

**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 Rules Regarding Natural) **File No. GS-2022-0261**
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, in response to the Commission’s April 6, 2022 *Order Opening an Investigation*, and for its Progress Report states:

1. On March 29, 2022, Staff filed a motion requesting that the Commission open a case to investigate Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire’s (“Spire Missouri”) compliance with the Commission’s rules regarding the Commission’s gas safety rules, specifically related to the timeliness of Spire Missouri’s efforts to locate and mark its natural gas pipelines to prevent damage to those pipelines by excavators.

2. On April 6, 2022, the Commission granted Staff’s motion and ordered Staff to file a progress report regarding its investigation no later than October 6, 2022.

3. Staff continues conducting discovery in this matter. Staff has submitted data requests (DRs) to Spire Missouri related to a) Spire Missouri’s contract documents with parties contracted to locate Spire Missouri’s underground facilities; b) Spire Missouri’s expectations and challenges related to compliance with Section 319.030, RSMo.; c) Spire Missouri’s procedures related to preventing and determining causes of excavation damages; d) Measures Spire Missouri has taken to evaluate and address risks associated with excavation damages; e) Training and qualification of individuals assigned to locate and mark Spire Missouri’s underground facilities;

f) Spire Missouri's oversight and audits of individuals tasked with locating Spire Missouri's underground facilities; g) Current and historical data regarding Spire Missouri's timeliness of locating and marking its facilities; and h) Staffing levels for individuals assigned to locate and mark Spire Missouri's underground facilities. Staff anticipates that following analysis of Spire Missouri's responses, further discovery may be required.

4. Staff reviewed and discussed the current on-time performance for locating Spire Missouri's facilities with Spire personnel in the Spire Missouri East service area during a routine safety inspection conducted at Spire Missouri's office in St. Louis on May 10-13, 2022. The locating timeliness continued to be at the decreased level that existed when Staff opened this case, and Staff again requested that Spire Missouri East take actions to improve the locate timeliness.

5. Staff requires additional time to complete its investigation and finalize its investigation report. Staff will use this time to submit additional DRs, review Spire Missouri's responses, review survey responses from other state programs, draft its report, submit its report to internal review, and receive and review Spire Missouri's identification of confidential information and feedback on the report's facts section. Staff requests a due date of no later than January 11, 2023 to file a report on the progress of Staff's investigation.

WHEREFORE, for the above-stated reasons, Staff requests that the Commission order Staff to file a report regarding its investigation, or a report on the investigation's progress, no later than January 11, 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 5th day of October, 2022.

/s/ Jamie S. Myers