

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD CONCERNING RATE INCREASE REQUEST**

The Empire District Electric Company (Liberty) filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) showing a gross annual revenue deficiency of \$4.47 million and requesting a net increase in annual revenues of \$723,581.

The rate update, if granted, will result in an approximate monthly increase of \$4.97 per month for a residential customer using approximately 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The increase would impact all of Liberty's 9,688 Kansas retail customers, of which 8,203 are residential, 1,279 are commercial, 50 are industrial, and 156 are public authority and street and highway customers.

Liberty's current base rates were approved by the Commission's Order in Docket No 19-EPDE-223-RTS and became effective August 1, 2019. As part of that docket, the Commission gave Empire permission to file this current abbreviated rate review. This rate review is limited to (1) recovering the costs relating to Liberty's acquisition of three wind projects; (2) accounting for the retirement of its Asbury coal plant; and (3) updating the non-growth plant and related accumulated depreciation and accumulated deferred income tax balances as of the test year ending June 30, 2020. Since its last rate update, Liberty has made investments to better serve its customers through the transition to clean, renewable energy and to strengthen and modernize its electric infrastructure and systems.

Regulatory Responsibility

The Commission's regulatory oversight of public utilities primarily pertains to rates and terms of service. In order to ensure that customers of regulated utilities are provided sufficient and efficient service at just and reasonable rates, utilities may not change their rates without Commission approval.

Virtual Public Hearing

In order to protect the health of those who wish to attend, the Commission has scheduled a virtual public hearing via Zoom to allow Liberty customers the opportunity to learn more about the application and speak to the Commission about the proposed rate increase:

**Virtual Public Hearing
Tuesday, November 16
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
<https://kcc.ks.gov/>**

Those who wish to provide comments during the virtual hearing will need to pre-register at <https://kcc.ks.gov/your-opinion-matters>.

To view the hearing without participating, registration is not required. Viewers can tune in to the KCC YouTube channel using the link that will appear on the KCC's website home page (<https://kcc.ks.gov/>) the day of the hearing. The hearing will also be recorded and available on YouTube for later viewing.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing under the Americans with Disabilities Act needs to provide notice to the Commission at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing by calling: (800) 662-0027.

Public Comment Period

The Commission will accept public comments from Liberty customers through 5 p.m. on March 10, 2022.

There are three convenient ways to submit a public comment:

Go to the KCC website (kcc.ks.gov/your-opinion-matters) to enter your comment online.

- Send a written letter to the **Kansas Corporation Commission, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604-4027**. Be sure to reference 21-EPDE-444-RTS.
- Call the Commission's Public Affairs office at 1-800-662-0027.

Public comments received during the comment period will be entered into the official case record and posted on the website at the end of the comment period.

Additional Information

- A complete copy of Liberty's application and supporting testimony is available on the Commission's website at: www.kcc.ks.gov, searching Commission Activity/Docket Filings for docket number 21-EPDE-444-RTS.
- If you need assistance submitting a public comment or additional information about the proposed rate increase, contact the Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027, or at public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov.
- The Commission will issue an order on the rate increase request on or before May 27, 2022.