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May 10, 2001

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Director, Utility Services

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Director, Administration

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DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**RE: Case No. ER-2001-299**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **JOINT MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Frey  
Associate General Counsel  
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DLF:ccl  
Enclosure  
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>2</sup>

MAY 10 2001

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of The Empire District )  
Electric Company's Tariff Sheets )  
Designed to Implement a General Rate )  
Increase for Retail Electric Service )  
Provided to Customers in the Missouri )  
Service Area of the Company )

Case No. ER-2001-299

**JOINT MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE**

COME NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire" or "Company"), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), and the Office of the Public Counsel, and for their Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File, respectfully state as follows:

1. On November 3, 2000, Empire filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") tariff sheets designed to increase its rates for electric service to the Company's customers in Missouri.

2. On January 4, 2001, the Commission issued an order that, among other things, adopted a procedural schedule containing a requirement that the parties develop and agree on a list of issues to be determined by the Commission in this case, along with a list of witnesses and the order of cross examination. The information was to be filed by May 10, 2001. The evidentiary hearing is scheduled for May 29 through June 8, 2001.

3. Since the April 16-19 prehearing conference, the parties have been actively and intensively engaged in efforts to develop a stipulation and agreement pertaining to some major issues in the case, including fuel and purchased power expense. It is anticipated that a stipulation and agreement will be filed within a matter of a couple of days.

4. In light of the amount of effort required to develop the stipulation and agreement, and of the fact that the agreement itself is expected to have a major impact on the list of issues and associated witness information ultimately to be filed, the undersigned parties agree that it is advisable to delay, until May 14, 2001, the filing of the list of issues, list of witnesses and order of cross-examination.

4. Praxair, Inc., the only other party to this case, states, by and through its counsel, that it does not oppose this motion.

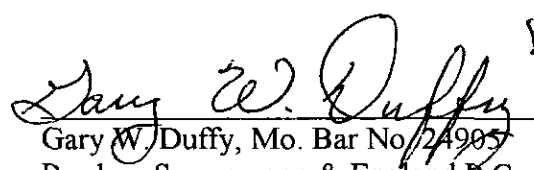
**WHEREFORE**, the undersigned parties respectfully request that the Commission extend until May 14, 2001, the deadline for filing the List of Issues, List of Witnesses and Order of Cross-Examination for the evidentiary hearing in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel

  
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Attorney for the

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#### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 10th day of May 2001.

*Dennis L. Frey*

**Service List for**  
**Case No. ER-2001-299**  
**Verified: May 10, 2001 (ccl)**

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