

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Elizabeth Peterson, )  
 )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a )  
 Liberty, )  
 Respondent )

**Case No. EC-2026-0150**

## **NOTICE OF RULINGS AT PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Issue Date: January 16, 2026

On January 13, 2026, the Commission held a prehearing conference to discuss the nature of the alleged violations, the scope of this complaint, and the outstanding motion to stay this complaint. At the prehearing conference the Regulatory Law Judge sought to clarify the violations alleged in the Complaint. Complainant, Elizabeth Peterson, explained that the complaint before the Commission was her own complaint and not the complaint of an individual residing with her. Complainant explained that she did not want any meter with a circuit board at her residence, and she did not believe the opt-out meter that she would receive met the definition of a “traditional meter” contained in Section 386.820 RSMo. Complainant also expressed concern over the safety of extremely low frequency (ELF) electric and magnetic fields (EMF) related to a meter with a circuit board.

## Rulings

The Staff of Commission (Staff) filed a motion to stay the case pending clarification of the alleged violation. The Commission did not grant Staff's motion, but instead gave it until March 31, 2026, to file a report and recommendation about the complaint. Staff was

directed to investigate whether the opt-out meter that Complainant would receive would meet the definition of “traditional meter” and whether the installation of that meter would violate any applicable safety standards related to ELF and EMF, which The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty would be required to comply with.

Liberty was granted until January 30, 2026, to file an answer to the complaint. Liberty was also directed not to disconnect Complainant’s service for the meter issue during the pendency of the complaint. However, Complainant was informed that she was still responsible for payment for electric service charges during the pendency of the complaint.

The 100-day deadline to issue a report and order in this complaint was extended for good cause because the nature of the allegations were insufficiently clear for Staff to investigate or for Liberty to answer prior to the prehearing conference.

The above rulings were made at the prehearing conference pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090(6).

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.**



*Nancy Dippell*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**January 16, 2026**

**File/Case No. EC-2026-0150**

**MO PSC Staff**

Staff Counsel Department  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
staffcounselservice@psc.mo.gov

**Office of the Public Counsel**

(OPC)  
Marc Poston  
200 Madison Street, Suite 650  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
opcservice@opc.mo.gov

**Elizabeth Peterson**

Elizabeth Peterson  
1221 Euclid Ave.  
Joplin, MO 64801  
buffypeterson@hotmail.com

**Liberty (Empire)**

Dean Cooper  
312 East Capitol  
P.O. Box 456  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
dcooper@brydonlaw.com

**MO PSC Staff**

Paul Graham  
200 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
paul.graham@psc.mo.gov

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

***Sincerely,***

*Nancy Dippell*  
***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.