BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire's Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service Provided in the Company's Missouri Service Areas

Case No. GR-2022-0179

STAFF RECOMMENDATION REGARDING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

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COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and in response to the *Motion Regarding Local Public Hearings* filed by the Consumer Council of Missouri, states that:

1. Staff supports the three in-person hearing dates and locations proposed by Consumer Council of Missouri.

2. In addition, Staff supports the proposal to include at least one virtual hearing option, as virtual hearings appear to have given ratepayers additional opportunities to participate in the rate case process.

3. Staff is consulting with the parties for proposed language to be included in the notice sent to customers about the local public hearings.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests the Commission accept the above recommendation in response to the *Motion Regarding Local Public Hearings* filed by Consumer Council of Missouri.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Curt Stokes

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Counsel for Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 20th day of July, 2022, to all parties and/or counsels of records.

<u>/s/ Curt Stokes</u>

Curt Stokes