Exhibit No.: Issue: Witness: Sponsoring Party: MoPSC Staff *Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal Testimony Case No.: ER-2020-0311* Date Testimony Prepared:

Coal Inventory Adjustment Kimberly K. Bolin July 27, 2020

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ANALYSIS DIVISION

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

KIMBERLY K. BOLIN

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

CASE NO. ER-2020-0311

Jefferson City, Missouri July 2020

1		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
2		KIMBERLY K. BOLIN
3		THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY
4		CASE NO. ER-2020-0311
5	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
6	А.	My name is Kimberly K. Bolin. My business address is P. O Box 360, Suite 440,
7	Jefferson Cit	y, MO 65101.
8	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
9	А.	I am the Auditing Department Manager for the Missouri Public Service
10	Commission	("Commission").
11	Q.	Please describe your educational background and work experience.
12	А.	I graduated from Central Missouri State University (now University of Central
13	Missouri) in	Warrensburg, Missouri, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration,
14	major empha	sis in Accounting, in May 1993. Before coming to work at the Commission, I was
15	employed by	the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") as a Public Utility Accountant
16	from Septem	ber 1994 to April 2005. I commenced employment with the Commission in
17	April 2005.	
18	Q.	What was the nature of your job duties when you were employed by OPC?
19	A.	I was responsible for performing audits and examinations of the books and
20	records of pu	blic utilities operating within the state of Missouri.
21	Q.	Have you previously filed testimony before the Commission?
22	А.	Yes, numerous times. Please refer to Schedule KKB-r1, attached to this Rebuttal

1	Testimony, for a list of the major audits in which I have assisted and filed testimony
2	with OPC and with the Commission.
3	Q. What knowledge, skills, experience, training and education do you have in the
4	areas of which you are testifying as an expert witness?
5	A. I have received continuous training at in-house and outside seminars on
6	technical ratemaking matters both when employed by OPC and since I began my employment
7	at the Commission. I have been employed by this Commission or by OPC as a Regulatory
8	Auditor for over 25 years, and have submitted testimony on ratemaking matters numerous times
9	before the Commission. I have also been responsible for the supervision of other Commission
10	employees in rate cases and other regulatory proceedings.
11	Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?
12	A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide an explanation as to how the basemat
13	coal for the Asbury generating plant has been treated for ratemaking purposes in past rate cases.
14	Q. What is basemat coal?
15	A: Basemat coal is the bottom portion of a coal pile that is not useable as fuel due
16	to contamination by soil, clay, and other contaminants.
17	Q. In the most recent The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") general
18	rate case, how was basemat coal for the Asbury generating plant treated for ratemaking
19	purposes?
20	A. In Case No. ER-2019-0374, basemat coal for the Asbury generating plant was
21	included in coal inventory. Staff included 29,500 tons of coal at a price of \$1,172,853 as
22	basemat coal in its fuel inventory, which is included in rate base and thus Empire earns a return
23	on the basemat coal.

Rebuttal Testimony of Kimberly K. Bolin

Q. Does the fuel adjustment that Empire is proposing to include in its FAC include
 costs associated with the basemat coal?

A. Staff is concerned that it may. Empire's fuel inventory adjustment in this proceeding consists of 29,172 tons of coal which is very close to the amount of basemat coal that has been included in fuel inventory in the most recent case. Also, as stated in Staff witness Brad Fortson's Rebuttal testimony, Empire has provided conflicting statements concerning the nature of this proposed fuel adjustment.

8 Q. Has Staff included basemat coal for Asbury as part of fuel inventory since
9 Case No. ER-2011-0004?

A. Yes. Since Case No. ER-2011-0004, Staff has included the same amount of
tons of basemat coal for the Asbury generating plant in each case as fuel inventory and has also
valued it at the same amount in all of the cases. However, now Empire has stated in its response
to Staff Data Request No. 12 that "Amounts for Asbury's basemat were indeed capitalized in
the plant accounts for Empire."

15

16

Q. If the basemat coal was included in plant accounts, should it have also been included in fuel inventory?

A. No. If Empire actually recorded an amount for the basemat coal in its plant
accounts, and also included the basemat amount in fuel inventory, Empire may have double
recovered by earning a return on the basemat coal in inventory and also earning a return of the
basemat coal in plant through depreciation expense.

21

22

Q. In which plant accounts did Empire allegedly capitalize the Asbury basemat coal?

Rebuttal Testimony of Kimberly K. Bolin

1	A.	Staff is unsure. Staff is awaiting Empire's answer to Staff Data Request
2	No. 12.1.	
3	Q.	How does the FERC Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA") say basemat coal
4	should be reco	orded?
5	А.	In its review of FERC's USOA for Electric Utilities, Staff did not find a specific
6	reference to b	asemat coal to make a determination as to whether or not basemat coal could be
7	recorded to F	ERC plant accounts for capitalization and, if so, to what accounts to record the
8	associated cos	sts.
9	Q.	Does Empire capitalize basemat coal for other generating plants?
10	А.	Yes. For Plum Point generating plant, Empire capitalized the basemat coal to
11	plant instead of	of including the basemat coal in fuel inventory. The basemat coal for Plum Point
12	is not include	d in rates as fuel inventory.
13	Q.	How did Empire account for the basemat coal when Riverton Units 7 and 8 were
14	retired?	
15	А.	Staff is awaiting Empire's response to Staff Data Request Number No. 19
16	regarding this	question.
17	Q.	If the adjustment in question in this proceeding actually relates to basemat coal,
18	would it be m	ore appropriate to defer these costs for ratemaking determination until Empire's
19	next general r	ate case filing than to allow recovery through the FAC?
20	А.	Yes. It is generally not appropriate to charge the costs tied to a long-lived asset
21	(such as based	mat coal) to expense in one lump-sum amount upon retirement through the FAC
22	or through an	y other rate mechanism. It would be more appropriate to amortize the cost over
23	a multi-year p	period.

Rebuttal Testimony of Kimberly K. Bolin

Q. Into what account does Staff recommend Empire defer this cost?
 A. Staff recommends that this item be deferred and recorded in Account 182.3,
 Other Regulatory Assets, for future ratemaking determination in Empire's next general
 rate case.
 Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?

A. Yes.

6

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric) Company's Filing for Authority to Implement) Rate Adjustments Related to the Company's) Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment) Required in 20 CSR 4240-20.090)

Case No. ER-2020-0311

AFFIDAVIT OF KIMBERLY K. BOLIN

STATE OF MISSOURI)	
)	ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)	

COME NOW KIMBERLY K. BOLIN and on her oath declares that she is of sound mind and lawful age; that she contributed to the foregoing *Rebuttal* testimony; and that the same is true and correct according to her best knowledge and belief, under penalty of perjury.

Further the Affiants sayeth not.

<u>/s/ Kimberly K. Bolin</u> KIMBERLY K. BOLIN

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	Contested
			or Settled
Empire	ER-2019-0374	<u>Direct</u> – Overview of Staff's Filing	Contested
		Cost of Service Report – Executive	
		Overview, Test year/True-Up Period,	
		Vegetation Management Tracker	
		Regulatory Asset, Iatan and Plum Point	
		Carrying Costs, Stub Period Tax	
		Cut/Removal of Tax Impact, Tornado AAO,	
		Rate Case Expense Sharing, Credit Card	
		Fees, Clearing Accounts	
		<u>Rebuttal</u> – Asset Retirement Obligations,	
		AAO and Tracker Policy, Affiliate	
		Transactions	
		<u>Surrebuttal/True-Up</u> – Unamortized	
		Balance of Joplin AAO, Credit Card Fees,	
		Payroll Test year, Rate Case Expense	
		Sharing, LED Lighting, Low-Income Pilot	
		Program Amortization, Affiliate	
		Transactions	
		Supplemental – Jurisdictional Allocations,	
		Rate Case Expense, Management Expense,	
		Pension and OPEBs, Affiliate Transactions,	
		Software Maintenance	
Confluence Rivers	WA-2019-0299	Surrebuttal – Quality of Service	Contested
Utility Operating Co.,		Direct – Net Book Value of Plant	
Inc.			
Osage Utility	WA-2019-0185	Surrebuttal – Rate Base, Acquisition	Contested
Operating Co., Inc.		Incentive	
Spire Inc.	GO-2019-0115	Staff Direct Report – Blanket Work Orders	Contested
I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	and GO-2019-	and Current Income Taxes	
	116		
Empire District Electric	AO-2018-0179	Direct – Moneypool	Contested
Company and Liberty		<u>Surrebuttal</u> - Moneypool	
Utilities			
Confluence Rivers	WM-2018-0116	Direct – Rate Base, Roy L Utilities	Settled
Utility Operating	and SM-2018-		Settled
Company, Inc.	0117		
Company, mc.	0117		

		BERLY K. BOLIN	
<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Testimony/Issues</u>	<u>Contested</u> or Settled
Spire Missouri Inc.	GO-2016-0332, GO-2016-0333, GO-2017-0201, GO-2017-0202 GO-2018-0309 and GO-2018- 0310	<u>Direct</u> – Removal of Plastic Main and Service Line Replacement Costs	Contested
Missouri-American Water Company	WR-2017-0285	Cost of Service Report – Pension/OPEBTracker, FAS 87 Pension Costs, FAS 106OPEBs Costs, Franchise Taxes Rebuttal –Defined Contribution Plan,Cloud Computing, Affiliate TransactionRule (Water Utility)Surrebuttal – Rate Case Expense	Settled
Missouri-American Water Company	WO-2018-0059	<u>Direct</u> – ISRS Overview, Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes, Reconciliation	
Missouri Gas Energy and Laclede Gas Company	GO-2016-0332 and GO-2016- 0333	<u>Rebuttal</u> – Inclusion of Plastic Main and Service Line Replacements	Contested
Empire District Electric Company/Liberty Utilities	EM-2016-0213	Rebuttal– Overview of Transaction,Ratemaking /Accounting Conditions,Access to RecordsSurrebuttal– OPC RecommendedConditions, SERP	Settled
Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc.	WR-2016-0064	<u>Direct</u> – Partial Disposition Agreement	Contested
Empire District Electric Company	ER-2016-0023	Requirement Report - RivertonConversion Project and Asbury Air QualityControl SystemDirect - Overview of Staff's RevenueRequirement Report and Overview ofStaff's Rate Design Filing	Settled
Missouri-American Water Company	WR-2015-0301	Report on Cost of Service– CorporateAllocation, District AllocationsRebuttal– District Allocations, BusinessTransformationSurrebuttal– District Allocations,Business Transformation, Service CompanyCosts	Settled

KIMBERLY K. BOLIN				
<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Testimony/Issues</u>	<u>Contested</u> or Settled	
Empire District Electric Company	ER-2014-0351	Direct– Overview of Staff's FilingRebuttal- ITC Over-Collection, Cost ofRemoval Deferred Tax Amortization, StateFlow-ThroughSurrebuttalJoplin Tornado, ITC Over-Collections,Cost of Removal Deferred TaxAmortization, State Flow-Through,Transmission Revenues and Expenses	Settled	
Brandco Investments/ Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc.	WO-2014-0340	<u>Rebuttal</u> – Rate Base and Future Rates	Settled	
Lake Region Water & Sewer	WR-2013-0461	Direct– Overview of Staff's FilingReport on Cost of Service– True-Up,Availability Fees, Sewer OperatingExpense, Sewer Equipment MaintenanceExpenseSurrebuttal– Availability FeesTrue-Up Direct– Overview of True-UpAuditTrue-Up Rebuttal– Corrections to True-UpUp	Contested	
Empire District Electric Company	ER-2012-0345	Direct- Overview of Staff's FilingReport on Cost of Service- SWPA HydroReimbursement, Joplin Tornado AAOAsset, SPP Revenues, SPP Expenses,Regulatory Plan Amortization Impacts,SWPA Amortization, Tornado AAOAmortizationRebuttal – Unamortized Balance of JoplinTornado AAO, Rate Case Expense, True-Up and Uncontested IssuesSurrebuttal – Unamortized Balance ofJoplin Tornado AAO, SPP TransmissionExpense, True-Up, Advanced CoalInvestment Tax Credit	Settled	

	KIMBERLY K. BOLIN				
<u>Company Name</u>	Case Number	<u>Testimony/Issues</u>	<u>Contested</u>		
			or Settled		
Missouri-American	WR-2011-0337	<u>Direct</u> – Overview of Staff's Filing	Settled		
Water Company		Report on Cost of Service - True-Up			
		Recommendation, Tank Painting Tracker,			
		Tank Painting Expense			
		<u>Rebuttal</u> - Tank Painting Expense,			
		Business Transformation			
		<u>Surrebuttal</u> – Tank Painting Tracker,			
		Acquisition Adjustment			
Missouri-American	WR-2010-0131	<u>Report on Cost of Service</u> -	Settled		
Water Company		Pension/OPEB Tracker, Tank Painting			
		Tracker, Deferred Income Taxes, FAS 87			
		Pension Costs, FAS 106 – Other Post-			
		Employment Benefits, Incentive			
		Compensation, Group Insurance and 401(k)			
		Employer Costs, Tank Painting Expense,			
		Dues and Donations, Advertising Expense,			
		Promotional Items, Current and Deferred			
		Income Tax Expense			
Empire District Gas	GR-2009-0434	<u>Report on Cost of Service</u> – Prepaid	Settled		
Company		Pension Asset, Pension Tracker			
		Asset/Liability, Unamortized Accounting			
		Authority Order Balances, Pension			
		Expense, OPEBs, Amortization of Stock			
		Issuance Costs, Amortization of Accounting			
		Authority Orders			
		<u>Direct</u> – Overview of Staff's Filing			
Laclede Gas Company	GT-2009-0056	<u>Surrebuttal Testimony –</u> Tariff	Contested		
Missouri-American	WR-2008-0311	<u>Report on Cost of Service</u> – Tank Painting	Settled		
Water Company	&	Tracker, Lobbying Costs, PSC Assessment			
	SR-2008-0312	<u>Direct</u> – Overview of Staff's Filing			
		<u>Rebuttal</u> – True-Up Items, Unamortized			
		Balance of Security AAO, Tank Painting			
		Expense, Fire Hydrant Painting Expense			
		Surrebuttal – Unamortized Balance of			
		Security AAO, Cedar Hill Waste Water			
		Plant, Tank Painting Expense, Fire Hydrant			
		Painting Expense			

		SERLY K. BULIN	
<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Testimony/Issues</u>	Contested or Settled
Missouri Gas Utility, Inc.	GR-2008-0060	<u>Report on Cost of Service –</u> Plant-in Service/Capitalization Policy, Plant-in Service/Purchase Price Valuation, Depreciation Reserve, Revenues, Uncollectible Expense	Settled
Laclede Gas Company	GR-2007-0208	<u>Direct</u> - Test Year and True-Up, Environmental costs, AAOs, Revenue, Miscellaneous Revenue, Gross receipts Tax, Gas Costs, Uncollectibles, EWCR, AMR, Acquisition Adjustment	Settled
Kansas City Power and Light Company	ER-2006-0314	<u>Direct</u> - Gross Receipts Tax, Revenues, Weather Normalization, Customer Growth/Loss Annualization, Large Customer Annualization, Other Revenue, Uncollectible (Bad Debt) Expense, Payroll, A&G Salaries Capitalization Ratio, Payroll Taxes, Employer 401 (k) Match, Other Employee Benefits <u>Surrebuttal</u> - Uncollectible (Bad Debt) Expense, Payroll, A&G Salaries Capitalization Ratio, Other Employee Benefits	Contested
Missouri Gas Energy	GR-2006-0204	<u>Direct</u> - Payroll, Incentive Compensation, Payroll Taxes, Employee Benefits, Lobbying, Customer & Governmental Relations Department, Collections Contract	Settled

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	Contested or Settled
Missouri Gas Energy	GU-2005-0095	<u>Rebuttal</u> - Accounting Authority Order <u>Surrebuttal</u> - Accounting Authority Order	Contested
The Empire District Electric Company	ER-2004-0570	<u>Direct</u> - Payroll	Settled
Missouri American Water Company & Cedar Hill Utility Company	SM-2004-0275	Direct - Acquisition Premium	Settled
Missouri Gas Energy	GR-2004-0209	Direct - Safety Line Replacement Program; Environmental Response Fund; Dues & Donations; Payroll; Customer & Governmental Relations Department Disallowance; Outside Lobbyist Costs Rebuttal - Customer Service; Incentive Compensation; Environmental Response Fund; Lobbying/Legislative Costs True-Up - Rate Case Expense	Contested
Osage Water Company	ST-2003-0562 / WT-2003-0563	Direct- Payroll <u>Rebuttal</u> - Payroll; Lease Payments to Affiliated Company; alleged Legal Requirement of a Reserve	Case Dismissed
Missouri American Water Company	WR-2003-0500	<u>Direct</u> - Acquisition Adjustment; Water Treatment Plant Excess Capacity; Retired Treatment Plan; Affiliated Transactions; Security AAO; Advertising Expense; Customer Correspondence	Settled
Empire District Electric	ER-2002-424	<u>Direct</u> - Dues & Donations; Memberships; Payroll; Security Costs <u>Rebuttal</u> - Energy Traders' Commission <u>Surrebuttal</u> - Energy Traders' Commission	Settled

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	Contested
			or Settled
Laclede Gas Company	GR-2002-356	<u>Direct</u> - Advertising Expense; Safety Replacement Program and the Copper Service Replacement Program; Dues & Donations; Rate Case Expense <u>Rebuttal</u> - Gas Safety Replacement Program / Deferred Income Taxes for AAOs	Settled
Missouri-American Water Company	WO-2002-273	Rebuttal- Accounting Authority Order Cross-Surrebuttal- Accounting Authority Order	Contested
Environmental Utilities	WA-2002-65	Direct- Water Supply Agreement <u>Rebuttal</u> - Certificate of Convenience & Necessity	Contested
Warren County Water & Sewer	WC-2002-160 / SC-2002-155	<u>Direct</u> - Clean Water Act Violations; DNR Violations; Customer Service; Water Storage Tank; Financial Ability; Management Issues <u>Surrebuttal</u> - Customer Complaints; Poor Management Decisions; Commingling of Regulated & Non-Related Business	Contested
Laclede Gas Company	GR-2001-629	<u>Direct</u> - Advertising Expense; Safety Replacement Program; Dues & Donations; Customer Correspondence	Settled
Gateway Pipeline Company	GM-2001-585	<u>Rebuttal</u> - Acquisition Adjustment; Affiliated Transactions; Company's Strategic Plan	Contested
Empire District Electric	ER-2001-299	<u>Direct</u> - Payroll; Merger Expense <u>Rebuttal</u> - Payroll <u>Surrebutta</u> l- Payroll	Settled
Osage Water Company	SR-2000-556/ WR-2000-557	Direct- Customer Service	Contested

<u>Company Name</u>	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	Contested or Settled
St. Louis County Water Company	WR-2000-844	Direct- Main Incident Expense	Settled
Missouri American Water Company	WR-2000-281/ SR-2000-282	DirectWater Plant Premature Retirement;Rate Case ExpenseRebuttalWater Plant PrematureRetirementSurrebuttalWater Plant PrematureRetirement	Contested
Laclede Gas Company	GR-99-315	<u>Direct</u> - Advertising Expense; Dues & Donations; Miscellaneous Expense; Items to be Trued-up	Contested
St. Joseph Light & Power	HR-99-245	Direct- Advertising Expense; Dues & Donations; Miscellaneous Expense; Items to be Trued-up <u>Rebuttal</u> - Advertising Expense <u>Surrebuttal</u> - Advertising Expense	Settled
St. Joseph Light & Power	ER-99-247	Direct - Merger Expense; Rate Case Expense; Deferral of the Automatic Mapping/Facility Management Costs Rebuttal - Merger Expense; Rate Case Expense; Deferral of the Automatic Mapping/Facility Management Costs Surrebuttal - Merger Expense; Rate Case Expense; Deferral of the Automatic Mapping/Facility Management Costs	Settled
Laclede Gas Company	GR-98-374	Direct- Advertising Expense; Gas Safety Replacement AAO; Computer System Replacement Costs	Settled
Missouri Gas Energy	GR-98-140	<u>Direct</u> - Payroll; Advertising; Dues & Donations; Regulatory Commission Expense; Rate Case Expense	Contested

Company Name	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	Contested or Settled
Gascony Water Company, Inc.	WA-97-510	<u>Rebuttal</u> - Rate Base; Rate Case Expense; Cash Working Capital	Settled
Union Electric Company	GR-97-393	Direct- Interest Rates for Customer Deposits	Settled
St. Louis County Water Company	WR-97-382	<u>Direct</u> - Interest Rates for Customer Deposits, Main Incident Expense	Settled
Associated Natural Gas Company	GR-97-272	DirectAcquisition Adjustment; InterestRates for Customer Deposits Rebuttal - Acquisition Adjustment; InterestRates for Customer DepositsSurrebuttal- Interest Rates for CustomerDeposits	Contested
Missouri-American Water Company	WA-97-45	<u>Rebuttal</u> - Waiver of Service Connection Charges	Contested
Imperial Utility Corporation	SC-96-427	Direct- Revenues, CIAC Surrebuttal- Payroll; Uncollectible Accounts Expense; Rate Case Expense, Revenues	Settled
St. Louis Water Company	WR-96-263	Direct-Main Incident Repairs Rebuttal- Main Incident Repairs Surrebuttal- Main Incident Repairs	Contested
Steelville Telephone Company	TR-96-123	<u>Direct</u> - Depreciation Reserve Deficiency	Settled

<u>Company Name</u>	Case Number	Testimony/Issues	<u>Contested</u> or Settled
Missouri-American Water Company	WR-95-205/ SR-95-206	Direct-Premature Retirement of Sewer Plant;Depreciation Study Expense; DeferredMaintenanceRebuttal-Property Held for Future Use;Premature Retirement of Sewer Plant;Deferred MaintenanceSurrebuttal-Property Held for Future Use;Premature Retirement of Sewer Plant;Deferred MaintenanceSurrebuttal-Property Held for Future Use;Premature Retirement of Sewer Plant;	Contested
St. Louis County Water Company	WR-95-145	<u>Rebuttal</u> - Tank Painting Reserve Account; Main Repair Reserve Account <u>Surrebuttal</u> - Main Repair Reserve Account	Contested