

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

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire)	
District Electric Company for Authority to)	
Transfer Functional Control of Certain)	
Transmission Assets to the Southwest Power Pool,)	Case No. EO-2006-0141
Inc.)	

**STATUS REPORT AND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY SUSPENSION
OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE.**

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") and also on behalf of the other parties to this proceeding, files this Status Report and requests that the Commission grant a temporary suspension of the procedural schedule in this case. In support thereof, the Staff respectfully states as follows:

1. On September 28, 2005, The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") filed with the Commission an Application for authority to transfer functional control of certain transmission assets to the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. Regional Transmission Organization ("SPP RTO").

2. On January 12, 2006, the Commission adopted the following procedural schedule:

Stipulation or Status Report	February 14, 2006
Stipulation presentation	to be determined
Rebuttal Testimony	February 14, 2006
Surrebuttal Testimony	March 3, 2006
List of Issues, etc.	March 3, 2006
Prehearing Brief	March 10, 2006
Hearing	March 27-29, 2006
Posthearing Briefs	April 13, 2006

3. For several months, the parties have been engaged in intensive negotiations in an effort to reach an agreement in this case. At present, they are attempting to conclude a Stipulation And Agreement and a supporting Service Agreement to resolve all issues. It is now clear that such a process cannot be concluded in time to permit the filing of a Stipulation And Agreement by February 14, 2006. Therefore, the parties hereby inform the Commission that if they are successful in reaching an agreement, they expect that it will be filed on or before February 23, 2006.

4. The current procedural schedule calls for the filing of rebuttal testimony on February 14, 2006. In view of the time spent in working to reach agreement and in order to continue focusing on that effort, the parties submit that to now turn their attention to the writing of rebuttal testimony would not constitute the most effective application of their resources. Therefore the parties propose that the procedural schedule, including the ordered February 14 rebuttal filing, be temporarily suspended. If a Stipulation And Agreement is not filed by February 23, 2006, a revised procedural schedule setting forth new proposed dates for the litigation track will be filed at that time. The parties fully expect that the need to process this case expeditiously and the Commission's expressed desire to be able to dispose of the matter prior to May 1, 2006 will be accommodated in any such revised procedural schedule.

WHEREFORE, the Staff, also on behalf of the other parties, respectfully submits this Status Report and moves that the Commission issue an Order temporarily suspending the Procedural Schedule in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dennis L. Frey

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 10th day of February 2006.

/s/ Dennis L. Frey