

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

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Empire District Electric Company d/b/a)
Liberty for an Order Granting Approval to) **Case No. EM-2026-0209**
Encumber Assets in Association with the)
DOE GRIP Program)

**ORDER DIRECTING EXPEDITED
STAFF REVIEW AND RESPONSES TO APPLICATION**

Issue Date: March 2, 2026

Effective Date: March 2, 2026

On February 27, 2026, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty filed an application seeking to encumber assets in relation to its application to participate in the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program, which could provide federal matching funds of up to 50% for certain utility projects. Liberty’s GRIP proposal is an initiative known as “Project DA” – which will deploy distribution automation (DA) equipment while also renewing and upgrading Liberty’s line and station infrastructure to support new DA functionalities. Liberty explains this will be a significant digitalization of its field operations.

The purpose of the application before this Commission is a grant funding requirement that requires the execution of a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) financing statement in favor of the DOE on the assets of the project. Liberty’s application states it has reached out to the Office of the Public Counsel, which has provided a letter of support included in the DOE grant submission. Liberty requested that the Commission act as soon as reasonably possible.

The Commission will direct its Staff (Staff) to file an expedited recommendation regarding the application. The Commission will also set a deadline for any other responses to Liberty's application.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. No later than March 17, 2026, Staff shall file a recommendation or a request for an extension of time.
2. Any other responses to Liberty's application shall be filed no later than March 17, 2026.
3. This order shall be effective when issued.

BY THE COMMISSION



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
On the 2nd day of March, 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 2nd day of March 2026.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 2, 2026

File/Case No. EM-2026-0209

MO PSC Staff

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

**Office of the Public Counsel
(OPC)**

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

Liberty (Empire)

Diana Carter
428 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 303
Jefferson City, MO 65101
diana.carter@libertyutilities.com

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.