

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

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Empire District Electric Company for a) **File No. EN-2021-0038**
Name Change to The Empire District)
Electric Company d/b/a Liberty)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE NAME CHANGE

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), through the undersigned counsel, and hereby respectfully submits this *Staff Recommendation to Approve Name Change*:

1. On August 15, 2020, The Empire District Electric Company (“Company”) filed a *Notice of Fictitious Name Registrations*, notifying the Commission that the Company had registered the new fictitious name of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty. The Company also requested, to the extent required, approval of the use of the fictitious name pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.060(5).

2. The Commission ordered Staff to file a recommendation concerning the Company’s request no later than August 31, 2020.

3. Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.060(5) establishes filing requirements for certificated company name changes, and states:

(5) Except for telecommunications companies and providers of video services or interconnected voice over Internet protocol (IVoIP) services, a name change may be accomplished by filing the items below with a cover letter requesting a change of name. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, the items required herein may be filed by a nonattorney. Applications for approval of a change of name shall include:

(A) A statement, clearly setting out both the old name and the new name;

(B) Evidence of registration of the name change with the Missouri secretary of state; and

(C) Either an adoption notice and revised tariff title sheet with an effective date which is not fewer than thirty (30) days after the filing date of the application, or revised tariff sheets with an effective date which is not fewer than thirty (30) days after the filing date of the application.

4. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff herein states that the Company has complied with the rule, and recommends the Commission approve the name change. No entities intervened to oppose the name change. The Company is not delinquent in any required filings with the Commission.

5. Staff would also like to note that the tariff filing in this docket on August 17, 2020, was not submitted for approval in this docket; therefore, Staff does not recommend the Commission approve, or allow the tariffs go into effect as part of this case. The Commission is to decide on those tariffs in Case No. ER-2019-0374, and Staff is addressing its recommendation on the tariff books submitted in compliance with the Commission's order in that case.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission recognize the name change; and grant such other and further relief as it finds just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

Travis J. Pringle

Legal 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 (Telephone)

(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

Travis.Pringle@psc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 31st day of August 2020, to all parties and/or counsel of record.

/s/Travis J. Pringle