

Energy (“DE”) (jointly, the “Signatories”) submitted a *Stipulation and Agreement Regarding DSM Tariffs* (“DSM Agreement”). Under the terms of the DSM Agreement, the Signatories agree that Empire has fully complied with the terms of the Rate Case Agreement by working with the DSM group to investigate the feasibility of PAYS financing and similar on-bill financing programs. The DSM group determined that while not included as one of Empire’s four new programs in the DSM tariff sheets, further study of PAYS and other on-bill financing models is appropriate.

Due to the unique nature of Empire’s service territory, the Signatories acknowledge that an Empire-specific study will be beneficial. Under the terms of the DSM Agreement, Empire agrees to hire an independent third-party consultant to perform a feasibility study of PAYS and other on-bill financing, which will be completed by May 31, 2018. No more than \$50,000 of the \$1,250,000 total budget for the program year beginning in 2017 shall be used to finance the study.

The feasibility study shall analyze: (a) Empire’s potential to finance improvements compared with typical third party financing; (b) the potential for Empire to “own” the improvements and include the improvements as part of rate base, versus a third party paying for such improvements; (c) the feasibility and potential impacts of PAYS and other on-bill financing of energy efficiency measures, and the relation of on-bill financing to the Company’s DSM programs and potential; (d) the potential impacts of PAYS and other on-bill financing of energy efficiency improvements on decoupling, rate design, and customers; and, (e) additional aspects Empire finds to have merit after a full study scope is developed.

If the Commission approves the DSM Agreement, Empire will withdraw its previously submitted DSM tariff sheets and submit a revised version that incorporates the previously referenced feasibility study. The Signatories intend to file a joint motion for expedited treatment, requesting a June 1, 2017 effective date for the revised DSM tariff sheets.

No objections to the DSM Agreement were filed. Attorneys for the City of Joplin, the Midwest Energy Consumers Group, and the Midwest Energy Users' Association informed the Signatories that they did not object to the DSM Agreement. Finding it to be reasonable, the Commission will approve the DSM Agreement.

Since no parties objected to the DSM Agreement and the Signatories intend to seek expedited treatment for the revised tariff sheets, the Commission finds good cause exists for this order to become effective in less than thirty days.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The *Stipulation and Agreement Regarding DSM Tariffs* filed on May 3, 2017 is approved.
2. The Signatories to the *Stipulation and Agreement Regarding DSM Tariffs* shall comply with the terms of the agreement.
3. No later than May 19, 2017, Empire shall file with the Commission notice of withdrawal of the tariff sheets assigned Tracking No. YE-2017-0120, and file new tariff sheets that reflect the changes included in the draft tariff sheets attached to the *Stipulation and Agreement Regarding DSM Tariffs*.

4. This order shall become effective on May 27, 2017.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, and Rupp, CC., concur,
Coleman, C., absent.

Burton, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

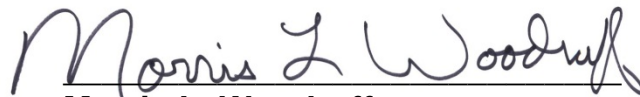
STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 17th day of May 2017.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 17, 2017

File/Case No. ER-2016-0023

Missouri Public Service Commission
Staff Counsel Department
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

Office of the Public Counsel
Hampton Williams
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
P.O. Box 2230
Jefferson City, MO 65102
opc@psc.mo.gov

City of Joplin, Missouri
Stephanie S Bell
308 East High Street, Suite 301
Jefferson City, MO 65101
sbell@bbdlc.com

City of Joplin, Missouri
Marc H Ellinger
308 E. High Street, Ste. 301
Jefferson City, MO 65101
mellinger@blitzbardgett.com

Empire District Electric Company, The
Diana C Carter
312 E. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102
DCarter@brydonlaw.com

Midwest Energy Consumers Group
David Woodsmall
807 Winston Court
Jefferson City, MO 65101
david.woodsmall@woodsmalllaw.com

Midwest Energy Users' Association
Stuart Conrad
215 West Main St.
PO Box 186
Cleveland, MO 64734
stucon@swclaw.net

Missouri Division of Energy
Brian T Bear
301 W. High St., Room 680
P.O. Box 1766
Jefferson City, MO 65102
brian.bear@ded.mo.gov

Missouri Public Service Commission
Kevin Thompson
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov

Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.