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For Missouri Retail Service Area

Effective: June December 22, 20176

## RULES AND REGULATIONS ELECTRIC

#### 9.17 Economic Relief Pilot Program

#### A. PURPOSE:

The Economic Relief Pilot Program (ERPP) offered by the Company provides an opportunity to relieve the financial hardship experienced by some of our customers. Through this three (3) year pilot we shall endeavor to insure this program is a valuable and viable program for customers.

#### B. APPLICATION

This ERPP is applicable to qualified customers for residential service. The ERPP will-, on a pilot basis, provide up to 1,000 participants with a fixed credit on their monthly bill (ERPP credit), for a period up to 12 months from the billing cycle designated by the Company as the participant's first month until the billing cycle designated as the participant's last for ERPP. At the end of the 12 month period, a customer may reapply to participate further in the program through the term of the pilot program.

#### C. DEFINITIONS:

Qualified Customer – A Customer receiving residential service who is classified as low-income by the Missouri Department of Social Service criteria, and whose annual household income is no greater than 200% of the federal poverty level, as established by the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902 (2).

Applicant - A Qualified Customer who submits an ERPP application form for the ERPP credit.

Participant – An Applicant who agrees to the terms of the ERPP and is accepted by the Company.

Program Funds – annual ratepayer funding for the ERPP is \$394,009. Ratepayer funding shall be matched dollar for dollar by the Company. The \$788,019 annual sum of ratepayer funding and Company matching funds shall be the "program funds".

Agencies- The social service agencies serving the Company's service territory that qualify and assist ERPP customers pursuant to written contract between the Company and the Agencies.

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9.17 Economic Relief Pilot Program (Continued)

#### D. AVAILABILITY:

Service under this rate schedule shall be available to up to 1,000 participants in the Company's service area limited to the available funds and who satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

- 1. Participant must be a customer receiving residential service under the Company's Residential Tariffs.
- 2. Participant's annual household income must be verified initially, and annually thereafter, as being no greater than two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level.
- 3. Participants who have outstanding arrearages will enter special pay agreements as mutually agreed to by both the Participant and the Company.
- 4. Participants must provide, via an interview or questionnaire, information related to their energy use and program participation. Any information provided in these interviews or questionnaires that are later made public will not be associated with the participant's name.
- 5. Any provision of the Company's rules and regulations applicable to the Company's Residential Tariffs also apply to ERPP participants.
- 6. Participants will not be subject to late payment penalties while participating in the program.

### E. ENERGY ASSISTANCE:

- 1. Participants who have not previously completed an application for a LIHEAP ("Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program") grant agree to apply for a LIHEAP grant when such grants become available. The Company, through the Agencies, shall assist ERPP participants with completion of LIHEAP application forms when such assistance is requested.
- 2. Applicants agree to apply for weatherization assistance, if eligible, and for any other available energy assistance programs.

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For Missouri Retail Service Area

# RULES AND REGULATIONS ELECTRIC

9.17 Economic Relief Pilot Program (Continued)

#### F. CREDIT AMOUNT:

Participants shall receive the available ERPP credit for so long as the participant continues to meet the ERPP eligibility requirements and reapplies to the program as required.

<u>PUp to 1,000 participants</u> shall receive the ERPP credit in the amount of each participant's average bill for the most recent 12 months bills, not to exceed \$65 per month. The credit amount will be determined by the Company at the time of enrollment.

#### G. DISCONTINUANCE AND REINSTATEMENT:

The Company will discontinue a participant's ERPP credit for any of the following reasons:

- 1. If the Company, through the Agencies, determines the participant no longer meets the eligibility requirements set forth in this tariff.
- 2. If the participant submits a written request to the Company asking that the ERPP credit be discontinued.
- 3. If the participant does not conform to the Company's rules and regulations as approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission, and as a result the participant has service discontinued.

Reinstatement of the ERPP credit following discontinuance in the above circumstances and after the participant again meets the eligibility requirements will be at the discretion of the Company.

#### H. MISAPPLICATION OF THE ERPP CREDIT:

Providing incorrect or misleading information to obtain the ERPP credit shall constitute a misapplication of the ERPP credit. If this occurs the Company may discontinue the ERPP credit and rebill the account for the amount of all ERPP credits received by the participant. Failure to reimburse the Company for the misapplication of the ERPP credits may result in termination of customer's electric service pursuant to the Company's rules and regulations. However, nothing in this experimental tariff shall be interpreted as limiting the Company's rights under any provisions of any applicable law or tariff.

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For Missouri Retail Service Area

# RULES AND REGULATIONS ELECTRIC

### 9.17 Economic Relief Pilot Program (Continued)

#### I. OTHER CONDITIONS:

The ERPP program has been designed so that the Company neither profits from nor incurs losses as a result of offering this experimental program.

Costs of administering the program, including those costs charged by the Agencies, shall be paid from the program funds.

The Company will gather and maintain participant data on usage, arrears, payments and other relevant factors to be used in the evaluation of the program.

The Company shall make non-confidential data, as well as any and all program evaluations that are conducted, available to the parties.

The pilot program may be evaluated in any Company rate or complaint case. The evaluation shall be conducted by an independent third party evaluator under contract with the Company, that is acceptable to the Company, Commission Staff and the Public Counsel. The costs of the evaluator shall be paid from the program funds.

If any program funds in excess of actual program expenses remain at the end of the ERPP program, they shall be made available for future ERPP expenditures <u>until exhausted</u>.

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