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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PREHEARING CONFERENCE

In the Matter of the Application)  
of Spire Missouri, Inc., d/b/a )  
Spire for a Variance of its ) File No. GE-2023-0393  
Tariffs Rules and Regulations )  
for Resale of Natural Gas )

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024  
2:00 P.M.

Jefferson City, MO 65101  
via WebEx

VOLUME 1

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding  
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

(Due to the quality of the recorded media, portions were unable to be transcribed and include inaudible portions. The transcript may also include misinterpreted words and/or unidentified speakers. The transcriber was not present at the time of the recording; therefore, this transcript should not be considered verbatim.)

TRANSCRIBED BY: MELISSA EICKEN

1 MR. ARIAS: Yeah. I -- I just sent her --  
2 I just copied from the e-mail itself, and I copied the  
3 whole link, and I sent it to her. Let's see if she  
4 joins. But I also have her e-mail address if you also  
5 want to send her an e-mail. It's --

6 MR. ZAKOURA: Thank you, everyone.

7 MR. ARIAS: No problem. (Inaudible)  
8 because you don't see that, so when you actually do  
9 see her profile, you're like (inaudible) did you also  
10 send her an e-mail? Okay.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I forwarded  
12 (inaudible).

13 MR. ARIAS: Okay. Another option we could  
14 call her on this line.

15 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: This is a question for  
16 the staff that e-mailed the employee for the city, did  
17 you include just the link or also the meeting numbers  
18 and pass code? Just thinking out loud, the meeting  
19 number and pass code she could enter on her own,  
20 whereas, the link maybe not have the information. I  
21 don't know.

22 MR. ARIAS: My -- my e-mail -- the staff  
23 forwarded the invite itself. I did also send an  
24 e-mail with the meeting number and password.

25 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. Okay. Let's

1 give it a couple more minutes and -- and then we'll  
2 hopefully get started with everyone.

3 MR. ZAKOURA: If not, Your Honor, I can go  
4 forward so that we are respectful of your time, sir.

5 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: I appreciate that.

6 MR. ARIAS: I just want to check with  
7 Charlotte to see if she received our e-mails.

8 (Inaudible) I don't have her number.

9 MR. ZAKOURA: Let me get out of here.

10 MR. ARIAS: See if she's (inaudible).

11 MR. ZAKOURA: Let me --

12 MS. FERNS: There's no link in it.

13 MR. ZAKOURA: Charlotte is saying there's  
14 no link in hers, that she is waiting in a room that  
15 says waiting to join.

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Should she just call  
17 in instead of --

18 MR. ZAKOURA: Yeah. Why don't you -- can  
19 someone send her the -- just the call-in maybe that  
20 would -- as a substitute.

21 MS. FERNS: I apologize for the --

22 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: The call-in number  
23 is --

24 MR. ZAKOURA: You know what? Oh, I'm  
25 sorry, Your Honor. Go ahead. I was going to say I

1 can put her on my speaker here, too.

2 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. Why don't I give  
3 the call-in number, and then she can try that,  
4 otherwise, just keep her on speakerphone, and if that  
5 doesn't work, we'll just plug right along as we are.  
6 The call-in number is (650) 479-3207.

7 MS. FERNS: I'm -- the first three were  
8 620?

9 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: (650) 479-3207. That's  
10 the Webex general phone number, and then you just  
11 enter in the meeting number.

12 MS. FERNS: Okay. I don't have a  
13 meeting -- I'm so sorry. I'm happy to be on  
14 speakerphone, if that works for everyone, but I don't  
15 have the meeting number to -- sign in when I get  
16 there.

17 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. It was in the  
18 e-mails that were sent. But the meeting number is  
19 26312139531.

20 MS. FERNS: Oh, wait. I just got another  
21 e-mail. This one's from Emily, and it has a join  
22 meeting. So I will try this link. If that doesn't  
23 work, then I will try the phone number you gave me.

24 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Okay.

25 MR. ZAKOURA: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Absolutely.

2 MS. FERNS: Oh, I got (inaudible). Thank  
3 you.

4 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. We have, it  
5 looks like, everyone we need here. Let's go ahead,  
6 and we will go on the record. I've already started  
7 the recording the -- the Webex meeting, and just to  
8 let everyone know, we will not automatically  
9 transcribe this meeting unless one of the parties  
10 requests it. And that's because this is just a  
11 procedural conference to discuss next steps. But as  
12 we are on the record, let's go ahead and make sure  
13 that's all official.

14 Today is August 1st, 2024. The commission  
15 has set this time for a prehearing conference for file  
16 number GE-2023-0393. This conference is being held  
17 via Webex and only via Webex. My name is Charles  
18 Hatcher, and I'm the regulatory law judge assigned to  
19 this case. Let's have counsel for the parties make  
20 their entries of appearance. Is Spire on the line?

21 MR. ARIAS: Yes, Your Honor. Good  
22 afternoon. This is Antonio Arias on behalf of Spire.  
23 With me is David Yons (phonetic) and Shalen Dean.

24 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And the  
25 City of Kansas City.

1 MR. ZAKOURA: Thank you, Your Honor. James  
2 P. Zakoura on behalf of the City of Kansas City. And  
3 with me is Charlotte Ferns of the city. Thank you.

4 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And for the  
5 staff of the commission.

6 MS. KERR: Thank you, Judge. This is  
7 Carolyn Kerr on behalf of staff, and I have Kathleen  
8 McNellis (phonetic) and Greg Williams with me.

9 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And for the  
10 office of the public counsel.

11 MS VANGERPEN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.  
12 This is Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC.

13 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. I'm not  
14 expecting any procedural matters to come up, but I  
15 want to give that opportunity if anyone has any to  
16 raise at this point. Not seeing -- go ahead.

17 MR. ARIAS: Sorry, Your Honor. Actually, I  
18 guess -- I guess we can just maybe knock this out  
19 right off -- right off the bat. The parties actually  
20 met this morning for a -- a technical, slash,  
21 settlement conference. And I believe the parties have  
22 worked on a -- a resolution that I think is good for  
23 all parties. And we can explain that, too, if you  
24 would like. Okay. I see a head shaking no. I think  
25 at this point we probably do not need a procedural

1 schedule to be set. The parties would actually  
2 like -- and I believe we discussed at least 30 days,  
3 if you need to set a date for us to file something,  
4 you'd like to set a date for a status update or any  
5 stipulation to be filed. I know sometimes we request  
6 that. Or we can leave it open. I think -- I think  
7 maybe just -- it might just help maybe an order that  
8 says a status update within 30 days or by  
9 September 1st, will be just to have something on the  
10 record, but the parties will be -- have successful  
11 talks this morning, and I think we'll be working  
12 towards a stipulation.

13 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Excellent.  
14 Congratulations. Let me repeat what I heard back to  
15 you. I am going to write an order directing the  
16 parties to file a status report or other appropriate  
17 filing no later than September 1st and that will  
18 include a request for an extension of time. The  
19 reason I did not want to hear the details of the  
20 settlement, although, again, I congratulate you on  
21 that is, we have a rule that those are confidential --

22 MR. ARIAS: Yeah. Yes.

23 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: -- up to a certain  
24 point where it comes before the commission. Also --

25 MR. ARIAS: Can we actually make that --

1 I'm sorry, Your Honor.

2 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: No. You're good.

3 MR. ARIAS: Looking at the calendar,  
4 September 1st is a Sunday. Let's go ahead and make it  
5 September 3rd, the Tuesday. It's the Tuesday after  
6 memorial -- the Tuesday after -- sorry, Labor Day.

7 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: I'm going to  
8 voluntarily make that September 4th, just so --

9 MR. ARIAS: Okay.

10 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: -- nobody has to come  
11 back from a holiday and -- and then immediately write  
12 up a response.

13 MR. ARIAS: That -- that's -- that's  
14 acceptable to us.

15 MR. ZAKOURA: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

16 MS. KERR: Yes. That's fine.

17 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Let me check my script  
18 to see if there's anything else we need to talk about.  
19 But, no. It seems like you guys have taken care of  
20 everything. So is there -- well, is there any --  
21 normally at a procedural conference, I would give a  
22 spiel about what I'm looking for in a procedural  
23 schedule, and then I would get off the phone allowing  
24 the parties to continue the discussion. Because this  
25 is set up to allow the parties to meet and converse.



1 Did you want me to leave the Webex open for you all?

2 MR. ARIAS: Actually, yeah. Just it might  
3 be helpful. I know OPC wasn't in the conversations  
4 this morning. Lindsay, would you want to hear our --  
5 kind of the resolution we're working towards.

6 MS. VANGERPEN: Yeah. I think that would  
7 be helpful.

8 MR. ARIAS: Okay.

9 LAW JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. Then I'm going  
10 to go ahead and call an end to our procedural  
11 conference. Within an hour or so I will produce the  
12 order for September 4th, and that's just a -- added  
13 support for the settlement discussions or request for  
14 more time --

15 (Audio ended.)

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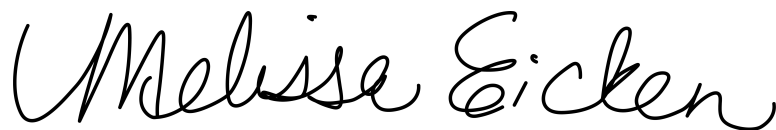
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## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

1  
2  
3 I, Melissa J. Eicken, Certified Court  
4 Reporter of Missouri, Certified Shorthand Reporter of  
5 Illinois and Registered Professional Reporter, do  
6 hereby certify that I was asked to prepare a  
7 transcript of proceedings had in the above-mentioned  
8 case, which proceedings were held with no court  
9 reporter present utilizing an open microphone system  
10 of preserving the record.

11 I further certify that the foregoing pages  
12 constitute a true and accurate reproduction of the  
13 proceedings as transcribed by me to the best of my  
14 ability and may include inaudible sections or  
15 misidentified speakers of said open microphone  
16 recording.

17 

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19 Melissa J. Eicken, CCR, CSR, RPR  
20  
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24 Date:  
25

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