

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

In the Matter of Missouri-American Water	)	
Company's Request for Authority to	)	
Implement a General Rate Increase for	)	<b>File No. WR-2017-0285</b>
Water and Sewer Service Provided In	)	<b>File No. SR-2017-0286</b>
Missouri Service Areas	)	

**THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
**REQUEST TO BE EXCUSED**

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company ("*Empire*") and for its Request to Be Excused states as follows:

1. The Missouri Public Service Commission (the "Commission") has scheduled an evidentiary hearing in the above-referenced matter for February 23 through March 9, 2018.
2. Empire does not have any witnesses who will testify at the evidentiary hearing.
3. Empire now gives notice to the Commission that it does not intend to participate in the evidentiary hearing, and waives its right to cross examination of all witnesses appearing at the hearing.
4. Empire also waives its right to present opening statements at the evidentiary hearing.
5. Empire expressly reserves its right to file post-hearing briefs in accordance with the Procedural Schedule.

WHEREFORE, Empire respectfully requests that it be excused from the entire evidentiary hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharrock Dermott

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**ATTORNEY FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT  
ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pleading has been served by electronic means on all parties of record as reflected in the records maintained by the Secretary of the Commission through the EFIS system.

Dated: February 23, 2018

/s/ Sharrock Dermott

Sharrock Dermott