

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of The Empire District)	
Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri)	
For authority to file tariffs increasing)	<u>Case No. ER-2006-0315</u>
Rates for electric service provided to)	
Customers in the Missouri service area)	
Of the Company.)	

JOINT MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

COME NOW, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”), Praxair, Inc. (“Praxair”) and Explorer Pipeline, Inc. (“Explorer”) (collectively referred to as the “Parties”) and in support of their Motion For Continuance respectfully state as follows:

1. Upon the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing held September 14, 2006, the Chief Regulatory Law Judge issued a procedural ruling which provided for posthearing briefs to be filed in this matter on October 16, 2006.

2. As a result of some outstanding matters, confusion regarding certain Stipulations and Agreements and the many other cases pending before the Commission, the true-up hearing that was scheduled for the week of October 2, 2006 was cancelled. Therefore, the true-up testimony that was filed on September 27, 2006 has yet to be accepted into the record. As such, the evidentiary record in this matter is incomplete.

3. Many of the entities that are parties to the current proceeding are also parties to the pending KCPL proceeding (Case No. ER-2006-0314). Currently, the evidentiary hearing in that proceeding is scheduled to commence on October 16, 2006. Since the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing in this matter, many of these entities have

found their time and resources devoted to matters involving the imminent KCPL proceeding (settlement discussions, list of issues, list of witnesses, prehearing briefs, etc.) and other cases pending before this Commission.

4. Recognizing that the operation-of-law date in this matter is January 1, 2007 and that the Commission is unlikely to commence deliberations on this matter immediately, the Parties seek a one-week continuance of the deadline for filing posthearing briefs.

5. This one-week continuance will allow an opportunity for the evidentiary record to be reopened and the true-up testimony to be accepted into evidence. Moreover, this continuance will allow all parties an opportunity to include relevant citations to the accepted true-up testimony. Finally, recognizing the pending operation-of-law date, it is unlikely that a one-week continuance will cause any delay in the Commission's deliberations in this matter.

6. Counsel has contacted attorneys for the Empire District Electric Company, Aquila, Kansas City Power & Light, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and has been informed that those parties do not oppose such a continuance.

WHEREFORE, the Parties respectfully request the Commission issue its Order granting all parties a continuance of one week to October 23, 2006 in which to file their posthearing briefs in the above-captioned matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dennis L. Frey

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ATTORNEYS FOR PRAXAIR, INC. and
EXPLORER PIPELINE INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the forgoing pleading by email, facsimile or First Class United States Mail to all parties by their attorneys of record as provided by the Secretary of the Commission.

/s/ David L. Woodsmall
David L. Woodsmall

Dated: October 12, 2006