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2 STATE OF MISSOURI  
3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
4

5 PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
6

7 April 16, 2001  
8 Jefferson City, Missouri  
9 Volume 2

10 In the Matter of the Empire District )  
11 Electric Company's Tariff Sheets )  
12 Designed to Implement a General Rate )  
13 Increase for Retail Electric Service )  
14 Provided to Customers in the Missouri ) Case  
15 Service Area of the Company. ) No. ER-2001-299

16 BEFORE: KEVIN THOMPSON, Presiding,  
17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.  
18

19 REPORTED BY:  
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1 APPEARANCES:

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6 FOR: The Empire District Electric Company.

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8 STUART W. CONRAD, Attorney at Law  
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11 FOR: PraxAir, Inc.

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13 JOHN B. COFFMAN, Deputy Public Counsel  
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15 FOR: Office of Public Counsel and the Public.

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17 DANA K. JOYCE, General Counsel  
STEVEN DOTTHEIM, Chief Deputy Counsel  
18 BRUCE H. BATES, Associate Counsel  
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22 FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service  
23 Commission.

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25

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1                               P R O C E E D I N G S

2                               (Written Entries of Appearance filed.)

3                               JUDGE THOMPSON:  Let's go ahead and go on the  
4  record.

5                               My name is Kevin Thompson.  I'm the regulatory  
6  law judge assigned to preside over this matter.

7                               We are here for a prehearing conference in  
8  the matter of the Empire District Electric Company's  
9  tariff sheets designed to implement a general rate  
10 increase for retail electric service provided to  
11 customers in the Missouri service area of the company,  
12 Case No. ER-2001-299.

13                              At this time I would take oral entries of  
14 appearance.

15                              Who is the company's attorney?

16                              Mr. Duffy.

17                              MR. DUFFY:  Let the record reflect the  
18 appearance of Gary W. Duffy, James C. Swearengen and  
19 Dean L. Cooper, Brydon, Swearengen and England, P.C.,  
20 P. O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, appearing  
21 for The Empire District Electric Company.

22                              JUDGE THOMPSON:  Thank you.

23                              Just work right in that direction.

24                              MR. COFFMAN:  Thank you.

25                              Appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public

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1 Counsel and the rate-paying public, John B. Coffman,  
2 P. O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

3 MR. CONRAD: And Intervenor PraxAir appears  
4 through the office of Finnegan, Conrad and Peterson. My  
5 name is Stuart Conrad. Our office address is 1209 Penn  
6 Tower Office Center, 3100 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Conrad.

8 MR. FREY: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 Representing the Staff of the Missouri Public  
10 Service Commission, Dana K. Joyce, Steven Dottheim, Eric  
11 Anderson, Bruce H. Bates, David A. Meyer, Nathan Williams  
12 and Dennis L. Frey, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City,  
13 Missouri, 65102.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Frey.

15 Any other counsel in the room whose appearance  
16 has not yet been entered?

17 Hearing none, we'll go forward.

18 Do the parties have anything to bring to my  
19 attention at this time?

20 Okay. This is the opening of the standard,  
21 week-long prehearing conference for rate cases. I know  
22 you guys have lots to do, so I'm going to go back to my  
23 meeting now.

24 Thank you. We'll go off the record and we're  
25 adjourned.

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WHEREUPON, the hearing was concluded.