

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

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.’s)	
Request for Authority to Implement a)	
General Rate Increase for Natural Gas)	Case No. GR-2022-0179
Service Provided in the Company’s)	
Missouri Service Areas)	

**SPIRE MISSOURI’S RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION’S ORDER SETTING
DEADLINES FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY
PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES**

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. (“Spire” or “the Company”), by and through counsel, and files this Response to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”)’s *Order Setting a Deadline for Local Public Hearing Recommendations and Any Proposed Language for Local Public Hearing Notices* (“Order”). stating as follows:

1. On June 29, 2022, the Consumers Council of Missouri (“CCM”) filed its *Consumers Council of Missouri’s Motion Regarding Local Public Hearings* (“CCM’s Request”) for the Commission to set at least three in-person local public hearings and at least one virtual public hearing to provide additional opportunities for customers to participate in Spire’s current rate case. Prior to the filing its motion, CCM conferred with Spire, the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”), and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), reaching an agreeable schedule for those parties.

2. On June 30, 2022, Spire filed *Spire Missouri’s Response to CCM’s Request For In-Person Public Hearings*, stating that in the event the Commission is not inclined to deviate from its prior scheduling of three virtual public hearings, Spire is willing to hold the proposed in-person public hearings as open houses for the discussion of the rate case and assistance with billing inquiries. All intervenors would be invited to participate in these meetings to present information and answer questions about the case. Spire would hold these public hearings in both the St. Louis

and Kansas City areas and have video conference capability at these in-person public hearings so that customers and intervenors not able to attend in-person would still be able to participate.

3. Also on June 30, 2022, the Commission filed its Order setting the deadlines for recommendations on local public hearings and proposed language for local public hearing notices. Recommendations on local public hearings are due no later than July 20, 2022, and proposed language for local public hearing notices is due July 27, 2022.

4. Spire's position remains unchanged from its June 30, 2022 filing. The Company still finds the agreed schedule with CCM, OPC, and Staff acceptable. However, should the Commission prefer not to deviate from its prior scheduling of three virtual public hearings, Spire is also still willing to hold the proposed in-person public hearings as open houses, with the same conditions as described above.

5. Separate from its response to the Order, the Company also must advise the Commission of the urgent time frame for finalizing and distributing customer notice of the local public hearings. To ensure the notice sent by mail is received by customers at least 10 business days prior to the first public hearing, Spire must send an agreed to version of the notice to the printer by Monday, July 25, 2022.

6. Accordingly, Spire attaches hereto its draft notice language for the local public hearings. Spire requests that the Commission shorten the deadline to for parties to file comments on the attached proposed language for local public hearing notices to Monday, July 25, and expeditiously review and approve the form of notice so that it may be distributed to customers on time. The company will simultaneously send the draft notice to parties for editing or recommendations in hopes of reaching an agreed to notice or joint filing by July 25th.

WHEREFORE, Spire respectfully requests that the Commission accept this Response, accelerate the deadline for comments on the attached proposed language for local public hearing notices set by the Order, and expeditiously review and approve the draft notice attached hereto so that customer notice may be distributed on time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
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ATTORNEYS FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

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 20th day of July, 2022.

/s/ Julie Trachsel