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February 1, 2006

Ms. Colleen Dale  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Re: The Empire District Electric Company**

Dear Ms. Dale:

On behalf of The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire"), I am providing herewith to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") for filing in electronic form certain tariff sheets consisting of revised electric rate schedules which are designed to increase Empire's gross annual electric revenues by approximately \$29,513,713, exclusive of applicable gross receipts, sales, franchise or occupational fees or taxes. The rate schedules bear a date of issue of February 1, 2006, an effective date of March 3, 2006.

The proposed rate increase is driven, primarily, by higher costs of the fuel used by Empire in the generation of electricity. Other costs associated with providing safe and reliable electric service to Empire's customers have also increased since Empire's last rate adjustment.

Also provided in electronic form is a letter from David W. Gibson which sets forth a list of the rate schedules being provided and explains the purpose of the filing. Also included please find Empire's Minimum Filing Requirements in electronic form, as required by 4 CSR 240-3.030(3)(B).

In addition and in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.065(1), please find provided in electronic form the verified direct testimony and schedules of the following Empire witnesses: W.L. Gipson, Michael E. Palmer, Laurie Delano, Sherrill L. McCormack, Jayna R. Long, W. Scott Keith, Todd Tarter (NP) and Dr. James H. Vander Weide.

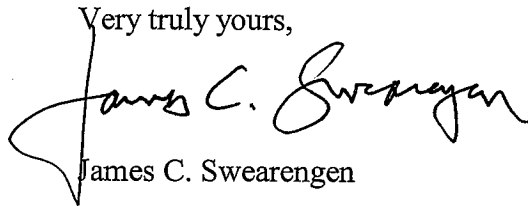
Please note that only the NP version of Mr. Tarter's testimony is being filed at this time. The Highly Confidential or HC version of his testimony will be filed when the Commission issues its customary Protective Order. To that end, Empire is also filing with the Commission herewith its Motion for Protective Order.

A copy of this entire filing including the Motion for Protective Order will be provided to the Commission's General Counsel and to the Office of the Public Counsel.

Would you please bring this filing to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel and see that a copy of all correspondence, notices, orders and other communications in connection with this matter and proceeding are furnished to Kelly Walters, The Empire District Electric Company, 602 Joplin Street, Joplin, MO 64802, [kwalters@empiredistrict.com](mailto:kwalters@empiredistrict.com) as well as to the undersigned counsel.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Swearengen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James C. Swearengen

JCS/lar

Enclosures

cc: Missouri Public Service Commission General Counsel  
Office of the Public Counsel