

**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, 2024.

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire)
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for)
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates)
for Electric Service Provided to Customers)
In its Missouri Service Area)

File No. ER-2024-0261

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION TO INTERVENE

Issue Date: December 11, 2024

Effective Date: December 11, 2024

On November 6, 2024,¹ The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty filed tariff sheets designed to increase its gross annual electric revenues. The Commission issued notice and set a deadline for applications to intervene.

On November 25, Distributed Generation and Storage, LLC d/b/a Influent Energy (Influent) timely filed an application to intervene. On December 4, Liberty responded in opposition. On December 6, Influent responded to Liberty's objections. No other parties responded to Influent's application to intervene or to Liberty's objections.

Legal Standard

Applications to intervene are governed by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.075. Subsection (3) of that rule states that the Commission may grant intervention if either: Influent has an interest which is different from that of the general public and which may

¹ All dates refer to 2024 unless otherwise indicated.

be adversely affected by a final order; or, if granting the intervention would serve the public interest.

Interest Different than the General Public

Influent stated that it is a full-service engineering, procurement and construction company focused on solar generation and energy storage projects for the commercial and industrial markets. Influent stated it is actively developing new on-site solar projects in Liberty's service territory. Influent stated that because it is not represented by any other party, it has a direct interest in the matter that is different than that of the general public.

Liberty argued that Influent's only claimed interest in this proceeding is as a competitor of Liberty. Influent responded that rates, and rate structure, have a direct impact on the marketability of solar projects.

Liberty further argued that Influent's application to intervene failed to demonstrate how it could be adversely affected by a final order. Influent argued that the rates and rate structure of Liberty may adversely affect Influent via its marketing of solar projects.

Serving the Public Interest

Influent argued that its intervention would serve the public interest by adding a unique perspective to the Commission's decision-making process that would not be represented by any other party.

Liberty stated that Influent has simply recited the regulatory standard for intervention as alleged proof of its public interest. Liberty stated that there will be a sufficient number of experienced parties to ensure a complete record from which the Commission can make a decision, and that the public interest will not be served by allowing Influent to intervene.

Influent responded that Liberty found statements of public interest similar to its own as non-objectionable. Moreover, Influent argued that the Commission need only find Influent's perspective on renewable distributed generation deployment will add value.

Conclusion

The Commission has reviewed the application to intervene of Influent, the objections of Liberty, and the response of Influent, as well as Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.075. Influent argued that a solar energy company has an interest in a utility's rate case that is different from the general public because the rates will have a direct impact on the marketability of solar projects. The Commission finds that this interest is sufficiently different from that of the general public and that Influent could be adversely affected by a final order in this case.

Influent argued that its intervention would serve the public interest by adding a unique perspective, specifically citing its perspective on renewable distributed generation deployment. The Commission is persuaded that Influent's unique perspective would serve the public interest.

The Commission finds that Influent has meet its burden of persuasion that it had an interest different than the public and could be adversely affected by a final order, and that its intervention would serve the public interest. For these reasons, the Commission will grant Influent's application to intervene.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The application of Influent to intervene is granted.
2. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Coleman, Holsman
Kolkmeier, and Mitchell CC., concur.

Hatcher, 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 2024.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 11, 2024

File/Case No. ER-2024-0261

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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 "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Nancy Dippell
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.