

**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 Cass)
County, Missouri as an Expansion of its)
Existing Certificated Areas)

File No. GA-2023-0389

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On May 16, 2023, Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire (“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 Cass County, Missouri, as an addition to Spire’s existing service territories. In its *Application*, Spire requested a waiver from the notice provisions of Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

2. On May 24, 2023, the Commission issued an *Order Directing Notice, Setting Deadline for Intervention Requests, and Directing Filing of Staff Recommendation* requiring applications for intervention be filed no later than June 21, 2023, and directed Staff to file a recommendation or a request for an extension of time no later than July 6, 2023.

3. On July 3, 2023, Staff filed its *Motion for Extension of Time to File Staff Recommendation* requesting additional time to file its recommendation. On July 14, 2023,

the Commission extended the deadline for Staff to file its recommendation to August 8, 2023.

4. As discussed in the Staff's Memorandum ("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) and has met the Tartan criteria for approval, subject to the conditions stated on page 5 of the Memorandum, to qualify for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

5. For these reasons, as more fully explained in Staff's Memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission approve Spire's Application for its requested CCN.

6. In the *Application*, Spire requested a waiver of the 60-day filing notice of 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1). Spire's *Application* provided a verified declaration that it had not had communication with the Commission within the prior 150 days regarding any substantive issues likely to be in the case. Staff agrees good cause exists pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D) and that the 60-day notice requirement should be waived.

WHEREFORE, for the above stated reasons, Staff prays that the Commission will approve Spire Missouri, Inc.'s request for a certificate of convenience and necessity for the service areas described in the Company's May 16, 2023, *Application*; and grant such other and further relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ron Irving

Senior Counsel

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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 8th day of August 2023.

/s/ Ron Irving