

**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        )  
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for     )  
Electric Service Provided to Customers In its     )  
Missouri Service Area                                 )

**Case No. ER-2024-0261**  
Tracking No. JE-2026-0123

**ORDER GRANTING STAFF’S REQUESTED EXTENSION  
AND FURTHER SUSPENDING TARIFF SHEETS**

Issue Date: May 4, 2026

Effective Date: May 4, 2026

The Commission, by prior order in this case, has approved the *Supplemental Stipulation and Agreement* (Supplemental Stipulation) pertaining to the rate increase request of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty. The Supplemental Stipulation sets forth a list of customer service and billing metrics that must be satisfactorily met for three consecutive months before any increase in rates is authorized. The tariff sheets to implement the rate increase have been filed and were assigned Tracking No. JE-2026-0123. The tariff sheets are currently suspended until June 4, 2026.<sup>1</sup>

The Supplemental Stipulation provides that the Staff of the Commission (Staff) shall file a recommendation regarding Liberty’s customer service and billing metrics. Liberty’s monthly metrics reports are to be filed no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month being reported (e.g. April’s report is to be filed no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>). To date, Liberty has filed three monthly reports – January, February, and March, with the March report being

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<sup>1</sup> All dates refer to 2026 unless otherwise stated.

filed on April 9. In the April 9 filing, Liberty contended that it has now satisfied the requirements of the Supplemental Stipulation and requested the conditioned rate increase be authorized. Staff was directed to file its recommendation regarding the first three months' reports no later than April 24.

On April 17, Staff filed an *Initial Report* addressing only the metrics for the month of January, stating its position that Liberty did not meet the metrics. Liberty responded disagreeing with Staff's position. The Office of the Public Counsel responded to both filings.

### **Staff's Request for Extension**

On April 27, Staff filed a request for an extension of time to file its three-month report. Staff stated that it is continuing its analysis and discussions with Liberty regarding the reports for February and March and requests an extension until June 8 to file its recommendation.

The Commission finds Staff's request for an extension to be reasonable. It was approximately two months between the filing of the January report and Staff's related recommendation, February 14 and April 16, respectively. Staff's requested extension would also provide approximately two months between the filing covering the month of March and its full recommendation, April 9 and June 8, respectively.

### **Liberty's Request for Ruling**

On April 28, Liberty filed a response to OPC's filing which included a request for a Commission ruling regarding January's metrics. Liberty also requested that should the Commission find in its favor, that it then direct Staff to file its report on the February and March metrics no later than May 15.

The Commission does not find it reasonable to issue a decision on a single month at this time but will take the request under advisement. There are due process considerations – evidence may need to be introduced or parties may request to supply briefs – either of which will entail a procedural schedule that will necessarily overlap the Staff’s work on, and deadline to file, its recommendations for the February and March reports. The Commission finds it more reasonable to wait until it has reports and recommendations for three months pursuant to the standard set by the Supplemental Stipulation. In taking Liberty’s request for a ruling under advisement and granting Staff’s request for an extension, the Commission finds Liberty’s request that Staff be ordered to file its recommendation by May 15 to be moot.

#### **Extension of Tariff Suspension**

Section 393.150, RSMo (2016), authorizes the Commission to suspend the effective date of proposed tariffs. The tariff sheets were originally filed on March 6 with an effective date of April 5, which was previously suspended until June 4. Due to the extension of time granted by this order for Staff to file its recommendation, the Commission will extend its suspension of the tariff sheets for an additional 30 days.

#### **Status Report**

The Commission will also direct Staff to file a status report on its progress.

#### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Staff’s request for an extension is granted. Staff shall file its recommendation no later than June 8, 2026.
2. Liberty’s request for a ruling pertaining only to its January report is taken under advisement.

3. The tariff sheets filed on March 6, 2026, and assigned Tracking No. JE-2026-0123 are suspended for an additional 30 days from June 4, 2026, to July 4, 2026.
4. No later than May 18, 2026, Staff shall file a Status Report regarding its progress.
5. 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 this 4th day of May, 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.



*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 4, 2026

**Case No: ER-2024-0261**

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

Sincerely,

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

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

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