

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 Electric Service Provided to Customers)
In its Missouri Service Area)

Case No. ER-2024-0261

ORDER SETTING ADDITIONAL LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

Issue Date: July 7, 2025

Effective Date: July 7, 2025

On May 20, 2025,¹ the Commission ordered seven local public hearings to be held and provided a schedule for those seven local public hearings. Pertinent to this order, the schedule included a local public hearing to be held in Aurora, Missouri, at noon on Thursday, July 24.

On July 3, counsel for Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty emailed the regulatory law judge regarding an issue with the hearing notice that was delivered to customers via billing insert. The notice that Liberty provided to customers gave the correct date of the Aurora local public hearing, but incorrectly indicated a starting time of 6:00 p.m.

Counsel for Liberty suggested that one way to address the error would be to hold two local public hearings in Aurora, one hearing at noon and one hearing at 6:00 p.m. Counselors for the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Public Counsel, and the Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association, LLC all communicated their support for the additional local public hearing. Thus, all communicating parties supported holding two local public hearings in Aurora, at noon and 6:00 p.m.

¹ All dates refer to 2025 unless otherwise indicated.

The Commission's foremost concern is for the customers who have been advised of a 6:00 p.m. hearing in Aurora. It would be unlikely that subsequent communications could completely correct the misstatement; therefore, the Commission will add a local public hearing to its schedule, to be held at 6:00 p.m. in Aurora.

Because the bill insert sent to Liberty's customers did not list the noon local public hearing that was ordered, the Commission will order that Liberty provide an additional notice to its customers with a schedule of all hearings to be held. The Commission will also order that Liberty track the costs associated with providing the additional notice, including but not limited to the costs of postage, employee time, and third-party vendor costs.

For the convenience of the parties, the Commission will restate the complete local public hearing schedule and procedures below.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. A local public hearing shall be held in Aurora, Missouri, at 6:00 p.m.
2. Liberty shall provide a corrected physical (non-electronic) notice to its customers indicating all hearing dates as updated and otherwise as previously ordered. Liberty shall file a copy of the notice provided to customers as a result of this order within 10 days of notice being sent. Liberty shall track the costs associated with this additional notice as described in the body of this order.
3. The six in-person hearings shall be held as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Monday July 21, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Joplin Missouri Southern State University Corley Hall 3950 Newman Road
Tuesday July 22, 2025	Noon	Nixa City Council Chambers 715 West Mount Vernon Street
Tuesday July 22, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Bolivar Southwest Baptist University McClelland Joe Roberts Room (Dining Hall) 1600 University Avenue
Wednesday July 23, 2025	Noon	Branson City Council Chambers 110 West Maddux Street
Thursday July 24, 2025	Noon	Aurora Recreation Center 126 West Hadley Street
Thursday July 24, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Aurora Recreation Center 126 West Hadley Street

4. The two virtual local public hearings shall be as follows:

Date	Time	At the time of the hearing, dial 855-718-6621 and enter the Access Code/Password
Wednesday July 23, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Access Code: 2861 936 9973 Password: 0261
Friday July 25, 2025	Noon	Access Code: 2866 586 9948 Password: 0261

5. a. To attend a virtual local public hearing **by telephone**, at the time of the virtual hearing call toll free (855) 718-6621, listen to the prompt and enter the access code set out above, followed by # (pound/hashtag symbol). If prompted for a password, enter 0261. No computer or internet connection is necessary to participate by telephone – a standard telephone connection (landline or cellular) is all that is needed.
 - b. To attend **by video/internet** visit the website at www.webex.com or download the Cisco WebEx Meetings application. At hearing time, enter the corresponding access code and password listed above.
6. Each public hearing will begin with a question-and-answer session. Public testimony will begin at the conclusion of the question-and-answer session.
7. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make an informal presentation and conduct a question-and-answer session for the public at the beginning of each in-person or virtual local public hearing.
8. Liberty, Staff, and OPC shall make a representative available to address substantive issues during the question-and-answer sessions.
9. Liberty shall provide notice within the ten days prior to the local public hearing via text message and/or email to customers signed up to receive electronic messages from Liberty
10. If possible, members of the public wanting to participate in a hearing should register by sending their first and last name to pscinfo@psc.mo.gov, or by calling (800) 392-4211 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the hearing. Any person may participate at any of the hearings, but are encouraged to attend the hearing closest to their service area for the most relevant information.
11. Any person who needs an accommodation to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at (800) 392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

12. Comments may also be submitted by mailing the comment to the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or electronically using the Commission's electronic filing system at https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments. When submitting comments please reference File No. ER-2024-0261.

13. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make a copy of this order available to the members of the media as appropriate.

14. The Commission's Data Center shall provide a copy of this order to the county commission for Lawrence County, in which is located Aurora, Missouri.

15. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

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

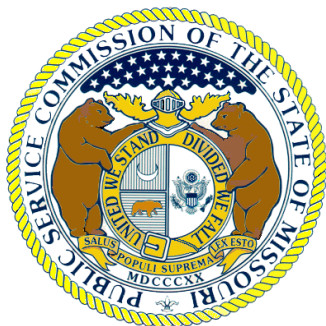
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 7th day of July, 2025.

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 7th day of July 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 7, 2025

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**

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