BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire's Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service Provided In the Company's Missouri Service Areas

File No. GR-2025-0107

RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 EXTRA RECORD NOTICE AND MOTION TO TAKE OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ORDER CLOSING INVESTIGATION IN CASE NO. GO-2025-0131

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. ("Spire Missouri" or "Company"), and submits this *Response to September 25, 2024 Extra Record Notice and Motion to Take Official Notice of Order Closing Investigation in Case No. GO-2025-0131*,¹ stating as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. On September 23, 2024, a former employee of the Company submitted an e-mail to the Commission alleging that the Company instructed employees on "how to hide documents" to prevent said documents from being discoverable by the Commission.

2. On September 25, 2024, the aforementioned e-mail was filed as an extra record notice in this case, the Company's rate case docket.

3. On October 8, 2024, Staff of the Commission filed a motion to open an investigation into the allegations from the e-mail in a separate docket, File No. GO-2025-0131. The Commission issued an order opening the investigation on October 17, 2024.

4. On January 21, 2025, after having fully investigated this allegation, Staff filed its investigation report in File No. GO-2025-0131. In its report, Staff "determined that there were no discussions by Spire Missouri on concealment of matters from Staff or the Commission or on

¹ This order is attached as Exhibit 1.

destruction of documents that would be otherwise discoverable by Staff," and requested that the Commission close Docket No. GO-2025-0131.

5. On February 5, 2025, the Commission issued its *Order Closing Investigation* in Docket No. GO-2025-0131, stating "that after meeting with the former [Company] employee on several occasions, conducting discovery, and reviewing documentation surrounding the allegations, Staff determined that there were no 'issues of illegalities found' and recommended this investigation be closed." The Commission ordered that, "[n]o further action is needed by the Commission and this investigation is closed."

6. Section 536.070(6), RSMo. 2016, provides that "[a]gencies shall take official notice of all matters of which the courts take judicial notice."

7. It is well established that, "[u]nder certain circumstances, a court may take judicial notice of its own record in other cases." <u>In re J.M.</u>, 328 S.W.3d 466, 469, Mo.App. E.D. 2010 (internal citations omitted).

8. The e-mail that formed the basis of the investigation referenced above was initially filed in the present case, the Company's rate case docket. Staff's investigation report on the e-mail's allegations and the Commission's *Order Closing Investigation*, both of which found no wrongdoing by the Company, are filed in File No. GO-2025-0131, a separate docket. To ensure that it is clear in this Company's rate case docket that the allegations from the e-mail were investigated, and no issues of illegalities were found, it is appropriate that the Commission take official notice of the *Order Closing Investigation* in this rate case docket. This will ensure that the parties and any member of the public reviewing the docket are aware of the outcome of the investigation.

WHEREFORE, Spire Missouri Inc. respectfully requests this Commission, in File No.

GR-2025-0107, the Company's general rate case docket, take official notice of its Order Closing

Investigation in File No. GO-2025-0131.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sreenivasa Rao Dandamudi

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ATTORNEYS FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been sent by electronic mail to all individuals on the service list of record on this 18th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Sreenivasa Rao Dandamudi

Sreenivasa Rao Dandamudi