

**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)
Rates for Electric Service Provided to)
Customers in the Missouri Service)
Area of the Company.)

File No. ER-2012-0345

RESPONSE TO ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission") and in response to the Commission's February 20, 2013, *Order Setting On-The-Record Proceeding* ("Order"), states as follows:

1. In its *Order* the Commission stated as follows:

If any party intends to tender expert witnesses at the on-the-record proceeding scheduled for February 25, 2013, they shall file a pleading disclosing the identity and professional background of those experts no later than 3:00 p.m. on February 22, 2013.

2. While Staff will generally make available any witness called by the Commission, in particular Staff will make available for Commissioner questions its case coordinators Kim Bolin, Auditor V, and Shawn Lange, Engineering Specialist III. These witnesses generally oversaw Staff's prosecution of this case on behalf of the Utility Services and Utility Operations Departments, respectively.

3. If the Commission has more detailed questions regarding particular subject areas, Staff will endeavor to make the appropriate witnesses available for the February 25 On-the-Record.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits this response to the Commission's *Order Setting On-The-Record Proceeding*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sarah Kliethermes

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 20th day of February, 2013.

/s/ Sarah Kliethermes_____