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August 16, 2004

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED²
AUG 16 2004
Missouri Public
Service Commission

Re: Case No. ER-2004-0570

Dear Mr. Roberts:

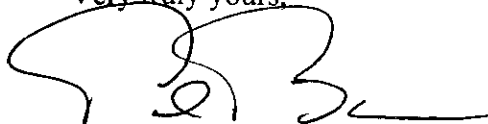
Enclosed for filing on behalf of The Empire District Electric Company, please find an original and eight (8) copies of a Notice of Rating Agency Bulletin in the above referenced case.

A copy of this filing will be provided to all parties of record.

Please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Paul A. Boudreau

PAB/lar

Enclosure

cc: John Coffman
Denny Frey
Stuart Conrad
Brian McCartney
Tom Byrne
Ron Molteni

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

AUG 16 2004

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the tariff filing of The)
Empire District Electric Company)
to implement a general rate increase for)
retail electric service provided to customers)
in its Missouri service area)

Case No. ER-2004-0570

NOTICE OF RATING AGENCY BULLETIN

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and notifies the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") of a rating agency bulletin concerning Empire's proposed Interim Energy Charge ("IEC").

1. On August 13, 2004, the Standard & Poor's Rating Services issued a bulletin concerning the Commission's August 11, 2004, Order Denying Motion to Lift Suspension of IEC Tariff (the "Bulletin"). A copy of the Bulletin is marked Appendix A attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes.

2. As has been Empire's past practice concerning news and statements published about the company, a copy of the Bulletin was forwarded electronically to a number of the Commissioners, members of the Commission's Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel this morning. This has been a routine practice, the purpose of which has been to keep the Commission informed of developments in the financial community as they may effect Empire.

3. Because the subject matter of the Bulletin is an Order of the Commission addressing an issue in this case, a copy is being filed of record in this proceeding this date and provided to all parties of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing was, on this 16th day of August, 2004, sent via electronic mail, U.S. Postage, or hand delivered, to all parties of record.



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Standard & Poor's is pleased to provide ongoing service to the investment community.

BULLETIN: Regulators' Denial of Early Fuel Charge Deters From Empire District's Credit Quality Barbara A Eiseman, New York (1) 212-438-7666

NEW YORK (Standard & Poor's) Aug. 13, 2004--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said today that the Missouri Public Service Commission's denial of Empire District Electric Co.'s (BBB/Stable/A-2) request for early implementation of the proposed interim energy charge (IEC) is unfavorable for Empire District's credit quality. The IEC remains part of a general rate case, which is expected to conclude during the first quarter of 2005. The company had sought early implementation of the IEC due to the escalating and volatile cost of natural gas used to generate power and its impact on purchased power. Because there is no fuel adjustment clause in Missouri, early reinstatement of the IEC would have enhanced Empire District's somewhat weak, albeit improving, financial profile.

For a complete list of ratings, please click the hyperlink provided here

<http://www2.standardandpoors.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=sp/Page/FixedIncomeRatingActions>
Pg

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