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

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| In the Matter of the Request of The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates For Electric Service Provided to Customers In its Missouri Service Area | ) ) ) ) ) | Case No. ER-2024-0261 |

**RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER:**
**LIBERTY'S NINTH ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAM STATUS REPORT**

**COMES NOW** The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty ("Liberty" or the "Company"), and for its Ninth Arrearage Forgiveness Program Status Report, Liberty respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (the "Commission"):

1. Ordered paragraph 7 of the *Report and Order* provides as follows: "Empire shall file monthly status reports on the progress toward designing the Arrearage Forgiveness program and awarding the $8.5 million in associated credits with the first report due 30 days from the effective date of this order."

2. Paragraph 28 of the Global Stipulation, as approved by the Commission, stated as follows:

> The Company will forgive $8.5 million in customer arrears through a targeted relief initiative. The intent is to support those most in need — including customers who are ineligible for federal assistance due to exceeding arrearage limits, are at high risk of disconnection, or are struggling to stay current on payment plans. The Company will work collaboratively with stakeholders to design a creative and impactful program that facilitates the funds being used in the most meaningful and effective way.

3. Since early March 2026, parties have been meeting to consider the best path forward to distribute the $8.5 million to those customers most impacted. Liberty continues to confer with parties on a distribution approach. In the event that Liberty is not able to do so, it will inform the Commission and promptly provide a proposed targeted relief initiative for the Commission's consideration.

**WHEREFORE**, Liberty respectfully submits this Response to Commission Order. No action on the part of the Commission is requested at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT
ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a LIBERTY

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 28th day of October 2026, with notification of the same being sent to all counsel of record; and I further certify that the above document was sent by electronic transmission to all counsel of record.

/s/ *Dean L. Cooper*