

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric	)	
Company's Infrastructure Standards Compliance	)	Case No. EO-2018-0402
Plan Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-23.020(3)	)	

EMPIRE'S RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER AND COMMENTS OF OPC

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire" or "Company"), and in response to the Comments filed herein by the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") on July 10, 2018, and in response to the *Order Directing Empire to Respond* issued by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") on July 11, 2018, respectfully states as follows:

1. Empire submitted its 2017 Reliability Compliance Report on June 29, 2018. Empire designated this entire Report as confidential. Empire has historically filed this Report as confidential in its entirety. Empire is still assessing the material and determining if the Report should be public in its entirety or if certain portions of the Report should remain confidential. Empire requests leave until August 1, 2018, to re-file its Report with the proper designation(s).

2. On July 10, 2018, OPC filed its "Motion to Open File for Comments or in the Alternative Accept Late Filed Comments." Because Empire filed its Report as confidential in its entirety, OPC designated certain portions of its Motion as confidential. Empire has determined that OPC's Motion may be public in its entirety.

3. In its Motion, OPC expressed concern over Empire not inspecting, as originally planned, 327 particular underground distribution structures and 5,380 particular overhead transmission structures and equipment. OPC also expressed concern over the reason Empire stated for this deviation from its original plan (budget constraints).

4. Empire's statement regarding the reasons for deviating from its planned inspections was inadequately worded and did not accurately and fully explain the situation. For 2017, Empire had

reported an aggressive 3-year cycle plan for managing its inspections. This aggressive plan allowed Empire to have flexibility in the management of inspections, while maintaining some discretion on when costs would be incurred and ultimately ensuring compliance with the applicable Commission rules. The current plan of action in place will allow Empire to still meet and exceed the 6-year cycle required by the Commission's rules. Empire requests leave until August 1, 2018, to file an amended 2017 Reliability Compliance Report in line with this filing.

WHEREFORE, The Empire District Electric Company respectfully submits this Response to Commission Order and Comments of OPC, requests until August 1, 2018, to submit an amended 2017 Reliability Compliance Report, and requests such further relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND, P.C.

By: *Diana C. Carter*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing document was filed in EFIS on this 25th day of July, 2018, with notice of the same being sent to all counsel of record.

Diana C. Carter