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July 20, 2001

FILED³

JUL 20 2001

FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Dale H. Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, Suite 100
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

Re: **Empire District Electric Company
MoPSC Case No. ER-2001-299**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed are the original and eight (8) conformed copies of **Intervenor Praxair's Statement in Lieu of Initial Brief**, which please file in the above matter and call to the attention of the Commission.

An additional copy of the material to be filed is enclosed, which kindly mark as received and return to me in the enclosed envelope as proof of filing.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely yours, .

FINNEGAN, CONRAD & PETERSON, L.C.

By:


Stuart W. Conrad

SWC:s
Enclosures
cc: All Parties

FILED³

JUL 20 2001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of the Application of)
The Empire District Electric Compa-)
ny for authority to file tariffs)
reflecting increased charges for)
electric service within its Mis-)
souri service area)

Case No. ER-2001-299

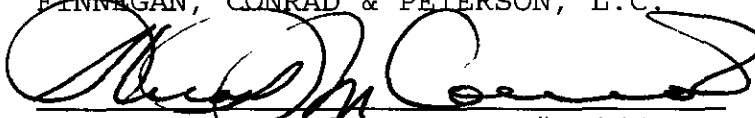
INTERVENOR PRAXAIR'S STATEMENT
IN LIEU OF INITIAL BRIEF

Intervenor Praxair supports the various settlements that have previously been filed in this case. While inappropriate for other Missouri utilities, they are reasonable and balanced resolutions of difficult issues given the very specific circumstances of Empire District, its generation mix, and its load and customer base. We respectfully commend them to the Commission for its approval.

Few other issues remain. Praxair has taken no direct position on those issues and would defer to the initial briefs of other parties. We would respectfully reserve our ability to respond to the positions of other parties should the need arise.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, CONRAD & PETERSON, L.C.



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ATTORNEYS FOR PRAXAIR, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document by hand delivery, First Class US Mail or electronic means upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated: July 20, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart W. Conrad", written over a horizontal line.

Stuart W. Conrad, Esq.
An attorney for Praxair Inc.