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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing (Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service Area of the Company (Part of The Empire District Electric Compa

## ORDER EXTENDING DEADLINES FOR FILINGS AND POSTPONING EVIDENTIARY HEARING

Issue Date: May 19, 2011 Effective Date: May 19, 2011

On May 18, 2011, The Empire District Electric Company and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a "Joint Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule," because "[c]ertain parties have reached an agreement in principle which would resolve all outstanding matters in this case." Staff states that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the City of Joplin, Missouri, the Office of the Public Counsel and Kansas City Power and Light Company have all indicated that they do not object to the requested suspension.

However, there is no representation regarding the Midwest Energy Users Association's ("MEUA") position on the motion. It is possible that MEUA wishes to proceed to hearing, or it is possible that MEUA wishes to review any proposed settlement agreement before deciding on how it wishes to proceed. The Commission will not grant an indefinite suspension of the procedural schedule under these circumstances.

The Commission will extend the current deadlines for outstanding filings and postpone the procedural schedule for one week until it can ascertain MEUA's position. The Commission will further direct its Staff to provide a date certain for when the "certain parties" will be filing a proposed settlement agreement.

## IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The current deadlines for all outstanding prehearing filings are extended by seven days.
  - 2. The evidentiary hearing is postponed until May 31, 2011.
- 3. No later than May 20, 2011, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file a pleading stating a date certain for filing a proposed settlement agreement.
- 4. No later than May 23, 2011, the Midwest Energy Users Association shall file a pleading stating its position on the motion to suspend the procedural schedule. MEUA shall also state whether it wishes to proceed to hearing or state when it can inform the Commission whether it will want to proceed to an evidentiary hearing.
  - 5. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

Steven C. Reed

Secretary

(SEAL)

Harold Stearley, Senior Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 19th day of May, 2011.