In the Matter of the Petition of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty to Obtain a Financing Order that Authorizes 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 the Issuance of Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds for Energy Transition Costs Related to the Asbury Plant

STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 4th day of October, 2023.

File No. EO-2022-0040

File No. EO-2022-0193

ORDER DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS AND SCHEDULING MONTHLY STATUS CONFERENCES

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Issue Date: October 4, 2023

Effective Date: October 4, 2023

On September 1, 2022, the Commission directed its Finance Team to submit a status report setting forth an estimated timetable for The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a 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 information the Finance Team believed should be brought to the Commission's attention. The Commission's Staff (Staff) submitted a status report and estimated timeline as directed.

Sections 393.1700.2(3)(c)c and 393.1700.2(3)(h), RSMo., require that the structuring and pricing of the securitized utility tariff bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest securitized utility tariff bond charges consistent with market conditions and the terms of the Commission's *Amended Report and Order*. As noted in the

Commission's Amended Report and Order: "For the Commission to remain informed and updated throughout the pre-issuance review process, the Commission may require status meetings or phone conferences for the Finance Team and involved parties to communicate and update the Commission on the information being reviewed and prepared in the structuring and pricing process. The Commission may request access to the actual documents and information being reviewed by the Finance Team as needed."1 In order to track that these requirements are being fulfilled, and remain informed and updated in a timely manner, the Commission will direct Liberty to submit to the Commission copies of any documents related to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds (which would include the Indenture, Servicing Agreement, prospectus, and Limited Liability Company Agreement for the Special Purpose Entity) submitted to or received from the SEC, within two days of submission or receipt. The Commission will also schedule a monthly status conference with the parties to keep the Commission appropriately informed. The parties, either jointly or separately, must provide the Commission with a summary of any outstanding issues, prior to each status conference.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Liberty must submit to the Commission copies of any documents related to the SEC registration of the Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds submitted to, or received from, the SEC, within two days² of submission or receipt.

¹ Amended Report and Order, page 85 (issued September 22, 2022).

² Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.050(2), provides that if a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the next day after the weekend or holiday (unless the Commission orders otherwise). The Commission is not requiring that Liberty file the information in this order on a weekend or holiday.

2. The Commission will hold a monthly status conference beginning October 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The status conferences will be held via WebEx, and information to attend the status conference will be sent to counsel for the parties prior to the status conference. Liberty and Staff must appear at the status conferences, but other parties are not required to attend.

3. Any outstanding issues must be submitted to the Commission two business days prior to any status conference.

4. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretary

Rupp, Chm., Coleman, Holsman, Kolkmeyer and Hahn CC., concur.

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 4th day of October, 2023.



wy Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

October 4, 2023

File/Case No. EO-2022-0040 and EO-2022-0193

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

lancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretarv

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.