

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

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)

Case No. GR-2021-0108

DISCOVERY CONFERENCE ISSUES

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) and states as follows:

1. Pursuant to *Order Setting Procedural Schedule*, item 3(b), the OPC files this statement of disagreement or concern regarding several responses it has received to data requests it has made upon Spire Missouri, Inc.

2. Specifically, the OPC has disagreement or concerns regarding data requests 1001, 1027, 8001.1, 8002.1, 3004, and 3011, which are attached to this filing.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel respectfully requests the Commission accept this filing made pursuant to the *Order Setting Procedural Schedule*.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ John Clizer
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the forgoing have been mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this thirteenth day of May, 2021.

/s/ John Clizer

**Spire Missouri
GR-2021-0108**

Response to Office of Public Counsel Data Request 1001

Please provide copies of the documentation supporting Spire Missouri's decision to file this case, derive the amount of rate increase requested, and the filing date for this case.

Data requested by: Robert Schallenberg (Robert.schallenberg@opc.mo.gov)

Objection:

Spire objects to this data request to the extent it could be construed as seeking attorney-client communications, work product prepared in anticipation of litigation or any other privileged information or documents. Spire directs OPC to the Direct Testimony and Minimum Filing Requirements filed in this case for information responsive to this request.

Response:

Subject to the objection, such documentation is set forth in the Direct Testimony, Accounting Schedules, Minimum Filing Requirements, and Transmittal Letter submitted by Spire Missouri in this case on December 11, 2020, as well as the workpapers subsequently provided to Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC").

Signed by: Wesley Selinger

**Spire Missouri
GR-2021-0108**

Response to Office of Public Counsel Data Request 1027

Please provide copies of all documentation presented to Spire Inc. and/or Spire Missouri officers and board of directors regarding the formation and operation of Spire Services.

Data requested by: Robert Schallenberg (Robert.schallenberg@opc.mo.gov)

Response:

Much of the documentation and analysis relied on by Spire Inc. can be found in the Direct Testimony and schedules of Thomas J. Flaherty in Case No. GR-2017-0215. See EFIS No. 14 in that case. The benefits of the shared services model, which Spire Services is designed to implement, has also been addressed on numerous other occasions by senior company executives and much of the Board materials relating thereto would have been made available to Staff and OPC for review in the Company's immediately prior rate case.

Signed by: Tim Krick

Spire Missouri
GR-2021-0108

Response to Office of Public Counsel Data Request 3004

Question:

Please provide any and all valuation analyses (e.g. analyses done for purposes of asset impairment tests, possible sales or acquisitions and mergers), along with supporting workpapers (including all electronic files in their original software, e.g. Excel), whether done internally or by a third party, performed on any of Spire Inc.'s or Spire Missouri Inc.'s utility properties since September 30, 2017).

Response:

Objection: The Company objects to this request to the extent it requests analyses or supporting workpapers pertaining to Spire Inc. or its subsidiaries other than Spire Missouri Inc. Such information is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that such materials are not relevant to the questions of law and fact at issue in this proceeding. The Company will provide information related to Spire Missouri for FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2020.

Spire Missouri has not performed nor had performed any valuation analysis on any of its utility properties since September 30, 2017. Spire did perform a valuation analysis on the Lambert CNG station assets, which Spire Missouri subsequently purchased from an affiliate during this time frame. See response to Staff DR 30.3 for more information.

Spire Missouri is not aware of any valuation analyses performed by Spire Inc. or any of its other subsidiaries on utility properties during this time frame. Any such analyses would be irrelevant in that they would not be reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence with respect to the questions of fact and law at issue in this proceeding.

Signed by: Tim Krick

**Spire Missouri
GR-2021-0108**

Response to Office of Public Counsel Data Request 3011

Question:

Please provide Spire Inc.'s Board of Directors (including all BOD's committees) materials (handouts, presentations, etc) and minutes for all board meetings since September 30, 2017.

Response:

Objection: The Company objects to this request to the extent it requests materials pertaining to Spire Inc. or its subsidiaries other than Spire Missouri Inc. Such information is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that such materials are not relevant to the questions of law and fact at issue in this proceeding. The Company will provide information related to Spire Missouri for FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2020.

Access to these materials will be provided via Proofpoint Secure Share.

Signed by: Wesley Selinger

**Spire Missouri
GR-2021-0108**

Response to Office of Public Counsel Data Request 8001.1

Please describe a detailed description of why the Company was in a give-back position in December 2019 when the weather was warmer than normal. This description should include, but not be limited to, all documentation of any analysis conducted by Spire on the give-back position including all workpapers in their electronic format (e.g. spreadsheets should be in Excel), the actual and normal heating degree days for each billing cycle, the unbilled calculation, and the “give back” in total and average per customer.

DR Requested by John Clizer and Lena Mantle (john.clizer@opc.mo.gov and lena.mantle@opc.mo.gov)

Response: The Company’s calculation was performed according to the formula in the Commission approved WNAR tariff. The weather in this month was warmer than normal and yet, the formula resulted in the Company being in a give-back position.

Signed by: Wesley Selinger

**Spire Missouri
GR-2021-0108**

Response to Office of Public Counsel Data Request 8002.1

Were there any other anomalies where the mechanics of the WNAR mechanism were opposite of the “intended purpose” of the WNAR? If yes, please provide a detailed description of the anomaly and Spire’s analysis of why the anomaly occurred including the monetary impact on Spire and its customers.

DR Requested by John Clizer and Lena Mantle (john.clizer@opc.mo.gov and lena.mantle@opc.mo.gov)

Response: Spire experienced anomalies similar to the December 2019 instance in April and May of 2019 for Spire Missouri East and in April of 2019 for Spire West. Spire experienced additional instances of the anomaly in June, July, and October of 2019 and August of 2020 for Spire East and June 2019 and August 2020 for Spire Missouri West. These instances were much smaller and occurred during the summer months when there is little usage.

Signed by: Wesley Selinger