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February 16, 2001

FILED

FEB 16 2001

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

ER-2001-452

Re: The Empire District Electric Company - Interim Tariff Sheets

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On behalf of The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), I deliver herewith for filing three sets of the following tariff sheets:

- P.S.C. Mo. No. 5, Section A, 14th Revised Sheet No. 1, Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. 5, Section A, 13th Revised Sheet No. 1
- P.S.C. Mo. No. 5, Section 4, Original Sheet No. 21

The tariff sheets bear an issuance date of February 16, 2001 and an effective date of March 18, 2001.

The purpose of this filing is to allow Empire to put into place a two-step surcharge designed to increase Empire's electric revenues by approximately \$16.8 million on a Missouri jurisdictional basis for the months of March through September, 2001, exclusive of applicable fees and taxes. The surcharge is subject to refund pending a Commission decision in Empire's now pending general permanent electric rate case, Case No. ER-01-269.

Also filed herewith, please find an original and eight copies of the direct testimony of Empire witnesses W.L. Gipson, David W. Gibson and Stan M. Kaplan which testimonies explain the circumstances of this interim filing. Also, please find an original and eight copies of the highly confidential version of the testimony of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Kaplan.

Also included for filing for filing, please find an original and eight copies of a Motion for

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FEB 20 2001

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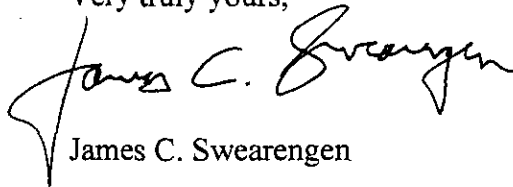
Protective Order, an original and eight copies of a Motion for Expedited Treatment and to Implement Tariffs in less than thirty (30) days, and the minimum filing requirement information required by 4 CSR 240-10.070(3)(B).

Copies of the subject tariff sheets, testimonies and related motions and materials will be provided this date to this Commission's General Counsel and to the Office of the Public Counsel.

Would you please see that this filing is brought to the immediate attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Swearengen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

James C. Swearengen

JCS/lar

Enclosures

cc: Office of the Public Counsel
Dan Joyce

File

FILED

FEB 16 2001

Missouri Public
Service Commission

CASE NO. ER-2001-452

**In the matter of THE EMPIRE DISTRICT
ELECTRIC COMPANY of Joplin, Missouri,
for authority to file interim tariffs increasing
rates for electric service provided to customers
in the Missouri service area of the Company.**

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FEB 20 2001

UTILITY SERVICES DIV.
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Sec. A 14th Revised Sheet No. 1
Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. 5For ALL TERRITORYNo supplement to this tariff will be issued except
for the purpose of cancelling this tariff.Sec. A 13th Revised Sheet No. 1
Which was issued 07-21-97TABLE OF
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STATE OF MISSOURI, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

P.S.C. Mo. No. 5

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Sec. 4 Original Sheet No. 21
Cancelling P.S.C. Mo. No. _____For ALL TERRITORYNo supplement to this tariff will be issued except
for the purpose of cancelling this tariff.Sec. _____ Revised Sheet No. _____
Which was issued _____Electric Interim Rider
RIDER INT

APPLICATION:

This Electric Interim Rider is applicable to all electric service billed under any electric rate schedule, metered or unmetered, subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC).

RATE:

In addition to the charges which Empire makes for electric service set forth in its approved and effective rate schedules, the following amount will be added:

Beginning March 1, 2001..... .00619 per kwh

Beginning July 1, 2001, add an additional..... .00222 per kwh

CONDITIONS:

This interim rider shall be in effect until September 30, 2001, or the effective date of such permanent schedules as may be authorized pursuant to the MPSC's Report and Order in Empire's electric rate case filed on November 3, 2000, whichever comes first. Empire shall refund with annual simple interest equal to the Company's short term interest rate, the amount, if any, by which the revenues produced by this interim rider exceed the aggregate revenues which would have been received under such permanent rate schedules. Such refund, if any, shall be made based upon the billing units of the customer to which these amounts were applied.

DATE OF ISSUE February 16, 2001DATE EFFECTIVE March 18, 2001

ISSUED BY R.B. FANCHER, Vice President-Finance, Joplin, MO

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Minimum Filing Requirements

The Empire District Electric Company

Statement of Missouri Revenue Increase Request

The aggregate amount of annual revenue from Missouri electric customers which would result from the application of the proposed rates in this case would be \$16,770,495 more than the annual revenue under existing rates. This would represent an increase of 8.18% in State of Missouri revenues.

The Empire District Electric Company

**Section B
Schedule 2**

Missouri Counties and Communities Affected

Barry County	Jasper County(cont.)	Newton County(cont.)
Butterfield	Asbury	Fort Crowder *
Purdy	Avilla	Granby
	Brooklyn Heights	Leawood
Barton County	Carl Junction	Loma Linda *
Golden City	Cartersville	Neosho
Kenoma *	Carthage	Newtonia
	Duneweg	Redings Mill
Cedar County	Fidelity	Ritchey
Caplinger Mills *	Iron Gates	Saginaw
Stockton	Jasper	Seneca
	Joplin	Shoal Creek Drive
Christian County	LaRussell	Silver Creek
Billings	Neck City	Southern Hills
Cleaver	Oakland Park	Stark City
Fremont Hills	Oronogo	Stella
Ozark	Purcell	Wentworth
Sparta	Reeds	
	Sarcoxie	Polk County
Dade County	Waco	Aldrich
Arcola	Webb City	Bolivar
Everton		Brighton
Greenfield	Lawrence County	Dunnegan
South Greenfield	Aurora	Fair Play
	Freistatt	Flemington
Dallas County	Halltown	Halfway
Buffalo	Hoberg	Humansville
Louisburg	Marionville	Morrisville
Urbana	Miller	Pleasant Hope
	Phelps *	
Greene County	Pierce City	St Clair County
Ash Grove	Stotts City	Collins
Bois D'Arc *	Verona	Gerster
Fair Grove		Vista
Republic	McDonald County	
Strafford	Anderson	Stone County
Walnut Grove	Ginger Blue	Galena
Willard	Goodman	Hurley
	Lanagan	Reeds Spring
Hickory County	Noel	Branson West
Cross Timbers	Pineville	
Hermitage	Southwest City	Taney County
Preston		Branson
Weaubleau	Newton County	Forsyth
Wheatland	Cliff Village	Hollister
	Dennis Acres	Mount Branson
Jasper County	Diamond	Powersite *
Airport Drive	Fairview	Rockaway Beach *
Alba		Kirbyville *

* Not Incorporated

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

**Section B
Schedule 3**

MISSOURI

Number of Customers Affected by Rate Classification
TYE 12-31-2000 (true up to 5-31-2001)

RESIDENTIAL

Schedule PL	277 *	
Schedule RG	109,356	
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL		109,633

COMERCIAL

Schedule PL	399 *	
Schedule CB	14,822	
Schedule SH	3,283	
Schedule LS	73	
Schedule TEB	649	
Schedule GP	912	
Schedule LP	10	
TOTAL COMMERCIAL		20,149

INDUSTRIAL

Schedule CB	51	
Schedule SH	5	
Schedule TEB	15	
Schedule PFM	19	
Schedule PF	3	
Schedule GP	158	
Schedule LP	24	
Schedule SC-P	1	
TOTAL INDUSTRIAL		276

STREET & HIGHWAY LIGHTING

Schedule SPL	120	
Schedule CB	254	
Schedule SH	1	
Schedule GP	1	
Schedule MS	1 *	
Schedule PL	22	
Schedule LS	112	
TOTAL STREET & HIGHWAY LIGHTING		510

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Schedule CB	835	
Schedule TEB	20	
Schedule GP	86	
Schedule SH	29	
Schedule RG	2	
TOTAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES		971

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Schedule CB	6	
Schedule GP	4	
TOTAL INTERDEPARTMENTAL		10

TOTAL RETAIL CUSTOMERS		131,549
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* 11,733 lighting customers are also counted as primary accounts.

Section B
Schedules 4 & 5

The Empire District Electric Company

NOT APPLICABLE

The requested increase is a cents per kWh rider.

Beginning March 1, 2001..... .00619 per kWh

Beginning July 1, 2001..... .00841 (additional .00222 cents per kWh)



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jay McBee
417-625-5114

EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC FILES INTERIM MISSOURI ELECTRIC RATES

JOPLIN, MO -- February 16, 2001 -- The Empire District Electric Company announced today that it has filed a request with the Missouri Public Service Commission for interim rates. The Company is seeking to increase rates \$16,770,495, or 8.18%. The request comes as a result of drastic increases in the cost of natural gas and purchased power, and construction costs associated with the Company's new State Line Combined Cycle Power Plant.

In making the announcement, Mr. Myron McKinney, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "Since last spring, the price of natural gas to fuel our gas-fired plants has increased in excess of 100%. Additionally, the cost of power we must purchase for use by our customers has undergone significant changes as well. Because of these drastic increases, we believe immediate rate action is necessary."

Unlike natural gas distributors, electric utilities in Missouri are not allowed any recovery for fuel costs except through the rate case procedure. The Company has filed a \$41 million rate case with the Commission to be heard this summer. Any interim rates granted would be subject to adjustment at the conclusion of that case. McKinney stressed, "The interim rates are not in addition to our prior request, but would only be in effect until the permanent case is concluded."

The Company is asking the Commission to approved interim rates for fuel cost and purchased power recovery beginning March 1, 2001. An Empire customer using 750-kilowatt hours of electricity per month can expect to see their bill increase by \$4.64 if the Commission approves the increase. Additionally, Empire is asking for interim rates to be granted for State Line construction costs beginning July 1, 2001. This would increase the bill of a customer using 750-kilowatt hours by an additional \$1.67, for a total of \$6.31 if both parts of the request are approved.

(more)

Empire asks for interim rates – page 2

McKinney explained the rate filing further, "The rate request filed in November 2000, if allowed to progress at a normal pace, could take as much as eleven months. Because of this extreme increase in fuel prices, and recovery of State Line construction costs, we are asking for interim rates to be put into place."

The Empire District Electric Company is an investor-owned utility providing electric service to approximately 145,000 customers in southwest Missouri, southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas. The Company also provides monitored security, energy services, fiber optic service and decorative lighting as well as water service in three incorporated communities in Missouri.

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The Empire District Electric Company

Summary Explanation of Why Interim Rate Relief is Needed

This information is contained in the direct testimony of witnesses:

William Gipson

David Gibson

Stan Kaplan