

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

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire)
District Electric Company for Approval of Its) File No. EO-2018-0092
Customer Savings Plan)

**CITY OF JOPLIN’S REPLY
TO STAFF’S AND EMPIRE’S RESPONSES TO REQUEST
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

COMES NOW the City of Joplin, by and through counsel, and for its reply to the Responses of Staff and the Company to the Joint Request for a Local Public Hearing, states as follows:

1. The City of Joplin joins in the Office of the Public Counsel’s “Reply to Staff’s and Empire’s Responses to Request for Local Public Hearing.”

2. A local public hearing is justified in this case because there is a direct and unique impact on the City of Joplin and its ratepayers. Specifically, Joplin ratepayers have borne the cost of recent upgrades to Asbury which would be stranded under the Company’s proposal. The closure of the Asbury plant means job losses for the Joplin area. Finally, the outcome of this case will directly affect the rates paid by customers in Joplin going forward.

3. The standard local public hearing format is much preferred over an open house format for the reasons set forth herein.

4. A local public hearing ensures there is input from those who would be significantly impacted by the Company’s proposal in the evidentiary record.

5. Keeping the standard format for public input (of which citizens are already familiar) encourages participation.

6. A local public hearing provides customers a much needed opportunity to learn more about the Company’s proposal and express any concerns to the Commission.

7. To the extent the Commission finds merit in the written/online comment or customer service “stations” suggested by the Company in its response, those can be added to a standard local public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

BLITZ, BARDGETT & DEUTSCH, L.C.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing pleading has been served by electronic means on all parties of record as reflected in the records maintained by the Secretary of the Commission through the EFIS system.

/s/ Stephanie S. Bell