

In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc

Before: Judge Morris Woodruff

July 26, 2022

Vol 01

PHIPPS REPORTING

Raising the Bar!

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Procedural Conference

Tuesday, July 26, 2022
2:10 p.m. - 2:17 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 1
Pages 1 - 9

In the Matter of Spire Missouri,)
Inc.'s Application for Approval)
of a Revised Cost Allocation) File No. GO-2022-0327
Manual)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 263179

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| 1 | I N D E X | Page 3 |
| 2 | | Page |
| 3 | Oral Entries of Appearance | 4 |
| 4 | Statement by Mr. Arias | 5 |
| 5 | Certificate of Reporter | 9 |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
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| 18 | | |
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1 The following proceedings began at 2:10 p.m.:

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's go ahead and go on the
3 record at this point and we'll make a record of what's
4 going on.

5 We're here today for a procedural conference
6 in File Number GO-2022-0327, and the procedural
7 conference was scheduled to begin at two o'clock this
8 afternoon. We have representatives from Spire and from
9 the Commission Staff here. We don't have a
10 representative from the Office of the Public Counsel
11 yet.

12 But rather than make everybody wait, we'll go
13 ahead and make a record on this proceeding and begin
14 with taking entries of appearance for Spire?

15 MR. ARIAS: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
16 Antonio Arias on behalf of Spire Missouri, Inc. With me
17 today is Mr. Scott Weitzel just on the phone.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for Staff?

19 MS. MYERS: Good afternoon, Judge. Jamie
20 Myers on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public
21 Service Commission. I have with me Ethan Dwyer, who is
22 our legal intern, and then Staff members Kim Bolin,
23 Karen Lyons and Lisa Ferguson.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you. And
25 is there anyone on the line for Public Counsel? I don't

1 see anyone. The other party in the case is MECG, and I
2 don't see anyone here from them either.

3 I called this procedural conference in hopes
4 that the parties could get together and try and discuss
5 a possible resolution of this case, which was, in fact,
6 suggested by Public Counsel when they responded to the
7 filing made by Spire about a month ago. And obviously
8 with Public Counsel not being present, that's not going
9 to happen today, but I will encourage you to go ahead
10 and discuss this with Public Counsel when you are able
11 to do so.

12 At some point we'll need to set up a
13 procedural schedule to resolve any disputes that cannot
14 be resolved. So I'll ask that the parties or I'll order
15 the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule.

16 MR. ARIAS: Your Honor, I apologize. If I may
17 before you continue through this just -- Spire Missouri
18 was in Jeff City, Jefferson City, last week on Thursday
19 to attend a technical conference in relation to the rate
20 case. At the end of this conference, we did talk with
21 Staff and Office of Public Counsel just briefly via the
22 attorneys just briefly about this case and where we kind
23 of saw it going. And one of the consensus, or at least
24 general consensus at that point, was to kind of hold
25 this off for about 90 days and at that point if -- 90

1 days to allow us to try to come to some sort of
2 resolution on this, whether that's a revision so that
3 CAM or any other possible resolution at that point and
4 at 90 days then we file an update to the Court, whether
5 if we have come to a resolution to file that with the
6 Court or to file for the need for a procedural schedule
7 at that point.

8 Spire is also open if at 90 days we still
9 can't come to a resolution but we think there's still
10 that responsibility, maybe just file a status update at
11 that point saying let's postpone this another 90 days.
12 So these are just things that -- possibilities. From
13 the discussions on Thursday, the Office of the Public
14 Counsel seemed agreeable to this solution, and we can't
15 speak for them without them being here, but I just
16 wanted to put that out there.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I appreciate that, and I see
18 that John Clizer has joined us. Mr. Clizer, are you
19 there?

20 MR. CLIZER: Judge Woodruff, I apologize for
21 being late.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. If you want to go
23 ahead and enter an appearance.

24 MR. CLIZER: Yes. John Clizer on behalf of
25 the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. I will

1 supply my contact information with the court reporter
2 afterwards.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. I think you heard most
4 of the statement there from Spire. Do you agree with
5 that that the consensus is to push this off for 90 days?

6 MR. CLIZER: Yes.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, like I say, my
8 goal in setting this whole conference was to get the
9 parties talking, and that might be the best way to do
10 that. So what I'm hearing is that I'll order the
11 parties to file a status update in roughly 90 days. I'm
12 pulling up the calendar here to see when that would be.
13 So I believe that would be October 24. That would be a
14 Monday. Is that acceptable to everyone?

15 MS. MYERS: That's okay with Staff.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Spire?

17 MR. ARIAS: That's acceptable to the company,
18 Your Honor. Thank you.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel?

20 MR. CLIZER: Give me one second. I wanted to
21 cross-reference that with the procedural schedule for
22 the -- There's a technical settlement conference for the
23 Spire general rate case on the 24th and 25th, but I
24 don't think that would necessarily pose a conflict. So
25 I'm okay with that. Wanted to throw that out to the

1 other parties to see if any of them they had a concern.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm only asking for a status
3 update. We don't need to get together again at that
4 point. Depending on what you tell me, we may need to
5 set a procedural schedule or push it back further as
6 needed.

7 MR. CLIZER: I have no problem with that date.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Then I will go ahead
9 and issue a written order in the case also memorializing
10 that agreement. I think that's all I had to talk about
11 today with that understanding. Is there anything
12 anybody else wants to bring up while we're on the
13 record? Okay. I hear nothing, so at this point then we
14 are adjourned and I'll wait to hear from you on the 24th
15 of October.

16 MR. ARIAS: Thank you for making this a WebEx
17 hearing for us today. We appreciate it.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It might have been hard to
19 get here from St. Louis anyway. Thank you all.

20 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 2:17
21 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission Procedural Conference and that the transcript, pages 1 through 8, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 27th day of July, 2022.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> | apologize 5:16 6:20 | 7:23 8:9 | days 5:25 6:1,4,8, 11 7:5,11 |
| 24 7:13 | appearance 4:14 6:23 | City 5:18 | Depending 8:4 |
| 24th 7:23 8:14 | Arias 4:15,16 5:16 7:17 8:16 | Clizer 6:18,20,24 7:6,20 8:7 | discuss 5:4,10 |
| 25th 7:23 | attend 5:19 | Commission 4:9,21 | discussions 6:13 |
| 2:10 4:1 | attorneys 5:22 | company 7:17 | disputes 5:13 |
| 2:17 8:20 | <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> | concern 8:1 | Dwyer 4:21 |
| <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> | back 8:5 | concluded 8:20 | <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> |
| 90 5:25 6:4,8,11 7:5,11 | began 4:1 | conference 4:5,7 5:3,19, 20 7:8,22 | encourage 5:9 |
| <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <hr/> | begin 4:7,13 | conflict 7:24 | end 5:20 |
| acceptable 7:14,17 | behalf 4:16,20 6:24 | consensus 5:23,24 7:5 | enter 6:23 |
| adjourned 8:14 | Bolin 4:22 | contact 7:1 | entries 4:14 |
| afternoon 4:8,15,19 | briefly 5:21,22 | continue 5:17 | Ethan 4:21 |
| agree 7:4 | bring 8:12 | Counsel 4:10,25 5:6, 8,10,21 6:14, 25 7:19 | <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> |
| agreeable 6:14 | <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> | court 6:4,6 7:1 | fact 5:5 |
| agreement 8:10 | calendar 7:12 | cross-reference 7:21 | Ferguson 4:23 |
| ahead 4:2,13 5:9 6:23 8:8 | called 5:3 | <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> | file 4:6 5:15 6:4, 5,6,10 7:11 |
| Antonio 4:16 | CAM 6:3 | date 8:7 | filing 5:7 |
| | case 5:1,5,20,22 | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>general 5:24 7:23</p> <p>Give 7:20</p> <p>GO-2022-0327 4:6</p> <p>goal 7:8</p> <p>Good 4:15,19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>happen 5:9</p> <p>hard 8:18</p> <p>hear 8:13,14</p> <p>heard 7:3</p> <p>hearing 7:10 8:17</p> <p>hold 5:24</p> <p>Honor 4:15 5:16 7:18</p> <p>hopes 5:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>information 7:1</p> <p>intern 4:22</p> | <p>issue 8:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>Jamie 4:19</p> <p>Jeff 5:18</p> <p>Jefferson 5:18</p> <p>John 6:18,24</p> <p>joined 6:18</p> <p>Judge 4:2,18,19,24 6:17,20,22 7:3,7,16,19 8:2,8,18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p>Karen 4:23</p> <p>Kim 4:22</p> <p>kind 5:22,24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>late 6:21</p> <p>legal 4:22</p> <p>Lisa 4:23</p> <p>Louis 8:19</p> | <p>Lyons 4:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>made 5:7</p> <p>make 4:3,12,13</p> <p>making 8:16</p> <p>MECG 5:1</p> <p>members 4:22</p> <p>memorializing 8:9</p> <p>Missouri 4:16,20 5:17 6:25</p> <p>Monday 7:14</p> <p>month 5:7</p> <p>Myers 4:19,20 7:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>necessarily 7:24</p> <p>needed 8:6</p> <p>Number 4:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>October 7:13 8:15</p> | <p>Office 4:10 5:21 6:13,25</p> <p>open 6:8</p> <p>order 5:14 7:10 8:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>p.m. 4:1 8:21</p> <p>parties 5:4,14,15 7:9,11 8:1</p> <p>party 5:1</p> <p>phone 4:17</p> <p>point 4:3 5:12,24, 25 6:3,7,11 8:4,13</p> <p>pose 7:24</p> <p>possibilities 6:12</p> <p>postpone 6:11</p> <p>present 5:8</p> <p>problem 8:7</p> <p>procedural 4:5,6 5:3,13, 15 6:6 7:21 8:5</p> <p>proceeding 4:13</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| proceedings 4:1 8:20 | 6:10 | statement 7:4 | <hr/> W <hr/> |
| proposed 5:15 | revision 6:2 | status 6:10 7:11 8:2 | wait 4:12 8:14 |
| Public 4:10,20,25 5:6,8,10,21 6:13,25 7:19 | roughly 7:11 | suggested 5:6 | wanted 6:16 7:20,25 |
| pulling 7:12 | <hr/> S <hr/> | supply 7:1 | Webex 8:16 |
| push 7:5 8:5 | schedule 5:13,15 6:6 7:21 8:5 | <hr/> T <hr/> | week 5:18 |
| put 6:16 | scheduled 4:7 | taking 4:14 | Weitzel 4:17 |
| <hr/> R <hr/> | Scott 4:17 | talk 5:20 8:10 | Woodruff 4:2,18,24 6:17,20,22 7:3,7,16,19 8:2,8,18 |
| rate 5:19 7:23 | Service 4:21 | talking 7:9 | written 8:9 |
| record 4:3,13 8:13 | set 5:12 8:5 | technical 5:19 7:22 | |
| relation 5:19 | setting 7:8 | things 6:12 | |
| reporter 7:1 | settlement 7:22 | throw 7:25 | |
| representative 4:10 | solution 6:14 | Thursday 5:18 6:13 | |
| representatives 4:8 | sort 6:1 | today 4:5,17 5:9 8:11,17 | |
| resolution 5:5 6:2,3,5,9 | speak 6:15 | <hr/> U <hr/> | |
| resolve 5:13 | Spire 4:8,14,16 5:7,17 6:8 7:4,16,23 | understanding 8:11 | |
| resolved 5:14 | St 8:19 | update 6:4,10 7:11 8:3 | |
| responded 5:6 | Staff 4:9,18,20,22 5:21 7:15 | | |
| responsibility | | | |