After consideration, Staff and EDG recommend the Commission conduct these public hearings virtually.<sup>1</sup>

3. Based on the attendance and participation numbers listed in paragraph 1, Staff and EDG recommend the Commission order 2 (two) virtual public hearings and suggest the Commission order a virtual public hearing schedule as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> There is still a concern with public gatherings and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Case No. GR-2021-0320**

02/17/2022 6pm All Gas Customers

02/22/2022 Noon All Gas Customers

**WHEREFORE**, Staff and EDG submit this *Recommendation Regarding Local Public Hearings* and request the Commission issue an order that is consistent with the recommendations contained herein.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Jamie S. Myers**

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**/s/James M. Fischer**

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Counsel to The Empire District Gas  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021, to all counsel of record.

**/s/ Jamie S. Myers**