

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority to)
File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service) **File No. ER-2012-0345**
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service)
Area of the Company)

**ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SETTING INTERVENTION DEADLINE,
SETTING PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE AND DIRECTING FILING OF
PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: July 9, 2011

Effective Date: July 9, 2011

On July 6, 2012, The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire”) submitted a tariff designed to implement a general rate increase for utility service. Empire indicates the new utility service rates are designed to increase its gross annual revenues by approximately \$30,717,288, exclusive of applicable gross receipts, sales, franchise or occupational fees or taxes. The submitted tariff carries an effective date of August 5, 2012. By a separate tariff submitted on July 6, Empire would implement an interim rate adjustment that would increase its rates by 1.53 percent. The interim rate adjustment tariff also carries an August 5, 2012 effective date.

The Commission’s Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commissions of the counties in Empire’s service area. In addition, the Commission’s Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the media serving Empire’s service area and to the members of the General Assembly representing that area. The Commission will allow entities, groups, or persons 10 days from the issuance of this order to file an application to intervene.

The Commission will also set a prehearing conference and direct filing of a proposed procedural schedule.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county within The Empire District Electric Company's service area.

2. The Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the members of the General Assembly representing The Empire District Electric Company's service area and to the news media in The Empire District Electric Company's service area.

3. Any entity, group, or person wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene no later than July 19, 2012, with:

Steven C. Reed, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

or use the Commission's electronic filing and information service.

4. A prehearing conference shall be held on Monday July 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

5. Any requests for intervention not already granted shall be ruled upon at the prehearing conference.

6. The parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule on or before August 2, 2012. Staff shall have the primary responsibility for preparing and filing the proposed procedural schedule.

7. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

(S E A L)

Michael Bushmann, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 9th day of July, 2012.