

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Liberty's Application for Rate Case Increase

The Empire District Electric Company (doing business as Liberty) filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission ("Commission" or "KCC") on December 31, 2026, Docket No. 26-EPDE-0180-RTS.

Public Hearing

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing concerning Liberty's application, requesting a rate increase. This hearing will provide information about Liberty's application, including the potential impact on customers' bills, as well as an opportunity for customers to ask questions and to present comments for the Commission's consideration.

The public hearing typically consists of two parts: During the first part, representatives of Liberty, KCC Staff and the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) will give short presentations about their roles in this docket. Each party will summarize the issues involved and will be available to answer customers' questions pertaining to the application. 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 proceeding.

The date and time of the **Public Hearing** is:

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Columbus High
124 S. High School Ave.
Columbus, KS 66725

The Commission will provide a livestream for the public hearing.

Kansans wishing to make a public comment via Zoom during the hearing must register in advance at <https://kcc-connect.kcc.ks.gov/s/public-comments> 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 KCC YouTube Channel and the Commission's website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-uTcucl0oyHJr-iOheuuw> for individuals to watch, but not comment, during the public hearing. No registration is required for viewing only.

Comment Period

In addition, the Commission is accepting written comments from the public until 5:00 p.m. (CDT), June 5, 2026. Comments regarding this case should reference Docket No. 26-EPDE-0180-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 kcc.public.affairs@ks.gov).

A complete copy of the Commission's Order Adopting Procedural Schedule establishing this hearing and Liberty's application with supporting testimony is available on the Commission's website:
<https://kcc-connect.kcc.ks.gov/s/case/500cr00000d8PJ3AAM/26epde0180rts?tabset-d4b00=2>

The KCC has until August 28, 2026, to make a decision on the proposed rate increase in this proceeding.

Liberty's Application

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 the 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:

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

Evidentiary Hearing

The Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing on the application for Monday, June 22, 2026, through Wednesday, June 24, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Central.

Additional Information is available from the KCC and CURB

For more information about 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. CURB can also be contacted at 785-271-3200 for further information about the docket.