

In the Matter of the Pre-Qualification Process for Contractors)
 Seeking to Participate in Competitive Bidding to Install ISRS-)
 Eligible Gas Utility Plant Projects for The Empire District) File No. _____
 Gas Company d/b/a Liberty)

COMES NOW The Empire District Gas Company d/b/a Liberty (the “Company” or “EDG”), by and through counsel, and files this Verified Statement and Notice of Compliance regarding the Company’s pre-qualification process for competitive bidding of ISRS-eligible gas utility plant projects. In this regard, EDG respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”):

1. EDG is a Kansas corporation with its principal office and place of business at 602 South Joplin Avenue, Joplin, Missouri. EDG is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Empire District Electric Company and an indirect subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. EDG is engaged in the business of providing natural gas service to the general public in certain Missouri cities, towns, and counties. A certified copy of EDG's Certificate of Authority to do business as a foreign corporation evidencing EDG's authority to conduct Business in Missouri was submitted in Case No. GO-2006-0205 and is incorporated herein by this reference.

2. The Company is a “gas corporation” and a “public utility,” as those terms are defined by RSMo. §386.020 and, therefore, is subject to the general regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission as provided by law.

3. EDG has no pending actions or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service or rates, and EDG is

current on its annual report and assessment fee obligations to the Commission, and no such report or assessment fee is overdue.

4. RSMo. §§393.1009, 393.1012, and 393.1015 authorize eligible gas corporations to recover certain infrastructure replacement costs through the implementation of an Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (“ISRS”).

5. Effective August 28, 2020, RSMo. §393.1012.4 requires gas corporations to develop and file with the Commission its pre-qualification process for contractors seeking to participate in competitive bidding to install ISRS-eligible gas utility plant and to file verification that the gas corporation has a process in place that conforms to the statutory requirements.

6. On August 28, 2020, EDG did not have an ISRS and was not eligible to seek an ISRS due to the timing of its last general rate case. EDG, however, completed a general rate case this year (GR-2021-0320) and is now eligible to obtain an ISRS.

7. Pursuant to RSMo. §393.1012, EDG, as verified below, confirms that it has in place a process for a pre-qualification for competitive bidding of ISRS-eligible gas utility plant projects and that this process conforms to the requirements of the ISRS statute.

8. The Company’s process, set forth below, has been in place for many years and was recently reviewed for compliance with the requirements of the ISRS statute:

All contractors wanting to perform work for Liberty must be ISNetworld with an acceptable grade of A, B or C. To obtain an acceptable grade, the contractor must provide insurance, all employees’ OQ records, current drug and alcohol policy, and documentation if they have had an OSHA Recordable incident. Any contractor may apply to ISNetworld but their score is directly related to the information they submit. For a contractor to bid on any of the Company’s ISRS-eligible projects, they must maintain the score mentioned above and have all the criteria also mentioned above.

WHEREFORE, EDG respectfully submits this Verified Statement and Notice of Compliance and requests that the Commission accept this filing as evidence of the Company's compliance with the contractor pre-qualification process requirements of RSMo. §393.1012.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diana C. Carter

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VERIFICATION

On behalf of The Empire District Gas Company d/b/a Liberty, and pursuant to RSMo. §393.1012 and Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.060(1)(M), the undersigned, upon his oath and under penalty of perjury, hereby states that the above filing is true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge, and belief and confirms that EDG has in place a process for a pre-qualification for competitive bidding of ISRS-eligible gas utility plant projects and that this process conforms to the requirements of the ISRS statute.

/s/ Mike Beatty

Liberty Central Region Vice President

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 20th day of September, 2022, and sent by electronic transmission to the Staff of the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel.

/s/ Diana C. Carter