

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

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire District Electric Company d/ba/ Liberty for an Order Granting Temporary Billing Variances))	<u>Case No. EE-2026-0065</u>
In the Matter of the Application of The Empire District Gas Company and Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. for an Order Granting Temporary Billing Variances))	<u>Case No. GE-2026-0066</u>
In the Matter of the Application of Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC for an Order Granting Temporary Billing Variances))	<u>Case No. WE-2026-0067</u>

**ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED MOTION
FOR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY VARIANCES**

Issue Date: April 23, 2026

Effective Date: May 3, 2026

On September 11, 2025, The Empire District Electric Company (EDE), The Empire District Gas Company (EDG), Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC (Missouri Water), and Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. (Midstates) (collectively, “Liberty” or “the Companies”) filed an Application for Temporary Variances, Request for Waiver, and Motion for Expedited Treatment.

Liberty is changing the handling of collective/joint customer billing to improve customer experience. Liberty states that one-time adjustments will be necessary to place certain accounts temporarily outside of the standard billing window (26-35 days). Thus, Liberty sought a six-month temporary variance from Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-

13.020(1) which, in conjunction with Rule 13.015(1)(C), provides that a billing period shall include usage of not less than 26 days nor more than 35 days.

Also, Liberty sought a six-month temporary variance from Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-13.020(6) which provides that, when a meter reading route or billing cycle is changed by 9 days or more, notice shall be provided to customers at least 15 days prior to the date a customer will receive a bill based on the new cycle.

Staff recommended the Commission approve the Application with certain conditions. On September 19, 2025, the Commission approved Liberty's application with Staff's recommended conditions.

On April 10, 2026, Liberty filed a Response to Commission Order and Unopposed Motion for Extension of Temporary Variances. Missouri Water and Midstates request an extension/continuation of the previously granted temporary variances from Commission Rules 13.020(1) and 13.020(6) to allow for Missouri Water and Midstates to complete the initial conversion processes for approximately 150 wastewater customers in Jackson, Missouri, and for approximately 100 Midstates customers. Liberty requests an additional 90 days to complete these processes. Liberty represented that neither the Commission's Staff nor the Office of the Public Counsel oppose the request.

Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240.2.080(13) allows parties ten days to respond to pleadings unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. The Commission issued no order

to the contrary, and more than ten days have elapsed since Liberty filed the motion. Thus, the Commission will take up the motion unopposed.

The Commission finds Liberty's request reasonable, and will grant it.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Liberty's motion is granted.
2. Missouri Water and Midstates are granted an additional 90-day variance, from the issue date of this order, from Commission Rules 20 CSR 4240-13.020(1) and 20 CSR 4240-13.020(6).
3. This order shall be effective on May 3, 2026.
4. This case shall be closed on May 4, 2026.



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

Ronald D. Pridgin, Deputy Chief
Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation
of authority pursuant to Section 386.240,
RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 23rd day of April, 2026.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Pursuant to 386.290, RSMo., 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 23rd day of April, 2026.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 23, 2026

Case No: EE-2026-0065, GE-2026-0066, and WE-2026-0067

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).¹

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

¹

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.