

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

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	File No. GC-2024-0260
)	
Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire,)	
)	
Respondent)	

FULL AND UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

COME NOW Spire Missouri Inc. (“Spire Missouri” or the “Company”) and Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) (collectively, the “Parties”) and respectfully submit this *Full and Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement* (“Stipulation”) to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”), stating the following:

1. On March 25, 2024, Staff filed a Formal Complaint as a follow-up to its investigation in Docket No. GS-2022-0047. Staff included a series of recommendations for the Commission to order Spire to implement.
2. The Parties agree that an agreement has been reached on each of Staff’s recommendations, discussed in detail below, and request Commission approval of this Stipulation.
3. The Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) has been advised of this Stipulation and does not object to it.
4. Spire Missouri has replaced the fittings that Staff identified in its Formal Complaint, Recommendation 1, and shall provide details pertaining to the completion of the removal and replacement of the mechanical joints to Staff within thirty (30) days following the Commission approval of this filing.

5. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri has developed and will implement the sampling program of the plastic pipe joints and the fusion joints, which is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri will provide quarterly updates regarding the progress and results of the sampling program. Following the conclusion of the sampling program, and a review and analysis of the results, the Parties agree to meet and review the terms of this Stipulation to determine whether actions required by this Stipulation are still necessary. The Parties agree to meet within ninety (90) days following the conclusion of the sampling program.

6. The Parties agree that within sixty (60) days following the Commission approval of this Stipulation, Spire Missouri shall submit to Staff for review an action plan for tracking and monitoring: (i) the total number of leaks eliminated or repaired on plastic pipe joints that may have been completed by joiners when requalification had not been completed within 15 months and (ii) the number of eliminated or repaired leaks caused by incorrect installation of plastic pipe joints that may have been completed by joiners when requalification had not been completed within 15 months. Following its review, Staff will discuss any questions or concerns with Spire Missouri. To implement the tracking and monitoring, Spire Missouri shall determine:

(a) The frequency for review of the number of eliminated or repaired leaks described above,

(b) A method to identify an increasing frequency of eliminated or repaired leaks that requires additional actions (above what is required by 20 CSR 4240-40.030) to mitigate the risk of further leaks on joints that may have been completed by joiners when requalification had not been completed within 15 months, such as accelerated leak surveying or earlier repair or replacement of similar non-leaking joints,

(c) A threshold frequency of eliminated or repaired leaks that requires additional actions (above what is required by 20 CSR 4240-40.030) to mitigate the risk of further leaks on joints that may have been completed by joiners when requalification had not been completed within 15 months, such as accelerated leak surveying or earlier repair or replacement of similar non-leaking joints, and

(d) How additional actions will be developed and carried out (above what is required by 20 CSR 4240-40.030) to mitigate the risk of further leaks on joints that may have been completed by joiners when requalification had not been completed within 15 months, such as accelerated leak surveying or earlier repair or replacement of similar non-leaking joints.

7. The Parties agree that when Spire Missouri will include incorrect operation as a consideration in tracking and analysis of leaks that have the cause of “other” when the Company does not expose leaks on plastic pipe joints that may have been completed by a joiner during a time interval when requalification had not been completed within 15 months.

8. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri will continue its three-year leak survey program, providing quarterly reporting of the number of new leak indications at locations where plastic pipe joints may have been completed by a joiner during a time interval in which the joiner had not been requalified within 15 months. The Parties also agree that when new leak indications are found at locations where plastic pipe joints may have been completed by a joiner during a time interval in which the joiner had not be requalified within 15 months, Spire Missouri will investigate and repair all Class 3 leaks within twelve (12) months.

9. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri shall develop and follow written procedures that include a detailed summary of the processes put in place by the Company’s Operations

Support Department for the purpose of monitoring Operator Qualification (“OQ”) expiration dates and conducting field audits to verify the qualification of individuals completing work in the field. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri shall conduct and prioritize periodic field audits of jobs involving directional boring, pulling back of main, fusion and/or installation of main, welding, and the installation of service lines.

10. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri shall review its OQ Plan to verify that the requalification intervals used throughout its OQ Program are accurate and comply with minimum code requirements. Additionally, each time that its OQ Plan is updated (including the covered task list), the Parties agree that the Company will conduct a review to verify that the requalification intervals used throughout its OQ Program are accurate and comply with minimum code requirements.

11. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri will revise Standard Operating Procedure (“SOP”) 220.E to include:

- (a) That leaks will be exposed unless:
 - i. Operator field personnel safety is a concern;
 - ii. The leaks are on aging facilities, including the following: pre-70 steel pipe, pre-73 plastic pipe, cast iron pipe, copper pipe, bare steel pipe, wrought iron pipe, and isolated metallic pipe;
 - iii. Exposing the leak will result in excessive or complex restoration;
 - iv. There would be disruption to railroads;
 - v. There would be disruption to roads, including excessive traffic disruption; or

vi. The integrity of the line is in question (e.g. due to lightning strike or other excessive damage);

(b) Failure category and leak classification consistent with the information for the leak causes in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's ("PHMSA") Instructions for Completing Form PHMSA F 7100.1-1; and

(c) Instructions for completing leak repair documentation and additional information for which "Leak Cause" and "Leak SubCause" field personnel should select for determining leak causes.

12. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri will train field personnel to provide additional detail on leak orders when a leak may have special circumstances associated with the selected leak cause. The Parties also agree that Spire Missouri will train field personnel to provide justification, using the reasons provided in Paragraph 11.a., when leaks have been not exposed to determine the leak cause. Both the additional detail on leak causes and justification on why leaks have not been exposed will be captured in a freeform box on the Company's leak orders.

13. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri shall investigate failures in accordance with the Company's SOP 120.C, including testing of failed components to determine root causes of failures, and the Company shall train personnel who are likely to be involved in carrying out SOP 120.C.

14. The Parties agree that Spire Missouri will develop or modify its procedures required by this Stipulation by August 30, 2025, and the Company will provide a copy of each created or amended SOP to Staff for review within twenty (20) days after the change is made in accordance with the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-40.030(1)(J)1. Following its review, Staff will discuss any questions or concerns with Spire Missouri.

15. Ratemaking Treatment:

(a) The Parties agree that Spire Missouri will not seek to recover, or include in any cost of service used for ratemaking, any costs incurred to: (i) replace the fittings referenced in Paragraph 4 of this Stipulation, (ii) develop and implement Phases 1 and 2 of the sampling program attached as Appendix 1, and (iii) develop and implement an action plan for tracking and monitoring discussed in Paragraph 6 of this Stipulation. As part of Phase 2 of the sampling program attached as Appendix 1, Spire Missouri will work with Staff to determine next steps, which, depending on the findings, could include additional inspections, either visual or destructive, or additional removal actions. As part of this process and prior to Spire Missouri filing its preliminary report of findings and recommendations with the Commission, Staff and Spire will additionally propose ratemaking treatment for the proposed next steps.

(b) The Parties agree that Spire Missouri shall fully track the costs it incurs pursuant to paragraph (a) above and provide such information to Staff upon request. Spire Missouri shall meet with Staff upon request and report on the progress of its commitments under this Stipulation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT

16. Limitation of Scope: This Stipulation is being entered into for the purpose of disposing of the issues specifically addressed herein. In presenting this Stipulation, none of the Parties shall be deemed to have approved, accepted, agreed, consented or acquiesced to any procedural principle, and none of the Parties shall be prejudiced or bound in any manner by the terms of this Stipulation, whether approved or not, in this or any other proceeding, other than a proceeding limited to the enforcement of the terms of this Stipulation, except as otherwise expressly specified herein. The Parties further understand and agree that the provisions of this

Stipulation relate only to the specific matters referred to in this Stipulation, and no Party waives any claim or right which it otherwise may have with respect to any matter not expressly provided for in this Stipulation. The Parties further understand and agree that no Party to this Stipulation shall assert the terms of this Stipulation as a precedent in any future proceeding.

17. Interdependence and Non-Severability: This Stipulation has resulted from negotiations and the terms hereof are interdependent. If the Commission does not approve this Stipulation in total or approves it with modifications or conditions to which a Party objects, then this Stipulation shall be void and no Party shall be bound by any of its provisions. The agreements herein are specific to this proceeding and are made without prejudice to the rights of the Parties to take other positions in other proceedings except as otherwise noted herein. If the Commission does not unconditionally approve this Stipulation without modification, and notwithstanding its provision that it shall become void, neither this Stipulation, nor any matters associated with its consideration by the Commission, shall be considered or argued to be a waiver of the rights that any Party has for a decision in accordance with Section 536.080, of the Revised Statutes of Missouri (“RSMo”) or Article V, Section 18, of the Missouri Constitution, and the Parties shall retain all procedural and due process rights as fully as though this Stipulation had not been presented for approval, and any suggestions or memoranda, testimony or exhibits that have been offered or received in support of this Stipulation shall become privileged as reflecting the substantive content of settlement discussions and shall be stricken from and not be considered as part of the administrative or evidentiary record before the Commission for any further purpose whatsoever.

18. Waiver of Procedural Rights: If the Commission unconditionally accepts the specific terms of this Stipulation without modification, the Parties waive, with respect to the issues

resolved herein, their respective rights as follows: (1) to call, examine and cross-examine witnesses pursuant to Section 536.070(2), RSMo.; (2) to present oral argument and/or written briefs pursuant to Section 536.080.1, RSMo.; (3) to the reading of the transcript by the Commission pursuant to Section 536.080.2, RSMo.; (4) to seek rehearing pursuant to Section 386.500, RSMo.; and (5) to judicial review pursuant to Section 386.510, RSMo. These waivers apply only to a Commission order respecting this Stipulation issued in this above-captioned case and do not apply to any issues or matters raised in any prior or subsequent Commission order, or any issue or other matters not explicitly addressed by this Stipulation.

19. Merger and Integration: This Stipulation and Appendix 1 contain the entire agreement of the Parties concerning the issues addressed herein. The intent of the Parties to this Stipulation has been fully and exclusively expressed in these documents.

WHEREFORE, the Parties respectfully request the Commission approve this Stipulation and grant any other relief as is just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Antonio Arias

J. Antonio Arias, MoBar #74475
Director, Associate General Counsel – Regulatory
Spire Missouri Inc.
700 Market Street, 6th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 342-0655 (Office)
Email: antonio.arias@spireenergy.com

Sreenivasa Rao Dandamudi, MoBar #50734
Director and Associate General Counsel - Regulatory
Spire Missouri Inc.
700 Market Street, 6th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 342-0702 (Office)
Email: sreenu.dandamudi@spireenergy.com

ATTORNEYS FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

J. Scott Stacey
Deputy Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 59027
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-522-6279
573-751-9285 (Fax)
scott.stacey@psc.mo.gov

**ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been sent either by mail or electronic mail to all parties of record on this 11th day of July, 2025.

/s/ J. Antonio Arias
