

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 30th day of September, 2020.

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|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| In the Matter of The Empire District |) | |
| Electric Company's Application for |) | <u>File No. ET-2020-0259</u> |
| Approval of a Community Solar |) | Tariff No. YE-2021-0062 |
| Program for Electric Customers in the |) | |
| Missouri Service Area |) | |

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

Issue Date: September 30, 2020

Effective Date: October 15, 2020

On April 17, 2020, The Empire District Electric Company (Liberty-Empire) filed a Tariff No. YE-2020-0182 to implement a community solar pilot program.¹ Liberty-Empire requested and received multiple extensions of that tariff, and Liberty-Empire withdrew that tariff on September 15. Also on September 15, Liberty-Empire filed Tariff No. YE-2021-0062, which bears an effective date of October 15. This new tariff reflected conversations Staff has had with Liberty-Empire, as well as the company's recent name change.

Liberty-Empire plans to initially build an approximately 2.25 MW solar facility (4,500 solar blocks of 500 kW each) for the solar program. The solar program seeks to meet a need for customers wanting to purchase renewable energy and meet environmental goals they are not able to meet through currently available programs. Liberty-Empire intends for the program to satisfy the \$3.5 million utility-owned solar investment required by Section 393.1665.2 RSMo.

¹ Calendar dates are 2020 unless otherwise noted.

The Commission's Staff filed a recommendation regarding the tariff on September 22, 2020. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the tariff. Staff further explains that a certificate of convenience and necessity for this solar program is not required under Section 393.1665.2 RSMo. Staff's Recommendation states that Liberty-Empire will apply for a CCN for future solar builds. The Office of the Public Counsel offered its support of Staff's Recommendation on September 24. No party objected to Staff's Recommendation.

Staff recommends the Commission approve the tariff. The Commission will do so.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The tariff sheets submitted under Tariff Nos. YE-2021-0062 by Liberty-Empire are approved, effective on and after October 15, 2020. The specific tariff sheets approved are:

- P.S.C. MO No. 6**
- Original Sheet No. 25**
- Original Sheet No. 25a**
- Original Sheet No. 25b**
- Original Sheet No. 25c**
- Original Sheet No. 25d**
- Original Sheet No. 25e**
- Original Sheet No. 25f**
- Original Sheet No. 25g**
- Original Sheet No. 25h**
- Original Sheet No. 25i**
- Original Sheet No. 25j**

2. This order shall become effective on October 15, 2020.

3. This file shall be closed on October 16, 2020.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and
Holsman CC., concur.

Pridgin, Regulatory Law Judge