BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Spire Missouri Inc. for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Construct, Install, Own, Operate, Maintain, and Otherwise Control and Manage a Natural Gas Distribution System in and around the City of Oronogo In Jasper County, Missouri as an Expansion Of its Existing Certificated Areas

File No. GA-2023-0038

STAFF STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through counsel, and for its *Staff Recommendation*, states as follows:

1. On January 25, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Approving Acquisition of Assets and Granting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") in this matter, with an effective date of February 24, 2023. The Order granted Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire ("Spire Missouri"), a CCN to construct, install, own, operate, maintain, and otherwise control and manage a natural gas distribution system to provide gas service in and around the City of Oronogo in Jasper County, Missouri, as a further expansion of its existing certificated area.

2. On June 26, 2023, Spire Missouri filed a letter with the Commission regarding proposed modifications to its tariff sheets, which included a request to exclude charging the Spire West's Actual Cost Adjustment ("ACA") portion of the Purchased Gas Adjustment ("PGA") to its Oronogo customers.

3. On September 14, 2023, the Commission issued an order directing Staff to file a status report on this matter or request for an extension of time to file its report no later than September 28, 2023.

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4. Shortly thereafter, Staff reached out to Spire Missouri with questions and received some responses from Spire Missouri. Staff reviewed the responses, which led to additional questions and further investigation.

5. On September 27, 2023, Staff filed a Staff Status Report and Motion for Extension to file its Report in this matter.

6. On September 27, 2023, the Commission granted Staff's Motion for an Extension and issued an order directing Staff to file its Staff Status Report no later than October 30, 2023.

7. As further described in the attached Memorandum, Staff investigated and analyzed Spire Missouri's request through a thorough review of Spire Missouri's letter, through discovery, and review of applicable Commission rules.

8. Based upon Staff's investigation and analysis, as set forth in the attached thorough Memorandum and incorporated by reference herein, Staff recommends the Commission deny Spire Missouri's proposal to waive the ACA rate for customers of Oronogo for the detailed reasons set forth in Staff's Memorandum.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits its Staff Status Report and requests the Commission deny Spire Missouri's proposal to waive the ACA rates for its Oronogo customers, and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers reasonable in the circumstances.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

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ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 25th day of October, 2023.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey