

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

In the Matter of The Empire)	
District Electric Company's Request)	<u>File No. ER-2016-0023</u>
For Authority to Implement a General)	Tracking No.: YE-2016-0104
Rate Increase for Electric Service)	

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO EXTEND FILING DEADLINES

Issue Date: April 25, 2016

Effective Date: April 25, 2016

On April 21, 2016, The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), on behalf of all the parties excepting the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"), filed a *Motion to Extend Filing Deadlines*. The Motion requests an extension of the deadlines for the filing of rebuttal testimony (from April 27 to May 2), surrebuttal testimony (from May 13 to May 16), and the final reconciliation (from May 17 to May 18). Movants are requesting the extensions to allow more time for settlement discussions. The Motion does not seek to extend the deadlines for the filing of an issues list or position statement.

On April 25, OPC filed a response objecting to the Motion. OPC states that it does not intend to settle issues in the case until after the filing of rebuttal testimony. OPC does not state a specific objection to the requested extensions for the filing of surrebuttal testimony and the final reconciliation. As for the rebuttal testimony, Empire's Motion only seeks to extend the deadline for rebuttal testimony by three business days. Granting the Motion will not harm the ability of the parties to prepare for the evidentiary hearing, set to begin on May 31. Nor will it harm the ability of the parties to conduct meaningful settlement discussions. Having reviewed the filings, the Commission finds the Motion to be reasonable.

The Commission will grant the Motion and extend the deadline for the filing of rebuttal testimony, surrebuttal testimony, and the final reconciliation.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The *Motion to Extend Filing Deadlines* is granted.
2. The deadline for the filing of rebuttal testimony is extended to May 2, 2016.
3. The deadline for the filing of surrebuttal testimony is extended to May 16, 2016.
4. The deadline for the filing of the final reconciliation is extended to May 18, 2016.
5. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Kim S. Burton, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 25th day of April, 2016.