



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anita Novak (Investors)
515-280-2515
Lisa Hamilton (Media)
515-362-7589
717 Mulberry Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

**EMC INSURANCE GROUP INC. COMMENTS
ON 2006 SECOND QUARTER RESULTS AND
REVISES ANNUAL GUIDANCE**

DES MOINES, Iowa (July 19, 2006) – EMC Insurance Group Inc. (Nasdaq/NGS:EMCI) (the “Company”) today announced that second quarter 2006 operating income¹ is expected to be in the range of \$0.74 to \$0.78 per share. Net income, including realized investment gains/losses, is expected to be in the range of \$0.84 to \$0.88. These results significantly exceed analysts’ consensus expectation of \$0.44 of operating income per share for the second quarter of 2006.

“Our underlying book of business in the property and casualty insurance segment continued to perform exceptionally well during the second quarter,” stated Bruce G. Kelley, president and chief executive officer. “Premium rates are still considered adequate in most lines of business; however, we are beginning to see the impact of moderate rate reductions that have been implemented during the last two years. On the loss side, we experienced approximately \$7.7 million (\$0.36 per share after tax) of favorable development on prior years’ direct case loss reserves stemming from final settlements of claims. Catastrophe and storm losses for the second quarter were well below the 10 year average.”

In response to the exceptionally good operating results experienced during the first six months of the year, management has increased its 2006 operating income guidance to a range of \$2.70 to \$2.95 per share from the prior range of \$2.55 to \$2.80 per share. The revised guidance is based on a projected GAAP combined ratio of 97.4 percent, compared to 98.1 percent utilized in the prior guidance. “Due to the large amount of favorable direct case loss reserve development experienced in the first six months of 2006, we are assuming no additional favorable direct case loss reserve development in the second half of the year,” stated Bruce G. Kelley. “In addition, we are assuming that catastrophe and storm losses will increase in the second half of the year based on the predictions of an active hurricane season. As a result, the increase in the revised guidance is not as large as might be expected based on the results of the first six months.”

Second quarter earnings information will be released to the media before the opening of regular market hours on July 26, 2006. The second quarter earnings release and financial supplement will be available on the Company’s website (www.emcinsurance.com) at that time.

The Company will hold an earnings teleconference call at 11:00 a.m. eastern daylight time on July 26, 2006 to allow securities analysts, shareholders and other interested parties the opportunity to hear management discuss the Company’s quarterly results as well as its expectations for the remainder of 2006. Dial-in information for the call is toll-free 1-800-295-3991; passcode 17959632. The event will be archived and available for digital replay through August 2, 2006. The replay access information is toll-free 1-888-286-8010; passcode 26181634. A webcast of the teleconference will be presented by Thomson Financial and can be accessed at <http://my.ccbn.com> or from the Company’s investor relations page at www.emcinsurance.com. The archived webcast will be available for one year. A transcript of the

teleconference will also be available on the Company's website shortly after the completion of the teleconference.

EMC Insurance Group Inc., the publicly-held insurance holding company of EMC Insurance Companies, owns subsidiaries with operations in property and casualty insurance and reinsurance. EMC Insurance Companies is one of the largest property and casualty groups in Iowa and among the top 60 insurance groups nationwide based on premium volume. For more information, visit our website.

¹ The Company uses a non-GAAP financial measure called "operating income" (which excludes realized investment gains/losses) that management believes is useful to investors because it illustrates the performance of our normal, ongoing operations, which is important in understanding and evaluating our financial condition and results of operation. While this measure is consistent with measures utilized by investors to evaluate performance, it is not a substitute for the U.S. GAAP financial measure of net income. Management also uses non-GAAP financial measures for goal setting, determining employee and senior management awards and compensation, and evaluating performance.

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides issuers the opportunity to make cautionary statements regarding forward-looking statements. Accordingly, any forward-looking statement contained in this report is based on management's current beliefs, assumptions and expectations of the Company's future performance, taking into account all information currently available to management. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as the result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to management. If a change occurs, the Company's business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives may vary materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties that may affect the actual results of the Company include, but are not limited to, the following: catastrophic events and the occurrence of significant severe weather conditions; the adequacy of loss and settlement expense reserves; state and federal legislation and regulations; changes in our industry, interest rates or the performance of financial markets and the general economy; rating agency actions and other risks and uncertainties inherent to the Company's business. When we use the words "believe", "expect", "anticipate", "estimate" or similar expressions, we intend to identify forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.