

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Elizabeth Peterson,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	<u>Case No. EC-2026-0150</u>
v.)	
)	
The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a)	
Liberty,)	
Respondent)	

ORDER DENYING EXTENSION REQUEST AND DIRECTING RESPONSE

Issue Date: December 30, 2025

Effective Date: December 30, 2025

This order denies Elizabeth Peterson's request for an extension of time and directs her to submit documentation clarifying her party status and what law, tariff, or order Liberty has violated over which the Commission would have jurisdiction.

Peterson's Request for Extension of Time

On December 15, 2025, Complainant, Elizabeth Peterson, filed a complaint with the Commission against the Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty. That complaint alleged violations of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which the Commission has no jurisdiction over. It also alleged violations of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.035, a rule that will not become effective until August 28, 2026. Much of the complaint involves safety concerns related to Liberty's deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure meters, but Complainant has not identified any specific required safety standard that Liberty has violated that the Commission would have jurisdiction over.

On December 16, 2025, the Commission directed Liberty to answer the Complaint and directed the Staff of the Commission to investigate the complaint.

On December 29, 2025, Peterson filed a request for an extension of time asking that the Commission delay the evidentiary hearing for good cause. Peterson asserts that an advocacy group would be entering its appearance on her behalf. Peterson also asserts that she has new evidence to add to her original complaint. Peterson states that relevant safety issues are still being investigated by other “entities”.

The Commission has not yet set a procedural schedule with an evidentiary hearing. So, there is no evidentiary hearing to delay at present. Additionally, it is unclear exactly what violation of a tariff, statute, rule, order, or decision within the Commission’s jurisdiction Peterson alleges that Liberty violated. Peterson’s complaint is, at best, amorphous.

On December 15, 2025, the Commission directed Liberty to answer Peterson’s complaint by January 30, 2025. Half that time has expired. Now Peterson seeks to delay this complaint to accommodate additional evidence, additional violations, and to allow for the entry of appearance for an unnamed entity. These are allegations and evidence that Liberty has not had an opportunity to analyze or answer.

The Commission will not grant an unbounded extension of time to allow for new allegations or an entry of appearance by an unnamed entity. Peterson is welcome to introduce additional evidence relevant to her existing complaint within the guidelines of the Commission’s discovery rules or to request permission to amend her complaint under the Commission’s procedural rules as appropriate. However, additional complaints should be filed as a new or amended complaint to allow Liberty an opportunity to respond.

Similar complaints involving common facts or questions of law could be consolidated or combined for hearing purposes in the future, if the Commission deems it appropriate.

Peterson's Party Status

Peterson's complaint states that she is elderly and resides with a disabled individual. Peterson states that she has a Power of Attorney (POA) authorizing her to act on behalf of that disabled individual. POAs generally allow the agent to take only those actions addressed by the POA. Therefore, the Commission will direct Peterson to file as a confidential document any POAs granting her authority to act on another individual's behalf.

It is also unclear what parts of the complaint are Peterson's alleged violations and what parts of the Complaint are violations alleged by the individual with whom Peterson resides. Accordingly, the Commission will direct Peterson to clarify what alleged violations are Peterson's and what alleged violations are those of the individual with whom she resides. Peterson will also be directed to clarify what tariff, law, or order Liberty has violated over which the Commission would have jurisdiction.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Peterson's request for an extension is denied.
2. Peterson shall confidentially file any POAs authorizing her to act on another's behalf in this case no later than January 8, 2026.
3. Peterson shall clarify what violations she is alleging, and what violations the individual she resides with is alleging no later than January 8, 2026.

4. Peterson shall respond with specificity explaining what tariff, statute, rule, order, or decision of the Commission that Liberty has violated no later than January 8, 2026.

5. This order is effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

John T. Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of December, 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 30th day of December 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 30, 2025

File/Case No. EC-2026-0150

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**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.