

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

In the Matter of the Request of The )	
Empire District Electric Company )	
d/b/a Liberty for Authority to File )	
Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric )	Case No. ER-2021-0312
Service Provided to Customers in its )	
Missouri Service Area )	

**RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT AND APPROVAL OF  
TARIFF SHEETS**

**COMES NOW** the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) and for its *Response to Motion for Expedited Treatment and Approval of Tariff Sheets*, states as follows:

1. On February 24, 2023, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty”) filed tariff sheets for the Critical Needs Program.
2. On February 27, 2023, the Commission issued an *Order Directing an Expedited Tariff Recommendation, Setting Time for Responses, and Directing Liberty to File Substitute Tariff Sheets* that required, among other things, that “[a]ny other responses to the Critical Needs Program tariff sheets shall be filed no later than February 28, 2023.”
3. Pursuant to this *Order*, the OPC responds to Liberty’s *Motion*.
4. The Commission should approve the compliance tariff sheets to implement Liberty’s critical needs program pilot and should further do so with less than thirty (30) days’ notice.

5. This compliance tariff was developed with stakeholder input and serves to implement a critical needs program as set forth in the testimony of the OPC's witness Dr. Geoff Marke in this case.

6. This program will benefit Liberty's ratepayers and serve to protect those customers with serious illness – or who require the use of life-support equipment – whose condition would be seriously impaired due to a loss of service.

7. Expeditious approval of this tariff will speed the implementation of these measures, and thus, the ability of this program to protect customers.

8. Therefore, the OPC requests the Commission approve liberty's *Motion for Expedited Treatment and Approval of Tariff Sheets* and allows those tariffs to go into effect on March 6, 2023.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel respectfully requests the Commission approve Liberty's *Motion for Expedited Treatment and Approval of Tariff Sheets* and allows those tariffs to go into effect on March 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

By:           /s/ John Clizer            
John Clizer (#69043)  
Senior Counsel  
Missouri Office of the Public  
Counsel  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Telephone: (573) 751-5324  
Facsimile: (573) 751-5562  
E-mail: [john.clizer@opc.mo.gov](mailto:john.clizer@opc.mo.gov)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the forgoing have been mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this twenty-eight day of February, 2023.

/s/ John Clizer