# STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

	At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its Office in Jefferson City, Missouri on the 14 <sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.
In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc.'s	)
Request to Increase Its Revenues for	) <mark>File No. GR-2017-0215</mark>
Gas Service	)
In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc.'s	)
Request to Increase Its Revenues for	) <mark>File No. GR-2017-0216</mark>
Gas Service	)

### ORDER ON REMAND

Issue Date: July 14, 2021 Effective Date: August 13, 2021

On April 11, 2017, Laclede Gas Company and Laclede Gas Company d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy, now collectively known as Spire Missouri Inc. (Spire), filed revised tariffs requesting a general rate increase. The Commission issued its *Amended Report and Order* on March 7, 2018. Appeals of the Commission's *Amended Report and Order* followed. On February 9, 2021, the Supreme Court of Missouri issued its opinion¹ remanding part of the Commission's March 7, 2018 *Amended Report and Order* concerning the treatment of Spire's pension asset for its Spire East service area.² The Commission was ordered "to add the \$9 million in pension assets that accrued between 1994 and 1996 to Spire East's \$131.4 million prepaid pension assets" and to hold further proceedings consistent with the Court's opinion.4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc., f/k/a Laclede Gas Company v. Missouri Public Service Commission, Case No. SC97834, Opinion (issued Feb. 9, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Spire East service area is the former Laclede Gas Company service area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc., f/k/a Laclede Gas Company v. Missouri Public Service Commission, Case No. SC97834, Opinion (issued Feb. 9, 2021), page 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 19.

On December 11, 2020, Spire filed a tariff and testimony initiating a general rate case in File No. GR-2021-0108. As part of that case, the Staff of the Commission filed testimony suggesting the pension asset remand should be included in the current rate case calculations. The Commission directed Spire and Staff to provide recommendations regarding the procedure the Commission should follow to comply with the Court's opinion and mandate. The Commission also set a date allowing any other party to provide recommendations.

Staff and Spire filed a joint recommendation on June 23, 2021. Staff and Spire recommended that the Commission comply with the Court's mandate by factoring the remanded amount into the final determination for the general rate case in File No. GR-2021-0108. Staff and Spire stated that doing so would prevent the need for an additional proceeding related to the past rate case and would ensure that Spire recovers the lost amount of the pension asset. No other recommendations were received.

The Commission has considered the recommendation provided by Staff and Spire and will follow that recommendation. In compliance with the Court's mandate, the Commission finds that the approximately \$9 million<sup>6</sup> that is the subject of the Court's remand will be considered in the current Spire rate case, File No. GR-2021-0108.

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

 In compliance with the Court's remand, in the Commission will consider the approximately \$9 million pension asset for Spire East in the current Spire rate case, File No. GR-2021-0108.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s d/b/a Spire Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service Provided in the Company's Missouri Service Areas, File No. GR-2021-0108, Staff Report – Cost of Service, pages 41-42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The actual amount is \$8,961,548.

- 2. This order shall be effective on August 13, 2021.
- 3. These files shall close on August 14, 2021.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman, and

Kolkmeyer CC., concur.

Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

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Morris L. Woodruff

**Secretary** 

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION July 14, 2021

#### File/Case No. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216

### Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff Counsel Department 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 staffcounselservice@psc.mo.gov

### Office of the Public Counsel

Marc Poston 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 opcservice@opc.mo.gov

#### City of St. Joseph, Missouri

William D Steinmeier 2031 Tower Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 wds@wdspc.com

#### **Consumers Council of Missouri**

John B Coffman 871 Tuxedo Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63119-2044 john@johncoffman.net

#### **Environmental Defense Fund**

Natalie Karas 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW Washington, DC 20009-2000 nkaras@edf.org

#### **Environmental Defense Fund**

Maxine Lipeles 1 Brookings Dr - CB 1120 St. Louis, MO 63130-4899 milipele@wustl.edu

#### **Environmental Defense Fund**

David R Wooley 436 14th Street, Suite 1305 Oakland, CA 94612 dwooley@kfwlaw.com

# Kansas City Power & Light Company

Robert Hack 1200 Main, 19th Floor P.O. Box 418679 Kansas City, MO 64141-9679 rob.hack@evergy.com

# Kansas City Power & Light Company

Roger W Steiner 1200 Main Street, 16th Floor P.O. Box 418679 Kansas City, MO 64105-9679 roger.steiner@evergy.com

# KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company

Robert Hack 1200 Main, 19th Floor P.O. Box 418679 Kansas City, MO 64141-9679 rob.hack@evergy.com

### KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company

Roger W Steiner 1200 Main Street, 16th Floor P.O. Box 418679 Kansas City, MO 64105-9679 roger.steiner@evergy.com

### **Midwest Energy Consumers Group**

David Woodsmall 308 E. High Street, Suite 204 Jefferson City, MO 65101 david.woodsmall@woodsmalllaw.com

#### Missouri Division of Energy

Brian T Bear 301 W. High St., Room 680 P.O. Box 1766 Jefferson City, MO 65102 bbear.deenergycases@ded.mo.gov

# Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers (MIEC)

Lewis Mills 221 Bolivar Street, Suite 101 Jefferson City, MO 65101-1574 lewis.mills@bclplaw.com

# Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers (MIEC)

Diana M Plescia 130 S. Bemiston, Suite 200 St. Louis, MO 63105 dplescia@chgolaw.com

# Missouri Public Service Commission

Mark Johnson 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 mark.johnson@psc.mo.gov

# Missouri Public Service Commission

Whitney Payne 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 whitney.payne@psc.mo.gov

# Missouri School Boards' Association

Richard S Brownlee III 121 Madison Jefferson City, MO 65101 rbrownlee@rsblobby.com

#### **MoGas Pipeline LLC**

Terry M Jarrett 514 E. High Street, Suite 22 Jefferson City, MO 65101 terry@healylawoffices.com

#### Spire

James M Fischer 101 Madison Street, Suite 400 Jefferson City, MO 65101 jfischerpc@aol.com

#### USW Local 11-6

Sherrie Hall 710 South Kirkwood Road Kirkwood, MO 63122 sherrie@spectorwolfe.com

#### **National Housing Trust**

Andrew J Linhares 3115 S. Grand Ave Suite 600 St. Louis, MO 63118 Andrew@renewmo.org

#### Spire

Michael C Pendergast 423 Main Street St. Charles, MO 63301 mcp2015law@icloud.com

### **USW Local 11-6**

Emily Perez 13205 Manchester Rd. Suite 210 St. Louis, MO 63131 eperez@hammondshinners.com

#### Spire

Larry W Dority 101 Madison, Suite 400 813 Primrose Lane Jefferson City, MO 65101 lwdority@sprintmail.com

#### Spire

Rick E Zucker 14412 White Pine Ridge Ln Chesterfield, MO 63017-6301 zuckerlaw21@gmail.com

orris I Woodw

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

Sincerely,

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.