

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

In the Matter of the Territorial Agreement)
Application of Central Missouri Electric) Case No. EO-2026-0070
Cooperative, Inc. for Approval of)
Designated Service Boundaries Within)
Portions of Pettis County, Missouri)

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER AND FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COMES NOW, Evergy Missouri West, Inc. d/b/a Evergy Missouri West (“Evergy Missouri West” or “EMW,” “Evergy” or the “Company”), pursuant to Missouri Supreme Court Rule 56.01(c), 20 CSR 4240-2.135(3)-(4), and 20 CSR 4240-2.080(14), requests that the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issue a Protective Order, with expedited treatment, that prohibits the parties, their counsel, and their consultants and agents from unauthorized disclosure of confidential information through unsecured or generative artificial intelligence (“AI”) tools, platforms, systems, or similar technology (collectively, “AI Tools”) in this proceeding. In support, states:

I. Background

1. On September 19, 2025, Central Missouri Electric Cooperative, Inc., (“CMEC”) filed its public and confidential *Application* with the Commission for an order approving designated service boundaries.

2. On September 19, 2025, the Commission entered an *Order* directing Staff of the Commission (“Staff”) to file a recommendation no later than October 20, 2025. The Commission Order limited applications to intervene to be filed no later than October 3, 2025.

3. On September 22, 2025, Evergy Missouri West filed its *Application to Intervene*, and was granted on October 16, 2025.

4. On October 17, 2025, Staff of the Commission (“Staff”) requested an extension until November 19, 2025, to complete and file its recommendation. The Commission approved the request on October 17, 2025.

5. On November 19, 2025, Staff filed its Status Report requesting that the Commission order a suspension of the Staff Recommendation and order CMEC and EMW to either file a stipulation and agreement or a status report by December 12, 2025.

6. On November 19, 2025, the Commission suspended the Staff Recommendation and ordered the parties to file a stipulation or status report no later than December 12, 2025.

7. On December 10, 2025, Staff filed its *Status Report* requesting that the Commission extend the deadline for CMEC and EMW to either file a stipulation and agreement or a status report until February 12, 2026 and suspend Staff’s required report and order.

8. On December 11, 2025, the Commission entered an Order waiving the 120-day requirement of Mo. Rev. Stat. Section 386.800(3).¹ and directing the parties to file a stipulation or a status report no later than February 12, 2026.

9. On February 11, 2026 CMEC and EMW filed a *Joint Status Report* wherein the parties reported regarding the status of negotiations, final map and legal descriptions for the affected property. CMEC and EMW jointly requested that the Commission order a stipulation and agreement or status report be filed on or before April 24, 2026.

10. On February 11, 2026, the Commission entered an *Order* directing the parties to file a stipulation or a status report no later than April 24, 2026.

11. On April 23, 2026 CMEC and EMW filed a *Joint Status Report* wherein the parties reported regarding the status of negotiations, final map and legal descriptions for the affected

¹ All statutory citations are to the Missouri Revised Statutes (2016), as amended.

property. CMEC and EMW jointly requested that the Commission order a stipulation and agreement or status report be filed on or before June 26, 2026.

12. On April 23, 2026, the Commission entered an *Order* directing the parties to file a stipulation or a status report no later than June 26, 2026.

13. On June 25, 2026, Central Missouri Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Evergy Missouri West filed a *Stipulation and Agreement*.

14. Additionally in this proceeding, Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”), and intervenors may issue data requests that will likely require producing parties to disclose confidential and proprietary information pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.090.

15. The rapid proliferation of AI Tools creates substantial risk that confidential information in this proceeding may be inadvertently or improperly disclosed. Specifically, using unsecured or generative AI Tools to process, summarize, analyze, or draft confidential information poses an irreversible disclosure risk. Once inputted, such information may be retained, used for model training, or otherwise distributed beyond the disclosing party’s control. Given this, standard “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” designations do not adequately protect against such risk. See 20 CSR 4240-2.135.

16. Accordingly, to foreclose disclosure of confidential information through AI Tools, requests restrictive use of AI Tools for confidential information and a Protective Order consistent with the proposals set forth herein.

II. Statement of Law

17. 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.”

18. Parties may designate certain materials, including competitively sensitive information, reports, work papers, or other information as “Confidential.” See 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2).

19. In addition, the Commission “may order greater protection than that provided by a confidential designation” so that “[a]ll persons who have access to information under this rule shall keep the information secure and may neither use nor disclose such information.” See 20 CSR 4240-2.135(4), (13) (emphasis added).

III. Request for Restrictions on the Use of AI Tools in a Protective Order

20. Requests that the Commission issue a Protective Order prohibiting any party, counsel, or their agents to whom confidential information is disclosed from inputting, uploading, submitting, or otherwise introducing such information into any unsecured or generative AI Tool, including, but not limited to, the use of AI meeting note takers. See Morgan v. V2X, Inc., 2026 WL 864223, at *1 (D. Colo. Mar. 30, 2026) (“Colorado AI Protective Order”) (The Court granted defendant’s motion to amend “the Protective Order to address AI use” stating that a party “may not upload, input, or submit Confidential Information into any mainstream AI tool like standard ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or similar platforms.”). “Generative artificial intelligence programs that supply natural language answers to user prompts, such as ChatGPT or Google Bard, create novel risks to the security of confidential information.” See Order on Artificial Intelligence (Cases Assigned to Judge Vaden) at 1, U.S. Ct. Int’l Trade (June 8, 2023) (“Order on Artificial Intelligence”). There is a lack of “reasonable expectation of confidentiality” in a party’s use of these AI Tools because their “conversations with [another publicly accessible AI platform]” were “voluntarily disclosed.” See United States v. Heppner, 820 F. Supp. 3d 292, 296-297 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 17, 2026). Therefore, unsecured or generative AI Tools challenge the “ability to protect

confidential information and business proprietary information from access by unauthorized parties.” See Order on Artificial Intelligence at 2.

21. The Protective Order applies regardless of the AI Tools’ function or intended use. The Protective Order encompasses both direct input of confidential information into AI Tools and any indirect incorporation through uploading, attaching, or referencing documents, data, or other materials containing such information. Id. Given this, the Company believes that language regarding the use of generative, unsecure AI is warranted given the increasing prevalence of AI Tools. Moreover, for any avoidance of doubt, the Company seeks to ensure that this Protective Order applies to both confidential and highly confidential information.

22. The Protective Order shall not be construed to prohibit the use of AI Tools that operate entirely within a receiving party’s secure, closed environment, provided that:

- a. The AI Tools do not transmit, store, or retain any confidential information on servers or systems that are outside the receiving party’s exclusive control; See, e.g. Colorado AI Protective Order at *7.
- b. The AI Tools do not use confidential information for the purpose of training, fine-tuning, or otherwise improving any model or algorithm; Id.
- c. The receiving party has implemented reasonable technical and organizational safeguards to prevent unauthorized access, disclosure, or use of the confidential information processed by the AI Tools;
- d. The receiving party provides written certification to the designating party describing the AI Tools that the receiving party is using and the safeguards that are in place. See Order on Artificial Intelligence at 2; Colorado AI Protective Order at *7; and

- e. The AI Tools must be able to delete all uploaded confidential information at the conclusion of the docket.

23. Any violation of the restrictions in the Protective Order subjects the violating party to all remedies available under this Protective Order, Commission rules, Mo. R. Civ. Proc., and Missouri law. See 20 CSR 4240-2.090(1); Mo. R. Civ. Proc. § 61.01; Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 476.110, 120. If confidential information is disclosed without authorization through any AI Tools, the receiving party must immediately notify the designating party and the Commission, and must take all reasonable steps to mitigate the disclosure's effects.

24. The restrictions in this Protective Order survive termination of this proceeding and remain in full force and effect for so long as the confidential information retains its designation.

IV. Request for Expedited Treatment

25. Requests expedited treatment of this Motion pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.080 and a Commission order as soon as possible but no later than August 3, 2026. Expedited treatment is necessary to protect all parties' confidential information. filed this motion promptly upon recognizing the need to protect its confidential information in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, respectfully requests the Commission enter a Protective Order consistent with the foregoing proposals, take such other actions as the Commission deems necessary to protect confidential information from unauthorized disclosure through AI Tools, and grant expedited treatment as soon as possible but no later than August 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger W. Steiner

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Attorneys for Evergy Missouri West

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served upon counsel for all parties on this 22nd day of July 2026, by EFIS filing and notification, and/or e-mail.

/s/ Roger W. Steiner

Roger W. Steiner