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DATE: May 24, 2021

TO: Kory Bousted, Staff; Geoff Marke, OPC, Martin Hyman, DE

FROM: Nate Hackney

RE: Annual Report for The Empire District Gas Company Experimental Low Income Program

The current Empire District Gas Company (Empire) Experimental Low Income Program (ELIP) tariff went into effect April 1, 2010 as a revision from the prior 2004 ELIP tariff. Empire's ELIP is designed to offer financial assistance to its customers who demonstrate a financial need based upon a federal poverty level factor. The program is funded by Empire annually and verification of financial need is administered by the Missouri Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA).

For the 2020-2021 Program Year (April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021) Empire's ELIP experienced one participant in 2020-21, one less than 2019-20.

As shown in the accompanying table, one of the two participants qualified as Group A, which receives monthly assistance of up to \$60. One participant qualified as Group B and received monthly assistance of up to \$40. There were no customers in Group A in 2020-21, down from one (1) in 2019-20.

Empire began three years ago to increase its efforts to promote this program, including press releases in the eligible service territories, promotional messages on the bills, and increasing communications with the agency that administers the program on Empire's behalf. These efforts obviously did not create a measurable impact, but will continue, nonetheless. The long-term viability of this program should and will be considered in Empire's upcoming rate case.

If you have questions following your review of the information contained in this report, please contact me at (417) 625-6519 or at nate.hackney@libertyutilities.com.



Empire District Gas Annual ELIP Report

Participant Data			
	Participants	Usage (Ccf)	\$ Received
Group A (\$60)	0	-	\$0.00
Group B (\$40)	1	180	\$120.00
Combined	1	180	\$120.00

Allocation of Credits Paid by Month					
	11	12	1	2	3
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Group A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Group B	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Combined	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%

Historical Comparison			
	Group A	Group B	Total Participants
2006-2007	15	18	33
2007-2008	6	18	24
2008-2009	17	17	34
2009-2010	14	21	35
2010-2011	8	13	21
2011-2012	4	9	13
2012-2013	3	7	10
2013-2014	1	5	6
2014-2015	5	8	13
2015-2016	2	7	9
2016-2017	0	3	3
2017-2018	0	3	3
2018-2019	0	1	1
2019-2020	1	1	2
2020-2021	0	1	1

