

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

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire)
District Electric Company, The Empire District)
Gas Company, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural) Case No. AO-2018-0179
Gas) Corp., and Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water))
LLC for an Affiliate Transactions Rule Variance.)

STATUS REPORT

COME NOW The Empire District Electric Company (“Empire Electric”), The Empire District Gas Company (“Empire Gas”), Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. (“Liberty Midstates”), and Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC (“Liberty Utilities”) (collectively, the “Applicants”), by and through counsel, and, on behalf of all parties to this proceeding (the Applicants, Staff, and the Office of the Public Counsel), submit this Status Report. In this regard, the Applicants respectfully state as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”):

1. The Applicants filed their Application for Variance (“Application”) herein on December 29, 2017. In response to the direction of the Regulatory Law Judge at the Prehearing Conference held herein on April 12, 2018, the parties filed a Joint Response on April 19, 2018, describing how they proposed to proceed in this docket.
2. With the Joint Response, the parties suggested that, no later than May 31, 2018, Staff file a Memorandum Recommendation respecting the Application. In the Joint Response, the parties also requested until June 7, 2018, to advise the Commission whether discussions are occurring among the parties and should continue, or the parties will provide the Commission a proposed procedural schedule to be set by the Commission.

3. Staff filed its Memorandum Recommendation as directed, and the parties were given an additional seven days, to June 15, 2018, to provide a Status Report. The required Status Report was filed on June 14, 2018. At the request of the parties, the Commission directed the parties to notify the Commission of the status of the case by July 31, 2018.
4. Discussions continue to occur among the parties. The parties request until September 14, 2018, to again advise the Commission whether discussions are continuing to occur among the parties and should continue, or the parties will provide the Commission a proposed procedural schedule to be set by the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the Applicants respectfully submit this Status Report and request such relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By: /s/ Diana C. Carter
Diana C. Carter MBE #50527
312 E. Capitol Avenue; P. O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 635-7166
Fax: (573) 634-7431
E-Mail: DCarter@BrydonLaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing document was filed in EFIS on this 31st day of July, 2018, with notice of the same being sent to all counsel of record.

/s/ Diana C. Carter