

**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 Sell)	<u>File No. EO-2015-0172</u>
Approximately 35 Miles Of a 161 k)	
Transmission Line to Westar Energy Inc.)	

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S RESPONSE

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Response states as follows:

1. On January 23, 2015, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) filed an Application and, if Necessary, Motion for Waiver with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting authority to sell approximately 35 miles of a 161 kV transmission line (denoted as the Litchfield Transmission Line) to Westar Energy, Inc (Westar).
2. On February 19, 2015, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed its Recommendation suggesting that the transaction proposed by Empire would not be detrimental to Empire's customers nor would it be detrimental to the public interest in Missouri. Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order approving Empire's Application with certain stated conditions.
3. On February 25, 2015, Empire filed its Response to Staff Recommendation stating that it has no objection to the Staff Recommendation except that Empire seeks clarification that it is authorized to sell the Litchfield Transmission Line to Westar at the net book value of \$1,611,734.61, "as adjusted between now and the closing date." Empire further agrees that after closing it will supply Staff with the workpapers used to calculate the final book value.

4. Public Counsel now states that it does not oppose the Staff Recommendation or the requested clarification by Empire as stated above. However, Public Counsel does ask that the Commission order Empire to also supply Public Counsel with the workpapers used to calculate the final book value of the Litchfield Transmission Line after closing.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully submits its response.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Christina L. Baker

By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the parties of record this 26th day of February 2015:

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