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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing Conference

December 21, 2000
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 1

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

KEVIN THOMPSON, Presiding,
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

REPORTED BY:

KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR
ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS, INC.

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1 APPEARANCES:

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9 and

10 STUART CONRAD, Attorney at Law
11 Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson
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13 FOR: Praxair.

14 JOHN B. COFFMAN, Deputy Public Counsel
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17 FOR: Office of the Public Counsel
and the Public.

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21 FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public
22 Service Commission.

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

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

4 Good morning. My name is Kevin Thompson. I
5 am the Law Judge assigned to preside over this matter, which
6 is the Application of Empire District Electric Company for a
7 general rate increase, Case No. ER-2001-299.

8 At this time I'd like oral entries of
9 appearance, please, beginning with the Company.

10 MR. DUFFY: Gary Duffy, Brydon, Swearengen &
11 England, P.C., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102,
12 appearing for the Empire District Electric Company.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. Staff?

14 MR. FREY: Dennis L. Frey -- Steven Dottheim
15 will be here as well -- appearing for the Staff of the
16 Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson
17 City, Missouri 65102.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. Public Counsel?

19 MR. COFFMAN: John B. Coffman appearing on
20 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800,
21 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any other parties or would-be
23 parties?

24 MR. HERSCHEL: Yeah. Henry Herschel. I
25 actually am representing Stu Conrad today because of the

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1 snow. He represents Praxair. My address is 308 East High
2 Street, Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch, Suite 301, 65101,
3 Jefferson City. And his address is 1209 Penntower Office
4 Center, 3100 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. We're
5 here on a Motion for Intervention.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right.

7 MR. HERSCHEL: And that's it.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. The
9 pending motions will be addressed in an Order to be issued
10 probably later this week or next week.

11 The purpose of this early prehearing
12 conference is for you to work out a proposed procedural
13 schedule. I believe it's due to be filed a week from today.
14 Of course, any issues that you would like to settle in the
15 meantime would be fine as well.

16 Are there any matters that need to be brought
17 to my attention at this time?

18 (No response.)

19 That will conclude, then, the recorded portion
20 of the prehearing conference. The room is yours until
21 five o'clock. Thank you very much. We're recessed.

22 WHEREUPON, the recorded portion of the
23 prehearing conference was concluded.

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