

**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)

STAFF STATEMENT OF DISCOVERY DISAGREEMENTS AND CONCERNS

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), through the undersigned counsel, and for its *Statement of Discovery Disagreement and Concerns* respectfully states as follows:

1. Staff’s concerns are as follows regarding the responses, or lack thereof, from The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Empire” or the “Company”):

a. **DR 294**, Severance. This response was due on February 24, 2025. Staff requested that the Company provide copies of all severance contracts and for further information relevant to severance contracts such as: non-disclosure agreements, and non-compete agreements, explanation regarding benefits to the company and shareholders for offering severance pay, and the benefits to ratepayers for offering severance payments to employees. Staff has not received a response from the Company in EFIS.

b. **DR 295**, Severance. This response was due on February 24, 2025. Staff requested that the Company provide a list of individuals who received severance payments through the years 2020–2024 along with other pertinent information regarding the issue. Staff has not receive a response from the Company in EFIS.

c. **DR 248**, Customer First Software. This response was due on February 6, 2025. Staff requested for information regarding the Company’s software/hardware platforms (systems) that are part of the Customer First transition along with other pertinent information.

d. **DR 249**, Customer First Costs. This response was due on February 6, 2025. Staff requested information regarding the Company's Customer First Platform. We asked the Company to describe and quantify any hosting agreement costs and whether those costs have been or will be capitalized or expensed and the interval of those costs. The Company promised responses, but this data request is now 29 days overdue.

e. **DR 254**, Customer First Onsolve: Staff requested information regarding financial and operational data regarding the Onsolve test messaging system as of September 30, 2024.

2. The requested information is necessary for Staff to prepare its case and to audit the Company's compliance with applicable Missouri statutes, Commission regulations, orders, and approved stipulations. The Company plans to file responses by Monday, but Staff has yet to receive them as of this filing. Staff will withdraw its request if the Company responds before the conference.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits its' Statement of Discovery Disagreement or Concerns in advance of the Discovery Conference currently scheduled for March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Eric Vandergriff

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Staff Counsel for the
Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 7th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Eric Vandergriff