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State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

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ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

To: Public Service Commission

From: Division of Public Utilities
Chris Parker, Director
Energy Section
Artie Powell, Manager
Doug Wheelwright, Technical Consultant
Jeff Einfeldt, Utility Analyst

Date: April 25, 2017

Subject: Action Request Response in Docket No. 17-025-T01, Empire Electric Association, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge the changes to the Empire Electric Association, Inc. (Empire) tariff sheets with an effective date of June 1, 2017 and make them available for public inspection.

BACKGROUND

Empire submitted proposed tariff changes to the Commission for acknowledgement in accordance with Section 54-7-12-7(a), (b), (c), (d), of the Utah Code. On April 18, 2017, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division directing it to perform an investigation of this filing. This is the Division's response to the Action Request.

ISSUE

Empire is seeking to increase its meter tampering fee from \$50 to \$250; and to institute a new meter reading fee of \$54.80 per quarter for those customers who opt out of remote meter reading.

DISCUSSION

Empire is a rural electric cooperative distributing electric energy to its members and the public in certificated service areas in southwestern Colorado and parts of San Juan County, Utah.

Empire's Utah consumers pay the same rates as Empire's Colorado consumers. Empire is organized as an electric cooperative for the purpose of distributing electricity to its members and the public at cost (54-7-12-7(a)).

Empire's Board approved the proposed changes on March 17, 2017 (54-7-12-7(b)). A public notice has been published in the local newspapers and a mailing to customers is scheduled for April 26, 2017, more than 10 days prior to the Public Meeting scheduled for May 8, 2017 (54-7-12-7(c)). Additionally, copies of the notice were also sent to the Rural Utilities Service, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and the Rural Development Electric Program, and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Empire is proposing the charges to recover costs associated with tampering and with manually reading a meter. The Division compared the proposed meter tampering charge and manual meter reading charge to similar charges of other utilities and found Empire's proposed charges to be reasonable and in line with those charged by other utilities.

Copies of all rate tariffs are on file at Empire's headquarters, and are available for inspection during regular business hours.

CONCLUSION

The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the changes and revisions to Empire's tariff sheets with an effective date of June 1, 2017 and make them available for public inspection.

Cc: Josh Dellinger, General Manager, Empire Electric Association, Inc.
Maria Wright, Division of Public Utilities
Mike Peterson, Director Utah Rural Electric Association
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services