

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

Lonnie Freeman,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	<b><u>File No. EC-2020-0160</u></b>
v.	)	
	)	
The Empire District Electric Company	)	
d/b/a Liberty,	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	

**ORDER DIRECTING LONNIE FREEMAN TO EXPLAIN  
WHY HE DID NOT APPEAR FOR THE PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Issue Date: February 16, 2024

Effective Date: February 16, 2024

Lonnie Freeman filed a complaint against The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty on November 7, 2023. Liberty filed its response to the complaint, and the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed its Report.

A prehearing conference was scheduled for February 15, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Liberty and Staff were present at the prehearing conference. Mr. Freeman failed to appear in person or by telephone, and did not contact the Commission prior to the prehearing conference to request a continuance.

Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090(5) provides that “[f]ailure to appear at a prehearing conference without previously having secured a continuance shall constitute grounds for dismissal of ...the party’s complaint...unless good cause for the failure to appear is shown”. The Commission will not dismiss the complaint without giving Mr. Freeman an opportunity to explain why he did not attend the prehearing conference.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Lonnie Freeman shall file a response no later than March 1, 2024, explaining why he failed to appear at the prehearing conference. Failure to respond may result in the dismissal of Mr. Freeman's complaint.
2. This order shall be effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell".

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Senior Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.**



*Nancy Dippell*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**February 16, 2024**

**File/Case No. EC-2024-0160**

**MO PSC Staff**

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**Liberty (Empire)**

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**Lonnie Freeman**

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**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.