

In the Matter of:

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

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**GR-2021-0108, VOL. VIII**

*June 24, 2021*

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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Public Hearing

June 24, 2021

Webex

Volume 8

In the Matter of:  
Spire Missouri Inc.'s d/b/a )  
Spire Request for Authority )  
Implement a General Rate )  
Increase for Natural Gas ) File No. GR-2021-0108  
Service Provided in the )  
Company's Missouri Service )  
Areas )

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CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

Commissioner Glen Kolkmeier  
Commissioner Maida Coleman

REPORTED BY:  
Shelley L. Bartels, CCR  
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

1 APPEARANCES:

2 MS. JAMIE MYERS  
3 Department of Economic Development  
4 Public Service Commission  
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6 P.O. Box 360  
7 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360  
8 573.751.4140  
9 For: Staff of the Missouri Public Service  
10 Commission  
11

12 MR. JOHN CLIZER  
13 Department of Economic Development  
14 Office of the Public Counsel  
15 200 Madison Street  
16 P.O. Box 2230  
17 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
18 573.751.5324  
19 For: Office of the Public Counsel  
20

21 MR. MATTHEW APLINGTON  
22 Spire Missouri, Inc.  
23 700 Market Street  
24 St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
25 For: Spire Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

JUDGE HATCHER: Let's go on the record.

First I would ask that everyone please mute themselves unless they are speaking. That'll cut down on the noise level and also prevent any audio feedback.

Today is June 24th, 2021, and the Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing in Case No. GR-2021-0108 which is captioned as In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc. doing business as Spire's Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service Provided in the Company's Missouri Service Areas.

The Commission has scheduled this public hearing to give members of the public a chance to comment about Spire's application. The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates charged by public utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and the safety of the operations of public utilities. The commission is made up of five commissioners. The commissioners are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commissioners employ a

1 staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial  
2 analysts, and other specialists in the field of  
3 utility regulation.

4 My name is Charles Hatcher, and I am a  
5 regulatory law judge and will be presiding over this  
6 hearing. With me tonight are Commissioners Kolkmeyer  
7 and Commissioner Coleman.

8 Again, this is an official hearing of the  
9 Missouri Public Service Commission and the statements  
10 and testimony of witnesses will be recorded by the  
11 court reporter and must be given under oath. We'll  
12 begin our hearing by asking counsel to please enter  
13 their appearance for the record. Spire, please go  
14 ahead.

15 MR. APLINGTON: Good evening, everyone.  
16 Matt Aplington appearing for petitioner, Spire  
17 Missouri, Inc., 700 Market Street, St. Louis,  
18 Missouri 63101.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. And for  
20 commission staff.

21 MS. MYERS: Good evening, Judge. Jamie  
22 Myers on behalf of the staff of the Missouri Public  
23 Service Commission. Address is 200 Madison Street,  
24 P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.  
25 Telephone number is 573.526.6036.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And for the  
2 Office of Public Counsel.

3 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer appearing on  
4 behalf of Missouri Office of Public Counsel.  
5 Business address, Governor's Office Building,  
6 Suite 650, 200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 2230  
7 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Thank you.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: We also have a handful of  
9 intervening parties. If any of the representatives  
10 are here and would like to enter their appearance for  
11 the record, please do that now.

12 Okay. The process that we're going to  
13 use tonight will be to call the names on the sign-up  
14 sheet in the order they appear. I only have one name  
15 on the sign-in sheet, so I will call that person's  
16 name and I'll ask them to go ahead and unmute.

17 I'd like to also make an announcement.  
18 After I call the one person that has signed up, I  
19 will ask for any other witnesses that would like to  
20 come before the commission and testify. So that  
21 means any of the callers on our Webex call this  
22 evening that would like to testify that did not sign  
23 up, I will ask and give you that opportunity. I also  
24 would like to everyone know that's on the telephone,  
25 Star 6 is how you unmute yourself. Okay.

1 Alex Baskins. Is there an Alex Baskins  
2 here? And if you're on a phone, it is Star 6 to  
3 unmute. If you're on the webpage or downloaded the  
4 app, you'll be pressing a button somewhere. Okay.

5 Then let's open it up. Are there any  
6 persons here that would like to testify tonight? If  
7 you're on the telephone and would like to unmute.  
8 Okay.

9 I will start reading through the closing,  
10 and I'll ask again for any witnesses. I'd just like  
11 to tell everyone the Commission has not made any  
12 decisions in this case and the commissioners would  
13 not be able to answer any questions today because  
14 they do have to remain impartial until after all of  
15 the evidence is presented. If you have questions  
16 after the hearing, you can use an email address used  
17 to signed up for this hearing; that is  
18 pscinfo@psc.mo.gov. That is for staff and for the  
19 Office of Public Counsel. That is mopco@opc.mo.gov.

20 And again, we had one witness signed up,  
21 Ales Baskins, and I called for any witnesses that  
22 would like to testify and we haven't heard from  
23 anyone, so I'll be closing the hearing in just a  
24 moment. We're just a minute away, if anyone would  
25 like to testify to the commissioners. It's Star 6

1 again if you're on your telephone to unmute.

2           Okay. I would like to thank everyone for  
3 attending today. I would like to ask our  
4 commissioners on the line again, Commissioner  
5 Kolkmeyer and Commissioner Coleman, I appreciate  
6 their being here for the hearing. If they have any  
7 closing remarks they would like to offer.

8           Okay. Again, I would like to thank all  
9 of our participants today, the parties and  
10 representatives and also all of the customers and  
11 rate payers who came out today. Again, if you do  
12 need to make written comments, you can do that.  
13 Again, you can use the same email address that you  
14 used to register for this hearing; that's  
15 pscinfo@psc.mo.gov. You can reach the Office of the  
16 Public Counsel; that's mopco@opc.mo.gov. Or you can  
17 leave comments on the PSC's webpage, psc.mo.gov. And  
18 in the corner is a link to submit comments. And just  
19 remember this case number. This is GR-2021-0108.

20           Thank you all and we are adjourned.  
21 Let's go off the record.


22           (Off the record.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I, Shelley L. Mayer, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 679, the officer before whom the foregoing transcript of proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the testimony 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 transcript of proceedings 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.

  
Shelley L. Bartels, CCR

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