

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company's d/b/a Liberty (Empire) Fuel Costs)
Related to the Extraordinary Weather Event of)
February 2021.)

Case No. EU-2021-0274

Status Report

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, on behalf of all the parties, and, for its *Status Report*, states herein as follows:

1. This matter has been pending for some time with little activity and it is therefore helpful to review the history of the case. On March 22, 2021, Empire filed a *Motion for Temporary Variance and Partial Waiver and Motion for Expedited Treatment* related to its requirement to file a fuel adjustment rate ("FAR") pursuant to its fuel adjustment clause ("FAC") tariff sheets, which would require the filing of a FAR by April 1, 2021.

2. Empire later withdrew that *Motion* and filed a *Verified Winter Storm Uri AAO Application* on June 2, 2021. The Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") filed a *Motion to Dismiss the Application* on June 28, 2021, and Empire filed a *Response*, to which OPC replied. The Commission has not dismissed the *Application*.

3. On October 8, 2021, Staff recommended that the Commission APPROVE the *Application*, clarifying on November 5, 2021, that it opposed the inclusion of carrying costs in the deferral.

4. On December 15, 2021, the Commission established a *Procedural Schedule* calling for a hearing on January 29, 2022, and testimony was thereafter filed by Empire, Staff, and OPC, as well as a *List of Witnesses* by Staff and by OPC.

5. On January 21, 2022, Empire filed its *Unopposed Motion to Extend Procedural Filing Dates and Postpone Hearing*, stating “Empire’s general rate case evidentiary hearing is scheduled to begin Monday, January 31, 2022, with various filings due before that date. Additionally, Empire filed its Petition regarding the securitization of Storm Uri costs on January 19, 2022 (Case No. EO-2022-0040). Due to the press of other business, as well concerns regarding duplication of arguments and efforts, Empire requests that the procedural filing dates in this matter be extended and that the hearing date be postponed. Empire requests moving these matters out to April or May, 2022.” Empire further stated that Staff, OPC, and the Missouri Energy Consumers Group (“MECG”) had no objections to this *Motion*.

6. On January 24, 2022, the Commission granted Empire’s *Motion*, and ordered that a status report be filed no later than March 24, 2022.

7. Now, for its *Status Report*, Staff states that the case regarding the securitization of Storm Uri costs, Case No. EO-2022-0040, is still pending and undecided. Its deadline for decision is August 22, 2022. If that *Petition* is granted, the AAO requested in this case will be unnecessary. Therefore, the parties urge the Commission to hold this case in abeyance until Case No. EO-2022-0040 is finally decided.

WHEREFORE, the parties pray the Commission will accept their *Status Report*, hold this case in abeyance until Case No. EO-2022-0040 is finally decided; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson

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Certificate of Service

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served electronically upon all parties pursuant to the Service List maintained by the Commission's Data Center **on this 24th day of March, 2022.**

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson