

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

In the Matter of the Application of Spire)
Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire for a Certificate of)
Convenience and Necessity to Construct,)
Install, Own, Operate, Maintain, and) **File No. GA-2024-0257**
Otherwise Control and Manage a Natural)
Gas Distribution System in Newton County)
Missouri as an Expansion of its Existing)
Certificated Areas)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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 March 22, 2024, Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire (“Spire”), filed an *Application* with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) to install, own, construct, operate, control, manage, and maintain a natural gas distribution system to provide natural gas in Newton County, Missouri, as an addition to Spire’s existing service territories. In its *Application*, Spire requested a waiver from the notice provisions of Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

2. On March 25, 2024, the Commission issued an *Order Directing Notice, Setting Intervention Deadline, and Directing Staff Recommendation*, which required applications for intervention be filed no later than April 15, 2024, and directed Staff to file a recommendation or a request for an extension of time no later than May 9, 2024.

3. On May 3, 2024, Staff filed its *Motion for Extension of Time to File Staff Recommendation* requesting additional time to file its recommendation. On May 3, 2024, the Commission granted Staff's Motion and granted the extension for Staff to file its recommendation on or before June 6, 2024.

4. As discussed in the Staff's Memorandum ("Memorandum"), attached hereto as Appendix A and incorporated by reference, Staff is of the opinion that Spire has fulfilled the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240.4.017(1) and the Tartan criteria for approval, subject to the conditions stated on page 7 of the Memorandum, of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

5. For these reasons, as more fully explained in Staff's Memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission approve Spire's Application for its requested CCN.

6. In the *Application*, Spire requested a waiver of the 60-day filing notice of 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1). Spire's *Application* provided a verified declaration that it had not had communication with the Commission within the prior 150 days regarding any substantive issues likely to be in the case. Staff agrees good cause exists pursuant to 20 CSR 4240.017(1)(D) and that the 60-day notice requirement should be waived.

WHEREFORE, for the above stated reasons, Staff prays the Commission approve Spire's CCN for the service areas described in the Company's March 22, 2024, Application subject to the conditions set forth on page 7 of Staff's Memorandum; and grant such other and further relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tracy D. Johnson

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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 mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile, or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 6th day of June 2024.

/s/ Tracy Johnson