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KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

CONSUMER ALERT

Liberty - Empire District Electric Company Deferred 2021 Winter Weather Costs

On June 1, 2023, the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) approved a settlement agreement outlining how the Empire District Electric Company, doing business as Liberty-Empire, will recover \$10.8 million in extraordinary costs incurred during the February 2021 Winter Storm Uri. The utility, like others regulated by the KCC, was ordered to do everything possible to continue providing natural gas service to its customers, defer the charges, and then develop a plan to allow customers to pay the unusually high costs over time to minimize the financial impact.

The settlement agreement, negotiated by KCC Staff, the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) and the company, allows Liberty-Empire customers to pay for the extraordinary costs associated with the Winter Event over a 13-year period from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2036. On average, residential customer bills will increase by \$5.73 per month during this period. This is a reduction from Liberty-Empire's originally requested plan which would have resulted in an increase in the average residential bill of \$7.32 per month.

The Commission emphasized it was in the public interest for Liberty-Empire to incur the extraordinary costs to ensure the integrity of the electric system and ensure continuous service to its customers.

The order states that any proceeds received by Liberty-Empire from ongoing federal or state investigations into market manipulation, price gouging or civil suits will be passed on to customers.

Links to additional information:

[The Commission order issued June 1, 2023](#)

[The complete Docket 21-EPDE-330-GIE](#)