

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

Cheri Meadows,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
vs	)	
	)	Case No. EC-2025-0136
Grain Belt Express, LLC,	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	

**PUBLIC COUNSEL’S REPLY AND  
MOTION TO EXTEND DISCOVERY**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) in response to Grain Belt Express LLC’s (“Grain Belt”) July 7, 2025, Reply, and in support of the OPC’s Motion to Extend Discovery, states:

**OPC Reply to Grain Belt’s Reply**

1. On April 23, 2025, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Filings, Reopening Discovery, and Canceling Evidentiary Hearing*, wherein the Commission ordered, “Discovery is reopened with five days to object to a data request and ten days to respond to a data request.” The order included no other limitation on discovery.
2. Grain Belt argues the Complainant should be limited in discovery because before reopening discovery, the last day to issue a data request was April 4, 2025.
3. The discovery cut-off was initially April 4, 2025, because a 20-day response would give sufficient time for answers to be received by April 24, 2025, which would have been four (4) days before the evidentiary hearing. Ensuring discovery responses are due ahead of the evidentiary hearing is the only limitation that should apply to the Commission’s reopening of discovery.

4. Grain Belt's argument for limiting discovery does not include any reasonable basis for imposing limitations on discovery and is mostly based on their impression of what extending discovery meant. Grain Belt also argues that it seeks to avoid discovery "fishing expeditions," but that argument is more appropriate for arguing against a motion to compel, not the present issue of whether there is reason to limit the Complainant's ability to request relevant information. The Company's argument and attempt to limit the Complainant's ability to gather relevant evidence should be denied.

#### **Motion to Extend Discovery**

5. On June 11, 2025, the Commission ordered a new schedule that sets July 22, 2025, as the last day to issue new discovery.

6. It is possible that the discovery requested, had Grain Belt timely answered, would have prompted additional discovery based on those responses. Grain Belt's delay may be preventing follow-up discovery relevant to the complaint.

7. Given Grain Belt's delay in providing answers, the OPC moves the Commission to extend the last day to issue discovery by two weeks to August 5, 2025. This extension should provide the Complainant with some of the lost time in issuing any follow-up discovery based on Grain Belt's delayed responses, and it will allow for answers to any additional discovery to be provided by April 15, 2025, four (4) days ahead of the August 19, 2025, evidentiary hearing.

WHEREFORE, the OPC offers this reply and motion.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marc Poston  
Marc Poston (Mo Bar #45722)

Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
P. O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City MO 65102  
(573) 751-5318  
(573) 751-5562 FAX  
[marc.poston@opc.mo.gov](mailto:marc.poston@opc.mo.gov)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.

**/s/ Marc Poston**

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