



Rate Proceeding Notice to Customers

On February 28, 2022, The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty-Empire ("Liberty-Empire") filed an Application with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission ("Commission") seeking an increase in its rates and charges for retail electric service customers in Oklahoma. In its Application, Liberty-Empire is requesting an increase of approximately \$6.1 million in base rate revenues and an estimated annual reduction of \$2.1 million in fuel revenue due to savings in fuel costs associated with new wind generation, for a total net increase in annual revenues of approximately \$4.1 million.

To ease the impact to customers, Liberty-Empire proposes that the requested increase should be phased in over a three-year period. Including the offset from the decrease in the fuel adjustment charge, the net increase in the first year for a residential general service customer is approximately 9.8%. Then, the net increase for a residential general service customer in the second year is expected to be 9.8%, and 6.5% for the third year. These percentages represent each individual year's increase and is not the cumulative increase of the total rate phase-in. The three-year cumulative impact of Liberty-Empire's requested rate change from Year 1 current bill compared to Year 3 proposed bill results in a total increase of 28.3% over the phase-in period.

The proposed increase is not related to the extreme costs incurred by Liberty-Empire during the extremely cold weather event in February of 2021.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is scheduled to begin hearings on Liberty-Empire's request for a rate increase at 930 a.m., July 13, 2022, in Courtroom 301 on the Third Floor of the Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. The hearings will be conducted by the Administrative Law Judge and all interested persons may appear and provide comment at that time. After public comment has concluded, the hearing will be recessed and will resume at 8:30 a.m. on August 23, 2022, and each subsequent business day as necessary for testimony and examination of parties' witnesses. After the hearing concludes, the Administrative Law Judge will file a recommendation and report for the Commission to consider. The Commission will ultimately issue a final order deciding all issues in the case.

In addition to the opportunity to appear and be heard at 9:30 a.m. on July 13, 2022, the public may submit written comments by mail to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 52000, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152 or by email to PUDenergy@occ.ok.gov with "Attention: Public Comment PUD 202100163" in the subject line. Participation by videoconference may be accessed by using link <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1610504725>.

For information concerning this action, contact any of the following: Liberty-Empire at 602 South Joplin Avenue, Joplin, Missouri 64802, by phone at 1-800-206-2300; or Michael L. Velez, Oklahoma Corporation Commission Attorney, by mail at Oklahoma Corporation Commission, 2101 North Lincoln Boulevard, Fourth Floor, Jim Thorpe Office Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, by phone at (405) 522-5930, or by email at Michael.Velez@occ.ok.gov.