

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

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Empire District Electric Company d/b/a)
Liberty for an Order Granting Billing)
Variances Related to the Company's)
Implementation of Customer First)

File No. EE-2024-0232

STAFF RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its Response to the Commission's *Order Directing Filing* ("Order") issued February 14, 2024, states as follows:

1. On February 13, 2024, Liberty filed the above-referenced application. Included therein was a Motion for Expedited Treatment.

2. On February 14, 2024, the Order directed Staff to "file a Recommendation or status report no later than February 29, 2024."

3. Staff submitted data requests to Liberty, to which Liberty responded on February 21 and 22, 2024. Staff appreciates Liberty's prompt responses. Staff is in the process of reviewing Liberty's responses and determining what, if any, clarification or follow-up discovery will be needed in order to prepare its Recommendation. Based on past experience, at this time Staff anticipates that it will be able to file its Recommendation no later than March 8, 2024.

4. Liberty's application requests a Commission order approving its temporary variance requests herein be effective prior to April 8, 2024. Filing Staff's Recommendation herein no later than March 8, 2024 should allow ample time for the Commission to issue an order effective prior to April 8, 2024.

WHEREFORE Staff submits this Response informing the Commission of the status of this proceeding in response to the Commission's Order issued February 14, 2024, and requests that the Commission issue an order granting Staff until March 8, 2024 to file its Recommendation herein or a further status report.

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 this 27th day of February 2024.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil