

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

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**  
Tracking No. YG-2021-0133

**ORDER DENYING APPLICATION TO INTERVENE**

Issue Date: February 10, 2021

Effective Date: February 20, 2021

Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire submitted tariff sheets on December 11, 2020, to implement a general rate increase for natural gas service. On December 23, 2020, the Commission provided notice of Spire's application and set a deadline of January 12, 2021, for applications to intervene.

On January 25, 2021, Missouri Propane Gas Association (MPGA) late-filed an application to intervene. MPGA stated that it is a not-for-profit trade association representing local propane provider members and affiliated businesses who sell propane or propane appliances and equipment. MPGA stated its interests are different than those of the general public in that its members compete with natural gas utilities for customers, and as such its members may be affected by a final order in this proceeding. MPGA indicates that it objects to Spire's proposed Growing Missouri Program on market competition grounds.

On February 4, 2021, Spire objected to MPGA's application to intervene. Spire argues the application to intervene does not show an interest different from that of the

general public, or an interest which may be adversely affected by a final order in this proceeding. Spire also stated that the public interest would not be served by the application to intervene. Spire defended its Growing Missouri Program and stated that the program would not interfere with market competition. On February 8, 2021, MPGA responded to Spire's objection. MPGA asserted that approval of its intervention request would be in the public interest.

Applications to intervene are governed by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.075, which in subsection (3) requires either: a showing of an interest different than that of the general public which may be adversely affected by a final order; or a showing that granting the intervention would serve the public interest. Late-filed applications are addressed in subsection (10), which provides in part, "Motions to intervene...filed after the intervention date may be granted upon a showing of good cause."

MPGA has not included a statement explaining why there is good cause to accept its late-filed motion. In its application to intervene, MPGA stated that it acted as expeditiously as possible, but did not provide a reason to support its statement.<sup>1</sup> In its later response, MPGA again stated that it acted as expeditiously as possible to submit the application to intervene upon learning of Spire's application, but again did not explain why it was late.<sup>2</sup> Without an explanation as to why the application to intervene was late-filed and upon which the Commission could base a finding of good cause, the Commission cannot find good cause exists to allow the late intervention. The Commission will deny MPGA's application to intervene.

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<sup>1</sup> Application to Intervene Out of Time of the Missouri Propane Gas Association, filed January 25, 2021, ¶¶ 4 and 9.

<sup>2</sup> Missouri Propane Gas Association's Reply to Spire Missouri Inc.'s Response to the Missouri Propane Gas Association's Application to Intervene Out of Time, filed February 8, 2021, ¶ 6.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The application to intervene of MPGA is denied.
2. This order shall be effective February 20, 2021.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

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

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and  
Holsman CC., concur.

Hatcher, Regulatory Law Judge