

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

In the matter of The Empire District Gas)
Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority to)
File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Gas Service)
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service)
Area of the Company.)

Case No. GR-2009-0434

MOTION TO EXTEND DATE FOR FILING OF PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"),
and for its *Motion to Extend Date for Filing of Pre-Filed Testimony* states as follows:

1. On July 31, 2009, the Commission issued its *Order Setting Procedural Schedule and Setting Test Year*, establishing the procedural schedule for this case. That Order set a date of December 4, 2009 for the filing of pre-filed Rebuttal testimony.

2. The December 4, 2009 date for the filing of pre-filed Rebuttal testimony was subsequently extended to December 9, 2009.

3. Certain parties (the "participating parties") have reached an agreement in principle as to all issues in this case, with the exception of all Transportation issues.

4. The participating parties would like to use their resources to focus on and finalize a *Stipulation and Agreement as to Non-Transportation Issues*, rather than turn their attention to the filing of pre-filed Rebuttal testimony regarding non-transportation issues at this time.

5. Accordingly, the participating parties request that the Commission extend the filing date for pre-filed Rebuttal testimony regarding non-transportation issues to December 18, 2009, and extend the filing date for pre-filed Surrebuttal testimony regarding non-transportation issues to December 29, 2009.

6. All parties will proceed with filing of transportation issues pre-filed Rebuttal testimony on December 9, 2009, and transportation issue pre-filed Surrebuttal testimony on December 22, 2009.

7. All parties believe that extending the deadline for non-transportation issues in this fashion will not prejudice any of the parties, nor would it require any other change in the existing procedural schedule.

8. The parties also request that after the filing of non-transportation rebuttal testimony, the response time for non-transportation related data requests becomes 5 business days to provide the requested information, and 3 business days to object or notify that more than 5 business days will be needed to provide the requested information.

WHEREFORE Staff requests the Commission extend the date for the filing of pre-filed Rebuttal testimony regarding non-transportation issues until December 18, 2009 and extend the filing date for pre-filed Surrebuttal testimony regarding non-transportation issues to December 29, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sarah Kliethermes

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 9th day of December, 2009.

/s/ Sarah Kliethermes