

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of an Investigation into)
Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire's)
Compliance with The Commission's) **File No. GS-2022-0047**
Rules Regarding Natural Gas Safety)
Found at 20 CSR 4240-40.030)

PROGRESS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and in response to the Commission's April 27, 2023 *Order Directing Additional Report* states:

1. On August 24, 2021, Staff filed a motion requesting that the Commission open a case to investigate Spire Missouri d/b/a Spire's ("Spire Missouri") compliance with the Commission's rules regarding natural gas safety found at 20 CSR 4240-40.030.
2. On September 1, 2021, the Commission granted Staff's motion and ordered Staff to file a progress report regarding its investigation no later than February 28, 2022.
3. On February 28, 2022, Staff filed a progress report regarding its investigation and requesting additional time to complete its investigation. Staff's progress report requested a due date of no later than June 24, 2022 to file its report, or report on the progress of Staff's investigation.
4. On February 28, 2022, the Commission ordered Staff to file either a report regarding its investigation, or a report on the investigation's progress, no later than June 24, 2022.
5. On June 23, 2022, Staff filed a progress report regarding its investigation and requesting additional time to complete its investigation. Staff's progress report

requested a due date of no later than October 28, 2022 to file its report, or report on the progress of Staff's investigation.

6. On June 23, 2022, the Commission ordered Staff to file either a report regarding its investigation, or a report on the investigation's progress, no later than October 28, 2022.

7. On October 27, 2022, Staff filed a progress report regarding its investigation and requesting additional time to complete its investigation. Staff's progress report requested a due date of no later than April 28, 2023 to file its report, or report on the progress of Staff's investigation.

8. On October 28, 2022, the Commission ordered Staff to file either a report regarding its investigation, or a report on the investigation's progress, no later than April 28, 2023.

9. On April 28, 2023, Staff filed a progress report regarding its investigation and requesting additional time to complete its investigation. Staff's progress report requested a due date of no later than July 12, 2023 to file its investigation report.

10. On April 28, 2023, the Commission ordered Staff to file either a report regarding its investigation, or a report on the investigation's progress, no later than July 12, 2023.

11. Staff has continued conducting discovery in this matter. Since Staff's progress report filed on April 28, 2023, Staff has submitted and reviewed Spire Missouri's responses to data requests (DRs) related to a) potential leaks on mechanical and heat fusion plastic pipe joints completed by joiners with lapsed qualifications, b) Spire Missouri's typical remedy process for joints installed by joiners with lapsed qualifications,

c) covered tasks related to leak cause determinations, d) testing of failed joints that may have been completed by joiners with lapsed qualifications, e) lapsed heat fusion joiner qualifications, and f) previously identified leak indications that have been repaired or eliminated.

12. Since Staff's progress report filed April 28, 2023, Staff performed one field inspection in the Spire Missouri East operating area, which included reviews of plastic pipe joiner qualification records as part of construction inspections. Staff's review of plastic pipe joiner qualification records during this construction inspection covered the specific individuals observed completing joints on Spire Missouri's facilities.

13. At Staff's request, a survey of other state pipeline safety programs was conducted to inquire if similar compliance issues have been identified by other states during their inspection of distribution systems under their respective jurisdictions, and corresponding corrective actions.

14. Staff requires additional time to finalize its investigation report. Staff will use this additional time to finish drafting its report, submit its report for internal review, provide to Spire Missouri for review a detailed description of the facts that are to be included in Staff's report, receive and review Spire Missouri's identification of confidential information and feedback on the report's facts section, and incorporate Spire Missouri's feedback into Staff's report as appropriate. Staff requests a due date of no later than October 27, 2023 to file its investigation report.

WHEREFORE, for the above-stated reasons, Staff requests that the Commission order Staff to file a report regarding its investigation no later than October 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Jamie S. Myers

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to Spire Missouri, Inc., and The Office of the Public Counsel on this 11th day of July, 2023.

/s/ Jamie S. Myers