

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On December 31, 2025, The Empire District Electric Company (doing business as Liberty) filed a request with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) to increase electric base rates by \$15.8 million. This request seeks to recover investments Liberty has made to upgrade aging infrastructure, modernize technology, and strengthen the system serving its Kansas homes and businesses against extreme weather and other challenges.

If approved by KCC, new rates would take effect in late summer 2026 and would be the first increase to base rates – which includes the per-kilowatt-hour and customer charges – since 2012. To help lessen the impact to customers, Liberty has proposed to introduce new rates gradually over three years as part of this rate update request. If approved, the average residential electric customer using about 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would see a total monthly bill increase of about:

- o \$11.88 in year one (an approximately 9% increase over current rates),
- o \$21.28 in year two (an approximately 14% increase over year one),
- o and \$21.28 in year three (an approximately 13% increase over year two).

The current total bill, including riders, for residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per month is about \$135.38. The proposed total bill after three years would be \$189.83. This is about a 40% increase in the total bill, which includes base rates, reduced fuel costs (listed as ECA on the bill), and other charges.

PUBLIC HEARING

The KCC has scheduled a public hearing to provide customers an opportunity to learn more about the request, ask questions, and share their comments.

6 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Columbus High School
124 S. High School Ave.
Columbus, KS 66725

For those who wish to participate virtually, the public hearing will be accessible through Zoom. To participate in the public hearing through Zoom, individuals should register in advance at <https://kcc-connect.kcc.ks.gov/s/public-comments> to receive login information.

In addition, the public hearing will be broadcast live on the Commission's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@kansascorporationcommission>, as well as being recorded for later viewing.

Any person requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act needs to provide notice to the Commission at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing by calling 1-800-662-0027.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Commission encourages the public to submit comments concerning this matter by one of the following means:

1. online through the KCC Connect tab on the Commission's website at <https://kcc-connect.kcc.ks.gov/s/public-comments>;
2. calling the Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection (PACP) at 1-800-662-0027 or 785-271-3140; or
3. mailing a written letter referencing Docket No. 26-EPDE-0180-RTS to:

Kansas Corporation Commission
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

The public comment period ends at 5 p.m., June 5, 2026.

Additional News

Is your contact information current?

We are implementing a new tool that will allow us to call you, text your mobile phone, and email you during emergency events.

If you have My Account, you can update your information online or through the mobile app. You can also call our Customer Care team.



Scan the code with your smartphone camera to learn more about My Account



Spring can bring severe weather

Take comfort knowing you're prepared before, during, and after any storm



Scan the QR code to get started

Before the storm

- Download the Liberty My Account mobile app and enroll in electric outage notifications.
- Make an emergency plan and visit our website for an emergency preparedness kit checklist.

During the storm

- Report or view electric outages using the My Account app
- If you lose power, do not open freezer or refrigerator doors more than necessary
- In case of strong winds, stay clear of windows and doors, even if they are covered

After the storm

- Stay away from downed power lines
- Take photos or videotape your home to inventory and record losses
- Replenish supplies for any future storms