

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

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire     )  
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for     )  
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for     )     **File No. ER-2021-0312**  
Electric Service Provided to Customers in its     )  
Missouri Service Area                             )

**STAFF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR  
NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**COMES NOW** Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through the undersigned counsel, and for its filing submits proposed language for the attached Notice of Local Public Hearings regarding Liberty’s general rate increase request, as directed by the Commission in its August 24, 2021 *Order Directing Responses Regarding Local Public Hearings*.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff files this *Staff Submission of Proposed Language for Notice of Local Public Hearings* for the Commission’s information and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

**/s/ Travis J. Pringle**

Travis J. Pringle  
Associate Counsel  
Missouri Bar No. 71128  
Attorney for the Staff of the  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-4140 (Voice)  
573-751-9285 (Fax)  
[travis.pringle@psc.mo.gov](mailto:travis.pringle@psc.mo.gov)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record this 30th day of August, 2021.

**/s/ Travis J. Pringle**

## 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 \$50.0 million (\$79.9 million less \$29.9 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.

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. Liberty estimates that the proposed rate increase will have the following annual bill impacts:

Customer Class	Proposed Average Annual Impact	
	Bill Change \$	Bill Change %
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 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 15, 2021, and at noon, Wednesday, November 17, 2021, respectively. 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](mailto: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.

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

Date	Start Time	At the time of the hearing, dial ( ) and enter the Access Code/Password
November 15, 2021	12:00 P.M.	Access Code: Password:
November 17, 2021	6:00 P.M.	Access Code: Password:
November 18, 2021 (If necessary)		Access Code: Password:

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

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

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/>.