

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

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire District)
Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for Authority)
to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service) Case No. ER-2021-0312
Provided to Customers in its Missouri Service)
Area)

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT AND APPROVAL OF TARIFF SHEETS

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or the “Company”), and, pursuant to Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.065(2), submits this Motion for Expedited Treatment and Approval of Tariff Sheets (“Motion”), requesting approval of the establishment of a Critical Needs Program. In support of its Motion, Liberty states as follows:

1. On April 6, 2022, the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued its Report and Order (“Report and Order”) herein. In its Report and Order, the Commission rejected tariff sheets filed by the Company on May 28, 2021 (Tracking No. JE-2021-0211) and ordered the Company to file tariffs that comport with both the Report and Order and the Commission’s Order Approving Stipulations and Agreements (“Stipulations Order”) issued on March 9, 2022 (collectively, the “Orders”).

2. The Orders require Liberty to create the Critical Needs Program, a partnership designed to promote and finance a community-based information resource network that will identify and direct customers with critical medical needs to resources that will help customers receive utility bill payment assistance.

3. In compliance with the Orders and to implement the Critical Needs Program for Liberty, Original Sheet No. 28 is attached hereto and is being submitted in EFIS as a separate tariff filing. Revised Sheet Nos. 1 (table of contents) and 37 (rules and regulations) are also attached hereto

and are being submitted in EFIS as separate tariff filings. Slight revisions to these two sheets are needed to reflect the addition of the Critical Needs Program tariff sheet.

4. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), the Office of Public Counsel (“OPC”), and other stakeholders have been involved with the design and creation of the Critical Needs Program for Liberty and for the other two Missouri IOUs, are in agreement with the tariff filings being made, and are in support of the tariff sheets taking effect within ten days from filing. As such, Liberty requests action on these tariff filings at the Commission’s next agenda meeting, so that the tariff sheets may take effect on May 6, 2023.

5. The Commission’s regulation 20 CSR 4240-2.065(2) provides that a tariff sheet may become effective in fewer than thirty days when a Motion for Expedited Treatment that complies with 20 CSR 4240-2.080(14) is filed. The Motion is in full compliance with this regulation.

6. No harm to Liberty’s customers or the general public will result from the grant of the Motion. Implementation of the Critical Needs Program will allow for outreach and training to community stakeholders that will allow them to identify individuals that are in critical medical need for assistance and refer such individuals to available assistance resources. This Motion, together with the proposed tariff sheets, was filed as soon as agreement on the tariff language for Sheet No. 28 was reached among stakeholders.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown, Liberty respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Motion for Expedited Treatment and Approval of Tariff Sheets, and approve the tariff sheets Liberty has filed to be effective for service rendered on and after March 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diana C. Carter

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 24th day of February, 2023, and sent by electronic transmission to all counsel of record.

/s/ Diana C. Carter