

Additional Public Hearing Scheduled:

Empire District Electric Company's Request for Increase

Empire District Electric Company has filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) to request permission to make certain changes in its charges for electric service.

Public Hearing

The Commission held a public hearing on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 in Baxter Springs, KS regarding Empire District Electric Company's request for a \$5.2 million rate increase. More than 125 people attended the hearing and formal testimony was presented by 25 individuals.

Prior to the first public hearing, Empire inadvertently failed to publish notice in the local newspapers. As a result, a second public hearing will be held Monday, March 29, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Baxter Springs.

In the second part of the hearing, customers will be allowed to make formal statements to the three-member Commission.

The second public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Baxter Springs Community Center
1101 East Avenue
Baxter Springs, KS 66713

The Commission will accept written comments from Empire's customers through May 7, 2010. Comments regarding this case should reference Docket No.10-EPDE-314-RTS and should be sent to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to the Commission at public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov.

A complete copy of Empire District Electric Company's application and supporting testimony is available on the Commission's website at <http://kcc.ks.gov/docket/cal.cgi?docket=10-EPDE-314-RTS>

The KCC has until July 16, 2010 to make a decision on the proposed increase.

Empire District Electric Company's Requested Increase

On November 4, 2009, Empire District Electric Company filed an application to make changes to its charges for electric service. Empire owns and operates an electric utility system located in contiguous portions of the states of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Since the last general increase in electric rates approved in Docket 05-EPDE-980-RTS, Empire claims it has

experienced substantial capital additions to its electric system and an increase in annual operating costs. Empire has requested an increase in its gross operating revenue in Kansas by \$5,203,483. This increase, according to the company, would increase base rates by 40%, and result in a 25% overall increase on a typical residential bill.

Additional Information Available

For more information about the proposed increases, public hearing or technical hearing, contact the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Any person requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act needs to give notice to the Commission at least 10 days before the scheduled hearing date.

The Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) can also be contacted 785-271-3200 for further information.