

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

Cheri Meadows,)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>File No. EC-2025-0136</u>
)	
Grain Belt Express, LLC,)	
Respondent)	
)	

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Issue Date: December 13, 2024

Effective Date: December 13, 2024

On October 15, 2024, Complainant, Cheri Meadows, filed a complaint with the Commission against Grain Belt Express, LLC (Grain Belt). On November 26, 2024, Grain Belt filed a *Motion for Protective Order*, requesting a protective order under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135, to protect financial data of Grain Belt and its affiliate Invenergy. Grain Belt states that disclosure of this non-public financial data would irreparably harm Grain Belt and Invenergy by giving non-state entities knowledge of financial and contract information that could affect their bargaining positions.

More than ten days have passed since Grain Belt filed its motion for protective order, and no one has opposed that motion.¹ The Commission will grant Grain Belt's motion.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Grain Belt's request for a protective order is granted. The specific protections to be afforded are as follows.

¹ Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(13) allows parties ten days from the filing of a pleading to respond unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

- a. Certain materials and information divulged by Grain Belt and Invenergy shall be considered to be “Highly Confidential” if so designated at the time of disclosure. Any such designation shall be made in good faith.
- b. With regard to entities and individuals other than State Agencies:
- i. Confidential information may be designated in one of two categories: (1) a “Confidential” category of information encompassing the usual scope of protected information in Commission proceedings² and (2) a “Highly Confidential” category of information limited to information that is classified proprietary financial information of Grain Belt and Invenergy and sensitive contractual information relating to Grain Belt and Invenergy.
 - ii. Information designated as “Confidential” would be subject to the standard protocols included in Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135.
 - iii. For information designated as Highly Confidential, Grain Belt shall disclose such information only to attorneys of record for all parties, state agency parties and their employees covered by statutory confidentiality requirements, and to designated outside and inhouse experts for any non-state agency party with a demonstrable need to see financial and contract information.
 - iv. Outside counsel and inhouse and outside experts may receive and review Highly Confidential information after executing the certification attached hereto as Exhibit B, or a similar Commission nondisclosure agreement that meets the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(7) and specifically references Highly Confidential information. No Highly Confidential information shall be provided directly or indirectly to any non-state agency party or representative thereof, except as expressed above.
 - v. 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 with 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.

² Including information covered under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2).

vi. All material and information designated as “Highly Confidential,” as well as any notes pertaining to such information, shall be returned to Grain Belt or destroyed upon the conclusion of the referenced case, with certification of same to Grain Belt.

vii. If any party disagrees with the Highly Confidential designation of any information, that party shall follow the informal discovery dispute resolution procedures set forth in Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090(8). If these dispute resolution procedures are exhausted without resolution, the party may file a motion challenging the designation.

2. All persons authorized to access “Confidential” information in this case shall complete the nondisclosure agreement attached to this order as Exhibit A.
3. All persons authorized to access “Highly Confidential” information in this case shall complete the nondisclosure agreement attached to this order as Exhibit B.
4. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

John T. Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 13th day of December, 2024.

Exhibit A

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

**NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT
For Case No. EC-2025-0136**

I, _____, have reviewed the Commission's Rule at 20CSR 4240-2.135 on the _____ day of _____, 202__.

I have requested review of the confidential information produced in Case No. EC-2025-0136 on behalf of _____.

I hereby certify that I have read and agree to abide by the Commission's Rule at 20 CSR 4240-2.135.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

Signature & Title

Employer

Party

Address

Telephone

Exhibit B

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

**NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT
For Case No. EC-2025-0136**

I, _____, have reviewed the Commission's Rule at 20CSR 4240-2.135 on the _____ day of _____, 202__.

I have requested review of the highly confidential information produced in Case No. EC-2025-0136 on behalf of _____.

I hereby certify that I have read and agree to abide by the Commission's Rule at 20 CSR 4240-2.135.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

Signature & Title

Employer

Party

Address

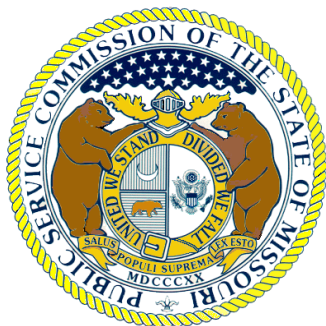
Telephone

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 13th day of December 2024.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 13, 2024

File/Case No. EC-2025-0136

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.