

**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 Gas) Corp., and Liberty Utilities)
(Missouri Water), LLC for Approval of Their)
Cost Allocation Manual)

File No. AO-2017-0360

DECEMBER 28, 2018 STAFF STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through Staff Counsel's Office, and submits the December 28, 2018, Staff Status Report in response to the Commission's June 29, 2018, Order Directing Filing Of Status Report and requests, on behalf of itself and the other Parties¹ that Staff be ordered to submit another Status Report by no later than June 28, 2019. In support of the instant Staff Status Report, Staff states as follows:

1. In Staff's June 29, 2018 Status Report, Staff noted that due to the press of Commission business in cases with statutory or other deadlines involving the Applicants, Staff, and Public Counsel, and other Commission business, the Parties required additional time respecting the Applicants' CAM filing. The Parties requested until December 28, 2018, to file an agreed upon CAM with the Commission, or alternatively, a further status report respecting the progress made by the Parties and identifying whether a revised procedural schedule will be needed to resolve any outstanding and necessary CAM issues remaining among them. In the intervening time, ongoing developments respecting CAMs of other entities also before the

¹ The Parties in File No. AO-2017-0360 are the Applicants: The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire Electric"), The Empire District Gas Company ("Empire Gas"), Liberty Utilities Corp. ("Midstates Gas"), and Liberty Utilities, LLC ("Missouri Water"); two Parties as a matter of right: Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"); and an intervenor: Midwest Energy Consumers Group ("MECG").

Commission have occurred and are occurring having relevance for the CAMs of the Applicants. As a consequence, in part, the Parties are asking the Commission for a further extension of time until June 28, 2019, to file an agreed upon CAM, or alternatively, a further status report respecting the progress made by the Parties identifying whether a revised procedural schedule will be needed to resolve any outstanding and necessary CAM issues remaining among them.

2. The Parties agree that this request does not prejudice any Party's right to make a filing prior to June 28, 2019, if a Party believes that sufficient progress is not being made, and the delay of setting a procedural schedule should be lifted and a procedural schedule should thereafter be put in place to resolve this docket.

WHEREFORE Staff submits this Status Report in response to the Commission's June 29, 2018, Order Directing Filing Of Status Report and requests, on behalf of all Parties, that the Commission issue an Order directing the Parties to file an agreed upon CAM with the Commission by June 28, 2019, or alternatively, a further status report by Staff identifying the progress made by the Parties in this docket and stating whether they have determined by that time that a revised procedural schedule will be needed to resolve any outstanding and necessary CAM issues remaining among them.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Johnson

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Attorneys for the Staff of the

Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 28th day of December, 2018.

/s/ Steven Dottheim