Page 1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI STRUCTURAL GLASS SYSTEMS, INC., Complainant, File No. GC-2023-0143 vs. SPIRE MISSOURI, INC. d/b/a/ SPIRE, Respondent.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ROSS KEELING, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP, CHAIRMAN

MAIDA COLEMAN, COMMISSIONER

Stenographically Reported by: Shelly A. Loniello, RPR

Job No. 145467



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# **Evidentiary Hearing**

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# TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

| 2  | JUDGE KEELING: Good morning. Today is               |
|----|---|
| 3  | May 10, 2023. The time is 9:15. The Commission      |
| 4  | has set this time for an evidentiary hearing in the |
| 5  | case captioned as Structural Glass Systems,         |
| 6  | Incorporated, complainant, versus Spire Missouri,   |
| 7  | Incorporated d/b/a Spire as respondent, File        |
| 8  | No. GC-2023-0143.                                   |
| 9  | My name is Ross Keeling, and I'm the                |
| 10 | regulatory law judge presiding over this hearing.   |
| 11 | This hearing is taking place in the Public Service  |
| 12 | Commission Hearing Room, Room 310 of the Governor   |
| 13 | Office Building in Jefferson City, Missouri. In     |
| 14 | attendance we have commissioners, Chairman Rupp and |
| 15 | Commissioner Coleman.                               |
| 16 | And first thing I want to do is have                |
| 17 | counsel for the parties make their entries of       |
| 18 | appearance. We'll start with Structural Glass       |
| 19 | Systems, Incorporated.                              |
| 20 | MR. MEYER: Mark Meyer, for Structural               |
| 21 | Glass Systems, Incorporated.                        |
| 22 | JUDGE KEELING: Spire.                               |
| 23 | MR. ARIAS: Good morning, your Honor.                |
| 24 | Antonio Arias on behalf of Spire.                   |
| 25 | JUDGE KEELING: And staff for the                    |



Commission.

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2 MR. IRVING: Ron Irving, staff counsel.

JUDGE KEELING: Well, good morning. Now,

I'll ask -- I'll ask everyone to silence all their

cell phones and mobile devices. Please be aware

that when your microphones are on, which is

indicated by a green light on your microphone,

8 and -- and when they're off, there -- there's no

9 green light.

Today's hearing is being recorded. We do not have a court reporter either on-site or on our WebEx presentation. I apologize for the delay and hope I didn't waste anybody's time, but this will be transcribed from this -- from this recording at a later date. Please be aware of that. And it's very important that when you speak, you speak into the microphone and make sure that everyone can hear your -- hear you. So speak clearly and -- and -- and loudly, and -- and hopefully we won't get any of the words misinterpreted in our -- in our -- in our transcription. Spell names or words that could be misinterpreted and, at least initially, state what any acronyms stand for.

Okay. I don't believe there are any

1 pending motions. Are there any pending motions in 2 this matter? 3 MR. MEYER: None from complainant. None from Spire. 4 MR. ARIAS: 5 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. No other preliminary matters? 6 7 No, your Honor. MR. MEYER: 8 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. 9 Okay. We have a -- a -- an order of witnesses that was filed by the parties in their --10 11 in their joint list of issues and witnesses. 12 we -- is there going to be any variation from that? 13 MR. IRVING: No. No, your Honor. 14 MR. ARIAS: No, your Honor. 15 MR. MEYER: Your Honor, complainant will 16 have one of the two witnesses. We have Cyril 17 Wrabec; we do not have Brianna Corso. 18 JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Counselor. 19 So today we're going to handle 20 exhibits -- we're going to -- if you have paper 21 exhibits, you probably brought those. We're not 22 going to have a court reporter to bring them to. 23 If they're prenumbered, you can bring them to me. But we will circulate those electronically through 24 25 email after the hearing. Exhibits should be

| 1  | premarked and and continuous sequentially of        |
|----|---|
| 2  | course.   |
| 3  | So with that, we will start with                    |
| 4  | opening statements, and we will start with          |
| 5  | Structural Glass Systems.                           |
| 6  | MR. MEYER: Should I go to the podium?               |
| 7  | JUDGE KEELING: Please do.                           |
| 8  | MR. MEYER: Your Honor, briefly,                     |
| 9  | complainant, Structural Glass Systems, Inc.,        |
| 10 | occupies a commercial space in Raytown, Missouri.   |
| 11 | It is a a glass shop. Complainant moved into        |
| 12 | the glass shop in November of 2021, and started the |
| 13 | gas service at that time. It is the complainant's   |
| 14 | position that the only fixture which they had using |
| 15 | gas were two propane gas or two natural gas         |
| 16 | heaters. Those were the only things using Spire's   |
| 17 | service. The bills which they received were         |
| 18 | consistent with bills that they had received at a   |
| 19 | larger facility which they formerly occupied. They  |
| 20 | had no notice of any increase or tremendous usage.  |
| 21 | And then several months later, in April of '22,     |
| 22 | they received a corrected bill alleging that they   |
| 23 | had used \$7,000 worth of natural gas as opposed to |
| 24 | 3- to \$400 per month. This error has been ascribed |
| 25 | to a meter error that resulted from the             |

| 1  | installation of the meter in October of '21.        |
|----|---|
| 2  | Spire has indicated that they                       |
| 3  | treated it as it was a six-digit read that was      |
| 4  | reporting as five, and that the that Structural     |
| 5  | Glass Systems had really used ten times the gas     |
| 6  | that was being reported through the five-digit      |
| 7  | read. However, the complainant's position is that   |
| 8  | that amount of gas used, it's just simply           |
| 9  | inconsistent with the fixtures in place within      |
| 10 | their facility, and we would submit that the        |
| 11 | there is a lack of clarity from Spire about which   |
| 12 | digit was being erroneously reported. Is it to the  |
| 13 | left, in which case, the usage remains the same as  |
| 14 | what they were previously billed for, it would be a |
| 15 | zero. Or is it to the right, in which case,         |
| 16 | they're using you know, Structural Glass            |
| 17 | Systems, Inc. was using thousands of CCFs of gas    |
| 18 | per month.  |
| 19 | Further, the evidence will show that                |
| 20 | after this issue was corrected, Structural Glass    |
| 21 | Systems' usage currently is back to what they had   |
| 22 | originally been billed for, about 80 to a hundred   |
| 23 | CCFs per month.                                     |
| 24 | So with that, we would submit that                  |
| 25 | the billing resulted from an error of Spire, and    |

| 1  | we're asking Spire correct it or cease collecting   |
|----|---|
| 2  | on it.  |
| 3  | I wouldn't have anything else, in                   |
| 4  | terms of an opening.                                |
| 5  | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Counselor.                |
| 6  | Would counsel for Spire                             |
| 7  | MR. ARIAS: Good afternoon, your Honor,              |
| 8  | chairmen chairman, commissioners.                   |
| 9  | Spire's position is that it properly                |
| 10 | rebilled complainant for underbilled natural gas    |
| 11 | usage from the period of November 24, 2021 to       |
| 12 | April 12, 2022.                                     |
| 13 | Complainant was underbilled for                     |
| 14 | natural gas usage during this period due to an      |
| 15 | incorrect PTZ corrector configuration, which I know |
| 16 | doesn't mean much to us now. Our witness, Spire's   |
| 17 | witness, James Rieske, is here to testify and       |
| 18 | explain that issue.                                 |
| 19 | In this the incorrect PTZ corrector                 |
| 20 | configuration caused complainant's natural gas      |
| 21 | meter to register six digits of usage properly      |
| 22 | six digits six digits of usage, but only five       |
| 23 | digits of usage were transmitted to Spire's billing |
|    |   |

cause and implemented a plan to address this

| $1 \mid$ underbilling. |
|------------------------|
|------------------------|

2.2

| Spire is Spire has inspected th                  |
|--|
| natural gas meter and found that the meter is    |
| working within the standards set by the rules of |
| the Commission and was accurately recording or   |
| recording and registering complainant's usage.   |

Under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-13.025(B), Spire has made an appropriate adjustment for complainant's underbilled natural gas usage and properly rebilled complainant.

Thank you.

MR. IRVING: Mr. Keeling, Chairman Rupp, good morning. May it please the Commission.

I am Ron Irving with staff counsel, and I am representing the staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

This complaint arises from a rebilling for gas service from Spire Missouri. Due to a programming error from the meter to the billing system, Structural Glass was incorrectly underbilled. When the error was discovered, Spire sent a letter and rebilled Structural Glass. It should be noted that the meter itself record the amount of gas used correctly.

During this investigation of this

| 1  | rage 1 complaint, staff did not find any evidence that |
|----|--|
| 2  | Spire has violated any statute, tariff or              |
| 3  | commission rule. Staff verified that Spire used        |
| 4  | the correct rates from their tariff, PSC               |
| 5  | Missouri 9, Sheet No. 4.2 that was in effect at        |
| 6  | that time. Under PSC Missouri 9, Sheet No. R-8.1,      |
| 7  | Spire is able to make billing adjustments for over     |
| 8  | or under billings.                                     |
| 9  | Situations similar to this in Tariff                   |
| 10 | Sheet No. R-8.2 allows the customer to pay the         |
| 11 | adjustment amount in equal installments over a         |
| 12 | period double which the billing adjustments was        |
| 13 | applicable. Spire followed up with Structural          |
| 14 | Glass several times to make arrangements for           |
| 15 | payments.  |
| 16 | Even though Spire did not violate                      |
| 17 | any commission rule or applicable applicable           |
| 18 | tariff, staff made several recommendations to Spire    |
| 19 | that it believes will improve the communication        |
| 20 | process with the customer in the future.               |
| 21 | One of these recommendations were,                     |
| 22 | first, Spire should initiate contact with the          |
| 23 | customer once it has been determined that the          |
| 24 | customer's bill is in error. Second, the company       |

should develop talking points to ensure the message

| 1  | conveyed to the customer is consistent and         |
|----|--|
| 2  | understandable. Finally, Spire should provide      |
| 3  | detailed information in the event of a rebill to   |
| 4  | ensure the customer can understand the charges.    |
| 5  | In their response to staff's report                |
| 6  | and recommendation, Spire indicated that they will |
| 7  | take into considerations staff recommendations in  |
| 8  | order to improve customer communications.          |
| 9  | Staff witness Cedric Cunigan is                    |
| 10 | available today to answer any questions you may    |
| 11 | have concerning the meters. Staff witness Debbie   |
| 12 | Bernsen is available today to answer any questions |
| 13 | you may have concerning whether Spire followed     |
| 14 | their tariff, rebilling and staff's                |
| 15 | recommendations.                                   |
| 16 | Thank you. I'm sorry, I'm I can                    |
| 17 | answer any questions that you may have at this     |
| 18 | point.   |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER RUPP: Sure. This is                   |
| 20 | Commissioner Rupp.                                 |
| 21 | So by making the recommendations                   |
| 22 | that staff has made, is it your position that      |
| 23 | that the company failed to do those things, hence  |
| 24 | why the recommendations are being made?            |
|    |  |

These recommendations

No.

MR. IRVING:

| 1  | are basically just a way to make the process a      |
|----|---|
| 2  | little bit easier for the customer. It to make      |
| 3  | sure that these like make sure that the customer    |
| 4  | can understand what's going on, just to make the    |
| 5  | communication a little bit better.                  |
| 6  | COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you.                       |
| 7  | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Gentlemen.                |
| 8  | We thought we had a court reporter                  |
| 9  | online, but we don't. She disappeared. And with     |
| 10 | that, we'll move on to putting on witnesses.        |
| 11 | MS. STENOGRAPHER: Actually I'm sorry                |
| 12 | to interrupt.                                       |
| 13 | This is Shelly Loniello. I just                     |
| 14 | jumped on. I'm the court reporter. I was on Zoom.   |
| 15 | JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Well, then give me             |
| 16 | a minute to to announce your presence, and then     |
| 17 | I'll we'll go ahead and start taking live           |
| 18 | testimony. Once again, please speak clearly and     |
| 19 | into your microphones.                              |
| 20 | And we will not be transcribing the                 |
| 21 | entire proceeding at a later time, just the portion |
| 22 | that the court recorder court reporter hasn't       |
| 23 | picked up until now. So please go on the on the     |
| 24 | record  |

And what's your name again,



|    |   | Evidentiary Hearing May 10, 2023                              |
|----|---|---|
| 1  | Q | Page 16<br>Okay. And what is the business of Structural Glass |
| 2  |   | Systems, Inc.?  |
| 3  | A | We do the assembly of aluminum frame pieces for the           |
| 4  |   | installation of commercial glazing products,                  |
| 5  |   | storefront, curtain wall, doors, windows.                     |
| 6  | Q | And what sort of equipment do you use to put that             |
| 7  |   | put the those aluminum pieces together?                       |
| 8  | A | Saws, drills, forklift, basic machine shop type               |
| 9  |   | stuff.  |
| 10 | Q | Do you have any forages or machines which melt or             |
| 11 |   | smelt metal?  |
| 12 | A | No.   |
| 13 | Q | Okay. And at some point, did Structural Glass                 |
| 14 |   | Systems, Inc. move into a facility at 9700 East               |
| 15 |   | 56th Street, Suite C, in Raytown, Missouri?                   |
| 16 | A | Yes. We left a previous location. We were the                 |
| 17 |   | victim of a fire from a fellow tenant in the                  |
| 18 |   | complex, and so everybody was had had to                      |
| 19 |   | leave, so we moved to a new location. Started the             |
| 20 |   | move in in November   |
| 21 | Q | Of  |
| 22 | A | of 2021.  |
| 23 | Q | Okay. And it was to that address that I just gave             |
| 24 |   | in Raytown?   |
| 25 | A | That is correct.  |



| 1  | Q | Page 17<br>Now, your prior facility, how many square feet did |
|----|---|---|
| 2  |   | it occupy?  |
| 3  | А | We started out at that location with 25,000 square            |
| 4  |   | feet, and then we had another additional                      |
| 5  |   | 15,000 square feet of storage space, but the                  |
| 6  |   | majority of our shop that we worked in was right              |
| 7  |   | about 25,000 square feet.                                     |
| 8  | Q | Did that prior facility have natural gas service?             |
| 9  | А | It did.   |
| 10 | Q | And what was your who was the provider of                     |
| 11 |   | natural gas service for that prior facility?                  |
| 12 | А | Spire.  |
| 13 | Q | And what were your average bills for natural gas at           |
| 14 |   | the prior facility?   |
| 15 | A | We only used gas in the wintertime because it was             |
| 16 |   | only used to heat, and it would average anywhere              |
| 17 |   | between 4-, 5-, 600 bucks, in that range, during              |
| 18 |   | the coldest months.   |
| 19 | Q | Per month?  |
| 20 | A | Correct, yes.   |
| 21 | Q | Okay. Then when you moved into the facility in                |
| 22 |   | Raytown at 9700 East 56th Street, did is that a               |
| 23 |   | a facility that you own or rent?                              |
| 24 | А | We're tenants. We lease it.                                   |
| 25 | Q | And after you moved into the facility, was some               |



Page 18 1 provision made for heat of that facility? 2 That is correct. Α 3 What provision was made for heating that facility? The landlord installed two gas heaters. 4 Α 5 Were there any other natural gas 0 All right. 6 fixtures within that facility? 7 Not in our -- no. Α 8 So it's the two natural gas heaters? 0 9 That is correct. Α 10 All right. And once -- and those were -- I believe Q 11 they're Reznor heaters? 12 Α I believe so, yes. 13 All right. And do you know where your landlord got 0 14 those? 15 He bought them preowned. Α 16 Then after those heaters were installed, did Q Okay. 17 you set the thermostat within the premises? 18 My shop employees did, yes. Α 19 And what did they set it at? 20 We have a policy, just like we did in the previous Α 21 It would be kept at 55 degrees. 2.2 0 Okay. And when you moved into the facility at 23 9700 East 56th Street, Unit C, how many employees 24 did Structural Glass Systems, Inc. have? 25 As a result of the fire, we lost quite a bit of Α



1 business, and in the move had to lay off almost all 2 of our shop staff. So the remaining employees, we 3 had two, the shop foreman and a -- basically a -- a 4 laborer that helped with the move and the setup. 5 Okay. After the -- you've -- Structural Glass 0 6 Systems, Inc. moved into the facility in Raytown in 7 November of 2021, did the facility sit empty for a 8 while, or sit idle? 9 There was a little bit of a transition period. Α So 10 November/December was really a move in -- more of a 11 storage situation, because we had to get out of the 12 -- the fire location. 13 Okay. 0 14 And then in the process of -- I'd say end of Α 15 December, into January, February, was more of a --16 a shop installation and setup. There was no active 17 work, revenue-generating work, occurring in the 18 shop. 19 When did you begin -- get the -- the shop 0 20 kind of back up and going? 21 At the conclusion of the move-in period, which was Α 2.2 roughly early spring of 2022, the remaining two 23 shop employees had to be laid off and the shop sat 24 fallow for a number of months after that. 25 Q Okay. And then once you moved into the Raytown



- Page 20 1 facility, did you receive the bills for gas service 2 at that facility? 3 Α Correct. We received a monthly bill. 4 Okay. 5 May I approach? 6 BY MR. MEYER: 7 I'm giving you what I've marked as Exhibit No. 1. 0 8 What is that? 9 This would be the December 12 -- correction. Α 10 December 10 statement from Spire for gas at the 11 location in question. 12 And what was the usage that you were billed for? 13 A very minimal 13 CCFs. Α 14 And what was the amount of that bill? Okay. 15 Total, with everything, was \$132. Α 16 That would have been for a partial month Q Okay. 17 right after you moved in? 18 That is correct. Α 19 Okay. Exhibit 2. Do you recognize -- do you 0 20 recognize Exhibit 2? 21 Α I do.
- 22 | O What is it?
- 23 A This is the Spire statement on January 12 of 2022.
- 24 | Q So this is the first full month?
- 25 A That is correct.



- Page 21

  Q And what was the usage reflected there?
- 2 A \$422.
- 3 | Q Well, that's the amount billed. What was the CCF
- 4 usage?
- 5 A Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
- The usage was 220 CCFs.
- 7 Q All right. And what do they show as the prior
- 8 reading and the present reading?
- 9 A The previous reading, 13, and the usage, 220, gives
- a present reading of 233.
- 11 | Q All right. Now, was that -- the amount of that
- 12 bill consistent with what you had paid at your
- earlier facility?
- 14 A Yes, except for two meter charges.
- 15 Q Okay. But this is -- would not have been an
- unusual amount, in your experience having operated
- 17 Structural Glass Systems?
- 18 A That is correct.
- 19 Q And, remind me, what is the square footage of the
- 20 Raytown facility?
- 21 A It is 15,000 square feet.
- 22 Q So this is 10,000 square feet smaller than your
- 23 prior facility?
- 24 A That is correct.
- 25 | Q Okay. And -- let's go to Exhibit 3. I've handed



- Page 22

  1 you what I've marked as Exhibit 3. Do you
- 2 recognize that?
- 3 | A I do.
- 4 Q And for what period is that?
- 5 A This would be the statement for gas billed over the
- 6 next month, so this is the February 9 statement.
- 7 | Q Okay. And what is the usage and CCFs there?
- 8 A It has a previous reading of 233. It says we used
- 9 about -- we used exactly 199 CCFs --
- 10 | Q Okay.
- 11 | A -- with a present reading of 432.
- 12 Q All right. And how much were you billed?
- 13 A For the month of January, \$400. \$402 to be
- 14 accurate. Sorry.
- 15 Q And during that time frame, the only -- again, the
- only gas fixtures was -- were the heaters and there
- were two employees kind of running a skeleton crew?
- 18 A At -- at all times there was only two gas heaters,
- 19 correct.
- 20 Q And it was set at 55 degrees?
- 21 A That is correct.
- 22 | Q All right. I have handed you No. 4.
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 | Q Do you recognize that?
- 25 | A I do.



| 1 | 0 | What | is | it? |
|---|---|------|----|-----|
|   |   |      |    |     |

- 2 A This is the March 10 statement, which would be the
- 3 next month of Spire usage.
- 4 Q And what was the amount used that month in CCFs?
- 5 A For that month, which was February, mostly
- 6 February, we used 161 CCFs.
- 7 | Q Okay. And how much were you charged?
- 8 A It was roughly \$361.
- 9 Q Okay. And Exhibit 5. Do you recognize that?
- 10 | A I do.
- 11 Q What is that?
- 12 A This is the next month. This says April 12
- 13 statement.
- 14 Q Okay. And how much were you billed that month?
- 15 A The dollar amount is \$305.44.
- 16 Q Okay. Now, let's go to Exhibit 6. What is
- 17 | Exhibit 6?
- 18 A Exhibit 6 is the statement we received the
- 19 following month, which is a date of May the 11th.
- 20 | Q Okay. And how much is that bill for?
- 21 | A This bill is for current charges of \$7,168.
- 22 | Q Okay. And did you increase your natural gas usage
- 23 by 2,000 percent that month?
- 24 A I did not.
- 25 Q All right.



| 1  | A | Page 24 This is a corrected bill, or has a correction on |
|----|---|--|
| 2  |   | it.  |
| 3  | Q | It notes a a correction on it, correct?                  |
| 4  | A | Correct.   |
| 5  | Q | And it has two different meter readings on it,           |
| 6  |   | right?   |
| 7  | A | It does.   |
| 8  | Q | Was the difference between those two meter readings      |
| 9  |   | ever explained to you?                                   |
| 10 | A | No. I had a very hard time getting that explained        |
| 11 |   | to me from Spire.  |
| 12 | Q | Okay. What did you do after you received this            |
| 13 |   | bill?  |
| 14 | A | After after my heart stopped racing, I called            |
| 15 |   | Brianna, my assistant, and asked her what the heck       |
| 16 |   | was going on. We had never seen anything like            |
| 17 |   | this, ever, so we got on the phone with Spire.           |
| 18 | Q | Okay. Had you known you were using that much gas         |
| 19 |   | before this May bill, what would you have done?          |
| 20 | A | Turned the gas off.                                      |
| 21 | Q | And this was the first you'd heard of this amount        |
| 22 |   | of usage, correct?                                       |
| 23 | A | That is correct.   |
| 24 | Q | All right. And did you continue having                   |
| 25 |   | communications with Spire about this corrected bill      |



| 1  |   | Page 25 amount?                                   |
|----|---|---|
| 2  | A | I I attempted numerous times, yes.                |
| 3  | Q | Okay.   |
| 4  | A | And I I made contact numerous times.              |
| 5  | Q | Okay.   |
| 6  | A | The explanations were lacking.                    |
| 7  | Q | I see.  |
| 8  |   | I've handed you No. 7. What is                    |
| 9  |   | that?   |
| 10 | А | This is June the 13th of 2022. This is the next   |
| 11 |   | month's statement.                                |
| 12 | Q | Okay. How much does it show that you used that    |
| 13 |   | month?  |
| 14 | A | About \$300 worth.                                |
| 15 | Q | And how many CCFs?                                |
| 16 | А | Again, this gives me this has two readings on     |
| 17 |   | here. So this says I used zero CCFs.              |
| 18 | Q | Okay. So the bill the next month, the new gas     |
| 19 |   | usage is 300, give or take, which is consistent   |
| 20 |   | with those earlier bills that were purportedly in |
| 21 |   | error?  |
| 22 | A | A a a bill for about 300, 400, \$500, \$600       |
| 23 |   | even, certainly nothing that would catch my       |
| 24 |   | attention, check would go out the door and get    |
| 25 |   | paid.   |



- 14
- 15 Well, we really had no idea what was going on, so Α 16 that was the smartest thing to do.
- 17 Right. 0
- I've handed you 8 and 9. 18 What are
- 19 those?
- 20 8 is the following month, July the 12th statement Α 21 from Spire.
- 2.2 0 Okay. And what is 9?
- 23 And 9 is the month after that -- 9 is two months 24 after that, September the 23rd.
- 25 Okay. And do both of those reflect zero usage? Q



- 1 A That is correct.
- 2 | Q And both of those simply rebill this \$7,000 amount?
- 3 A That is correct.
- 4 Q Okay. And let's look at No. 10. What is No. 10?
- 5 A No. 10 is six days later.
- 6 0 Uh-huh.
- 7 A September the 29th. And it is a bill for \$127.83.
- 8 Q Now, it does show a usage number on there for that
- 9 month, doesn't it?
- 10 A It does.
- 11 Q And how much did Spire say you used that much --
- 12 that month in CCFs?
- 13 A It's claiming a usage of 6579.
- 14 Q 6,579 CCFs?
- 15 A That's what it says on here.
- 16 Q Through the heater that you had turned off?
- 17 A That -- I -- I believe so, yes. We did not have a
- 18 heater on in September of 2022.
- 19 | O All right. And did Spire explain how they
- 20 determined that you had used that amount of gas in
- 21 one month in a turned-off heater?
- 22 | A At this point I was so confused on what was going
- on, I was not getting anything straight.
- 24 Q When you were negotiating with Spire, did they
- 25 threaten to turn off your gas?



- 19
- 20 21 off the first time by Spire?
- 2.2 Α I got to think in terms of -- at this point, we 23 would -- had already begun our dispute with the 24 Commission, so I think we went without gas from 25 roughly this time up until it started getting very



- Page 29 1 cold, in late December, later that year, so 2 approximately five months. 3 0 Okay. July to December of '22? 4 Α Yes. 5 And then in December of '22, they did enter into a 0 6 payment plan? 7 Then we were able to, yes. Α 8 Then after December of '22, was it later turned off 0 9 again, or not? 10 Α No. 11 Exhibit 12. What is 12? Okay. 12 12 is the -- that same letter, but with a payment Α 13 arrangement eligibility form on the second page. 14 So this is in August of '22? Okay. Q August 2, 2022. 15 Α 16 Okay. Let's look at --Q 17 Α Thank you.
- 18 What are 13 and 14?
- 19 13 is a letter dated the next day, August the 3rd, Α 20 saying that this large amount, this \$7500 roughly, 21 \$7400, has not been paid, and if the disconnection 2.2 amount is not paid by August 17, they'll turn off 23 my service.
- 24 Q Okay.
- 25 And Exhibit 14 is September the 1st, so the next Α



Page 30 1 month. And this says, again, your bill has not 2 been paid. If we don't receive payment by 3 September 15, we'll have to turn off your natural 4 gas. 5 15 and 16. 0 6 15 is a final notice, dated September the 6th. Α 7 Exhibit 16 is a final notice, missing a date at the 8 top. 9 Then I want to show you -- so -- but to 0 Okay. 10 recap --11 It might be just a copy error. Α 12 -- you were able to enter into a payment -- payment 13 arrangement with Spire? 14 Well, we made a couple of attempts, and I received Α 15 a correspondence from the initial complaint to the 16 Commission that said that they found in favor of 17 Spire, and that I was able to enter into a payment 18 arrangement on -- it was either like -- they say 19 12, 18 or 24 months. I called Spire with that

correspondence I received from the Commission, and

again, Charm(phonetic) I believe was her name, and

she indicated to me that yes, in fact I was -- that

was something that they would do for me, but they

they told me that was inaccurate and I was not

eligible for that. I contacted the Commission

LEXITAS

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|    |   | Evidentiary Hearing May 10, 2023                       |
|----|---|--|
| 1  |   | Page 31 wouldn't do it. And that was roughly, I think, |
| 2  |   | September of 2022. I without seeing the dates          |
| 3  |   | of the correspondence with the Commission, I can't     |
| 4  |   | say with an exact certainty.                           |
| 5  | Q | Then you were able to get get it turned back on        |
| 6  |   | in January?  |
| 7  | A | My assistant, Brianna, made another attempt in         |
| 8  |   | November, because we knew it was going to start        |
| 9  |   | cooling off. We have sprinklers, water sprinklers,     |
| 10 |   | in that facility. There were a concern about the       |
| 11 |   | pipes freezing. She was unsuccessful in November.      |
| 12 |   | And then in December, we finally were able to do       |
| 13 |   | it, but we had to open up a new account to make it     |
| 14 |   | happen.  |
| 15 | Q | Okay.  |
| 16 | A | And that was, I believe, the week of Christmas, so     |
| 17 |   | like the 21st of December                              |
| 18 | Q | Of '22?  |
| 19 | A | probably.  |
| 20 |   | Correct.   |
| 21 | Q | All right. Now I want to hand you 17. What is          |
| 22 |   | Exhibit 17?  |
| 23 | A | Exhibit 17 is a letter from Spire, dated April 14      |
| 24 |   | of this year.  |
| 25 | Q | Of 2023?   |
|    |   |  |





submitted by Structural Glass Systems, Incorporated

| 1  | The state of the s |
|----|--|
| 1  | Page 33<br>on the record?  |
| 2  | MR. IRVING: No, your Honor.  |
| 3  | MR. ARIAS: No, your Honor.   |
| 4  | MR. MEYER: And, your Honor, do I submit  |
| 5  | those to you or  |
| 6  | JUDGE KEELING: Yes. Just hand them to  |
| 7  | me.  |
| 8  | Okay. Then Structural Glass  |
| 9  | System's Exhibits 1 through 17 are received on the   |
| 10 | record.  |
| 11 | (Exhibits 1 through 17 received into evidence.)  |
| 12 | MR. MEYER: I have no further questions   |
| 13 | of the witness.  |
| 14 | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you.  |
| 15 | Mr. Arias.   |
| 16 | MR. ARIAS: Thank you, your Honor.  |
| 17 | EXAMINATION  |
| 18 | BY MR. ARIAS:  |
| 19 | Q Good good good morning, Mr. Wrabec.  |
| 20 | A Good morning.  |
| 21 | Q Did I get that right, Wrabec?  |
| 22 | A Yes.   |
| 23 | Q Okay. I'm going ask you a a couple questions   |
| 24 | here. I'm going to bounce around from your   |
| 25 | testimony.   |



| 1  |   | Page 34<br>Just going to start with your prior     |
|----|---|--|
| 2  |   | address. You said your provider was Spire,         |
| 3  |   | correct?   |
| 4  | А | That is correct.                                   |
| 5  | Q | And that you were a tenant in a was it like a      |
| 6  |   | facility, a building?                              |
| 7  | A | It was a yeah. It was a very large industrial      |
| 8  |   | complex.   |
| 9  | Q | Were there other tenants in that building?         |
| 10 | A | There were.  |
| 11 | Q | Did you have your own meter in that building?      |
| 12 | A | I did not.   |
| 13 | Q | So you were billed based on how? How how           |
| 14 |   | were you billed?                                   |
| 15 | A | The the landlord sent us a bill.                   |
| 16 | Q | Okay. And was were you billed for your accurate    |
| 17 |   | usage or were you billed based on total usage for  |
| 18 |   | the building, divided up based on square footage   |
| 19 |   | or   |
| 20 | A | No. There were my understanding, there were        |
| 21 |   | dozens and dozens of meters there, so there was no |
| 22 |   | way it was split up. If it was, it was between me  |
| 23 |   | and the guy next door.                             |
| 24 | Q | Okay. So   |
| 25 | A | It would have been a small amount.                 |



|    |   | ,           |
|----|---|---|
| 1  | Q | Page 35 Okay. So your okay. So do you have bills  |
| 2  |   | showing your the the use that the number          |
| 3  |   | of CCFs you used per month?                       |
| 4  | A | I do.   |
| 5  | Q | You do have that. Okay.                           |
| 6  | A | But it is not to me, it is to my landlord.        |
| 7  | Q | Okay.   |
| 8  |   | All right. So moving on                           |
| 9  |   | actually, I will ask you I'll I'll start with     |
| 10 |   | the bills that the exhibits that Mr               |
| 11 |   | Mr. Meyer provided. Can you turn to the bill with |
| 12 |   | the statement date 6/13/2022.                     |
| 13 |   | THE WITNESS: Your Honor, I'm going to             |
| 14 |   | need those exhibits back.                         |
| 15 |   | MR. ARIAS: You know                               |
| 16 |   | THE WITNESS: And which one, Counselor?            |
| 17 |   | MR. ARIAS: 6/13/22.                               |
| 18 |   | THE WITNESS: Exhibit 7?                           |
| 19 |   | MR. ARIAS: I'm going to go with                   |
| 20 |   | THE WITNESS: Okay.                                |
| 21 |   | MR. ARIAS: if if it says the                      |
| 22 |   | THE WITNESS: Okay.                                |
| 23 |   | MR. ARIAS: 6/13/22. I don't have                  |
| 24 |   | the oh, actually, yes, it is Exhibit 7. I have    |
| 25 |   | the number right down here.                       |
|    |   |   |



**Evidentiary Hearing** May 10, 2023 Page 36 1 THE WITNESS: I've got it. 2 MR. ARIAS: Okay. 3 BY MR. ARIAS: 4 So Mr. Meyer, your attorney, asked you whether or 5 not you had any usage in that month, and you said 6 zero, correct? 7 That's what the statement indicates. Α Yes. 8

- And the total current charges was \$302.22, 9 at the bottom?
- 10 Α Yes.
- 11 And even though you didn't have usage, you still 0 12 had a delivery charge of \$167.33, correct?
- 13 I don't know what that is. Α Yes.
- 14 And that's mostly made up of the customer charge of 15 \$161.39, correct?
- 16 I believe that's -- yeah, that's what it says. Α
- 17 And the other -- the other bulk charge on 18 there, other than taxes, is the utility late charge 19 of \$107.53, correct?
- 20 Α Yes.
- 21 Okay. Thank you.
- 2.2 And then just looking at Exhibit 10, 23 where you were asked, do you -- I'll give you a
- 24 second.
- 25 Exhibit 10 being September 29, 2022? Α



Page 37 1 Q That's correct. 2 And at the top, you have two 3 different -- two -- two lines of usage, one zero and one 6,579 CCF, correct? 4 5 Yes. Α 6 But were you billed for any usage on that -- on 7 that bill? Were you billed for 65 -- \$6,579 on 8 that bill -- or CCF on that bill? 9 Α I don't know. It says -- that's what it says the 10 usage is. 11 Okay. So if we go down into the -- into the --0 12 into the lines below --13 Uh-huh. Α 14 -- you're billed for a customer charge; is that Q 15 correct? 16 Α Yes. 17 And that's under the delivery charge? 0 18 Yes. Α 19 And you were billed for taxes, correct? 0 20 Α Yes. 21 Okay. Let me just see here. Q 22 So if you actually go to Exhibit --23 now, I'm just going to the -- the first one I see that will -- will allow me to ask this question. 24 25 If you compare that bill with Exhibit 6, and that



Page 38 1 has a statement date of May 11, 2022. 2 Α Uh-huh. 3 And you had -- and if you go down to the -- the 4 lines below that -- that break out your bill, did 5 you have a natural gas cost of 130 -- is there a --6 is there a natural gas cost of \$132.45? 7 That is correct. Α 8 And that's -- and it says it's for usage of 9 167 CCF? 10 Α Correct. 11 And if you compare that with Exhibit 10, do you see 0 12 that natural gas cost with a usage on your bill? 13 Α No. 14 Thank you. Okay. 15 One second. 16 So for -- so I'm going to look at 17 the time periods here. 18 So for the periods of November 24, 19 2021 to April 12, 2022, subject to check and -- or, 20 actually, we'll start here. 21 Do you know how many CCFs that Spire 2.2 billed Structural Glass for over that period? 23 I have no idea without total -- without going 24 through and adding them up. 25 Q Okay. Okay.



Page 39 I don't deal in a world of CCFs --1 Α 2 Yes. 0 3 Α -- to be able to --4 No, I --5 -- would be -- what the --Α 6 -- I understand. I understand. 7 Just let me give you -- actually, 8 hold on. Let -- I think I can use the exhibits 9 that you have. 10 Α Okay. 11 I'm still looking for a specific bill. Okay. 0 12 Okay. All right. So I'll have you 13 pull out Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 5. 14 Α Okay. 15 So on Exhibit 1, you -- you look at your usage at 16 -- at the top -- chart at the top. You have a --17 Α Yes. 18 -- previous reading and a present reading --19 Yes. Α 20 -- is that correct? 21 So would you -- and -- just to start 2.2 -- just to back up a second, Structural Glass 23 started receiving service from Spire on 24 November 24; is that correct?

That is correct.

25

Α

Page 40 1 Q That's your start date; would you agree? 2 Α Yes. 3 0 Okay. So for that month, 11/25/2021 to 12/9/2021, you have a previous reading of zero and a present 4 5 reading of 13? 6 Correct. Α 7 That -- that previous reading would be consistent 8 with starting service at a new address with a new 9 meter; would you agree? 10 Α Zero is a good starting point, yes. 11 Yes. 0 12 So when we turn to Exhibit 5, Okay. 13 and that's your bill from 3/11/2022 to 4/12/2022, 14 and the period that Spire rebilled you for was 15 November 24, 2021 to April 12, 2022; is that 16 correct? 17 I need you to repeat that question. 18 So not looking at the bills, the period in Okav. 19 question that we -- that Spire rebilled you for was 20 November 24, your start date, to April 12, 2022? I received a correction notice around -- on or 21 Α 2.2 around April 2022, yes. 23 So the -- so -- yeah. So that April -- and 0 24 I think if we -- we can turn to the next bill, I

think that's Exhibit 6, if I have it correctly, and

Page 41 1 at the top it says bill correction period, 2 11/24/2021 to 4/12/22? 3 Α Yes, that is correct. And there your previous reading is 7 --4 5 on -- back to -- turning back to Exhibit 5, your 6 present reading is 702? 7 That is correct. Α 8 So if your -- you started at zero on November 24, 9 20 -- November 24, 2021, and your present reading 10 on 4/12/2022, it's -- comes out to 702 CCFs; would 11 you agree with that? 12 That's what this says. Α 13 Okay. And now do you know how many CCFs Spire 0 14 rebilled you for? 15 When I received the large statement in May, which Α 16 is Exhibit 6, they said that there was a bill 17 correction period, 11/24/21 to 4/12/22, for \$6,801. 18 It's the first line underneath the CCFs. 19 Okay. I'm trying to -- I'm just trying to pull up 0 20 a specific bill here. Almost done. I'm sorry. 21 MR. ARIAS: Apologies, your Honor. Okay. 2.2 BY MR. ARIAS: 23 So I have your -- your May 11, 2022 bill. 0 24 Α Yes.

Do you have -- do you have that in front of you?

Page 42 1 I do. Exhibit 6. Α 2 Just so -- just so everyone 0 Exhibit 6. Okay. 3 knows, I could not find my own Exhibit 6, so I 4 shifted to the -- your stack of bills that I have 5 here. 6 So on April -- and -- on your 7 April 12 statement, you had a previous reading of 8 702; is that correct? 9 That is correct. Α 10 And what is your previous reading now -- so on --Q 11 on --12 I --Α 13 -- your May 11, 2022 bill? 0 14 That is incorrect. On April the 12th, the previous Α 15 reading is 593. The present reading on April 12 16 is --17 Oh, the present. I apologize. The present 0 18 reading. What is your present reading on April 12, 19 2022? 20 702. Α 21 Thank you. 0 2.2 And what is your previous reading 23 now on May 11, 2022? 24 7022. Α 25 So it went from 702 to 7022 --7022. Q

Page 43 1 That is correct. Α 2 -- is that correct? Okay. Thank you. 0 3 And that's on the correction period 4 bill? 5 That is what the statement reflects --Α 6 Okay. 7 -- on the corrected bill. Α 8 So would you agree that Spire -- Spire's position 0 9 is that instead of using 702 CCFs from November 24 -- April 12, 2021 to April 12 -- or 10 11 November 24, 2021 to April 12, 2022, Spire 12 initially billed -- okay. Let me restart my 13 question here --14 Please. Α 15 -- so I'm not confusing you. 16 So from -- so Spire's position then 17 -- would you -- okay. So would you agree that 18 Spire's position is that it initially billed you 19 for 702 CCFs from November 24, 2021 to April 12, 20 2022, and on this bill, rebilled you for that period -- that same period, and rebilled you, and 21 22 now it's now saying that you used 7,022 CCFs? 23 I am not in a position to state what Spire's Α 24 position is, but I can tell you what the statement 25 says.



| 1  | Q | Okay. And that would you agree that's what the      |
|----|---|---|
| 2  |   | statement is saying?                                |
| 3  | A | The statement says that I have a corrected bill     |
| 4  |   | adding 68 \$6,801, because the reading is           |
| 5  |   | different than it was the month before.             |
| 6  | Q | Okay.   |
| 7  | A | I have an April that says 702, and I got a May that |
| 8  |   | says 7,022.   |
| 9  | Q | Okay. Thank you.                                    |
| 10 |   | All right. Now, I'm going to give                   |
| 11 |   | you my stack of bills, because I do not believe     |
| 12 |   | that they were part of Mr. Meyer's initial          |
| 13 |   | exhibits.   |
| 14 |   | MR. ARIAS: And, your Honor, I have a                |
| 15 |   | packet of bills here that includes some of the      |
| 16 |   | bills that Mr. Meyer had. It also goes has the      |
| 17 |   | Structural Glass bills until April 2023. I only     |
| 18 |   | have two copies on me, and I will use one, and then |
| 19 |   | I can give that to you or I can file it file it     |
| 20 |   | afterwards, submit it electronically. Is that       |
| 21 |   | is that okay?                                       |
| 22 |   | THE WITNESS: That That'll be fine.                  |
| 23 |   | MR. ARIAS: Okay.                                    |
| 24 |   | And for the other other counsels,                   |
| 25 |   | I am looking at Structural Glass's statement        |



Page 45 1 bill statement from Spire dated 1/19/2023. I can 2 give anybody a second to pull that up if they need 3 to. I apologize for not having additional copies. 4 THE WITNESS: It's just in a different 5 format than --6 MR. ARIAS: I can show you. This is the 7 bill that we have in our system. 8 Are you -- are you guys okay? Okay. 9 BY MR. ARIAS: 10 Mr. Wrabec, would you -- would you agree that this 0 11 is your statement -- that this is your Spire bill 12 that you've received on -- dated 1/19/2023? 13 It took me a second, but it's because we've got two Α 14 service addresses now. 15 Yes, that's correct. 16 Α Okay. 17 So if you go back to the page before, I think it's 18 your -- your cover sheet, and you see your address, 19 Structural Glass Systems, Inc., 1023 -- 1 --20 10203 East U.S. Highway 24; is that correct? That -- that is an office location. 21 Α 2.2 0 Okay. 23 I believe that the address in question is the Α 24 9700 East 56th? 25 Q That's correct.



|    |   | <u> </u>  |
|----|---|---|
| 1  |   | Page 46<br>So if you turn to the initial page I   |
| 2  |   | I showed you that shows your your your            |
| 3  |   | itemized bill and your your usage. Are you        |
| 4  |   | are you there?                                    |
| 5  | A | Yes, I am.  |
| 6  | Q | Okay. And and if you look at the bottom, the      |
| 7  |   | bottom half of the bill, you see, on the right    |
| 8  |   | side, service address 9700                        |
| 9  | A | Correct.  |
| 10 | Q | East 56th Street, C, and that's for that bottom   |
| 11 |   | half of the bill?                                 |
| 12 | A | I believe so, yes.                                |
| 13 | Q | Okay. So can you in that top line, could you      |
| 14 |   | tell me what your previous reading was?           |
| 15 | A | Previous reading is 7,190.                        |
| 16 | Q | And can you tell me what your present reading is? |
| 17 | A | 8,116.  |
| 18 | Q | And can you tell me how many CCFs you were billed |
| 19 |   | based on those readings?                          |
| 20 | A | On the first line, it says 926.                   |
| 21 | Q | Okay. Thank you.                                  |
| 22 |   | And if you go down into the natural               |
| 23 |   | gas cost, in the itemized bill that Spire billed  |
| 24 |   | you for, could you say could you tell me what     |
| 25 |   | the usage was?                                    |
|    | i |   |



Page 47 1 926. Α 2 0 926 CCF. Thank you. 3 And that -- and that gave you a 4 total current charge of how much for the -- the 5 month of -- or the period from December 23, 2022 to 6 January 1 -- January 11, 2023? 7 Well, again, I don't know why there's two meters on Α 8 here for that address. 9 But were you billed -- okay. So if we look at 0 10 that, were you billed for -- so you have a usage of 11 926 and a usage of 78? 12 Correct. But --Α 13 Were you billed the 78 -- for that 78 CCFs? 0 14 Well, I've got two usages listed under the delivery Α 15 charge. 16 Q And you -- okay. So you have two -- two usages listed there. You have a 138 and 9 CCF at -- at 17 18 13 cents; is that correct? 19 Α Yes. 20 And then you have another usage of 78 -- 787.1 CCF 0 21 at 15 cents? 2.2 Α Yes. 23 And if you add 138.9 and 787.1 -- I mean, I don't have a -- I don't have a calculator in front of me, 24 25 but subject to -- subject to check, would that



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Page 48

appear to equal 926 CCF?

A I think so.

Q Okay.

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MR. ARIAS: And, your Honor, I -- I guess this isn't a question to ask, and just for clarity purposes, a rate -- for -- for you to take notice, a rate increase went into effect on, I believe, December 26, 2022, and that is why there are two different delivery charges billed. That's why there's two -- it -- it broke out the 926 because it was the first portion charged at the rates prior to December 26, and the rates charged after, just for clarity purposes for the --

THE WITNESS: That was nice they waited till after Christmas.

## 16 BY MR. ARIAS:

- So you have -- so basic -- would you agree that your usage that you were billed on December -- or on January 19, for the address at 9700 East 56th Street, C, was 926 CCF?
- 21 A Yes. On this -- according to this statement.
- 22 Q And your current total charges was 1300?
- 23 A \$1,306.47.
- 24 Q Okay. Thank you.
- 25 And now if we turn to your next --



|    |   | Evidentiary Hearing May 10, 2023                           |
|----|---|--|
| 1  |   | Page 49<br>the next bill statement that you received. It's |
| 2  |   | 2/9/2023.  |
| 3  | А | Uh-huh, yes.   |
| 4  | Q | And on and if you look at so we're going to                |
| 5  |   | go basically mirror that.                                  |
| 6  |   | So your previous reading is 8,116,                         |
| 7  |   | is that correct, on that top line?                         |
| 8  | А | 8,116.   |
| 9  | Q | And your present reading is 9,639?                         |
| 10 | A | That is correct.   |
| 11 | Q | And your the total usage CCF there is 1523?                |
| 12 | А | That is what the statement says, yes.                      |
| 13 | Q | And if you go to the itemized charge there, your           |
| 14 |   | usage was 15,023 is what you were charged for?             |
| 15 | A | Yes.   |
| 16 | Q | Okay. And what was your total current charge               |
| 17 |   | there?   |
| 18 | А | Total current charges, \$2,341.51.                         |
| 19 | Q | Okay. Thank you.   |
| 20 |   | So if we look at those two two                             |
| 21 |   | bills, we can we can even go into March, but I             |
| 22 |   | I won't do that. If you look at those two                  |
| 23 |   | bills, do you have any reason to contest the               |
| 24 |   | charges that you were the usage the usages                 |
| 25 |   | Spire billed you for?                                      |
|    |   |  |



Page 50 1 These are -- this is January and February of 2023. Α 2 Yes. 0 3 Α So no, I don't. 4 So you were billed -- okay. So you -- you 5 -- you agree that you -- that Spire's bills are 6 accurate for these -- for these two months? 7 Given the amount of work we're doing in the shop Α 8 this year and the temperature outside and the 9 amount of times we've had the doors opening and 10 closing, yeah. 11 Thank you. Okay. 0 12 MR. ARIAS: Your Honor, I have no further 13 questions. 14 Mr. Irving. JUDGE KEELING: 15 MR. IRVING: Thank you, your Honor. Ι 16 just have one question. 17 EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. IRVING: 19 Is Structural Glass a residential or business 20 account? 21 It's a business account. 2.2 0 Thank you. 23 MR. IRVING: No other questions. 24 JUDGE KEELING: Now on to the 25 commissioners.



| 1  |      | Page 51<br>Chairman Rupp, do you have any           |
|----|------|---|
| 2  |      | questions?  |
| 3  |      | COMMISSIONER RUPP: Yes. Thank you,                  |
| 4  |      | Judge.  |
| 5  |      | Commissioner Rupp for the record.                   |
| 6  |      | EXAMINATION   |
| 7  | BY C | COMMISSIONER RUPP:                                  |
| 8  | Q    | Good morning, sir.                                  |
| 9  | A    | Good morning.                                       |
| 10 | Q    | What was in the location before you moved to this   |
| 11 |      | location, do you know?                              |
| 12 | A    | I don't know.                                       |
| 13 | Q    | Okay. When you signed your lease, did you did       |
| 14 |      | the landlord give you any estimates of of           |
| 15 |      | utility bill costs or any copy bills or any any     |
| 16 |      | of this is the a an average?                        |
| 17 | А    | No.   |
| 18 | Q    | Okay. What is your average bill now?                |
| 19 | A    | Well, that's hard to answer. I have not looked at   |
| 20 |      | these, to be honest with you, and I believe you     |
| 21 |      | heard my testimony that I think I know why these    |
| 22 |      | are the amount that they are, but it appears that   |
| 23 |      | we had a very expensive January and February. So I  |
| 24 |      | can't speak to what I believe the average would be. |
| 25 |      | I don't know.                                       |





| ſ  |      | Page 53  |
|----|------|--|
| 1  |      | 2022, did Structural Glass have their heat on at |
| 2  |      | this location?                                   |
| 3  | A    | The heat was on, yes.                            |
| 4  | Q    | Heat was on. Okay. Thank you.                    |
| 5  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Is that all?                      |
| 6  |      | MR. ARIAS: Yes.                                  |
| 7  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Irving, do you have           |
| 8  |      | any recross?                                     |
| 9  |      | MR. IRVING: No, I do not.                        |
| 10 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Meyer, do you have            |
| 11 |      | any redirect?                                    |
| 12 |      | EXAMINATION                                      |
| 13 | BY M | R. MEYER:  |
| 14 | Q    | Mr. Wrabec, how many are there other tenants at  |
| 15 |      | the Raytown building?                            |
| 16 | A    | There are other spaces, yes.                     |
| 17 | Q    | All right. So there's other spaces.              |
| 18 |      | You're in Space C, correct?                      |
| 19 | A    | Yes.   |
| 20 | Q    | And are those other spaces inhabited by other    |
| 21 |      | businesses?                                      |
| 22 | A    | They are.  |
| 23 | Q    | Have you had occasion to speak to those other    |
| 24 |      | tenants about their gas bills?                   |
| 25 | А    | I have.  |



|    |      | 5   |
|----|------|---|
| 1  | Q    | Page 54<br>And what have they told you about their gas bills, |
| 2  |      | what their average gas bills are?                             |
| 3  |      | MR. ARIAS: Your Honor, I'm going to                           |
| 4  |      | object to him saying what other people I think                |
| 5  |      | this is a a hearsay objection.                                |
| 6  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Sustained.                                     |
| 7  | BY M | R. MEYER:   |
| 8  | Q    | The other spaces within this complex, are they of             |
| 9  |      | comparable size to yours?                                     |
| 10 | А    | Some are, yes.  |
| 11 | Q    | All right. And to your knowledge, have any of the             |
| 12 |      | other tenants been presented with a \$7,000 bill for          |
| 13 |      | gas service from Spire?                                       |
| 14 |      | MR. ARIAS: I think that's another                             |
| 15 |      | hearsay objection, your Honor.                                |
| 16 |      | MR. MEYER: I'm not asking for a                               |
| 17 |      | statement. I'm asking if they he has knowledge                |
| 18 |      | about whether they've presented with such a bill.             |
| 19 |      | JUDGE KEELING: I'll overrule that.                            |
| 20 |      | THE WITNESS: To my knowledge, nobody's                        |
| 21 |      | received a bill of that nature, no.                           |
| 22 |      | MR. MEYER: All right. Thank you.                              |
| 23 |      | Nothing further.  |
| 24 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Okay. If there's no                            |
| 25 |      | other questions, you are dismissed.                           |



| 1  | Mr. Meyer, your your second                         |
|----|---|
| 2  | witness, is is she not going to be here?            |
| 3  | MR. MEYER: No further witnesses for the             |
| 4  | complainant.  |
| 5  | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you very much.                 |
| 6  | Then we'll move on to Spire.                        |
| 7  | Mr. Arias, do you have any                          |
| 8  | witnesses?  |
| 9  | MR. ARIAS: I I do, your Honor. Can I                |
| 10 | just make just very briefly, can I Spire            |
| 11 | would like to admit the stack of bills the          |
| 12 | complainant's bills from December 10, 2021 to April |
| 13 | a bill dated April 11, 2023 as Spire Exhibit 1.     |
| 14 | JUDGE KEELING: Is Exhibit 1 your number?            |
| 15 | MR. ARIAS: Or actually, I don't think               |
| 16 | we discussed numbers.                               |
| 17 | JUDGE KEELING: Wasn't it on the                     |
| 18 | procedural schedule?                                |
| 19 | MR. ARIAS: Oh. Oh, my Exhibit 1, yes,               |
| 20 | it was. My understanding is it was. But I will      |
| 21 | check here.   |
| 22 | It was, your Honor.                                 |
| 23 | JUDGE KEELING: Your Exhibit 1?                      |
| 24 | MR. ARIAS: Yes.                                     |
| 25 | JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Well, I'll we                  |





**Evidentiary Hearing** Page 57 (Exhibit 101 received into evidence.) 1 2 JUDGE KEELING: So, Mr. Arias, do you 3 have any witnesses? 4 MR. ARIAS: Yes, your Honor. Spire would 5 like to call Ms. Alexis Johnson to testify. 6 ALEXIS JOHNSON, called as a witness 7 herein, having been first duly sworn on oath, was 8 examined and testified as follows: 9 EXAMINATION 10 BY MR. ARIAS: 11 Good morning, Ms. Johnson. Could you please 12 provide your name and business address for the 13 record. 14 Alexis Johnson. 700 Market Street, St. Louis, Α 15 Missouri, 63101. 16 Yeah. 0 17 By whom are you employed and in what 18 capacity? 19 Spire employs me. I am in their community services Α 20 department as a community services partner. 21 Okay. And what are your job responsibilities as a 0 2.2 community services partner? 23 My primary responsibility was the handling of Α 24 complaints, so -- from any fashion, including the



Missouri Public Service Commission and legal, and

Page 58

- 1 collecting data for legal requests.
- 2 Q And as -- and in that position, what was your involvement in this case, Docket No. GC-2023-0143?
- 4 A To compile the documents for the data request.
- And some of the -- and were you able to answer all of the -- were you able to put together all of the data responses to the data requests from the PSC based on information available to the consumer services department?
- 10 A No. We did have to reach out to numerous departments.
- 12 Q So you have to -- okay. Thank you.
- And just looking at the rebilling process, are you familiar with Spire's rebilling process?
- 16 | A Yes.
- 17 Q And that's for when Spire either overbills or underbills a customer?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q And was -- and as a community services partner, was
  21 this -- was the rebilling of Structural Glass for
  22 the usage between November 24, 2021 to April 12,
  23 2022, done in accordance with Spire's processes and
  24 procedures for rebilling a customer?
- 25 A Yes.



| 1  | Q    | Thank you.  |
|----|------|---|
| 2  |      | MR. ARIAS: No further questions, your               |
| 3  |      | Honor.  |
| 4  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Any questions from staff?            |
| 5  |      | MR. IRVING: Yes, your Honor.                        |
| 6  |      | EXAMINATION   |
| 7  | BY M | IR. IRVING:   |
| 8  | Q    | Ms. Johnson, can you explain what I just handed     |
| 9  |      | you?  |
| LO | A    | This is the differential meter test that we         |
| L1 |      | submitted with the Missouri Public Service          |
| L2 |      | Commission per their request for a meter test. The  |
| L3 |      | information listed in the email was provided by our |
| L4 |      | large volume meter departments. And that is all     |
| L5 |      | the information I have towards it.                  |
| L6 | Q    | Okay. It's does this was it found that the          |
| L7 |      | meter was to be accurate and working?               |
| L8 | A    | From the information provided by the large volume   |
| L9 |      | meter departments, yes.                             |
| 20 | Q    | Okay.   |
| 21 |      | All right. Your Honor, I would like                 |
| 22 |      | to enter Staff Exhibit 201.                         |
| 23 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Are there any objections             |
| 24 |      | to receiving Exhibit 201 on the record as evidence? |
| 25 |      | MR. MEYER: No, your Honor.                          |

Page 60 1 No -- no objection, your MR. ARIAS: I would just like to note for staff and 2 3 your Honor that Spire's next witness, James Rieske, 4 is the director of measurement, and any additional 5 questions that staff has, he will be able to answer 6 those. 7 JUDGE KEELING: Very good. Thank you. Exhibit No. 201 is received into evidence. 8 9 (Exhibit 201 received into evidence.) Ms. Johnson, I don't have 10 MR. IRVING: 11 any other questions for you. Thank you. 12 JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Meyer, do you have 13 any questions? 14 MR. MEYER: Briefly. 15 EXAMINATION 16 BY MR. MEYER: 17 Ms. Johnson, you -- did you look at this meter 18 yourself? 19 Α No. 20 Did you do any of the testing on it? 0 21 No. Α 2.2 0 You compiled information from others? 23 Α Yes. 24 Nothing further. MR. MEYER: 25 Thank you. We'll move on JUDGE KEELING:





| 1  |   | Page 62<br>business address is 700 Market Street, St. Louis, |
|----|---|--|
| 2  |   | Missouri, 63101.   |
| 3  | Q | And by whom are you employed?                                |
| 4  | А | Spire.   |
| 5  | Q | And what are your responsibilities as the                    |
| 6  |   | measurement director?  |
| 7  | А | I am responsible for all customer metering for all           |
| 8  |   | Spire customers and for providing our billing                |
| 9  |   | system timely and accurate reads for customer                |
| 10 |   | bills.   |
| 11 | Q | And those are both residential and commercial                |
| 12 |   | customers, correct?  |
| 13 | А | That's correct.  |
| 14 | Q | And how many years have you been with Spire and              |
| 15 |   | how many years have you been with Spire in this              |
| 16 |   | position?  |
| 17 | A | I've been with Spire for 33 years in various                 |
| 18 |   | positions. I have been the measurement director              |
| 19 |   | for four and a half years.                                   |
| 20 | Q | Thank you.   |
| 21 |   | And in preparation for your                                  |
| 22 |   | testimony today, have you reviewed the materials in          |
| 23 |   | this docket?   |
| 24 | A | I have.  |
| 25 | Q | Okay. So turning to the PTZ corrector                        |
|    |   |  |



| -1 |   | Page 63   |
|----|---|---|
| 1  |   | configuration. So the root cause of this complaint  |
| 2  |   | is that Spire set an incorrect PTZ corrector        |
| 3  |   | configuration for complainant the Structural        |
| 4  |   | Glass's meter, and this is an undisputed fact of    |
| 5  |   | this complaint. Could you explain the purpose of    |
| 6  |   | the PTZ corrector configuration.                    |
| 7  | A | Yes. So we have been in the process of modernizing  |
| 8  |   | our large volume meter technology. We'd gone from   |
| 9  |   | a traditionally we've used meters that have         |
| 10 |   | mechanical indexes on them, and the movement of the |
| 11 |   | meter is tracked for mechanical indexes. The PTZ    |
| 12 |   | is an electronic index that goes on the meter that  |
| 13 |   | also has a pressure and temperature sensor, so it's |
| 14 |   | continuously measuring the gas flowing through the  |
| 15 |   | meter and correcting it in real time for both       |
| 16 |   | pressure and temperature. We introduced that        |
| 17 |   | technology company wide in 2021, and we began to    |
| 18 |   | deploy it in in Missouri West in the fall of        |
| 19 |   | 2021.   |
| 20 | Q | And what were the issues with the PTZ corrector     |
| 21 |   | configuration on complainant's meter in this case?  |
| 22 | A | So the the meter records the information, and on    |
| 23 |   | a monthly basis, it sends the current reading       |
| 24 |   | through a communication module to our billing       |
| 25 |   | system. The in Kansas City, the configuration       |

- that they used was concatenating the first digit of
  the read. When it was -- the PTZ -- because -
  I'll explain. I got a look there, so let me
- 4 explain that.

2.2

So on a traditional mechanical meter with a -- with a -- a mechanical index, there's always a dial that is below the billing unit of measure of hundreds of cubic feet. So when the ERT sends a reading to the billing system, it knows that first dial is not a billing dial, so it concatenates that digit from the read.

When we went to the PTZ, the PTZ sends a reading that is in hundreds of cubic feet. Unfortunately our billing system was still concatenating that first digit, so it moved the -- the reading one decimal place to the left. This was unique to Kansas City. When we started installing them in Kansas City, we were watching the reads on these instruments, and we saw the readings that didn't make sense to us. We investigated it and we discovered that this was happening. The reading on the meter was still accurately being recording. The reading being sent by the ERT device was accurately being recorded.

The billing system was dropping a decimal. When we

Page 65 1 discovered that, we notified customers and went 2 back through several dozen customers that we had to 3 correct the bill because of that issue. 4 So if I'm understanding you correctly, the meter is Q 5 registering natural gas usage properly? 6 That's correct. Α 7 And the meter reads that can and were pulled 0 8 from -- directly from the meter were accurate? 9 That's correct. Α 10 Okay. Thank you. 0 11 So I am going to pass out Spire 12 Exhibit 102. Spire Exhibit 102 is an out of reads 13 14 report, an excerpt of the out of reads report that 15 was provided to complainant in response to data 16 requests from complainant to Spire and circulated 17 also to staff with Spire's responses. So this is 18 an excerpt targeting the time in question, the 19 period in question, November 24, 2021 to -- and it 20 goes up till May -- May 11, 2022, but it 21 incorporate -- captures the 4/12/2022, the end of 2.2 the period in question in this case. 23 Mr. Rieske, are you familiar with 24 this out of reads report? 25 Α Yes, I am.



Page 66 1 What information does this -- does -- does this Q 2 report show? 3 Α So it's a record of readings collected over time for a particular meter. And what it will show for 4 5 each reading collected, it'll show what the raw 6 read is, and then it'll show if it was a four-dial 7 meter, what the usage would be, what a five-dial 8 meter was, what the reading would be, six-dial, and 9 then correctors, in each column. So the raw reads would be what the meter was 10 Q Okav. 11 registering at the customer's service address? 12 That's correct. Α 13 Okay. And could you explain the difference between 0 14 the six-dial read column and the 6C 6U PTZ 15 corrector column? 16 That -- that shows or demonstrates what I was Α Yes. 17 saying we had revealed as the problem. 18 So the raw read was 171 on 19 December 10 of 2021, and because it was assuming it 20 had a dial that was below a hundred cubic feet, it 21 dropped the one and made the reading 17, when in 2.2 fact the reading was 171, because the reading was 23 being broadcast in hundreds of cubic feet. So the number in the raw read column is the same as 24 Q 25 the number in the 6C 6U PTZ corrector number --



Page 67 1 Α That's correct. 2 0 -- column? Okay. In looking at this spreadsheet, was 3 4 the -- and I -- I know we don't have November 24, 5 '21 -- 2021 on there, but on -- I think it's -- I 6 can count, but -- on November 11, 2021, what was the raw read for this meter? 7 8 Α Zero. 9 Thank you. Zero. 0 10 And was the meter brand new? 11 It was. Α 12 Thank you. 0 13 And -- and is the zero reading on 14 November 11 consistent with a brand new meter? 15 Α Yes, it is. 16 Yes, it is. Thank you. Q 17 And now looking at the read on April 12, 20 -- 2022, which is the end of the 18 19 period in question, what was the raw read that --20 that day? 21 Α 7,022. 2.2 0 7,022. Okay. Thank you. 23 And what was the 6C 6U PTZ corrector 24 reading for that day? 25 7,022. Α

Page 68 1 Thank you. Q 2 So would you agree that based on 3 those -- the usage being zero on November 11, 2021, and the usage being 7,022 -- 7,022 on April 12, 4 5 2022, would you agree the use -- the total usage 6 would be 7,022 CCFs? 7 That's correct. Α 8 Over the period of November 24, 2021 to April 12, 0 9 2022? 10 Α Yes, that's correct. 11 Thank you. Okay. 0 12 And now turning -- so now I'll pass 13 on -- actually, at this time, your Honor, Spire 14 would like to admit Exhibit 102 into the record. 15 JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Irving, do you have 16 any objections to that? 17 MR. IRVING: No, your Honor. JUDGE KEELING: 18 Mr. Meyer? 19 MR. MEYER: No objection. 20 JUDGE KEELING: Well, I have a question before I admit that. 21 22 Mr. Arias, what -- what did you say 23 this was? When you handed this to me, what did you characterize this document as? 24 25 This is the -- this out of MR. ARIAS:



| 1  |      | Page 69 reads report was is the out of reads report for |
|----|------|---|
| 2  |      | this meter reflecting all the reads. It was             |
| 3  |      | provided to complainant in response to                  |
| 4  |      | complainant's that first set of data requests to        |
| 5  |      | Spire, as an attachment.                                |
| 6  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Rieske, do you                       |
| 7  |      | believe do you do you agree with that?                  |
| 8  |      | THE WITNESS: Yes.                                       |
| 9  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you.                               |
| 10 |      | MR. ARIAS: I apologize, your Honor.                     |
| 11 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Exhibit Exhibit 102 is                   |
| 12 |      | received into evidence.                                 |
| 13 |      | (Exhibit 102 received into evidence.)                   |
| 14 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you.                               |
| 15 | BY M | R. ARIAS:   |
| 16 | Q    | Mr. Rieske, you have a document in front of you         |
| 17 |      | that's been marked Exhibit 103; is that correct?        |
| 18 | A    | Yes.  |
| 19 | Q    | Thank you.  |
| 20 |      | And is that the complainant's                           |
| 21 |      | responses to Spire's data request?                      |
| 22 | A    | Yes.  |
| 23 | Q    | And Data Request No. 2 asks could you could             |
| 24 |      | you say what could you state what Data Request          |
| 25 |      | No. 2 requests.   |





| Т  |   | Looking at complainant's square footage of their    |
|----|---|---|
| 2  |   | building and meter size, is this the amount of      |
| 3  |   | natural gas that you would expect to be used with   |
| 4  |   | complainant's building's square footage?            |
| 5  | A | So every property is different, and depending on    |
| 6  |   | the characteristics of the structure and the height |
| 7  |   | of the ceilings and how often they're opening and   |
| 8  |   | closing doors, overhead doors, all can impact what  |
| 9  |   | a facility would use. But generally speaking, in    |
| 10 |   | my experience, when we look at warehouses, you can  |
| 11 |   | expect that you're going to use about 250 CCF for   |
| 12 |   | every 3,000 square feet of a warehouse space.       |
| 13 |   | Taller the ceilings are, generally the more that    |
| 14 |   | is, because it's about heating a volume of air.     |
| 15 |   | So on a facility like this, I would                 |
| 16 |   | expect in their their wintertime for their usage    |
| 17 |   | to be somewhere around 1500 CCF a month, in         |
| 18 |   | wintertime heating usage. And that's just heating.  |
| 19 | Q | And so looking at their usage from, I guess,        |
| 20 |   | November 24, 2021, to April 12, 2022, for the usage |
| 21 |   | that they were that the customer was rebilled       |
| 22 |   | for, would you agree that it is a reasonable amount |
| 23 |   | of natural gas to be used to heat their facility?   |
| 24 | A | In my experience, it is very consistent with that   |
| 25 |   | size facility and the general nature of what I knew |

1 that facility to be.

- Q And have you reviewed the customer's bills for the period -- I -- the customer had restarted their gas service on December 23, 2022, and -- so in the -- in the months of January and February, would you agree that the usage in those months is also reasonable, in your experience?
- 8 A Yes.

2

3

4

5

6

7

23

24

- 9 Q Okay. And now I just wanted to turn very quickly
  10 to Exhibit -- do I have it in front of me again?
  11 Exhibit 7, or complainant's Exhibit 7.
- 12 A Uh-huh.
- Q So in the chart at the top of the itemized -- not the itemized portion of bill, but the chart above, on Exhibit 7, and that's complainant's bill, correct, from -- could you state the statement date on the bill.
- 18 A It is June 13 of 2022.
- 20 And there is -- in the chart above the itemized 20 bill, there's two lines, which shows two -- two 21 previous reading and two present readings. Could 22 you explain why the second line is on that bill?
  - A Yes. So Missouri West has traditionally used, as I said, a -- an older billing configuration. When we introduced the PTZs, there's a line of data in our

|    |   | Evidentiary Hearing May 10, 2023                        |
|----|---|---|
| 1  |   | Page 73 billing system that isn't billing data that now |
| 2  |   | shows up on the report, because in Missouri West        |
| 3  |   | they never recognized having the data the way that      |
| 4  |   | we do, so it it's a it's a meaningless row of           |
| 5  |   | data.   |
| 6  | Q | So it's a Legacy issue from incorporating a             |
| 7  |   | different   |
| 8  | A | Yes.  |
| 9  | Q | system?   |
| 10 | A | It's incorporating new technology and new data from     |
| 11 |   | new technology that revealed itself on the bill         |
| 12 |   | that we didn't in a way that we didn't realize          |
| 13 |   | it would.   |
| 14 | Q | And this new technology that has been incorporated      |
| 15 |   | into Missouri West, does it provide more accurate       |
| 16 |   | data, usage data, for the company?                      |
| 17 | A | So the the meter itself records for six months,         |
| 18 |   | hourly readings, including the compensation factors     |
| 19 |   | for the customer, so, yes, we have a a grain of         |
| 20 |   | data with that that is far greater than what we've      |
| 21 |   | had in the past.  |
| 22 | Q | Thank you.  |
| 23 |   | MR. ARIAS: No further questions, your                   |
| 24 |   | Honor.  |
| 25 |   | JUDGE KEELING: Very good. Right now it                  |



Page 74 1 is -- it's about -- it's 10:44. I think that we 2 need to take a break and give our court reporter a 3 rest, and so before we continue with cross examination, I want to take a break until 11:00. 4 5 So please be back in the room and be ready to 6 proceed at 11:00. 7 Thank you, your Honor. MR. ARIAS: 8 (Recess taken from 10:44 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.) 9 JUDGE KEELING: It is 11:00, and we will 10 resume our hearing. Right now we left off with 11 Mr. Arias and his direct examination of -- of 12 Mr. James Rieske. 13 Mr. Arias, proceed. 14 BY MR. ARIAS: 15 Just -- just one brief question, your Honor. 16 Looking at Exhibit 7, that -- that -- the bill that 17 we had touched on right before we broke, 18 Mr. Rieske, was there anything else you wanted to 19 add to clarify that second line on --20 Yeah. Α 21 -- the -- on the bill? 2.2 Α Yeah. I -- I would just -- so I just wanted to 23 provide a little clarity around what that number is, right? And so the PTZ, as I said, measures the 24 25 gas and it corrects for pressure and temperature,



Page 75 1 and we bill on the corrected read. The instrument 2 provides an uncorrected read that allows us to 3 validate that corrected read. We had never collected those reads in Missouri West before, and 4 5 so when we started collecting them, they showed up 6 on the bill and that's what that line is, and so --7 again, it was a discovery when we used the new 8 pieces of equipment, so --9 MR. ARIAS: Thank you. 10 Your Honor, at this time, Spire has 11 no other direct examination. Mr. Rieske's 12 available for cross. 13 JUDGE KEELING: Very good. 14 Mr. Irving, do you have any cross 15 examination for Mr. Rieske? 16 Yes, your Honor. MR. IRVING: 17 EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. IRVING: 19 Mr. Rieske, does -- does Spire actually test 20 Structural Glass's meter? 21 We performed an on-site differential pressure Α 2.2 test. 23 What were the results of that test? 24 The meter was tested at three different flow rates, Α 25 and those flow rates -- the test results were



Page 76 1 compared against accuracy curves and all of them 2 were found to be accurate. 3 Q Okay. 4 All right. I have no other MR. IRVING: 5 questions at this point. 6 Thank you, Mr. Irving. JUDGE KEELING: 7 Mr. Meyer, do you have any 8 questions? 9 MR. MEYER: Yes, your Honor. 10 EXAMINATION 11 BY MR. MEYER: 12 Mr. Rieske, when this meter was replaced in October 13 of 2021, how is that done; what does that look 14 like? 15 So it wasn't a replacement. It was an Α 16 installation. 17 All right. 0 18 And so they will come out and connect. Typically Α 19 we have a standpipe or a riser coming up off the 20 surface line, and they will come out and use 21 threaded fittings to create -- in this case I 2.2 believe it was an inline connection, so they create 23 an inlet and outlet pipe, and it's a threaded connection into that. Now, when they set the 24 25 meter, we also then have to inspect the customer



| 1  |   | Page 77 facility, fuel runs and appliances before we turn |
|----|---|---|
| 2  |   | it on. So typically we would set it, in this case         |
| 3  |   | we did set it and performed a turn on at a later          |
| 4  |   | date, when the customer's ready for gas.                  |
| 5  | Q | So this installation was of one of these and              |
| 6  |   | what type of meter was installed, the PTZ                 |
| 7  | A | It's a it's a Romet rotary meter with a PTZ               |
| 8  |   | electronic index and pressure corrector connected         |
| 9  |   | to it.  |
| 10 | Q | And these were relatively new at the time of this         |
| 11 |   | installation?   |
| 12 | A | Yeah. We had started using the technology in 2021.        |
| 13 | Q | Okay. Now, when I look at Exhibit 102, I see the          |
| 14 |   | six-dial read and then the 6C PTZ correctors              |
| 15 |   | column, and the is it correct that with a a               |
| 16 |   | rotary dial, the the maximum number of digits is          |
| 17 |   | six?  |
| 18 | A | It it collects the reads in six digits, that's            |
| 19 |   | correct.  |
| 20 | Q | Okay. And then the PTZ also collects the reads in         |
| 21 |   | six digits?   |
| 22 | A | So the the PTZ is the only device collecting              |
| 23 |   | reads.  |
| 24 | Q | Okay.   |
| 25 | A | It's collecting the reads off of the movement of          |
|    |   |   |



Page 78 1 the meter. 2 0 Okay. 3 Α And so it's collecting -- it is the sole collection 4 of the reads, is the PTZ. 5 So on the sheet, when we see the read for the 0 6 six-dial read, is that number meaningless or why is 7 it one tenth of the PTZ corrector's number? 8 Α So the -- that line of data has suffered the same 9 fate of our original meter reads. If also has a 10 digit concatenated. So there's a significant digit 11 beyond 611 that's not showing on there. 12 And is that to the left or the right? Okay. 13 So the reading was moved one digit to the left. Α 14 Okay. And in the case of the Structural Glass 15 Systems' meter, for how many months was this -- did 16 this concatenation continue? 17 So it was from November 2021 to April 12, 2022. Α Six months -- five? 18 19 Five months, yes. Α 20 Is it timely and accurate to permit that sort of --0 that discrepancy in billing for five months? 21 2.2 Α We had to discover the issue, and then we had to 23 figure out how to remediate it in our company 24 systems, right. Meanwhile we knew we were 25 accurately recording the usage. So yes, it took



| 1  |   | Page 79 five months from the time we put that meter in |
|----|---|--|
| 2  |   | until we had a solution for fixing the way that the    |
| 3  |   | reads were presented to our billing system.            |
| 4  | Q | But in the interim, the bills for the lower amount     |
| 5  |   | were sent mailed to the customer?                      |
| 6  | A | To to customers that had that device, yes.             |
| 7  | Q | And those customers, including Structural Glass        |
| 8  |   | Systems, Inc., paid those bills in reliance on         |
| 9  |   | their accuracy   |
| 10 | A | That's correct.  |
| 11 | Q | would you agree with that?                             |
| 12 | A | Yes.   |
| 13 | Q | All right. And then after you discovered your          |
| 14 |   | error, you sent the updated newer bills?               |
| 15 | A | We followed our tariff provisions for providing a      |
| 16 |   | rebill to those customers for the                      |
| 17 | Q | And sent Structural Glass Systems a bill for \$7,000   |
| 18 |   | in gas usage that they had not been informed of in     |
| 19 |   | the prior five months, right?                          |
| 20 | A | I can't speak to what you knew or didn't know, but     |
| 21 |   | I do know we issued you a rebill on April 12.          |
| 22 | Q | When did Spire first know about this issue?            |
| 23 | A | I'm not sure of the exact date.                        |
| 24 | Q | How many other customers had this issue?               |
| 25 | A | There were several dozen.                              |



Page 80 1 All right. In the Kansas City area? Q 2 Α Yes. 3 Okay. Were they all commercial? 4 Α Yes. 5 And you kind of gave what I'd call a -- back 0 Okay. 6 of the napkin estimate of how many cubic -- or CCFs 7 are used in --8 Right. Α 9 -- a comparable warehouse. There are a lot of 0 10 factors that could play into that estimate, 11 correct? 12 Α Yes. 13 Ambient temperature outside versus inside, correct? 0 14 Α Yes. 15 The -- the setting that the customer sets their 16 thermostat at? The location, yes. Sure. 17 The location of the Α 18 thermostat, sure. 19 Yeah. And -- and the efficiency and age of the 0 20 heating unit involved? 21 Somewhat, yes. Α 2.2 0 If you have an older one, they might use a little 23 more --

-- or might be dirty or --

24

25

Α

Yeah.

Page 81 1 Yeah. Α 2 -- inefficient? 0 3 Okay. So this estimate of 250 CCFs 4 per 3,000 square footage, what -- how hot would 5 that get your building if they were using that much 6 gas? 7 I -- that -- I couldn't begin to speculate on that, Α 8 but it's -- but let me give you a more precise 9 answer to the question you're asking. 10 When Structural Glass Systems 11 applied for gas service, they supplied us with the 12 equipment that they were going to need to serve 13 that building. When they did, they provided a list 14 of equipment that totaled to 1.6 million BTUs of 15 equipment at 2 pounds of delivery pressure. 16 Q Okay. 17 So that is generally a mechanical contractor's estimate of what will be required to heat that 18 19 facility. That kind of equipment on a normal 20 winter month for heating would produce a bill in 21 excess of 2,000 CCF. That's a -- that's an 2.2 engineering fact. 23 If it's 1.6 million --0 24 Α BTUs, yes. 25 -- BTUs of natural gas?



|    |   | Evidentially Hearing Iway 10, 2023                 |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | A | Page 82<br>Yes.                                    |
| 2  | Q | Now I want to do you still have 103 in front of    |
| 3  |   | you?   |
| 4  | A | Uh-huh.  |
| 5  | Q | All right. The this is Structural Glass's          |
| 6  |   | responses to the data request.                     |
| 7  | A | Uh-huh.  |
| 8  | Q | And it was they asked the for the gas              |
| 9  |   | appliances, and the sole gas appliance was the     |
| 10 |   | Reznor heater, and do you see a BTU rating on that |
| 11 |   | heater?  |
| 12 | A | I do.  |
| 13 | Q | What is that?                                      |
| 14 | A | 250,000 BTUs.                                      |
| 15 | Q | So that's significantly less than the 1.6 million  |
| 16 |   | you just mentioned?                                |
| 17 | A | That's correct.                                    |
| 18 | Q | So assuming for purposes of my question that the   |
| 19 |   | sole natural gas appliance within Structural Glass |
| 20 |   | System's facility is this heater at 250,000 BTU,   |
| 21 |   | what would an average CCF per month usage be?      |
| 22 | A | So a couple things. In the testimony today, I      |
| 23 |   | heard contradiction to that. I believe I heard     |
| 24 |   | that there were two furnaces at this address.      |
| 25 | Q | Correct.   |



Page 83

- A So this -- would you agree this is not accurate?
- Q There were two of these. All right. So that's

2.2

- 3 500,000.
  4 A Okay. So here's the deal. So this is -- this is
  - baked in science. So the space that you have to heat has a volume of air, and your heating unit will produce heated air, it has to fill that volume of space to the temperature that your thermostat sets it at. So when you don't put sufficient heating equipment to move the air sufficiently in the space, it will just run more and it will run inefficiently and it will burn more gas. So the fact that this didn't have adequate heating equipment for the space doesn't actually help the usage to heat the space, it actually makes it worse. And so it will consume what it needs to heat that space, and it just means it runs more.
    - Q How many CCFs would two of these units use per month to heat 15,000 square foot space?
    - A It depends on how often they run, and I have no way of speculating on how often they run. Although if there were two trying to heat 15,000 square feet, they were running all the time, especially if there were garage doors and those sorts of things that would be open and create ambient outside air into



Page 84 1 the space. 2 Now, you heard the testimony that the property 0 3 wasn't being used and the heat was set at 4 55 degrees, correct? 5 That's correct. Α 6 Okay. And during these five months, Spire didn't 7 inform SGS of its alleged gas usage that it was 8 later billed for, correct? It wasn't until April 9 that the -- got sent out? 10 Α It was -- yes. 11 All right. Is there someone else affiliated with 0 12 Spire who would know when this problem was 13 discovered? 14 I -- I would know when that problem was discovered; Α 15 however, I -- I don't have that information with me 16 today. 17 But you --0 18 I was directly in -- no. I was directly in the Α 19 conversations about the problem they had discovered 20 and trying to figure out what it was, why it was 21 happening and how to fix it. That all -- that all 2.2 came through me. 23 Do you have a ballpark recollection of when? 0 24 My recollection was that -- that we really started Α 25 to discover the problem in February of 2022.





alleged in the complaint in this case?

So you're talking at this specific address?

24

25

Α

Page 86

Q Yes.

2.2

A Yes.

So the -- by comparison during the period that we had the reading issue, in February or March, we were using -- they were using around 1800 cubic CCF a month. Again, I don't have it exactly in front of me. I looked at it by month over month when I was looking at the -- the data. In 2023, we have a bill here that it was -- I believe it was 15 -- over 1500 CCF. So it was very consistent between '22 and '23.

- Q Okay. But why did the -- why did the remedy or the fix not occur until -- until after the April reading if the -- if the issue or the problem was discovered in January?
- A Yeah. So we -- we had -- couple things. We had to go back through the -- the accounts that -- and find the accounts that we felt like had an issue, and we had to start working through those to correct the bills and go through the mechanics of contacting the customer and so forth, and that took a period of time.

The other thing we wanted to do is we had to make a patch to our billing system, to be able to prevent this from happening in the future.

1 And so we tried to coincide doing the rebills with 2 a time we knew they wouldn't get any subsequent 3 bills that we would have to correct. 4 Are you aware what the -- the gas usage -- usage at Q 5 this address was with -- with the prior owner or 6 occupant? 7 I am not aware of that information. Α 8 Okay. And, I quess, had -- why did it take until 9 January to figure out that the readings were wrong? 10 Α So unfortunately, we don't get readings in our 11 billing system more frequently than once a month, 12 and so in this -- for instance, in this example, it 13 was a new meter, so we didn't have any history on 14 that meter, right, so it actually took us having a 15 few of them where we questioned the lower readings 16 on new meters to start investigating and 17 discovering that this was happening, right. So 18 we're getting very infrequent data with new 19 customers. So it just took us a while to recognize 20 the pattern in the bills and then connect it to 21 that equipment, right. 2.2 0 When was that meter new? 23 It was installed November, I believe, 24 of 2021. Α 24 So it has -- has it been tested since -- since May Q 25 of 2022?



Page 88

A No.

1

5

6

7

8

25

- 2 | Q When was it tested --
- 3 A It was tested -- I believe it was tested in August of '22.
  - Q Regarding the -- the new meter technology, the PTZ technology, did you -- did you test that new meter technology with its billing software before deploying it?
- 9 A Yes, we did.
- 10 Q What steps did you take in testing it?
- 11 So -- so we went through a -- a series of tests, Α 12 first of the actual equipment itself and confirming 13 the registration and the way that it calculated the 14 usage, and then we had a number of beta units that 15 we installed and tested the technology in our 16 So to be able to use it, we didn't billing system. 17 actually have to -- we were reusing configurations 18 we already had, and so we tested it in a number of 19 locations. All of them, unfortunately, were not in 20 Kansas City, and we had literally hundreds of these devices installed before we installed the first one 21 22 in Kansas City. And what got us in Kansas City is 23 we didn't realize they had a Legacy billing configuration that was different than what we were 24

So

using in other regions of the -- the company.

Page 89 1 we thought we had adequately tested it not only in 2 beta but in production before we started using them 3 in Kansas City, and it was a very technical setup 4 that caused this issue. Unfortunately, we didn't 5 realize it was there. 6 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. I have no other 7 questions. 8 Is there any recross by staff? 9 MR. IRVING: No, your Honor. 10 MR. MEYER: Mr. Meyer, do you have any 11 recross? 12 EXAMINATION 13 BY MR. MEYER: 14 When did Spire know that this sort of error was 15 possible? 16 I -- I don't know what that question means. Α 17 You stated that this problem arose because Kansas 18 City had a Legacy billing system and you didn't 19 realize that, correct? 20 They had a Legacy configuration. It's the same Α 21 billing system we use everywhere else. 2.2 0 Had a Legacy configuration. When did you realize 23 that the Legacy configuration would create this 24 problem with the PTZ connectors? 25 We -- we discovered it when we were seeing the Α



| 1  |      | Page 90 reads in our billing system in the spring of '22. |
|----|------|---|
| 2  | Q    | And but again, it's your testimony that Spire             |
| 3  |      | didn't realize that Kansas City had that Legacy           |
| 4  |      | billing setup?  |
| 5  | A    | I don't can you restate.                                  |
| 6  | Q    | They had the Legacy configuration?                        |
| 7  | A    | They had a configuration that was different than          |
| 8  |      | what we used in other regions of the company for          |
| 9  |      | the same type of metering equipment.                      |
| 10 | Q    | All right. And how long had Kansas City been using        |
| 11 |      | that configuration?                                       |
| 12 | A    | I have no idea, but for years.                            |
| 13 | Q    | All right.  |
| 14 |      | MR. MEYER: I have no further questions.                   |
| 15 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Arias, do you have                     |
| 16 |      | any redirect?   |
| 17 |      | MR. ARIAS: Yes, your Honor, just                          |
| 18 |      | briefly. I'm going to jump around here.                   |
| 19 |      | EXAMINATION   |
| 20 | BY M | R. ARIAS:   |
| 21 | Q    | Mr. Rieske, you mentioned that it's the                   |
| 22 |      | customer's meter's a Romet rotary meter and that          |
| 23 |      | this was a new meter a new meter to Spire's               |
| 24 |      | system, correct?  |
| 25 | A    | So the the PTZ electronic index was new to                |
|    |      |   |



Page 91 1 Spire's system. The Romet rotary meter we have 2 used for years. 3 Q Thank you -- no, thank you for that clarification. 4 And we were discussing this Legacy 5 configuration. Why wasn't the Legacy configuration 6 discovered until spring of 2022? 7 So -- so the -- the -- the configuration -- Kansas Α 8 City didn't use this type of equipment very often, 9 right, and so they had done what I would call a 10 technical change to the configuration. It wasn't 11 apparent in the configuration. It was in the 12 programming of the configuration that we didn't 13 know existed until these reads from these new 14 instruments started coming and we saw how it 15 behaved. So it was -- it was a Legacy 16 configuration in programming, right, computer code, 17 so --And -- and -- and so the configuration -- the 18 0 19 Legacy configuration issue wasn't discovered 20 because we just weren't using technology at that 21 point -- up till that point that it would affect? 2.2 Α That's 100 percent correct. 23 Thank you. 0 24 And just looking at the -- back to 25 the -- the BTUs necessary to heat 1500 square feet.



Page 92 1 So is it your testimony and would you agree that regardless of the size of furnace or number of BTUs 2 3 your furnaces have or -- or can -- can --4 regardless of the output of the furnaces you have, 5 the total BTU output, would -- so even if you had 6 250,000 BTUs of output or a million BTUs output, 7 those furnaces are going to use the same amount of 8 natural gas to heat the same size of space? 9 They are going to run as long as it takes to Α Yes. 10 heat that space, that's correct. 11 So regardless of the size, those -- those --0 12 whether it's one furnace using X number -- a 13 thousand CCFs to heat a -- a specific sized space 14 or five furnaces trying to heat that same sized 15 space to the same temperature, they're going to use 16 the same amount of natural gas? 17 I -- well, let -- let me just give a That -- yes. technical clarification. 18 19 And that's fine. That's fine. 0 20 So -- so generally speaking, that will be true, but Α 21 it -- how they operate and how much gas they use 2.2 and how much they run can greatly be impacted by 23 their ability to push the air into the volumes of 24 So depending on where the thermostat is, the room. 25 then how you heat the space can dramatically impact



| 1  |   | how much energy you use, because you have to run   |
|----|---|--|
| 2  |   | longer to get the air to where the thermostat's    |
| 3  |   | measuring the temperature, right? So so there      |
| 4  |   | are some there are actually some tricky things     |
| 5  |   | about how that's why there's so much work that's   |
| 6  |   | done around the mechanical design of how to heat a |
| 7  |   | space, because it can dramatically have a negative |
| 8  |   | impact.  |
| 9  | Q | Okay. Thank you.                                   |
| 10 |   | And just one more thing, just                      |
| 11 |   | turning to Spire's Exhibit 102, that out of reads  |
| 12 |   | report.  |
| 13 | A | Uh-huh.  |
| 14 | Q | When you are saying the digit moves to the left    |
| 15 |   | or the the how did you characterize it again?      |
| 16 | A | Yes, I did say so so let me be very precise        |
| 17 |   | in how I say it.                                   |
| 18 |   | It's where it concatenates the                     |
| 19 |   | number, and so it concatenated one digit to the    |
| 20 |   | left. So it dropped the first digit.               |
| 21 | Q | Okay. Thank you.                                   |
| 22 |   | So if we're looking at December 10,                |
| 23 |   | 2021, the issue in question would force or would   |
| 24 |   | make the raw read showing 171 to appear as 17 in   |
| 25 |   | the billing system; is that correct?               |



| 1  |      | Page 95<br>MR. IRVING: No objections, your Honor. |
|----|------|---|
| 2  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Meyer?                         |
| 3  |      | MR. MEYER: No objection.                          |
| 4  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Exhibit 103 is received            |
| 5  |      | into evidence.                                    |
| 6  |      | (Exhibit 103 received into evidence.)             |
| 7  |      | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Irving, you may                |
| 8  |      | proceed.  |
| 9  |      | MR. IRVING: Thank you, your Honor.                |
| 10 |      | At this time I would like to call                 |
| 11 |      | Mr staff witness Mr. Cunigan to the stand.        |
| 12 |      | CEDRIC CUNIGAN, called as a witness               |
| 13 |      | herein, having been first duly sworn on oath, was |
| 14 |      | examined and testified as follows:                |
| 15 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Proceed.                           |
| 16 |      | EXAMINATION                                       |
| 17 | BY M | R. IRVING:  |
| 18 | Q    | Good morning, Mr. Cunigan.                        |
| 19 | A    | Good morning.                                     |
| 20 | Q    | Could you please state your full name for the     |
| 21 |      | record and spell your last name.                  |
| 22 | A    | Cedric Cunigan. And Cunigan is spelled            |
| 23 |      | C-U-N-I-G-A-N.                                    |
| 24 | Q    | Okay. Thank you.                                  |
| 25 |      | How long have you been employed by                |



Page 96 1 the Commission? 2 Since 2017. Α 3 Okay. What is your job title? 4 Senior professional engineer. 5 Okay. You're the staff's expert witness on matters 0 6 related to gas meters; is that correct? 7 I provide testimony on that in this case, yes. Α 8 0 Okay. 9 Your Honor, I would like to MR. IRVING: 10 tender the witness for cross examination. 11 THE WITNESS: Mr. Arias. 12 MR. ARIAS: Thank you, your Honor. 13 EXAMINATION 14 BY MR. ARIAS: 15 Could you just provide your last name one more time 16 for me. 17 Cunigan is C-U-N-I-G-A-N. 18 So Cunigan? 19 Cunigan, yes. Α 20 Thank you. 0 21 Mr. Cunigan, did you review Spire's 2.2 meter test report? 23 Α Yes. 24 And I think that was staff Exhibit -- Staff Q 25 Exhibit 201?







|    |      | Page 99   |
|----|------|---|
| 1  | Q    | All right. So that was a programming error by       |
| 2  |      | Spire?  |
| 3  | A    | Yes.  |
| 4  | Q    | All right. Are you aware of whether that error was  |
| 5  |      | repeated with any other customers of Spire's?       |
| 6  | A    | We have a data request that had a list of customers |
| 7  |      | that suffered a similar error.                      |
| 8  | Q    | Okay.   |
| 9  | А    | I don't have the number off the top of my head.     |
| 10 | Q    | Was it more than ten?                               |
| 11 | А    | Yes.  |
| 12 | Q    | Okay. And well, strike that.                        |
| 13 |      | MR. MEYER: No further questions of this             |
| 14 |      | witness.  |
| 15 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Mr. Meyer.                |
| 16 |      | I'll turn to the commissioners then.                |
| 17 |      | Commissioner Coleman, do you have                   |
| 18 |      | any questions for this witness?                     |
| 19 |      | COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions.                 |
| 20 |      | JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Then I have some               |
| 21 |      | questions myself.                                   |
| 22 |      | EXAMINATION   |
| 23 | BY J | UDGE KEELING:                                       |
| 24 | Q    | First of all, in your investigation, did you note   |
| 25 |      | what gas consuming appliances there are at the      |
|    |      |   |



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- 1 service address and do you know the maximum gas 2 usage for those appliances? 3 Α I do not have that specific information in front of 4 I believe it was provided at some point during 5 the case though. 6 Did -- okay. Did -- did you -- did you note 7 whether those -- whether the -- the gas usage was 8 consistent with the type of -- of equipment that 9 was on the -- on the premises? 10 Α And so I believe the last witness spoke to this as 11 well, but gas usage is not just the -- dependent on 12 the type of equipment, but it would be dependent on 13 the total volume that's being heated, circulation, 14 and then one thing that wasn't brought up is 15 losses, depending on how well your building is 16 insulated, how often the doors are open, it can 17 vary widely depending on the kind of operations
- 19 facilities.

18

20 Did -- did you note the -- the existence or 0 21 shortage of air handling units in the building?

you're having in a different -- different

- 2.2 Α I did not actually visit this site.
- Did staff recalculate the bills? 23
- 24 As -- Miss Bernsen can speak a little bit Α 25 more on the actual recalculation.



Page 101 1 Is staff aware of why the -- the fix to this Q 2 problem didn't occur until after April, if --3 reading if Spire -- until after the April reading if Spire found the problem in January? 4 5 The only thing I could say would be to repeat what Α 6 the company has said, that they didn't know the 7 extent of it. But staff isn't -- we don't have any 8 additional information outside of what's been 9 provided. 10 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Thank you. That's 11 all I have. 12 I have -- do we have any recross by 13 Spire? 14 MR. ARIAS: Yes, your Honor. Hold on one 15 second. 16 EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. ARIAS: 18 Mr. Cunigan, how many complaint cases -- I guess, 19 how many meter reports have you reviewed in your 20 time with the Commission, ballpark? 21 Α That's a hard one to ballpark. I'd say less than 2.2 50. 23 Less than 50. 0 24 But -- so is the meter report that 25 you reviewed from Spire consistent with those other



| 1  | meter reports that you've reviewed?                 |
|----|---|
| 2  | A It's similar. I do gas, water and electric, so    |
| 3  | each one will have different things they're looking |
| 4  | for.  |
| 5  | MR. ARIAS: Okay. No further questions,              |
| 6  | your Honor. Thank you.                              |
| 7  | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Mr. Arias.                |
| 8  | Mr Mr. Meyer, do you have any                       |
| 9  | other questions?                                    |
| 10 | MR. MEYER: No, your Honor.                          |
| 11 | JUDGE KEELING: Okay. With that, if                  |
| 12 | there's no other questions, then I think we're      |
| 13 | done.   |
| 14 | MR. IRVING: I'm sorry, your Honor, could            |
| 15 | I redirect?   |
| 16 | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Irving, did I did                |
| 17 | I miss you? I I apologize.                          |
| 18 | MR. IRVING: No, no, I I just wanted                 |
| 19 | him   |
| 20 | JUDGE KEELING: Could you please                     |
| 21 | MR. IRVING: Yes.                                    |
| 22 | JUDGE KEELING: please proceed, yeah.                |
| 23 | MR. IRVING: Okay. I actually just have              |
| 24 | one question.                                       |
| 25 | EXAMINATION   |



| 1  | BY MR. IRVING:                                      |
|----|---|
| 2  | Q You were asked before, did you look at the meters |
| 3  | yourself, and you indicated that no, and that       |
| 4  | you relied on the information from Spire. Is this   |
| 5  | typical procedure, for staff to do that?            |
| 6  | A Yes. For most of our complaints we don't actually |
| 7  | have commission staff go out and view the meters or |
| 8  | test the meters ourselves. We rely on the company   |
| 9  | experts to do that.                                 |
| 10 | MR. IRVING: Thank you. That's all the               |
| 11 | questions I had.                                    |
| 12 | JUDGE KEELING: Thank you.                           |
| 13 | Mr. Arias, do you have anything else                |
| 14 | on top of that?                                     |
| 15 | MR. ARIAS: No, your Honor. Thank you.               |
| 16 | JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Meyer?                           |
| 17 | MR. MEYER: Nothing further.                         |
| 18 | JUDGE KEELING: Okay then. Mr. Cunigan,              |
| 19 | you are excused.                                    |
| 20 | Mr. Irving, do you have another                     |
| 21 | witness?  |
| 22 | MR. IRVING: Yes, your Honor.                        |
| 23 | At this point, I would like to call                 |
| 24 | Ms. Deborah Bernsen Bernsen. Sorry.                 |
| 25 | DEBORAH BERNSEN, called as a witness                |



**Evidentiary Hearing** Page 104 1 herein, having been first duly sworn on oath, was 2 examined and testified as follows: 3 JUDGE KEELING: Proceed. 4 Excuse me. Before we do proceed, I 5 would like to -- I would like to congratulate you 6 on your upcoming retirement and thank you for your 7 years of service with the Commission. 8 Chairman Rupp sent down a note to make sure that 9 we -- that we mentioned that and -- and I second 10 that. And thank you very much. 11 So --12 Thank you. This is my --THE WITNESS: 13 this is my last time testifying. 14 JUDGE KEELING: Very good. 15 Mr. Irving, proceed. 16 All right. Thank you, your MR. IRVING: 17 Honor. 18 EXAMINATION 19 BY MR. IRVING: 20 Ms. Bernsen, could you please state -- could you 21 please state your full name and your last -- and 2.2 spell your last name for the record. 23 Yes. Deborah Ann Bernsen. Last name is 24



It was mentioned that you are in the process

B-E-R-N-S-E-N.

Okay.

25

Q

| 1  |   | Page 105 of retiring and this is your last testimony. How |
|----|---|---|
| 2  |   | long have you been employed by the Commission, if         |
| 3  |   | you don't mind me asking that?                            |
| 4  | A | Let's just say over 40 years.                             |
| 5  | Q | Okay.   |
| 6  |   | All right. What is your job title?                        |
| 7  | А | My job title is senior research data analyst.             |
| 8  | Q | Okay. Are you the same Deborah Bernsen that caused        |
| 9  |   | to be prepared testimony in staff's report?               |
| 10 | А | Yes, I am.  |
| 11 | Q | Okay. Do you have any corrections to your staff           |
| 12 |   | report at this time?                                      |
| 13 | A | No, I do not.   |
| 14 | Q | Okay. Is the information contained in your staff          |
| 15 |   | report true and correct to your best information          |
| 16 |   | and belief?   |
| 17 | A | Yes, it is.   |
| 18 | Q | Okay.   |
| 19 |   | MR. IRVING: Your Honor, I would like to                   |
| 20 |   | admit into the record Ms. Bernsen's staff report,         |
| 21 |   | which is Exhibit 2,000 or, I'm sorry, 200                 |
| 22 |   | Exhibit 200 and C, 200C.                                  |
| 23 |   | JUDGE KEELING: 200C?                                      |
| 24 |   | MR. IRVING: Yes. One's public and                         |
| 25 |   | 200 is public and Exhibit 200C is confidential.           |



1 Is there any objection to JUDGE KEELING: 2 the admission of -- of the staff report, Staff's 3 Exhibit 200C? 4 No, your Honor. MR. MEYER: 5 MR. ARIAS: No objection -- no objection 6 from Spire. 7 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Okay. So Staff's 8 Exhibit 200C is received on the record, and C 9 signifies that that is a confidential document. 10 Please take note of that and treat that 11 accordingly. 12 (Exhibit 200C received into evidence.) 13 MR. IRVING: Okay. I would also like to 14 -- to submit staff report -- Exhibit 200 as well, 15 which is staff report -- which is a public staff 16 report. 17 JUDGE KEELING: Are there any objections to the admission of -- of Staff Exhibit 200, which 18 19 is the public report? 20 MR. MEYER: No objection. 21 MR. ARIAS: No objection. JUDGE KEELING: Staff Exhibit -- Staff 2.2 23 Exhibit 200 is received into evidence. 24 (Exhibit 200 received into evidence) 25 MR. IRVING: At this time, I would like

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to tender the witness for cross examination.

2 JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Arias?

MR. ARIAS: Thank you, your Honor.

4 EXAMINATION.

- 5 BY MR. ARIAS:
- 6 0 Ms. Bernsen?
- 7 A Bernsen.
- 8 Q Bernsen. First, congratulations.
- 9 A Thank you.
- 10 | Q Are you familiar with the -- in your experience,
- are you familiar with the Commission's customer
- 12 service rules?
- 13 A Yes, I am.
- 14 | Q And I think that's Chapter 13; is that correct?
- 15 A Chapter 13 applies to residential customers.
- 16 Q Okay. Okay. Thank you.
- Do commission rules allow Spire to
- 18 | rebill customers for over and underbilled natural
- 19 | gas usage?
- 20 A Commission rules do allow that. Specifically the
- 21 tariffs in this case for a large gas -- this --
- 22 this company is considered an LGS customer, and so
- 23 there are specific tariffs that apply to that
- 24 regarding rebilling customers.
- 25 Q Okay. And those are the Spire Missouri's tariffs?

Page 108 1 Those are. Α 2 And they are on file with the Commission? 0 3 Α They are. And are those tariffs approved by -- or are those 4 5 tariffs reviewed by staff prior to Commission 6 approval? 7 Yes, they are. Although I am not the individual Α 8 that reviews them. 9 Nope, that's okay. 0 10 And -- and leading into my next 11 question, does the Commission approve Spire 12 Missouri's tariffs? Yes, they do. 13 Α 14 Thank you. Okay. Q 15 And I don't know if you've 16 officially said this, but do Spire Missouri's 17 tariffs in this case allow Spire to rebill 18 customers for over or underbilled natural gas 19 usage? 20 The rules, and I think they were noted Α earlier, but I can recite them if you wish, is 21 22 specifically -- in terms of the -- the 23 rebilling, the ability to rebill if there's been a problem or over -- underbill or overbill, they can 24



rebill, and that's under the rules and regulations

25

Page 109 1 PSC MO No. 9, Sheet No. R-8-R8.2. It addresses the 2 ability to rebill. 3 Q Thank you. And turning to my next question, do 4 5 commission rules require that Spire alert customer 6 -- actually, let me back that up. 7 I -- you had made a series of 8 recommendations on how Spire can improve their 9 customer contacts; is that correct? 10 I did. Α 11 Do commission rules require Spire Missouri to alert 0 12 customers to issues necessitating a rebill ahead of 13 the rebill date? 14 I don't believe that the tariff specifically Α 15 addresses that. 16 Q Okay. Thank you. 17 And Mr. Cunigan noted that you had 18 performed a rebill -- a -- a recalculation of the 19 -- the rebilling that the company performed; is 20 that correct? 21 I did look over the usage and wanted to be sure 2.2 that they had used the correct rates in effect at 23 the time, so I did run through those -- those 24 calculations and they appeared to be using the 25 correct tariff sheets.



| 1  | Q | Page 110 And that's to calculate the amount the the |  |  |
|----|---|---|--|--|
| 2  |   | Spire Missouri used the correct tariff sheets to    |  |  |
| 3  |   | calculate the rebill for the natural gas usage it   |  |  |
| 4  |   | is saying the customer used from the period of      |  |  |
| 5  |   | November 24, 2021 to April 12, 2022?                |  |  |
| 6  | A | I checked those to make sure that the dollar        |  |  |
| 7  |   | amounts   |  |  |
| 8  | Q | The dollar amounts, yes.                            |  |  |
| 9  | A | and that they were reflected accurately in the      |  |  |
| 10 |   | rebill.   |  |  |
| 11 | Q | And and just one more time, the answer to that      |  |  |
| 12 |   | question is yes?                                    |  |  |
| 13 | A | Yes.  |  |  |
| 14 | Q | Thank you.  |  |  |
| 15 |   | MR. ARIAS: No further questions from                |  |  |
| 16 |   | Spire. Thank you.                                   |  |  |
| 17 |   | MR. MEYER: No questions, your Honor.                |  |  |
| 18 |   | JUDGE KEELING: I'm sorry, I was out.                |  |  |
| 19 |   | Let me repeat that.                                 |  |  |
| 20 |   | Mr. Meyer, do you have any                          |  |  |
| 21 |   | questions?  |  |  |
| 22 |   | MR. MEYER: Pardon me. No questions,                 |  |  |
| 23 |   | your Honor.   |  |  |
| 24 |   | JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Thank you.                     |  |  |
| 25 |   | If if there's no cross by                           |  |  |





any questions?

| company to see if it can further improve its        |
|---|
| practices when these kinds of things occur. They    |
| did follow the rules on what they were to do, but   |
| we think these kind of situations can bring forth   |
| maybe we need to look at this again and see if      |
| we can do some improvement in in trying to help     |
| the customer understand. There was a lot of         |
| contact between the customer and the company and    |
| this is you know, it is a difficult thing to        |
| understand. I think they attempted very well to     |
| to explain it. But I think we can look at these     |
| things afterwards and say could we have done things |
| a little differently, and so that is the purpose of |
| our recommendations. And in order for that to       |
| actually happen, we are asking that the Commission  |
| request the company to actually look at making some |
| improvements to that process, if it were to happen  |
| again, you'd be prepared, and also to report to     |
| staff or in the filing or whatever method they deem |
| appropriate, what your actions were and what the    |
| results were.                                       |
| MR. IRVING: Thank you. I have no other              |
| questions at this point.                            |
| JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Arias, do you have               |

1 No other questions, your MR. ARIAS: 2 Honor. Thank you. 3 JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Meyer? 4 MR. MEYER: No other questions. 5 Well, then that is --JUDGE KEELING: 6 that is the end of our -- end of our witnesses, and 7 that's -- I guess now we need to make sure that all 8 of our -- of our exhibits have been entered. 9 Mr. Meyer, I have it that you -- you submitted and -- and the Commission received 10 11 Exhibits 1 through 17; is that correct? 12 That is correct, your Honor. MR. MEYER: 13 JUDGE KEELING: Mr. Arias, I have that --14 that Spire submitted Exhibits 101, 102 and 103, and 15 those were received on the record; is that correct? 16 MR. ARIAS: That's -- that's correct, 17 your Honor. 18 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. 19 Mr. Irving, I have that staff has 20 submitted and -- Exhibits 200, 200C and 201, and 21 those were -- those were admitted; is that correct? 2.2 MR. IRVING: That is correct. 23 JUDGE KEELING: Good. There won't be any 24 late filings then. And --25 Are there any other matters that

1 need to be addressed before we adjourn? 2 MR. MEYER: None from complainant, your 3 Honor. 4 MR. ARIAS: Just briefly -- just -- I 5 guess just for scheduling purposes, are -- are --6 are we filing briefs, is that still the --7 JUDGE KEELING: Yeah. We -- we --8 MR. ARIAS: I have it on -- it's on the 9 schedule, I think, but I just --10 JUDGE KEELING: It is on the schedule for 11 June 7. 12 June 7. Okay. And we can MR. ARIAS: 13 expect the transcripts -- is it ten days; is that 14 correct? 15 JUDGE KEELING: I think ten days is a 16 reasonable estimate. 17 MR. ARIAS: Okay. Great. No, thank you. 18 JUDGE KEELING: So the transcript should 19 be filed on or about May 20, 2023. The proposed 20 procedural schedule filed by the parties indicates 21 an agreement to limit briefing to a single round, 2.2 so we'll file simultaneous briefs, due by June 7 23 without reply briefs. 24 Any questions or comments? 25 MR. ARIAS: None from Spire. Thank you,

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 1
     your Honor.
                                   Hearing none, this
 2
                 JUDGE KEELING:
     hearing is adjourned.
 3
           (Hearing adjourned at 11:50 a.m.)
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Page 116 1 STATE OF WISCONSIN ) ) SS: 2 DANE COUNTY ) 3 I, Shelly Loniello, Registered 4 5 Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for 6 the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the 7 preceding hearing was recorded by me and reduced to writing under my personal direction. 8 I further certify that said hearing 9 10 was taken remotely, on the 10th day of May, 2023, 11 commencing at 9:15 a.m. 12 I further certify that I am not a 13 relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any 14 of the parties, or a relative or employee of such 15 attorney or counsel, or financially interested, 16 directly or indirectly, in this action. 17 In witness whereof, I have hereunto 18 set my hand and affixed my seal of office on this 19 18th day of May, 2.0 21 SHELLY LONIELLO, RPR 2.2 Notary Public 23 My commission expires July 01, 2025. 24 25



May 10, 2023Index: \$1,306.47..2022

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