

ORIGINAL

~~September 6, 2006~~

Volume 6

COLLEEN M. DALE, Presiding
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
JEFF DAVIS,
CHAIRMAN
LINWARD (LIN) APPLING,
COMMISSIONER
STEVE GAW,
COMMISSIONER

FILED

SEP 18 2006

Missouri
Public Service Commission

I N D E X

Page/Line

WITNESSES -

BILL PATE

E X H I B I T S

(NONE)

(sic) - typed as spoken
(ph.) - phonetic

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 BY JUDGE DALE: We are here this
3 evening in the matter of a proposed rule
4 regarding electric utility fuel and purchased
5 power cost recovery mechanisms, Case Number
6 EX-2006-472. It's September 6, 2006, and we
7 are having a local public hearing in Joplin.

8 The purpose of this hearing is to hear
9 comments or testimony concerning the proposed
10 rules for CSR 240-3.161, and for CSR240-
11 20.090. This hearing is not about Empire's
12 present rate case. We had hearings on that
13 previously, and this evening we cannot take
14 any testimony or comments concerning that
15 rate case. Having said all that, when you
16 come to the podium please say your name
17 clearly. The court reporter can swear you in
18 if you wish to give testimony. If you wish
19 to only make comments you may do that as
20 well. In a rules proceeding we receive
21 written comments, verbal comments, and
22 testimony. All three of those kinds of
23 communicating with the Commission are given
24 equal weight. If after tonight's proceeding
25 you wish to file written comments, the

1 comment period closes tomorrow, but until the
2 end of tomorrow you can still e-mail comments
3 to us through our website, which is
4 www.psc.mo.gov. So, Mr. Ochoa?

5 BY MR. OCHOA: Yes. Yes, Your
6 Honor. The first and only name I have on my
7 sign up sheet is Mr. Bill Pate.

8 BY JUDGE DALE: And while Mr. Pate
9 is coming to the microphone let me state that
10 I have with me Commissioners Gaw, Appling,
11 and Davis. Mr. Pate, are you wanting to give
12 testimony or comment?

13 BY BILL PATE: Comment, please.

14 BY JUDGE DALE: Okay. Then please -
15 -

16 BY BILL PATE: I would like to make
17 some comments.

18 BY JUDGE DALE: You can go ahead.

19 BY BILL PATE: Okay. Thank you. I
20 first want to thank this - the Commissioners
21 for providing this opportunity. I would like
22 to make some comments about any guidelines
23 for rate increases. I speak as a fuel stake
24 holder in that I am a customer of Empire
25 District, and I also own stock in the

1 utility. In my opinion the old paradigm for
2 utilities was the more product that was
3 produced, in this case energy, the more
4 profit or return on the investment they would
5 realize. In a world in which there is a loss
6 of clean air and water and other natural
7 resources, I want to question that old
8 paradigm as being relevant. In addition to
9 Empire District's admirable use of wind
10 generated power and the exploration of solar
11 with some of our utilities, I think the
12 conservation part of the equation is missing.

13 I live in a home that is well maintained and
14 is approximately a hundred years in age. In
15 March of 2004 we replaced all the windows
16 with custom fit, double pane glass, and in
17 that time, despite some rate increases, we
18 have recognized a ten percent drop in our
19 utility costs. So I would - I would like to
20 suggest that with any guidelines for rate
21 increases that such mechanisms at low
22 interest or no interest loans to customers to
23 help them bring up their living environment
24 to current standards be considered. Thank
25 you.

1 BY JUDGE DALE: Thank you. Let me
2 ask you a question.
3 BY BILL PATE: Yes, ma'am. Yes,
4 ma'am.
5 BY JUDGE DALE: Do you have any
6 specific changes to the wording of the rule
7 that you would like to put in place?
8 BY BILL PATE: No, ma'am, I don't.
9 BY JUDGE DALE: Okay. Thank you.
10 Are there any Commissioners who have
11 questions?
12 BY CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Thank you for
13 coming.
14 BY JUDGE DALE: Thank you, sir. Oh,
15 excuse me.
16 BY COMMISSIONER GAW: Just real
17 quick.
18 BY JUDGE DALE: Commissioner Gaw has
19 one question.
20 BY COMMISSIONER GAW: Excuse me,
21 sir. Are you still there?
22 BY BILL PATE: Yes, I am.
23 BY COMMISSIONER GAW: This is a
24 little off topic, so I won't belabor it, but
25 you did bring it up. The issue of trying to

1 get better efficiencies into some of our
2 homes and buildings is one that's worthy of
3 additional discussion I think any time, so if
4 you - are you familiar with any of the - any
5 programs in some other places where there are
6 low interest or no interest loans available
7 to try to reduce the amount of energy usage
8 in facilities?

9 BY BILL PATE: No.

10 BY COMMISSIONER GAW: Have you
11 looked into that?

12 BY BILL PATE: No, I have not. I'm
13 not familiar with any.

14 BY COMMISSIONER GAW: There are some
15 programs out there in some other states that
16 are somewhat similar to that which you've
17 described, and I think those programs present
18 some good opportunities if they can be
19 explored here. It's a little outside the
20 scope of what this particular proceeding is,
21 but I appreciate you bringing it up.

22 BY BILL PATE: Thank you.

23 BY COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes. Thank
24 you.

25 BY MR. OCHOA: Is there anyone else

that wants to testify this evening or provide the Commission with comments on this proposed rule? I don't see anybody, Your Honor.

BY JUDGE DALE: Well, thank you, everyone, for coming. We appreciate your input. We'll bid you goodnight. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(HEARING CONCLUDED)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF NEWTON)

I, **JILL A. RENFRO**, Certified Court Reporter and a Notary Public in and for the County of Newton and State of Missouri, do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony given, at Missouri Southern State University, Webster Hall, 3950 East Newman Road, in the City of Joplin, in Jasper County and said State.

GIVEN under my hand and notarial seal at my office in Newton County, and State of Missouri, this 12 day of September, 2006.

Reporter's costs to be
paid by :

My commission expires: 2/18/2009

Jill A. Renfro

Notary Public within and for
Newton County, Missouri.