



The Empire District Electric Company

A Liberty Utilities Company

Case No. ER-2019-0374

OPC Data Request – 1006

Data Request Received: 11/26/19

Request No. 1006

Date of Response: 12/16/19

Respondent: Bruce Short

Submitted by: Robert Schallenberg

REQUEST:

Did or will EDE receive Fiber Optic service from Empire District Industries (EDI) during the test year, update, and true-up period? If yes, did EDE competitively bid the fiber optic service from non-affiliate vendors? If no, please fully explain the reason why was competitive bidding not necessary nor appropriate? Are there other fiber optic service providers providing such service in EDE's service territory or is EDI the only service provider in EDE's service territory?

RESPONSE:

The Empire District Electric Company ("EDE") did receive fiber optic service from Empire District Industries, Inc. ("EDI") during the test year, update, and true-up period. EDE did not competitively bid all of the fiber optic service from a non-affiliate vendor. There is not a single vendor who can provide a Multiple Protocol Layer Services ("MPLS") lit fiber service that does not use the internet for transport back to EDE's corporate office in Joplin. In accordance with the cost allocation manual, EDE was charged the lesser of cost or market. The cost of providing a multi-node MPLS ring using several hundred miles of fiber across the network would be extremely high, and the market price of the MPLS circuit would be less. Therefore EDE was charged a market price based on a study of MPLS rates conducted every two years by Teleplus Solutions.

EDE does use other providers in areas where EDI fiber does not have a cost-effective solution. Currently EDE use K-Power (KAMO), Sho-me Technologies, Verizon, Centurylink, Sprectrum Business, Zito, Marshal City Utilities, United Fiber, Fair Point Communications, Fidelity Communications and Socket.