The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty
Case No. EA-2025-0299
Office Public Counsel Data Request - 8543

Data Request Received: **2026-04-02** Response Date: 2026-04-14
Request No. 8543 Witness/Respondent: Shaen Rooney
Submitted by: John Robinett, John.Robinett@opc.mo.gov

REQUEST:

Since Liberty became aware of the strain in the turbine market has Liberty considered or looked at the availability of the other turbines that were originally part of the 1898 & Co. Report? If so, please provide a narrative explanation of Liberty's consideration of and ultimate decision with regards to each type of turbine.

RESPONSE:

Since identifying the rapidly increasing strain in the gas turbine manufacturing market in the fourth quarter of 2025, Liberty did not re-open or reassess the alternative generation technologies identified in the 1898 & Co. technology assessment. Those alternatives—including frame combustion turbines, aeroderivative combustion turbines, and reciprocating internal combustion engines—were evaluated as part of Liberty's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan and supporting screening-level studies, which established a frame combustion turbine as the least-cost feasible resource capable of meeting the Company's reliability, capacity, and compliance obligations. As market conditions evolved, Liberty's market observations indicated that near-term supply constraints were affecting all major forms of dispatchable generation equipment evaluated in that assessment, each of which depends on constrained manufacturing capacity, long-lead components, and limited vendor availability. Re-examining alternative technologies therefore would not have mitigated the risk of failing to achieve commercial operation by the SPP ERAS deadline, which is a fixed requirement tied to preserving interconnection rights and meeting the Company's resource adequacy obligations. Accordingly, Liberty focused its efforts on securing a viable execution path for the Commission-reviewed preferred resource plan rather than re-evaluating alternative turbine types subject to similar supply constraints.