BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of The Empire District Electric Company's Application for Approval of a Transportation Electrification Portfolio for Electric Customers in its Missouri Service Area

Case No. ET-2020-0390

MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Liberty" or "the Company"), and for its Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule, respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. Staff, on behalf of all parties, proposed a procedural schedule on February 16, 2021, and the Commission approved the schedule for this proceeding by its *Order Establishing Procedural Schedule and Other Procedural Requirements* issued March 3, 2021.

2. Fruitful discussions with all parties were taking place, and Liberty believed it would be advantageous to hold an additional technical conference and have additional time to incorporate stakeholder feedback into its Supplemental/Amended Direct Testimony. As such, and with the consent of all parties, Liberty filed its first Motion to Modify Procedural Schedule. The schedule was modified by the Commission's *Order Modifying the Procedural Schedule* issued April 2, 2021.

3. Fruitful discussions with all parties continued to take place, and Liberty believed it would be advantageous to hold additional technical conferences, with the goal of reaching settlement. As such, Liberty, with the consent of all parties, requested further modifications to the procedural schedule. The schedule was modified by the Commission's *Second Order Modifying the Procedural Schedule* issued April 22.

4. Fruitful discussions with all parties continue to take place, and an agreement in

principle as to all issues in this case has been reached with the majority of the parties. At this time, Liberty, with the consent of *all* parties, requests that the procedural schedule be suspended to allow time for the finalization of a settlement agreement and requests that the Commission allow the parties to submit a status report every 30 days until a settlement agreement and/or a new proposed procedural schedule is filed.

WHEREFORE, as set forth above, Liberty requests suspension of the procedural schedule, with monthly status reports to be submitted to the Commission. Liberty requests such additional relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

> <u>/s/ Diana C. Carter</u> Diana C. Carter MBE #50527 The Empire District Electric Company 428 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 303 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Joplin Office Phone: (417) 626-5976 Cell Phone: (573) 289-1961 E-Mail: Diana.Carter@LibertyUtilities.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 19th day of May, 2021,

and electronically delivered to all counsel of record.

/s/ Diana C. Carter