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October 16, 2015

Chief RLJ Morris L. Woodruff, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**RE: The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire”)
MoPSC Case No. ER-2016-0023**

Dear Judge Woodruff:

On behalf of Empire, I am providing herewith for filing with the Missouri Public Service Commission, in electronic form, certain tariff sheets consisting of revised rate schedules designed to increase Empire’s gross annual electric revenues by approximately \$33.4 million, exclusive of applicable gross receipts and sales, franchise, and occupational fees or taxes. Each rate schedule bears an issue date of October 16, 2015, and an effective date thirty days thereafter (November 15, 2015).

Also provided is a letter from Kelly Walters, setting forth the specific rate schedules being submitted, the dominant factor driving the need for this rate case, and the remaining information required by Commission Rule 3.030(3)(B).

In accordance with Rule 2.065(1), also being provided in electronic form are the verified direct testimonies and schedules of Empire witnesses Brad Beecher, Bryan Owens, Tom Sullivan, Tim Wilson, W. Scott Keith, Dr. James H. Vander Weide, Todd Tarter, Robert Sager, Joan Land, Aaron Doll, Jeffrey Lee, Nate Hackney, and John Woods.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding these filings.

BRYDON SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:



Diana C. Carter



October 16, 2015

Chief RLJ Morris L. Woodruff, Secretary
 Missouri Public Service Commission
 P.O. Box 360
 Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Re: The Empire District Electric Company
 Case No. ER-2016-0023**

Dear Mr. Reed:

On behalf of The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire”), I am providing herewith to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for filing, in electronic form, certain tariff sheets consisting of revised rate schedules which are designed to increase Empire’s gross annual electric revenues by approximately \$33.4 million, exclusive of applicable gross receipts, sales, franchise, or occupational fees or taxes.

The electric rate schedules being filed are all part of “Schedule of Rates for Electricity” designated P.S.C. No. 5. Said schedules are as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Sheet No.</u>	<u>Schedules</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Canceling</u>	<u>Issued</u>
1	1	Residential Service Schedule RG	19th Revised	18th Revised	07/07/15
2	1	Commercial Service Schedule CB	18th Revised	17th Revised	07/07/15
2	2	Small Heating Service Schedule SH	18th Revised	17th Revised	07/07/15
2	3	General Power Service Schedule GP	18th Revised	17th Revised	07/07/15
2	4	Large Power Service Schedule LP	19th Revised	18th Revised	07/07/15
2	6	Feed Mill and Grain Elevator Service Schedule PFM	18th Revised	17th Revised	07/07/15
2	7	Total Electric Building Service Schedule TEB	18th Revised	17th Revised	07/07/15
2	9	Special Transmission Service Contract - Praxair SC-P	14th Revised	13th Revised	07/07/15
2	13	Special Transmission Service Schedule ST	13th Revised	12th Revised	07/07/15
4	8a	Promotional Practices Schedule PRO	4th Revised	3rd Revised	08/06/08
4	17h	Blank Page	2nd Revised	1st Revised	02/28/13
4	17i	Blank Page	2nd Revised	1st Revised	02/28/13
4	17j	Blank Page	2nd Revised	1st Revised	02/28/13
4	17k	Blank Page	6th Revised	5th Revised	04/01/13

4	17u	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17v	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17w	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17x	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17y	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17z	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17aa	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17ab	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original
4	17ac	Fuel Adjustment Clause Schedule FAC	Original

All of these listed schedules bear a date of issue of October 16, 2015, to be effective November 15, 2015.

The dominant factor driving Empire's proposed rate increase is Empire's capital investment to convert its Riverton 12 natural gas generating unit to a combined-cycle configuration.

Attached to this letter is the remaining information required by 4 CSR 240-3.030(3)(B), including a copy of the press release being issued by Empire today.

Sincerely,



Kelly Walters
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer –
Electric

KW/jl

MINIMUM FILING REQUIREMENTS

The Empire District Electric Company

ER-2016-0023

**The Empire District Electric Company
ER-2016-0023**

Statement of Missouri Revenue Increase Request

The amount of annual revenue, from Missouri electric customers, which would result from the application of the proposed rates in this case, would be \$33,397,363 more than the annual revenue under existing rates. This would represent an overall increase of 7.28% for Missouri jurisdictional revenues.

4 CSR-240-3.030 (3)(B)(1)

Explanation of Why Rate Relief is Needed

To recover the annual carrying cost associated with the investment in the Company's Riverton Unit 12 combined cycle conversion project; to recover increased property taxes; to recover ongoing increases in operations and maintenance expenses, and the annual costs related to other increases in capital investment.

4 CSR-240-3.030 (3)(B)(7)

Missouri Counties and Communities Affected

Barry County	Greene County (cont.)	Lawrence County (cont.)	Newton County (cont.)
Butterfield	Walnut Grove	Halltown	Silver Creek
Purdy	Willard	Hoberg	Stark City
		Marionville	Stella
Barton County	Hickory County	Miller	Wentworth
Golden City	Cross Timbers	Phelps *	
Kenoma *	Hermitage	Pierce City	Polk County
	Preston	Stotts City	Aldrich
Cedar County	Weaubleau	Verona	Bolivar
Caplinger Mills *	Wheatland		Brighton*
Stockton		McDonald County	Dunnegan*
	Jasper County	Anderson	Fair Play
Christian County	Airport Drive	Ginger Blue	Flemington
Billings	Alba	Goodman	Halfway
Clever	Asbury	Lanagan	Humansville
Fremont Hills	Avilla	Noel	Morrisville
Ozark	Brooklyn Heights	Pineville	Pleasant Hope
Sparta	Carl Junction	Southwest City	
	Cartersville		St Clair County
Dade County	Duneweg	Newton County	Collins
Arcola	Duquesne	Cliff Village	Gerster
Everton	Fidelity	Dennis Acres	Vista
Greenfield	Jasper	Diamond	
South Greenfield	Joplin	Fairview	Stone County
	LaRussell	Fort Crowder *	Branson West
Dallas County	Neck City	Granby	Galena
Buffalo	Oronogo	Leawood	Hurley
Louisburg	Purcell	Loma Linda	Reeds Spring
Urbana	Reeds	Neosho	
	Sarcoxie	Newtonia	Taney County
Greene County	Waco	Redings Mill	Branson
Ash Grove	Webb City	Ritchey	Forsyth
Bois D'Arc *		Saginaw	Forsyth Sub*
Fair Grove	Lawrence County	Seneca	Hollister
Republic	Aurora	Shoal Creek Drive	Mount Branson*
Strafford	Freistatt	Shoal Creek Estates	Powersite *

4 CSR-240-3.030 (3)(B)(2)

* Not Incorporated

Empire District Electric Company
ER-2016-0023
4 CSR-240-3.030 (3)(B) 3, 4, and 5

	(3)				(5)	(4) & (5)	(4)			
MO Rate Schedules	Avg No. of Customers	Total kWh Sales	Total Rate Revenue	Average \$ per kWh	Proposed Rate Revenue	Proposed \$ per kWh	Proposed Rate Increase	Proposed % Increase	Proposed Avg Monthly Increase per Customer	Proposed Increase per kWh
Residential - RES	126,469	1,687,379,885	\$ 212,249,573	\$ 0.1258	\$ 232,752,853	\$ 0.1379	\$ 20,503,280	9.66%	\$ 13.51	\$ 0.0122
Commercial - CB	17,715	316,342,631	\$ 43,395,379	\$ 0.1372	\$ 46,328,559	\$ 0.1465	\$ 2,933,180	6.76%	\$ 13.80	\$ 0.0093
Small Heating - SH	3,009	89,335,459	\$ 10,337,038	\$ 0.1157	\$ 11,030,310	\$ 0.1235	\$ 693,272	6.71%	\$ 19.20	\$ 0.0078
General Power -GP	1,691	874,318,298	\$ 86,685,357	\$ 0.0991	\$ 91,222,682	\$ 0.1043	\$ 4,537,325	5.23%	\$ 223.60	\$ 0.0052
Special Transmission - ST	1	59,817,292	\$ 3,719,421	\$ 0.0622	\$ 3,750,421	\$ 0.0627	\$ 31,000	0.83%	\$ 2,583.33	\$ 0.0005
Total Electric Building - TEB	928	368,702,694	\$ 37,475,334	\$ 0.1016	\$ 39,534,425	\$ 0.1072	\$ 2,059,091	5.49%	\$ 184.90	\$ 0.0056
Feed Mill - PFM	9	645,595	\$ 113,428	\$ 0.1757	\$ 113,530	\$ 0.1759	\$ 102	0.09%	\$ 0.95	\$ 0.0002
Large Power - LP	35	694,189,507	\$ 55,138,068	\$ 0.0794	\$ 57,778,181	\$ 0.0832	\$ 2,640,113	4.79%	\$ 6,285.98	\$ 0.0038
Traffic signals - MS	2	132,631	\$ 13,840	\$ 0.1043	\$ 13,840	\$ 0.1043	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -
Municipal Lighting - SPL	6	18,187,739	\$ 2,270,677	\$ 0.1248	\$ 2,270,677	\$ 0.1248	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -
Private Lighting - PL	292	13,442,987	\$ 4,297,702	\$ 0.3197	\$ 4,297,702	\$ 0.3197	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -
Special Lighting - LS	136	683,634	\$ 123,757	\$ 0.1810	\$ 123,757	\$ 0.1810	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS	150,293	4,123,178,351	\$ 455,819,574		\$ 489,216,936		\$ 33,397,362	7.33%		



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY FILES FOR NEW MISSOURI AND OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC RATES

JOPLIN, MO – October 16, 2015 – The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE:EDE) announced today it has filed a request with the Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC) for changes in rates for its Missouri electric customers. The Company is seeking an annual increase in base rate revenues of approximately \$33.4 million, or about 7.3 percent. If approved by the MPSC, a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours would see a monthly increase of about \$12.54.

The most significant factor driving the rate request is the cost associated with the conversion of the Riverton Unit 12 natural gas combustion turbine to combined cycle operation. The conversion replaces the production capacity of retiring coal-fired generators at Riverton and carries a cost of between \$165 and \$175 million. Scheduled to be complete in early to mid-2016, the project consists of a new heat recovery steam generator, steam turbine generator, auxiliary boiler, cooling tower and other balance of plant equipment. The conversion was necessary to comply with Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS) mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Other factors in the case include increased transmission expense, administrative and maintenance expense and costs incurred as a result of a mandated solar rebate program. The request also reflects cost-savings for customers resulting from revised depreciation rates and lower average interest costs.

In the coming months, the MPSC will perform an audit of Empire's operations, hold public hearings, and conduct an evidentiary hearing. Any new rates granted would take effect at the conclusion of this process, typically in approximately 11 months, or late-summer 2016.

(more)

Page 2/Missouri rate filing

In this same filing, the Company is asking to continue the use of the Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC). The FAC provides for semi-annual adjustments to customers' bills, based on the varying costs of fuel and purchased power used to serve customers. The proposed FAC adjustment for the semi-annual period beginning December 1, 2015, coupled with adjustments reflected on customers' bills over the previous 12 months, will result in a cumulative monthly reduction of \$3.46 for a customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours.

In making the announcement, Brad Beecher, president and CEO, stated, "The Riverton Combined Cycle Unit was the most economic option to replace the coal units at Riverton and comply with MATS. This new configuration captures the exhaust heat from the existing natural gas unit and uses it to power a new steam turbine. This highly efficient process will help us hold down fuel costs for customers while lowering emissions and protecting the environment."

A corresponding filing will also be made with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) using the Missouri proposed tariffs. An administrative rule providing rate reciprocity to any electric company who serves less than ten percent of its total customers within the State of Oklahoma took effect in August 2015. The rule is intended to provide cost savings for customers related to rate case expenditures. As a result, future Commission approved increases in Missouri rates will be effective for Empire's Oklahoma customers subject to approval of the OCC.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electric, natural gas (through its wholly owned subsidiary The Empire District Gas Company), and water service, with approximately 218,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com.

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Certain matters discussed in this press release are "forward-looking statements" intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements address future plans, objectives, expectations, and events or conditions concerning various matters. Actual results in each case could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements, by reason of the factors noted in our filings with the SEC, including the most recent Form 10-K and Form 10-Q.