

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

In the Matter of the Empire District Gas)	
Company d/b/a Liberty Filing of its)	<u>Case No. GT-2024-0055</u>
Revised Weather Normalization Adjustment)	Tariff No. JG-2024-0034
Rider (WNAR) Tariff)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF SHEET

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Staff Recommendation for Approval of Tariff Sheet* states as follows:

1. On September 1, 2023, Empire District Gas Company d/b/a Liberty (“Empire”) filed a tariff sheet to revise its weather normalization rider (“WNAR”) rates for its North, Northwest, and South systems. The tariff sheet has an issue date of September 1, 2023, and an effective date of October 1, 2023, and was assigned Tracking No. JG-2024-0034.

2. On September 5, 2023, the Commission issued an order directing Staff to file a recommendation regarding the tariff sheets no later than September 13, 2023.

3. As further explained in the attached memorandum, Staff has reviewed the tariff sheet filed by Empire on September 1, 2023, and recommends approval of the following:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 68 Cancelling Third Revised Sheet No. 68

4. The effect of Empire’s WNAR tariff sheet filings means that residential customers of Empire’s North, Northwest and South systems who used 100 Ccf of natural gas in a given billing month would see a \$1.63 bill increase from current effective rates. A small general service class customer who used 100 Ccf of natural gas in a given billing month would see a \$1.90 bill increase from current effective rates.

WHEREFORE, as set forth above and in the attached memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the Empire tariff sheet (Tracking No. JG-2024-0034), or allow the tariff sheet to go into effect by operation of law, for service on and after October 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey
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Attorney for Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 13th day of September, 2023.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
File No. GT-2024-0055, Tariff Tracking No. JG-2024-0034
Liberty Utilities

FROM: Hari Poudel, Economist

/s/ Hari Poudel 9/13/2023
Tariff/Rate Design / Date

/s/ Scott Stacey 9/13/2023
Staff Counsel Division / Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for the **Approval** of the Revised Tariff Sheet Filed by Empire District Gas Company to reflect its Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider (WNAR) to go into effect on October 1, 2023.

DATE: September 13, 2023

On September 1, 2023, Empire District Gas Company d/b/a Liberty (“Empire”) filed a tariff sheet to reflect the annual adjustment made pursuant to the Company’s WNAR with a requested effective date of October 1, 2023. On September 5, 2023, the Commission directed Staff to file a recommendation regarding WNAR tariff sheet in Tariff Tracking No. JG-2024-0034 no later than September 13, 2023. On September 1, 2023 Empire filed a tariff sheet for its annual adjustment to the WNAR for the twelve-month period ending September 30, 2024. Staff’s Recommendation is based on a revised tariff sheet and the accuracy presumed therein.

The purpose of the tariff is to reflect the annual adjustment made pursuant to the Empire’s WNAR for the twelve-month period ending September 30, 2024. Empire’s current and proposed rates are included in Table 1 below. The proposed rates are calculated annually to adjust the difference between the actual heating degree days and the normalized heating degree days.

Table 1: Current and Proposed WNAR Rates by Class.

Class	WNA Rider Rate	
	Current	Proposed
Residential Class	0.0000/ccf	0.01632/ccf
Small General Service Sales Class	0.0000/ccf	0.01896/ccf

The weather normalization adjustments in dollars per hundred cubic feet (Ccf) are calculated for each billing cycle based on the difference between the actual and the normal weather measured for each billing cycle. The proposed residential rates and the small general service class rates for the Empire district service areas will increase customer bills. This means a residential customer that used 100 Ccf of natural gas in a given billing month would see an approximate \$1.63 increase in

their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate. Likewise, a small general service class customer in the using 100 Ccf of gas would see an approximate \$1.90 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate.

Staff Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the following tariff sheet, and recommends approval of the following tariff sheet to go into effect for service on and after October 1, 2023, the requested effective date:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2
4th Revised Sheet No. 68 Cancelling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 68

Staff has verified that Empire District Gas Company has filed its Annual Report. Staff is not aware of any other matter pending before the before the Commission that affects or is affected by this tariff filing.

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Company d/b/a Liberty's Filing of its)	Tariff No. JG-2024-0034
Revised Weather Normalization Adjustment)	
Rider (WNAR) Tariff)	

AFFIDAVIT OF HARI K. POUDEL, PhD

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW, Hari K. Poudel, PhD, and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the attached *Staff Recommendation in Memorandum form*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

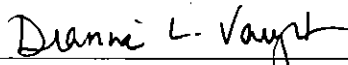
Further the Affiant sayeth not.



Hari K. Poudel, PhD

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 12th day of September, 2023.



Notary Public

DIANNA L. VAUGHT Notary Public - Notary Seal State of Missouri Commissioned for Cole County My Commission Expires: July 18, 2027 Commission Number: 15207377
