Exhibit No.: Issue(s): Witness/Type of Exhibit: Sponsoring Party: Case No.:

Prepayments Conner/Surrebuttal Public Counsel ER-2016-0023

# SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

## OF

# AMANDA C. CONNER

Submitted on Behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel

# **EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY**

CASE NO. ER-2016-0023

May 16, 2016

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

In the Matter of The Empire District ) Electric Company's Request for ) Authority to Implement a General ) Rate Increase for Electric Service )

Case No. ER-2016-0023

#### **AFFIDAVIT OF AMANDA C. CONNER**

### STATE OF MISSOURI ) ) ss COUNTY OF COLE )

Amanda C. Conner, of lawful age and being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. My name is Amanda C. Conner. I am a Public Utility Accountant I for the Office of the Public Counsel.

2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my surrebuttal testimony.

3. I hereby swear and affirm that my statements contained in the attached testimony are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Amanda C. Conner Public Utility Accountant I

Subscribed and sworn to me this 16<sup>th</sup> day May 2016.

JERENE A. BUCKMAN My Commission Expires August 23, 2017 Cole County Commission #13754037

Jerene A. Buckman Notary Public

My Commission expires August, 2017.

		SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY
		OF
		AMANDA C. CONNER
		EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY
		CASE NO. ER-2016-0023
1		
2	I.	INTRODUCTION
3	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
4	A.	Amanda C. Conner, PO Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
5	Q.	Are you the same Amanda Conner who filed direct testimony in this case?
6	A.	Yes.
7	Q.	What is the purpose of this surrebuttal testimony?
8	A.	The purpose of this surrebuttal testimony is so the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC") can
9		respond to rebuttal testimony from Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") witness
10		James Wood regarding the issue of rate base prepayments.
11		
12	II.	PREPAYMENTS
13	Q.	Please summarize the issue.
14	A.	Empire is proposing to include, in its rate base prepayments, expenses related to the
15		operations of Iatan, Plum Point and the Kansas City Power and Light ("KCP&L") land
16		lease. OPC has seen no evidence these payments are required to be paid in advance.
17		
		1

Surrebuttal Testimony of Amanda C. Conner Case No. ER-2016-0023

## 1 Q. Did Empire file rebuttal against your direct testimony?

- A. No, Empire filed rebuttal testimony against Missouri Public Service Commission Staff's
  ("Staff") direct testimony regarding this issue. I am filing surrebuttal testimony because
  OPC and Staff have the same position.
- 5 Q. Was this issue raised in Empire's last rate case?
- A. Yes. Staff took issue with these accounts being included in prepayments in the last rate case, No. ER-2014-0351 asserting that these are cash accounts and not actual investment in utility assets; therefore excluded from rate base. Empire's share of Iatan, Plum Point and KCP&L land lease operation and maintenance ("O&M") expenses were removed from prepayments in that case. This is the position both OPC and Staff have taken in this rate case as well. These accounts are considered normal O&M expense accounts and OPC sees no reason why they would be considered rate base prepayments.

## 13 **Q.** What evidence does OPC need to change its position on this issue?

- A. OPC would reconsider its position on this issue if it was provided with documentation,
  such a contract, signifying an agreement requiring Empire to prepay its share of O&M
  expenses for Iatan, Plum Point, and KCP&L land lease. If these documents are provided,
  OPC will consider the prudence of Empire agreeing to prepay normal O&M expenses.
- 18 **Q.** Does this conclude your testimony?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 21