

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company’s Revised Economic Development) Case No. ET-2019-0029
Economic Development Rider Tariff Sheets)

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S RESPONSE TO STAFF’S
RECOMMENDATION**

COMES NOW, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC), by and through counsel, and states as follows in response to the Staff of the Public Service Commission’s (Staff) Recommendation:

1. After having its concerns regarding any potential interference with prior stipulations and agreements being assuaged, Staff’s Recommendation prays that Empire District Electric Company’s (Empire) revised economic development rider (EDR) tariff sheet be approved.

2. The OPC concurs with Staff’s conclusions, but additionally request that the Public Service Commission (Commission) approve further conditions within Empire’s EDR tariff.

Specifically, the OPC requests that the Commission condition Empire’s EDR tariff on a requirement to annually file reports demonstrating that approved subsidized rates are actually providing and maintaining agreed-to terms and outcomes. Such a filing should, at a minimum, identify the terms entered into, verify that agreement terms are based on empirical data, and estimate community impacts because of the subsidized EDR participant with multiple metrics.

WHEREFORE, the OPC presents its Response to Staff’s Recommendation.

Respectfully,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Caleb Hall

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served, either electronically or by hand delivery or by First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this 21st day of September, 2018, with notice of the same being sent to all counsel of record.

/s/ Caleb Hall