MAY 2 9 2001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Service Commission In the matter of the Application of The Empire District Electric Company for authority to file tariffs Case No. ER-2001-299 reflecting increased charges for electric service within its Missouri service area

INTERVENOR PRAXAIR'S SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF POSITION

COMES NOW Intervenor Praxair Inc. (Praxair) and pursuant to the Commission's May 24, 2001 Order Directing Filing supplements its May 16, 2001 Statement of Positions as follows:

8. Cost of Service - Fuel and Purchased Power

What should be the appropriate methodology and level of fuel and purchased power expense for the Commission to adopt in this case?

Praxair believes that the appropriate amount of fuel and purchased power expense to include in this case test year is that which was incurred in the test year. As regards methodology, allowing recovery of this level of costs should not include any riders or other matters similar to a fuel adjustment. Praxair believes that a fuel adjustment, even on a projected basis, would allow

3 \

ER-2001-299

rates to be set and collected without consideration of all relevant factors and would be in violation of Missouri law.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, CONRAD & PETERSON, L.C.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PRAXAIR, INC.

ER-2001-299

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document by hand delivery or mail upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated: May 29, 2001

Stuart W. Conrad, Esq.

An attorney for Praxair Inc.