

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held by telephone  
and internet audio conference on  
the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

In the Matter of the Joint Application of )  
GridLiance High Plains LLC, GridLiance )  
GP, LLC, and GridLiance Holdco, LP )  
("GridLiance"), NextEra Energy )  
Transmission Investments, LLC, and )  
NextEra Energy Transmission, LLC )  
("NextEra Entities") for approval of the )  
Acquisition of GridLiance by the NextEra )  
Entities )

**File No. EM-2021-0114**

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Issue Date: December 16, 2020

Effective Date: December 16, 2020

On November 25, 2020, NextEra Energy Transmission Investments, LLC and NextEra Energy Transmission, LLC (collectively "NextEra Entities") filed a motion for a protective order. The NextEra Entities claim that its response to the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission's (Staff's) Data Request 0004, referenced in its motion as the Board of Directors' Finance & Investment Committee presentation (F&I presentation), would include market-specific information, strategies in contract negotiations, and trade secrets.

The NextEra Entities requests a protective order under 20 CSR 4240-2.135(3) providing protection for its F&I presentation. The NextEra Entities request that their response to Staff Data Request 0004 be designated as highly confidential, and be provided only to Staff and provided electronically by means other than EFIS. The NextEra Entities represented that Staff had no objection to its request.

Subsection (4) of the Commission's rule on confidential information, 20 CSR 4240-2.135, allows the Commission to order greater protection for information designated as highly confidential upon the filing of a motion explaining what information must be protected, why it should be protected, and how it should be protected. The NextEra Entities explain that the F&I presentation is a sensitive trade secret that must not be disclosed to its competitors in the electric transmission industry. The NextEra Entities ask that the highly confidential information be protected from disclosure by limiting its disclosure to Staff, which is the only party that has thus far requested that information. The NextEra Entities indicate they will contest any request by the intervening parties, Evergy Metro, Inc. or the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission, to obtain access to the information.

The NextEra Entities' request to limit disclosure of highly confidential information to a single party is unusual, but doing so is within the Commission's authority under the regulation. Ten days were allowed for responses to the motion for protective order, per Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.080(13), but no responses or objections were received. The Commission finds the unopposed request for a protective order reasonable and will grant it.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The NextEra Entities' motion for a protective order is granted. The response of the NextEra Entities to Staff Data Request 0004, known as the F&I presentation, shall be marked highly confidential and shall be provided only to Staff and electronically by means other than EFIS.
2. This order shall be effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and  
Holsman CC., concur.

Hatcher, Regulatory Law Judge