BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric Company's Application for Approval of a Transportation Electrification Portfolio for Electric Customers in its Missouri Service Area

Case No. ET-2020-0390

RESPONSE TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") and for its *Response to Staff Recommendation*, states as follows:

1. The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") filed an application requesting approval of several transportation electrification pilot programs and alternative accounting treatment under RSMo. § 393.140(8) on November 29, 2020.

2. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") filed its *Recommendation* regarding Empire's application on January 15, 2021. Staff recommended that the Commission not approve the application as filed and instead order a procedural schedule to be developed.

3. The OPC agrees with Staff's recommendation and also requests that the Commission not approve Empire's application as filed and instead order a procedural schedule to be developed and filed in this case.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel respectfully requests the Commission accept this *Response to Staff Recommendation* and grant the relief requested herein as well as any other relief that is just and reasonable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ John Clizer John Clizer (#69043) Senior Counsel Missouri Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Telephone: (573) 751-5324 Facsimile: (573) 751-5562 E-mail: john.clizer@opc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the forgoing have been mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this twenty-fifth day of January, 2021.

/s/ John Clizer