

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 Water Service Provided)	<u>Case No. WR-2006-0215</u>
to Customers in the Missouri Service Area of the)	<u>Tariff No. YW-2006-0387</u>
Company.)	

ORDER SCHEDULING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

Issue Date: December 23, 2005

Effective Date: January 2, 2006

On November 21, 2005, The Empire District Electric Company filed proposed tariff sheets designed to increase the company's total annual water service operating revenue by \$469,138. The proposed tariff sheets bear an effective date of January 5, 2006. On November 30, 2005, the Commission's Staff filed a Notice of Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Company Rate Increase Request. The Office of the Public Counsel is not a party to that agreement, and on December 12, 2005, Public Counsel filed a request for a local public hearing. In its motion, Public Counsel also requests that the Commission allow customers to file written comments instead of testifying at the hearing.

The Commission will grant Public Counsel's request for a local public hearing and will permit interested persons to file written comments in lieu of testifying at the public hearing. In order to accommodate the scheduling of a local public hearing, the Commission will, in a separate order, suspend the effective date of the proposed tariff sheets.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a local public hearing shall be held on January 11, 2006, at the Aurora City Hall, City Council Chambers, 2 West Pleasant, Aurora, Missouri 65605. The local

public hearing shall commence at 6:00 p.m. and shall continue until every member of the public in attendance has had an opportunity to testify, or until 8:00 p.m., whichever is earlier. The local public hearing shall be held in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodation to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

2. That during the half-hour preceding the local public hearing, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service shall be available to answer questions from members of the public.

3. That the transcript of the local public hearing shall be expedited and submitted on January 12, 2006.

4. That no later than January 10, 2006, interested persons may file written comments in this case in lieu of testifying at the local public hearing.

5. That the Commission's Public Information Office shall make this order or the Information contained in this order available to the media and to the legislators serving the areas of Aurora, Marionville, and Verona, Missouri. In addition, the Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the media serving the company's water service area and to the members of the General Assembly representing the residents of the company's water service area.

6. That this order shall become effective on January 2, 2006.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Vicky Ruth, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 23rd day of December, 2005.