

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)	
Company of Joplin, Missouri Tariffs)	
Increasing Rates for Electric Service)	<u>File No. ER-2012-0345</u>
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service)	Tariff No. YE-2013-0021
Area of the Company)	

ORDER SUSPENDING INTERIM RATE TARIFF

Issue Date: July 23, 2012

Effective Date: July 23, 2012

On July 6, 2012, The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire”), filed a tariff that would implement an interim rate increase of 1.53 percent, subject to refund, as an accompaniment to its general rate increase request. That tariff carries an August 5, 2012 effective date. In response to Empire’s tariff filing, the Commission’s Staff, Public Counsel, and an intervening party filed suggestions opposing Empire’s request for an interim rate increase.¹ At the Commission’s public agenda meeting on July 18, 2012, the Commissioners instructed the regulatory law judge to suspend Empire’s tariff requesting an interim rate increase and schedule a hearing as soon as possible to further consider the request.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing to allow Empire an opportunity to present evidence to show that it is entitled to an interim rate increase. However, the Commission will not be able to conduct an evidentiary hearing before August 5, 2012, when Empire’s tariff becomes effective. Therefore, the Commission will suspend that tariff until December 3, 2012, as permitted by Section 393.150, RSMo 2000.

¹ The Office of Public Counsel also filed a motion requesting that the Commission reject the interim rate increase tariff outright and deny Empire’s motion to allow the interim rate tariff to go into effect by operation of law.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The tariff submitted under Tariff File No. YE-2013-0021, on July 6, 2012, by The Empire District Electric Company, for the purpose of implementing an interim rate increase, is suspended from August 5, 2012 to December 3, 2012.

2. The specific tariff sheets suspended are:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 5

Sec. 4, 3rd Revised Sheet No. 21, Canceling Sec. 4, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 21

Sec. 4, Original Sheet No. 21a

Sec. 4, Original Sheet No. 21b

Sec. 4, Original Sheet No. 21c

Sec. 4, Original Sheet No. 21d

3. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

(S E A L)

Michael Bushmann, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 23rd day of July, 2012.