BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Empire District Electric Company,) Liberty Utilities (Central) Co., and Liberty Sub Corp.) Concerning an Agreement and Plan of Merger and) Certain Related Transactions)

Case No. EM-2016-0213

STAFF'S NOTICE OF NON-OPPOSITION TO STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT AS TO EDESR

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and

through counsel, and states the following:

1. On August 23, 2016, the Joint Applicants and The Empire District Electric

SERP Retirees ("EDESR") filed an amended non-unanimous stipulation and agreement,

as a settlement of the EDESR's issues related to the Joint Application filed by Empire,

LU Central, and Liberty Sub Corp.

2. Staff has reviewed the *Stipulation and Agreement as to EDESR* and has

no objection. However, Staff will not be a signatory to the agreement.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully files its Notice of Non-Opposition to Stipulation and Agreement as to EDESR.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>/s/ Mark Johnson</u>

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing were served electronically to all counsel of record this 24th day of August, 2016.

<u>/s/ Mark Johnson</u>