OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company's Application for Certificate of Public)
Convenience and Necessity and Approval of) Case No. EO-2005-0263
an Experimental Regulatory Plan Related to)
Generation Plant	,)

ORDER REGARDING HEARING TOPICS

Issue Date: July 20, 2005 Effective Date: July 20, 2005

On July 11, 2005, the Staff of the Commission asked the Commission to set an on-the-record presentation for July 21 regarding the parties' imminent stipulation. That stipulation involved Empire's proposed experimental regulatory plan for, among other things, building latan Unit 2. On July 15, the Commission granted Staff's request, and set a hearing for July 21 and 22, even though the parties did not file the stipulation until July 18.

The Commission expects the parties to be prepared to present evidence and argument regarding the stipulation. Areas of inquiry include, but are not limited to, Empire's load and forecasted load growth, as well as the generation mix most suitable for meeting that forecasted load. Inquiry may also include the appropriateness of Empire's 100-150 MW ownership in latan 2 as well as the availability of a greater ownership interest in such a unit. Additionally, the Commission may inquire into the availability of an ownership interest in other baseload units in lieu of the FRP for 200 MW of purchase power currently contemplated. Furthermore, the Commission may inquire into the decision-making process

utilized to determine the need for the planned 155 MW gas-fired peaking generation unit to be located at Riverton, Kansas, the desirability of a particular fuel source, Empire's resulting fuel portfolio, and the relevance of Empire's ongoing ability to continue to participate in the market for off-system sales as a result of these capacity additions.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the evidentiary hearing will begin on July 21, 2005, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Commission's offices at the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. This hearing will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in the hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.
 - 2. That this order shall become effective on July 20, 2005.

BY THE COMMISSION

Colleen M. Dale Secretary

(SEAL)

Ronald D. Pridgin, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 20th day of July, 2005.