## DEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s d/b/a	
Spire Request for Authority to Implement a	)
General Rate Increase for Natural Gas	) <u>Case No. GR-2021-0108</u>
Service Provided in the Company's	)
Missouri Service Areas	)

### STAFF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its filing submits proposed language as agreed on by the parties for the attached Notice of Local Public Hearings regarding Spire's general rate increase request, as directed by the Commission in its March 26, 2021 *Order Directing Filing*.

Respectfully submitted,

### /s/ Robert S. Berlin

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2021.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

# Notice of Local Public Hearings and Request for Comments Regarding Proposed Increase

At Spire Missouri Inc. ("Spire" or "Company"), we've filed a request with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("PSC") to approve a rate increase to customer bills. The request would produce a net increase in its annual distribution rates of approximately \$65 million. We're also requesting to reassign \$47 million of improvements, currently being collected under the Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (ISRS) program, to base rates. The amount related to the ISRS is already being collected in rates and does not represent an increase to Spire's annual distribution rates. 97% of this proposed increase is for recovery of money we have already spent on the nearly \$1 billion in infrastructure upgrades and improvements to the Company's distribution systems since its last rate review.

The proposed rate increase also provides recovery for non-ISRS investments made and reflects increases in certain costs that have occurred since our last general rate case, which was filed in 2017 and concluded in 2018.

The effect of the proposed revenue increase will vary by customer type. The impact of the proposed rates on the typical customer bill for a Spire residential heating customer would be an increase of an average of approximately \$3.28 or 5.6% per month. This typical customer impact is based upon an average gas usage of 63 therms per month, and your bill impact will vary based upon your gas usage.

#### **Attend a Virtual Public Hearing**

The PSC will hold several virtual public hearings to provide customers an opportunity to ask questions, present testimony, and provide comments about this rate increase request. The PSC encourages Spire customers to attend one of six virtual hearings where anyone may appear, testify, and/or provide documents to the Commission for it to consider in this case.

Each public hearing will begin with a public question and answer session that will allow customers to ask questions of both Spire representatives and regulatory officials, followed by an opportunity to speak directly to the PSC commissioners and provide testimony that will go on to be part of the evidentiary record in this rate case proceeding.

To attend one of the virtual public hearings that have been set before the PSC, please refer to the following chart. When identifying which meeting to attend, please use the Customer Region that you feel is most geographically appropriate for you.

			At the time of the hearing, dial 1-855-718-6621 and
Date	Start Time	Customer Region	enter the
			Access Code/Password
June 21, 2021	6 p.m.	City of St. Louis	Access Code:
			Password:
June 22, 2021	6 p.m.	St. Louis County	Access Code:
			Password:
June 23, 2021	6 p.m.	Kansas City	Access Code:
			Password:
June 24, 2021	6 p.m.	St. Joseph	Access Code:
		_	Password:
June 25, 2021	6 p.m.	Joplin	Access Code:
			Password:
June 23, 2021	Noon	All	Access Code:
			Password:

### **Additional Ways to Provide Comments and Feedback**

If you are unable to attend one of the virtual sessions or would otherwise like to make written comments or receive additional information, you may contact the PSC directly at:

Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Telephone: (800) 392-4211 Email: <u>pscinfo@psc.mo.gov</u>

In addition, you may also provide comments to or receive additional information from the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel, a state agency tasked with representing the interests of the public in proceedings before the PSC, by contacting:

Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102 telephone (866) 922-2959 email opcservice@ded.mo.gov.

### **Connect With Us**

You can also learn more about the rate review at SpireEnergy.com/rate-review.

The local public hearings will be held virtually via live stream. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearings, please call the PSC's Hotline at (800) 392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing. During each virtual public hearing, you may also contact us with questions about your account via a designated text line at (xxx)xxx-xxxx.

### **Stay Informed**

Finally, if you want to stay informed about this case or read up on what has already been filed, you can access this case on the PSC's Electronic Filing Information System (or "EFIS"). Please go to <a href="https://psc.mo.gov/General/EFIS">https://psc.mo.gov/General/EFIS</a>, find the link for "Docket Sheet" under EFIS Shortcuts, and enter the case number for this case (GR-2021-0108) in the box provided to see everything filed in this case.

The PSC will also conduct an evidentiary hearing at its offices in Jefferson City from July 26 –30, 2021 and August 2-6, 2021 each day beginning at 10 am. [IF THESE EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND, RECOMMEND STATING SO]