

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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

ORDER MODIFYING THE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND NOTICE OF RULINGS AT DISCOVERY CONFERENCE

Issue Date: July 11, 2025

Effective Date: July 11, 2025

This order provides notice and sets forth rulings from a discovery conference held on July 10, 2025.

The Commission held a discovery conference to discuss ongoing discovery issues and motions filed by Grain Belt, LLC (Grain Belt), Cheri Meadows, and the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel). At the July 10, 2025 conference, the Regulatory Law Judge (Judge) ruled on some of those motions and modified the procedural schedule.

Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090(6) provides that the Judge may hear procedural and substantive matters at a prehearing conference.

Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.120(1) provides that the Judge may convene discovery conferences as is necessary and resolve discovery disputes.

Motions

On May 23, 2025, Meadows filed a motion to compel discovery. That motion was deficient because it failed to state that she had attempted to resolve the discovery issue with Grain Belt, and also because she did not request immediate conference with the

Judge prior to filing the *Motion to Compel Discovery*.¹ In response, the Commission held a discovery conference on June 12, 2025, and directed the parties to informally attempt to resolve Meadows' discovery issues. Meadows was authorized to file a new motion to compel if the informal attempt was unsuccessful.

On June 17, 2025, Grain Belt filed a motion requesting clarification of the scope of discovery and whether it was limited to the additional allegations incorporated into this complaint. Public Counsel filed a response and Meadows responded to Grain Belt's motion and replied to Public Counsel. At the July 10, 2025 discovery conference, the Judge clarified that discovery was not limited to the additional allegations and that existing discovery objections were sufficient to address discovery issues.

On July 10, 2025, Public Counsel filed a motion requesting that the established discovery deadlines be extended to compensate for the discovery delay due to ongoing discovery issues between Grain Belt and Meadows. The Judge granted that request and the procedural schedule was modified as is set forth in the ordered paragraphs below.

On July 3, 2025, Meadows filed a second *Motion to Compel Discovery* stating that one disputed data request was resolved informally with Grain Belt, but that Grain Belt still objects to answering Meadows' Data Requests 18 and 22. Grain Belt indicated that it would file a written response to Meadows' second *Motion to Compel Discovery* by July, 13, 2025.² The Judge informed the parties that the Commission would rule on Meadows' second *Motion to Compel Discovery* at an upcoming Commission Agenda meeting.

¹ Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090(8).

² Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.080(13) allows parties ten days to respond to any pleading unless another response time is established by the Commission.

THE COMMISSION PROVIDES NOTICE AND ORDERS THAT:

1. The scope of discovery is clarified. The scope of discovery in this case is not limited except as provided by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 56.01(b).

2. The procedural schedule is modified as follows:

The last day to issue discovery requests is August 5, 2025.

The last day to respond to discovery requests is August 15, 2025.

The due date for party position statements is August 15, 2025.

The remainder of the June 11, 2025 *Order Establishing Procedural Schedule* is not modified by this order.

3. This order is 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 11th day of July, 2025.

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 11th day of July 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 11, 2025

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.