

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

In the Matter of the Petition of The Empire)
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty to)
Obtain a Financing Order that Authorizes) **File No. EO-2022-0040**
the Issuance of Securitized Utility Tariff)
Bonds for Qualified Extraordinary Costs)

In the Matter of the Petition of The Empire)
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty to)
Obtain a Financing Order that Authorizes) **File No. EO-2022-0193**
the Issuance of Securitized Utility Tariff)
Bonds for Energy Transition Costs Related)
to the Asbury Plant)

STATUS REPORT PURSUANT TO COMMISSION ORDER

COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, through counsel, and submits the following status report pursuant to the Commission *Order Directing the Finance Team to Submit a Status Report* (“Order”) issued September 1, 2023, and in support thereof states as follows:

1. The Order issued September 1, 2023, provided that “The Commission will direct the Finance Team to provide a written status report setting forth an **estimated** timetable for the pre-issuance process and an **estimated** date the Commission may expect to receive an issuance advice letter describing the final terms of the securitized bonds” and ordered that “The Commission’s Finance Team must provide a status report setting forth an **estimated** timetable for Liberty’s pre-issuance process, an **estimated** date that an issuance and advice letter may be submitted for Commission determination, and any other concerns or useful information the Finance Team believes should be brought to the Commission’s attention,” or a request for additional time, no later than September 15, 2023. (emphasis added)

2. The finance team has held initial discussions, but due to this case having been on appeal until recently, many of the details concerning the pre-issuance process remain to be resolved and much work and further discussion among the finance team remain.

3. Staff received the attached **CONFIDENTIAL** estimated/projected timeline to issue securitized utility tariff bonds for The Empire District Electric Company from Liberty/Empire on September 14, 2023, and submits it in response to the Commission's September 1 Order. However, Staff would make the following points concerning the attached: first, at this time the attached is merely the estimate/projection of Liberty/Empire and would be described by Staff as an aggressive timeline given the current status; second, it is a very high-level timeline without a great deal of detail, and will need to incorporate more granularity to appropriately encompass all steps in the pre-issuance process; third, it is subject to several contingencies, chief among which are SEC action, credit rating agency action, and market considerations; and fourth, the Commission should not consider it written in stone, but should recognize it is subject to modification.

WHEREFORE Staff submits the attached **CONFIDENTIAL** estimated timeline in compliance with the Commission's Order issued September 1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

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Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record as reflected on the certified service list maintained by the Commission in its Electronic Filing Information System on this 15th day of September, 2023.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil