

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company’s Submission of Its 2015 RES)
Compliance Report and Its 2016 Compliance Plan)
File No. EO-2016-0279

**STAFF REPORT ON THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY’S
CALENDAR YEAR 2015 RES COMPLIANCE REPORT**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through undersigned counsel, and submits its *Staff Report On The Empire District Electric Company’s Calendar Year 2015 RES Compliance Report* to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission). In support thereof, Staff states:

1. On April 15, 2016, The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire” or “Company”) filed its 2015 Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Compliance Report (2015 Compliance Report) for calendar year 2015 as required by rule.¹

2. Commission rule 4 CSR 240-20.100(8) states:

...Each electric utility shall file an RES compliance report no later than April 15 to report on the status of both its compliance with the RES [renewable energy standard] and its compliance plan as described in this section for the most recently completed calendar year...

3. Rule 4 CSR 240-20.100(8)(A) specifies what information the utility must provide in its annual RES Compliance Report.

4. Rule 4 CSR 240-20.100(8)(D) provides that:

The staff of the commission shall examine each electric utility’s annual RES compliance report and RES compliance plan and file a report of its review with the commission within forty-five (45) days of the filing of the annual RES compliance report and RES compliance plan with the commission. The staff’s report shall identify any deficiencies in the electric utility’s compliance with the RES.

¹ That same day Empire also filed its 2016 Renewable Energy Standard Compliance Plan for calendar years 2016 – 2018.

5. On April 19, 2016, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice And Setting Filing Deadline*, directing the Staff to file a report of its review of the Company's 2015 Compliance Report no later than May 30, 2016, forty-one (41) days from the Company's filing.

6. Staff has conducted its review of Empire's 2015 RES Compliance Report and has identified no deficiencies in the Company's 2015 RES Compliance Report. Staff's report is contained in its *Memorandum*, attached hereto as Attachment A and incorporated herein.

7. Staff notes the Commission has granted intervention in this matter to Missouri Department of Economic Development – Division of Energy and Earth Island Institute d/b/a Renew Missouri.

8. The Staff is unaware of any other case currently pending before the Commission that will affect or be affected by a decision in this file.

WHEREFORE, the Staff submits its report for the Commission's information and consideration regarding Empire's 2015 RES Compliance Report.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 25th day of May, 2016, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin