

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Spire STL Pipeline LLC

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Docket No. CP17-40-007

**MOTION TO INTERVENE AND COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF
SPIRE MARKETING INC.**

Pursuant to Rule 212 and 214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("FERC" or "Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.212 and 385.214 (2021), and the Commission's August 6, 2021 Notice of Spire STL Pipeline LLC's ("Spire STL") Application for Temporary Emergency Certificate, Spire Marketing Inc. ("Spire Marketing") hereby submits this Motion to Intervene and Comments in Support, requesting that the Commission approve Spire STL's application for a temporary certificate, or in the alternative, limited-term certificate, to continue service on the STL Pipeline. In support of this filing Spire Marketing states as follows:

**I.
COMMUNICATIONS**

The names, titles, and mailing addresses of the persons upon whom all communications concerning this proceeding should be sent are as follows:

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II.
SPIRE MARKETING'S INTEREST IN THIS PROCEEDING AND
MOTION TO INTERVENE

Spire Marketing moves to intervene in this proceeding, pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 284.214. The exact legal name of Spire Marketing is Spire Marketing Inc. Spire Marketing provides natural gas marketing and related services to a diverse customer base primarily in the central and southern United States, including in the Greater St. Louis region. Spire Marketing holds firm capacity on pipelines throughout the United States.

Spire Marketing receives service on the STL Pipeline pursuant to a firm transportation service contract ("FT Contract"), under Spire STL's FERC Gas Tariff. The FT Contract commenced on May 1, 2021 and continues through March 31, 2022. Spire Marketing relies, in part, on STL Pipeline capacity, to deliver to its customers in the Greater St. Louis region. Spire Marketing's customers in the region include hospitals, primary and secondary schools, universities, commercial businesses, and industrial customers, who are served under various firm natural gas delivery contracts via the STL Pipeline. Spire Marketing's capacity on the STL Pipeline will greatly increase Spire Marketing's ability to reliably serve its firm customers in Greater St. Louis.

Spire Marketing has a direct interest in the outcome of this proceeding, as a firm transportation shipper on the STL Pipeline. Specifically, Spire Marketing has an interest that natural gas continues to flow on all pipeline infrastructure that help support natural gas deliveries into the St. Louis area, including the STL Pipeline.

Shutting down the STL Pipeline will cause Spire Marketing and its customers significant harm. Other parties to this proceeding cannot adequately represent this interest, and Spire Marketing's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice the rights of any

party. Therefore, granting Spire Marketing's intervention in this proceeding is in the public interest.

III. COMMENTS IN SUPPORT

Spire Marketing respectfully requests that the Commission act as soon as possible to ensure that the STL Pipeline remains in service through the coming winter and beyond. It is imperative that natural gas suppliers and marketers in the Greater St. Louis area understand STL Pipeline's availability headed into the winter season in order to develop critical supply plans for their customers. The STL Pipeline is critical infrastructure that is needed to deliver reliable, affordable natural gas to 650,000 households, hospitals, schools, and businesses throughout eastern Missouri. The STL Pipeline transports natural gas from producing regions which traditionally have not supplied natural gas to the Greater St. Louis area. By way of its interconnect to Rockies Express Pipeline LLC ("REX"), the STL Pipeline is able to provide access to supply basins of abundant and reliable natural gas in the Rocky Mountain and Appalachian producing areas that had not previously been available to customers in the Greater St. Louis area, thus providing an alternative and reliable source of natural gas to supply these customers.

Shutting down the STL Pipeline could lead to serious service disruptions for customers throughout the greater St. Louis area. Customers and their suppliers have made, or are making, their supply plans for the upcoming winter. Presumably others are preparing in a similar fashion. Further, as a supplier to customers such as schools, hospitals, industrial customers and various other commercial businesses, it is in Spire Marketing's best interest, on behalf of its customers, to have access to as many supply basins and delivery options as possible. If the STL Pipeline is not granted a temporary certificate, the

supply uncertainty from the ongoing litigation will continue within the region, and supply plans would need to be hastily rearranged, primarily to the detriment of customers in the Greater St. Louis area.

Further, even with the STL Pipeline remaining online, the price of natural gas for this upcoming winter is considerably higher than what prices for natural gas were at this same time last winter. The average November-March NYMEX Henry Hub Gas Futures Contract Winter Strip on September 2, 2020 was \$3.238.¹ This price is roughly **44 percent higher** this winter – the average price for November-March NYMEX Henry Hub Gas Futures Contract Winter Strip on September 2, 2021 was \$4.674.²

This fact alone reinforces the importance of granting Spire STL's request for a temporary certificate. Indeed, removing a legitimate supply source of natural gas to the Greater St. Louis area when the market is already facing increased pricing volatility, largely due to Winter Storm Uri, would not be in the best interest of customers. Diversified supply planning is what the Commission should expect from market participants, including LDCs, utilities and marketers. Shutting down the STL Pipeline is contrary to that objective. Customers are currently paying increased natural gas prices this winter; to add the potential of a shortage of natural gas supply thus creating even higher natural gas prices, particularly in the face of another winter weather event such as Winter Storm Uri, would be inequitable.

The February 2021 Winter Storm Uri, which caused significant price-spikes and service outages throughout the central United States, demonstrates the necessity and importance of the STL Pipeline and other natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Spire Marketing is of the opinion that if not for the STL Pipeline and the diversity of supply it

¹ See S&P Global Platts *Gas Daily* (Thursday, September 3, 2020).

² See S&P Global Platts *Gas Daily* (Friday, September 3, 2021).

offers, the St. Louis area would have experienced natural gas pricing similar to what was experienced in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and Western Missouri.

Further, Spire Marketing is of the opinion that without the STL Pipeline, the existing infrastructure as currently operated would not be able to provide consistent delivery of gas into the Greater St. Louis area during extreme winter events such as Winter Storm Uri. As indicated previously, Spire Marketing has contracted for firm transportation on STL Pipeline for the upcoming winter. As such, Spire Marketing fears that if another extreme weather event such as Winter Storm Uri or even elongated periods of cold weather occur, the St. Louis area will see significant natural gas service disruptions. Under the current circumstances, Spire Marketing is uncertain if its firm transportation on STL Pipeline will be available this winter. Any disruptions will severely impact Spire Marketing and its customers as well as other customers receiving natural gas service from Spire Missouri. Further, without STL Pipeline, the Greater St. Louis area would not have access to the gas supply that REX provides, which would impact Spire Marketing's as well as other natural gas marketers' abilities to serve customers in the Greater St. Louis area.

IV. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the reasons discussed above, Spire Marketing respectfully requests that the Commission: (1) allow Spire Marketing to intervene in this proceeding and to be made a party for all purposes; and (2) grant Spire STL's request for a Temporary Emergency Certificate, or in the Alternative a Limited-Term Certificate, to continue operating the STL Pipeline.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 7, 2021