

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

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.’s)	
Request for Authority to Implement a)	
General Rate Increase for Natural Gas)	Case No. GR-2022-0179
Service Provided in the Company’s)	
Missouri Service Areas)	

SPIRE MISSOURI INC.’S PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. (hereafter “Spire Missouri” or “Spire”), by and through counsel, and respectfully requests that the Missouri Public Service Commission approve the proposed procedural schedule set forth herein, along with the associated procedural requirements. Under Spire Missouri’s proposed procedural schedule, the Commission would issue an Order by December 1, 2022, which is approximately 8 months after Spire Missouri filed its case-in-chief and proposed rate schedules. Spire Missouri believes this slightly expedited procedural schedule is appropriate in this proceeding, and in fact beneficial to customers, for reasons enumerated below:

BASIS FOR SLIGHTLY EXPEDITED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

1. By its *Order Suspending Tariff, Giving Notice of Contested Case Status, and Delegating Authority* dated April 21, 2022, the Commission suspended Spire Missouri’s proposed tariff sheets for 120 days from May 1, 2022, to August 29, 2022, plus six months thereafter, until February 28, 2023. However, in doing so, the Commission noted that “[s]uspending Spire’s proposed tariff sheets for six months beyond 120 days does not prevent Spire or the other parties from proposing an abbreviated procedural schedule.”

2. Spire Missouri is proposing the Commission adopt a slightly expedited procedural schedule which essentially would allow Spire Missouri to adopt revised schedules of rates and

charges within approximately 9 months, or by January 1, 2023, as opposed to the statutorily prescribed period of 120 days, plus six months. Spire Missouri has good cause for proposing a procedural schedule which results in this modest reduction to the review period established by 393.150.2, RSMo.

3. Spire Missouri initiated this proceeding on April 1, 2022, very shortly after the Commission issued its November 12, 2021 *Amended Report and Order* in Spire Missouri's last rate case, Case No GR-2021-0108 (the "2021 Order"). Spire Missouri limited the number of issues in this case by using the Commission Staff's EMS revenue runs from Case No GR-2021-0108, which were the basis of the 2021 Order with "true-up" style adjustments for major drivers. In essence, Spire Missouri approached this proceeding similar to how "true-ups" are handled in rate case proceedings. Given the use of this "true-up" approach there should be a limited number of issues in this case, even when other parties raise their concerns. In fact, one of the most significant drivers of the relief sought herein (capitalization of overhead costs) already has been reviewed by Staff. With respect to the other issues in this proceeding, Spire Missouri attempted to follow the Commission directives in the 2021 Order to further reduce contested issues.

4. Based on its decision to limit the number of issues and use of the Commission Staff's EMS revenue runs from Case No GR-2021-0108, Spire Missouri filed a case-in-chief which consists of the testimony of six internal witnesses – as opposed to the eleven internal and external witnesses that offered direct testimony in Case No GR-2021-0108.

5. The limited number of issues and witnesses in this proceeding, along with the recently-completed deep review of Spire Missouri's revenue requirements and financial data by the parties to this case, should substantially reduce the demands on the time of Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") and Intervenors, as well as the hearing time necessary.

6. Aside from limiting the issues in this proceeding, Spire Missouri responded to Staff's initial set of Data Requests fifteen days following the filing of its direct testimony, which should expedite the issuance of follow-up data requests and narrowing of issues. As further reflected below, Spire Missouri is proposing to continue to respond to Data Request within fifteen calendar days to the extent the Commission approves its proposed procedural schedule.

7. Importantly, Spire Missouri's proposed procedural schedule is beneficial to customers in that it limits the amount of the potential rate increase. In the schedule set forth below, Spire Missouri is proposing to shorten the standard true-up period, which would otherwise be September 30, 2022, to June 30, 2022. By moving this period up, Spire Missouri will be foregoing approximately \$72.3 Million in capital deployment that is expected to occur from July through September of 2022. This equates to an approximately \$7.6 Million reduction to the potential revenue requirement and a savings to customers.

8. In addition, if the Commission approves the procedural schedule proposed herein, Spire Missouri will forgo filing its scheduled Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge ("ISRS") proceeding in June of 2022. By not making this filing in June of 2022, Spire Missouri will be delaying revenues associated with approximately \$8 to \$10 Million of infrastructure improvements through January 1, 2022, when the new rates are effective in this proceeding. This equates to approximately \$3 Million of revenue and a corresponding savings to customers.

9. Additionally, this true-up approach should be less of a strain on the resources of all parties, including Staff and the OPC, thereby limiting rate case expense.

10. In combination, the Commission's adoption of the proposed procedural schedule set forth below in this proceeding will save customers nearly \$11 Million as opposed to a typical eleven-month schedule.

PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

11. Spire Missouri has met with the case intervenors in an effort to work on a procedural schedule that is mutually agreeable by all parties. Unfortunately, such an agreement could not be reached. However, Spire Missouri has listened to concerns regarding the sufficiency of time needed to thoroughly evaluate Spire Missouri’s filing, and to that end has crafted its schedule to allow ample time for parties to review Spire Missouri’s filing and conduct discovery and has also included recurring and frequent technical conferences dedicated to the transportation tariff and other general issues.

12. Spire Missouri’s proposed procedural schedule, with a table reflecting events and their dates/deadlines is set forth below, followed by Spire Missouri’s proposal with respect to other procedural matters:

DATE	EVENT
April 1, 2022	Case is Filed
April 1, 2022	Response Time for Data Requests (“DRs”) is 15 business days; 10 business days to object or seek additional time.
May 17, 2022	Discovery Conference
May 18, 2022	Workshop on Transportation Tariff
June 4-5, 2022	Technical/Settlement Conference
June 29, 2022	Workshop on Transportation Tariff
June 30, 2022	Discovery Conference
July 13, 2022	Workshop on Transportation Tariff
July 14, 2022	Discovery Conference
July 18, 2022	Direct Testimony- Revenue Requirement (all parties except Spire)
July 18-22, 2022	Local Public Hearing
July 25 and 26, 2022	Technical/Settlement Conference
August 1, 2022	Direct Testimony – CCOS (all parties except Spire)
August 2, 2022	Response Time for DRs changes to 10 business days; 5 business days to object or seek additional time.
August 7, 2022	True Up Data for June 30 th provided by Spire Missouri (not filed)
August 8, 2022	Discovery Conference
August 10, 2022	Workshop on Transportation Tariff
August 19, 2022	Rebuttal Testimony – All parties
August 19, 2022	Preliminary List of Issues (not filed)
August 20, 2022	Response Time for DRs changes to 7 business days; 4 business days to object or seek additional time.

August 22-25, 2022	Settlement Conference
August 31, 2022	Surrebuttal Due – all parties
August 31, 2022	Discovery Cut Off – Last Day to Request Discovery, provide notice of a deposition and after which 20 CSR 4240.2.090(8)(B) conference is not required
September 1, 2022	Response Time for DRs changes to 5 business days; 3 business days to object or seek additional time.
September 2, 2022	Parties will provide valuation of their positions to Staff for the Final Reconciliation
September 2, 2022	Issue List and Order of Cross Examination Filed and Order of Opening Statements and Joint Stipulation of Facts.
September 6, 2022	Position Statements
September 7, 2022	Reconciliation Filed
September 7-9, 2022	Settlement Conference
September 9, 2022	Exhibit List to Judge and Other Parties (not to be filed)
September 14-16 and 19-23, 2022	Hearing
September 28, 2022	True-Up Direct
October 3, 2022	True-Up Rebuttal
October 5, 2022	True-Up Discovery Cut-Off
October 11, 2022	True-Up Hearing
October 21, 2022	Initial Briefs Filed
November 4, 2022	Reply Briefs Filed
December 1, 2022	Decision Issued
January 1, 2023	Operation of Law Date – tariffs become effective

MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURAL MATTERS

13. Spire Missouri proposes the that all parties comply with the following procedural terms:

a. All parties shall comply with the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.130 for prepared testimony, including the requirement that testimony be filed on line-numbered pages.

b. All parties shall provide copies of testimony (including schedules), exhibits, and pleadings to other counsel by electronic means and in electronic form, essentially concurrently with the filing of such testimony, exhibits, or pleadings where the information is available in electronic format (.PDF, .DOC, .WPD, .XLS, etc.). Parties are not required

to put information that does not exist in electronic format into electronic format for purposes of exchanging.

c. Public documents filed in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System ("EFIS") shall be considered properly served by serving the same on counsel of record for all other parties via e-mail. Highly confidential documents may be obtained from EFIS and the parties need not to serve those documents via email.

d. Workpapers prepared in the course of developing a witness's testimony (including schedules) shall not be filed with the Commission, but shall be submitted to each party within two (2) business days following the filing of the particular testimony, unless a party has indicated that it does not want to receive some or all of the workpapers. Workpapers containing highly confidential or proprietary information shall be appropriately marked. If there are no workpapers associated with testimony, the party's attorney shall so notify the other parties within the time allowed for providing those workpapers. Workpapers prepared in Excel or another executable format, should be provided in that format.

e. Where workpapers or data request responses include models or spreadsheets or similar information originally in a commonly available format where inputs or parameters may be changed to observe changes in inputs or outputs, if available in that original format with formulas intact, the party providing the workpaper or response shall provide this type of information in that original format subject to the Commission's rules on discovery procedure. Spire Missouri shall provide workpapers in electronic format by e-mailing or by delivery of a compact disc or other electronic storage to the requesting individual.

DISCOVERY

14. Spire Missouri proposes that discovery be conducted as follows:

a. Counsel for each party shall receive electronically from each other party serving a data request, an electronic copy of the text of the “description” of that data request contemporaneously with service of the data request. Regarding Staff-issued data requests, if the description contains highly confidential or proprietary information, or is voluminous, a hyperlink to the EFIS record of that data request shall be considered a sufficient copy. If a party desires the response to a data request that has been served on another party, the party desiring a copy of the response must request a copy of the response from the party answering the data request. Data requests, objections to data requests, and notifications respecting the need for additional time to respond to data requests shall be sent by e-mail to counsel for the other parties. Counsel may designate other personnel to be added to the service list for data requests, but shall assume responsibility for compliance with any restrictions on confidentiality. Data request responses shall be served on counsel for the requesting party, unless waived by counsel, and on the requesting party’s employee or representative who submitted the data request, and shall be served electronically, if feasible and not voluminous as defined by Commission rule.

b. The parties shall make an effort to not include highly confidential or proprietary information in data requests. If highly confidential or proprietary information must be included in a data request, the highly confidential or proprietary information shall be appropriately designated as such pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135.

c. Until direct testimony is filed by parties other than Spire, the response time for all data requests shall be fifteen (15) calendar days, with ten (10) calendar days to object

or notify the requesting party that more than fifteen (15) calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. After direct testimony by parties other than Spire is filed until rebuttal testimony is filed, the response time for data requests shall be ten (10) business days to provide the requested information and five (5) business days to object or notify the requesting party that more than ten (10) business days will be needed to provide the requested information. After rebuttal testimony is filed and until surrebuttal and true-up testimony is filed, the response time for data requests shall be seven (7) business days to provide the requested information and four (4) business days to object or notify the requesting party that more than four (4) business days will be needed to provide the requested information. After surrebuttal and true-up testimony is filed the time for discovery requests has ended, the response time for data requests shall be five (5) business days to provide the requested information and three (3) business days to object or notify the requesting party that more than three (3) business days will be needed to provide the requested information. If a data request has been responded to, a party's request for a copy of the response shall be timely responded to, considering that the underlying data request has already been responded to.

d. Discovery conferences will be held at the Commission's office at the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, in a room to be designated by the Commission or via virtual meeting. Each discovery conference will begin at 10:00 a.m.

e. Not less than two (2) business days before each discovery conference, any party that has a discovery disagreement or concern involving another party shall file a brief statement describing that disagreement or concern and identifying any other parties

involved. Such statement does not need to be a formal motion to compel. Any party may attend a discovery conference, but only those parties involved in an identified discovery disagreement must attend. If the parties do not identify any discovery disagreements or concerns as described herein, the presiding officer may cancel the conference.

f. Discovery conferences shall be on the record and shall be transcribed by a court reporter.

g. Any pending written discovery motion may be taken up at a discovery conference and may be ruled upon by the presiding regulatory law judge either on the record, or in a written order.

h. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.090's requirement that a party must seek a telephone conference with the presiding officer before filing a discovery motion is waived.

i. All data requests, subpoenas, or other discovery requests or notices shall be issued no later than August 31, 2022. With respect to deposing witnesses, depositions must be completed at least three (3) business days prior to the date that the witness will testify on the issue(s) in the evidentiary hearings, unless witness availability requires that a deposition be conducted within less than three (3) business days.

j. All motions to compel a response to any discovery request shall be filed no later than August 31, 2022.

EVIDENTIARY HEARING

15. Spire Missouri proposes that the evidentiary hearing be conducted as follows:

a. Although not all parties may agree upon how each issue should be described or on whether a listed issue is in fact a proper issue in this case, the parties shall agree upon

and file a list of the issues to be heard, the witnesses to appear on each day of the hearing, the order in which they will be called, and the order of cross-examination for each witness. The list of issues should be detailed enough to inform the Commission of each issue that must be resolved. The Commission will view any issue not contained in this list of issues as uncontested and not requiring resolution by the Commission.

b. Each party shall file a simple and concise statement summarizing its position on each disputed issue.

c. All pleadings, briefs, and amendments shall be filed in accordance with Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.080. Briefs shall follow the same list of issues as filed in the case and must set forth and cite the proper portions of the record concerning the remaining unresolved issues that are to be decided by the Commission.

d. If part of testimony or documents are pre-filed and served upon the parties before a hearing, a party need only provide a copy of the testimony or document to the court reporter for marking as an exhibit. If not pre-filed and served upon the parties, then a party who has a document marked for use at the hearing shall have sufficient copies of the document to provide a copy not only to the court reporter, but also to each of the Commissioners, the presiding officer, and counsel for each other party.

POST HEARING BRIEFS

16. Given the limited number of issues that should be involved in this proceeding, Spire Missouri proposes that initial and reply briefs be limited to 75 pages for all parties to facilitate the Commission's review of the parties' respective proceedings.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above, Spire Missouri respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed procedural schedule set forth herein along with the

interrelated procedural requirements and grant any other relief necessary and appropriate in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matt Aplington
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ATTORNEYS FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 6th day of May, 2022.

/s/ _____