

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

In the Matter of the Application of Spire)
Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire, for Permission and)
Approval and a Certificate of Convenience)
and Necessity to Construct, Install, Own,)
Operate, Maintain, and Otherwise Control)
and Manage a Natural Gas Distribution)
System to Provide Gas Service in Barry)
County, Missouri as an Expansion of its)
Existing Certificated Areas)

File No. GA-2021-0216

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and for its *Staff Recommendation*, states as follows:

1. On January 12, 2021, Spire Missouri, Inc. (“Spire”), filed an *Application* with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) to install, own, construct, operate, control, manage, and maintain a natural gas distribution system to provide gas in Barry County, Missouri, as an addition to Spire’s existing service territories. The Application requested the CCN in order to provide gas service to a poultry farm west of Barry County, Missouri, and, with the exception of the City of Wheaton, Missouri, a blanket CCN for the remainder of Barry County, Missouri. Additionally, in its Application, Spire requested a waiver from the notice provisions of Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

2. On January 13, 2021, the Commission issued an *Order Directing Notice and Establishing Time for Filings* requiring applications for intervention be filed no later than February 12, 2021, and directed Staff to file, no later than February 19, 2021, a recommendation or a status report. On February 12, 2021, Summit Natural Gas of

Missouri, Inc. (“SNGMO”) filed its *Application of Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. to Intervene*.

3. On February 18, 2021, Staff filed its *Status Report* requesting additional time to file its recommendation. The next day, the Commission extended the deadline for Staff to file its recommendation to April 19, 2021. On February 23, 2021, the Commission granted SNGMO application to intervene.

4. As discussed in the Staff’s Memorandum, attached hereto as Appendix A and incorporated by reference, Staff is of the opinion that Spire has fulfilled the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240.4.017(1) notice waiver and the Tartan criteria with respect to the poultry farm west of Barry County, Missouri. However, Staff determined Spire has not met the Tartan criteria for approval of a blanket Certificate of Convenience and Necessity in Barry County, Missouri, due to Spire’s failure to provide Staff financial information and Staff’s inability to determine the economic feasibility of the project.

5. For these reasons, as more fully explained in Staff’s Memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission reject Spire’s Application for a blanket CCN in Barry County and grant, subject to the conditions in the Staff’s Memorandum, its requested CCN for the poultry farm west of Barry County, Missouri.

WHEREFORE, for the above stated reasons, Staff prays the Commission approve Spire Missouri, Inc.’s certificate of convenience and necessity for the limited service area described in the Company’s January 12, 2021, Application subject to the conditions in Staff’s Memorandum, and grant such other and further relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ron Irving

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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 parties and/or counsel of record on this 19th day of April 2021.

/s/ Ron Irving