BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Debbie Feken

Complainant,

v.

File No. EC-2020-0183

The Empire District Electric Company

Respondent.

ORDER SETTING ONLINE HEARING

Issue Date: June 12, 2020

Effective Date: June 12, 2020

On May 18, 2020,¹ the Commission issued its Procedural Schedule Order establishing procedural deadlines and setting the case for an evidentiary hearing on July 8, 2020. The Commission has inquired of the parties whether anyone objects to conducting the hearing online by Webex or Zoom, or does not have the ability to participate in such a hearing. The Complainant has responded requesting the hearing occur in Joplin or Neosho, Missouri, where her complaint originated. She states she does not have Zoom or Webex. She also states she is a working person and cannot take off days of work.

This is a small formal complaint case, and for such cases Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.070(15)(E) provides that any hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, "shall be held in the county, or a city not within a county, where the subject utility service was rendered or within thirty (30) miles of where the service was rendered." Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.205, however, states: "The commission may grant variance from or waive any rule or provision of a rule promulgated by the commission upon a finding of

¹ All date references hereinafter will be to 2020 unless otherwise indicated.

good cause." Because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the Commission finds good cause for suspending Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.070(15)(E) and will not conduct the hearing in person. The Commission will set the case for an online hearing using Webex. Any party or witness wishing to do so may participate in the Webex hearing by telephone only. Such participant will be called at the time of the hearing and may then join by telephone. Anyone with questions may contact the Commission at Jackie.Keely@psc.mo.gov.

The hearing will occur as previously scheduled on July 8, 2020, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The evidentiary hearing will be conducted, as previously scheduled on July 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., by Webex. All parties shall provide both an appropriate email address and/or telephone number to <u>Jackie.Keely@psc.mo.gov</u> for themselves and their witnesses no later than June 19, 2020, so that an "invitation" to the Webex hearing may be sent or telephoned at the time of the hearing. No later than June 19, 2020, all parties who wish to receive a telephone participation invitation for themselves and/or their witnesses shall so advise the Commission.

2. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Wood w/

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Paul T. Graham, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority under Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 12th day of June, 2020.