BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc's 2019/2020 Purchased Gas/Actual Cost Adjustment filing for its Spire Missouri East and Spire Missouri West Operating Units

File No. GR-2020-0121 File No. GR-2020-0122

<u>APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE</u> AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. (referred to herein as "Spire Missouri" or "Company"), on behalf of its Spire Missouri East ("Spire East") and Spire Missouri West ("Spire West") operating units and, pursuant to Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") Rules 20 CSR 4240-2.060(4) and 20 CSR 4240-2.080(14), submits this *Application for Variance and Motion for Expedited Treatment* (this "Motion") for approval by the Commission. In support of its Application and Motion, the Company states as follows:

1. Spire Missouri is a public utility and gas corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri, with its principal office located at 700 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. A Certificate of Good Standing evidencing Spire Missouri's standing to do business in Missouri is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated herein by this reference. The information on such Certificate is currently applicable and correct.

2 Spire Missouri is primarily engaged in the business of distributing and transporting natural gas to customers in both the eastern and western portions of the State of Missouri, subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Spire Missouri serves customers in the City of St. Louis and ten counties in Eastern Missouri through its Spire East operating unit. Spire Missouri serves customers in the City of Kansas City and thirty counties in

Western Missouri through its Spire West operating unit.

3. Communications in regard to this Application should be addressed to the

persons below:

Goldie Bockstruck Director, Associate General Counsel Spire Missouri Inc. 700 Market Street, 6th Floor St. Louis, MO 63101 (314) 342-0533 goldie.bockstruck@spireenergy.com

Michael C. Pendergast # 31763 Of Counsel Fischer & Dority, P.C. (314) 288-8723 <u>Mcp2015law@icloud.com</u>

Scott A. Weitzel Director, Rates & Regulatory Affairs Spire Missouri Inc. 700 Market Street, 5th Floor St. Louis, Missouri 63101 (314) 342-0758 <u>scott.weitzel@spireenergy.com</u>

4. Other than cases that have been docketed at the Commission, Spire Missouri has no pending actions or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service or rates.

5. Spire Missouri is current on its annual report and assessment fee obligations

to the Commission, and no such report or assessment fee is overdue

6. On October 31, 2019, Spire Missouri Inc. filed tariff sheets with an effective date of November 10, 2019 pursuant to the provisions of its Purchased Gas Adjustment ("PGA") tariff. The purpose of the tariff filing was to reflect changes to the Company's

Current Purchased Gas Adjustment ("CPGA") and its Actual Cost Adjustment ("ACA") factors for natural gas customers.

7. As a result of this filing, Spire's underlying charge for natural gas for firm sales customers will decrease. Specifically:

Spire East's charges for gas will be reduced from \$.45672 to \$.41274 per therm; and

Spire West's charges for gas will be reduced from \$.48438 to \$.40415 per ccf. This decrease would reduce the average monthly bill for the typical residential customer by: \$2.95 or 4% for Spire East and \$5.02 or 8% Spire West for the upcoming year, assuming normal weather and no further change in PGA rates.

8. Because of the magnitude of the rate decrease resulting from this tariff filing, and its beneficial impact on the winter bills paid by its customers, Spire believes it is appropriate to implement the decrease as soon as reasonably practical. Accordingly, Spire respectfully requests that the Commission approve the decrease at its November 6, 2019 Agenda meeting, to be effective on November 8, 2019, or as soon thereafter as reasonably practical.

9. To the extent necessary, Spire further requests that the Commission grant it a one-time variance from Section E of Sheet No. 11.12 of Spire East's PGA Tariff and Section 1.A. of Sheet 11.1 of Spire West's PGA Tariff which generally requires that PGA filings be made at least ten business days prior to their effective dates. While Spire's Revised Tariff Sheet, as filed, complies with that requirement, granting such a variance would be consistent with Spire's request to make the Revised Tariff Sheet effective sooner than ten business days after it was filed.

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10. Because of the substantial decrease that would be effectuated by such action, Spire states that there will be no negative effect on Spire's customers, the general public or any other public utility if the Commission issues an order approving the Revised Tariff Sheets with the effective date recommended herein.

11. This pleading was filed as soon as it could have been following the final calculations made for this filing.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Spire respectfully requests that the Commission issue its order granting this Application and Motion and approving Spire East's P.S.C. MO. No. 7 Second Revised Sheet No. 11.16 and Spire West's P.S.C. MO. No. 8 Second Revised Sheet No. 11.13, effective as of November 8, 2019, or as soon thereafter as reasonably practical.

Respectfully Submitted,

SPIRE MISSOURI, INC.

<u>/s/ Goldie T. Bockstruck</u>

Goldie T. Bockstruck MoBar#58759 Director, Associate General Counsel 700 Market St., 6th floor St. Louis, Missouri 63101 (314) 342-0533 (Phone) (314) 421-1979 (FAX) Goldie.Bockstruck@spireenergy.com

<u>/s/Michael C. Pendergast</u>

Michael C. Pendergast # 31763 Of Counsel Fischer & Dority, P.C. (314) 288-8723 <u>Mcp2015law@icloud.com</u>

<u>Certificate of Service</u>

I hereby certify that copies of the above and foregoing document were sent by electronic mail to the Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel on this 31st day of October, 2019.

/s/ Lew E. Keathley_____