



November 16, 2021

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

The Honorable Richard Glick, Chairman
The Honorable James Danly, Commissioner
The Honorable Allison Clements, Commissioner
The Honorable Mark C. Christie, Commissioner

Re: Spire STL Pipeline LLC Temporary Emergency Certificate Application Docket No.
CP17-40-000

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners,

On behalf of U.S. Silica Company, I write in support of Spire STL Pipeline's application for a Temporary Emergency Certificate. This pipeline is critical infrastructure for the St. Louis region that provides reliable natural gas supply to hundreds of thousands of families and numerous businesses.

The potential loss of the STL Pipeline —with the fast-approaching winter heating season —could result in the curtailment of service to many of Spire's commercial and industrial customers. As a commercial customer of Spire, our business may have to seriously reduce or suspend operations if there is any curtailment in natural gas service.

In February, we saw how Winter Storm Uri disrupted energy supply to millions of homes and businesses across the country. St. Louis did not experience the same hardship because the STL Pipeline ensured families and businesses had the natural gas needed for heating, cooking, hot water and industrial use. Without the STL Pipeline in service this winter, we won't be this fortunate. As a domestic producer of commercial silica, businesses in our industry require access to an affordable and dependable source of energy, and the STL Pipeline has met our energy needs since it went into operation in 2019.

Operating a business is challenging at any time, but we have faced unprecedented obstacles as a result of the global pandemic and rising energy costs. If we are also forced to reduce or cease operations due to a lack of natural gas service this winter, this would result in two plant shutdowns, layoff of approximately 100 employees plus secondary impact to our suppliers and customers. With potential curtailment and outages extending beyond our own operations to other businesses, negative economic consequences for the entire St. Louis business community – and the region – could likely occur.

Minimizing uncertainty and risk is *crucial* to optimizing our operations and minimizing impact to our business. Having confirmed availability and access to the reliability of the STL Pipeline is critical for both our short- and long-term business planning. Your ability to remove this uncertainty through -- and beyond -- the coming spring is key.

I urge you to quickly take action and to grant a certificate for the STL Pipeline to keep our businesses operational and families warm. Hundreds of thousands of residents across the St. Louis region rely on this critical infrastructure, and there will be potentially devastating consequences if it is forced to shut down.

Sincerely,

Michael Winkler
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Document Content(s)

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