

report with both a public version and a highly-confidential version to document the information presented at the annual update workshop and shall file the annual update reports with the commission no less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual update workshop.”

4. Pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-22.080(3), Liberty plans to submit its 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) Annual Update Report in March of 2024 and hold its IRP annual update workshop in April of 2024. The specific date for the workshop has not yet been determined. The purpose of the IRP Annual Update is to ensure that members of the Missouri stakeholder group have the opportunity to provide input and stay informed regarding the changing conditions since the last triennial IRP filed in April of 2022 (Case No. EO-2021-0331) and the last IRP Annual Update filed in March of 2023 (Case No. EO-2023-0294).

5. Portions of the IRP filing, as well as other materials produced in the course of discovery or otherwise in this matter, may be designated as Confidential in accordance with Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2)(A). There may also be a need for portions of the IRP filing, and possibly other materials produced in the course of discovery or otherwise in this matter, to be designated as Highly Confidential in accordance with Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(4).

6. This request for a protective order is being submitted at this time, prior to the filing of the IRP annual update, so that information provided during the annual update workshop, the annual update report itself, and materials produced in the course of discovery may be made with the “Highly Confidential” designation in EFIS as warranted.

7. Missouri Supreme Court Rule 56.01(c) provides that protective orders may be issued “to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense including . . . that a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information not be disclosed or be disclosed only in a designated way.” *See also* In

the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC, Commission File No. EA-2014-0207, 2014 Mo.PSC Lexis 858, Opinion issued September 24, 2014.

8. Due to the nature of certain material regarding the safety and security of Liberty's facilities, commodity prices, fuel procurement, generation costs, and planned purchases, as well as competitively sensitive information regarding wholesale electric market participants, the "confidential" designation under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135 may not provide adequate protection.

9. To prevent harm to Liberty and/or its electric customers and to prevent the creation of a competitive advantage for those participating in this IRP process over Liberty and non-participating competitors, Liberty requests a protective order as set forth below. To be clear, Liberty is not requesting a variance from Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135.

a. Certain materials and information divulged by Liberty 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 Liberty 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 20 CSR 4240-2.090(8). If the party exhausts these dispute resolution procedures, the party may file a motion challenging the designation.

WHEREFORE, Liberty requests an order of the Commission, pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(4), granting a protective order regarding Liberty's annual update IRP submissions. Liberty requests such other and further relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diana C. Carter

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC
COMPANY d/b/a LIBERTY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 14th day of March, 2024, with notification of the same being sent to all counsel of record, and I further certify that the above document was sent by electronic transmission to the Staff of the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel.

/s/ Diana C. Carter