

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

Jonathan Miller,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	File No. GC-2026-0007
)	
Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

COMES NOW Respondent Spire Missouri Inc., and, pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.135(3), moves for a protective order for confidential information filed by Respondent or provided by Respondent to Complainant in this docket, stating the following:

1. Confidentiality before the Commission is governed by both statute and rule. State agency parties and their employees are covered by statutory confidentiality requirements under § 386.480, RSMo. Additionally, the Commission has promulgated its own specific confidentiality rule, 20 CSR 4240-2.135. 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2)(A) provides a list of categories under which information may be designated confidential without first obtaining a protective order. 20 CSR 4240-2.135(3) provides that a party may seek a protective order from the Commission to designate specific information as confidential. 20 CSR 4240-2.135(6) provides that confidential information may be disclosed only to the attorneys of record for a party, or specific employees or outside experts of a party.

2. For specific employees or outside experts wanting to review confidential information, they must certify that they will comply with the requirements of the rule. This includes the requirement that “all persons who have access to information under this rule shall

keep the information secure and may neither use nor disclose such information for any purpose other than preparation for and conduct of the proceeding for which the information was provided.” 20 CSR 4240-2.135(13). It also requires that if a party seeks to “use confidential information in prefiled testimony, in a pleading, at hearing, or in a brief,” that “the same level of confidentiality assigned by the disclosing party, or the commission is maintained.” 20 CSR 4240-2.135(9). The Commission has identified where this rule may be relaxed for customers, allowing a customer of a utility to view his or her own customer-specific information, even if that information is otherwise designated as confidential. 20 CSR 4240-2.135(6)(C).

3. For a protective order under 20 CSR 4240-2.135(3), the moving party shall state with particularity why that party seeks protection and what harm may occur if the information is made public. The party shall also state whether any of the information for which a claim of confidentiality is made can be found in any other public document. Respondent has received data requests from Complainant, responses to which may contain confidential information. While Respondent will mark information confidential that falls into the categories of 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2)(A), there is information that Respondent will produce that will not fall into such categories. This includes internal and proprietary procedures and processes, which Respondent has invested resources in developing for internal use only. These procedures and processes cannot be found in any other public document. As such, Respondent requests a protective order designating this information as confidential.

4. Further, because there will be confidential information shared with Complainant that is not only customer-specific, Respondent also requests that the Commission direct Complainant to certify that Complainant will follow the confidentiality rules of the Commission. Respondent has attached, as **Appendix 1**, a certification form for Complainant to sign and file

before the Commission. While Complainant is representing himself *pro-se* and is not an employee or expert of a party, he has also not purported himself to be an attorney. Thus, Respondent believes that it is appropriate that for Complainant to certify that he will comply with the Commission's rules prior to receiving confidential information that is not specific to him.

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully requests that the Commission grant this motion for a protective order, direct Complainant to certify that he will comply with the Commission's confidentiality rules, and order any other relief as is just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Antonio Arias

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ATTORNEYS FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of this filing was served to all parties and counsel of record on this 19th day of August 2025 by electronic mail.

/s/ J. Antonio Arias
