

**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) **File No. ER-2012-0345**
Rates for Electric Service Provided to)
Customers in the Missouri Service)
Area of the Company.)

**LIST OF ISSUES AND
ORDER OF WITNESSES, CROSS, AND OPENINGS**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and on behalf of the parties to this matter, proposes the indicated items as follows:

List of Issues

1. Is Empire facing a financial emergency or near emergency that warrants the Commission authorizing it to implement an interim-subject-to-refund rate increase pending implementation of final general rates in this case?; or
2. Do Empire’s tornado recovery costs and post-tornado cost of service due to the May 2011 Joplin tornado warrant the Commission authorizing it to implement an interim-subject-to-refund rate increase pending implementation of final general rates in this case?; or
3. Is there any other basis(es) that warrants the Commission authorizing Empire to implement an interim-subject-to-refund rate increase pending implementation of final general rates in this case?
4. If the answer to 1, 2 or 3 is “yes,” what should be the amount of the interim-subject-to-refund rate increase, and what conditions, if any, should the Commission impose on it?

Order of Witnesses

Empire Witnesses

1. Brad P. Beecher
2. Kelly S. Walters
3. Robert W. Sager
4. Scott Keith
5. Joan E. Land

Staff Witnesses

1. Lena M. Mantle
2. Shana Atkinson
3. Shawn E. Lange
4. Mark L. Oligschlaeger

MEUA Witness

1. Stephen Rackers

Order of Cross

Empire Witnesses	Staff Witnesses	MEUA Witnesses
MECG	Public Counsel	Staff
MEUA	MEUA	Public Counsel
Public Counsel	MECG	MECG
Staff	Empire	Empire

Order of Openings

1. Empire
2. Staff
3. Public Counsel
4. MEUA
5. MECG
6. MGE

WHEREFORE, Staff submits these items on behalf of the parties to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sarah Kliethermes

Sarah L. Kliethermes MBE 60024
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-6726
Fax: (573) 751-2690
E-mail: sarah.kliethermes@psc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 29th day of August, 2012.

/s/ Sarah Kliethermes