

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of The Empire	)	
District Electric Company for Authority to Issue and	)	
Sell under its Existing Indenture of Mortgage and	)	
Deed of Trust Dated as of September 1, 1944, as	)	
Amended and Supplemented, up to and Including	)	<b><u>Case No. EF-2006-0263</u></b>
\$255,000,000 Principal Amount of Its First Mortgage	)	
Bonds, in One or More Series, and to, Among Other	)	
Things, Execute and Deliver a Supplemental	)	
Indenture or Indentures to Provide for the Terms	)	
of Said Bonds	)	

**ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Issue Date: March 6, 2006

Effective Date: March 6, 2006

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

On December 19, 2005, The Empire District Electric Company asked the Commission to approve its request to issue mortgage bonds. On March 3, 2006, Empire filed a Motion for Protective Order.

Empire requests that financial and business information of a confidential and proprietary nature that it may file in support of its application be subject to a protective order under Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.085. Empire alleges that public disclosure of that information may harm Empire, and that none of the information for which it will claim confidentiality can be found in a public document.

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.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Motion for Protective Order filed by The Empire District Electric Company is granted, and the protective order attached to this order as Attachment A is adopted.
2. This order shall become effective on March 6, 2006.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Ronald D. Pridgin, Regulatory Law  
Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 6th day of March, 2006.