

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

In the Matter of Application of The Empire )  
District Electric Company for Approval of Its )  
Customer Savings Plan )

**Case No. EO-2018-0092**

**STAFF RESPONSE TO JOINT MOTION REQUESTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its response to the joint request for a local public hearing filed by Office of Public Counsel and City of Joplin, states as follows:

1. On December 29, 2017, the Office of Public Counsel and City of Joplin (“Movants”) filed a request to hold a local public hearing regarding The Empire District Electric Company’s (“Empire”) application for approval of its Customer Savings Plan.

2. In response to this request, Staff points out that the Commission typically does not hold local public hearings for such an application filing and notes that the Commission’s rules do not provide for or require that a local public hearing be held in this matter.

3. Further, Movants failed to provide justification or support for the Commission to order that a local public hearing be held. At a minimum, Movants should justify their request.

4. In the event the Commission should grant Movants’ request it should require Empire to provide sufficient notice to the public in advance of any date set for a local public hearing.

**WHEREFORE**, for the above-stated reasons, Staff prays the Commission accept its response to Movants' request and order any such relief as deemed just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Robert S. Berlin**

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2018.

**/s/ Robert S. Berlin**