## BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire	)	- 40
District Electric Company for Approval of an	)	Docket No. 18-EPDE-549TAR
Economic Development Rider	)	

## **APPLICATION**

The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") files this Application for approval of an Economic Development Rider ("EDR"). In support of its Application, Empire states:

- 1. Empire is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Kansas and is engaged in doing business in said state. Empire is duly qualified to do and is also doing business in the States of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Empire owns and operates an electric utility system located in contiguous portions of the above-mentioned four states, which is used to serve approximately 172,000 total electric customers. Empire is the holder of an electric utility pursuant to K.S.A. 66 101, et seq., and by reason thereof has the duty and responsibility to provide and maintain an adequate supply of electricity for its existing and prospective customers located within its defined service territory in Cherokee and Labette Counties, Kansas. Empire provides electric service to approximately 10,000 customers in southeastern Kansas.
- 2. Correspondence and other documents regarding this docket should be addressed to the undersigned counsel and the following Empire employees:

Christopher D. Krygier
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Vice President, National Customer Experience Operations
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- 3. Empire does not currently have an EDR in Kansas. In order to encourage economic development within its Kansas service territory, Empire is proposing an EDR. The proposed EDR is identical to the economic development rider approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission ("Commission") for Westar Energy, Inc. and Kansas Gas and Electric Company ("Westar") in Docket No. 14-WSEE-147-TAR, Order dated December 17, 2013. A copy of Empire's proposed EDR tariff is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4. The proposed EDR will provide Empire the ability to tailor incentive credit offerings at appropriate levels to target specific customers and to ensure the discount is part of a broader incentive package supported by an economic development organization without shifting additional cost to Empire's other customers.
- 5. As is the case with the Westar EDR, Empire is proposing a variable incentive credit that would range from five to twenty-five percent the first year and then decline incrementally over the time period deferred, which may be more or less than five years. The variable incentive credit will allow Empire flexibility to offer an appropriate incentive level to attract targeted new customers or

encourage targeted expansion projects in its service territory in southeast Kansas.

6. Empire's proposed EDR makes the discount contingent upon the targeted customer

receiving economic development incentives from a city, county, regional, or state economic

development group. This limiting language, which is also part of the Westar EDR, will ensure that

Empire's EDR incentive is only offered to customers supported by an economic development

organization, such as the Kansas Department of Commerce.

7. Empire has consulted with Staff regarding the proposed EDR and Staff has indicated

support for the proposed tariff.

WHEREFORE, Empire respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order approving

its proposed Economic Development Rider.

James G. Flaherty, #11177

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(785) 242-1279, facsimile

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Attorneys for The Empire District Electric Company

## **VERIFICATION**

## STATE OF KANSAS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, ss:

James G. Flaherty, of lawful age, being first duly sworn on oath, states: That he is an attorney for The Empire District Electric Company; that he has read the above and foregoing Application, knows the contents thereof; and that the statements contained therein are true.

James G. Flaherty

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 20th day of June, 2018.

NOTARY PUBLIC - State of Kansas RONDA ROSSMAN My Appt. Exp. 5/25/22 Ronda Rossingu Notary Public

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