

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

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire )  
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for )  
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for ) **File No. ER-2024-0261**  
Electric Service Provided to Customers In )  
its Missouri Service Area )

**ORDER SETTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: December 20, 2024

Effective Date: December 20, 2024

On November 6, 2024, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or “Company”) filed tariff sheets designed to increase its gross annual electric revenues. The Commission ordered the submission of a proposed procedural schedule. On December 13, 2024, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) submitted the *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule*.

The *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule* requested expedited transcripts to allow sufficient time for review and to offer any needed corrections, as well as to accommodate several other large rate cases. The Commission finds this request reasonable and will grant it.

The Commission finds the *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule* reasonable and will order it.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The following procedural schedule is established:

Revenue Requirement Model incorporating Update Information and Final Billing Determinants to be provided by Liberty to All Parties <sup>1</sup>	January 17, 2025
Discovery Conference	January 21, 2025
Discovery Conference	February 13, 2025
Discovery Conference	March 12, 2025
Direct Testimony - Revenue Requirement	April 9, 2025
Direct Testimony - Rate Design	April 25, 2025
Technical Conference	April 28, 2025
Local Public Hearing Week	May 12 - 16, 2025
Rebuttal Testimony	May 23, 2025
Settlement Conference	May 29, 2025
Discovery Conference	June 12, 2025
Surrebuttal Testimony	June 23, 2025
Settlement Conference	June 25 - 26, 2025
List of Issues, Order of Witnesses, Stipulation of Facts	June 30, 2025
Cutoff for Discovery, Responses, and Depositions	July 2, 2025
Position Statements <sup>2</sup>	July 2, 2025

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<sup>1</sup> Items to be provided by the Company on January 17, 2025:

- Revenue Requirement Model Incorporating Update Information and Final Billing Determinants (will also include the additional adjustments for weather, customer annualization and any other needed revenue adjustments); and
- Final Adjusted Updated Billing Determinants and Manual Adjustments in format provided to Staff via email on December 11, 2024 [if any changes are necessary from the file provided on December 19, 2024].

<sup>2</sup> Position Statements shall follow the same list of issues as filed in the case and shall be concise statements summarizing the party's position on each disputed issue, including citations to pre-filed testimony or relevant law supporting its position.

Evidentiary Hearing	July 14 - 25, 2025
Initial Briefs <sup>3</sup>	August 14, 2025
Reply Briefs	August 22, 2025

2. The parties shall comply with the following procedures:
  - a. All parties shall provide copies of testimony (including schedules), exhibits, and pleadings to other counsel of record by electronic means and in electronic form essentially concurrently with the filing of such testimony, exhibits, or pleadings where the information is available in electronic format. Parties are not required to put information that does not exist in electronic format into electronic format for purposes of exchanging it.
  - b. Parties shall make all reasonable efforts to not include confidential information in data requests. If confidential information must be included in data requests, the confidential information will be appropriately designated as such pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.135.
  - c. Data requests issued to or by Staff shall be submitted and responded to in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS), if feasible, or in electronic format on compact disc or by other means agreed to by counsel, if infeasible. Counsel for each party shall receive electronically from each other party serving a data request, an electronic copy of the text of the "description" of that data request contemporaneously with service of the data request. Regarding Staff-issued data requests, if the description contains confidential information, or is voluminous, a hyperlink to the EFIS record of that data request shall be considered a sufficient copy. If a party desires the response to a data request that has been served on another party, the party desiring a copy of the response must request a copy of the response from the party answering the data request. Data requests shall be sent by e-mail to counsel for the other parties. Counsel may designate other personnel to be added to the service list for data requests, but shall assume responsibility for compliance with any restrictions on confidentiality. Data request responses shall be served on

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<sup>3</sup> Briefs shall follow the same list of issues as filed in the case and must set forth and cite the proper portions of the record concerning the unresolved issues that the parties believe require decision by the Commission.

counsel for the requesting party, unless waived by counsel, and on the requesting party's employee or representative who submitted the data request, and shall be served electronically, if feasible and not voluminous as defined by Commission rule. Liberty's responses to Staff data requests will be available to other parties on EFIS. In addition, Liberty's responses to all parties' data requests will be available for review on ShareFile for parties who complete the requirements for accessing the ShareFile system.

- d. Until the filing of Rebuttal testimony (May 23, 2025), the response time for all data requests shall be 20 calendar days, and 10 calendar days to object or notify that more than 20 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. After the filing of Rebuttal testimony (May 23, 2025) and before the filing of Surrebuttal testimony (June 23, 2025), the response time for data requests shall be 10 calendar days to provide the requested information, and five business days to object or notify that more than 10 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. After the filing of Surrebuttal testimony (June 23, 2025), the response time for data requests shall be five business days to provide the requested information, and two business days to object or notify that more than five calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. Data requests sent after 5:00 pm will be considered served on the next business day. The Commission may rule on discovery motions filed after Surrebuttal testimony is filed without holding the conference required by 20 CSR 4240-2.090(8)(B).
- e. Workpapers prepared in the course of developing a witness' testimony (including schedules) and exhibits shall not be filed with the Commission, but shall be submitted to each party within two business days following the filing of the particular testimony, unless a party has indicated that it does not want to receive some or all of the workpapers. Workpapers containing confidential information shall be appropriately marked and comply with the other requirements of rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2)(B). Workpapers containing highly confidential information shall be appropriately marked and otherwise comply with the Commission's protective order issued November 5, 2024. Counsel shall undertake to advise other counsel if the sponsored witness has no workpapers related to the round of testimony.

- f. Where workpapers or data request responses include models or spreadsheets or similar information originally in a commonly available format where inputs or parameters may be changed to observe changes in inputs or outputs, if available in that original format, the party providing the workpaper or response shall provide this type of information in that original format with formulas intact. Workpapers shall be provided in electronic format by e-mailing or by delivery of a compact disc or other electronic storage media.
- g. Documents filed in EFIS shall be considered properly served by serving the same on counsel of record for all other parties via e-mail.

3. The parties shall comply with the following regarding discovery conferences:

- a. Discovery Conferences will be held in Room 305 at the Commission's office at the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City Missouri, with remote connectivity via Webex to be provided upon any party's request. Each Discovery Conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.
- b. At least three business days before each scheduled discovery conference, any party that has a discovery disagreement or concern shall file a brief statement describing that disagreement or concern and identifying any other parties involved. Such statement does not need to be a formal discovery motion. Any party may attend a discovery conference, but only those parties involved in an identified discovery disagreement must attend. If the parties do not identify any discovery disagreements or concerns as described herein, the presiding officer may cancel the conference.
- c. Discovery Conferences shall be recorded and will be transcribed upon the request of any party or by request of the Commission.

4. Exhibit numbers are assigned as follows:

1-99	Liberty
100-199	Staff

200-299	OPC
300-399	Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association
400-499	Influent Energy
500-599	IBEW Local Union 1474
600-699	Renew Missouri
700-799	Midwest Energy Consumers Group

Exhibits shall be marked as set forth in Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(10)(C); for example, “Exhibit 2” is public, whereas “Exhibit 2C” is the confidential version.

5. The evidentiary hearing shall be held at the Commission’s office at the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, and will begin its first day, July 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. This building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation to participate in the evidentiary hearing, please call the Public Service Commission’s Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

6. This order shall be effective when issued.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Senior Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

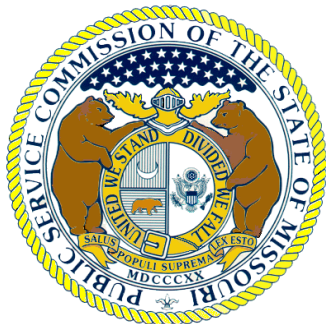
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 20th day of December, 2024.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024.**



*Nancy Dippell*  
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**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**



**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**December 20, 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**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.