

**Integrated Resource Plan
2014 Annual Update Workshop
Summary Report**

The Empire District Electric Company



File No. EO-2014-0243

April 2014

The Empire District Electric Company (Empire or Company)

Annual Update Workshop with the Stakeholder Group

Summary Report

Empire hosted an integrated resource plan (IRP) annual update workshop with the Missouri stakeholder group on April 10, 2014, at the Governor Office Building in Jefferson, City Missouri, in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-22.080(3). Empire prepared an annual update report with both a public version and a highly-confidential version to document the information presented at the annual update workshop. This report was electronically filed with the Commission in the Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS) and sent to stakeholders on March 11, 2014, in File No. EO-2014-0243. This was at least twenty (20) days prior to the annual update workshop as required by 4 CSR 240-22.080(3)(B). Empire also prepared a PowerPoint presentation that was filed in EFIS and sent to stakeholders, to serve as an outline of the report and to provide talking points to help organize the workshop discussion.

The workshop addressed the special contemporary issues that were established by Commission order in File No. EO-2014-0063 and provided updates since the most recent triennial compliance filing (2013 IRP), which was filed on July 1, 2013, in File No. EO-2013-0547. Stakeholders present at the annual update workshop included representatives of the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff (MPSC Staff), Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) and the Department of Economic Development – Division of Energy (DED-DE). Other stakeholders participated by telephone. The complete list of attendees is attached as Appendix A.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-22.080(3)(C) states as follows: *“The utility shall prepare a summary report that shall list and describe any action items resulting from the workshop to be undertaken by the utility prior to next triennial compliance filing or annual update filing. The summary shall be filed within ten (10) days following the workshop. If there are no changes as a result of the workshop, the utility is required to file a notice that it will not be making any changes to its annual update report.”*

Following the stakeholder workshop, Empire compiled the following utility action items based on the Company's understanding of the workshop discussion. Following the action item is a brief Empire response.

Action item 1: Empire shall provide the OPC with additional technical information concerning the IRP load forecasting methodology.

Empire response: Empire emailed two technical papers to an OPC representative on April 11, 2014. The papers were prepared by Itron consulting and explain the Statistically Adjusted End-Use (SAE) modeling methodology used for Empire's recent IRP load forecast.

Action item 2: Empire shall provide the MPSC Staff with information about the transfer of data between the utility and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) for the new SPP integrated marketplace (IM) that went live on March 1, 2014.

Empire response: Empire provided the requested information to an MPSC Staff representative on April 17, 2014 via email.

Action item 3: Empire shall respond to the MPSC Staff's inquiry as to whether the lowering of the near term load forecast, lower near term fuel cost projections and a delay in demand-side resource acquisition due to a suspension of the procedural schedule in File No. EO-2014-0030, as reflected in the Annual Update Report, represents a material change in Empire's preferred resource plan and requires Commission notification for material plan changes as described in Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-22.080(12).

Empire response: The changes in the near-term load forecast, lower near-term fuel cost forecasts and delay in demand-side program implementation in Empire's MEEIA filing have not at this point resulted in a change in Empire's business plan or acquisition strategy that is materially inconsistent with the resources to be acquired under Empire's preferred resource plan. Therefore, Empire does not believe that any Commission notification as described in Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-22.080(12) is required at this time.

Action item 4: Empire shall respond to the MPSC Staff question about the potential need to perform additional analysis to test for cost-effectiveness of the preferred plan's demand-side

resource portfolio that has been included in the Company's MEEIA filing in File No. EO-2014-0030.

Empire response: Empire will respond to MPSC Staff concerning ongoing demand-side resource cost-effectiveness questions as a part of the open MEEIA case (EO-2014-0030).

Action item 5: Empire will continue to address the issues identified in the Joint Filing in File No. EO-2013-0547, prior to specified future IRP filings.

Empire response: Empire has no further response to this action item.

Empire will not be making any changes to the Annual Update report as a result of the identified action items.

Appendix A

Meeting attendees in person:

John Rogers, MPSC Staff
David Roos, MPSC Staff
Jennifer Hernandez, MPSC Staff
Randy Gross, MPSC Staff
Byron Murray, MPSC Staff
Hojong Kang, MPSC Staff
Alex Antal, MPSC Staff
Jason Huffman, MPSC Staff
Nathan Williams, MPSC Staff
Matt Barnes, MPSC Staff
Dan Beck, MPSC Staff
Geoff Marke, OPC
Barb Meisenheimer, OPC
Julie Owens, DED
Alex Schroeder, DED
Mary Ann Young, DED
Jeremy Knee, DED
Dean Cooper, Counsel on behalf of Empire
Scott Keith, Empire
Todd Tarter, Empire
Joshua Eckerman, Empire
Nate Hackney, Empire
Steve Williams, Empire
Shaen Rooney, Empire
Nate Morris, Empire

Meeting participants by telephone:

Stu Conrad, Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson L.C.
Carl Lumley, Dogwood Energy, LLC