

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

In the Matter of The Empire District)
Electric Company’s Request for Authority)
to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric)
Service Provided to Customers in its)
Missouri Service Area)
Case No. ER-2019-0374

**PUBLIC COUNSEL’S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO
THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY’S
MOTION FOR RELIEF REGARDING POSITION STATEMENTS**

COMES NOW the Office of Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and responds in opposition to The Empire District Electric Company’s *Motion for Relief Regarding Position Statements* as follows:

1. Public Counsel joined in the joint motion to extend certain filing dates and cancel the evidentiary hearing, but Public Counsel expected that the Commissioners might ask questions of the parties and have them answered on the record and, further, that the Commissioners would want to be informed by the parties of their positions on their issues to be better informed before the Commissioners posed such questions.

2. By including the April 14, 2020, date for filing position statements in its April 8, 2020, *Order Suspending the Evidentiary Hearing, Modifying the Evidentiary Hearing, Modifying the Procedural Schedule, and Delegating Authority to the Regulatory Law Judge* the Commission has confirmed Public Counsel’s expectation.

3. It is Public Counsel’s desire and intention to inform the Commission of Public Counsel’s positions on its issues in this case before the Commission receives evidence to assist the Commission in hearing this case and, therefore, Public Counsel not only opposes Empire’s motion, Public Counsel is encouraged that the Commission has ordered the parties to file position statements.

