

**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.)	

MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL ORDERS

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and requests the Commission’s Order suspending procedural orders directed to Staff:

1. On December 15, 2025, Complainant filed her formal complaint. On December 16, 2025, the Commission ordered Staff to investigate and file a report no later than January 30, 2026. Subsequently, on December 30, 2025, the Commission denied a request for extension of hearing which the Complainant had filed. Therein the Commission noted that Complainant appeared to be acting both on her own behalf and on behalf of a person with whom she lived who had given her a power of attorney (POA). The Commission ordered the Complainant, no later than January 8, 2026, to confidentially file any POAs authorizing her to act on another’s behalf and to clarify what violations she is alleging and what violations the other individual is alleging.

2. The Complainant’s submissions filed through January 8, 2026, have been thoroughly reviewed. Upon review, Staff finds that they allege no actual facts which, if taken as true, would permit the Commission to find either that the meter in question is unsafe, unlawful, or otherwise in violation of any statute, Commission regulation, or tariff

within the Commission's jurisdiction to enforce, or that the Company's handling of this customer's service violated any such statute, regulation, or tariff. The submission does not identify any applicable tariff provision or regulatory requirement that was breached, nor does it allege measurable conditions, technical noncompliance, or specific conduct that would support such a finding. Instead, the allegations consist primarily of opinions, personal beliefs, interpretive assertions, and conclusory statements, rather than facts capable of supporting Commission findings.

3. As a result, the Complaint and the Complainant's subsequent filings give Staff no parameters or direction as to what to investigate and report on.

4. The situation may, of course, change. Staff, however, does not wish to find itself on January 30, 2026, explaining retrospectively why it has no recommendation to make. Staff believes that the better course is to alert the Commission early to the problem so that appropriate steps may be taken early. Again: Staff believes that this motion and its request to suspend orders now is the better use of Liberty's, the Commission's and Staff's time and resources.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that all procedural orders directed to Staff be suspended until further orders of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paul T. Graham

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Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public
Service Commission

Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies by his signature below that on January 8, 2026, he filed the above captioned pleading in the EFIS file of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

/s/ Paul T. Graham