# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

| In the Matter of The Empire District Gas | )                       |
|--|-------------------------|
| Company d/b/a Liberty's Purchased Gas    | ) Case No. GR-2023-0129 |
| Adjustment Tariff Filing                 | )                       |

# STAFF'S REPLY AND RECOMMENDATION APPROVING EMPIRE DISTRICT GAS COMPANY D/B/A LIBERTY'S 2021-2022 ACTUAL COST ADJUSTMENT BALANCES

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through counsel, hereby submits *Staff's Reply and Recommendation Approving Empire District Gas Company d/b/a Liberty's* ("Empire") 2021-2022 Actual Cost Adjustment ("ACA") balances, and further states as follows:

- On December 8, 2023, Staff filed its recommendation regarding Empire's ACA filing.
- 2. On December 13, 2023, the Commission issued an *Order Directing Response* to Empire; wherein, ordering Liberty to respond to Staff's Recommendation no later than January 8, 2024.
- 3. On January 8, 2024, Empire filed its Response to Commission Order; wherein, Empire accepted Staff's analysis and recommendations with the exception of Staff's proposed adjustment related to carrying costs for the Storm Uri balance. Empire indicated that it would work with Staff to reach agreement on this issue prior to its next Purchased Gas Adjustment ("PGA") filing.
- 4. On November 26, 2024, Empire filed Empire's Further Response to Staff's Recommendation, along with an Attachment showing its ACA balances, with the Commission indicating it has worked with Staff to reach an agreement on the carrying cost issue on the Storm Uri balance. According to it response, Empire indicates it will agree to the calculation of carrying costs using the prime rate less 2%.

5. Staff has reviewed Empire's Further Response to Staff's Recommendation that was filed on November 26, 2024, and Staff agrees with Empire that prime minus 2% is the appropriate carrying cost in this matter.

6. Staff further agrees with the balances listed in Empire's Attachment A, which was filed with its Further Response to Staff's Recommendation, and recommends approval of the ACA balances as shown in Empire's Attachment A.

7. There are no remaining issues that may require a procedural schedule and such matter can be closed upon an Order approving Empire's 2021-2022 final ACA balances addressed in paragraph 5 and 6 above, and Empire's Attachment A.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits its Staff Reply and Recommendation to Approve ACA Balances, and for the reasons stated above Staff respectfully recommends the Commission issue an order approving Empire's ACA balances as set forth in paragraph 5 and 6 above, and in Empire's Attachment A; close this case file; and any other relief as is just and reasonable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

#### /s/ J. Scott Stacev

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this  $5^{th}$  day of December, 2024.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## **OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

| In the Matter of The Empire District Gas<br>Company's d/b/a Liberty's Purchased<br>Gas Adjustment Tariff Filing | ) )                | Case No. GR-2023-0129                  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| AFFIDAVIT O   | F LISA S           | CHLUP                                  |
| STATE OF MISSOURI )   |                    |  |
| COUNTY OF COLE ) ss.  | •                  |  |
| COMES NOW LISA SCHLUP, and o  | n her oath         | declares that she is of sound mind and |
| lawful age; that she contributed to the foregoin  | ng <i>Staff Re</i> | ccommendation, in Memorandum form;     |
| and that the same is true and correct according   | to her be          | st knowledge and belief, under penalty |
| of perjury.   |                    |  |

Further the Affiant sayeth not.

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of December 2024.

**JURAT** 

Notary Public

DIANNA L. VAUGHT
Notary Public - Notary Seal
State of Misseuri
Commissione for Cole County
My Commission Expires: July 18, 2027
Commission Murchar: 15207377