In the Matter of:

SPIRE MISSOURI INC.'S d/b/a SPIRE REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY , etc.

GR-2021-0108, VOL. III

June 21, 2021



www.tigercr.com 573.999.2662

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             BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 2
                      STATE OF MISSOURI
 3
 4
                  TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
 5
 6
                     Discovery Conference
 7
                          via WebEx
 8
                        June 21, 2021
 9
                   Jefferson City, Missouri
10
                           Volume 3
11
12
13
14
   In The Matter Of Spire Missouri )
   Inc.'s Request for Authority to )Case No. GR-2021-0108
   Implement a General Rate
15
   Increase for Natural Gas Service)
   Provided in the Company's )
16
   Missouri Service Areas.
17
18
                      CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
                         REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
19
20
21
22
   REPORTED BY:
   Tracy Taylor, CCR No. 939
23
   TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC
24
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1
                 JUDGE HATCHER: Let's go on the record.
2
   Good morning everyone. This is the discovery
    conference scheduled for today in the Case
 3
   GR-2021-0108, and that is captioned In the Matter of
 4
5
    Spire Missouri Inc.'s, DBA Spire, Request for
6
   Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for
 7
   Natural Gas Service Provided in the Company's Missouri
    Service Territories.
8
9
                 Okay. Let's get into it. Mr. Clizer,
   why don't you give us an introduction and tell us
10
11
   where we're at?
12
                 MR. CLIZER: All right. Thank you.
13
    Judge. Like was -- as was stated in the filing I made
14
    last Thursday, we had I think only one objection that
15
   was at issue. OPC and the Company have been working
    together over the past couple of days to try and reach
16
17
   a resolution. I think that we have a resolution in
18
   principle. I'm simply going to outline what I believe
    is the agreement that we've reached and invite Spire
19
20
    to correct me as necessary.
                 So effectively, we had asked for Spire's
21
    long-range plan. They objected. The basis for the
22
23
    objection is stated in the attached objection that was
    included with the filing, so I'm not going to rehash
24
    that here.
25
```

1 Having discussed with Spire, it appears 2 that their primary concern is that they are leery of providing underlying assumptions that were included in 3 the long-range plan that relate to the outcome of this 5 case or possible outcomes to this case. And again, I 6 invite Mr. Aplington to correct me if he thinks that 7 I've failed to capture that accurately. 8 I believe that we have -- what the 9 parties have agreed to is that the Company will make its long-range plan available to the OPC with some 10 material redacted. The OPC will review it. If we 11 12 have concerns with the redaction, I think that we are going to attempt to submit it to you, Judge, with a 13 14 list from the Company explaining what the redactions are and why, and if we need to, a list kind of 15 explaining what our concerns are and ask for you to 16 make an in-camera review and determine if the material 17 should be redacted. 18 I -- again, when -- Mr. Aplington, does 19 20 that all sound correct from your understanding? MR. APLINGTON: Yeah. 21 I think that's right, Judge. Good morning. This -- this is a new 22 23 request that we have not received from the OPC previously and so that's why we've sort of been 24 25 struggling with what the parameters should be.

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1
                 The long-range plan is a document that
 2
   outlines forward-looking projections of potential
    corporate earnings into the future. And included in
 3
    there are some assumptions -- some underlying data and
5
   assumptions, to include things like, you know,
6
   potential settlement outcomes of this case or
   potential future rate case filing dates that we don't
8
    think are appropriate or relevant.
9
                 So Mr. Clizer's exactly right. What we
   would propose to do is to redact those items that we
10
11
    think are -- are not appropriate for review and make
12
    the remainder of the plan available to OPC for their
   review. And if there's any dispute about the scope of
13
14
    the redactions, that we would submit to you for an
    in-camera review the redacted portions to get a
15
16
   ruling.
17
                 JUDGE HATCHER: I like it. That sounds
18
   good.
19
                 MR. CLIZER: And I -- sorry.
                                               Sorry.
20
    apologize. I keep talking over you and to the court
21
   reporter.
22
                 I believe this is -- I think this would
23
   have probably been understood, but just to make clear,
24
    when you provide the redacted material, you're going
    to provide an indication for what's being redacted and
25
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GR-2021-0108, Vol. III

1	why; is that right? A privilege log as we've kind of				
2	seen in the past?				
3	MR. APLINGTON: Yes. We will prepare a				
4	privilege log in the same type of format that we've				
5	used in the past.				
6	MR. CLIZER: Yes. In that case, yeah, I				
7	believe that's our agreement.				
8	JUDGE HATCHER: Excellent. It sounds				
9	like there is a resolution. Are there any other				
10	issues that we want to discuss today? I know that the				
11	Rebuttal Testimony and a lot of it just came in				
12	last week and some of us have had a long weekend.				
13	Okay. Awesome. Then this discovery				
14	conference is adjourned. We are off the record.				
15	(Whereupon, the conference was				
16	adjourned.)				
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the testimony appearing in the foregoing matter was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witnesses was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this matter was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR

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