BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc's Motion for Expedited Treatment of its Low-Income Tariff Filing to Expand its Low-Income Energy Affordability Program

Case No.

<u>SPIRE MISSOURI INC.'S MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT</u> OF LOW-INCOME TARIFF FILING

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. ("Spire Missouri" or "Company"), on behalf of its operating units, Spire Missouri East ("Spire East") and Spire Missouri West ("Spire West") and, pursuant to Commission Rules 20 CSR 4240-2.065(2) and 20 CSR 4240-3.080(14) files this Motion for Expedited Treatment of its low-income tariff filing. In support thereof, Spire Missouri respectfully states as follows:

1. In April of this year, the Commission approved a modification to Spire Missouri's low-income tariff in response to the rapidly spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. COVID-19 has impacted the health and economy of Missourians in ways that have been devastating for some. In an effort to support its customers, Spire Missouri revised its low-income tariff in April to devote \$940,000 of funding towards customers impacted by COVID-19. However, eligibility for those funds was restricted to customers within 136-185% of the Federal Poverty Level. At the time, customers within 0-135% of the Federal Poverty Level were eligible for LIHEAP funding. Now that LIHEAP is no longer available to help cover the costs of natural gas bills, those customers within 0-135% of the Federal Poverty Level have limited options to help pay their gas bill. In order to assist a broader base of customers, Spire Missouri is revising its low-income tariff so that the Company may make funding available to eligible customers within 0-185% of the Federal Poverty Level. Spire is also modifying its low-income assistance program to extend assistance from July

31, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

2. Given the current lack of funding for those customers within 0-135% of the federal poverty level, along with the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the need to implement on a timely basis, the Company submits that there is good cause to approve its tariff filing on an expedited basis and respectfully requests that the Commission approve its tariff filing filed on this same date by no later than July 8, 2020 so the tariff may go into effect by July 18, 2020.

3. Spire Missouri submits that harm will be avoided by expedited approval of the application by permitting low income customers access to energy assistance funding on a timely basis. At the same time, there will be no negative impact on other customers or the general public if the Commission grants such relief. For all of these reasons, Spire Missouri submits that there is good cause for the Commission to approve its motion for expedited treatment and companion tariff sheets no later than July 8, 2020.

4. This pleading was filed as soon as it could have been following the Company's formulation of this initiate for helping its customers in this time of need.

5. Spire Missouri has discussed this application for a variance with the Commission Staff. Spire Missouri has also discussed this application with the Office of the Public Counsel and OPC has stated that they have no objection to the relief requested herein.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Spire Missouri, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion for expedited treatment as described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/Goldie T. Bockstruck</u>

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ATTORNEY FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing pleading has been duly served upon the General Counsel of the Staff and on the Office of the Public Counsel by hand delivery, email, fax, or United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 2nd day of July, 2020.

<u>/s/Goldíe T. Bockstruck</u>