

In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc.

Public Service Commission Local Public Hearing
October 13, 2022

Vol 2

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Thursday, October 13, 2022
1:17 p.m. - 2:16 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 2
Pages 1 - 50

In the Matter of Spire Missouri,)
Inc. d/b/a Spire's Request for)
Authority to Implement a General) File No. GR-2022-0179
Rate Increase for Natural Gas)
Service Provided in the Company's)
Missouri Service Areas)

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP, Commissioner
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

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1 The following proceedings began at 1:17 p.m.:

2 JUDGE CLARK: Good afternoon. Today is
3 October 13th of 2022, and it is currently 1:17 p.m.
4 Now, you just finished the question and answer period of
5 the public hearing. If you had questions about this
6 rate case, I would hope you were able to get those
7 answered.

8 Now, before I take comments, I'm going to ask
9 that everybody mute themselves unless they're speaking
10 or actively giving comments at the time, and that will
11 cut down on the noise level and prevent audio feedback
12 or unnecessary interruptions. If you need to unmute
13 yourself and you're participating by phone, you may do
14 so by dialing *6 when it's time to offer your comments.

15 Now, the Missouri Public Service Commission
16 has set aside this time for a local public hearing in
17 File No. GR-2022-0179, a general rate case captioned as
18 In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Incorporated d/b/a
19 Spire's Request for Authority to Implement a General
20 Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service Provided in the
21 Company's Missouri Service Areas.

22 My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory Law
23 Judge overseeing this local public hearing. Now, the
24 Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates
25 charged by investor-owned utility companies in Missouri

1 to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. The
2 Commission also regulates the quality of service and
3 safety of operations of investor-owned utilities.

4 Now, the Commission is made up of five
5 Commissioners: Chairman Ryan Silvey and Commissioners
6 Scott Rupp, Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman, and Glen
7 Kolkmeier. The Commissioners are appointed by the
8 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.
9 The Commission employs a staff of engineers,
10 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other
11 specialists in the field of utility regulation. With me
12 today are Commissioners Rupp, Coleman, Holsman, and do I
13 have Commissioner Kolkmeier on? I believe Kolkmeier may
14 be joining us, but he's not on at the moment.

15 Would any of the Commissioners like to make an
16 opening remark at this point?

17 Now, the court reporter is transcribing the
18 hearing so that the Commissioners that are not present
19 may read and review the comments at a later date. At
20 this time I'm going to begin by asking counsel to enter
21 their appearance for the record starting with Spire.

22 MR. APLINGTON: Good afternoon, Your Honor,
23 and Commissioners. My name is Matt Aplington. I
24 represent Spire Missouri, Inc., 700 Market Street, St.
25 Louis, Missouri 63101.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Aplington. For
2 the Commission Staff.

3 MR. COSPER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I'm
4 Don Cosper for Staff and it's 200 Madison, PO Box 360,
5 Jefferson City 65102.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Cosper. For the
7 Office of the Public Counsel.

8 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of the
9 Missouri Office of the Public Counsel, and I believe the
10 court reporter has my contact information already.
11 Thank you.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Clizer. Are
13 there any intervenors present or any counsel I have not
14 called? Hearing none.

15 MS. PADGETT: Sandra Padgett from Consumers
16 Council of Missouri. I am the Executive Director of
17 Consumers Council of Missouri.

18 JUDGE CLARK: You're not counsel for them --

19 MS. PADGETT: No.

20 JUDGE CLARK: -- and you're not representing
21 them as a party in this case?

22 MS. PADGETT: No. I am a party since I'm part
23 of Consumers Council, but I'm not counsel, no. Thank
24 you.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for letting me know.

1 THE STENOGRAPHER: Judge, what was her first
2 name?

3 JUDGE CLARK: Would you say your first name
4 again, please? The woman from Consumers Council who
5 just spoke up, could you repeat your first name for the
6 court reporter?

7 MS. PADGETT: Sandra Padgett.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Would you mind spelling your
9 last name just so we have a clear record?

10 MS. PADGETT: P-a-d-g-e-t-t.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you so much again. Now,
12 for those who --

13 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge, this is
14 Commissioner Kolkmeier. I'm here.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Kolkmeier. I expected you to join us, and I told them
17 you would be joining us. So thank you for letting me
18 know.

19 Now, for those who are going to be providing
20 comments today, I'm going to call the names listed on
21 the sign-in sheet in the order they appear. So far I
22 have four individuals signed up to offer comments to the
23 Commission. Now, when I call your name, I'm going to
24 ask that you unmute yourself; that you state and spell
25 your name -- as I said, we have a court reporter here --

1 for the record and then I will place you under oath.
2 After that you can offer your comment to the Commission.

3 Now, there's no specific time limit but there
4 are a lot of people participating in this local public
5 hearing today and so I'm going to ask that people keep
6 their comments as brief as possible so that everybody
7 has a chance to offer comments. After I go through the
8 list of people that have signed up for comments, I will
9 ask if anybody who is present on the WebEx would like to
10 make a comment and at that time you can let me know.

11 Also, after you've offered your comments,
12 please remain unmuted for just a second. I may have
13 questions for you, the Commissioners may have questions
14 for you, or one of the attorneys may have questions for
15 you. If I have a question for you, I'll just ask it.
16 I'm going to ask that the Commissioners do the same.
17 I'm not going to pause after each witness and ask for
18 Commission questions. So just feel free to pipe in and
19 ask your questions when they come to you.

20 As for attorneys, if you'll flag me just so
21 that I can announce your name for the court reporter,
22 that would be helpful.

23 MR. MOSS: Your Honor, I'm not sure if I'm on
24 the list, because my meeting password would not be
25 accepted on the phone.

1 JUDGE CLARK: What's your name, sir?

2 MR. MOSS: Christian Moss.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Christian? I'm sorry. Spell
4 your last name, please.

5 MR. MOSS: It's Moss, M-o-s-s.

6 JUDGE CLARK: No, you are not on the list, but
7 I will add you to the list, Mr. Moss.

8 MR. MOSS: Okay. Perfect. Thank you so much,
9 sir.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I'm going to tell
11 you all today that the Commission is not going to be
12 able to answer your questions today. That's what the
13 question and answer portion was for. That's because the
14 Commissioners have to remain impartial until after the
15 evidence is presented at the evidentiary hearing. If
16 you have questions, please speak to representatives of
17 the company, the Commission staff, or the Office of the
18 Public Counsel.

19 Also, I'm going to ask that given that this is
20 a WebEx meeting and there's a potential for a lot of
21 overlap, I'm going to ask that you be polite and
22 courteous to everyone who is speaking here today and
23 treat them as you would like to be treated. And with
24 that I'm just going to go ahead and start calling people
25 to give comments.

1 The first person I have listed to offer
2 comments today is Latasha Barnes. Ms. Barnes, are you
3 present? I'm not hearing from Ms. Barnes. I will note
4 for the record that Ms. Barnes did offer comments at
5 last night's public hearing live. So I did not know if
6 she would be present today.

7 The next person I have on my list to offer
8 comments to the Commission is Jayla Atkinson. Is Jayla
9 Atkinson present?

10 Okay. Hearing no one, I will move on down the
11 list. Harvey Ferdman. Is Harvey Ferdman present?

12 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Judge --

13 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: -- this is Commissioner
15 Coleman. Would you please remind people how to unmute
16 if they're on a telephone, because sometimes people do
17 have problems with that. Thank you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you so much, Commissioner
19 Coleman, and I will reiterate that at this point. If
20 you are trying to unmute yourself via telephone, you
21 need to dial *6 to unmute yourself.

22 MR. FERDMAN: Thanks for that reminder. This
23 is Harvey Ferdman. I didn't realize I signed up to make
24 a comment. I was thinking I was just signing up to
25 observe. I have no comment for the Commission at this

1 time. Thank you.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for letting me know
3 that you're here. Sharon Jones. Is Sharon Jones
4 present?

5 And Mr. Moss, I believe you have now moved to
6 the top of the list. So Christian Moss.

7 MR. MOSS: All right. That was quick.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Would you like to offer comments
9 to the Commission? Please state and spell your name for
10 the record.

11 MR. MOSS: Yes, sir. My name is Christian
12 Moss. That's C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n, last name Moss,
13 M-o-s-s.

14 JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Moss, would you raise
15 your right hand to be sworn.

16 MR. MOSS: Yes, sir.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
18 that the testimony you are about to give at this local
19 public hearing is the truth?

20 MR. MOSS: I do.

21 JUDGE CLARK: And what comments would you like
22 to offer the Commission today?

23 CHRISTIAN MOSS,
24 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 MR. MOSS: Well, Your Honor, I'm actually from

1 California. I lived in California for 30 full years,
2 and it's no surprise we all know California, right?
3 It's full of money laundering, full of issues with the
4 government and utility companies. It's just way too
5 overpriced. It's gone to complete crap. That's why I
6 moved out and I live in Missouri now. To tell you the
7 truth, Your Honor, Spire has been outrageous since I
8 moved here like nothing I've ever seen in my time in
9 California. I mean, it is outrageous, sir, when I'm
10 spending \$75 every single month and I have the lowest
11 amount of gas possible to use, and the only thing it's
12 doing is heating my water. It feels like I'm in some
13 third-world country when I can't even take a normal
14 length shower and I'm still getting charged 75.

15 Now, the second part of what I'd like to say
16 is that, you know, the CEO of Spire is Suzanne
17 Sitherwood. Okay. She made \$5.6 million over the last
18 fiscal year, which was 2021. It was a 26 percent raise,
19 sir, over her 4.4 million in pay. She currently gets 48
20 times greater salary than Spire's median employees, and
21 their median employee already makes more than a lot of
22 people living in this service area. I looked up the
23 difference. It's about 60,000 or so versus what people
24 earn in this area is much lower, and also everybody on
25 the Board that I'm looking at, Mark C. Darrell, Steven

1 Lindsey, Steven Rasche, Michael Geiselhart, Suzanne
2 Sitherwood, the lowest any of them make at all in cash
3 value, not bonuses, is \$700,000 and it goes up to almost
4 2.5 million and then millions of dollars in equity and
5 other benefits and everything. It's just -- I can't
6 believe that we've come to this, Your Honor, because
7 it's like how can somebody that makes 30,000, \$50,000,
8 be expected to spend more when they're already not
9 getting anything and yet the CEO has raised her pay \$1.1
10 million in one year and the year prior was almost a
11 million dollar raise as well.

12 Now, lastly I note that the people
13 representing Spire are most likely to say well, that's
14 different money and she was paid from -- it comes from a
15 completely different place and all that. To that I have
16 to say we all know what money laundering is, right? You
17 take money, you put it in one account, you say that it's
18 for something else, but it's still money comes from
19 something. If there's money that's going to them and
20 it's increasing, then we should not have any type of an
21 increase at all. I shouldn't have to pay a dollar more.
22 They should take a cut, and they should make it happen
23 for the betterment if they want improvements.

24 I don't want improvements. I don't care.
25 It's not my problem. Personally I think it's disturbing

1 that I'm paying way more than California, a place that's
2 known corrupted with fraud. Yeah, that's where I'm at,
3 sir. It's like when I look up these face value dollars
4 that they're getting, I mean, it's just common logic.
5 I'm like wow, I can't believe this has happened.

6 Lastly I'll say look at this. We don't trust
7 Federal Reserve, right, guys, everybody that's listening
8 that lives here like me? That's one of the reasons that
9 I moved, you know, to get away from that type of stuff.
10 Guess what? The CEO, Suzanne Sitherwood, she started at
11 Spire in 2016 and she's now on Federal Reserve Bank of
12 St. Louis as the Chairman since 2020. To me personally
13 that's a conflict of interest. No matter what, it's
14 kind of shady, right? But I'd like to finish with that.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Moss, thank you for
16 offering your comments to the Commission. I don't have
17 any questions for you.

18 MR. MOSS: Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: You're excused at this point.
20 Is there anybody else --

21 MR. MOSS: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. It appears I've got
23 about 80 people still part of the virtual public
24 hearing. Is there anybody else who would like to make
25 comments to the Commission about this case at this time?

1 (There were a number of affirmative
2 responses.)

3 JUDGE CLARK: I heard a number of people. So
4 in orderly fashion, I'll try and get to everybody. If
5 one of you would just speak up at this point.

6 MR. HEELAN: Rod Heelan. I live in Gladstone,
7 Missouri.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Would you say your name
9 again and spell it for the court reporter, please?

10 MR. HEELAN: Rod Heelan. First name is R-o-d,
11 last name H-e-e-l-a-n. I live in Gladstone, Missouri.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Heelan, would you
13 raise your right hand to be sworn.

14 MR. HEELAN: All right.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
16 that the testimony you're about to give at this local
17 public hearing is the truth?

18 MR. HEELAN: Yes, I do.

19 JUDGE CLARK: I'm just going to say briefly I
20 received a comment that somebody suggested that I have
21 people put their hands up to call or to make comments.
22 If you want to do that, that would be great. I cannot
23 contain all 80 people on my screen currently. So I will
24 try and scroll through and not miss anybody.

25 Mr. Heelan, what would you like to tell the

1 Commission this afternoon?

2 ROD HEELAN,

3 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 MR. HEELAN: Well, everybody is -- There's no
5 equitable explanation that I've heard today that will
6 take care of everybody in the rate case. The poor
7 people, they're having to beg for a rate for their
8 situation. I myself don't have any trouble paying my
9 bills, but other people in this hearing are going to be
10 -- I listened to a lady that had an 18 -- she lives on
11 \$1,800 a month. And I looked on the computer this
12 morning. We're going to get a \$140 Social Security
13 raise in January. Well, this rate increase is going to
14 pretty much eat that up. And every time that some of
15 our senior folks get a little bit of an advantage
16 somebody comes along and takes it away.

17 Now, they say they need money for this and
18 money for that and they need money for new meters and
19 all that kind of stuff. I don't understand why the
20 general ratepayer is paying infrastructure fees.

21 I was a mechanic for 35 years. All the tools
22 in my toolbox I had to buy. I had to have them every
23 day in order to do my job. The Gas Service Company is
24 the same way. Spire is the same way. They need to buy
25 the stuff out of their profit to run their company. I

1 cannot believe that we are paying for the instrument
2 that figures our bill. That's ludicrous.

3 The next thing, I don't know what the next
4 thing would be that they would come before the
5 Commission and ask you folks for another rate increase
6 for another piece of their infrastructure, whatever that
7 might be. I cannot believe that a company that makes
8 this much money cannot do a lot of stuff on their own.
9 And when they incur a debt, they need to have the
10 foresight to find out a way to pay for it if they're
11 always working from behind.

12 In other words, they're always saying today
13 that we incurred these debts, now we want you guys to
14 pay for them. Well, how much of that debt are you going
15 to pay? Are you going to pay this \$287 million pipeline
16 you built? How much of that -- Are we going to pay for
17 that all 287 million of it? What is your portion of
18 that pipeline, that infrastructure? They're just -- I
19 mean, all the utilities in the state of Missouri if they
20 need another bolt, they come before the Commission to
21 find out if we can get paid for it.

22 And the stuff that's on your bill, you know,
23 like the meter charge, like your line charge on an
24 electricity bill, you know, that's just ways, other ways
25 for them to say we need paid for this. And these people

1 that can't pay, what is their percentage of people of
2 their customers that are on a level payment plan or they
3 can't pay you at all or is that list growing every year?

4 And for the poor people, they're going to keep
5 coming before the Commission. They're going to keep
6 asking for raises and they don't care if the -- all the
7 charities in the state of Missouri like United Way or
8 Catholic Charities, or whoever it might be, is going to
9 pay somebody's gas bill at some time. They're going to
10 get paid for it eventually. But they just keep coming
11 before the Commission with raises. Cover this for me,
12 cover that for me. That's about all I've got to say. I
13 appreciate you guys holding the meeting. But you need
14 to spread the meetings out. I plan to go to the meeting
15 in Kansas City, but you need -- you've got more
16 population here and also in St. Louis. And what is the
17 central Missouri, where would the meeting be? At the
18 Commissioner's office? That's all I've got to say. I'm
19 a very frustrated ratepayer.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Heelan.

21 MR. HEELAN: I've very concerned about the
22 poor people. Thank you.

23 JUDGE CLARK: I understand that. Mr. Heelan,
24 thank you for your comments. I appreciate them. I will
25 say that we held a local public hearing last night in

1 St. Louis. It was determined -- and that was at 6:00
2 p.m. It was determined that the best way to offer
3 people an opportunity to participate was to offer a
4 virtual hearing over the noon hour today and then next
5 week on the 18th at 6:00 in the evening there is a local
6 public hearing that is in Kansas City. So as of right
7 now there are three scheduled for this case with this
8 being the second one.

9 Now, participating via WebEx on your computer
10 if you look at the bottom there's a little hand symbol.
11 If you press that, it will raise your hand and let me
12 know that you have comments that you would like to make
13 to the Commission. At this point I don't see anybody's
14 hands up, but I heard a number of people. So who would
15 next -- yes, from Southside Wellness Center.

16 MS. STEWART: Yes. My name is Ollie Stewart.
17 I work with the senior citizens.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Excuse me, Miss. Can you hold
19 on just a second. I just had some problems hearing you.
20 Would you please state and spell your name for the
21 record?

22 MS. STEWART: Okay. Ollie, O-l-l-i-e
23 S-t-e-w-a-r-t. I'm the -- I work with seniors city
24 wide.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second, Ollie.

1 THE STENOGRAPHER: Judge, I was having a
2 problem hearing her.

3 JUDGE CLARK: I hate to ask you to start
4 again, but would you, please. I'm going to ask you to
5 raise your right hand to be sworn as well.

6 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
7 testimony you are about to give at this local public
8 hearing is the truth?

9 MS. STEWART: It is the truth.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. And would you please
11 offer your comments to the Commission?

12 OLLIE STEWART,
13 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 MS. STEWART: Okay. My name is Ollie Stewart.
15 I work with senior citizens and disabled throughout the
16 City of St. Louis. And as I look at the president's
17 salaries of \$400,000 and expenses account of 50,000 and
18 minute days and look at the senior citizens and the
19 disabled income from not over 1,800 to \$2,000 a month
20 that they have to live off, pay medication,
21 transportation, food, rent, and clothing. I wondered
22 how can they afford an increase and they've got to pay
23 the same increase to stay warm as me or you or anyone
24 else with jobs. That's a problem for the elderly
25 population and the disabled population.

1 I'm wondering if you all would be going in any
2 of these apartments setting up -- I think you said you
3 renewed all the meters that would make sure that the
4 utilities would be cut down or how can they save on the
5 utility on the heating system. Can you all hear me?

6 JUDGE CLARK: I can hear you. I'm sorry. I
7 indicated earlier the Commission isn't going to be able
8 to answer your questions today. That sounds like a
9 question for the company. You might contact the company
10 in regard to that.

11 MS. STEWART: Okay. Thank you for commenting.
12 I do feel that the meetings should be -- you should have
13 more meetings in the community to make sure through the
14 churches or some other media gathering in the community
15 to make sure that everybody know about it. We have
16 senior citizen buildings that I'm sure some of the
17 directors do not know, they don't know that this meeting
18 is being held. They really won't know until they get
19 their gas bill and then they be coming up here to the
20 center talking about how they have higher utility bills,
21 gas bills. So that's my question today, Judge. Thank
22 you.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Ms. Stewart, thank you
24 very much for your comments.

25 MS. STEWART: Thank you.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Who would like to offer comments
2 next?

3 MS. PENCE: I do.

4 JUDGE CLARK: I heard an I do. Why don't we
5 start with that. Who said I do?

6 MS. PENCE: That was me. My name is Karen
7 Pence.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Karen Pence; is that correct?

9 MS. PENCE: Right. K-a-r-e-n P-e-n-c-e.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Pence, would you raise your
11 right hand to be sworn.

12 MS. PENCE: Okay.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
14 that the testimony you're about to give at this local
15 public hearing is the truth?

16 MS. PENCE: Yes, I do.

17 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
18 Commission this afternoon?

19 KAREN PENCE,
20 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 MS. PENCE: Okay. My comment is it's just
22 outrageous being part of a rate increase that might be a
23 contribution to compensation increases for executives
24 that are already overpaid. I know you said this is
25 being litigated. I do hope that decision falls on the

1 side of customers that's interested instead of
2 continuing to overpaid, grossly overpaid executives.
3 There was a Mr. Moss who said something about the Spire
4 salaries, and I would reference what he said. That's on
5 record, you know what that is, the amount they're being
6 paid is just completely out of control. The preference
7 here should be that utility consumption is a mandatory
8 thing. Utilities are a monopoly. You don't have a
9 choice to go to a different one to get your warmth for
10 your house or to be able to cook in your kitchen.
11 People shouldn't have to apply for help to pay utility
12 bills. That is ridiculous, especially when you look at
13 the salaries being paid to some of these executives.
14 Spire is not managing their business with
15 executives being paid four times as much as they should
16 be making. Regardless of what they say about
17 appropriations, these executives are already overpaid.
18 So they should stop paying grossly outrageous salaries,
19 cut Spire's dividends, stop moving the goal post and
20 putting the burden on the customers. This is crazy.
21 This is absolutely crazy. Even if you can afford to pay
22 utilities, you shouldn't have to be counting your
23 pennies trying to figure out how you're going to pay
24 your bills so you don't freeze to death. What are we in
25 Texas now? Okay. That's it.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Pence, thank you for your
2 comments. I appreciate it. I saw a hand up from a
3 William. William, are you there?

4 MR. FASANELLO: Yes, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Can you speak up just a little
6 bit. I'm having some difficulty hearing you.

7 MR. FASANELLO: Can you hear me now?

8 JUDGE CLARK: A little bit better. If you
9 could possibly either get closer to the microphone or
10 turn it up just a little bit more it might help, but I
11 can hear you. William, would you please state your
12 first and last name and spell them for the court
13 reporter.

14 MR. FASANELLO: William Fasanello,
15 W-i-l-l-i-a-m F-a-s-a-n-e-l-l-o.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Fasanello, and I'm sorry if
17 I butchered that, would you raise your right hand to be
18 sworn.

19 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
20 testimony you're about to give at this local public
21 hearing is the truth?

22 MR. FASANELLO: I do.

23 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
24 Commission today?

25 WILLIAM FASANELLO,

1 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

2 MR. FASANELLO: Your Honor, I'm willing to
3 actually concede that you could reduce the CEO's salary
4 to zero and make little difference on people's monthly
5 bills. However, the Spire representatives have failed
6 to account for the drastic increases, especially after
7 the increase they did last winter which raised my
8 personal bill about \$30 a month keeping the same
9 temperature. Spire in 2021 had a net profit of \$271
10 million triple that of 2020. Net profit is after they
11 paid all expenses, business taxes, and yes, the
12 shareholders. So the investors got their money and they
13 still had 271 million leftover doing whatever. I don't
14 understand why that money cannot be funneled back into
15 their services to keep the costs the same, if not
16 possibly lower them, especially when their shareholder
17 rate is 4.26 percent, the dividend rate that is.

18 By contrast, I work for a Fortune 500 company
19 who has a 2.3 percent dividend rate. So they can still
20 pay their shareholders and they can still help their
21 consumers except they choose not to. When the vice
22 president was making comments trying to explain all
23 these discrepancies, well, he was inadequate. He talked
24 about a revenue model. He didn't explain it. He didn't
25 even have the public 10K filing that shows the

1 financials which I have sitting in front of me. He was
2 unable to account for a myriad of factors and trying to
3 hand wave everything, and ultimately Spire's solution to
4 this problem was to pass the buck and tell consumers
5 well, you can apply for public assistance and hope for
6 the best. That's not how you run a utility being a
7 necessity especially when you're the only game in town.
8 That's all I have to say, Your Honor.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you for your
10 comments. Who else would like to speak to the
11 Commission?

12 MR. DANNER: My name is Ryan Danner.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Ryan. I'm sorry. Say your last
14 name again.

15 MR. DANNER: It's Danner. It's D-a-n-n-e-r.

16 JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Danner, would you raise
17 your right hand to be sworn.

18 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
19 testimony you're about to give at this local public
20 hearing is the truth?

21 MR. DANNER: I do.

22 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell
23 the Commission this afternoon?

24 RYAN DANNER,
25 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 MR. DANNER: I want to say thank you for the
2 opportunity to speak and voice my concerns at the
3 proposed Spire rate increase. I'm 30 years old and I
4 live in St. Louis City. I own my house along with my
5 fiancée. Our home like much of St. Louis was built over
6 a hundred years ago. And while it's been remodeled
7 since then, the house wasn't designed as an energy
8 efficient building. The house is 1,200 square feet and
9 we keep it at 62 degrees in the winter, yet our gas bill
10 is still over \$200 at any given winter month. An
11 additional 10 percent from the proposed rate hike would
12 add a considerable amount to our monthly expenses. Many
13 people in St. Louis live in similarly sized and age
14 homes, and many of them work jobs that didn't allow for
15 them to participate in this meeting. Working class
16 people are being squeezed financially from every
17 direction these days. An additional 10 percent to gas,
18 a necessity, going into a projected very cold winter
19 would be devastating to the residents of St. Louis.
20 Spire has already increased rates last winter. Now
21 they're trying to increase rates again to cover the
22 bungling of the St. Louis pipeline.

23 The people in Missouri shouldn't bear the
24 burden of Spire's mistakes. Spire is pushing dirty
25 infrastructure that pollutes their state with pipelines

1 that infract gas and they need to see the writing on the
2 wall and realize that gas isn't the future and stop
3 trying to strong arm unnecessary gas infrastructure into
4 our state. We can send this message by not allowing the
5 rate increase. It will put the burden of Spire's
6 mistakes on Spire and not on the people of Missouri. I
7 want to thank the Missouri Public Service Commission,
8 and please vote no on the proposed rate increase and
9 protect the people of Missouri. Thank you.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Danner. Would
11 anybody else like to offer comments at this time?

12 MR. ECCHER: Yes, sir. Frederick Eccher.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Say your name again, sir.

14 MR. ECCHER: Frederick Eccher.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Would you spell it, please.

16 MR. ECCHER: F-r-e-d-e-r-i-c-k E-c-c-h-e-r.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Eccher, would you raise your
18 right hand to be sworn.

19 MR. ECCHER: Yes, sir.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
21 that the testimony you're about to give at this local
22 public hearing is the truth?

23 MR. ECCHER: Yes, sir.

24 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
25 Commission?

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FREDERICK ECCHER,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

MR. ECCHER: All right. I have a quick reference I'm going to give you all. Referencing May 16, 2022 utilities Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. Just a few points to bring up so that you can always watch that episode later. Utilities Accountability 101 is the law says they should spend the least they can while providing quality environmentally safe service as of January 20, 2021. That was about minute mark six minutes in for me. There's also unnecessary projects that are possibly even mismanaged still make about 10 percent profit on average. So my comments is that Spire is making money. They're definitely spending more money than they want to and they're mishandling it. That's a level of mismanagement right there. It's been stated that people are making \$700,000.

JUDGE CLARK: Hold on a second, Mr. Eccher.

THE STENOGRAPHER: Judge, I didn't hear the last couple sentences that he said. If he could just back up just a little bit.

JUDGE CLARK: Could you back up a sentence or two, Mr. Eccher.

MR. ECCHER: All right. So I'll just repeat that last sentence which is basically it's been stated

1 here that the Board members are making 700,000 to 5
2 million, 5.6 million. That's like -- As a government
3 contractor, I just made 85 grand. I'm doing just fine.
4 I don't need 5.6 million. I just retired recently. I'm
5 not worried about my bills so much as --

6 JUDGE CLARK: You cut out there for just a
7 second. Mr. Eccher --

8 MR. ECCHER: I'm sorry. I have to go to an
9 appointment pretty soon. I wanted to get in here.

10 JUDGE CLARK: You cut out for just a second.
11 Go ahead.

12 MR. ECCHER: But my main concern is that
13 people are just going to keep doing it. There is no
14 incentive for them not to mismanage any projects or to
15 keep people from having to go to get help which doesn't
16 always help. So that's what I wanted to put on record
17 as a VA captain retired, US Army captain. That's all
18 I've got to say, sir.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments, Mr.
20 Eccher.

21 MR. ECCHER: All right.

22 JUDGE CLARK: And who else would like to offer
23 comments to the Commission today?

24 MS. O'BRIEN: I would like to make a comment,
25 please.

1 JUDGE CLARK: I heard a woman there. Would
2 you go ahead and say your name and spell it for the
3 court reporter.

4 MS. O'BRIEN: Okay. My name is Jennifer
5 O'Brien. First name is J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r, last name
6 O'Brien, O-'-B-r-i-e-n. I'm just a consumer.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. O'Brien, would you raise
8 your right hand and be sworn, please.

9 MS. O'BRIEN: Yes.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
11 that the testimony you are about to give at this local
12 public hearing is the truth?

13 MS. O'BRIEN: Yes, I do.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead with your
15 comments.

16 JENNIFER O'BRIEN,
17 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 MS. O'BRIEN: Okay. The first comment is that
19 I think that an increase just having service to the
20 house that I only have gas furnace and the house
21 originally was built as an electric house. So I pay a
22 minimum amount just to get gas from the curb to the
23 house monthly. And if it's going to go up like another
24 \$10, that's a significant increase and I wanted to
25 comment on that.

1 And somebody else had made a comment that
2 having an all electric house it wouldn't be more
3 efficient. And the house I've lived in for the last 20
4 years was initially all electric, had a heat pump and
5 was very efficient. It was built well. And my combined
6 electric and gas are similar to what it was just all
7 electric. 12 years ago when we needed to replace the
8 heat pump, we couldn't find anybody in the St. Louis
9 area to work on a heat pump. Even the company that had
10 installed the heat pump no longer had older people that
11 knew how to work it or had even seen a heat pump. So
12 everything I've read recently says that the heat pump is
13 environmentally better and for the whole environment
14 better than both gas and electric. So having an all
15 electric house was very efficient, but we couldn't find
16 somebody to work on it. So now we pay almost \$25 a
17 month, you know, at least nine months out of the year
18 for not having heat on. And so to have it go up another
19 \$10 seems like a very significant increase. That's my
20 comment.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. O'Brien, thank you for your
22 comments.

23 MR. FERDMAN: I'd like to make a comment to
24 the Commission.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, sir. What's your name?

1 MR. FERDMAN: Harvey Ferdman, H-a-r-v-e-y
2 F-e-r-d-m-a-n.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I'm going to ask you if
4 you can turn your volume up or get close to your
5 microphone. And would you please spell your name again?

6 MR. FERDMAN: Is this better?

7 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

8 MR. FERDMAN: Harvey, H-a-r-v-e-y, Ferdman,
9 F-e-r-d-m-a-n.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Ferdman, would you
11 raise your right hand to be sworn.

12 MR. FERDMAN: Okay.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Do you swear or affirm that the
14 testimony you're about to give at this local public
15 hearing is the truth?

16 MR. FERDMAN: I do.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Mr. Ferdman, if you
18 would go ahead and offer your comments to the
19 Commission.

20 HARVEY FERDMAN,
21 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

22 MR. FERDMAN: Thank you very much. I just
23 want to ask the Commissioners to be sure that there's no
24 double dipping taking place because Spire gas provider
25 also owns STL -- Spire STL Pipeline and it seems like

1 there's an opportunity for STL Pipeline to raise the
2 prices to Spire and then Spire to say oh, therefore we
3 have to raise the prices to our customers when all along
4 it's them raising their prices to themselves. So just
5 want to make sure, I'm sure the Commissioners are well
6 aware of that, but I just want to make sure that that's
7 being looked at. Thank you.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Ferdman,
9 for your comments. Is there anybody else who would like
10 to offer comments to the Commission?

11 DR. FOLEY: This is Dr. Shawn Foley.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Dr. Foley, would you please --

13 DR. FOLEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please spell your name
15 for the court reporter.

16 DR. FOLEY: I will, yes. S-h-a-w-n F-o-l-e-y.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Foley, would you raise your
18 right hand to be sworn.

19 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
20 testimony you are about to give at this local public
21 hearing is the truth?

22 DR. FOLEY: I do. However, I will also state
23 some of this is opinion, yes. Yes, I will not lie.

24 JUDGE CLARK: That's all I ask, Mr. Foley --
25 Dr. Foley. If you would like to at this time, please,

1 what would you like to tell the Commission today?

2

DR. SHAWN FOLEY,

3 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4

DR. FOLEY: Yeah. Thank you, Your Honor,

5 members of the Commission. My name is Dr. Shawn Foley.

6 I'm a Kansas City resident. Based on what I heard today

7 in the Q&A portion, I did just want to learn, and I did,

8 and also from the comments portion so far, seems to me

9 this request would be a clear violation of public trust

10 to satisfy private interests.

11 My understanding is this is the second

12 off-cycle rate increase within a year, the last one

13 being I heard winter. I didn't get a date on that. And

14 that basically it's, this is what we were told in the

15 Q&A, it's to repay investors, ensure that base salaries

16 are available to cover laborers but also to cover

17 executives and members of the board making compensation

18 in the hundreds of thousands, in some cases in the

19 million dollar range. That's base compensation to be

20 clear.

21 It's also to ensure that stocks remain

22 healthy; that they can meet EPF calculations and pay

23 their dividends. There was also, of course, this

24 infrastructure need that seems to be above and beyond

25 what the public would have had any opportunity to choose

1 like maybe the fracking or something like this.

2 In general, however, it was very unclear due
3 to the complicated financial model multiple private
4 interests what was really going on here other than what
5 I've already stated. So it's clear to me the additional
6 money and rate increase is really going to support this
7 financial model, perhaps a flawed model. There was one
8 person that came in and explained that they felt it was
9 very flawed. And as a result, it seems that some of the
10 need here is being misrepresented. It's being
11 represented as a reinvestment that will go to serve the
12 public good when, in fact, a portion or possibly even
13 the largest portion would instead go to further private
14 interests and exploit the public resource for profit.

15 The answers provided in the Q&A explained the
16 need to pay investors and compensate private companies
17 that Spire principals and leadership either work with or
18 have direct financial interest in supporting. Instead,
19 I would suggest that Spire basically look at their
20 current profits, which we've heard today, maybe reduce
21 the dividends paid to shareholders, maybe reduce
22 executive based compensation or use other business
23 rigors to make up this shortfall, especially since
24 they're already very profitable. And you've heard that
25 today from others.

1 So please vote no. But if you do vote yes, I
2 would suggest in that case some consideration for
3 seniors on a fixed income and non-seniors making less
4 than 176,000 per year or the 24 percent federal tax
5 bracket to be exempt from any increase.

6 If this is really that critical for the public
7 good and for public resource, let the most privileged
8 citizens among us, that would include me and my family,
9 shoulder this burden for the good of all. For the
10 record, I would like you to vote no. But if you have to
11 be yes, then please consider going to the people who are
12 the most privileged in the state and not put this burden
13 on anyone who is struggling at this time and thank you.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Dr. Foley, for your
15 comments. I have no questions about them.

16 Is there anybody else who would like to offer
17 comments to the Commission at this time?

18 MS. PINNER: Yes.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Yes. Ma'am, would you please
20 say your name and spell it for the court reporter.

21 MS. PINNER: My name is Katherine Pinner,
22 K-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e, Pinner, P-i-n-n-e-r.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Pinner, would you raise your
24 right hand to be sworn.

25 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the

1 testimony you are about to give at this local public
2 hearing is the truth?

3 MS. PINNER: I do.

4 JUDGE CLARK: And what comments would you like
5 to offer to the Commission today?

6 KATHERINE PINNER,
7 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

8 MS. PINNER: In my neighborhood we had meters
9 replaced. The meter that I have shows that it went in
10 in August of 2020, which was a mere two years ago. When
11 that meter went in, I do not believe that it was
12 installed by a Spire employee. I believe that that
13 position was outsourced. And looking back, it would be
14 good to look at the record at the last date because I
15 believe it was replaced fairly recently before that. So
16 it's a question of how frequently do these meters really
17 need to be replaced. The community that I live in, and
18 myself, I'll speak for myself, I would rather see cost
19 savings than accurate real time data as was suggested by
20 Spire. I'm not worried about being able to look at how
21 fast I'm using, but rather I would be more concerned
22 with the rate that I'm getting charged. And I do
23 believe that others may have that similar concern.

24 Right now across the board 401k's are in
25 reduction. People's salaries are getting reduced. This

1 is at all levels of our society. People are losing
2 their jobs due to unconstitutional medical mandates.
3 And so at a time when we have an economic recession, is
4 this the time to be raising rates for utility unless
5 it's warranted?

6 Spire within the last five years had an
7 innovation strategy whereby they were looking at
8 expanding their business model to include additional
9 methods for metering, and these were
10 commercial/industrial applications. This was when they
11 were looking at providing metering services to
12 commercial clients and industrial. And I would ask how
13 successful have those endeavors been, because if they
14 haven't, in a normal business model you don't then, you
15 know, look at that as being a very -- a business that
16 would warrant additional funding going in to cover
17 baseline costs.

18 So their success in their innovation strategy
19 should be paying for these additional at least baseline
20 infrastructure. That would then be an issue with
21 executive leadership. I'm a little concerned what I'm
22 hearing as executive leadership salaries are going up
23 with an unhealthy business model. That is the end of my
24 comments. Thank you for your consideration.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Pinner.

1 MR. CLIZER: Your Honor --

2 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

3 MR. CLIZER: -- I just wanted to get you
4 before you moved on to another person. John Clizer with
5 OPC. May I pose a question to the witness?

6 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Pinner, are you still
7 available to answer a question?

8 MS. PINNER: I'm here.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Clizer, go ahead and
10 ask your question.

11 MR. CLIZER: Really quick. You mentioned a
12 meter replacement in 2020. Are you saying your current
13 meter was installed in 2020 or you had a meter installed
14 in 2020 that was then replaced?

15 MS. PINNER: The meter is showing a date of
16 8/20, and I have had the meter I believe replaced twice
17 since I've been in this home and that's within the last
18 17 years.

19 MR. CLIZER: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you,
20 Your Honor. I have no further questions.

21 MS. PINNER: You're welcome.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Ms. Pinner, again,
23 thank you for your comments and thank you for answering
24 the question. Is there anybody else who would like to
25 make comments to the Commission at this time?

1 MS. SJUE: Yes.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, ma'am. Would you please
3 say and spell your name for the record.

4 MS. SJUE: Sure. It's Janelle, J-a-n-e-l-l-e,
5 last name Sjue, S-j-u-e.

6 JUDGE CLARK: And Ms. Sjue, would you raise
7 your right hand to be sworn.

8 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
9 testimony you are about to give at this local public
10 hearing is the truth?

11 MS. SJUE: I do.

12 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
13 Commission today?

14 JANELLE SJUE,
15 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 MS. SJUE: I am in graduate school and
17 studying some financial modeling. I would draw a point
18 to have the Commission look at the compensation packages
19 of the executives of Spire, and I do realize that the
20 Spire employees are trying to parse it out as different
21 line items. But Mark Darrell made \$1.254 million.
22 Suzanne Sitherwood made \$5.3 million. Steven Lindsey
23 made \$2.1 million. So I would just have the Commission
24 examine that. That doesn't seem to be Missouri to me.
25 I've lived in Missouri 25 years. And Missouri being the

1 Show Me State, I don't feel like that is equivalent to
2 what a normal Missourian is dealing with economically at
3 this time.

4 I would also just draw out that earlier in the
5 Q&A Spire representatives said that no federal funds
6 were received by Spire, and I would like to point out
7 that their energy assistance program is actually through
8 the US Department of Health and Human Services Low
9 Income Home Energy Assistance. So those are federal
10 dollars that Spire takes advantage of to help homeowners
11 pay their gas bills. So that is federal money that
12 Spire receives.

13 So I would say that too that they aren't even
14 aware of where their finances are going obviously or
15 where they come from. And thirdly, I would say in a
16 sound business model you would have on years of
17 excessive net income that you would reinvest or put
18 money toward future expenses, that being infrastructure,
19 technology, we're all looking at expenses in cyber
20 security and things like that. That should come out of
21 your profitable net income from previous fiscal cycles
22 and not necessarily from clients who are obligated in
23 this situation to pay that there's not another option.

24 I'm just wondering since we're moving outside
25 of the three-year budget cycle, there was a rate

1 increase last November, if this isn't actually a market
2 failure and we are seeing an instance of a private
3 entity not being able to fulfill civic duty and being
4 able to fulfill the needs of the Missourians at this
5 time and if this isn't an example of where another
6 entity needs to come in. So I would just draw attention
7 to that as well. Thank you.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments. Is
9 there anyone else who would like to offer comments to
10 the Commission at this time?

11 MS. SHEBIK: I would, please.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, please. What's your name?

13 MS. SHEBIK: Karen, K-a-r-e-n, Shebik,
14 S-h-e-b-i-k. I also work for a --

15 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Shebik, would you raise your
16 right hand and be sworn.

17 MS. SHEBIK: Yes.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
19 that the testimony you are about to give at this local
20 public hearing is the truth?

21 MS. SHEBIK: Yes.

22 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry to interrupt. Please
23 go ahead.

24 KAREN SHEBIK,
25 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 MS. SHEBIK: I work for a Fortune 500 company
2 who also reported under-anticipated profits this past
3 year. They had to reanalyze their infrastructure. They
4 had to eliminate products they were no longer serving
5 the company well. They also had to look at some of
6 their departments and either replace or eliminate some
7 positions. So there are many employees they've delayed
8 raises for four months so that they could reinvest that
9 money into the company versus having to pass that burden
10 on to the customer and raise prices. So I request that
11 Spire take a look at that option first, please. Thank
12 you.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Shebik, for your
14 comments. I don't have any questions.

15 Is there anybody else who would like to offer
16 comments to the Commission at this time?

17 Okay. Going once, going twice, going three
18 times. Anybody?

19 MR. MOSS: Please don't turn Missouri in to
20 California. That's why I left.

21 JUDGE CLARK: I'm assuming that's Mr. Moss?

22 MR. MOSS: Yes, sir.

23 JUDGE CLARK: All right. Would the
24 Commissioners like to make any closing remarks?

25 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thanks, Judge. This is

1 Commissioner Holsman. I just want to thank everybody
2 for taking their time to express their opinions. We do
3 appreciate it. Thank you.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

5 MS. MEYER: I'm sorry. I couldn't unmute.
6 Can I make one more comment?

7 JUDGE CLARK: Yes. Who is speaking, please?

8 MS. MEYER: Thank you. My name is Sandi
9 Meyer. It's S-a-n-d-i. Meyer is M-e-y-e-r.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Meyer, would you raise your
11 right hand to be sworn. I'm getting a lot of feedback.
12 Do you have the TV or something on in the background?

13 MS. MEYER: Yeah, sorry. I'm outside. I've
14 got -- I'm working kind of thing. I'm trying to be
15 quiet. Is this better?

16 JUDGE CLARK: I certainly understand. I thank
17 you for showing up today.

18 Ms. Meyer, do you solemnly swear or affirm
19 that the testimony you're about to give at this local
20 public hearing is the truth?

21 MS. MEYER: Yes, I do.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. What would you like to
23 tell the Commission?

24 SANDI MEYER,
25 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 MS. MEYER: Okay. My comment is I looked up
2 their -- Spire's net income, net income, net. For the
3 first nine months of this year it was over \$220 million.
4 I suggest that they take their rate increase out of
5 that. That's my comment. Thank you.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Meyer.

7 I'll ask one more time is there anybody else
8 who I missed would like to offer a comment? I'd like to
9 at this time thank everybody who participated in today's
10 local public hearing. The Commission takes these things
11 very seriously. This is the only chance that they
12 really get outside of the evidentiary hearing where we
13 hear mainly from parties to hear from ratepayers. So I
14 appreciate everybody taking time out of their day to
15 offer comments to the Commission to attend this hearing.

16 Now, you may get home later today and realize
17 that you did not make a comment and you wanted to make a
18 comment or you may get home and talk to somebody and
19 they may indicate that they wanted to make a comment but
20 were unable to attend. If you would like to make
21 written comments to the Commission, you are welcome to
22 do so. You can make written comments by contacting the
23 Office of the Public Counsel or by using the email
24 address pscinfo@psc.mo.gov or by going to the Public
25 Service Commission's web page. There should be a link

1 there to leave comments.

2 If you do decide to leave comments, please be
3 sure to include the case number if possible. The case
4 number in this case is GR-2022-0179. I'll ask at this
5 time for parties, is there anything else that the
6 Commission needs to take up today at this local public
7 hearing before we adjourn? Spire Missouri?

8 DR. FOLEY: Hi, this is Dr. Shawn Foley again.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, Dr. Foley.

10 DR. FOLEY: Just one other thing occurred to
11 me, Your Honor. I'm not sure if this makes sense. We
12 also heard that there's litigation currently in process
13 and I'm not sure what types of sanctions might be there
14 as well. Perhaps another thought is should rate
15 increases even be considered if current litigation
16 around business practices are being, you know, are
17 actually moving their way through the courts. So maybe
18 the whole idea of a rate increase gets paused when
19 there's some question of business practices. Thank you,
20 Your Honor, and the Commission. Thank you guys for
21 everything today.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you again, Dr. Foley, for
23 your supplemental comments. Those will be added to the
24 record.

25 Spire, is there anything the Commission needs

1 to take up at this time?

2 MR. APLINGTON: Yes, Your Honor. I just want
3 to make sure that everyone on the phone knows that our
4 dedicated text line of community support specialists is
5 still open and will be for the rest of the day. The
6 number is in the chat. I'll repeat it here. It's
7 314-339-8762. You can also visit our website
8 spireenergy.com/assistance to find out more about the
9 programs we discussed in the Q&A section. Thank you,
10 Your Honor, and thank you to the Commissioners for being
11 here.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Aplington.
13 Anything from the Commission staff that needs to be
14 taken up at this time?

15 MR. COSPER: No, Your Honor.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Anything from the Office of the
17 Public Counsel?

18 MR. CLIZER: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: All right. Again, I'd like to
20 thank everybody for their participation today. I'll
21 remind some of you that there is a local public hearing
22 in Kansas City on the 18th at 6:00 p.m. I believe
23 that's at the Klice Community Center. So if you have
24 any desire to attend an in-person public hearing, you
25 are more than welcome to attend there and offer comments

1 as well or get further information at the Q&A session.

2 With that, I'm going to adjourn this hearing.

3 We will go off the record. Thank you very much for your
4 participation.

5 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge.

6 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Thank you, Judge.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you so much,
8 Commissioners.

9 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at 2:16
10 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF MISSOURI)

3 COUNTY OF COLE)

4 I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do
5 hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
6 stenographically report the foregoing remote Public Service
7 Commission local public hearing and that the transcript,
8 pages 1 through 49, is a true record of my stenographic
9 notes.

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

14 Dated this 27th day of October, 2022.

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17 Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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