

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY**

April 7, 2000

CASE NO: EF-98-120

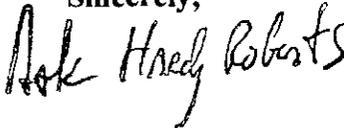
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Enclosed find certified copy of ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)
The Empire District Electric Company)
for Authority to Issue and Sell under)
Its Existing Indenture of Mortgage and)
Deed of Trust Dated as of September 1,)
1944, as Amended and Supplemented, up)
to and Including \$80,000,000 Principal)
Amount of its First Mortgage Bonds, in)
One or More Series and to, among Other)
Things, Execute and Deliver a)
Supplemental Indenture or Indentures to)
Provide for the Terms of Said Bonds.)

Case No. EF-98-120

ORDER DIRECTING FILING

On July 8, 1998, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) filed notice with the Commission in compliance with Ordered Paragraph No. 9 of the Commission's March 17, 1998 Order Approving Financing. Further, Empire informed the Commission that on April 28, 1998, it issued \$50 million of its First Mortgage Bonds as approved by the Commission in its March 17, 1998 order. Empire indicated that it would notify the Commission when it subsequently exhausted its \$80 million financing authorization.

On March 29, 2000, the Commission directed Empire to file a report with the Commission regarding the status of this case including the time expected before the transaction authorized by the Commission in its March 17, 1998 order will be complete. On April 5, 2000, Empire filed a status report indicating that it is not possible to specify when the financial transaction authorized, the issuance of

mortgage bonds, will be complete. Empire reported that there was remaining \$30 million of issuance authority still available for use by Empire. Empire suggested that this case could be closed so long as the Order Approving Financing is not canceled, rescinded or revoked. In addition, Empire suggested that post-closing filings could be filed directly with the Commission's financial analysis department.

The Commission would be aided by receiving a recommendation from the Staff of the Commission (Staff) regarding the status and Empire's proposal to close this case with post-closing filings being filed with Staff of the financial analysis department. Recommendations from any other party will be accepted as well.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Staff of the Commission shall file its recommendation no later than 4 p.m. on April 24, 2000. Any other party who wishes to comment shall file its recommendation no later than 4 p.m. on April 24, 2000.

2. That this order shall become effective on April 17, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Shelly A. Register, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 7th day of April, 2000.

**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 07th day of April 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge