

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

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire)	
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for)	<u>Case No. ER-2021-0312</u>
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for)	Tracking No. JE-2026-0098
Electric Service Provided to Customers in its)	
Missouri Service Area)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TARIFF SHEET

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through the undersigned counsel, and hereby respectfully submits this *Staff Recommendation to Approve Tariff Sheet* as follows:

1. On January 29, 2026, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (the “Company”) filed a tariff sheet for the Company’s Renewable Energy Purchase Program (“the Program”), tariff sheet PSC MO No. 6, Section 4, 8th Revised Sheet No. 7a. The submitted tariff sheet bore a proposed effective date of April 1, 2026, and was assigned Tariff Tracking No. JE-2026-0098.

2. The Commission issued its *Order Directing a Staff Tariff Recommendation and Setting Time for Responses* on January 30, 2026, directing Staff to file, no later than March 7, 2026, a recommendation regarding the proposed tariff sheet.

3. In the Company’s most recent general rate case, Case No. ER-2024-0261, tariff sheet PSC MO No. 6, Section 4, 8th Revised Sheet No. 7a became effective on February 20, 2026, increasing the renewable energy credit (“REC”) threshold from five percent to ten percent.

4. The Company subsequently filed a substitute tariff in this docket on February 23, 2026, tariff sheet PSC MO No. 6, Section 4, 9th Revised Sheet No. 7a, incorporating changes approved by the Commission in Case No. ER-2024-0261.

5. As reflected in Staff's Memorandum, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, Staff has reviewed the filing and recommends that the Commission approve the substitute tariff sheet filed on February 23, 2026, with an effective date of April 1, 2026.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the following tariff sheet, as substituted by the Company on February 23, 2026, with an effective date of April 1, 2026:

P.S.C. MO. No. 6, Section 4
9th Revised Sheet No. 7a Cancelling 8th Revised Sheet No. 7a

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

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**Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all parties and/or counsel of record as reflected on the certified service list maintained by the Commission in its Electronic Filing Information System this 5th day of March 2026.

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. ER-2021-0312, Tracking No. JE-2026-0098

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire District Electric Company,
d/b/a Liberty for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service
Provided to Customers in its Missouri Service Area

FROM: /s/ Amanda Arandia 03/05/2026
Staff Member / Date

SUBJECT: Renewable Energy Purchase Plan

DATE: March 5, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 29, 2026, Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Company”) filed a tariff sheet to update the Renewable Energy Purchase Program (“the Program”) rate, tariff sheet PSC MO No. 6, Section 4, 8th Revised Sheet No. 7a. The tariff was filed under Tracking No. JE-2026-0098, with an effective date of April 1, 2026.

On January 30, 2026, the Commission filed its *Order Directing a Staff Tariff Recommendation and Setting Time for Responses*, ordering Staff to file its recommendation no later than March 7, 2026.

On February 23, 2026, the Company submitted its substitute tariff sheet PSC MO No. 6, Section 4, 9th Revised Sheet No. 7a, with an effective date of April 1, 2026, incorporating changes approved by the Commission in Case No. ER-2024-0261 and the updated Program rate. The compliance tariffs in ER-2024-0261 were effective on February 20, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Company proposed its Renewable Energy Purchase Program in this rate case. The purpose of the Program is to offer non-residential customers the opportunity to offset their carbon emissions by up to 100% of their electricity consumption through the purchase of renewable energy credits (“RECs”). The Program was approved and took effect on June 1, 2022. The tariff

that took effect contains language requiring the Company to provide an annual update of the REC rate:

The rate will be updated on an annual basis. The rate for the RECs supplied under this Schedule will be calculated as the average weighted price for the Company's REC sales for the previous calendar year, beginning 12-months ending December 31, 2021. Subsequent and updated REC rates will be submitted as revisions to this Schedule by February 1st each year and shall become effective upon approval with the first billing cycle in April.¹

STAFF REVIEW

The substitute tariff sheet updates the REC rate, previously set at \$2.38 per 1,000 kWh, to reflect the RECs rate of \$2.19 per 1,000 kWh for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2025. Staff has reviewed the workpapers provided by the Company and agrees that \$2.19 is the weighted average for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the following tariff sheet, as substituted on February 23, 2026, to take effect on April 1, 2026:

PSC MO No. 6, Section 4

9th Revised Sheet No. 7a canceling the 8th Revised Sheet No. 7a

¹ PSC MO No. 6, Section 4, Revised Sheet No. 7.

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Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for) Tracking No. JE-2026-0098
Electric Service Provided to Customers in its)
Missouri Service Area)

AFFIDAVIT OF AMANDA ARANDIA

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)

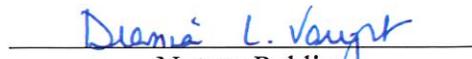
COMES NOW AMANDIA ARANDIA and on her oath declares that she is of sound mind and lawful age; that she contributed to the foregoing *Staff Recommendation, in Memorandum form*; and that the same is true and correct according to her best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.


AMANDA ARANDIA

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 3rd day of March 2026.


Notary Public

