BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s Verified)	
Application for an Accounting Authority Order)	Case No. GU-2020-0376
Related to COVID-19 Impacts)	
)	

JOINT MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COME NOW Spire Missouri Inc. ("Spire" or "the Company"), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"), Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers, Midwest Energy Consumers Group, Renew Missouri, and the National Housing Trust — collectively referred to as ("the Signatories") — and pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.080, hereby submits this *Joint Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule and Motion for Expedited Treatment*, and in support thereof respectfully state as follows:

SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

- 1. On July 23, 2020, the Commission issued an Order in this Cause establishing the procedural schedule in this case.
- 2. On September 15, 2020, all Parties of record reached a unanimous stipulation and agreement, which was filed with this Commission as the *Amended Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement* ("the Agreement"), as a resolution to Spire's request for accounting authority. MIEC and Staff filed testimony in support of the stipulation and agreement on this same date.
- 3. Since all Parties of record have reached a unanimous agreement in this case, the Company requests that the Commission issue an Order suspending the procedural schedule.

EXPEDITED TREATMENT

- 4. Part of the Agreement included the implementation of a COVID-19 Arrearage Management Program ("the Program"). The Program is designed to assist those customers in arrears on their natural gas bill and who have lost their jobs, lost income, or have been furloughed since March 1, 2020. Eligible customers will receive an initial \$100 credit to their bill upon entering the Program, and will receive up to \$300 of their arrearage matched by the Program, dollar-for-dollar based on arrearage pay down from the participant.
- 5. In order to implement this program to the benefit of Spire's customers, as soon as practical, the Company requests the Commission issue an Order approving the Agreement by no later than September 30,2020. This would enable the Company to submit the agreed upon tariffs to go into effect in October.
- 6. Delay of approval of the Agreement would result in delayed implementation of the Program for those customers that need assistance with their natural gas bill. Given these unprecedented economic times, the need for assistance now is greater than ever before.
- 7. There is no negative effect on customers or the general public if the Commission acts expeditiously on this matter.
- 8. This Motion was filed the day after the Agreement was filed, and which was immediately after the Company had an agreement with all Parties regarding the Program details.

WHEREFORE, the Signatory Parties request the Commission issue an Order suspending the procedural schedule and granting this Motion to expedite approval of the

Amended Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement as a resolution of Spire Missouri's request for an Accounting Authority Order in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on all Parties of record on this 16th day of September 2020 by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax, or by placing a copy of such document, postage prepaid, in the United States mail.

<u>/s/ Goldie T. Bockstruck</u>