



Rule 4 CSR 240-2.135 may not provide adequate protection. To prevent harm to Liberty-Empire and prevent the creation of a competitive advantage for parties to this proceeding over Liberty-Empire and non-party competitors, Liberty-Empire requests a protective order as follows:

a. Certain materials and information divulged by Liberty-Empire or other parties shall be considered to be “Highly Confidential” if so designated at the time of disclosure.

b. With regard to entities and individuals other than the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Public Counsel, and the Missouri Division of Energy:

i. Disclosure of materials or information so designated shall be made only to attorneys and/or to such outside consultants who have executed a Commission Nondisclosure Agreement. No Highly Confidential information shall be provided directly or indirectly to any non-attorney individual or employee.

ii. Persons afforded access to materials or information designated “Highly Confidential” shall neither use nor disclose such materials or information for purposes of business or competition or any other purpose other than in regard to the case referenced above and shall keep the materials and information secure and confidential and in accordance with the purposes and intent of the protective order.

iii. All material and information designated as “Highly Confidential” in the possession of any entity or person, as well as any notes pertaining to such information, shall be returned to Empire or destroyed upon the conclusion of the referenced case.

c. If a party disagrees with the “Highly Confidential” designation of any information, the party shall follow the informal discovery dispute resolution procedures set forth in Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.090(8). If the party exhausts these dispute resolution procedures, the party may file a motion challenging the designation.

WHEREFORE, Liberty-Empire requests an order of the Commission, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.135(4), granting a protective order regarding Liberty-Empire’s general rate case filing. Liberty-Empire requests such other and further relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diana C. Carter

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019, with notification of the same being sent to all counsel of record.

/s/ Diana C. Carter