

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc’s)
d/b/a Spire’s Proposed Tariff Sheet)
Filings) Case No. GT-2021-0099
)

**SPIRE MISSOURI INC.’S MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT
OF ITS COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL 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 4240-2.080(14) files this Motion for Expedited Treatment of its Commercial and Industrial Rebate Tariff Filing in order to allocate unspent FY20 commercial and industrial rebate funds towards the Company’s small business COVID-19 relief program. In support thereof, Spire Missouri respectfully states as follows:

1. In March 2020, businesses across the nation have been forced to either temporarily cease operations or reduce operating hours and capacity due to the rapidly spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. More recently, as the pandemic has surged across the state, additional restrictions have been placed on restaurants. In St. Louis County, County Executive Sam Page issued a public health order, effective November 17th ceasing indoor dining at restaurants and bars. While outdoor dining is not prohibited under the order, the fast approaching winter weather will likely impact businesses who have been relying on outdoor dining as not only a safer dining option for its customers, but also a needed source of revenue.

2. A recent study conducted by Spire of its small general service class customers shows that 98% of its SGS customers have been impacted by COVID-19. Unfortunately, without

economic assistance, some small businesses either have or will be forced to close permanently. Prior to the pandemic, small businesses such as restaurants, made up approximately half of the private sector jobs and play a significant role in the state of Missouri's economy. In an effort to assist small businesses in maintaining operations and avoiding permanent closure of these businesses, Spire Missouri has revised its commercial and industrial tariff in order to allocate approximately \$500,000 in unspent FY20 commercial and industrial rebate funds towards Spire's eligible small business customers who have been struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the program eligible small business customers may receive a recurring bill credit of \$100 for up to five months. Funding will be available to these customers until the unspent FY20 commercial and industrial rebate funds have been depleted or September 30, 2021- whichever occurs first. These funds will not only help small businesses stay afloat, but will also inure to the benefit of the Missouri citizens these businesses will continue to employ as they remain in operation.

3. The tariffs accompanying this filing closely mirrors the tariffs filed by the Company in JG-2021-0090 and JG-2021-0091 on September 30, 2020. Case GT-2021-0099 was opened to create a docketed case so that Staff, and any other interested parties, could have further opportunity to review the requested changes. After discussion with the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), those tariffs have been withdrawn, and new tariffs submitted. These newly filed tariffs reflect input from Staff.

4. Given the current lack of funding for small business customers, the additional restrictions that have been placed on restaurants across the state, along with the economic impacts of COVID-19 that threaten the sustainability of small businesses 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 December 2, 2020 so the tariff may go into effect by December 12, 2020.

5. Spire Missouri submits that harm will be avoided by expedited approval of the application by permitting small business 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 December 2, 2020.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Goldie T. Bockstruck

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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 25th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Goldie T. Bockstruck
