OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

TAMMIE LYNN POWELL,)
Complainant,)
v.) <u>File No. EC-2009-0449</u>
THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC CO.)))
Respondent.)

ORDER SETTING PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

Issue Date: October 13, 2009 Effective Date: October 13, 2009

The Missouri Public Service Commission is scheduling a pre-hearing conference. A pre-hearing conference's purpose and function is as follows:

- (6) Parties may consider procedural and substantive matters at the prehearing conference which may aid in the disposition of the issues. Matters which require a decision may be presented to the presiding officer during the conference.
- (7) Facts disclosed in the course of a prehearing conference and settlement offers are privileged and, except by agreement, shall not be used against participating parties unless fully substantiated by other evidence.[1]

Parties shall participate as set forth below. At the prehearing conference, the parties shall be prepared to discuss pending motions, the status of discovery, the number and nature of witnesses and exhibits the parties intend to present at hearing, and the possibilities for settlement. The Commission encourages the parties to continue their attempts to resolve disputed matters among themselves and offers mediation services for that purpose.

¹ 4 CSR 240-2.090.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The regulatory law judge assigned to this case shall convene a pre-hearing conference at 9:00 a.m., on October 27, 2009, in Room 305 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

2. To participate in the pre-hearing conference, any party shall, personally or through counsel, appear at the time and place set forth in ordered paragraph 1:

a. In person; or

b. By telephone as set forth in ordered paragraph 3.

3. Any party appearing by telephone, shall call:

a. (573) 526-5398 for persons in Jefferson City, Missouri; or

b. (866) 630-9345 for persons outside Jefferson City, Missouri.

4. The pre-hearing conference and hearing will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the pre-hearing conference shall alert the Public Service Commission before the pre-hearing conference. Such call shall be to the Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711.

5. This order shall become effective immediately on issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)

Steven C. Reed

Secretary

Jordan, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 13th day of October 2009.