

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 30th day of
April, 2025.

Catherine Cogorno,)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>File No. GC-2025-0277</u>
)	
Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire,)	
Respondent)	
)	

ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT

Issue Date: April 30, 2025

Effective Date: May 10, 2025

This order dismisses Catherine Cogorno’s complaint against Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire, because the complaint does not allege a violation of any provision of law subject to the Commission's authority, of any rule promulgated by the Commission, of any utility tariff, or of any order or decision of the Commission.

The Complaint

On April 14, 2025, Catherine Cogorno, Complainant, filed a complaint with the Commission against Spire. Complainant indicates that she is concerned about the safety of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters, and while she appreciates being able to opt-out of having an AMI meter, she does not believe paying \$30 per month to opt-out of having an AMI meter is appropriate. The Commission’s formal complaint form asks complainants to state the statute, tariff, or Commission regulation or order that Spire violated. Complainant’s formal complaint form states: “No violation. Just a request...”

On April 16, 2025, the Commission directed Complainant to explain the violation. Complainant responded that she initiated the complaint after emailing with the manager of the Commission's Consumer Services Department. Complainant's emails concerned AMI meters in general and concerns about the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) on her health. Complainant notes that based upon her average usage a \$30 monthly opt-out fee amounts to a 35% increase in costs for her gas service. However, Complainant's response still did not allege anything that would be a violation under the Commission's complaint statute, Section 386.390, RSMo.

Decision

Section 386.390, RSMo, provides that a person may file a complaint against a utility, regulated by this Commission, setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by any corporation, person or public utility in violation, or claimed to be in violation, of any provision of law subject to the Commission's authority, of any rule promulgated by the Commission, of any utility tariff, or of any order or decision of the Commission.

Spire's tariff sheet 19.2 – Miscellaneous Charges, approved by the Commission in File No. GR-2021-0108, authorized Spire to charge a One-Time Set-Up Charge of \$100 and a Non-Standard Meter Reading Monthly Charge of \$30. Therefore, Spire is not committing any violation by charging Complainant opt-out fees.

Complainant does not currently have a Spire AMI meter. The Commission weighed the benefits and detriments of AMI meters prior to approving Spire's use of AMI. Complainant's health concerns about AMI meters and EMFs do not allege a violation of a Commission order, rule, or tariff.

On April 9, 2025, the Governor of Missouri, Mike Kehoe, signed Senate Bill (SB) 4 into law. SB 4 will become effective on August 28, 2025. One of the provisions of SB 4 provides that a utility may charge a one-time fee, not to exceed \$125, to remove an AMI meter and to provide a traditional meter. Under SB 4 a utility may charge a monthly fee, not to exceed \$15, for the use of a traditional meter. So, while Complainant may currently be paying \$30 per month to opt-out of having an AMI meter, beginning July 1, 2026, Cogorno has the ability to communicate to Spire her desire to have a traditional meter and Spire will not be permitted to charge Cogorno more than \$15 per month for use of a traditional meter.

Cogorno's complaint does not state a claim for which the Commission can provide relief. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.116(4) provides that the Commission may dismiss a case for good cause upon ten days' notice to the parties. Therefore, the Commission finds good cause to dismiss Cogorno's complaint because she has not alleged a violation under Section 386.390, RSMo.

Any requests for reconsideration of this order pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.160(2) or any application for rehearing of this order pursuant to Section 386.500.1 shall be filed prior to the effective date of this order. The denial of an application for rehearing under Section 386.500 is a necessary prerequisite to filing a notice of appeal in an appropriate appellate court pursuant to Section 386.510. In the event that a motion for reconsideration or rehearing is granted, the Commission will make appropriate orders at that time.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Cogorno's complaint is dismissed.
3. This order shall be effective May 10, 2025.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Coleman, Kolkmeier,
and Mitchell CC., concur.

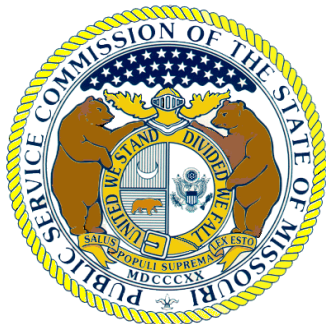
Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 30th day of April 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 30, 2025

File/Case No. GC-2025-0277

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.