

**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 Cass County, Missouri as an)
Expansion of its Existing Certificated Areas)

File No. GA-2024-0100

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, (“Commission”) by and through counsel, and for its *Staff Recommendation for Approval of Certificate of Convenience and Necessity* (“Recommendation”), states as follows:

1. On September 22, 2023, Spire Missouri, Inc. (“Spire”) filed its *Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and Request for Waiver* (“Application”) with the Commission, requesting a certificate of convenience and necessity (“CCN”) to construct, install, own, operate, maintain, and otherwise control and manage a natural gas distribution system in order to provide natural gas service in Cass County (“Cass”), as further expansion of its existing certificated area. The Application also included a request to waive the sixty (60) day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

2. On September 22, 2023, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice, Setting Deadline for Intervention Requests, and Directing Filing of Staff Recommendation* directing Staff to file its recommendation regarding Spire’s Application no later than November 8, 2023.

3. On November 7, 2023, Staff filed *Staff Status Report and Motion for Extension* in which Staff stated that it had submitted data requests to Spire and that Staff was in the process of reviewing the data request responses received from Spire. Staff also anticipated it would need to send follow up data requests. As such, Staff requested an extension of time to file its recommendation. Staff requested the Commission permit Staff to file its recommendation in this matter no later than December 7, 2023.

4. On November 13, 2023, the Commission granted Staff's Motion for an Extension of Time and issued its *Order Directing Notice, Setting Deadline for Intervention Requests, and Directing Filing of Staff Recommendation* directing Staff to file its recommendation regarding Spire's Application no later than December 7, 2023.

5. Staff has reviewed Spire's Application and conducted discovery. As more fully explained in Staff's Memorandum, attached hereto as Appendix A and incorporated by reference, Staff is of the opinion Spire has fulfilled the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-3.205 and the Tartan criteria upon which the Commission relies in its evaluation of CCN applications. Staff recommends the Commission approve Spire's Application, subject to the conditions stated in the Staff Recommendation Section on page 5 of Staff's Memorandum.

6. Spire's Application contained a request that the Commission waive the 60-day filing notice required by 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1). Spire's Application provided a verified declaration that it had not had communication with the office of the Commission (as defined by 20 CSR 4240-4.015(10)) within the prior 150 days regarding any

substantive issues likely to be in the case, and therefore, Staff agrees good cause exists, pursuant to 20 CSR 4240.017(1)(D), to waive the 60-day notice requirement.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above and further explained in Staff's Memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission approve Spire's Application for a CCN in the Cass County service area described in its Application, subject to the conditions set out in the Staff Recommendation Section of Staff's Memorandum; and grant such other and further relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

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**Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri 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 7th day of December, 2023.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey