

In the Matter of:

SPIRE MISSOURI INC.'S d/b/a SPIRE REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY , etc.

GR-2021-0108, VOL. III

June 21, 2021



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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Discovery Conference

via WebEx

June 21, 2021

Jefferson City, Missouri

Volume 3

In The Matter Of Spire Missouri)
Inc.'s Request for Authority to)Case No. GR-2021-0108
Implement a General Rate)
Increase for Natural Gas Service)
Provided in the Company's)
Missouri Service Areas.)

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:
Tracy Taylor, CCR No. 939
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 JUDGE HATCHER: Let's go on the record.
2 Good morning everyone. This is the discovery
3 conference scheduled for today in the Case
4 GR-2021-0108, and that is captioned In the Matter of
5 Spire Missouri Inc.'s, DBA Spire, Request for
6 Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for
7 Natural Gas Service Provided in the Company's Missouri
8 Service Territories.

9 Okay. Let's get into it. Mr. Clizer,
10 why don't you give us an introduction and tell us
11 where we're at?

12 MR. CLIZER: All right. Thank you.
13 Judge. Like was -- as was stated in the filing I made
14 last Thursday, we had I think only one objection that
15 was at issue. OPC and the Company have been working
16 together over the past couple of days to try and reach
17 a resolution. I think that we have a resolution in
18 principle. I'm simply going to outline what I believe
19 is the agreement that we've reached and invite Spire
20 to correct me as necessary.

21 So effectively, we had asked for Spire's
22 long-range plan. They objected. The basis for the
23 objection is stated in the attached objection that was
24 included with the filing, so I'm not going to rehash
25 that here.

1 Having discussed with Spire, it appears
2 that their primary concern is that they are leery of
3 providing underlying assumptions that were included in
4 the long-range plan that relate to the outcome of this
5 case or possible outcomes to this case. And again, I
6 invite Mr. Aplington to correct me if he thinks that
7 I've failed to capture that accurately.

8 I believe that we have -- what the
9 parties have agreed to is that the Company will make
10 its long-range plan available to the OPC with some
11 material redacted. The OPC will review it. If we
12 have concerns with the redaction, I think that we are
13 going to attempt to submit it to you, Judge, with a
14 list from the Company explaining what the redactions
15 are and why, and if we need to, a list kind of
16 explaining what our concerns are and ask for you to
17 make an in-camera review and determine if the material
18 should be redacted.

19 I -- again, when -- Mr. Aplington, does
20 that all sound correct from your understanding?

21 MR. APLINGTON: Yeah. I think that's
22 right, Judge. Good morning. This -- this is a new
23 request that we have not received from the OPC
24 previously and so that's why we've sort of been
25 struggling with what the parameters should be.

1 The long-range plan is a document that
2 outlines forward-looking projections of potential
3 corporate earnings into the future. And included in
4 there are some assumptions -- some underlying data and
5 assumptions, to include things like, you know,
6 potential settlement outcomes of this case or
7 potential future rate case filing dates that we don't
8 think are appropriate or relevant.

9 So Mr. Clizer's exactly right. What we
10 would propose to do is to redact those items that we
11 think are -- are not appropriate for review and make
12 the remainder of the plan available to OPC for their
13 review. And if there's any dispute about the scope of
14 the redactions, that we would submit to you for an
15 in-camera review the redacted portions to get a
16 ruling.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: I like it. That sounds
18 good.

19 MR. CLIZER: And I -- sorry. Sorry. I
20 apologize. I keep talking over you and to the court
21 reporter.

22 I believe this is -- I think this would
23 have probably been understood, but just to make clear,
24 when you provide the redacted material, you're going
25 to provide an indication for what's being redacted and

1 why; is that right? A privilege log as we've kind of
2 seen in the past?

3 MR. APLINGTON: Yes. We will prepare a
4 privilege log in the same type of format that we've
5 used in the past.

6 MR. CLIZER: Yes. In that case, yeah, I
7 believe that's our agreement.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Excellent. It sounds
9 like there is a resolution. Are there any other
10 issues that we want to discuss today? I know that the
11 Rebuttal Testimony -- and a lot of it just came in
12 last week and some of us have had a long weekend.

13 Okay. Awesome. Then this discovery
14 conference is adjourned. We are off the record.

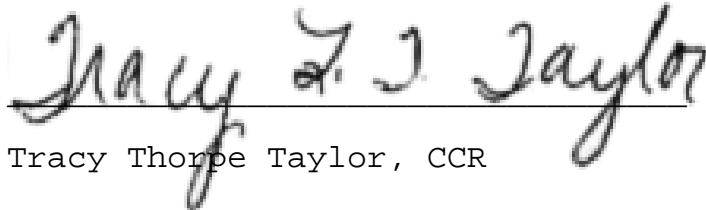
15 (Whereupon, the conference was
16 adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the testimony appearing in the foregoing matter was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witnesses was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this matter was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.


Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR

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