

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of The Empire District)	
Electric Company's Annual Vegetation)	
Management Report Pursuant to)	Case No. EO-2011-0318
Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-23.030)	

and

In the Matter of The Empire District)	
Electric Company's Infrastructure)	Case No. EO-2011-0421
Standards Compliance Plan)	
Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-23.020)	

**NOTICE REGARDING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
AND RELIABILITY COMPLIANCE**

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire" or "Company"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and respectfully states as follows regarding Empire's 2010 Vegetation Management Report, Empire's 2010 Reliability Compliance Report, and Empire's vegetation management and reliability compliance plans for 2011.

1. Pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-23.030(6)(C), Empire prepared its 2010 Vegetation Management Report, summarizing its vegetation management practices from the prior year (2010) and outlining the vegetation management planned for the coming year (2011). On March 30, 2011, Empire's 2010 Vegetation Management Report was filed in the EFIS system (tracking no. BTVM-2011-0763), and a Notice of Compliance was filed herein (Case No. EO-2011-0318) regarding the same.

2. Pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-23.020(3)(C), Empire prepared its 2010 Reliability Compliance Report detailing its compliance with Rule 23.020 during the prior calendar year and setting forth areas in possible need of corrective action. On June 30, 2011,

Empire's 2010 Reliability Compliance Report and a Notice of Compliance regarding the same were filed with the Commission (Case No. EO-2011-0421).

3. On Sunday, May 22, 2011, what has been described as the worst tornado in the United States in the last 60 years and one of the deadliest in American history, struck Joplin, Missouri, the largest City served by Empire. The tornado followed a six mile long path through the middle of Joplin destroying much of the city's central and south side and was designated by the National Weather Service as an EF-5, the strongest category on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

4. Customers in Joplin as well as other communities served by Empire experienced outages due to the tornado and related severe weather. In addition to Empire's line crews, over 200 additional linemen and over 100 vegetation management personnel worked to repair the Company's electrical system and restore customers to service. Restoration efforts began immediately, and the process of rebuilding continues today.

5. Due to the weather events of May 22, 2011, the resulting restoration efforts in Joplin and the surrounding area, and the fluid process of rebuilding, Empire may need to vary from its vegetation management plans for 2011 as set forth in Empire's 2010 Vegetation Management Report and its proposed corrective actions as set forth in Empire's 2010 Reliability Compliance Report. Empire will regularly notify the Staff of the Commission, via electronic mail message, of all such variations.

WHEREFORE, The Empire District Electric Company respectfully submits this Notice regarding Empire's 2010 Vegetation Management Report, Empire's 2010 Reliability Compliance Report, and Empire's vegetation management and reliability compliance plans for 2011. Empire requests such relief as the Commission deems just and proper under the circumstances.

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By: /s/ Diana C. Carter

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT
ELECTRIC COMPANY

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail on this 29th day of September, 2011, to:

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Lewis Mills
Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 2230
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/s/ Diana C. Carter