

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Empire District Electric Company's Abbreviated Rate Case

Empire District Electric Company (“Empire”) filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (“Commission” or “KCC”) on May 28, 2021, in regards to Docket No. 21-EPDE-444-RTS. This docket is an abbreviated rate case in which Empire is requesting authorization to make certain changes in its charges for electric service. On July 13, 2021, the Commission issued its *Order Adopting Procedural Schedule and Designating Presiding Officer*, which established the timeline for filings and hearings.

Public Hearing

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing concerning Empire’s application for a rate change. This hearing will provide information about Empire’s proposed changes to its rates and offer an opportunity for customers to ask questions and to present testimony or comments for the Commission’s consideration.

The public hearing typically consists of two parts: During the first part, representatives of Empire, KCC Staff and CURB will be available to answer customers’ questions pertaining to the proposed rate changes. In the second part of the public hearing, customers may make formal statements to the Commission concerning the application. However, the Commission may determine how to best accommodate the public participation in this important rate proceeding.

The date and time of the public hearing is:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (CDT)

The Commission will hold a public hearing online via zoom.

Kansans wishing to make a public comment during the hearing should sign up in advance at <https://kcc.ks.gov/your-opinion-matters> to receive login information and time restraints for presentations.

As there may be limited capacity, registration will be first come, first serve. A live video stream will also be available on the Commission’s YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-uTcuI0oyHJr-iOheuuw> for individuals to watch, but not comment, during the public hearing.

Those who would like to participate, but are unable to access the virtual event from their homes, are invited to view the broadcast at the **Columbus Unified High School auditorium at 124 South High School Avenue, Columbus, Kansas.**

Comment Period

In addition, the Commission is accepting comments from the public until 5:00 p.m. (CDT), March 10, 2022. Comments regarding this case should reference Docket No. 21-EPDE-444-RTS. The

public can mail their comments to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027. The public can also submit comments through the Commission's website <https://kcc.ks.gov/your-opinion-matters> or via electronic mail (sent to public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov).

A complete copy of the Commission's Order Adopting Procedural Schedule establishing this hearing and Empire's application with supporting testimony is available on the Commission's website: <https://estar.kcc.ks.gov/estar/portal/kscc/PSC/DocketDetails.aspx?DocketId=3fa781fe-d4b5-454d-a95a-5adf6b3f1071>

The KCC has until May 27, 2022, to make a decision on the proposed rate design in this proceeding.

Empire's Application

In an Order dated June 23, 2020 (Docket 19-EPDE-223-RTS), the Commission granted Empire's request to file an abbreviated rate case. The Commission stated "The abbreviated rate case is limited to capturing the revenue requirement impact directly relating to: (1) the retirement of Empire's Asbury Power Plant; (2) the acquisition of the Neosho Ridge, the North Fork Ridge, and the Kings Point wind farms; and (3) the non-growth plant and related accumulated depreciation and accumulated deferred income tax balances as of the end of the test year ending June 30, 2020.

Empire is requesting recovery of a gross revenue deficiency of \$4,490,806. Empire states that, after accounting for several items, their actual adjusted revenue deficiency, if recovered, would result in a rate increase for an average residential user of \$5.09 a month.

Evidentiary Hearing

The Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing on the proposed rate change for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 through Thursday, March 10, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Central. The Commission will hold the hearing in the Commission's First Floor Hearing Room, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS.

Additional Information is available from the KCC and CURB

For more information about Empire's rate application or the public hearing, contact the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Any persons requiring special accommodations at the hearing site under the Americans with Disabilities Act must give notice to the Commission at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date by calling 1-800-662-0027.

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