

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 11th day of December, 2019.

In the Matter of The Empire District)
Electric Company's Request for Authority)
to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric)
Service Provided to Customers in its)
Missouri Service Area)

File No. ER-2019-0374

ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Issue Date: December 11, 2019

Effective Date: December 11, 2019

On August 14, 2019, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) submitted tariff sheets to implement a general rate increase of approximately \$26.5 million to Empire's gross annual electric revenues. On November 1, 2019, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) submitted recommendations for local public hearings. Shortly thereafter, the Commission's Staff filed a response to OPC's recommendations. After considering the parties' positions concerning local public hearings, the Commission has determined it will hold three local public hearings.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make an informal presentation and conduct a question-and-answer session for the public at the beginning of each local public hearing.

2. The Empire District Electric Company, the Staff of the Commission, and the Office of the Public Counsel shall make a representative available to address substantive

issues during the question-and-answer sessions. Any other party may choose to have a representative present.

3. No later than ten days before the local public hearings, The Empire District Electric Company shall provide notice of the hearings to each of its customers.¹

4. The Commission’s Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make notice of this order available to the members of the media and the General Assembly representing customers in The Empire District Electric Company’s service area.

5. Local Public Hearings shall be held as follows:

Location	Q&A / Hearing Times
Monday, February 3, 2020	
<u>Bolivar</u> Comfort Inn Meeting Room 2451 Tower Drive Bolivar, MO 65613	Q&A: 12:00 Noon Hearing: 12:30 p.m.
<u>Joplin</u> Missouri Southern State University Plaster Hall – Cornell Auditorium 3950 E. Newman Road Joplin, MO 64801	Q&A: 6:00 p.m. Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 4, 2020	
<u>Branson</u> City of Branson Council Chambers 110 W. Maddux, Ste 210 Branson, MO 65616	Q&A: 12:00 Noon Hearing: 12:30 p.m.

¹ On December 6, 2019, OPC filed its Suggested Local Public Hearings Notice, which included a draft notice. The Commission will rule on that draft notice in a separate order.

6. Written comments may be submitted by contacting either the Office of the Public Counsel (Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Suite 650, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230, telephone 1-866-922-2959, e-mail opcservice@opc.mo.gov) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211, e-mail pscinfo@psc.mo.gov). The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency that represents the general public in matters before the Commission.

7. The local public hearings shall be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearings.

8. The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission for each county in The Empire District Electric Company's service area.

9. This order is effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, and
Coleman, CC., concur.

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge