

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 11th day of December, 2019.

In the Matter of The Empire District)
Electric Company's Request for Authority)
to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric)
Service Provided to Customers in its)
Missouri Service Area)

File No. ER-2019-0374

ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Issue Date: December 11, 2019

Effective Date: December 11, 2019

On August 14, 2019, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) submitted tariff sheets to implement a general rate increase of approximately \$26.5 million to Empire's gross annual electric revenues. On November 1, 2019, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) submitted recommendations for local public hearings. Shortly thereafter, the Commission's Staff filed a response to OPC's recommendations. After considering the parties' positions concerning local public hearings, the Commission has determined it will hold three local public hearings.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make an informal presentation and conduct a question-and-answer session for the public at the beginning of each local public hearing.

2. The Empire District Electric Company, the Staff of the Commission, and the Office of the Public Counsel shall make a representative available to address substantive

issues during the question-and-answer sessions. Any other party may choose to have a representative present.

3. No later than ten days before the local public hearings, The Empire District Electric Company shall provide notice of the hearings to each of its customers.¹

4. The Commission’s Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make notice of this order available to the members of the media and the General Assembly representing customers in The Empire District Electric Company’s service area.

5. Local Public Hearings shall be held as follows:

Location	Q&A / Hearing Times
Monday, February 3, 2020	
<u>Bolivar</u> Comfort Inn Meeting Room 2451 Tower Drive Bolivar, MO 65613	Q&A: 12:00 Noon Hearing: 12:30 p.m.
<u>Joplin</u> Missouri Southern State University Plaster Hall – Cornell Auditorium 3950 E. Newman Road Joplin, MO 64801	Q&A: 6:00 p.m. Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 4, 2020	
<u>Branson</u> City of Branson Council Chambers 110 W. Maddux, Ste 210 Branson, MO 65616	Q&A: 12:00 Noon Hearing: 12:30 p.m.

¹ On December 6, 2019, OPC filed its Suggested Local Public Hearings Notice, which included a draft notice. The Commission will rule on that draft notice in a separate order.

6. Written comments may be submitted by contacting either the Office of the Public Counsel (Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Suite 650, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230, telephone 1-866-922-2959, e-mail opcservice@opc.mo.gov) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211, e-mail pscinfo@psc.mo.gov). The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency that represents the general public in matters before the Commission.

7. The local public hearings shall be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearings.

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

9. This order is effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

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

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

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

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission,
at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 11th day of December 2019.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 11, 2019

File/Case No. ER-2019-0374

Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff Counsel Department
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Jefferson City, MO 65102
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Office of the Public Counsel

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County of Barry, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
700 Main, Suite 2
Barry County Courthouse
Cassville, MO 65625

County of Barton, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
1004 Gulf, Room 104
Barton County Courthouse
Lamar, MO 64759

County of Cedar, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
113 South St., Cedar
County Courthouse
P.O. Box 665
Stockton, MO 65785

County of Christian, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
100 W Church, Rm. 206
Christian County Courthouse
Ozark, MO 65721

County of Dade, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
300 W Water St.
Dade County Courthouse
Greenfield, MO 65661

County of Dallas, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
102 S Cedar, Dallas County
Admin. Bldg.
PO Box 436
Buffalo, MO 65622

County of Greene, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
940 Boonville, Rm. 113
Greene County Courthouse
Springfield, MO 65802

County of Hickory, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
Hickory County Courthouse, Spring
and Dallas
P.O. Box 3
Hermitage, MO 65668

County of Jasper, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
302 S Main St., Rm 102
Jasper County Courthouse
Carthage, MO 64836

County of Lawrence, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
1 E Courthouse Sq., Ste. 101
Lawrence County Courthouse
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

County of McDonald, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
602 Main St., McDonald Co.
Courthouse
PO Box 665
Pineville, MO 64856

County of Newton, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
101 S. Wood St. Newton
County Courthouse
P.O. Box 488
Neosho, MO 64850

County of Polk, Missouri

County Commission Clerk
102 E Broadway, Rm 11
Polk County Courthouse
Bolivar, MO 65613

County of St. Clair, Missouri
County Commission Clerk
655 Second St., St. Clair County
Courthouse
P.O. Box 525
Osceola, MO 64776

County of Stone, Missouri
County Commission Clerk
PO Box 45
Stone County Courthouse
Galena, MO 65656

County of Taney, Missouri
County Commission Clerk
PO Box 156
Forsyth, MO 65653

Empire District Electric Company, The
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Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association, LLC
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Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association, LLC
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The Empire District Electric Company SERP Retirees, LLC
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Jefferson City, MO 65101
david.woodsmall@woodsmallllaw.com

Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "W".

**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.