

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)	
Company For Authority to Implement Rate)	
Adjustments Related to the Company's Fuel)	<u>File No. ER-2018-0270</u>
and Purchase Power Adjustment (FAC))	Tracking No. JE-2018-0127
Required in 4 CSR 240-020.090(4))	

**STAFF REPLY TO OPC'S RESPONSE TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND
CLARIFICATION REGARDING COMPANY FILING OF ITS 4TH QUARTER
SURVEILLANCE MONITORING REPORT**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Reply to OPC's Response to Staff Recommendation* states as follows:

1. On May 2, 2018, the Staff filed its Staff Recommendation to Approve Tariff Sheet with attached Memorandum.

2. Staff's Memorandum stated:

....Empire has filed its 2016 annual report. The Company has filed a request for extension of time in which to file their 2017 annual report. This request has been approved and the annual report is due on May 15, 2018. Empire is current on its submission of its Surveillance Monitoring reports as required in 4 CSR 240-20.090(10) and its monthly reports as required by 4 CSR 240-3.161(5).

3. On May 11, 2018, Office of Public Counsel filed a response to Staff's recommendation, noting that the Company had not filed its 4th Quarter Surveillance Monitoring Report ("SMR") at the time Staff had filed its recommendation on May 2nd. OPC is correct. The Company filed its SMR on May 4th, 2 days later.

4. On advice of Company counsel, the Company required an extension of time to May 15th to file its 2017 annual report, which was approved by the Commission. The extension accommodated a transition to a new accounting firm.

5. As a result, Empire needed additional time to prepare its SMR to include information from the annual report. The Company filed its SMR on May 4, 2018, two days after the Staff filed its recommendation.

6. Staff apologizes for any confusion its recommendation may have caused OPC. Staff has reviewed the SMR and states it does not change the Staff's May 2nd recommendation.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays the Commission accept its reply and clarification of its May 2, 2018 recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 14th day of May, 2018.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin