

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

In the Matter of The Empire	)	
District Electric Company's Request	)	<b><u>File No. ER-2016-0023</u></b>
For Authority to Implement a General	)	Tracking No.: YE-2016-0104
Rate Increase for Electric Service	)	

**ORDER GRANTING APPLICATIONS TO INTERVENE**

Issue Date: November 9, 2015

Effective Date: November 9, 2015

On October 16, 2015, The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") filed revised tariff sheets to implement a general rate increase for electric service. On October 19, the Commission issued an order that set a November 4 deadline for the filing of applications to intervene in the case.

Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(3) authorizes the Commission to grant an application to intervene if the party has an interest different from that of the general public which may be adversely affected by a final order arising from the case, or if granting intervention would serve the public interest.

On October 26, the Missouri Department of Economic Development-Division of Energy ("DED") filed an application to intervene. DED is a state agency vested with the power and duties established in section 640.150 and 640.676, RSMo (Cum.Supp. 2013). DED is given authority by statute and Executive Order 13-03 to plan for future energy needs and energy resource development within Missouri, including the development, administration and monitoring of energy conservation programs. DED's intervention will serve the public interest by providing the Commission with its formal state policy perspective on alternative energy sources and technologies.

On October 27, the City of Joplin (“Joplin”) filed an application to intervene. Joplin is a municipality located in Jasper County, Missouri. Empire operates within the city under a franchise granted by Joplin. Residents of Joplin are customers of Empire. Various parts of Empire’s plant are situated within Joplin’s right-of-way. Joplin has a policing power interest in Empire’s use of its franchise that is different from the interest of the general public which may be adversely affected by a final order in this case. Joplin’s participation in this matter may serve the public interest by providing the Commission with its perspective.

On October 29, Earth Island Institute d/b/a Renew Missouri filed an application to intervene. Renew Missouri is a not-for-profit clean energy policy and advocacy group concerned with renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives within Missouri. Renew Missouri’s interests in promoting best-practices energy efficiency policy in the state is different from that of the general public and may be adversely impacted by a final order in this case. Furthermore, Renew Missouri’s intervention may serve the public interest by providing additional information for the Commission’s review.

Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(13) grants parties ten days from the date of a filing to respond to any pleading unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. No objections to DED’s, Joplin’s, or Renew Missouri’s applications were received. Upon review of the unopposed applications, the Commission finds DED, Joplin, and Renew Missouri meet the standards set in Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(3). Therefore, the Commission will grant the applications to intervene.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Missouri Department of Economic Development — Division of Energy's application to intervene is granted.
2. The City of Joplin's application to intervene is granted.
3. Renew Missouri's application to intervene is granted.
4. This order shall be effective when issued.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



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

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Kim S. Burton, Senior Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.