

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

Christoper Perkin,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<u>Case No. EC-2026-0309</u>
	)	
The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a,	)	
Liberty,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

STAFF'S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and submits this Status Report:

1. On May 5, 2026, Christopher Perkin filed a formal complaint against The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty. On May 6, 2026, the Commission issued its Order Giving Notice of Complaint and Directing Response. That order directed Liberty to file its response no later than June 5, 2026, and directed Staff to file a report or alternative pleading no later than June 19, 2026.

2. The complaint concerns Liberty's handling of Complainant's solar and battery system under Liberty's net metering tariff. Complainant alleges that Liberty acted beyond its filed tariff by imposing requirements concerning access, shutdown or lockout, dog restraint, and inspection or permission-to-operate procedures that Complainant contends are not contained in Liberty's Net Metering Rider. Complainant requests that the Commission require Liberty to allow operation of the solar and battery system upon

completion of required inspection or permission to operate; prohibit Liberty from enforcing alleged non-tariff access and lockout requirements; require compliance with Rider NM and applicable Commission rules; and investigate Liberty's net-metering and interconnection practices.

3. Liberty filed its Answer on June 4, 2026. Liberty denies wrongdoing and denies that it acted outside its tariff or imposed improper requirements. Liberty asserts that Complainant's solar and battery system was observed operating and backfeeding energy onto Liberty's distribution system without final approval, and that such operation violated Commission rules and Liberty's tariffed interconnection standards. Liberty further asserts that its tariff requires access to Company-owned meters and associated equipment, that access to the disconnect device was impeded, and that Liberty's actions were justified by safety, reliability, and interconnection concerns. Liberty asks that the complaint be dismissed or denied.

4. Complainant thereafter filed a Reply disputing Liberty's allegations that the system created a safety hazard, was improperly operating, or created a material risk to Liberty personnel or the public. Complainant asserts that Liberty has not produced meter data, technician notes, photographs, engineering analysis, dispatch records, or other documentation supporting its allegations of backfeed, unauthorized operation, inadvertent energization, or safety concerns. Complainant further contends that factual disputes remain unresolved and requests that Liberty identify the specific tariff provisions supporting the alleged 21-day lockout requirement, mandatory relocation of disconnect equipment

outside fenced areas, the alleged safety hazard, and Liberty's allegations of unauthorized operation.

5. Staff's investigation is ongoing. In connection with that investigation, Staff has promulgated two data requests. Responses to those data requests are due on June 21, 2026.

6. Depending upon the responses to those data requests, further data requests and additional investigation may be necessary before Staff can complete its investigation and make an informed recommendation to the Commission.

7. Staff therefore suggests that the Commission establish August 21, 2026, as the deadline for Staff to file its Report and Recommendation.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this Status Report and requests that the Commission will accept it as compliant with the Commission's orders.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paul T. Graham
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 18th day of June, 2026.

/s/ Paul T. Graham