

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

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire)	
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty to)	
Implement Robust and Mutually-Beneficial)	<u>Case No. EO-2022-0078</u>
Energy Efficiency Offerings Under the)	Tracking No. JE-2025-0094
Framework Prescribed by MEEIA)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TARIFFS

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through the undersigned counsel, and for its *Recommendation to Approve Tariffs* respectfully states:

1. The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty”), Staff, the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel, and Renew Missouri (collectively, “Signatories”) filed a *Stipulation and Agreement and Motion for Expedited Treatment and Expedited Approval of Tariff Sheets* (“Agreement”) on December 13, 2024. The Agreement extends Liberty’s Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act (“MEEIA”) Cycle 1 for three months through March 31, 2025. Midwest Energy Consumers Group and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources – Division of Energy indicated they did not object to the Agreement.

2. The Commission subsequently issued an order directing Staff to file a recommendation regarding the tariff sheets attached to the Agreement no later than noon on December 18, 2024.

3. As stated in the Agreement, this extension of Liberty’s MEEIA Cycle 1 will provide the parties to this matter the necessary time for Liberty to prepare and file an

application or settlement agreement regarding Liberty's MEEIA Cycle 2.¹ The Agreement contemplates Liberty submitting a MEEIA Cycle 2 filing with a proposal for a two-year cycle for energy efficiency programs, and a three-year cycle for demand response programs, that would commence on April 1, 2025.² This would be similar to the MEEIA cycles recently approved by the Commission for Evergy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri Metro, Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West, and Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri.³

4. The Agreement extends the terms of Liberty's current MEEIA tariffs through March 31, 2025, but the tariffs otherwise remain unchanged.⁴ No additional budget is being requested with this extension. The tariff sheets for which Liberty is seeking approval bear the tracking number JE-2025-0094.

5. The Signatories requested expedited treatment and approval of the tariffs so that the tariffs may take effect by December 31, 2024, avoiding any gaps in the availability of Liberty's MEEIA programs.⁵

6. Having finished its review, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the tariffs filed with the Agreement on December 13, 2024, bearing number JE-2025-0094, to take effect by December 31, 2024.

7. Staff further recommends that the Commission approve the Signatories' request for expedited treatment. Section 393.140(11), RSMo. permits tariff sheets to go

¹ Agreement, pg. 2, para. 6.

² *Id.*, pg. 3, para. 8.

³ See Report and Order in Case Nos. EO-2023-0369, EO-2023-0370, and EO-2023-0136, respectively.

⁴ Agreement, pg. 2, para. 7.

⁵ *Ibid.*

into effect under less than 30 days' notice for good cause. Staff concludes that the Signatories have provided the requisite good cause within the Agreement.⁶

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the tariffs filed on December 13, 2024, with an effective date of December 31, 2024; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just under the circumstances.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 17th day of December, 2024.

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

⁶ *Ibid.*