

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2021.

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire )  
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for )  
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for )  
Electric Service Provided to Customers in )  
its Missouri Service Area )

**File No. ER-2021-0312**  
Tracking No. JE-2021-0211

**ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Issue Date: September 1, 2021

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) submitted tariff sheets to implement a general rate increase to Liberty's gross annual electric revenues. The Commission suspended the tariff sheets until April 25, 2022, to give it time to consider the tariff sheets. On August 4, 2021, the Commission issued an order setting a procedural schedule, including an evidentiary hearing, but did not set a schedule for local public hearings. The Commission directed the parties to file dates for two local public hearings. Prior to the filing of proposed dates for local public hearings, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a recommendation that the Commission reserve time for a third local public hearing because of the significant attendance at local public hearings in Liberty's last rate case. The Commission informally requested that the parties file alternative dates for three local public hearings. The Office of the Public Counsel responded with proposed dates for the week of November 14.

The Commission will now set the local public hearings. The Commission will hold these hearings via video and telephone conference and will explain how written

comments can be submitted. The Commission will also direct Liberty to provide notice of the local public hearings to their electric customers.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make an informal presentation and conduct a question-and-answer session for the public at the beginning of each local public hearing. Comments to the Commission from the public will begin at the conclusion of the question and answer session.

2. Liberty, the Staff of the Commission, and the Office of the Public Counsel shall each make a representative available to address substantive issues during the question-and-answer sessions at the beginning of each local public hearing. Those parties shall also make a short statement at the beginning of the question-and-answer session outlining their current assessment of the case. Any other party may have a representative present and may make a short statement at the beginning of the question-and-answer session.

3. No later than ten days before the local public hearings, Liberty shall provide notice of the hearings to each of its customers. The approved notice is attached to this order as Attachment A.

4. Any person may comment at any of the hearings. To facilitate an orderly presentation that can be preserved for the record, members of the public who wish to participate in the hearing shall sign-up by sending their first and last name, phone number, email address, and the hearing they wish to attend to [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov), or by calling (800) 392-4211 by 5:00 p.m. the day before the hearing.

5. A live audio web stream at the Commission’s website, [www.psc.mo.gov](http://www.psc.mo.gov), will provide audio of the hearing. Those who do not intend to participate in the hearing should listen via the web stream.

6. To attend the hearing by telephone, at the time of the hearing call toll free 1-855-718-6621, listen to the prompt and enter the meeting number set out below, followed by # (pound/hashtag symbol). If prompted for a password, enter 0312. To attend by video/internet visit the website at [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com) or download the Cisco WebEx Meetings application. At hearing time, enter the corresponding access code and password listed below.

7. Local Public Hearings shall be held as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>At the time of the hearing, dial 1-855-718-6621 and enter the Access Code/Password</b>
November 15, 2021	12:00 p.m.	Access Code: 1778 21 4312 Password: 0312
November 17, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Access Code: 1776 00 3784 Password: 0312
November 18, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Access Code: 1776 48 0348 Password: 0312

8. Any persons needing special accommodations to participate in the hearing as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline 1-800-392-4211 or TDD Hotline 1-800-829-7541.

9. Comments may also be submitted to the Commission in writing by mailing the comment to the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or electronically using the Commission’s electronic filing system at

[https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit\\_Comments](https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments). When submitting comments please reference File No. ER-2021-0312.

10. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make notice of this order available to the members of the media and the General Assembly representing customers in Liberty's service area.

11. The Commission's Data Center shall provide a copy of this order to the county commission for each county in Liberty's service area.

12. 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

Silvey, Chm., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman, and  
Kolkmeier CC., concur.

Clark, Senior Regulatory Judge

**NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS  
ON LIBERTY’S ELECTRIC RATES**

On May 28, 2021, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a. Liberty filed a general rate request with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”). Liberty is seeking in this proceeding to increase its annual gross revenues by \$79.9 million, or approximately 12.15%. If the Commission allows Liberty to recover its Storm Uri costs in Case No. EO-2022-0040, then Liberty will stop seeking to recover them in this case. Removing those costs from this case would reduce Liberty’s request by \$29.9 million to \$50.0 million, or approximately 7.61%. As part of this proceeding, Liberty is proposing to increase its fixed residential customer charge from \$13.00 per month to \$16.00 per month.

Excluding Storm Uri costs, for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, Liberty’s proposed increase is approximately \$12.76 each month, or 9.64% percent. If Storm Uri costs are not included, Liberty estimates that the proposed rate increase will have the following annual bill impacts:

<b>Customer Class</b>	<b>Proposed Average Annual Impact</b>	
	<b>Bill Change \$</b>	<b>Bill Change %</b>
RG-Residential	\$160	9.3%
CB-Commercial*	\$305	12.3%
Small Heating**	\$394	12.7%

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, for public safety, rather than holding in-person local public hearings, the Commission is holding virtual question and answer sessions followed by local public hearings where members of the public may participate by WebEx video or by telephone. The Commission has scheduled question and answer sessions to begin at noon, Monday, November 15, 2021, and at 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 17, 2021, and at 6:00 P.M. Thursday November 18, 2021. Each will be followed by WebEx video and telephone conference local public hearings where anyone may appear, testify, and/or provide documents to the Commission for its consideration in this general electric rate case.

To facilitate an orderly hearing, any member of the public who wishes to testify at a local public hearing should register to do so by sending his/her first and last name to pscinfo@psc.mo.gov, or by calling (800) 392-4211 by 5:00 p.m. no later than the last business day before the hearing. By Friday, November 12, 2021, for the November 15, 2021, local public hearing and by Tuesday, November 16, 2021, for the November 17, 2021, local public hearing.

\* Based on average usage of 1,430 kWh per month.  
\*\* Based on average usage of 2,080 kWh per month

To attend one of the local public hearings, please refer to the following chart:

Date	Start Time	<b>At the time of the hearing, dial 1-855-718-6621 and enter the Access Code/Password</b>
November 15, 2021	12:00 P.M.	Access Code: 1778 21 4312 Password: 0312
November 17, 2021	6:00 P.M.	Access Code: 1776 00 3784 Password: 0312
November 18, 2021	6:00 P.M.	Access Code: 1776 48 0348 Password: 0312

Anyone wishing to comment on, or inquire about, Liberty's requests may also do so by contacting the Staff of the Commission and/or the Office of the Public Counsel:

**Commission Staff**

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 Telephone: 1-800-392-4211

E-mail: [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov)

Public comments may be submitted at [https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit\\_Comments](https://psc.mo.gov/General/Submit_Comments) (please reference case number ER-2021-0312)

**Office of the Public Counsel**

P.O. Box 2230

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Telephone: 573-751-4857 or toll-free at 866-922-2959

E-mail: [opcservice@opc.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@opc.mo.gov)

Generally, parties can see comments, but commenting does not make the comment evidence upon which the Commission can rely for making its decisions.

The Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing from January 31 through February 10, 2022, at the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, for parties in this case to present their evidence to the Commission for its decision. This hearing is open to the public, except portions the Commission may close to protect the dissemination of nonpublic information. The evidentiary hearing will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If someone needs additional accommodations to participate in or attend any local public hearing or the evidentiary hearing, please call the Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing. The evidentiary hearing will also be streamed live on the Commission's website at <https://psc.mo.gov/>.


**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2021.**



  
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**Morris L. Woodruff**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**September 1, 2021**

**File/Case No. ER-2021-0312**

**Missouri Public Service Commission**

Staff Counsel Department  
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P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

**Office of the Public Counsel**

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Jefferson City, MO 65102  
opcservice@opc.mo.gov

**City of Ozark, Missouri**

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doug@healylawoffices.com

**City of Ozark, Missouri**

Terry M Jarrett  
3010 East Battlefield, Suite A  
Springfield, MO 65804  
terry@healylawoffices.com

**County of Barry, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
700 Main, Suite 2  
Barry County Courthouse  
Cassville, MO 65625

**County of Barton, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1004 Gulf, Room 104  
Barton County Courthouse  
Lamar, MO 64759  
countyclerk@countyofbarton.com

**County of Cedar, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
113 South St., Cedar County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 665  
Stockton, MO 65785  
clerk@cedarcountymo.gov

**County of Christian, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
100 W Church, Rm. 206  
Christian County Courthouse  
Ozark, MO 65721  
kaybrown@christiancountymo.gov

**County of Dade, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
300 W Water St.  
Dade County Courthouse  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
dade@sos.mo.gov

**County of Dallas, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
102 S Cedar, Dallas County Admin.  
Bldg.  
PO Box 436  
Buffalo, MO 65622  
dallas@sos.mo.gov

**County of Greene, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
940 Boonville, Rm. 113  
Greene County Courthouse  
Springfield, MO 65802  
SSchoeller@greencountymo.gov

**County of Hickory, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
Hickory County Courthouse, Spring  
and Dallas  
P.O. Box 3  
Hermitage, MO 65668  
countyclerk@hickorycomo.com

**County of Jasper, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
302 S Main St., Rm 102  
Jasper County Courthouse  
Carthage, MO 64836  
jbartosh@jaspercountymo.gov

**County of Lawrence, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1 E Courthouse Sq., Ste. 101  
Lawrence County Courthouse  
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712  
lawrence@sos.mo.gov

**County of McDonald, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
602 Main St., McDonald Co.  
Courthouse  
PO Box 665  
Pineville, MO 64856  
mcdonald@sos.mo.gov

**County of Newton, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
101 S. Wood St. Newton County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 488  
Neosho, MO 64850  
newton@sos.mo.gov

**County of Polk, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
102 E Broadway, Rm 11  
Polk County Courthouse  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
clerk@polkcountymo.org

**County of St. Clair, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
655 Second St., St. Clair County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 525  
Osceola, MO 64776  
stclair@sos.mo.gov



**County of Stone, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
PO Box 45  
Stone County Courthouse  
Galena, MO 65656  
scocelmore@gmail.com

**County of Taney, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
PO Box 156  
Forsyth, MO 65653  
donna.neeley@co.taney.mo.us

**Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association, LLC**

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**Empire District Retired Members & Spouses Association, LLC**

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**Missouri Public Service Commission**

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Jefferson City, MO 65102  
nicole.mers@psc.mo.gov

**Renew Missouri**

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Columbia, MO 65202  
tim@renewmo.org

**The Empire District Electric Company SERP Retirees, LLC**

David Woodsmall  
308 E. High Street, Suite 204  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
david.woodsmall@woodsmalllaw.com

**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

*Sincerely,*



**Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.