

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Dwight D. Keen, Chair
 Susan K. Duffy
 Andrew J. French

In the Matter of the Investigation into Empire)
District Court d/b/a Liberty, Regarding the)
February 2021 Winter Weather Events, as) Docket No. 21-EPDE-330-GIE
Contemplated by Docket No. 21-GIMX-303-)
MIS.)
)

ORDER DESIGNATING PRESIDING OFFICER

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. The Commission finds the following:

1. On February 15, 2021, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-536(a), the Commission issued an Emergency Order in Docket No. 21-GIMX-303-MIS (Docket 21-303), directing all jurisdictional natural gas and electric utilities to coordinate efforts and take all reasonably feasible, lawful, and appropriate actions to ensure adequate transportation of natural gas and electricity to interconnected, non-jurisdictional Kansas utilities. Jurisdictional natural gas utilities were ordered to do everything necessary to ensure natural gas service continued to be provided to their customers in Kansas. The Commission authorized every jurisdictional natural gas distribution utility that incurs extraordinary costs associated with ensuring their customers or the customers of interconnected Kansas utilities that are non-jurisdictional to the Commission continue to receive utility service during Winter Storm Uri to defer those costs to a regulatory asset account. The Commission mandated that once Winter Storm Uri ended, and after all costs have been accumulated and recorded, each jurisdictional utility is directed to file a compliance report in the

21-303 Docket detailing the extent of such costs incurred, and present a plan to minimize the financial impacts of this event on ratepayers over a reasonable time frame.

2. On March 9, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Adopting Staff's Report and Recommendation to Open Company-Specific Investigations, which initiated this Docket.¹

3. On June 10, 2021, the Commission issued a Supplemental Protective and Discovery Order.²

4. The Commission may designate a presiding officer to conduct prehearing conferences to address any matters appropriately considered in a prehearing conference, including all items listed in K.S.A. 77-517(b) of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA). Accordingly, the Commission designates David G. Cohen, Assistant General Counsel, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604, telephone number (785) 271-3198, d.cohen@kcc.ks.gov to serve as Presiding Officer in this proceeding.³ The Commission may designate other staff members to serve in this capacity.

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. David G. Cohen is designated as Presiding Officer in this proceeding.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Keen, Chair; Duffy, Commissioner; French, Commissioner

Dated: 02/01/2022



Lynn M. Retz
Executive Director

DGC

¹ Order Adopting Staff's R&R to Open Company-Specific Investigations; Order on Petitions to Intervene of Bluemark and CURB; Protective and Discovery Order, Mar. 9, 2021.

² Supplemental Protective and Discovery Order, June 10, 2021.

³ K.S.A. 77-514; K.S.A. 77-516; K.S.A. 77-551.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

21-EPDE-330-GIE

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of

electronic service on 02/01/2022.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

21-EPDE-330-GIE

/s/ DeeAnn Shupe
DeeAnn Shupe
