

Date: August 22, 2017

To: Missouri Public Commission

I would like to submit before the commission my view of the facts that pertain to my property at 7082 Nighthawk Road Neosho, Missouri. The timeline I hope to establish is important, because it has been assumed that I made false statements concerning my request to remove electric service from my property.

When my wife and I purchased the property on January 2nd 2014 it had been abandoned for at least 7 years. It was foreclosed on as a result of the 2008 financial crises. HUD owned the property at the end of what seemed to be a lengthy legal dispute. Our property consisted of 29.79 acres, a well, a barn and a former dwelling.

The acreage was in poor shape, because it had not been hayed in several years. The easements on the property make it good for little else other than grazing or haying. There are two pipe lines that cut through the property, but more applicable New-Mac electric has an easement that goes through the center of my property. The dwelling in question has its own issues. Termites had plenty of time to consume most of the interior walls. It's also important to know that at some point the dwelling burnt, and the rebuilt structure covered the septic tank. To the best of my knowledge the dwelling was abandoned to the detriment of HUD, because the septic tank overflowed. The water damage rotted the entirety of the floors.

Approximately two and a half years ago I requested Empire Electric Company to turn power on to the meter for the sole purpose of watering live stock. At that time, I had 15 chickens and I wanted cows. After 2 or 3 electric bills, north of \$50 I became upset. I called Empire to inform them that I ran the well only and that the property itself was shut off at the breaker. I was treated rudely and informed that the meters do not lie and it was not their problem. I had planned to demolish the dwelling anyway so I told them to shut down the electricity. I requested that take their transformer down as well. I admit I was frustrated, but at no point prior to that conversation did I intend to keep the dwelling.

I personally began to demolish the property at the first part of this year. Thieves had taken all the wiring and, about \$5000 worth of other property. As I progressed in demolition I was getting advice that I could save the roof structure and outer walls. I engaged a contractor to shore up failing walls and began the process of putting things back together. After lengthy discussions with New-Mac it was determined that I needed a release from Empire District electric. I could not get any cooperation from the very entitled group of folks at Empire. Eventually I elevated the issue to the public service commission and was informed that 2 years without service was enough to override Empire's unilateral decision to ignore me and my case.

I would ask the commission to consider certain facts, and ignore the unapologetic, unhelpful, and unresponsive monstrosity of Empire District Electric Co. First, when I requested service be removed from the property I fully intended to demolish the structure. Second, the current structure is in no way inhabitable. Third, New-Mac Electric has an easement across my property that limits my use of my property.

In conclusion, I am aware that both New-Mac Electric and Empire Electric are contesting my request, because I initiated the disruption of service to my property. I would like the commission to consider the rights of the property owner. No utility company should have perpetual rights to service a property. Two years without service is sufficient for a property owner to change providers regardless of the reason.

Sincerely,

Brandon Jessip.