

**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 )  
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service )  
Area of the Company )

**File No. ER-2012-0345**

**ORDER SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: February 15, 2013

Effective Date: February 15, 2013

On February 15, 2013, The Empire District Electric Company and the Staff of the Commission filed a joint motion asking the Commission to suspend the remaining procedural schedule. The motion explains that the parties have reached an agreement in principle and are drafting a written stipulation and agreement that will resolve all issues in this case. They anticipate filing the stipulation and agreement no later than February 22, 2013. Staff represents that the Office of the Public Counsel, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Midwest Energy Users' Association, the Midwest Energy Consumers Group, and Southern Union Company d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy do not object to the requested suspension of the procedural schedule.

The evidentiary hearing is set to begin on February 19, 2013. Given the apparent agreement of the parties, there is no need to maintain the procedural schedule. The procedural schedule will be suspended indefinitely as requested. Of course, if the parties are not able to finalize an agreement that is acceptable to the Commission, the hearing will need to be rescheduled at a time that allows the Commission to approve or reject Empire's rate increase request before the June 3, 2013 operation of law date.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The procedural schedule for this case is suspended until further order of the Commission.
2. This order shall become effective on February 15, 2013.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.