

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

In the Matter of The Empire)
District Electric Company's Request)
For Authority to Implement a General)
Rate Increase for Electric Service)

Case No. ER-2016-0023
Tracking No.: YE-2016-0104

**Office of the Public Counsel's Response to
Commission Order dated April 21, 2016**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"), by and through undersigned counsel, and for its *Response* to the Commission *Order* of April 21, 2016, states as follows:

1. On April 21, 2016, Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") filed a *Motion to Extend Filing Deadlines* for rebuttal, surrebuttal, and the final reconciliation on the grounds that the extension of time will permit the parties to engage in settlement discussions that may result in a decrease in the number of issues that are contested in the case. The *Motion* also correctly stated that OPC objected to the need for an extension and the *Motion* itself.

2. OPC objects to the *Motion to Extend the Filing Deadlines* because OPC does not intend to settle issues in the case until after the filing of rebuttal testimony. Therefore, there is no need to extend the filing deadlines on the grounds asserted in the *Motion*. OPC is prepared and ready to file its rebuttal in this case on April 27, 2016 on the date that was established in the Commission ordered *Procedural Schedule* on December 16, 2015.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel submits this Response and requests that the Commission deny the *Motion to Extend Filing Deadlines*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cydney D. Mayfield
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Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served, by hand delivery, electronic mail, or First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, to all parties of record on the Service List maintained for this case by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission, **on this 25th Day of April, 2016.**

/s/ Cydney D. Mayfield