

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

Ralph E. Pridgen, Jr.,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<u>Case No. EC-2008-0021</u>
	)	
The Empire District Electric Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Issue Date: September 27, 2007

Effective Date: September 27, 2007

Ralph E. Pridgen has filed a complaint with the Missouri Public Service Commission against The Empire District Electric Company. To move the matter toward its end, the Commission will set a prehearing conference. The parties or their representatives should be prepared to discuss the nature of any discovery each will conduct and the interval necessary for its completion; the number of witnesses each expects to call at hearing; the number and nature of any exhibits each expects to offer at hearing; and the anticipated length of the hearing. The parties or their representatives should also be prepared to discuss the current status of settlement negotiations. It is expected that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

If the parties are unable to settle this matter, they shall jointly file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the filing

of a list of the issues to be determined by the Commission and statements by the parties of their position on each such issue. The proposed procedural schedule shall also include a date for the filing of a list of the witnesses to be called on each day of hearing, the order in which they shall appear and the order of cross-examination agreed upon by the parties.

The proposed procedural schedule shall also establish dates for the hearing of this matter. The time for filing the proposed procedural schedule will be discussed during the prehearing conference.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. A prehearing conference shall be held on October 22, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in Room 305 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. This hearing will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the prehearing conference. **Also, if any party wishes to participate by telephone conference call, please contact the judge at 573-751-8518 no later than October 15, 2007.**

2. This order shall become effective on September 27, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written in a cursive style.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Kennard L. Jones, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 27th day of September, 2007.