BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Empire District Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority to File Tariff Increasing Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service Area of the Company

<u>File No. ER-2010-0130</u> Tariff File No. YE-2010-0303

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ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND DIRECTING NOTICE

Issue Date: January 13, 2010

Effective Date: January 13, 2010

On October 29, 2009, The Empire District Electric Company submitted proposed tariff sheets designed to implement a general rate increase for retail electric service. At a prehearing conference the Office of the Public Counsel was directed to file a pleading proposing dates and places for the Commission to hold local public hearings and suggested language for notifying the public of such hearings.

Public Counsel filed a pleading on December 11. No party opposes Public Counsel's suggestions. Public Counsel suggested that the Commission hold three hearings on March 29 and 30, 2010 at two locations. Those places were unable to accommodate the Commission on the dates suggested by Public Counsel. The Commission, however, has secured two alternate dates in the same places and at the same times as requested by Public Counsel.

The Commission will schedule local public hearings at the locations suggested by Public Counsel. The language suggested by Public Counsel for notice of the hearing is acceptable and Empire will be directed to provide notice of the hearings to its customers.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Monday, March 22, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. or until all persons present who wish to testify have done so, whichever is sooner, at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.

2. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. or until all persons present who wish to testify have done so, whichever is sooner, at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.

3. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. or until all persons present who wish to testify have done so, whichever is sooner, at Tri-Lakes TCRC, University of Missouri Extension at Reeds Springs High School, ITV Room, 20277 State Highway 413 (in the South Wing of Reeds Spring High School), Reeds Spring, Missouri.

4. At least ten days before the local public hearings, The Empire District Electric Company shall provide individual notice to each of its electric service customers using the following language:

NOTICE

On October 29, 2009, The Empire District Electric Company filed revised electric service tariff sheets with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC), which would increase Empire's Missouri jurisdictional annual gross revenues by approximately 20 percent. For a residential customer using 1,000 kilo-watt-hours of electricity a month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$19 each month.

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Local public hearings have been set before the PSC as follows:

March 22, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri

March 23, 2010, at 12:00 p.m. at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri

March 23, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at Tri-Lakes TCRC, University of Missouri Extension at Reeds Spring High School, ITV Room, 20277 State Highway 413 (in the South Wing of Reeds Spring High School), Reeds Spring, Missouri

As you will only be allowed to give testimony during the local public hearing and not ask questions, a question and answer session will be held $\frac{1}{2}$ hour prior the start of the hearing.

If you wish to comment or secure information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, telephone (866) 922-2959, e-mail <u>opcservice@ded.mo.gov</u> or you may contact the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 800-392-4211 or e-mail <u>pscinfo@psc.mo.gov</u>

The Commission will also conduct evidentiary hearings at its offices in Jefferson City on May 3-14, 2010

The buildings where the hearing will be held meet accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392.4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

5. The Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall serve a

copy of this order upon the county commission of each county in The Empire District

Electric Company's service area.

6. The Public Information Office of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall

send a copy of this order to members of the General Assembly and to the media that serve

constituents in The Empire District Electric Company's service area.

7. The Empire District Electric Company shall place advertisements in the newspapers serving its service territory. The advertisements shall contain the information from the customer notice relevant to the customers in the newspaper's circulation area.

8. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

Steven C. Reed Secretary

(SEAL)

Kennard L. Jones, Senior Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 13th day of January, 2010.