BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty and Ozark Electric Cooperative for Approval of a Written Territorial Agreement Designating Boundaries of Exclusive Service Areas for Each in Christian County

File No. EO-2025-0253 Tracking No. JE-2025-0177

STAFF'S TARIFF COMPLIANCE RECOMMENDATION

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through its undersigned attorney, and makes the following recommendation.

1. On March 20, 2025,¹ The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty ("Empire") and Ozark Electric Cooperative Inc. ("Ozark Electric"), filed a Joint Application requesting approval of a First Addendum to their Third Territorial Agreement.

2. On May 29, the Commission issued a Report and Order Approving Addendum to Territorial Agreement. Among other things, that order directed Empire to submit revised tariff sheets to reflect the change in its certificated electric service area in Christian County resulting from the Order.

3. On June 23, Empire filed tariff sheets bearing an effective date of July 23. They were assigned a tracking number of JE-2025-0177.

4. On June 24, the Commission ordered Staff to file a recommendation no later than July 8 on whether the tariff sheets complied with the May 29 Order.

5. Staff has reviewed the tariff sheets, and Staff's Memorandum is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as **Appendix A**. Staff's Memorandum

¹ All date references will be to 2025 unless otherwise stated.

describes fully and in detail its review, findings, conclusions and recommendations. As explained, Staff concludes that the tariff sheets comply with the Commission's May 29 Order and that Empire is current regarding its assessments and annual reports. Staff recommends, accordingly, that the Commission approve the tariff sheets, as set out below, with an effective date of July 23.

P.S.C. MO. SCHEDULE NO. 6 – SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR ELECTRICITY

| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20 | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20a | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20a |
| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20b | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20b |
| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20c | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20c |
| Original Sheet No. 20d | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20e | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20f | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20g | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20h | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20i | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20j | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20k | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20I | | |
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WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission accept the Staff's Report and Recommendation as compliant with the Commission's Orders.

Respectively Submitted,

Isi Paul 7. Graham

Paul T. Graham #30416 Senior Staff Counsel P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Mo 65102-0360 (573) 522-8459 <u>Paul.graham@psc.mo.gov</u> Attorneys for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record as reflected on the certified service list maintained by the Commission in its Electronic Filing Information System this 7th day of July, 2025.

Isi Paul 7. Graham

MEMORANDUM

- TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File File No. EO-2025-0253, Tariff Tracking No. JE-2025-0177 The Empire District Electric Company, d/b/a Liberty
- FROM: Alan J. Bax, Industry Analysis Division Engineering Analysis Dept.
- SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Recommending Approval of Revised Tariff Sheets Filed to Comply With the Commission's Report And Order Approving Addendum No. 1 to the Third Territorial Agreement between The Empire District Electric Company, d/b/a Liberty and Ozark Electric Cooperative Inc., Issued May 29, 2025, in Conjunction With Case No. EO-2025-0253
- DATE: July 7, 2025

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

On June 23, 2025, The Empire District Electric Company, d/b/a Liberty ("Empire") filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") revised tariff sheets (Schedule 6 – Schedule of Rates for Electricity, Sheets No. 20, 20a, 20b...20l). These revised tariff sheets reflect the changes to Empire's electric service area in Christian County, Missouri, as a result of Addendum No. 1 to its Third Territorial Agreement ("3rd TA") with Ozark Electric Cooperative, Inc., ("Ozark"), which was approved by the Commission's *Report and Order* issued May 29, 2025, with an effective date of June 8, 2025. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") has reviewed the proposed tariff sheets, which were timely filed in accordance with the Commission's *Report and Order* in Case No. EO-2025-0253.

Staff recommends the Commission issue an Order approving the following proposed revised tariff sheets:

P.S.C. MO. SCHEDULE NO. 6 – SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR ELECTRICITY

| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20 | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20a | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20a |
| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20b | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20b |
| 1 st Revised Sheet No. 20c | Cancelling | Original Sheet No. 20c |
| Original Sheet No. 20d | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20e | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20f | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20g | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20h | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20i | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20j | | |
| Original Sheet No. 20k | | |
| Original Sheet No. 201 | | |

Empire is current regarding its assessments and in filing its annual reports. Staff notes that Empire has an open case regarding its request for an increase in its electric rates pending before the Commission.

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<u>File No. EO-2025-0253</u> Tracking No. JE-2025-0177

AFFIDAVIT OF ALAN J. BAX

| STATE OF MISSOURI |) |
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| |) ss |
| COUNTY OF COLE |) |

COMES NOW, **ALAN J. BAX**, and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the attached *Staff Recommendation, in Memorandum form*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 2μ day of July 2025.

| | DIANNA L. VAUGHT |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| | Notary Public - Notary Seal |
| | State of Missouri |
| | Commissioned for Cole County |
| Mv | Commission Expires: July 18, 2027 |
| (| Commission Number: 15207377 |

Notary Public