

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric	)	
Company of Joplin, Missouri Tariffs	)	
Increasing Rates for Electric Service	)	<b><u>File No. ER-2012-0345</u></b>
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service	)	
Area of the Company	)	

**ORDER DIRECTING FILING**

Issue Date: February 11, 2013

Effective Date: February 11, 2013

On February 8, 2013, the Staff of the Commission filed on behalf of all parties a *List of Issues and Order of Witnesses, Cross, and Openings*. However, the parties did not identify any witnesses to testify on Tuesday February 19, 2013 concerning policy issues, on Tuesday February 26 concerning bad debt expenses and pay station fees, and on Wednesday February 27 concerning an economic development rider. The Commission will direct the filing of witness names for those issues. The Commission will also require that the parties provide additional detail regarding the order in which witnesses will testify for each hearing day.

In the past, the Commission has found it helpful for the parties to make short opening statements during the hearing for each major group of issues, rather than a lengthy opening statement covering all issues at the beginning of the hearing. In addition to a general opening statement, the parties will be directed to make short opening statements on the topics of rate of return, rate base, statement of operating income, and rate design.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The parties shall identify witnesses for the issues listed in the body of this order and provide additional detail concerning the order of witnesses no later than February 14, 2013.
2. The parties shall make a general opening statement on the first day of the evidentiary hearing, and shall make short opening statements regarding rate of return, rate base, statement of operating income, and rate design thereafter during the hearing prior to offering witness testimony on those issues.
3. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Shelley Brueggemann  
Acting Secretary

( S E A L )

Michael Bushmann, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.