

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

In The Matter of the Joint Application)
Of the Empire District Electric Company,)
Liberty Utilities (Central) Co., and)
Liberty Sub Corp. for Approval of an)
Agreement and Plan of Merger and)
For Other Related Relief)

File No. EM-2016-0213

STAFF RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and states that on March 16, 2016, The Empire District Electric Company, Liberty Utilities (Central) Co., and Liberty Sub Corp. filed a *Joint Application* asking the Commission to approve a transaction in which Liberty Utilities (Central) Co. would acquire all of the common stock of Empire. On April 19, 2016, the Commission issued an *Order Directing Staff to File a Pleading Stating When it Will File a Recommendation*. In its order, the Commission directed the Staff to file a pleading, not later than April 28, 2016, stating when it anticipates filing its recommendation in this matter. In response, Staff provides the following:

1. On April 21, 2016, Staff, The Empire District Electric Company, Liberty Utilities (Central) Co., and Liberty Sub Corp., and the Office of the Public Counsel (collectively the "Movants") filed a *Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule*. In the motion, Movants propose rebuttal testimony be filed on July 6, 2016.

2. If the Commission approves Movants' proposed procedural schedule included in their motion, Staff intends to file its recommendation in its rebuttal testimony on July 6, 2016.

WHEREFORE Staff submits this pleading in response to the Commission's April 19, 2016, order and further requests that the Commission adopt the procedural schedule as proposed in Movants' *Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule*.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mark Johnson

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing were served electronically on all counsel of record this 25th day of April, 2016.

/s/ Mark Johnson