

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Cause of the February )  
2021 Cold Weather Event and its Impact on ) **File No. AO-2021-0264**  
Investor Owned Utilities )

## PROTECTIVE ORDER AND NOTICE THAT ADDITIONAL FILES HAVE BEEN OPENED

Issue Date: April 21, 2021

Effective Date: April 21, 2021

The Commission opened this file as a working case to facilitate the investigation into Missouri's electrical and natural gas utilities' preparation for and response to Missouri's February 2021 extreme cold. Staff, in particular, the Regulatory Analysis Department, and the Customer Experience Department have been directed to file a report regarding the investigation no later than April 22, 2021.

On April 15, 2021, Staff filed a motion asking the Commission to open 10 new files, one for each of the investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, and to issue a protective order in each new file. Staff explains that in the course of its investigation it has obtained market specific information from each of the utilities that should be treated as "Highly Confidential" pursuant to the Commission's confidential information rule, 20 CSR 4240-2.135(4). Staff intends to refer to information designated as "Highly Confidential" in its report regarding each utility, but market specific information cannot be shared with other utilities, and in some instances with certain affiliates of the utilities. To avoid the confidentiality problem, Staff asks the Commission to open new investigative files for each of the utilities.

Staff proposes to submit the general elements of its report in this file. It proposes to file its report containing the company-specific information that has been designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” in the new files established for the specific utilities.

Accordingly, the Commission establishes regarding each utility the following files:

- 1) EO-2021-0358: Union Electric Co., Inc. d/b/a Ameren Missouri (Electric)
- 2) EO-2021-0359: Evergy Missouri West, Inc.
- 3) EO-2021-0360: Evergy Missouri Metro, Inc.
- 4) EO-2021-0361: The Empire District Electric Co. d/b/a Liberty
- 5) GO-2021-0362: Union Electric Co., Inc. d/b/a Ameren Missouri
- 6) GO-2021-0363: Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire Missouri West
- 7) GO-2021-0364: Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire Missouri East
- 8) GO-2021-0365: The Empire District Gas Co., d/b/a/ Liberty
- 9) GO-2021-0366: Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty
- 10) GO-2021-0367: Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.

In addition to the protective order in this file, the Commission will issue separate protective orders in each of those files. Each utility will be made party to its own file in order to view the information designated as “Confidential” and “Highly Confidential” in its own file.

The specific additional protections to be afforded to information designated as “Highly Confidential” are set forth in the ordered paragraphs of this order.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Competitively sensitive information designated as “Highly Confidential” shall be disclosed only to the party that submitted it and to all to state agency parties and their employees who are covered by statutory confidentiality requirements to include Section 386.480, RSMo (2016).
2. This order shall become effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Ronald D. Pridgin, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant  
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2021.