

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

In the Matter of The Empire)	
District Electric Company's Request)	<u>File No. ER-2016-0023</u>
For Authority to Implement a General)	Tracking No.: YE-2016-0104
Rate Increase for Electric Service)	

**ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF, SCHEDULING PRE-HEARING
CONFERENCE, DIRECTING NOTICE, AND SETTING DEADLINE TO
INTERVENE**

Issue Date: October 19, 2015

Effective Date: October 19, 2015

On October 16, 2015, The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission revised tariff sheets to implement an increase of approximately \$33.4 million dollars to Empire's gross annual electric revenues, exclusive of applicable gross receipts and sales, franchise, and occupational fees or taxes. The proposed tariff sheets have an effective date of November 15, 2015.

Section 393.150, RSMo 2000, authorizes the Commission to suspend the effective date of proposed tariff sheets for 120 days, plus an additional 6 months to allow for a hearing. Accordingly, in order to determine if Empire's proposed tariff sheets are just, reasonable and in the public interest, the Commission will suspend the tariff sheets for 120 days beyond the effective date. Further, because a hearing cannot be concluded within 120 days, the Commission will suspend the tariffs for an additional six months.

The Commission will schedule an early prehearing conference and require the parties to agree on a proposed procedural schedule. Staff will have primary responsibility for preparing the proposed procedural schedule.

The Commission will direct its Data Center to serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of the counties in Empire's service area. Additionally, the Commission will direct the Public Information Office to make notice of this order available to the media serving Empire's service area and to the members of the General Assembly representing those areas. Finally, the Commission will set a date by which applications to intervene shall be filed.

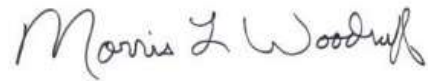
THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The proposed tariff sheets, filed under Tracking No. YE-2016-0104, by Empire, are suspended for 120 days plus six months till September 14, 2016.
2. An early pre-hearing conference shall be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 11:00 A.M., in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. The pre-hearing conference will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in any hearing, please call the Missouri Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.
3. The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county within Empire's service area.
4. The Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the members of the General Assembly representing Empire's service area and to the news media serving therein.

5. Applications to intervene shall be filed no later than November 4, 2015, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission or in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System ("EFIS").

7. This order shall be effective when issued.

BY THE COMMISSION



Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary



Kim S. Burton, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 19th day of October, 2015.