

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

In the Matter of The Empire District)
Electric Company, Liberty Utilities)
(Central) Co. and Liberty Sub Corp.) File No. EM-2016-0213
Concerning an Agreement and Plan of)
Merger and Certain Related Transactions)

POSITION STATEMENT

The City of Joplin takes a position only on the issues designated below. For its Position Statement, Joplin states:

The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) operates within the City of Joplin under a franchise granted by the City, and various parts of its plant occupy City right-of-way. The City has a police power interest in Empire's exercise of its franchise that is different from the interest of the general public. Furthermore, Empire's headquarters are located in Joplin and have a substantial financial impact on and in the City of Joplin. In addition, Joplin also has an interest in the welfare of its citizens, who receive their electric service from Empire.

The Stipulation and Agreement as to the City of Joplin, filed July 19, 2016 and approved by this Commission on August 10, 2016, resolve the issues on which the City of Joplin has a position at this time.

The City of Joplin does not take a position on any other issue at this time, but reserves the right to do so as additional evidence is presented to the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the City of Joplin respectfully submits its Statement of Position.

Respectfully submitted,

BLITZ, BARDGETT & DEUTSCH, L.C.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true copies of the foregoing were sent by e-mail this 23rd day of August, 2016, to the parties of record as set out on the official Service List maintained by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission for this case.

/s/ Marc H. Ellinger