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Schedule DAM 24

Historical and Projected Growth Rates for the Empire District Electric Company

Historical Growth Rates

EPS Annual Compound Growth (1995-2000)	4.92%
EPS Trend Line Growth (1995-2000)	5.53%
Average of Historical Growth Rates	5.23%

Projected Growth Rates from Outside Sources

5 Year Growth Forecast (Mean) I/B/E/S Inc.'s Institutional Brokers Estimate System January 17, 2001	N.A. (1)
5-Year Projected EPS Growth Rate Zack's Earnings Estimates February 21, 2001	N.A. (1)
5-Year Projected EPS Growth Rate Standard & Poor's Corporation's Earnings Guide February 2001	N.A. (2)
5-Year Projected EPS Growth Rate Value Line Investment Survey January 5, 2001	6.00%
Average of Projected Growth Rates	6.00%

Proposed Range of Growth
for the Empire District Electric Company: 5.23% 6.00%

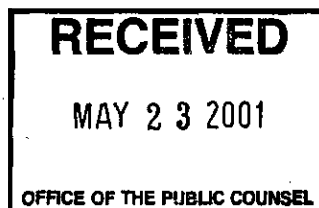
Sources:

Schedules 12 and 13 of Staff Witness Roberta A. McKiddy's Direct Testimony
Standard & Poor's Earnings Guide: February 2001

Notes:

- (1) As reported in Schedule 13 of Witness McKiddy's Direct Testimony
(2) Witness McKiddy incorrectly reported that Standard & Poor's resumed reporting a projected EPS growth rate for EDE.
S&P has yet to resume estimates for EDE.

Exhibit No. 17
Date 5/29/01 Case No. ER-2001-299
Reporter KKM



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