

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

The Honorable Richard Glick, Chairman
The Honorable Neil Chatterjee, Commissioner
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 Chairman Glick and Commissioners,

On behalf of the United Way of Greater St. Louis, I am writing in support of Spire and its commitment to providing reliable natural gas to the residents of the St. Louis region and eastern Missouri.

United Way of Greater St. Louis serves seven counties in eastern Missouri, helping children, families and seniors live their best possible lives. Far too many of those we support struggle to meet their basic needs and face tough decisions every day, such as paying rent, buying food, affording life-saving medicine, or heating and cooling their homes. In St. Louis City and County, more than 56 percent and 40 percent of households, respectively, do not have the monthly income to meet these basic expenses. Losing access to affordable natural gas could mean an extra financial burden on families and more tough decisions, like whether a parent can give their child a warm bath or a senior can make a hot meal.

Spire has been a longtime supporter and partner of United Way's work in our region. In 2020 alone, Spire raised nearly \$1.3 million through its employee contribution and matching programs, allowing us to continue providing critical funding to 164 local nonprofits that advocate for the health, education and financial stability of our community. Additionally, Spire has helped people in the Greater St. Louis region facing financial instability through our partnership with the DollarHelp Program. Created nearly four decades ago, Spire matches customer donations to provide utility assistance to individuals and families in need.

These are just a few examples of Spire's dedication to and passion for the St. Louis region. I've seen firsthand Spire's commitment to helping people through their charitable efforts and their work to deliver affordable natural gas every day. A natural gas outage puts the safety of St. Louis families at risk during the winter months, and in the event of severe winter weather, it has the potential to be life-threatening to an estimated 400,000 customers, including 40 percent of whom face financial instability. That's around 175,000 residents who already face many struggles in their daily lives and have been even more challenged this past year grappling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am grateful for Spire's partnership with United Way in keeping local families safe, healthy and warm. I ask you to consider Spire's critical importance to our region and the potential impacts on thousands of families as you review the temporary emergency certificate application in time for winter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Tucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michelle D. Tucker
President & CEO
United Way of Greater St. Louis

Document Content(s)

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