

In the Matter of:

The Revision of Commission's Rules Regarding Gas Utilities, et al.

GU-2020-0376, VOL. I

July 07, 2020



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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing Conference

July 7, 2020

Jefferson City, Missouri

Volume 1

In The Matter Of Spire Missouri)
Inc.'s d/b/a Spire Verified) File No.
Application for an Accounting) GU-2020-0376
Authority Order Related To)
COVID-19 Impacts)

RON PRIDGIN, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:
Beverly Jean Bentch, CCR No. 640
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

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P R O C E E D I N G S

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good morning. We are on the record. This is Prehearing Conference for File No. GU-2020-0376. I'm Ron Pridgin. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to preside over this prehearing. It's being held via WebEx on July 7, 2020, and the time is 10:05 a.m.

I would like to get entries of appearance from counsel, please, beginning with Spire Missouri?

MS. BOCKSTRUCK: Good morning. Appearing on behalf of Spire Missouri is Goldie Bockstruck and Matt Aplington, 700 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Bockstruck, thank you. On behalf of the Staff of the Commission, please?

MS. MYERS: Yes, good morning. On behalf of the Staff, Jamie Myers. Address is 200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Myers, thank you. On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel, please?

MR. CALEB: Thank you, Judge. Caleb Hall appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel. Our address is 200 Madison Street, Suite 650, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Hall, thank you. On behalf of Renew Missouri and National Housing Trust,

1 please?

2 MR. LINHARES: Thank you, Judge. This is
3 Andrew Linhares for Renew Missouri, appearing for
4 National Housing Trust as well. My address is 3115
5 South Grand, Suite 600, zip code 63118.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Linhares, thank you. On
7 behalf of MIEC, please?

8 MS. PLESCIA: Diana Plescia of the law firm
9 Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe, 130 South Bemiston,
10 St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Plescia, thank you. On
12 behalf of MECG, please? All right. I hear no
13 appearance for MECG. Have I overlooked anyone?

14 MR. BERLIN: Good morning, Judge. This is Bob
15 Berlin. David Woodsmall sent an email he's having
16 trouble getting in.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. I appreciate you
18 letting me know, Mr. Berlin. Thank you.

19 MR. OPITZ: Good morning, Judge. This is Tim
20 Opitz with Renew Missouri. I called in. I was having
21 some issues with the WebEx as well.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Opitz, thank you. I'm
23 very sorry for folks having technical difficulties this
24 morning. Along those lines, I guess the on the record
25 portion of the prehearing will be over here shortly.

1 When I disconnect the call, the call should stay active;
2 but owing to the problems we've had so far this morning,
3 do not be surprised if this calls gets disconnected
4 after I disconnect. So if that does happen, I would
5 encourage you to find alternative ways to talk.

6 I would normally ask for a proposed procedural
7 schedule in roughly a week or some sort of alternative
8 pleading. I'm not married to such a time frame. If you
9 think you need more time, that's certainly fine. Does
10 anyone have any, I guess any comments or thoughts on how
11 to go forward from here?

12 Please identify yourself before you talk so
13 the court reporter knows who's speaking.

14 MS. BOCKSTRUCK: Judge, this is Goldie
15 Bockstruck with Spire. I think a week is sufficient.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Thank you, Ms.
17 Bockstruck. Anyone have I guess any objections to some
18 sort of schedule or pleading due in the next week or so?
19 Going once, going twice.

20 MR. WOODSMALL: Your Honor, this is Dave
21 Woodsmall. I just want to let you know that I was able
22 to get through and I have no problems with the pleading
23 in a week.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay, Mr. Woodsmall, thank
25 you, and I'm sorry for any technical trouble you've had

1 this morning. I apologize.

2 MR. WOODSMALL: I think it was my fault.

3 Thank you.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're welcome. That's
5 probably all I have. I guess the only other thing I
6 would bring up, it probably makes no difference to you,
7 but there's a strong likelihood that this case will get
8 reassigned to another judge should it go to hearing.
9 That judge's schedule will be different from mine. So
10 that may pose a little bit of difficulty, but I suppose
11 we can cross that bridge when we come to it if we do at
12 all.

13 I think that's all I have for the parties. Is
14 there anything else counsel has for me before we go off
15 the record?

16 MS. MYERS: Judge, this is just administrative
17 and this is Jamie Myers. I think if you're able to
18 assign me as host the call will stay active. I've had
19 that done in a couple prehearing conferences where the
20 judge went ahead and assigned the staff attorney as the
21 host to keep the call active.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'd be happy to do that if I
23 can figure out how.

24 MS. MYERS: Sure. And I called in with my
25 telephone number. The last four digits are 1863, if

1 you're able to locate that.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: No, I'm not. I have several
3 people who have connected as call-in users. I have
4 about 12 of those.

5 MS. MYERS: So it might be impossible.

6 MR. HALL: Your Honor, if it may help, I
7 called in using the WebEx format so my name should
8 actually --

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I do see your name, Mr. Hall.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. HALL: I can serve as an avatar without
12 objections from the other parties.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I didn't quite catch that.
14 I'm sorry.

15 MR. HALL: This is Caleb. Pardon that, Your
16 Honor. I was merely making a joke that I could serve as
17 an avatar of sorts as a host if the other parties don't
18 object.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That would be great. That
20 would be great. I think someone from staff was already
21 supposed to be set up as an alternative host. Whoever
22 set this up probably did that or should have done that,
23 but I'm not confident that that has occurred. If that
24 has not occurred, I'm just going to have to I guess ask
25 parties to find another way to get together via WebEx or

1 Zoom or however you'd like to talk. If that becomes a
2 problem, as far as getting some schedule or some
3 pleading filed in the next week, you can certainly let
4 me know and I'll be happy to give you more time. I'm
5 afraid that's the best I can do. I don't see that I
6 have any capabilities to assign a host from here.
7 Especially, like I said, I've got so many call-in users
8 I wouldn't know who I would be picking.

9 MR. LINHARES: Another thought, Your Honor,
10 and this is something that Judge Dippell has done
11 previously is to just step away and let the parties talk
12 and you could come back at maybe 10:30 and see if anyone
13 is still on.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I can certainly do that. I
15 can just leave my phone on mute and take my earbuds out,
16 I can't hear anything, and even sit in another room and
17 then I can come back. Are parties comfortable with me
18 doing that so you can stay on the phone?

19 MR. LINHARES: Works for me.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any objections?

21 MS. MYERS: Your Honor, another thing we've
22 done in the past too is I can send you an email once
23 we're done talking.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That would be wonderful. I
25 would appreciate that. I'll just put my phone in

1 another room and walk away and go back to my computer.
2 If somebody can send me an email when you're done, will
3 that work?

4 MS. MYERS: Yes.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
6 Is there anything else counsel needs from me before we
7 go off the record? All right. Hearing nothing else, we
8 are then off the record in the prehearing conference for
9 GU-2020-0376. Thank you very much. We're off the
10 record. Thank you. I'm going to put my phone down and
11 walk away. Thank you. Have a good day.

12 (Off the record.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, Certified Court Reporter with the firm of Tiger Court Reporting, LLC, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was personally present at the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause at the time and place set forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such time and place.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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