

**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)
Otherwise Control and Manage a Natural) **File No. GA-2024-0361**
Gas Distribution Systems Throughout the)
State of Missouri and for Approval to Acquire)
Natural Gas Assets of Southern Star Central)
Gas Pipeline, Inc.)

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

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

1. On June 6, 2024, Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire (“Spire”) filed an application requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) to construct, install, own, operate, maintain, and otherwise control and manage a natural gas distribution system throughout the State of Missouri and to acquire natural gas assets of Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (“Southern Star”); and requesting a waiver from the notice provisions of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240.4.017(1).

2. On June 21, 2024, the Commission issued an *Order and Notice*. The *Order* directed Staff to file its recommendation regarding Spire’s *Application* or a status report when it expects to file a recommendation no later than July 16, 2024.

3. On July 15, 2024, 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 September 16, 2024.

4. On July 17, 2024, the Commission granted Staff's Motion for an Extension of Time and issued an *Order and Notice Directing Filing of Staff Recommendation*. The *Order* directed Staff to file its recommendation regarding Spire's *Application* no later than September 16, 2024.

5. On September 13, 2024, Staff filed a *Motion for Extension of Time* to file its recommendation to conduct further discovery, analyze newly acquired data and information from Spire, and complete its investigation. On September 16, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Granting Extension of Time to File Staff Recommendation* and granted the Staff until October 25, 2024, to file its recommendation.

6. 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, subject to Staff's proposed conditions, 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 6 of Staff's Memorandum.

7. 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 to acquire natural gas assets of Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. as 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 24th day of October, 2024.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey