00001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

In the Matter of the Empire)
District Electric Company)
d/b/a Liberty's Application)
for Approval of New or) Case No.: ET-2026-0184
Modified Tariffs for Service)
to Large Load Customers)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026
1:00 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 1
PAGE 1

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL,
COMMISSIONERS

Transcribed by:

Lynn Mutava

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. It is now 1 o'clock, so why don't we go on the record? We don't have a court reporter for these kinds of things anymore.

What we generally do is it's being recorded and then it will be sent out to be transcribed and that transcription will be put into the case.

Today's date is October 16th of 2026 and the current time is 1:00 p.m. This hearing is being held via Webex for the convenience of the parties and is captioned as, "In the matter of the Empire District Electric Company doing business as Liberty's application for approval of new or modified tariffs for service to large load customers."

And that is case number ET-2026-0184. My name is John Clark and I'm the regulatory judge overseeing this matter.

At this time I'm going to ask attorneys to enter their appearance for the record, starting with Liberty.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. Kevin Thompson, Brydon, Swearengen & England. And that address is on file. Appearing for Liberty.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. On behalf of the Commission Staff.

MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. Travis

Pringle and Andrea Hansen on behalf of Staff. Our information is also already in the docket. Sarah Lange from Staff is also on the call.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Anyone on behalf of the Office of Public Counsel? Hearing none. And I will just call them. There were a number of applications to intervene filed. Geronimo Power, LLC? Missouri Energy Consumers Group or MECG. Google?

MR. CLIZER: Excuse me, Your Honor. Apologies, it took me a minute to get in line. Can you hear me now?

JUDGE CLARK: I can.

MR. CLIZER: I apologize again. John Clizer on behalf of OPC. Entry of appearance.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Clizer. Glad you could join us.

MR. CLIZER: Yes.

JUDGE CLARK: Renew Missouri.

MS. MERS: Nicole Mers on behalf of Renew Missouri. And my information is in the record. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Mers. I'm going to kind of Staff had requested a --

MR. SCHULTE: Judge, sorry, you called Google and then Mr. Clizer jumped in. But Andrew

Schulte is here on behalf of Google. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Schulte and for bringing that to my attention. I'll note that you're here for the record.

Staff had requested that this be set for the 14th, but I was not sure we weren't still going to be in a rate case hearing on the 14th and this time worked for the party. So I appreciate you making this time work.

I remind everyone that as the presiding officer I can rule on both procedural and substantive issues at a pre-hearing conference such as this pursuant to 20 CSR 424-2090 subsection 6.

Now, this was called, I believe to address two different things essentially. I had, I believe, ordered a -- I had suspended the tariffs filed with this until February 8th of 2027. And then I had, I believe, ordered a Staff rec.

And the response I received is that rather than doing a Staff rec that the parties wanted to do it similar to was done in Ameren's large load case, which I believe is ET-2025-0184. Is that correct?

MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Why don't we address things. I'll start with the interventions.

Geronimo Power filed an application intervene but they have also since moved to withdraw that application and I'm going to allow them to withdraw that application.

MECG, Google, and Renew also filed timely application. Well, filed timely applications to intervene. Are there any objections to admitting those parties into this case?

MR. PRINGLE: None from Staff, Judge.

MR. THOMPSON: None from the Company.

JUDGE CLARK: Public Counsel?

MR. CLIZER: No, we have no objection. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Then I will grant intervention to MECG, Google, and Renew.

So, Staff, since you teed this up for me, and I am not fully -- while I was heavily involved in both previous large load cases, not always from the beginning.

And so why don't you kind of fill me in on what was done with the procedural schedule. My understanding from reading your motion is that essentially a staff rec would be included as a date within the procedural schedule.

MR. PRINGLE: Yeah, that's correct,

Judge. It'd be similar to the approach that was taken in both Ameren and Evergy where rather than a separate Staff rec, we would have the opportunity for Staff and also all the intervening parties OPC to pretty much file rebuttal testimony responding to the application.

JUDGE CLARK: I have no objection to any of that. I think that that works very well. Is there any other party opposed to that?

MR. THOMPSON: Judge, the Company is not opposed, but I would just like to say that we would like a decision by the end of January if at all possible.

JUDGE CLARK: I suspended it to just beyond that. It's out of safeties. I know that you want this decision by the end of January and it is generally -- I generally make best efforts to accommodate the aspirational times of parties.

So I will do my best to accommodate that. At the same time, I'll remind you, Mr. Thompson, that we currently have a number of pending rate cases. I think more than we've had in a while and we have a limited number of judges at this time.

MR. THOMPSON: I understand, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: We also have a number of rulemaking hearings. But a large load case is a significant case and I'll certainly try to accommodate

that. But I'm going to leave it to you all to put together proposed procedural schedule on behalf of the parties -- or to put together proposed procedural schedule.

I'm going to ask Staff to submit it on behalf of the parties. And hopefully, if you have a target date within that, the procedural schedule will contemplate that date.

However, if we have to go to hearing, bear in mind that may change. And I still have, at least according to my calculations, additional time that the tariff could be suspended if necessary.

But I will try and accommodate that date. So what is a date by which Staff, Public Counsel, the Company and the interveners believe they can submit a joint for both procedural schedule? How much time do you think is necessary? Especially if we're trying to get the ball rolling.

MR. PRINGLE: I think from Staff's perspective, I think we could get one filed by the end of the month.

JUDGE CLARK: Would that work for the Company?

MR. THOMPSON: I'm sure we can do by the end of the month but we've already been passing dates

back and forth.

JUDGE CLARK: Say that again.

MR. THOMPSON: We can certainly do end of the month.

JUDGE CLARK: I can set a deadline. You guys are always welcome to file it earlier. I have no issues with that.

MR. PRINGLE: Yeah, I think end of the month would be the latest. Like Mr. Thompson pointed out, we have been exchanging dates, so.

JUDGE CLARK: October 30?

MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. All right. I will issue an order. It may not be today, it may be Monday. I'm working from home today, and my daughter is drawing somewhere behind me.

MR. THOMPSON: Judge, if I --

JUDGE CLARK: For additional work. Modifying my rules at this procedural conference, both granting the applications to intervene, granting the request to withdraw an application to intervene, and setting a deadline for a procedural schedule.

Is there anything else that I need to take up in this conference?

MR. THOMPSON: Judge, there's some provac

(phonetic) VK.

JUDGE CLARK: There are, and I tend to look at those. When I issue this order, I will issue an order addressing that. You're correct. There were a couple filed.

I think one of those may be moot now. I'll look at it, and I just need to honestly just look over and see that they've met the requirements, and I'll include that in that order.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Good. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I had forgotten about that for a moment. Anything else?

MR. PRINGLE: Nothing from Staff at this time, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Company?

MR. THOMPSON: Nothing from me, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Public Counsel?

MR. CLIZER: No, thank you, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Google?

MR. SCHULTE: No, thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Renew?

MS. MERS: No, thank you for your time.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I'll just go ahead and try and kick out an order today just so that

everything is -- so that nobody's waiting over the weekend.

All right. Thank you very much. With that said, we'll go off the record and adjourn this procedural conference.

MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge.

(End of audio recording.)

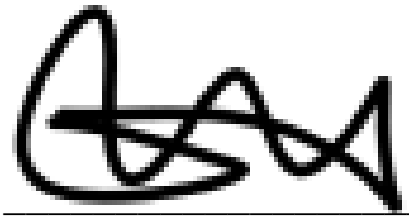
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