

**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	)	<b><u>Case No. ER-2006-0315</u></b>
Rates for electric service provided to	)	
Customers in the Missouri service area	)	
Of the Company.	)	

**MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, Praxair, Inc. ("Praxair") and Explorer Pipeline, Inc. ("Explorer"), and in support of their Motion For Expedited Treatment respectfully state as follows:

1. On May 2, 2006, the Commission issued its Order Clarifying Continued Applicability of the Interim Energy Charge. In its Order the Commission stated: "The Commission can and shall require that Empire remove from its pleadings and other filings in this case the request it consented not to make."

2. After waiting 24 days for Empire to comply with the Commission's Order, Praxair / Explorer filed its Motion To Reject Specified Tariffs and Strike Testimony ("Motion"). As Praxair / Explorer noted in its Motion:

Empire did not ask for rehearing of the Commission's Order, but has yet to take any action "to remove from its pleadings and other filings in this case the request it consented not to make." Empire's failure to comply with the Commission's Order necessitates the current filing in that the presence of such material in Empire's Direct Testimony and tariff filings raise the inevitable question as to whether other parties need to address such matters in its Direct Testimony. Recognizing that the parties' Direct Testimony is due in 4 weeks, Praxair / Explorer are compelled to remove the question from this proceeding and ask that the Commission reject certain tariff sheets submitted by Empire and strike certain Direct Testimony filed by Empire.

3. On June 1, 2006, Empire filed its Response to Praxair / Explorer's Motion. As such, the issue is ripe for a Commission decision. Nevertheless, with barely two

weeks in which to complete its Direct Testimony, the question still remains regarding which testimony and tariffs are still in dispute in this proceeding.

4. As such, Praxair / Explorer request that the Commission take up the pending Motion To Reject Specified Tariffs and Strike Testimony as soon as possible. In fact, Praxair / Explorer request that the Commission decide this matter at its June 8, 2006 agenda meeting. Given a Commission decision on the pending Motion by such a date, the parties may still be able to address this matter in its Direct Testimony scheduled for June 23, 2006.

WHEREFORE, Praxair / Explorer respectfully request that the Commission decide its pending Motion To Reject Specified Tariffs and Strike Testimony on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, CONRAD & PETERSON, L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Woodsmall", is written over a horizontal line. A vertical red line is positioned to the right of the signature.

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Stuart W. Conrad, MBE #23966  
David L. Woodsmall, MBE #40747  
3100 Broadway, Suite 1209  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111  
(816) 753-1122 Ext. 211 (Telephone)  
Facsimile: (816) 756-0373  
Internet: stucon@fcplaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR PRAXAIR, INC. and  
EXPLORER PIPELINE INC.

June 6, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the forgoing pleading by email, facsimile or First Class United States Mail to all parties by their attorneys of record as provided by the Secretary of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Woodsmall", is written over a horizontal line. A vertical red line is positioned to the right of the signature.

David L. Woodsmall

Dated: June 6, 2006