

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

Eddie and Carlene Johnson,)
Complainants,)
)
v.) **Case No. EC-2026-0048**
)
The Empire District Electric Company, d/b/a)
Liberty,)
Respondent.)

EMPIRE'S REPLY TO ORDER AND STAFF RESPONSE

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company, d/b/a Liberty (“Empire” or “Liberty”) and, in reply to the Missouri Public Service Commission’s (“Commission”) *Order Directing Filing* issued November 17, 2025, and the Commission Staff’s (“Staff”) *Response to Order Directing Filing* filed December 3, 2025 (“Staff Response”), states as follows to the Commission:

1. On August 26, 2025, Eddie and Carlene Johnson filed a complaint against Empire. Liberty subsequently filed its Answer to Complaint wherein it denied the substantive allegations.
2. The Staff filed its Report on November 14, 2025. Staff alleged that Liberty violated a Commission rule and tariff by failing to properly bill the Complainants (an issue not directly raised by the Complaint). Staff also stated the violations it found are being investigated in Case No. OO-2025-0233.
3. The Commission’s *Order Directing Filing* ordered that Staff recommend how this case should proceed and provided other parties the opportunity to respond as well.
4. The Staff Response recommends that “the Commission issue an order in this current case based on Staff’s conclusion” and “Staff does not feel additional actions must be ordered in this case.” (Para. 3).

5. Liberty acknowledges Staff's conclusion and proposed solution but asserts that these matters would be more appropriately addressed in Case No. OO-2025-0233.

6. Liberty further believes that this case is not ripe for any order or conclusion as to possible violation of statute, rule, order or tariff, given the pleadings before the Commission and the posture of this case. Additionally, the Staff Report does not reach any conclusion as to the primary billing matter that is the focus of the Complaint in this case.

7. Accordingly, Liberty suggests that the Commission issue an order directing that Staff's conclusion and proposed solution be addressed in Case No. OO-2025-0233 and allowing the remaining subject of this Complaint to be addressed as a Small Formal Complaint Case (20 CSR 4240-2.070(15)).

WHEREFORE, Liberty Respectfully requests that the Commission issue its order directing that Staff's conclusion and proposed solution be, addressed in Case No. OO-2025-0233, and issue such further orders as it shall find to be reasonable and just.

Respectfully submitted,

//s// Dean L. Cooper

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**ATTORNEY FOR THE EMPIRE
DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing document was filed in EFIS on this 5th day of December 2025, with notice of the same being sent to all parties by electronic mail.

//s// *Dean L. Cooper*