BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc's Motion for) Expedited Treatment of its COVID-19 Residential) Assistance Program Tariff Filing)

File No. GO-2021-0115

<u>SPIRE MISSOURI INC.'S MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT</u> <u>OF ITS SECOND REVISED COVID-19</u> <u>RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TARIFF FILING</u>

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 Second Revised COVID-19 Residential Assistance Program Tariff Filing. In support thereof, Spire Missouri respectfully states as follows:

1. In October 2020, the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") approved Spire Missouri's Covid-19 Residential Program Tariff. The Program was designed to provide some economic relief to those Spire customers who have either lost their jobs, been furloughed, or lost income since March 1, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program was formulated through collaboration with interested stakeholders as part of the Unanimous Settlement Agreement reached in the Company's COVID-19 accounting authority order case (Case No. GU-2020-0376). Under the program, eligible customers receive \$100 upon enrollment, and in addition, the Company contributes a dollar for dollar match of up to \$300 towards a customer's past due bills.

2. Per the currently approved tariffs, the Program ends on May 31, 2021. Given the ongoing financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company is also amending its tariff to extend the program an additional month, from May 31, 2021, to June 30, 2021.

1

3. Since the program ends under the tariff on May 31, 2021, and given the national financial crisis still facing many of the Company's customers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a 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 so the tariff may go into effect by June 1, 2021 or as soon as administratively possible.

4. Spire Missouri submits that harm will be avoided by expedited approval of the application by permitting the Company's qualified residential customers continued 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 so the tariff may go into effect by June 1, 2021 or as soon as administratively possible.

5. The Staff of the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel have reviewed the Company's proposed tariff and have stated no objection.

6. This pleading was filed as soon as it could have been following Spire's assessment of the Program and necessary tariff changes.

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>

Goldie T. Bockstruck #58759 Director, Associate General Counsel Spire Missouri Inc. 700 Market Street, 6th Floor St. Louis, MO 63101 314-342-0533 Office (Bockstruck) 314-421-1979 Fax

2

Goldie.Bockstruck@spireenergy.com

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 24th day of May, 2021.

<u>/s/Goldíe T. Bockstruck</u>