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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of Spire)
Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire's)
Request for Authority)
to Implement a General Rate)
Increase for Natural) File No. GR-2025-0107
Gas Service Provided in the)
the Company's Missouri)
Service Areas)

June 02, 2025
6:00 p.m.

SHREWSBURY CITY CENTER - SUNSET ROOM
5200 SHREWSBURY AVENUE
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63119

VOLUME II

RILEY FEWELL,
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, CHAIR,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL

COMMISSIONERS

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Reported by:
Colin Wallis, Lexitas Legal, St. Louis, MO 63101

* * * * *

(Starting time of the hearing: 7:16 p.m.)

REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: We can go on the record. It is June 2, 2025, and the current time is around 7:15.

The Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing to give members of the public a chance to comment about the application in file number GR-2025-0107, which is captioned as in the Matter of Spire Missouri Incorporated doing business as Spire's Request for Authority to implement a general rate increase for natural gas service in the company's Missouri Service Areas.

The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates investor-owned utility companies in Missouri and ensures that rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and safety of operations of investor-owned utilities. The Commission is made up five commissioners, however currently there are only four. Chair Hahn -- Kayla Hahn, and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glenn Kolkmeyer and John Mitchell. The commissioners

1 are appointed by the governor to fixed terms
2 and then confirmed by the Senate. They employ
3 a staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys,
4 financial analysts and other specialists in the
5 field of utility regulation. With me today are
6 Commissioner Coleman in person, as well as
7 Chair Hahn, Commissioner Mitchell and
8 Commissioner Kolkmeier online.

9 Commissioners, if you have any questions
10 at any time, feel free to interrupt me and ask
11 them. My name is Riley Fewell, and I'm the
12 regulatory law judge presiding over this
13 hearing. This is an official hearing of the
14 Missouri Public Service Commission, and the
15 statements and testimony of witnesses will be
16 recorded by the court reporter and must be
17 given under oath or affirmation. The
18 Commission has not made any decisions in this
19 case, and neither the commissioners nor myself
20 can answer any questions about the issues of
21 the case today because the Commission must
22 remain impartial until all evidence has been
23 presented. As we want to provide all attendees
24 an adequate opportunity to speak tonight, we
25 will limit the testimony to only three minutes.

1 If you or someone you know would like to make
2 additional comments, there's a comment tab that
3 can be reached via the Commission's website:
4 psc.mo.gov. On the right side of the homepage,
5 there's a link titled Submit Comments. Click
6 on that link to submit your comments making
7 sure you reference this case number:
8 GR-2025-0107.

9 There will also be other local public
10 hearings tomorrow at noon and 6:00, both of
11 which are virtual, and three other local public
12 hearings, two on Wednesday. The first in St.
13 Joseph at noon and then Kansas City at
14 6:00 p.m., and then one final local public
15 hearing in Joplin at 6:30 on Thursday. If you
16 or anyone you know would like to attend any of
17 those other local public hearings, please let
18 staff or OPC know before you leave here today
19 to get further details. The court reporter is
20 transcribing this hearing, so that the
21 Commission may review and read the comments.
22 Commissioner Coleman, do you have any opening
23 remarks?

24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Judge.
25 Well, good evening everyone. Thank you so much

1 for being here. We appreciate you taking the
2 time to come and provide public testimony to us
3 regarding your interests, concerns, relative to
4 this file's rate case. Online, as has been
5 mentioned by the judge, are the other
6 commissioners including our chairwoman, Kayla
7 Hahn. We want to hear your testimony so that
8 it can assist us in decision-making when it
9 comes to this issue.

10 Of course, there will be what we call an
11 evidentiary hearing where we will have an
12 opportunity to ask questions of the company,
13 and interveners and others to help us even
14 clearer understand the concerns that may be
15 there. Again, thank you for being here. We
16 appreciate, and I want to hear what you have to
17 say and as does the other commissioners. We
18 appreciate you spending this evening with us.
19 Thank you again.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,
21 Commissioner. And we begin with the parties
22 entering their appearances, beginning with
23 Spire.

24 MR. APLINGTON: Good evening. Matthew
25 Aplington on behalf of Spire Missouri.

1 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: The
2 commission staff?

3 MS. KERR: Carolyn Kerr on behalf of
4 Staff.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: The Office
6 of Public Counsel?

7 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of the
8 Office of the Public Counsel.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Are there
10 any interveners present who would like to make
11 an entry of appearance? Okay, for those who
12 like to provide comments today, I'm going to
13 call the names on those sign-up sheets in the
14 order in which they appear. When I call your
15 name, please come down to the podium, and I
16 will place you under oath and ask you to state
17 and spell your name. Then you can offer your
18 comments to the Commission.

19 As I previously stated, we are limiting
20 comments to three minutes today so that
21 everyone has an adequate chance to be heard.
22 Also, please remain at the podium after your
23 remarks until you have been excused because the
24 Commission may have some questions to ask you.
25 If the attorneys have any questions they can

1 let me know at the time as well. Would
2 Jeanette Oxford -- Mott-Oxford come to the
3 podium.

4 (Jeanette Mott-Oxford sworn.)

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Please spell
6 your name for the record.

7 MS. MOTT-OXFORD: Jeanette Mott-Oxford
8 J-e-a-n-e-t-t-e, M-o-t-t, O-x-f-o-r-d.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
10 you like to tell the Commission?

11 MS. MOTT-OXFORD: Well, I would like to
12 say that I am on the church counsel of Epiphany
13 United Church of Christ near where Commissioner
14 Coleman lives. She's probably familiar with
15 us, and we often have people come to us for
16 utility assistance. Many of them will have
17 difficulty paying an increase as large as this
18 is.

19 My friend, Elizabeth, got less than
20 3 percent increase, I believe it was, her SSI
21 last year and she pays -- has about \$900 a
22 month of income. This will be a real blow to
23 her, and I've already been talking to folks
24 about what programs we may be able to get her
25 on. I also would like to share a letter from A

1 friend who has a medical condition so couldn't
2 be here tonight, and then enter this letter to
3 your records for the hearing. It's addressed
4 to the Public Service Commission.

5 "Because of an upcoming medical procedure,
6 I am unable to attend the June public hearing
7 regarding Spire's proposed rate increase.

8 Please include these comments that follow as my
9 testimony regarding this proposal. I opposed
10 the size of the rate increase. I do not say
11 that Spire is undeserving of some increase in
12 revenues, however the proposed increase is
13 exorbitant considering current economic
14 conditions.

15 Number one, I question how careful Spire
16 is with its spending given my recent experience
17 regarding the removal or moving of gas meters.
18 I am a customer of Spire living at 5724 Neosho
19 Street, St. Louis, 63109. On November 1st,
20 2023, a workman in Spire's employ came to my
21 house and inspected the gas meter in the
22 basement and swapped it out for a new one.
23 Within a few months, Spire was back again to
24 move the meter outside.

25 Spire workman visited my house on

1 June 11th, 26th, 28th, July 3rd and July 10th
2 before the meter-moving job could be completed.
3 Admittedly, some of these delays were weather
4 related, but there were a lot of workman
5 wasting a lot of time before this job got done.
6 I question how efficiently their maintenance is
7 carried out if they know in advance that all
8 their expenditures are going to be covered by
9 higher rates.

10 Two, I fear the proposed rate increase
11 will fall disproportionately on residential
12 customers like me. While the public
13 information distributed by Spire claims a
14 14 percent increase, the proposed base rate for
15 customers in Spire Missouri east area would be
16 18.2 percent, and the proposed increase for a
17 residential customer in Spire West territory
18 would be 20.9, according to information filed
19 by other parties interested in the case.

20 Furthermore, Spire's proposal for the
21 fixed residential customer charge from 20 to
22 \$24 a month would be at 20 percent increase.
23 These numbers far exceed the current rate of
24 inflation.

25 Three, finally, I ask the commissioners to

1 give serious weight to the financial burden
2 shared by Spire's customers. Inflation is
3 bearing down like a beast on all rate payers.
4 Just this week, I received notice of an \$800
5 annual increase in medical insurance premiums,
6 and the assessor has notified me of an increase
7 in the evaluation of my primary residence that
8 will mean higher property taxes at the end of
9 the year. On top on this, we are faced with
10 economic turmoil stemming from actions in the
11 White House that are diminishing our
12 investments that produced a share of our
13 retirement income.

14 For these reasons, I ask the commission to
15 lower the actual rate increase to an amount
16 more in tune with in the current consumer
17 inflation rates. Thank you for considering my
18 views."

19 And that's signed by Terry Gainey (ph.) a
20 friend of mine. And I'd like to bring that to
21 go into your records, if that's all right.

22 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Appreciate
23 it. Are there any objections to admitting that
24 as Commission Exhibit 1?

25 MR. APLINGTON: No objection.

1 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: All right,
2 so admitted.

3 (Commission Exhibit 1 admitted on the hearing
4 record.)

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.

6 MS. MOTT-OXFORD: Thank you.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Marilyn Sue
8 Warren.

9 (Marilyn Sue Warren sworn.)

10 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
11 please state and spell your name for the
12 record?

13 MS. WARREN: Marilyn Sue Warren,
14 M-a-r-i-l-y-n, S-u-e, W-a-r-r-e-n.

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
16 you like to tell the Commission?

17 MS. WARREN: Thank you for this
18 opportunity. For the last ten years of my
19 practice, I'm a community health nurse. I work
20 at a place called Places for People. Our
21 primary mission was to find housing for folks
22 who were unhoused. We were so delighted when
23 we found someone an apartment. Frequently the
24 apartments we found were in brick buildings,
25 second and third floor, and in the summertime

1 with them being brick, they became ovens.

2 They were not -- they were poorly
3 insulated, drafts from the windows. So the
4 utility bills were exceeding high. I live in a
5 townhouse, three bathroom. My usual Spire bill
6 is \$70 a month. For a three-room apartment,
7 frequently our clients bill was 100 to 150.
8 The last thing they need is for it to be
9 higher. Especially, since the tornado went
10 through, there will be so many people that will
11 be even more people struggling to be housed.
12 So, I oppose this rate increase. Thank you.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
14 for your comments. You may be excused, sorry.
15 Michael -- I'm not sure about your last name.
16 I'm sorry.

17 (Michael Beining Sworn.)

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
19 please state and spell your name for the
20 record?

21 MR. BEINING: Michael Beining
22 M-i-c-h-a-e-l, B-e-i-n-i-n-g.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
24 proceed.

25 MR. BEINING: I oppose this increase. I

1 disagree with the increase as it appears to be
2 a pay-to-play tax on a consumer and seasonal
3 end that appears to a profit-driven purpose.
4 500 percent of what was requested in 2023 is
5 entirely too much. The company, which has no
6 competition in much of Missouri, the profits
7 should be taken into account in this request
8 for what they're asking. I believe this
9 disproportionately affects those who are unable
10 to afford energy living -- efficient living
11 quarters. That's it.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
13 for your comments.

14 MR. BEINING: Thank you.

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Fredrick
16 Doss.

17 (Fredrick Doss sworn.)

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
19 please state and spell your name for the
20 record?

21 MR. DOSS: My name is Fredrick Doss,
22 F-r-e-d-r-i-c-k, D-o-s-s.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
24 you like to tell the Commission?

25 MR. DOSS: Thank you for allowing me to

1 give testimony today. So, I decided to give my
2 testimony in the stone -- tone and style of
3 Lady Whistledown from the popular Netflix TV
4 show Bridgerton. So, while my remarks might
5 sound comical in nature, the concerns I'm
6 raising are very real.

7 So, dearest gentle regulator, it has come
8 to this author's intention that Spire Missouri,
9 purveyor of gas and frequent collector of coin,
10 has requested yet enough increase to their
11 already generous rates, this time to the tune
12 of \$14 per month for the average household.

13 One can only wonder is this a matter of
14 necessity or merely one of convenience for a
15 company that reported nearly \$350 million in
16 profits just last year. This writer has long
17 admired thrift and temperance and has even
18 invested more than \$30,000 in improvements to
19 one's own estate in the noble pursuit of energy
20 efficiency, but, alas, my well of funds, much
21 like the patience of the time, has run dry.

22 How, pray tell, are those without means or
23 those under the domain of landlords less
24 inclined toward energy efficiency improvement,
25 to fair under this growing financial burden?

1 It is perhaps the height of irony to advise
2 customers to reduce usage when the means to do
3 so remain so firmly out of reach and assistance
4 is in very short supply. In the absence of
5 robust public investment or incentives to
6 empower all households, regardless of station,
7 this proposed rate increase feels less like a
8 call to responsibility and more like a tax upon
9 one's very own right to warm. One need not be
10 the queen to see that this scheme is most
11 unbecoming of a trusted public utility. Yours
12 in scrutiny in service and truth. Thank you.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
14 for your comments. James Granger? We'll
15 circle back. Janet Noble.

16 (Janet Noble sworn.)

17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
18 please state and spell your name for the
19 record?

20 MS. NOBLE: J-a-n-e-t, N-o-b-l-e.

21 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
22 You may proceed.

23 MS. NOBLE: I was checking the
24 internet today regarding the CEO of Spire and
25 his salary. According to the internet, Steven

1 L. Lindsey was the CEO in 2024 and left in
2 April of 2025. He received nearly \$3.4 million
3 in total compensation. Just for 2024.
4 Salary.com breaks down the moneys to a more
5 detailed breakdown. He received \$800,000 in
6 salary, over \$700,000 as a bonus and over a
7 million dollars in stock rewards.

8 With the increase of the gas to people's
9 houses, is really going to be a hardship for
10 poor people in the City of St. Louis,
11 especially with the tornado and the massive
12 increase that all the utilities are asking for.
13 If people can't pay their bills now, I do not
14 understand how they're going to pay their bills
15 later. So, I'd like the salary amounts to go
16 down in the record for my speech. Thank you.

17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,
18 ma'am. Nova Dent.

19 MR. DENT: I would like to enter on record
20 that is my preferred name, so I will be giving
21 you my legal name when I spell it.

22 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. What
23 is your legal name?

24 MR. DENT: My legal name is Noah.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Noah? Thank

1 you.

2 (Noah Dent sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
4 please state and spell your legal name for the
5 record?

6 MR. DENT: Noah Dent, N-o-a-h, D-e-n-t.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
8 You may proceed.

9 MR. DENT: All right, I believe this rate
10 increase is a slap in the face to working
11 Missourians as economic security hangs in the
12 balance yet again. They claim need to raise
13 rates to cover for inflation, but continue to
14 pay incentives of multiple of millions of
15 dollars to their board of directors, as well as
16 paying dividends to stockholders such as
17 BlackRock and Vanguard Group out of the profit
18 they have gathered from our bills. It is
19 unacceptable for private interests to continue
20 to profit of Missourians' hard work, especially
21 on resources necessary to living in a home in
22 Missouri and in a market where Spire has
23 monopolized the natural gas access. And for
24 this reason, I oppose this rate increase.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you

1 for your comments. Marlene Wrablik.

2 (Marlene Wrablik sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Please state
4 and spell your name for the record?

5 MS. WRABLIK: Yes, Marlene, M-a-r-l-e-n-e,
6 Wrablik, W-r-a-b, as in boy, l-i-k.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
8 What would you like to tell the Commission?

9 MS. WRABLIK: First of all, I want to
10 thank everyone for their important -- for their
11 time this evening. And I'm speaking for all of
12 us. I'm speaking for all of us residential.

13 The first point is, is Spire's goal to
14 make this rate increase go effective
15 October 24th of this year? A week later, we
16 have cold weather rates that take affect, so
17 it's basically a double whammy to us. The
18 second part, we do know that you're passing
19 this rate increase onto commercial industry.
20 These are all different businesses we go to:
21 restaurants, retail stores, et cetera. So
22 these businesses are going to have this rate
23 increase, too, and this is affective -- this is
24 going to affect their cost of operations.

25 With that, what happens? Their costs,

1 their increase, is going to be passed onto us
2 customers. So, when we go to that rate, you
3 know, the menu, the rates are going to be going
4 up; the prices will be going up. So, we do see
5 this as a double whammy. Just not residential
6 but onto commercial, industrial, and it's just
7 it's passed onto us. And thank you for your
8 time.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
10 Rita Haroema (ph.). Do you want me to circle
11 back to you? Okay. Neal Barron?

12 (Neal Barron sworn.)

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
14 please state and spell your name for the
15 record?

16 MR. BARRON: N-e-a-l, N-e-a-l. Barron,
17 B-a-r-r-o-n.

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
19 you like to tell the Commission?

20 MR. BARRON: I would like to tell the
21 Commission that I'm opposed to this proposed
22 rate increase. I understand that with
23 inflation, that Spire may need more revenue for
24 infrastructure; but 14, 15 percent is
25 outrageous, and passing that on to the

1 customers, who have no choice but to go with
2 them, is a slap in the face. If my cell phone
3 bill increases, and same with Verizon, I will
4 contact AT&T; I will shop around. I don't have
5 that choice with natural gas, whatsoever. And
6 it's not like I can forgo having gas in my
7 home. I need it to warm my home. And,
8 fortunately, for me, I own my home. I can take
9 efforts to make my home more energy efficient.
10 For the renters out there who can't take those
11 efforts, who are subject to the whims of their
12 landlord, they cannot afford this rate
13 increase. Say no.

14 They make plenty of money. Tell them to
15 use all that profit that they have to invest
16 and quit taking it from us. This is supposed
17 to be a public utility. In a public utility,
18 the concept of public utility is totally
19 contradictory to a publically traded company
20 that must make profit at all -- that is their
21 only goal. Thank you.

22 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
23 Michael Berg.

24 (Michael Berg sworn.)

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you

1 please state and spell your name for the
2 record?

3 MR. BERG: Michael Berg, M-i-c-h-a-e-l,
4 B-e-r-g.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
6 proceed.

7 MR. BERG: Yeah, so I don't think there
8 should be this rate increase, and just wanted
9 to remind this commission about the incredibly
10 dishonest behavior of Spire with the Spire
11 pipeline, which was -- began building in 2017,
12 approved by FERC, but Spire began knowing that
13 it would likely be determined illegal because
14 of self-dealing. And in 2021, it was
15 determined illegal; and then Spire engaged in
16 an extraordinary dishonest fear campaign using
17 its own channels to let the captive consumers,
18 think that if they did not advocate for Spire's
19 profits on behalf of this pipeline, which has
20 been termed illegal, that they might freeze in
21 the winter, and to the point where the people
22 representing landowners along the route of the
23 Environmental Defense Fund, the lawyer was
24 afraid to come and testify in St. Louis because
25 of death threats.

1 Then the PSC actually did report, saying
2 yes Spire should not have done that fear
3 campaign; Spire should not have used its
4 channels to give deceptive messaging, but there
5 was no actual penalty. And they profited off
6 of the pipeline. They're still profitings of
7 the pipeline, even though they knew the
8 illegal -- there really should be some sort of
9 consequences of this type of behavior. It
10 shouldn't come from rate payers. It should
11 come from the CEOs or come from the profits.
12 And just remembering, and the PSC already
13 determined that made -- they shouldn't have
14 done it. I would like to see some sort of
15 accountability for this kind of behavior.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
17 for your comments. Megan McGonnell.

18 (Megan McGonnell sworn.)

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
20 please state and spell your name for the
21 record?

22 MS. MCGONNELL: Megan McGonnell,
23 M-e-g-a-n, M-c-G, as in George, o-n-n-e-l-l.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
25 proceed.

1 MS. MCGONNELL: Thank you. I would like
2 to say that I, too, am opposed to this rate
3 hike. Primarily in business, there are two
4 main ways to make money: charge more for the
5 product that you're selling your consumers or
6 attract more customers. The second option does
7 not appear to even have occurred to Spire. If
8 Spire would like to increase their revenue or
9 profit, I suggest they become better corporate
10 citizens and attract more consumers to their
11 service areas. Sorry, I have shortness of
12 breath.

13 Spire's poor service and lagging efforts
14 in energy efficient activity repel potential
15 new residents to the St. Louis metro area and
16 in Missouri as a whole. St. Louis, in
17 particular, is experiencing colossal brain
18 drain, and that fight and the flight of
19 citizens is not helped when Spire leaves their
20 steel plates everywhere for months, detracts
21 from the value of our home by installing your
22 unsightly meters in front of our homes; pay
23 your C-suite and board of directors obscene
24 amounts of our money and put little to no
25 effort into approving your customer service

1 experience, and seem to continually pat
2 yourselves on the backs for providing the bare
3 minimum of service and safety.

4 The average Spire East customer has
5 experienced a 62 percent increase in their
6 winter bills since winter 2020 and 2021. The
7 average Spire West customer has experienced a
8 10 percent increase in their bills since winter
9 2020 and 2021. Excuse me, I misspoke. They
10 have experienced a 109 percent increase in
11 their bill since winter 2021.

12 If you want more money, contribute more to
13 the community in which you operate. Create a
14 better experience for your customers. Create a
15 better community that attracts more residents
16 and more citizenry. Thank you.

17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
18 for your comments. Katherine White.

19 (Katherine White sworn.)

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Please state
21 and spell your name for the record.

22 MS. WHITE: Katherine White.

23 K-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e. White like the color,
24 W-h-i-t-e.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may

1 proceed.

2 MS. WHITE: Last year when the CEO of
3 Spire met with the Board of Aldermen for the
4 City of St. Louis, and they asked why the
5 countless steel plates across the city are not
6 leveled on the ground, causing problems to cars
7 and people experiencing using the road the way
8 that they do in other communities in the St.
9 Louis metropolitan area like Maplewood, Spire
10 responded, "Because the city doesn't require us
11 to."

12 I think this shows that Spire: A, does not
13 treat all their communities equally; and that
14 they only put forth the bare minimum in
15 providing a positive community experience
16 across Missouri. In any other situation, if a
17 business provided such an experience, the
18 consumer would go somewhere else. They would
19 be not rewarded with further profits. Needless
20 to say, I oppose this rate increase. Thank
21 you.

22 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
23 Jerry Bruce.

24 (Jerry Bruce sworn.)

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you

1 please state and spell your name for the
2 record?

3 MR. BRUCE: Jerry Bruce, J-e-r-r-y,
4 B-r-u-c-e.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Please
6 proceed.

7 MR. BRUCE: First of all, I want Spire to
8 be aware -- first of all, I appreciate what
9 you've doing. I appreciate supplying us with
10 gas. I'm old enough to remember heating a
11 house with wood and coal. And I remember what
12 the environment was like during wintertime. So
13 I take -- I say thank you very much for those
14 things. However, unfortunately, I live on
15 Social Security. That's the only income I
16 have. For you to ask 15 percent, when
17 inflation is not that high, it's outrageous.
18 Along with that, your phone system leaves a lot
19 to be desired.

20 And I truly think if you want us to pay
21 15 percent, management needs to take a
22 reduction of 15 percent to show us that you're
23 wanting to go ahead and make a difference. I
24 can't afford 15 percent. Everybody --
25 you're -- this is a captive audience that can't

1 go anywhere else. I'm asking you, kindly,
2 reconsider what you're asking us to pay.
3 There's a lot of us who just are not in a
4 position to do so. I'm trying to find out
5 where in the hell am I going to get this extra
6 money to pay for heating or to cook, dry my
7 clothes, dry my clothes out in the -- my yard
8 in the summertime. I'm fixing my house, I'm
9 trying to fix my house, make it more energy
10 efficient. So I'm saying -- the reason I
11 brought this up as a reminder, I don't need
12 this.

13 All I need is the paperwork you supply.
14 This is a waste of money. When you advertise,
15 we are a capital audience. You send out our
16 bill, put your advertisement in the billing.
17 It's a hell of a lot cheaper than doing it on
18 radio, TV, because we're all getting the bill.
19 We can get the fliers in the mail.

20 And the last thing is, we shouldn't be
21 paying for -- please help me -- people that go
22 down to the state, lobbyists, we shouldn't have
23 to pay for lobbyists. That should be something
24 to come out of the company's funds, not out of
25 our pocket. Thank you for allowing me to

1 express my opinion.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
3 for your comments, sir. Martin Hasse.

4 (Martin Hasse sworn.)

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
6 please state and spell your name?

7 MR. HASSE: M-a-r-t-i-n, H-a-s-s-e.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
9 proceed.

10 MR. HASSE: Thank you. Well, I echoed the
11 comments of a lot of other people. I am on
12 Social Security, and trying to --
13 everybody's -- well, I know -- I'm sorry.
14 Other utilities are raising their rates. Now
15 these are things we got to pay. I do cut down
16 as much as I can on my gas usage. I got my
17 thermostat set at 66 in the winter, and I don't
18 use my gas dryer anymore. I hang up my clothes
19 up in the basement, and I do have to use hot
20 water every now and then, but I cut down on
21 that as much as possible. It's like how do you
22 get blood from a turnip? I guess all these
23 inflationary pressures, et cetera, they just
24 raise the rates without regard to people who
25 actually have to pay them where this money is

1 going to come from. And that's -- that's about
2 it.

3 It's just -- it's just -- they think the
4 world is one big slush fund. Well, I don't
5 have the slush. Thank you very much.

6 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
7 for your comments. Jacob Kurtz.

8 (Jacob Kurtz sworn.)

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
10 please state and spell your name?

11 MR. KURTZ: Jacob Kurtz, it's Jacob Kurtz,
12 J-a-c-o-b, K-u-r-t-z.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
14 proceed.

15 MR. KURTZ: Thank you. As a business
16 owner here, I do understand the need for profit
17 and seeking out capital to continue to invest
18 in infrastructure. The problem that I take
19 with that is, that you can be attractive to
20 investors without raising your rates. There
21 are other ways. There's efficiencies. There's
22 leveraging technology. There's other ways to
23 attract investors. You have a literal monopoly
24 here in Missouri on liquid natural gas.

25 So investors see that, and they see that

1 as a stable investment. So, I understand the
2 idea of being competitive against others, but
3 in our country right now, we are seeing a great
4 lack of competition. We're seeing a
5 consolidation of industries.

6 So the money is there. I know that the
7 money is being sought to be invested, so I
8 don't think it has to be off of the backs of
9 Missourians that you -- that we have to court
10 investors. That's your job as a CEO or as a
11 fellow business owner.

12 The other thing that I'm concerned about,
13 I understand volumetric expenditures and we can
14 reduce to try to become more efficient, but
15 that is putting the onus on us, and the problem
16 is is do I keep my house colder? Do I cook
17 less food? Do I wear winter clothes? We can
18 only cut back so much.

19 I just looked at my bill. In 2023, I paid
20 \$80. I looked at my bill now; I paid \$100.
21 And, yet, I reduced my gas bill, my gas usage.
22 The other thing is I understand that the
23 infrastructure recovery line item that we're
24 paying right now will be reduced to zero
25 because it's going to be rolled into this

1 volumetric rate. However, that still leaves
2 the opening for that to return under the state
3 law. So while this could be a 15 percent now,
4 while reducing that -- that rate, that just can
5 be just applied again without the PSC's
6 approval. So, I do say I'm against the rate
7 hike.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
9 for your comments. Linda Hartl.

10 (Linda Hartl sworn.)

11 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
12 please state and spell your name.

13 MS. HARTL: Yeah, Linda, L-i-n-d-a, Hartl,
14 H-a-r-t-l. So I think a lot of the people who
15 already come up here to speak did a really good
16 job of summarizing. Basically the money that
17 Spire has been making and how we are a captive
18 audience, that this is essentially a monopoly
19 in the area. We can't go shop around for other
20 gas services. So just to reiterate, someone
21 said 350 million; what we've seen is, they made
22 profits of 250 million last year. With a
23 consumer-base of 1.74 million, that's
24 approximately \$104 of excess costs per year for
25 each customer for each household that isn't

1 going towards services that we are directly
2 seeing; that's just profit for the company.

3 And I think the last gentlemen made some
4 excellent points about how there are other ways
5 to incentivize our shareholder and get that
6 shareholder base to increase; and they see that
7 you are a monopoly in the area; you are the
8 only option in the area; and that itself is a
9 huge incentive for people to invest in your
10 company.

11 From a more personal, emotional
12 perspective, I think everyone's been seeing the
13 impacts of inflation and how everything is
14 becoming more expensive across the board for
15 every service, every utility, every consumable.
16 And I don't know about other people in this
17 audience, but we live in the Tower Grove South
18 area, with the reassessments for property taxes
19 this year, our property taxes also went up by
20 80 percent; and this is us being on a pretty
21 fixed income. We haven't been seeing raises
22 for years and years either, so this is just
23 another massive additional cost that we're
24 expected to take on without people getting
25 raises. And with everything else becoming

1 considerably more expensive that we haven't
2 been able to predict and see that costs that
3 just suddenly got pushed on us.

4 So from just an individual personal
5 perspective, this is pretty significant
6 financial burden on top of outlandishly
7 increased property taxes, these other
8 utilities, just everything going up Immensely.
9 And as long I have time, I said this earlier
10 but I want to say it to the Commission, too,
11 just a concern about of the efficiency of the
12 work that Spire does from an infrastructure
13 standpoint.

14 Our next door neighbors were having gas
15 lines replaced several months ago. It took
16 weeks and weeks and weeks for them to do this
17 tiny section of replacement. They finally got
18 it done, sealed it over, and they came back a
19 couple weeks later and tore it all out and were
20 doing more work. Obviously, we don't know
21 exactly what was being done, but it just seemed
22 like very a inefficient use of time and
23 resources. Thank you.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
25 James Granger? Is there anyone else who like

1 to give comments to the Commission?

2 (Nicole Behnen sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
4 please state and spell your name for the
5 Commission?

6 MS. BEHNEN: Nicole Behnen, N-i-c-o-l-e,
7 B-e-h-n-e-n.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can -- can
9 you repeat that?

10 MS. BEHNEN: Sure. Nicole Behnen,
11 N-i-c-o-l-e, B-e-h-n-e-n.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
13 You may proceed.

14 MS. BEHNEN: Okay, great. So I would like
15 to start off with, I did not have a prepared
16 comment to say tonight, because I came here to
17 ask some questions, so I can get some clarity
18 on what was going on here. But, sadly, as we
19 saw earlier, this room was full of people who
20 took time away from their families, took time
21 away from their lives to come here to ask
22 questions to get answers. And it was shortened
23 to one hour. So a lot of things I had to ask,
24 because I couldn't find them on your website or
25 I couldn't find them anywhere, are now just

1 displaced and all of these people left who had
2 decent questions I guarantee you to try to
3 understand what exactly this rate increase is
4 about.

5 But, sadly, since those weren't answered,
6 I'm going to go ahead and try to formulate
7 those into some comments here. We're talking
8 about essential services. We're talking about
9 making sure you have warm water, so that you
10 can sanitize your hands as you wash your hands.
11 We're talking about warm water, so that we can
12 bathe our children and make sure they are
13 clean. We're talking about stoves, so people
14 can cook.

15 These are essential services. We're
16 talking about if you don't have heat in your
17 home, you're going to freeze. And I'm just
18 really having a real hard time understanding
19 the amount of profits being made off of
20 essential services that people need to survive.
21 And hearing publically traded information where
22 I just hear millions and millions of dollars,
23 but I see it being taken from people who should
24 not be burdened with this when there is no
25 where else to go, there is no alternatives for

1 us.

2 So you have left us with a lot of burden
3 on all of the people who are just trying to
4 live their lives.

5 A few other things I had that I was going
6 to ask questions about was, I heard nothing
7 about infrastructure for the environment. We
8 all know that natural gas is a finite resource.
9 We all know that it is polluting our air and
10 our water, and I've heard nothing about what
11 we're going to do to transition from that. I
12 just hear more natural gas, more pipelines,
13 more pollution. But all of us are going to
14 have to take the burdens on those with our
15 healthcare.

16 I also kept hearing the words "just" and
17 "reasonable." Just and reasonable. So, I'm
18 trying to think of just. I'm trying to think
19 of a mom trying to make sure her child is
20 bathed at night. Make sure that she can cook
21 the food. Make sure that we can have dry
22 clothes. I'm wondering what justice is in that
23 whenever you are profiting off of people who
24 are just trying to live their lives, once
25 again, and make sure we have clean dishes and

1 hot water as well as heat.

2 I'm also wondering when I hear about these
3 rate increases, one of my questions was, how
4 much money does Spire profit off of people who
5 have late fees or off of people who have their
6 gas turned off and have to pay restoration
7 fees? That's already taxing people, and as we
8 know, over 60 percent of Americans live
9 paycheck to paycheck. So I'm trying to
10 understand where the justice in this or
11 anything just or reasonable.

12 I'm also wondering what Spire is going to
13 do for the tornado victims in North St. Louis?
14 Are you freezing their payments? Are we making
15 sure that they have what they need during this
16 difficult time? Because that would be just and
17 reasonable to me. I think at this time I'm
18 going to stop, because I am very disappointed,
19 though, that all of us showed up with
20 questions, and there's a monopoly on this, and
21 we were given one hour and over three fourths
22 of the room couldn't ask questions. That's
23 very disappointing as well.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
25 Would anyone else like to give comments to the

1 Commission?

2 MR. REDSTONE: Hi, my name is Wesley
3 Redstone, W-e-s-l-e-y, R-e-d-s-t-o-n-e. I'm
4 opposed to this rate --

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Hold on, one
6 second, sorry. Can you repeat your last --

7 MR. REDSTONE: Redstone, R-e-d-s-t-o-n-e.

8 (Wesley Redstone sworn.)

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
10 proceed.

11 MR. REDSTONE: I wanted to read a couple
12 excerpts from the proxy statement that Spire
13 sends out to its investors. And I'll start
14 with essentially ratio. So for the fiscal year
15 of 2024, the annual total compensation of the
16 median employee was \$113,236. The previous
17 CEO, Mr. Lindsey's total compensation for 2024
18 was \$3,398,930. Based on that information, the
19 ratio is about 30 to 1. The CEO to the average
20 employee.

21 And I would also like to say, under the
22 executive compensation line in that proxy
23 statement, the company is committed to its
24 pay-for-performance philosophy, which they
25 believe is closely aligned to shareholder

1 interest by linking executive compensation to
2 company performance. So if this is a monopoly,
3 and there's a CEO involved, and it's publically
4 traded, it would be, you know, in their benefit
5 to always be increasing prices because this is
6 giving them directly more money every year.
7 And some of it is in bonuses and stocks and
8 other things like that, but I -- I don't agree
9 with necessarily spending all of this money in
10 order for it to go for someone who makes a lot
11 of money. A lot of money. 30 to 1 them to
12 other employees.

13 I teach at Webster Groves High School. I
14 teach industrial technology. A lot of my
15 students go off to become welders. They become
16 people who work on the pipes, do infrastructure
17 rebuilding, and I would feel better about
18 something like this if the money were going to
19 the people that were working on these
20 pipelines. And, unfortunately, with that ratio
21 there, it doesn't look like that's what
22 happening. So I am against this rate increase.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
24 for your comments, sir. Would anyone else like
25 to give comments to the Commission?

1 Commissioner Coleman, would you like to give
2 closing remarks?

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you for
4 staying this evening to give us this
5 information. I appreciate that you were here
6 at 6:00 o'clock, and you're still here after
7 8:00 o'clock. It is appreciated that you are
8 giving us information to consider, so I thank
9 you and we appreciate your participation
10 tonight.

11 CHAIR SEYER: Thank you, commissioner. I
12 want remind to everyone, we will have two
13 local public hearings tomorrow virtual, that
14 you can also give comments at or if you were
15 unable to give comments, you'll be able to
16 appear there. There will also be a question
17 and answer period at those -- each of those as
18 well prior to the hearings if you have further
19 questions.

20 I also want to thank everyone for coming
21 tonight and participating with their testimony.
22 If you have any additional questions or know
23 someone who can not be present but would like
24 to comment, you can make written comments as
25 well as on the PSC webpage or by contacting the

1 Office of Public Counsel or appearing at one of
2 the other local public hearings. This hearing
3 is adjourned.

4 (Ending time of the hearing: 08:08 p.m.)

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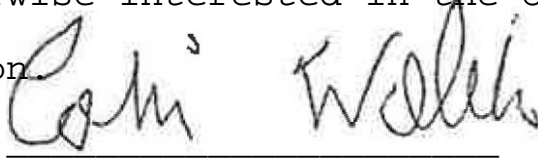
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1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of
2 Missouri do hereby certify that the witness
3 whose testimony appears in the foregoing
4 Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;
5 that the testimony of the said witness was
6 taken by me to the best of my ability and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
8 direction; that I am neither counsel for,
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties
10 to the action in which this examination was
11 taken, and further that I am not relative or
12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by
13 the parties thereto, nor financially or
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of the
15 action.


Colin Wallis

17 within and for the State of Missouri
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