
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIBERTY UTILITIES FILES FOR MISSOURI ELECTRIC RATE UPDATES

JOPLIN, MO – August 21, 2019 – On Wednesday, August 14, 2019, Liberty Utilities - The Empire District Electric Company (Liberty-Empire) submitted a request to the Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC) for updated Missouri electric rates. If approved by the MPSC, residential customers with an average monthly usage of 1,000 kWh will see an approximate increase of \$7.85 per month, a change of 5.9 percent.

Customers qualifying for the Low Income Pilot Program will see an approximate increase of \$1.85 per month.

It has been nearly four years since Liberty-Empire filed its last general rate case for Missouri electric customers. The MPSC will have up to 11 months to review this request. If approved, updated rates will go into effect by summer 2020.

Investments in Infrastructure and Reliability

Since April 2016, Liberty-Empire has invested approximately \$338 million in upgrades to its Missouri electric transmission and distribution system. Additional investments include the replacement of over 6,400 poles and the installation of over 11,000 sectionalizing devices, which were implemented to help decrease the number of customers impacted during outages.

Other Components of Filing

- **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** – A portion of this filing proposes to return \$11 million tax dollars to customers.
- **Savings Opportunities for Customers** – Liberty-Empire has requested a continuation of the Low Income Pilot Program, which provides a credit for the customer charge for qualifying Missouri customers. Liberty-Empire has also proposed to continue its current energy efficiency programs, including rebate opportunities for Missouri electric customers.
- **Environmental Benefits** – Liberty-Empire will continue to offer its Solar Rebate Program, which has provided over \$16 million to qualifying Missouri electric customers since its inception in 2015.

- **High Bill Protection During Harsh Temperatures** – Liberty-Empire is requesting the inclusion of a Weather Normalization Rider (WNR) to the bills of Missouri electric customers. The purpose of the WNR is to adjust customer bills to reflect normal weather conditions. For weather periods that are milder than normal, a WNR charge will be applied to the bill. For weather periods that are harsher than normal, a credit will be applied to the bill. This rider would prevent over or under-collection by the Company during abnormal weather conditions.

A Quote from Our President

“These investments are a necessary part of delivering the safe and reliable power that our Missouri electric customers expect. As a utility, the way we deliver power is changing at a rapid pace. It’s important for us to innovate to ensure we’re meeting our customers’ needs now and in the future,” says David Swain, President, Liberty Utilities-Central Region.

About Liberty Utilities

Liberty Utilities Co. owns and operates regulated water, wastewater, natural gas and electric transmission and distribution utilities in 12 states, delivering responsive and reliable essential services to nearly 780,000 customers across the United States. With a local approach to management, service and support, we deliver efficient, dependable services to meet the needs of our customers. Liberty Utilities provides a superior customer experience through walk-in customer centers, locally focused conservation and energy efficiency initiatives, and programs for businesses and residential customers. We measure our performance in terms of service reliability, an enjoyable customer experience, and an unwavering dedication to public and workplace safety. Liberty Utilities currently operates in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Texas. For more information, please visit www.LibertyUtilities.com.

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