

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s d/b/a)
Spire Request for Authority to Implement a) **File No. GR-2021-0108**
General Rate Increase for Natural Gas) Tracking No. YG-2022-0151
Service Provided in the Company's)
Missouri Service Areas)

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION, SHORTENING TIME FOR RESPONSES, AND DIRECTING THE PARTIES MEET AND CONFER

Issue Date: November 22, 2021

Effective Date: November 22, 2021

On October 27, 2021,¹ the Commission issued a *Report and Order*. On November 3, the Commission issued its *Order Providing Clarification to Report and Order and Delegating Authority* (Clarification Order).

On November 10, Spire Missouri filed a tariff purporting to be in compliance with the Commission's October 27 *Report and Order*.² Spire Missouri did not state whether the tariff also complies with the Commission's November 3 Clarification Order. The submitted tariff carries a 30-day effective date of December 10. Spire Missouri did not request expedited treatment. Nevertheless, the Commission directed an expedited review by the Staff of the Commission (Staff), with Staff's recommendation or a request for an extension due by November 19. The Commission also directed any objections to the compliance tariffs be submitted by November 19.

On November 12, the Commission issued its *Amended Report and Order*. On November 17, Spire Missouri filed substitute tariff sheets. Spire Missouri did not file a transmittal letter or other pleading explaining the changes in its substitute tariff sheets.

¹ All dates refer to 2021 unless otherwise stated.

² There are two rehearing or reconsideration motions pending, both filed on November 19. Those motions will be addressed in a separate order.

On November 19, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) filed objections to the compliance tariff. Also on November 19, Vicinity Energy Kansas City, Inc. (Vicinity) and Midwest Energy Consumers Group (MECG) filed objections to the compliance tariff. OPC's filed objections noted potential issues with capital structure and the Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider (WNAR). Vicinity and MECG allege that Spire Missouri's submitted compliance tariffs do not include changes from a Partial Stipulation and Agreement filed on July 30.

On November 19, Staff filed a request for an extension of time to submit its recommendation regarding the substituted compliance tariffs. As of November 19, Staff's recommendation, if given, would have been that Spire Missouri's filed tariff did not comply with the *Amended Report and Order*. Staff's extension motion also notes that Spire Missouri's substitute compliance tariffs filed on November 17 were not a refiling of all tariff sheets required for compliance. Staff argues that its requested extension will allow Spire Missouri additional time to correct and refile its compliance tariffs, as well as allow further review by Staff. Staff requests an extension to, and including, November 30.

For efficiency, the Commission recommends Spire Missouri respond to the objections of OPC, Vicinity, and MECG via a second substitute compliance tariff. With any refiling of its compliance tariff, the Commission will direct that Spire Missouri include a pleading explaining how the objections have been addressed. Whether Spire Missouri responds via a second substitute compliance tariff or by responsive pleadings, the Commission will shorten the timeframe for Spire Missouri to respond.

OPC's objection filing asks the Commission to direct the parties to meet and work together. Staff's request for an extension of time mentions that Spire Missouri may be

correcting and refiling a compliance tariff. The Commission will direct the parties to meet and confer to assist Spire Missouri in filing its compliance tariffs. The Commission finds reasonable the extension of time request by Staff, and will grant it. The Commission will set a separate deadline for responses to Staff's recommendation.

The Commission notes that if an acceptable compliance tariff cannot be approved for the December 10 proposed effective date, then the Commission will have no choice but to issue a separate order suspending the tariff and scheduling a procedural conference to determine next steps.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. On or before November 23, Spire Missouri shall contact counsel for Staff and OPC to coordinate a meeting time regarding the compliance tariffs. The Commission orders a minimum of one meeting in this regard.

2. On or before November 24, Spire Missouri shall file a response to the objections of OPC, Vicinity and MEEG. If Spire Missouri files a second substitute compliance tariff, Spire Missouri shall also file an accompanying pleading explaining how the objections discussed in the body of this order have been addressed.

3. On or before November 30, Staff shall file a recommendation as directed in the body of this order, or a request for additional time if needed.

4. Any party wishing to file a response to Staff's recommendation shall do so before on or before December 3.

5. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Regulatory Law Judge,
By delegation of authority pursuant
To Section 386.240, RSMo (2016).

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
On the 22nd day of November, 2021.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 22nd day of November, 2021.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

November 22, 2021

File/Case No. GR-2021-0108

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.