

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) **Case No. WR-2006-0215**
to Customers in the Missouri Service Area of the) **Tariff No. YW-2006-0387**
Company.)

ORDER DIRECTING FILINGS AND ADDING A PARTY

Issue Date: December 1, 2005

Effective Date: December 1, 2005

On November 21, 2005, The Empire District Electric Company filed a proposed tariff that will result in increased water service rates. The tariff carries an effective date of January 5, 2006. Along with the tariff, Empire filed a letter indicating that it has reached an agreement in this matter with the Commission's Staff. The Office of the Public Counsel is not a party to that agreement. On November 30, 2005, Staff filed the *Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Water Company Rate Increase Request*. The Commission will direct Staff to file its recommendation and memorandum in this matter.

Commission rule 4 CSR 240-3.635(D), which establishes the procedure for consideration of small water company rate increases, requires the company to notify its customers in writing of the proposed rates resulting from the agreement with Staff. That notice must inform the customers that they have 20 days in which to respond to the Commission or to the Public Counsel. Empire will be directed to send the required notice to its customers.¹

¹ In order to facilitate the prompt mailing of that notice, the Commission will send the company a copy of this order by facsimile in addition to providing a copy by mail.

The Commission has also determined that it would like additional information from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Specifically, the Commission will direct DNR to file a pleading indicating whether Empire is in compliance with DNR's requirements regarding water service. If the company is not in compliance with DNR's requirements, DNR shall outline what steps the company has taken to come into compliance. The Commission will also add DNR as a party in this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That no later than December 5, 2005, The Empire District Electric Company shall send written notice to its customers informing them of the proposed rates that will result from its agreement with the Staff of the Commission. The notice must inform the customers that they may send responses to the notice to Staff or to the Office of the Public Counsel within 20 days of the date shown on the notice. The Empire District Electric Company shall file a copy of the notice in this case.

2. That the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is added as a party to this case.

3. That the Commission's Data Center is directed to serve a copy of this order on the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and to add that agency to the service list.

4. That no later than December 9, 2005, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources shall file a pleading as directed above.

5. That the Commission's Staff shall file its recommendation and memorandum no later than December 28, 2005.

6. That responses to Staff's recommendation and memorandum may be filed no later than December 30, 2005.

7. That this order shall become effective on December 1, 2005.

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 1st day of December, 2005.