

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 30th 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 APPROVING NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Issue Date: December 30, 2019

Effective Date: December 30, 2019

On December 6, 2019, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) submitted its suggested customer notice for local public hearings in The Empire District Electric Company's (Empire) pending rate proceeding. On December 11, 2019, the Commission issued an order setting local public hearings, but reserved ruling on the customer notice. On December 16, 2019, Empire filed a response to OPC's suggested customer notice offering an alternative customer notice, and on December 20, 2019, the Commission's Staff filed a response in support of Empire's position.

The Commission has considered the customer notices and has determined that Empire's customer notice is the least confusing, but that a row should be added to include a chart showing the residential class average annual impact.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Customer notice attached to this order as Attachment A is approved by the Commission and shall be provided to each of The Empire District Electric Company's customers.
2. 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

NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIBERTY-EMPIRE'S ELECTRIC RATES

On August 14, 2019, The Empire District Electric Company, a Liberty Utilities Company (“Liberty-Empire”), filed a general rate request with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) designed to increase Liberty-Empire’s annual gross revenues from its Missouri electric retail customers by \$26.5 million, or approximately 4.93 percent. As part of this proceeding, Liberty-Empire is proposing to increase its fixed residential customer charge from \$13.00 per month to \$19.00 per month.

For a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$7.85 each month, or 5.80 percent. Liberty-Empire estimates that the proposed rate increase will have the following other bill impacts:

Customer Class	Average Annual Impact	
	Bill Change \$	Bill Change %
RG-Residential	\$96.24	5.8%
CB-Commercial	\$125.82	5.2%
Small Heating	\$164.22	5.0%

Liberty-Empire is asking the Commission to authorize the continuation of its Fuel Adjustment Clause (“FAC”). Of the \$26.5 million proposed increase, \$74,946 is attributable to Liberty-Empire updating the energy costs used to determine its customers’ billed FAC charges. Taking into consideration all changes Liberty-Empire proposes to the FAC, it estimates that this will increase the usage charges on a typical residential customer’s monthly bill by \$0.01 (based on 1,000 kWh of monthly usage). If the Commission approves Liberty-Empire’s request to continue its FAC, Liberty-Empire will continue to adjust (credit or bill) its electric customers’ bills twice each year via the FAC, on June 1 and December 1. The FAC volumetric revisions represent the difference between Liberty-Empire’s actual energy cost (i.e., the varying costs of fuel used to generate electricity at its generating units plus electric energy it purchases on behalf of its customers) and its base energy cost included in base rates during the respective semiannual periods.

The Commission has scheduled question and answer sessions followed by local public hearings, where anyone may appear, testify, and/or provide documents to the Commission for it to consider in this general electric rate case, at the following locations, dates, and times:

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 12 noon.

Comfort Inn
Meeting Room
2451 Tower Drive
Bolivar, MO 65613

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Missouri Southern State University
Plaster Hall – Cornell Auditorium
3950 E. Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 12 noon.

City of Branson
Council Chambers
110 W. Maddux, Ste 210
Branson, MO 65616

Anyone wishing to comment on, or inquire about, Liberty-Empire's requests may also do so by contacting the Staff of the Commission and/or the Office of the Public Counsel.

Commission Staff

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Telephone: 1-800-392-4211

E-mail: pscinfo@psc.mo.gov

Public comments may be submitted at https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments
(please reference case number ER-2019-0374)

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 2230

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Telephone: 573-751-4857 or toll-free at 866-922-2959

E-mail: opcservice@opc.mo.gov

The Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing during April 14-17 and 20-22, 2020, at 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, for parties in this case to present their evidence to the Commission for its decision. This hearing is open to the public, except portions the Commission may close to protect the dissemination of nonpublic information. The local public hearings and evidentiary hearing will be held in buildings that meet accessibility standards by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If someone needs additional accommodations to participate in or attend any of these hearings, please call the Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

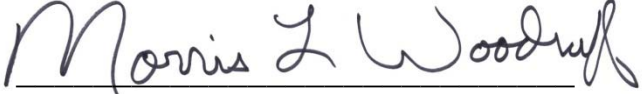
STATE OF MISSOURI

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 30th day of December 2019.





Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 30, 2019

File/Case No. ER-2019-0374

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Office of the Public Counsel

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**Empire District Electric Company,
The**

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**Empire District Retired Members &
Spouses Association, LLC**

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**Empire District Retired Members &
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**Missouri Public Service
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**The Empire District Electric
Company SERP Retirees, LLC**

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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.