

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 rates for electric	)	Case No. ER-2006-0315
Service provided to customers	)	
In the Missouri service area of the	)	
Company	)	

**REPLY OF THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY TO  
APPLICATION BY PRAXAIR, INC. AND EXPLORER PIPELINE  
FOR LIMITED REHEARING, RECONSIDERATION, OR MODIFICATION**

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") and in response to the Application by Praxair, Inc. ("Praxair") and Explorer Pipeline ("Explorer") for Limited Rehearing, Reconsideration or Modification ("Application") states as follows:

On or about April 21, 2006, Praxair and Explorer filed their Application with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") addressing that aspect of the Commission's Order concerning Test Year and True-Up in Adopting Procedural Schedule dated April 11, 2006 ("Order") concerning the Commission's determination to limit post-hearing briefs to no more than ten (10) pages in length. The Application of Praxair and Explorer sets forth their legal rationale for reconsideration of that aspect of the Commission's Order.

Without necessarily concurring in all or any of the arguments offered by Praxair and Explorer in the Application, Empire states that it would not object to a modification of the Order removing or substantially extending the page limitation on post-hearing briefs for all parties. Empire sees little harm or hardship that

would come about by permitting the filing of a legal brief of a length deemed appropriate by the parties' respective counsel of record.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons aforesaid, Empire states it has no opposition to extending or removing the page limitation of post-hearing briefs in the captioned matter.

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND, P.C.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was electronically transmitted, sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 26th day of April, 2006, to all parties of record.

/s/ James C. Swearengen  
James C. Swearengen