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January 4, 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED²
JAN 04 2000
Missouri Public
Service Commission

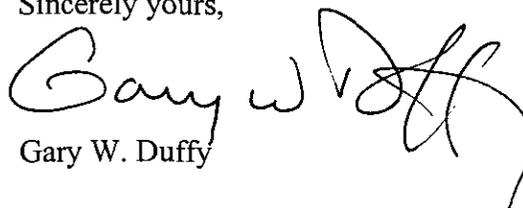
RE: Case No. EO-2000-346 Application of Jack Hearrell

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding please find an original and fourteen copies of a Response to First Amended Application for Change of Electric Service Provider.

If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,


Gary W. Duffy

Enclosures
cc w/encl:

Jack Hearrell
Office of Public Counsel
General Counsel
White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mike Palmer, Empire District
Rod Widger
Chuck Creger

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

FILED²

JAN 04 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of)
Jack Hearrell for a Change of Electric)
Supplier from White River Valley)
Electric Cooperative, Inc. to The Empire)
District Electric Company.)

Case No. EO-2000-346

**RESPONSE TO FIRST AMENDED
APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDER**

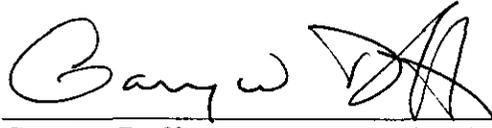
Comes now The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), by and through its counsel, and pursuant to the Commission's Order issued December 10, 1999, provides this response to the First Amended Application filed in this case on January 3, 2000:

1. Empire is aware of the facts underlying the First Amended Application and has had discussions with the Applicant and representatives of White River Valley Electric Cooperative in relation thereto.

2. Under the facts presented, Empire believes that it is in the public interest for the Commission to order a change of supplier. Empire understands that White River Valley Electric Cooperative has consented to the change. Empire is ready, willing and able to serve the three structures once it receives an order from the Commission authorizing it to do so.

WHEREFORE, The Empire District Electric Company has responded to the First Amended Application as ordered by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

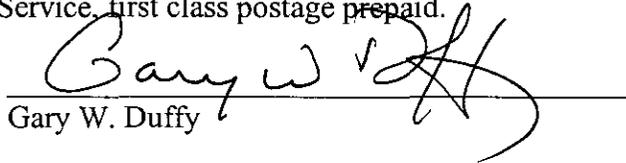


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Attorneys for
The Empire District Electric Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on all parties of record in this proceeding as shown below this 4th day of January, 2000 by hand delivery or deposit with the US Postal Service, first class postage prepaid.



Gary W. Duffy

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Mike Palmer
Director of Operations
The Empire District Electric Company