

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
JEFFERSON CITY  
March 15, 2002**

**CASE NO: ER-2002-424**

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**Stewart W. Conrad**  
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enclosed find certified copy of a **ORDER** in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



**Dale Hardy Roberts**  
**Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

**Uncertified Copies:**

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric Company )	
of Joplin, Missouri, for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing )	<b><u>Case No. ER-2002-424</u></b>
Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the )	<b><u>Tariff No. 200200743</u></b>
Missouri Service Area of the Company. )	

**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION**

This order grants the intervention of Praxair, Inc.

On March 8, 2002, Empire District Electric Company filed proposed tariff sheets intended to implement a general rate increase for electric service provided to retail customers in the company's Missouri service area. The proposed tariff sheets bear a requested effective date of May 15, 2002. According to the company, the proposed electric service tariff sheets are designed to produce an annual increase to Empire's gross annual electric revenues of approximately \$19,779,916. Together with its proposed tariff sheets and other minimum filing requirements, Empire also filed prepared Direct Testimony in support of its requested rate increase.

On March 12, 2002, Praxair, Inc., filed an application to intervene. Praxair is a large-interruptible-industrial customer of Empire. Praxair asserts that it will be directly and, perhaps, adversely affected by any order entered by the Commission in this case. Because of Praxair's size and load factor, as well as the separate contracts and rate schedules governing Empire's interruptible service to Praxair, no other party can adequately represent Praxair's interests in this matter. Praxair's interest differs from that of the general public.

Praxair states that the public interest would be served by granting intervention. Praxair further asserts that many factors integral to this matter remain unsettled and require thorough investigation and analysis.

Praxair's counsel has discussed the application to intervene with counsel for Empire, counsel for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and counsel for the Office of the Public Counsel and none of the parties object to Praxair's intervention.

The Commission finds that Praxair's application satisfies the requirements of Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075 and, therefore, should be granted.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That Praxair, Inc., is granted intervention in this matter. Its counsel shall be added to the service list in this matter: Stuart W. Conrad, Esq., Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson, L.C., 3100 Broadway, Suite 1209, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.
2. That this order shall become effective on March 25, 2002.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



**Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

( S E A L )

Nancy Dippell, Senior Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 15th day of March, 2002.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and  
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,  
Missouri, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2002 .



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**Dale Hardy Roberts**  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

