

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of The Empire	)	
District Electric Company's Request	)	<b><u>File No. ER-2016-0023</u></b>
For Authority to Implement a General	)	Tracking No.: YE-2016-0104
Rate Increase for Electric Service	)	

**ORDER SETTING DEADLINE FOR FILING**

Issue Date: January 7, 2016

Effective Date: January 7, 2016

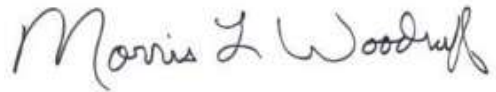
On December 16, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Setting Procedural Schedule that set April 13 and 14, 2016 as dates for local public hearings in this case. Since then, the parties informally discussed whether the local public hearings can be completed in one day - with an afternoon hearing in Reeds Spring, Missouri and an evening hearing in Joplin, Missouri. The City of Joplin, Missouri states that it prefers to maintain the local public hearing schedule agreed to by the parties at a November 10, 2015, pre-hearing conference – with an afternoon and evening hearing in Joplin. This schedule of one hearing in Reeds Springs and two in Joplin is the same schedule used in The Empire District Electric Company's last general rate case (File No. ER-2014-0351).

Since all parties do not agree to reduce the number of local public hearings, the Commission is inclined to maintain the previously agreed to schedule. However, the Commission will set a deadline should parties wish to file requests to reduce the number of local public hearings in Joplin to one.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Parties may file a request to modify the local public hearings schedule no later than January 13, 2016.
2. This order shall be effective when issued.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary



Kim S. Burton, Senior Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.