BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Compliance of The Empire District) Electric Company with Certain Requirements Related to) SB 564 and Related Matters)

File No. EO-2019-0046

NOTICE REGARDING 2022 REPORT AND PRESENTATION

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Liberty" or "Company"), and, pursuant to RSMo. §393.1400, respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

- On August 12, 2020, and pursuant to RSMo. §393.1400, Liberty provided notice of its plantin-service accounting ("PISA") election.
- 2. Pursuant to RSMo. §393.1400, by each February 28th while an electrical corporation is allowed to make the PISA deferrals, the company shall submit to the Commission a five-year capital investment plan setting forth the general categories of capital expenditures the electrical corporation will pursue in furtherance of replacing, modernizing, and securing its infrastructure. Additionally, within 30 days of the filing of a capital investment plan, the electrical corporation shall host a public stakeholder meeting.
- 3. On February 26, 2021, Liberty filed herein its first PISA report the Clean Transition Plan, reflecting Liberty's then-current intentions with regard to budget plans for the next five years. On March 25, 2021, Liberty made its first PISA presentation a public stakeholder meeting held virtually.
- 4. Attached hereto, pursuant to RSMo. §393.1400, is Liberty's 2022 PISA Annual Update Report which provides an update on the Company's Clean Transition Plan.

- 5. Liberty's Clean Transition Plan is centered around investments in grid modernization that increase the use of digital information, optimize operations, automate and improve the flexibility of the grid, facilitate integration of distributed renewable generation, improve power quality, increase security and safety of the grid, and increase the grid's resiliency to withstand threats from vegetation and damaging winds and other weather events.
- 6. For the 2022 budget, grid modernization projects, within the meaning of RSMo. 393.1400 and the 25% requirement, constitute approximately 67% of planned capital expenditures. Investments in resiliency represent a major portion of Liberty's Clean Transition Plan, as it is crucial to our communities that our infrastructure continue to perform even under extenuating circumstances and extreme weather events.
- 7. Liberty continuously evaluates and analyzes the needs of its customers and the electric grid, the condition of the Company's infrastructure, the costs and accessibility of modern technologies, and the availability of new technologies. Also, Liberty continuously strives to make the most of every dollar and every hour of labor, in order to most efficiently provide reliable and affordable electric service to its customers. As such, the budget is a snap shot in time, with priorities and plans shifting based on evolving needs and technology.
- 8. Liberty also provides notice that the presentation of its 2022 PISA Annual Update Report will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022. Attendance for this public stakeholder meeting will be virtual. A meeting invitation with additional details will be filed in this docket.

WHEREFORE, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty submits this Notice Regarding 2022 Report and Presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

<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 28th day of February, 2022, with notice of the same sent to all counsel of record.

/s/ Diana C. Carter