

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Empire District Electric)
Company of Joplin, Missouri for Authority to)
File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric)
Service Provided to Customers in the Missouri)
Service Area of the Company)

Case No. ER-2006-0315

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE ORDER

Issue Date: February 2, 2006

Effective Date: February 2, 2006

This order grants the request for the Commission's standard protective order.

On February 1, 2006, Empire District Electric Company filed the above-captioned application and simultaneously filed a Motion for Protective Order. Empire states that its application and supporting testimony has proprietary and highly confidential information. According to Empire, public disclosure of that information could harm its business interests.

Upon review of the motion, the Commission finds that there is a need to protect confidential information and the request for a protective order is reasonable. The commission has previously recognized the need to protect confidential information, and protective orders have helped minimize disputes in past cases. Therefore, the Commission concludes that a protective order should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Motion for Protective Order filed by Empire District Electric Company is granted, and the protective order attached to this order as Attachment A is adopted.
2. That this order shall become effective on February 2, 2006.

BY THE COMMISSION



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Colleen M. Dale, Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 2nd day of February, 2006.