

**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 Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric ) **Case No. ER-2010-0130**  
Service Provided to Customers in the Missouri )  
Service Area of the Company. )

**PUBLIC COUNSEL’S PROPOSED CUSTOMER NOTICE AND SUGGESTED DATES  
AND LOCATIONS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”) and for its Proposed Customer Notice and Suggested Dates and Locations for Local Public Hearings states as follows:

1. On October 29, 2009, The Empire District Electric Company filed a general rate case. On November 4, the Commission issued an order directing that the parties file suggestions as to dates and locations for local public hearings and that Public Counsel file a draft notice to customers no later than December 11.

2. Public Counsel proposes a notice closely modeled upon the notice approved by the Commission in Empire’s last rate case. The proposed notice is as follows:

**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 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$19 each month.

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

- [dates and locations as approved by the Commission to be inserted here]

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 email [opcservice@ded.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@ded.mo.gov) or the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 800-392-4211, email [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov).

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

The buildings where the hearings 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.

3. The parties discussed the timing and locations of local public hearings at the early prehearing conference held on December 11. Public Counsel suggested having local public hearings in the same locations as the last Empire rate case, scheduled sometime between the anticipated filings of direct and rebuttal testimony. All of the parties present concurred in these general parameters, but none of the parties have explicitly concurred in the specific dates proposed herein. Public Counsel proposes the following dates and locations:

- At 6:00 p.m., March 29, 2009, at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.
- At 12:00 p.m., March 30, 2009, at Webster Hall, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri.
- At 6:00 p.m., March 30, 2009, 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.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the proposed customer notice and schedule local public hearings as suggested herein.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE Public Counsel

**/s/ Lewis R. Mills, Jr.**

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 following this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2009:

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**/s/ Lewis R. Mills, Jr.**

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