Exhibit No.:

Issues: Depreciation; Cost of Removal;

and Salvage

Witness: Rosella L. Schad, PE, CPA

Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff
Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal Testimony
Case No.: ER-2008-0093

Date Testimony Prepared: April 4, 2008

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION UTILITY SERVICES DIVISION

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

ROSELLA L. SCHAD, PE, CPA

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

CASE NO. ER-2008-0093

Jefferson City, Missouri April 2008

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1		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY
2		OF
3		ROSELLA L. SCHAD, PE, CPA
4		THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY
5		CASE NO. ER-2008-0093
6	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
7	A.	Rosella L. Schad, P. O. Box 360, Jefferson City, MO 65102.
8	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
9	A.	I am employed by the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) as
10	an Engineer	in the Engineering and Management Services Department.
11	Q.	Are you the same Rosella L. Schad that is identified as participating in the
12	preparation	of the Cost of Service Report included with Staff's direct filing in Case
13	No. ER-2008	3-0093?
14	A.	Yes.
15	EXECUTIV	YE SUMMARY
16	Q.	What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?
17	A.	The purpose is to respond to the direct testimony of The Empire District
18	Electric Con	npany (EDE or Company) witness, Donald S. Roff, and the direct testimony of
19	Office of the	ne Public Counsel (OPC) witness, William W. Dunkel, on the issues of
20	depreciation,	cost of removal and salvage.
21	Q.	What are the issues in depreciation, cost of removal and salvage that you will
22	address?	

Rebuttal Testimony Rosella L. Schad, PE, CPA

A. I will address the Company's request for a change in depreciation rates during the period additional amortizations are possible in rate proceedings as a result of provisions approved by the Commission in its Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement for Case No. EO-2005-0263. In addition, I will address the Company's request for change in the cap for interim cost of removal (negative net salvage) percentage in the depreciation rate calculation, the Company's request to amortize certain General Plant Accounts, the Company's inclusion of some reimbursements in the calculation of net salvage percentage, and, broadly, Staff's concern with Empire's deficiencies in maintaining historical mortality records and salvage/cost of removal data. I will also address OPC's proposal for utilizing remaining life rates.

REBUTTAL TO MR. DONALD S. ROFF, PE

- Q. What is Staff's position regarding changes in depreciation rates as recommended by the Company?
- A. It is Staff's position that there should be no current change in depreciation rates because Empire is currently operating under the regulatory plan approved in EO-2005-0263. Because the revenue impact of any change in depreciation rates would be offset by a change in the additional amortization under the regulatory plan, any decrease or increase in depreciation rates would not affect the customer rates the Commission establishes in this case. The Company's Regulatory Plan approved in the Report and Order in Case No. EO-2005-0263 allows for an additional amortization to meet certain credit metrics during the construction phase of Iatan II.

The Commission previously addressed the issue of changing depreciation rates while a utility is receiving rate recovery of regulatory plan amortizations in the 2006 Kansas City

Power & Light Company (KCPL) rate case. The Commission stated as follows in its Report

and Order in KCPL's Case No. ER-2006-0314 in ruling against the Staff's recommendation

3 to lower KCPL's depreciation rates: "What is more, any decrease in depreciation likely

would not affect rates in this case, because KCPL would be allowed additional amortization

to meet the credit metrics agreed to in Case No. EO-2005-0329." The same situation exists

in this proceeding, where any change to Empire's depreciation rates would not affect the

customer rates the Commission establishes in this case.

- Q. Why would customer rates be unaffected if the Commission were to order a change to Empire's depreciation rates?
- A. Under the Company's Regulatory Plan, any increase in depreciation expense would result in a smaller additional amortization and any decrease in depreciation expense would result in a larger additional amortization. From the perspective of customer rates, these changes are offsetting.
- Q. What is Staff's position regarding the Company's depreciation study conducted by its depreciation witness, Mr. Roff?
- A. Empire's depreciation study utilizes inappropriate methodologies and is not based upon reliable data. Therefore, it is Staff's position that the Commission should not accept the results of Mr. Roff's study even absent Empire's current operation under its regulatory plan. The concerns Staff has with Mr. Roff's study are with regard to the proposed change in the cap for interim cost of removal (negative net salvage) percentage in the depreciation rate calculation, the Company's request to amortize certain General Plant Accounts, and the inclusion of some reimbursements in the calculation of net salvage percentage.

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Does Staff believe that the Company has provided a sufficient analysis to O. support its proposed change in the cap for interim cost of removal (negative net salvage) percentage from 100 % to 125%?

No. In Mr. Roff's rebuttal testimony for Empire in Case No. ER-2004-0570, A. Empire's 2004 general electric rate increase case, he indicated on pages 35-36 that he examined different depreciation methodologies to mitigate the full impact of his proposal of increasing depreciation expense. He made the proposal for an adjustment to limit the interim net salvage percentage to negative 100% for the four accounts where the negative net salvage allowances were the greatest. In the Commission's Report and Order for Case No. ER-2004-0570, the Commission accepted the Company's proposal to cap the interim net salvage percentage at -100%. Mr. Roff has not provided evidence in this case that the interim net salvage percentage cap of -100%, approved by the Commission, is inappropriate and has not provided support to change the magnitude of Empire's cap to the -125% level. Because of the required rate case filing by Empire to include Iatan II in rate base in 2010 and the three-year requirement for the Company to perform and submit to Staff and OPC a depreciation study at that time, Staff believes it is appropriate to currently retain the interim net salvage percentage cap at -100%.

- Q. Does Staff believe it is appropriate to amortize certain General Plant Accounts in lieu of applying traditional depreciation techniques, as advocated by Mr. Roff, to achieve administrative efficiencies?
- No. Mr. Roff noted on page 19 of his direct testimony that these asset A. categories, selected from the General Plant functions, represent groups with many, small dollar property items. In the Commission's Report and Order for Case No. ER-97-394, a

general electric rate case for Missouri Public Service, a Division of UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp), the Commission addressed a similar issue raised by Missouri Public Service relating to high volume, low value items for which separate tracking created high administrative costs, by ordering a change in the threshold for capitalization of general plant accounts to allow Missouri Public Service the opportunity for additional savings and administrative efficiencies. A higher capitalization threshold will reduce the administrative costs of tracking inventory and maintaining recordkeeping, by allowing a utility to charge to expense an item costing less than the capitalization threshold limit when purchased. Empire

Q. Did Mr. Roff reflect reimbursements in his depreciation study?

A. Yes; however, he only considered reimbursements on a selective basis. As noted on pages 2-3 of Mr. Roff's Schedule DSR-3 for Account 353, Transmission

should evaluate the costs and benefits of recommending a higher capitalization threshold if it

believes the administrative burdens of separately tracking its small dollar assets is too great.

A. Yes. In the context of cost of removal and salvage analysis, "reimbursements" are payments made by external parties to cover cost of removal expenditures. The existence of reimbursements means that utility ratepayers do not have to be the source of recovery of the costs covered by external parties' reimbursements. However, Staff can't make a determination as to the magnitude of reimbursements from the historical cost of removal/salvage data provided by the Company to Staff. Staff must request further information from the Company as to the frequency and source of reimbursements the Company has received and expects to receive in the future.

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- Q. Was Staff able to ascertain the level of reimbursements the Company has received by reviewing the historical salvage/cost of removal data Staff was provided?
- A. No. The historical salvage/cost of removal data received by the Staff did not have any entries coded as reimbursements, and more specifically, did not have any indication that the Company had received insurance proceeds, third party reimbursements or any other type of reimbursement.
- Q. Why does Staff have concerns regarding the historical cost of removal/salvage data being maintained by the Company?
- A. Staff has concerns regarding data maintenance by the Company because the lack of data collection by the Company means the Staff can't make a determination of what

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amounts of reimbursements were received by the Company and, further, can't evaluate the appropriateness of including reimbursements in the depreciation rate calculation.

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Q. What is the significance to the calculation of depreciation expense when utilizing salvage data that is not adjusted for reimbursements?

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Account 364, Distribution Poles, Towers, and Fixtures, years 2002-2006, the total

The significance can be large depending on the account. For example, for

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data supplied to Staff were \$1,185,264, \$1,457154, and \$1,797,365, respectively.

retirements, salvage, and cost of removal amounts from the historical cost of removal/salvage

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Net salvage is salvage minus cost of removal and equals \$1,457,154 minus \$1,797,365 or

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-\$340,211. Staff's annual net salvage percentage for the period 2002-2006 is -\$340,211

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divided by \$1,185,264 or -29%. Mr. Roff's calculation for annual net salvage percentage for

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this account for the same time period, 2002-2006, is in the range -130% to -134%

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(Schedule 1). (Mr. Roff caps the net salvage percentage for Account 364 at -125%). Using

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the existing average service life of 46 years, and the net salvage percentages of -125 % for

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Mr. Roff and -29 % for Staff, generates depreciation rates of 4.9% and 2.8%, respectively.

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For Account 364 with a \$127 million plant balance, the annual depreciation expense under

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each set of assumptions is \$6.2 million, and \$3.6 million, respectively. This creates a

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difference of \$2.6 million of annual depreciation expense for this specific account. This

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discrepancy makes it imperative that the historical cost of removal/salvage data maintained

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Q. Does Staff have other concerns with the historical salvage/cost of removal

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data and historical mortality data?

by the Company be coded for reimbursements.

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correlate as shown above?

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to problems in the resulting determination of average service life, and secondly the net

or both of these historical data sets by Empire.

salvage percentage may misrepresent the cost of removal/salvage experienced. Ultimately, the calculated depreciation rate may produce too little or too much annual depreciation expense. In this specific case, a net salvage percentage of -\$2,524,897/\$166,823.50 equals 1514% and a net salvage percentage of -\$2,524,897/\$2,834,557 equals 89%. In addition, in

Yes. Discrepancies in retirement dollar information between the historical

salvage/cost of removal data kept by Empire compared to the historical mortality data

maintained by Empire raised questions by Staff regarding whether the Company's

maintenance of mortality records of property and property retirements is in compliance with

the requirements in 4 CSR 240-20.030. For example, the historical mortality data had a

retirement entry for Account 343, Prime Movers, in year 2005 of \$166,823.50 (Schedule 2).

The corresponding historical cost of removal/salvage data for this same account and

transaction year had several retirement entries summing up to \$2,834,557 with credit entries

to cost of removal summing up to -\$2,524,897 (Schedule 2). For any given account for any

given year, the retirement dollars reflected in the historical cost of removal/salvage data

should be the exact amount of retirement dollars reflected in the historical mortality data.

The fact that they are not in this instance indicates there are problems with maintaining either

when the historical mortality data and the historical cost of removal/salvage data do not

What is the significance to the calculation of annual depreciation expense

The first significance is that mortality characteristics may be flawed, leading

an e-mail sent January 11, 2008 by the Company to Staff (Schedule 3), the Company

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described additional errors for the retirement entries in the historical mortality data. They noted that an additional \$142, 837 is a regular retirement for Account 343 and should have been included with the \$166, 823 for 2005. Data discrepancies uncovered by Staff indicate that the Company is not properly maintaining historical mortality data and cost of removal/salvage data as required by 4 CSR 240-20.030.

Does Staff believe that the data depended upon by Mr. Roff to perform a

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depreciation study has sufficient integrity?

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No. These entries noted above of \$2,834,557 and -\$2,524,897 for retirement and cost of removal amounts, respectively, and the net salvage percentage of 89% also show up in Mr. Roff's depreciation study for 2005 in Account 343 (Schedule 4). Company indicated to Staff the regular retirements for Account 343 should equal the sum of

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\$166,823 + \$142,837, or \$309,660. This is not equal to the retirement amount of \$2,834,557 utilized by Mr. Roff in his depreciation study analysis. On pages 7-8 of Mr. Roff's direct

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testimony, he stated in part:

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A depreciation study consists of four distinct, yet related phases—data collection, analysis, evaluation and rate calculation. Data collection refers to the gathering of historical accounting information for use in the other phases. Company personnel were responsible for this effort. Analysis refers to the statistical processing of the data collected in the first phase. There are two separate analysis procedures, one for life, and one for salvage and cost of removal, and these were done by The evaluation phase incorporates the information developed in the data collection and analysis phases to determine the applicability of the historical relationships developed in these phases to the future, and was conducted jointly by DSR and Company personnel. The rate calculation phase merely utilizes the parameters developed in the other phases in the computation of the recommended depreciation rates and was accomplished by me.

It is Staff's belief that the data depended upon by Mr. Roff to perform a depreciation study does not have sufficient integrity.

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Q. Did Staff perform a depreciation study for Empire in this proceeding?

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A. Yes, though the Staff recommends that Empire's currently authorized depreciation rates not be changed at this time due to its current receipt of regulatory plan amortizations in rates. However, Staff is not confident in the results of its depreciation study because of several concerns with the Company's recordkeeping. The Company has informed Staff in Staff's Data Request 256 (Schedule 5) that Empire cannot code retirements that are not regular retirements as anything other than a regular retirement. The Company has also informed Staff in Staff's Data Request 257 (Schedule 6) that Empire can not code reimbursements separate from salvage and that Empire must manually review reimbursements from salvage. In addition, in an e-mail sent January 9, 2008 by the Company to Staff (Schedule 7), the Company described an error in trying to develop historical mortality data files for Staff in this rate case and noted that the files given to Mr. Roff appeared to have the entries correct. Staff has concerns that the Company is not

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i.e., the e-mail correspondences received as part of Company's response to Staff's Data

maintaining historical data files that meet the requirements of the Commission's rules;

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Request No. 227 (Schedule 8) between Mr. Roff and the Company indicate that Mr. Roff had to ask for clarification and guidance on data entries, adjustments, and balances of historical

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mortality data and cost of removal/salvage data he received from Company personnel in

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order to perform a depreciation study. The Staff has serious concerns that the data has not

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been properly maintained by the Company, per Commission rules, and that the data

	Rebuttal Te Rosella L.	estimony Schad, PE, CPA
1	underlying	the Company's depreciation study as well as Staff's depreciation study are
2	unreliable.	
3	Q.	Is the Company's current depreciation study submission in compliance with
4	4 CSR 240	-3.175?
5	A.	No. 4 CSR 240-3.175 requires an estimated date of final retirement and
6	surviving of	dollar investment for each warehouse, electric generating facility, combustion
7	turbine, gen	neral office building or other large structure. Staff did not find any estimated date
8	of final reti	rements for any facility as part of Empire's current depreciation study submission.
9	Q.	When was the last time Staff performed a depreciation study for Empire?
10	A.	Staff conducted a depreciation study for Empire in Case No. ER-2004-0570.
11	Q.	When were the Company's currently ordered depreciation rates established?
12	A.	The Company's currently depreciation rates were ordered in Case No.
13	ER-2006-0	315 and were the same rates established by the Report and Order in Case
14	No. ER-20	04-0570.
15	REBUTTA	AL TO MR. WILLIAM W. DUNKEL
16	Q.	What change in technique has OPC witness, William W. Dunkel, proposed in
17	his direct to	estimony?
18	A	According to his direct testimony, Mr. Dunkel has recommended that the
19	Commissio	n order depreciation rates in this case calculated using the Remaining Life
20	technique,	as shown in Mr. Dunkel's Schedule WWD-1, page 1 of 2. Empire's current
21	depreciatio	n rates are based on the Whole Life technique.
22	Q.	Does Staff consider this change in technique to be a change in Commission
23	policy?	

Rebuttal Testimo	ny	
Rosella L. Schad	\mathbf{PE}	CPA

A. Yes. The Commission has rejected the use of remaining life depreciation method in previous rate cases. A change in technique was addressed by the Commission in it's Report and Order for Case No. ER-97-394; the Commission stated:

The OPC supports the position of Staff and adds that Utilicorp has failed to demonstrate any shortcomings of the current method in Missouri, that is, the whole life technique. OPC maintains that, as Utilicorp is the party wishing to alter the Commission's long-standing policy, it is incumbent on Utilicorp to prove by substantial and convincing evidence that such a change is desirable and of benefit to the ratepayers. The OPC is of the opinion that Utilicorp has not proffered sufficient evidence to warrant such a change in Commission policy. The Commission agrees with the points made by the Staff and OPC. The Commission does not find sufficient evidence to warrant alteration of its long-standing use of the whole-life technique.

- Q. Does OPC provide evidence on why it supports a change to its earlier position on the appropriate depreciation technique to be used in a depreciation study and provide any substantial and convincing evidence that such a change is desirable and of benefit to the ratepayers?
- A. No. However, Mr. Dunkel notes on page 9, lines 13-14, of his direct testimony that his changes to annual depreciation accruals are \$1,153,610 less than Mr. Roff's proposal.
- Q. Is it Staff's recommendation that the Company's currently ordered depreciation rates should be ordered in this case?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. If the Commission accepts Empire's depreciation study and Empire's underlying depreciation and net salvage calculations, how will that affect Empire's rate revenues now and in the future?

Rebuttal Testimony Rosella L. Schad, PE, CPA

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As previously noted any ordered changes to depreciation rates will not change Empire's rate revenues at this time as any change to depreciation expense will be offset in its entirety by a corresponding change in the additional amortization amount included in Empire's rates. Although proposed changes to rate revenues will be reviewed in all future rate cases filed by Empire, the inclusion of the additional amortizations are possible in Empire rate proceedings as a result of provisions approved by the Commission in its Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement for Case No. EO-2005-0263. Changing Empire's depreciation rates in this proceeding will not mean that these rates cannot be re-examined in future Empire rate proceedings However, adoption of the Company's current depreciation rate proposal will set a precedent for changes to Commission's existing practices regarding depreciation of some plant accounts, including amortization of certain selected accounts in lieu of traditional depreciation approaches. The Staff prefers that the Commission wait until the expiration of Empire's current regulatory plan to consider any proposed changes to Empire's depreciation rates. This would also provide the Company an opportunity to fix some of the observed problems in maintaining its depreciation related data bases in accordance with the Commission rules, and allow the Commission to consider changes to Empire's existing rates based upon more reliable data.

- Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?
- A. Yes.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of The Empire District Ele Company of Joplin, Missouri's Applicatio Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rate Electric Service Provided to Customers in	on for) es for)	Case No. ER-2008-0093
Missouri Service Area of the Company)	
AFFIDAVIT OF RO	SELLA L. SCHAD	, P.E., C.P.A
STATE OF MISSOURI) ss.		
COUNTY OF COLE)		
Rosella L. Schad, of lawful age, on her oat the foregoing Rebuttal Testimony in quest presented in the above case; that the answe her; that she has knowledge of the matter true and correct to the best of her knowledge	ion and answer formers in the foregoing less set forth in such a	n, consisting of /3 pages to be Rebuttal Testimony were given by
	Rosella &	. Schad L. Schad
Subscribed and sworn to before me this	3rd	day of April, 2008.
D. SUZIE MANKIN Notary Public - Notary Seal State of Missouri County of Cole My Commission Exp. 07/01/2008	OSus Notar	ullanken Public

DEPRECIATION SPECIALTY RESOURCES

DEPRECIATION SYSTEM - DSALVG01 RELEASE 7.0

STUDY AS OF DECEMBER 31 , 2006

PAGE 2

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ACCOUNT NO.: 36400000 DISTR - POLES, TOWERS & F

6-18-2007

•			REIMBURSEMENTS		SALVAGE		COST OF REMOVAL		NET SALVAGE	
YEAR	ADDITIONS	RETIREMENTS	AMOUNT	RATIO	AMOUNT	RATIO	AMOUNT	RATIO	W/REIMB. W/O REIMB.	
2000-2006	32136117.	1528406.	1342728.	4.%	221057.	14.%	2542933.	166.%	-148.% -152.%	
2001-2006	30574250.	1319378.	1285986.	4.8	210271.	16.%	2169758.	164.%	-144.% -149.%	
2002-2006	25718961.	1185264.	1253229.	5.%	20 3 925.	17.%	1797365.	152.%	(-130.8) (-134.8)	
2003-2006	23317630.	1048232.	1043779.	4.%	196088.	19.%	2326974.	222.%	-199.% -203.%	
2004-2006	20804877.	860762.	1035078.	5.%	148336.	17.%	1864365.	217.%	-194.% -199.%	
2005-2006	16553324.	541724.	833400.	5.%	68547.	13.%	1141795.	211.%	-193.% -198.%	
2006	10568761.	262230.	158707.	2.%	15795.	6.%	603853.	230.%	-223.% -224.%	

USE

1997

2002

2006

ER-2008-0093
The Empire District Electri Company

	Empire's Historical Cost of Removal/Salvage Data									Empire's Historical Mortality Data				
Account	TransYr	Add	Ret	Reimb	Salvage	COR		T-Yr	Acct Code	V-Yr	Amt			
343	2005		166823.5		0.0	0.0		2005	343 R	1978	(166,823.50)			
343	2005		276334.0		0.0	-276334.0		2005	343 A	1999	(804,637.00)			
343	2005		153160.0		0.0	-153160.0		2005	343 A	1999	(23,608.40)			
343	2005		2095403.0		0.0	-2095403.0		2005	343 A	1999	828,245.40			
·343	2005		142837.0		0.0	0.0		2005	343 A	2005	(100,000.00)			
Total			2834557.5			-2524897.0		2005	343 A	2005	(40,987.20)			
		-						2005	343 A	2005	186.70			
								2005	343 A	2005	258.30			
								2005	343 A	2005	778.60			
		,				. *		2005	343 A	2005	2,480.00			
								2005	343 A	2005	6,471.20			
								2005	343 A	2005	19,511.50			
								2005	343 A	2005	38,533.00			
								2005	343 A	2005	74,307.60			
								2005	343 A	2005	100,000.00			
				4			•	2005	343 A	2005	148,699.40			
			•					2005	343 A	2005	670,309.00			

Schad, Rosella

From:

Julie Steward [JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent:

Friday, January 11, 2008 10:18 AM

To:

Schad, Rosella

Cc:

Angela Cloven; Martha Thomas

Subject:

RE: Questions

Attachments: Acct 343 2005 Ret for Rosella.xls

Rosella,

I found the entry you were talking about in the SV & COR data file. I'm attaching the detailed backup for that file. As you will see, the \$142,837 was part of the same asset as the amounts that were excluded (highlighted) and that is why it was excluded also. But it is a regular retirement and should have been included along with the \$166,823 for 2005.

Julie

From: Schad, Rosella [mailto:rosella.schad@psc.mo.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2008 4:14 PM

To: Julie Steward

Cc: Angela Cloven; Martha Thomas

Subject: RE: Questions

Line 785 has a retirement for \$142,837.00

From looking at Don Roff's workpapers for account 353 and 362, the reimbursements must have just not been entered in his reimbursement column, but yet subtracted from his salvage dollars. I will take a look at the file you sent him.

Rosella Schad, PE, CPA
Engineering & Management Services
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
rosella.schad@psc.mo.gov
(573) 751-1854
(573) 526-0145 (fax)

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2008 3:54 PM

To: Schad, Rosella

Cc: Angela Cloven; Martha Thomas

Subject: Questions

Rosella,

In response to your question about Account 362, please refer to the file I sent to Don Roff titled "Acct 353, 362 Reimb 2000-2006.xls." The salvage amounts in 2003-2005 were reimbursements.

I can't locate the 2005 retirement in Account 343 for \$142,837 in the data I sent to you. Can you tell me what line number it is in the data I sent to you?

Julie

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Acct 343 2005 Ret for Rosella.xls

FERC Code	Trans Date	Month	T-Year	Asset ID	Retire Amt	Proceeds	Removal
3430	2005-11-29	*11	2005	C08052	166,823.50	0.00	0.00
3430	2005-12-31	12	2005	00061094	276,334.00	0.00	-276,334.00
3430	2005-12-31	12	2005	00061094	153,160.00	0.00	-153,160.00
3430	2005-12-31	12	2005	00061094	2,095,403.00	0.00	-2,095,403.00
3430	2005-12-31	12	2005	00061094	142,837.00	0.00	0.00

DEPRECIATION SPECIALTY RESOURCES

DEPRECIATION SYSTEM - DSALVG01 RELEASE 7.0

STUDY AS OF DECEMBER 31 , 2006

PAGE 1

4-25-2007

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ACCOUNT NO.: 34300000 OTR - Prime Movers

				IMBURS	ements	SAL	SALVAGE		COST OF REMOVAL		NET SALVAGE	
YEAR 1993	ADDITIONS	RETIREMENTS	AMOUNT		RATIO	AMOUNT	RATIO	AMOUNT	RATIO	W/REIMB.	W/O REIMB.	
	0.	8300.		0.	0.%	0.	0.%	12450.	150.%	-150.%	-150.%	
1996	0.	1615733.		0.	0.%	650.	0.%	314408.	19.%	-19.%	-19.%	
1997	0.	48463.		Ο.	0.%	1089.	2.%	228023.	471.%	-468.%	-468.%	
1998	0.	591480.		0.	0.%	307.	0.%	47498.	8.%	-8.%	-8.%	
1999	0.	52189.		0.	0.%	0.	0.%	94495.	181.%	-181.%	-181.%	
2000	. 0.	234288.		0.	0.%	0.	0.%	15629.	7.%	-7.%	-7.%	
2001	0.	17779189.		0.	0.%	12693096.	71.%	- 0.	0.%	71.%	71.%	
2003	0.	387858.		0.	0.%	0.	0.%	7680.	2.%	-2.%	-2.%	
2005	0.	(2834557.)		0.	0.%	0.	0.%	-2524897.	-89.%	89.%	89.%	
2006	0.	833000.		0.	0.%	0.	0.%	26142.	3.%	-3.%	-3.%	
	0.	24385057.		0.	0.%	12695142.	52.%	-1778571.	-7.%	59.%	59.%	

1997

2002

2006

Schad, Rosella

From:

ACloven@empiredistrict.com

Sent:

Wednesday, February 06, 2008 5:00 PM

To:

Schad, Rosella

Cc:

ACloven@empiredistrict.com

Subject:

Case No. ER-2008-0093 - Data Request No. 0256

Attachments: Response - Feb 6 2008 3_59PM.html

Missouri Public Service Commission

Respond Data Request

Data Request No.

0256

Company Name

Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric)

Case/Tracking No.

ER-2008-0093

Date Requested

1/17/2008

Issue

Expense - Operations - Depreciation

Requested From

Angela Cloven

Requested By **Brief Description** Rosella Schad Retirement Coding

Description

In an e-mail to Rosella Schad from Julie Steward on Friday, 1-11-08 at 9:18AM, a spreadsheet was provided that was titled Acct 343 2005 Ret for Rosella.xls. 1. With regard to the items excluded (Asset 00061094 on the spreadsheet), why do the highlighted amounts get excluded from retirements? 2. Is the term "regular retirement" applicable for this asset, and if not does the Company"s software have a coding for an asset that is not a regular retirement? 3. How do these retirement amounts eventually get removed from plant balances? 4. With regard to the dollars noted as "Removal", which we spoke about at length at the beginning of the Staff/EDE January 3rd, 2008 site visit, can the Company"s software code these dollars

as "Salvage" ("Proceeds")? 5. If it can, why is the entry a

Removal credit instead of a Salvage credit?

Response

Provided by: Julie Steward – 1) These items were

reclassifications from Plant in Service to Inventory. 2) This was not a "regular retirement." We do not have a code for an asset that is not a regular retirement. 3) Even though they are not "regular retirements," they are removed from Plant in Service using the same method as regular retirements. The only method we have to remove assets from Plant in Service is with

a retirement. 4&5) The process of placing an asset into

Inventory requires an RM "Return Material" code to record the material as an Inventory item. A salvage code could have been used, but the item would not have been properly recorded to

Inventory.

Objections

NA

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains , no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission if, during the pendency of Case No. ER-2008-0093 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information. If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document; name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person(s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security:

Public

Rationale:

NA

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Schad, Rosella

From:

ACloven@empiredistrict.com

Sent:

Wednesday, February 06, 2008 5:01 PM

To:

Schad, Rosella

Cc:

ACloven@empiredistrict.com

Subject:

Case No. ER-2008-0093 - Data Request No. 0257

Attachments: Response - Feb 6 2008 4_00PM.html

Missouri Public Service Commission

Respond Data Request

Data Request No.

0257

Company Name

Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric)

Case/Tracking No.

ER-2008-0093

Date Requested

1/17/2008

Issue

Expense - Operations - Depreciation

Requested From

Angela Cloven

Requested By

Rosella Schad

Brief Description

Reimbursement Coding

Description

In an e-mail to Rosella Schad from Julie Steward on Thursday, 1-10-08 at 3:54PM, the response referred to a file provided to Don Roff titled "Acct 353, 362 Reimb 2000-2006.xls" and that salvage amounts in 2003-2005 were reimbursements. Does the Company"s software have a coding for salvage proceeds

that are reimbursements?

Response

Provided by: Julie Steward - There is no special coding for reimbursements; they are coded SV. We must manually review

the SV items for reimbursements.

Objections

NA

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Company, The-Investor(Electric) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security:

Public

Rationale:

NA

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Schad, Rosella

From: Julie Steward [JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 2:08 PM

To: Schad, Rosella
Cc: Martha Thomas

Subject: Credit Cost of Removal

Rosella,

Martha told me you had questions about the 2002 credits to COR. It appears that the COR numbers which are credits in the depreciation data should be debits for the transaction year 2002. At that time I prepared that file, I keyed those numbers from the report AMEC020_REG and they are credits on that report. I checked 1999-2003 and all of the other years I keyed from the reports are OK. For the more recent data 2004-2006, I used a query to get the COR amounts.

I checked Don's workpapers from the last depreciation study in 2004 and he used the 2002 COR amounts correctly.

I'm sorry about the confusion.

Julie

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Schedule 7

Missouri Public Service Commission

Respond Data Request

Data Request No.

0227

Company Name

Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric)

Case/Tracking No.

ER-2008-0093

Date Requested

12/19/2007

Issue

Expense - Operations - Depreciation

Requested From

Angela Cloven

Requested By

Rosella Schad

Brief Description

Correspondence with Depreciation Consultant

Description

Please provide a copy of all correspondence and communication between the Company and its depreciation consultant, including but not limited to draft and final project status reports, memorandums, e-mails, and letters that document expected and/or completed work activities and

depreciation responsibilities of the depreciation consultant for the

Company.

Response

Provided by: Julie Steward and Laurie Delano - Response will be

provided on CD and sent by Fed-Ex.

Objections

NA

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission if, during the pendency of Case No. ER-2008-0093 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information. If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person(s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Empire District Electric Company, The-Investor(Electric) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security:

Public

Rationale:

NA

With Proprietary and Highly Confidential Data Requests a Protective Order must be on file.

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 9:40 AM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: RE: Depreciation Data

Don,

I sent the 2003 data separately for the last study so I do know I have it. I'll get it organized and send it as soon as I can. I'm glad to hear the 04-06 data is ok.

Julie

----Original Message----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 9:09 AM

To: Julie Steward

Subject: RE: Depreciation Data

Julie:

I have a small problem. The depreciation study data from the prior study goes through year-end 2002. I need the 2003 transactions. Is this readily available?

Any questions, please call me at (469) 964 – 9090.

Thanks.

By the way, the 2004 - 2006 data is fine!!!

Don

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 4:17 PM

To: Don Roff

Subject: RE: Depreciation Data

I used the same format specified for our last study. "A" means addition and "R" means retirement.

----Original Message----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 3:32 PM

To: Julie Steward

Subject: RE: Depreciation Data

Julie:

I am a little confused regarding the data files. Explain to me, what an A record and an R record means to you in how you organized the data?

Don

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 11:43 AM

To: donald.roff@verizon.net

Subject: Depreciation Data

Don,

Attached is the depreciation data except for the plant balance reconciliations, the authorized depreciation rates and the retirement dates for the generating units. I'm having the first two items scanned so I can send them to you electronically. The retirement dates will be discussed at a meeting this afternoon. I'll get these items to you as soon as I can.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

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Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 10:52 AM

To: 'Don Roff' Subject: RE:

Don,

As soon as I can get it scanned, I'll send it.

Julie

----Original Message----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 10:47 AM

To: Julie Steward **Subject:** RE:

Julie:

Thanks! Could you send the Report ID AMAS2030 for the twelve months ending 2003?

Don

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 9:42 AM

To: Don Roff Subject:

Don,

Here's what I found for 2003. If there's anything else you need, please let me know.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

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Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 11:42 AM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: AMAS2030 Dec 2003

Attachments: Sch 7 Supplement 2003.xls

Don,

I couldn't get the report scanned that you need so I just keyed it into Excel. It is attached.

Julie Steward Property Records Accountant The Empire District Electric Company 417-625-6552

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2007 9:02 AM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: RE: General Plant

Don,

The penciled-in numbers on AMAS2030 are correct. The differences are due to Capital Lease entries. They have been credited to accounts 391 and 397 and debited to account 105 but our Asset Management system doesn't recognize. Sorry about the confusion.

Julie

----Original Message-----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2007 8:26 AM

To: Julie Steward **Subject:** General Plant

Julie:

I have a question. When I combine the 2002 depreciation study data, the 2003 activity and the 2004-2006 activity for General Plant, I get the following surviving balances:

For Account 391.0 \$7,294,314.1 For Account 391.1 \$4,586,602.0 For Account 391.2 \$3,152,074.0

Which totals to \$15,032,990.

The AMAS2030 report for 2006 shows either \$15,092,699.1 or \$14,852,114.0.

Am I missing something, and which balance is correct?

When I do the same combination for Account 397, I get a balance of \$8,966,143.4 Compared to the AMAS2030 report of either \$8,642.938 or \$8,331,938.

Which is correct. For all the other General Plant accounts, I tie to the AMAS2030 report.

Thanks for your assistance.

Don

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 11:43 AM

To: 'donald.roff@verizon.net'
Subject: Depreciation Data

Attachments: 1992 - 2006 Salvage and COR for DRoff.xls; Depreciable Plt Bal 12-31-06.xls; Dist Prop Types 2004-2006.xls; Gen Prop Types 2004-2006.xls; Mass Property 2004-2006 for DRoff.xls; Plant Acct Prop Types 2004-2006.xls; Plant Data 2004-2006 for DRoff.xls; Trans Prop Types 2004-2006.xls; amec020_dec2004_reg.xls; 12-05_amec020_reg.xls; 12-06_amec020_reg.xls Don.

Attached is the depreciation data except for the plant balance reconciliations, the authorized depreciation rates and the retirement dates for the generating units. I'm having the first two items scanned so I can send them to you electronically. The retirement dates will be discussed at a meeting this afternoon. I'll get these items to you as soon as I can.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 4:17 PM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: RE: Depreciation Data

I used the same format specified for our last study. "A" means addition and "R" means retirement.

----Original Message----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 3:32 PM

To: Julie Steward

Subject: RE: Depreciation Data

Julie:

I am a little confused regarding the data files. Explain to me, what an A record and an R record means to you in how you organized the data?

Don

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 11:43 AM

To: donald.roff@verizon.net **Subject:** Depreciation Data

Don,

Attached is the depreciation data except for the plant balance reconciliations, the authorized depreciation rates and the retirement dates for the generating units. I'm having the first two items scanned so I can send them to you electronically. The retirement dates will be discussed at a meeting this afternoon. I'll get these items to you as soon as I can.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

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Sent: Monday, May 14, 2007 4:02 PM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: RE: Coal Cars

Don,

What we have in Asset Mgmt for Asbury Trains in A/C 312 is a lump sum of \$5,580,296.31 with an acquisition date of 9/1/1989. Is that what you needed?

Julie

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, May 14, 2007 10:23 AM

To: Julie Steward **Subject:** Coal Cars

Julie:

I have one small request. Would it be possible to obtain the surviving balance by vintage year for the Coal Cars (unit train)?

Thanks. I hope that you are well!

Don

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 1:24 PM

To: 'Don Roff'
Cc: Martha Thomas

Subject: Reimbursements

Attachments: Acct 355, 356, 364, 365 Reimb 2000-06.xls

Don,

Attached are the reimbursements for Accounts 355, 356, 364 and 365 for the past six years. If you need anything else or have questions, please let me know.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 2:35 PM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: RE: Reimbursements

Don,

Are you talking about the insurance recoveries for the 2003 tornado damage in accounts 353 and 362?

Julie

----Original Message----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 2:26 PM

To: Julie Steward

Subject: RE: Reimbursements

Julie:

Thanks. I wanted to say I enjoyed our meeting on Tuesday. It was good to see you. I also believe you were going to provide a summary of insurance "recoveries". Was my understanding correct?

Regards,

Don

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 1:24 PM

To: Don Roff **Cc:** Martha Thomas

Subject: Reimbursements

Don,

Attached are the reimbursements for Accounts 355, 356, 364 and 365 for the past six years. If you need anything else or have questions, please let me know.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

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Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 3:12 PM

To: 'Don Roff'

Subject: RE: Reimbursements

Yes, there were but it looks like it will be next week before I can get to that.

----Original Message----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 3:09 PM

To: Julie Steward

Subject: RE: Reimbursements

Yes and if there were any other such recoveries!

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 2:35 PM

To: Don Roff

Subject: RE: Reimbursements

Don,

Are you talking about the insurance recoveries for the 2003 tornado damage in accounts 353 and 362?

Julie

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Roff [mailto:donald.roff@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 2:26 PM

To: Julie Steward

Subject: RE: Reimbursements

Julie:

Thanks. I wanted to say I enjoyed our meeting on Tuesday. It was good to see you. I also believe you were going to provide a summary of insurance "recoveries". Was my understanding correct?

Regards,

Don

From: Julie Steward [mailto:JAndrews@empiredistrict.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 1:24 PM

To: Don Roff

Cc: Martha Thomas

Subject: Reimbursements

Don.

Attached are the reimbursements for Accounts 355, 356, 364 and 365 for the past six years. If you need anything else or have questions, please let me know.

Julie Steward

Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

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Sent: Monday, June 18, 2007 10:10 AM

To: 'droff@deloitte.com'

Subject: Reimbursements Accts 353 and 362

Attachments: Acct 353, 362 Reimb 2000-06.xls

Don,

Attached are the reimbursements for accounts 353 and 362 for 2000-2006. If you need anything else, please let me know.

Julie Steward
Property Records Accountant
The Empire District Electric Company
417-625-6552

EMPIRE DISTRICT

2006 Depreciation Study Questions

- 1. Account 353 What was salvaged in 2003 and 2004?

 There were some transformers and a frequency changer salvaged but most of the amounts recorded as salvage were insurance reimbursements. See "Acct 353 Proceeds 2003-4.xls"
- 2. Account 354 What is expected Average Service Life (ASL)? In the last study, the ASL was 65 years.
- 3. Account 361 What was salvaged in 2004 and 2005?

 The amounts recorded as salvage were insurance reimbursements from storm damage. See "Acct 361 Proceeds 2004-5.xls"
- 4. Account 362 What was salvaged in 2004 and 2005?

 The amounts recorded as salvage were insurance reimbursements from storm damage. See "Acct 362 Proceeds 2004-5.xls"
- 5. Account 364 What was salvaged in 2005?

 There was some wire and cable salvaged but most of the amounts recorded as salvage were reimbursements. See "Acct 364 Proceeds 2005.xls"
- 6. Account 364 What was large addition in 2006?

 The majority of the jobs involved are in the process of being unitized so we don't know the exact units of property at this point. Normally anchors, pole fixtures, guys and poles make up this account. See "Acct 364 Lg Adds 2006.xls"
- 7. Account 367 What is approximate split between direct buried and cable in conduit? This detail is not maintained in our Fixed Asset System.
- 8. Account 368 Explain large retirement in 2005.

 Transformers make up the largest dollar amount of retirements. See "Acct 368 Ret 2005.xls"
- 9. Account 369 What is approximate split between overhead and underground (\$; number of services)?

 Overhead services make up 77% of the number of services and underground services make up 23% of the number of services installed. For the dollar amounts of services the split is 32% for overhead and 68% for underground.

 See "Acct 369 OH UG Split.xls"

- Account 370 Why small retirements in 2000, 2003 and 2004 and no retirements in 2002 and 2006? Explain large retirement in 2005.
 Meter retirements are done on an annual basis but are not done every year. The large retirement in 2005 reflected the amount of meters reported to us to retire.
- 11. Account 371 What are assets? The assets are mainly poles, private lights and cable. See "Acct 371 Assets 2004-2006.xls"
- 12. Account 373 What are primary components? (Poles, wire, lights, etc.) The assets are mainly poles, cable, street lights. See "Acct 373 Assets 2004-2006.xls"
- 13. Account 390 What is expected ASL of building? In the last study, the ASL was 40 years.
- 14. Account 391.2 What are primary components? Computer Equipment
- 15. Account 392 Explain 2005 and 2006 Cost of Removal (COR) "reversal". "Reversals" of COR were coded incorrectly. They actually were salvage due to a vehicle sale or trade-in. What are primary components? (Cars, trucks, vans, trailers) Passenger cars, light trucks, heavy pickups, heavy duty trucks, trailers.
- 16. Account 394 What are primary components?

 The primary components are miscellaneous tools and equipment and testing equipment. See "Acct 394 Assets 2004-2006.xls"
- 17. Account 395 Why no retirements since 1990? There were none reported.
- 18. Account 396 What are primary components? Centermount trucks
- 19. Account 397 What was retired in 2005? Emergency Management System

What are primary components? The primary components are radios, telephone equipment, towers, antennas, computer equipment, the Emergency Management System and microwave equipment. See "Acct 397 Assets 2004-2006.xls"

20. Account 398 – What are primary components?

The primary components are signs and ice machines. See "Acct 398 Assets 2004-2006.xls"

- 21. Account 311, 312 and 314 What was retired and salvaged in 2004? The retirements and salvage amounts pertain to 1993 flood damage at the Riverton Plant and insurance reimbursements. See "Acct 311-312-314 Ret 2004.xls"
- 22. Other Production What was retired and salvaged in 2001?

 The Other Production retirements and salvage in 2001 reflected the sale of a portion of State Line Combined Cycle to Westar.