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Energy-Efficiency
Witness: *Russell Drury*
Sponsoring Party: *MoPSC Staff*
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Case No.: *GR-2025-0107*
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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
INDUSTRY ANALYSIS DIVISION
WATER, SEWER, GAS, AND STEAM DEPARTMENT

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

RUSSELL DRURY

SPIRE MISSOURI INC.,
d/b/a Spire

CASE NO. GR-2025-0107

Jefferson City, Missouri
April 2025

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1 A. The Weatherization Program implemented by Spire Missouri is defined in
2 Rule 34 located in its tariff at P.S.C. MO. No. 9 Sheet No. R-28 as a program “designed to
3 provide energy education and weatherization assistance to limited-income residential customers
4 to assist customers in reducing their energy consumption and thus reducing their natural gas
5 utility bill.”

6 Currently, the Weatherization Program is divided between Spire Missouri’s two service
7 territories: Spire East and Spire West. Energy education is provided through Spire Missouri’s
8 website and partnerships with local Community Action Agencies (“CAAs”). Spire Missouri’s
9 website has content available for educating customers on the benefits of energy efficiency and
10 provides information on assistance programs.¹ The CAAs provide energy efficiency awareness
11 to low-income families through use of marketing materials designed by Spire Missouri.

12 Rule 34, located in Spire Missouri’s tariff at P.S.C. MO. No. 9 Sheet No. R-28, explains
13 weatherization assistance is provided for home improvement projects to improve customers’
14 control over their bills and to make efficient use of heating dollars.

15 Q. What did Staff investigate regarding the Weatherization Program?

16 A. Staff investigated the impact and cost of the current Spire Missouri
17 Weatherization Program. Staff discovered, based on responses to Staff Data Requests
18 (“DRs”) 0143 and 0144, that Spire Missouri and the CAAs have provided weatherization
19 improvements for an average of 291 customers annually from October of 2020 through
20 September of 2024 in Spire East and 436 customers over the same timeframe in Spire West.
21 Spire Missouri reported an annual average of \$902,884 to the six CAAs within its East territory,

¹ Gas Appliances Rebates & Offers | Spire Inc.

1 and an annual average of \$712,500 provided to the six CAAs within its West territory for
2 the program.²

3 Q. How does Spire Missouri enact the Weatherization Program?

4 A Spire Missouri enacts its Weatherization program by partnering with CAAs that
5 are located in Spire Missouri's two service areas. Spire Missouri makes funds available to those
6 CAAs and those CAAs distribute the funds to low-income eligible residential customers within
7 its service territory who use natural gas to heat their residences. According to page 5,
8 lines 17-19 of Spire Missouri witness Shaylyn Dean's testimony and Spire Missouri's
9 responses to DRs 0143 and 0144, the current annual funding level for Spire East is \$950,000
10 and the annual funding for Spire West is \$750,000. Based on Mr. Dean's responses to
11 DRs 0145 and 0146: each year Spire East's and Spire West's programs report an overage; the
12 overage is automatically carried over for the following year's program. The carryover for both
13 service territories has shown a trend of decreasing annually, even with the additional carryover
14 dollars from the previous year rolled in.

15 Q. Does Staff support the current efforts of Spire Missouri in its
16 Weatherization Program?

17 A. Yes, Staff is in favor of Spire Missouri's current Weatherization Program and
18 its management. The benefits of Spire Missouri's Weatherization Program is impactful.
19 The efforts of Spire East and Spire West result in a combined annual average of 727 residences
20 receiving weatherization upgrades from October 2020 through September 2024. These benefits
21 may not have been achievable without the residential weatherization program for low-income

² Responses to Staff DRs 0143 and 0144, four years of data was analyzed for each territory.

1 families. It helps provide more comfortable, safer living conditions and results in lower
2 monthly bills due to decreased energy demand.

3 **RESIDENTIAL HIGH EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM**

4 Q. What is energy efficiency?

5 A. Energy efficiency is the leveraging of manufactured goods that require less
6 energy input to achieve the same or better results as other goods.

7 Q. What did Staff investigate regarding Spire Missouri's Conservation and Energy
8 Efficiency Programs: Residential High Efficiency Rebate Program ("Residential High
9 Efficiency Rebate Program")?

10 A. Staff investigated Spire Missouri's current residential rebate programs,
11 including what energy-efficient appliances are offered under the programs and program
12 participation requirements. Spire Missouri's Residential High Efficiency Rebate Programs are
13 available to homeowners and do not require low-income qualification. Spire Missouri's energy
14 efficiency programs for the East and West service territories are compliant with the Spire
15 Missouri Tariff sheet No. R-30 and R-30.1 Rule 35A titled: "Conservation and Energy
16 Efficiency Programs."

17 Q. What is currently covered by Spire Missouri's Residential High Efficiency
18 Rebate Program?

19 A. According to Rule 35A, found in Spire Missouri's Tariff Sheet Nos. R-30 and
20 R-30.1, Spire Missouri currently offers rebate programs for high-efficiency gas furnaces, gas
21 boilers, water heaters (both tank and tankless) and electronic programmable thermostats.
22 The rebate value is directly related to the level of energy efficiency provided by the purchased
23 good and each individual good has a set maximum rebate amount. According to its response

1 to DR 0159, Spire Missouri also offers co-delivery programs with partnering electric providers
2 for insulation installation, sealing for infiltration reduction and energy-efficiency thermostats.

3 Q. What are “co-delivery” programs?

4 A. Co-delivery programs are those in which Spire Missouri partners with electric
5 utility companies that share service area coverage and they share cost on energy efficiency
6 rebate programs. Co-delivered programs can apply to income eligible single-family and
7 multi-family customers. Co-delivery programs provide efficiency for both utilities by
8 providing energy improvements such as insulation and programmable thermostats to customers
9 at a shared, and therefore reduced, cost to the partnered utilities.

10 Q. What is Staff’s position on Spire Missouri’s current Residential High Efficiency
11 Rebate Programs?

12 A. Staff does not object to Spire Missouri’s current Residential High Efficiency
13 Rebate Programs. Staff DR 0159 requested the results of the cost-benefit analysis for current
14 rebate programs. Spire Missouri’s response to DR 0159 provided results for analyses on
15 weatherization programs that included insulation installation and energy efficiency
16 thermostats. Twenty-three systems were analyzed. Twenty of the twenty-three systems scored
17 favorably in the analyses. This demonstrates the benefits of the programs outweigh the costs
18 and shows the programs are being run efficiently for a vast majority of the weatherization
19 programs analyzed. Assisting customers in implementing more energy efficient appliances in
20 the home benefits the rate payer by decreasing energy demand.

21 **CONCLUSION**

22 Q. To summarize, what is Staff’s opinion of Spire Missouri’s current
23 Weatherization and Residential High Energy Efficiency Programs?

1 A. Staff does not oppose Spire Missouri's current Weatherization and Residential
2 High Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs. The programs provide opportunities for low-income
3 customers and home owners to make improvements to their homes that can drive down energy
4 demand and make homes safer and more comfortable to live in. They also decrease
5 environmental impacts by improving energy conservation efforts. Staff's investigation also
6 shows that Spire Missouri is maintaining compliance with its current tariff sheets.

7 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

8 A. Yes, it does.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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)

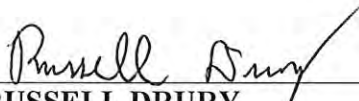
Case No. GR-2025-0107

AFFIDAVIT OF RUSSELL DRURY

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
COUNTY OF COLE) ss.

COMES NOW RUSSELL DRURY and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the foregoing *Direct Testimony of Russell Drury*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.



RUSSELL DRURY

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 18th day of April 2025.





Notary Public

Russell Drury

I serve as the Senior Utility Regulatory Specialist for the Water, Sewer, Gas, & Steam Department, in the Industry Analysis Division of the Missouri Public Service Commission. I have been employed by the State of Missouri for 20 years, and have been with the Commission for six months. My duties as Senior Utility Regulatory Specialist involve multiple aspects of the Commission's regulation of the water, sewer, gas, and steam industries including case management, customer complaints, drafting and reviewing testimony, and working with the utilities to promote best practices in their provision of safe and adequate service at just and reasonable rates.

Educational Background and Work Experience

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Prior to joining the Public Service Commission, I was employed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) – State Public Health Laboratory from 2005-2024, as a Scientist, Senior Scientist, Laboratory Manager Broadband-2 and Senior Program Manager. During my time with DHSS, I gained competence in clinical microbiology that included regulatory compliance with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, Laboratory Response Network and Federal Select Agent Program. Serving as the Director of Laboratory Preparedness, Education and Safety, I gained experience in project management, program oversight, personnel management, public speaking and high-level regulatory compliance. I served as the Laboratory Safety Officer, Responsible Official for the Select Agent Program, Radiological Safety Manager as well as the Biological and Chemical Terrorism Coordinator and assured compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by multiple federal programs.