

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 19th day of December, 2018.

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Empire District Electric Company for a) **File No. EA-2019-0010**
Certificate of Convenience and Necessity)
Related to its Customer Savings Plan)

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Empire District Electric Company for a) **File No. EA-2019-0118**
Certificate of Convenience and Necessity)
Related to its Customer Savings Plan)

**ORDER CONSOLIDATING CASES, AMENDING PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE, AND SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

Issue Date: December 19, 2018

Effective Date: December 19, 2018

On November 18, 2018, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) filed a motion to consolidate File Nos. EA-2019-0010 and EA-2019-0118 involving requests for certificates of convenience and necessity to establish wind generation facilities in Barton, Dade, Jasper, and Lawrence Counties in Missouri, and in the state of Kansas. Empire states that the two files are sufficiently related regarding questions of law and fact that consolidation of the cases would be administratively expedient.

The Office of the Public Counsel responded to the motion to consolidate with a proposed amended procedural schedule for the consolidated cases. Empire replied that one of its witnesses was not available on the proposed hearing dates, but otherwise did not object to the changes. No other responses to the motion to consolidate or to the proposed amended procedural schedule were filed.

These cases involve related questions of law and fact, and the Commission finds it reasonable to consolidate them. The Commission will also amend the procedural schedule as set out below.¹

Public Counsel also requested that the Commission schedule a public comment hearing prior to the filing of surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony. The Commission will schedule that comment hearing by this order.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Motion to Consolidate is granted.
2. File Nos. EA-2019-0010 and EA-2019-0118 are consolidated, and File No. EA-2019-0010 is designated the lead case.
3. All procedural requirements set out in the *Order Setting Procedural Schedule*, issued on November 15, 2018, in File No. EA-2019-0010 remain in effect with the exception of the dates set out below:

Date	Event or Item to be Filed/Submitted
January 17, 2019	Technical/Settlement Conference
February 5, 2019	Rebuttal Testimony (all non-Company parties)
February 13, 2019	Technical/Settlement Conference
March 5, 2019	Surrebuttal and Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony
March 13, 2019	Last day to request discovery (by issuing written discovery requests, subpoenas, etc.) and last day on which a deposition may be taken
March 19, 2019	List of Issues and Order of Witnesses
March 22, 2019	Position Statements

¹ The proposed hearing dates were not available on the Commission's calendar and so the hearing is scheduled as set out below. Other adjustments to the proposed filing dates have been made to accommodate the new hearing schedule.

April 8-11, 2019	Evidentiary Hearing
April 15, 2019	Expedited Transcripts Filed in EFIS
April 24, 2019	Initial Post-Hearing Briefs
May 6, 2019	Reply Briefs

4. The Commission will hold a local public hearing at Missouri Southern State University, Cornell Auditorium, 3950 E. Newman Rd, Joplin, MO 64801 on January 23, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

5. The local public hearing and the evidentiary hearing will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodation to participate in the hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearings.

6. The Public Policy and Outreach Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall send a copy of this order to members of the General Assembly and to the media that serve Barton, Dade, Jasper, and Lawrence Counties in Missouri.

7. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make an informational presentation and conduct a question-and-answer session for the public at the beginning of the local public hearing.

8. The Empire District Electric Company, the Commission's Staff, and the Office of the Public Counsel shall each prepare a one-page statement outlining their current assessment of the case, and shall bring sufficient copies for distribution at the question-and-answer session that begins the local public hearing.

9. The Empire District Electric Company, the Commission's Staff, and the Office of the Public Counsel shall make a representative available to address substantive issues during the question-and-answer session.

10. Any other party, at its discretion, may prepare a statement and make a representative available to address substantive issues during the question and answer session.

11. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Hall, Rupp, and
Coleman, CC., concur.

Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law Judge