

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

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire )  
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for )  
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates )  
for Electric Service Provided to Customers )  
in its Missouri Service Area )

Case No. ER-2021-0312

**PUBLIC COUNSEL’S SUGGESTED LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE**

COMES NOW the Office of Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and, unable to reach agreement with other parties regarding the local public hearing notice, offers the attached notice, which is designed to more accurately reflect The Empire’s District Electric Company’s request than the notice to which it does not agree, and comply with the second sentence of the notice requirements of Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-20.090(2)(A)1:

The notice shall include a description of how its proposed RAM shall be applied to monthly bills, the amount of the proposed change in base rates caused by the rebase of energy costs, and the estimated impact on a typical residential customer’s bill resulting from the rebase of energy cost.

Liberty is requesting an increase of by \$79.9 million, or approximately 12.15% and while it has filed 60 days’ notice of its intent to seek securitization of \$29.9 million of that increase (See Case No. EO-2022-0040), it has not withdrawn that \$29.9 million request from this case, and undoubtedly will not have withdrawn it before the local public hearings in mid-November. The earliest Liberty can file its securitization application and comply with the statutory 60 days’ notice requirement is October 27, 2021.

Respectfully,

/s/ Nathan Williams

Nathan Williams  
Chief Deputy Public Counsel  
Missouri Bar No. 35512

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 2021.

/s/ Nathan Williams

## NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIBERTY’S ELECTRIC RATES

On May 28, 2021, The Empire District Electric Company d.b.a. Liberty filed a general rate request with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) designed to increase Liberty’s annual gross revenues from its Missouri electric retail customers by \$79.9 million, or approximately 12.15%. Liberty is proposing to increase its fixed residential customer charge from \$13.00 per month to \$16.00 per month.

If the Commission allows Liberty to recover its Storm Uri costs in Case No. EO-2022-0040, then Liberty will stop seeking to recover them in this case. Removing those costs from this case would reduce Liberty’s request by \$29.9 million—from \$79.9 million, or approximately 12.15%, to \$50.0 million, or approximately 7.61%.

For a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, Liberty is proposing an increase of approximately \$19.84 each month, or 15.0% percent. Without Storm Uri costs Liberty estimates that its proposed rate increase will have the following annual customer bill impacts:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Bill Change \$</u>	<u>Bill Change %</u>
RG-Residential	\$ 160	9.3%
CB-Commercial	\$ 305	12.3%
SH-Small Heating	\$ 394	12.7%
GP-General Power	\$ 5,108	10.4%
TS-Transmission Service	\$ 201,407	4.1%
TEB-Total Electric Bldg	\$ 4,160	10.3%
PFM-Feed Mill/Grain Elev	\$ 975	11.8%
LP-Large Power	\$ 181,474	10.5%
MS-Miscellaneous	\$ 897	12.9%
SPL-Municipal St Lighting	\$ 66,932	16.9%
PL-Private Lighting	\$ 1,444	8.7%
LS-Special Lighting	\$ 81	11.8%

Liberty is asking the Commission to authorize it to continue its Fuel Adjustment Clause (“FAC”) with modifications. Liberty estimates that rebasing energy costs in its FAC reduces its annual gross revenues by \$69.3 million. In other words, if energy costs in its FAC were not rebased,

Liberty’s rate increase request would be approximately \$119.3 million, but its aggregated monthly billed “Fuel Charges” would include credits totaling about \$69.3 million per year for a net increase of about \$50.0 million per year. If the Commission approves Liberty’s request to continue its FAC, Liberty will continue to adjust (credit or bill) the monthly “Fuel Charge” on its electric customers’ bills twice each year, on June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, based on each customer’s electrical usage and the difference between Liberty’s actual energy cost (*i.e.*, the varying costs of fuel used to generate electricity at its generating units plus electric energy it purchases on behalf of its customers) and its base energy cost during the respective semi-annual periods. For a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, Liberty estimates that the impact of rebasing energy costs in its FAC effectively moves a monthly Fuel Charge credit of about \$13.27 to a reduction in that customer’s monthly usage charges by \$13.27.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, for public safety, rather than holding in-person local public hearings, the Commission is holding virtual question and answer sessions followed by local public hearings where members of the public may participate by WebEx video or by telephone. The Commission has scheduled question and answer sessions to begin at 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 15, 2021, and at noon, Wednesday, November 17, 2021, respectively. Each will be followed by WebEx video and telephone conference local public hearings where anyone may appear, testify, and/or provide documents to the Commission for it to consider in this general electric rate case. Each local public hearing will begin no later than thirty minutes after the start of the question and answer session preceding it, *i.e.*, by 12:30 P.M., November 15, 2021, and 6:30 P.M., November 17, 2021.

To facilitate an orderly hearing, any member of the public who wishes to testify at a local public hearing should register to do so by sending his/her first and last name to [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov), or by calling (800) 392-4211 by 5:00 p.m. no later than the last business day before the hearing, *i.e.*, by Friday, November 12, 2021, for the November 15, 2021, local public hearing and by Tuesday, November 16, 2021, for the November 17, 2021, local public hearing.

To attend a local public hearing by telephone, at the time of the hearing call toll free 1-855-718-6621, listen to the prompt and enter the meeting number 177 629 7914 followed by # (pound/hashtag symbol). If prompted for a password, enter 0087. To attend by video/internet visit the website at [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com) or download the Cisco WebEx Meetings application. At the hearing time, enter the meeting number 177 629 7914 followed by # (pound/hashtag symbol). If prompted for a password, enter 0087. For convenience information regarding the local public hearings is collected below:

Date	Start Time	<b>At the time of the hearing, dial () and enter the Access Code/Password</b>
November 15, 2021	12:00 P.M.	Access Code: Password:
November 17, 2021	6:00 P.M.	Access Code: Password:

Anyone wishing to comment on, or inquire about, Liberty’s requests may also do so

bycontacting the Staff of the Commission and/or the Office of the Public Counsel.

Commission Staff

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, Missouri

65102

Telephone: 1-800-392-4211

E-mail: [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov)

Public comments may be submitted at

[https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit\\_Comments](https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments)(please reference case number ER-2021-0312)

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 2230

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Telephone: 573-751-4857 or toll-free at 866-922-2959

E-mail: [opcservice@opc.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@opc.mo.gov)

Generally, parties can see comments, but commenting does not make the comment evidence upon which the Commission can rely for making its decisions.

The Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing during January 31 through February 10, 2022, at Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, for parties in this case to present their evidence to the Commission for its decision. This hearing is open to the public, except portions the Commission may close to protect the dissemination of nonpublic information. The evidentiary hearing will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If someone needs additional accommodations to participate in or attend any local public hearing or the evidentiary hearing, please call the Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.