

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric )  
Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority to )  
File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service ) **File No. ER-2012-0345**  
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service )  
Area of the Company )

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES'  
REQUEST TO BE EXCUSED FROM HEARING**

COMES NOW Missouri Department of Natural Resources (“MDNR”) and, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075, respectfully requests to be excused from the hearings regarding Empire District Electric Company’s request for interim rate relief. MDNR has filed no testimony regarding the interim rate issues, does not have a position on the relief requested, and therefore requests to be excused from the hearing on those issues. MDNR will participate in the permanent rate case portion of this docket.

WHEREFORE, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests that it be excused from participating in the interim rate hearings scheduled on September 10 and 11, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney General

/s/ Jeremy D. Knee  
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Resources**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been served electronically on all counsel of record this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.

/s/ Jeremy D. Knee  
Jeremy D. Knee