

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of Spire)
Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire's)
Request for Authority)
to Implement a General Rate)
Increase for Natural) File No. GR-2025-0107
Gas Service Provided in the)
the Company's Missouri)
Service Areas)

June 03, 2025
6:00 p.m.

WEBEX

VOLUME 4

RILEY FEWELL,
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, CHAIR,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL

COMMISSIONERS

Reported by:
Colin Wallis, Lexitas Legal, St. Louis, MO 63101

* * * * *

(Starting time of the hearing: 7:40 p.m.)

REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: We can go on the record. Good evening, everyone, it is June 3rd, 2025, and the current time is 7:40 p.m.

The Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing to give members of the public a chance to comment about the application in file number GR-2025-0107, which is captioned as In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Incorporated, doing business as Spire's Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service in the Company's Missouri Service Areas.

The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates investor-owned utility companies in Missouri and ensures that rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and the safety of the operations of investor-owned utilities. The Commission is made up five commissioners, however, currently there are only four. Chair Kayla Hahn, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner

1 Kolkmeier and Commissioner Mitchell. The
2 commissioners are appointed by the governor to
3 fixed terms and then confirmed by the Senate.
4 They employ a staff of engineers, accountants,
5 attorneys, financial analysts and other
6 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

7 Commissioners, if you have any questions
8 at any time, please feel free to interrupt me
9 and ask them. My name is Riley Fewell, and I'm
10 the regulatory law judge presiding over this
11 hearing. This is an official hearing of the
12 Public Service Commission of Missouri, and the
13 statements and testimony of witnesses will be
14 recorded by the court reporter and must be
15 given under oath or affirmation.

16 The Commission has not made any decision
17 in this case, and neither the commissioners nor
18 myself can answer any questions about the
19 issues of the case today because the Commission
20 must remain impartial until all evidence is
21 presented. As we want to provide all attendees
22 an adequate opportunity to speak today, we will
23 limit the time for testimony to only three
24 minutes. I would ask that everyone remain
25 muted unless you are directed to speak, so that

1 everyone can be heard and understood for the
2 court reporter.

3 If you or someone you know would like to
4 make additional comments, there is a comments
5 tab that can be reached via the Commission's
6 website: psc.mo.gov. On the right side of the
7 home page, there's a link titled Submit
8 Comments. Click on that link to submit your
9 comments; make sure that you are referencing
10 this case number: GR-2025-0107.

11 There will also be three other
12 local public hearings. The first at St. Joseph
13 at noon tomorrow. Then Kansas City at 6:00
14 p.m. tomorrow. And the final at Joplin at
15 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. If you or anyone you
16 know would like to attend any of those other
17 local public hearings, let staff or OPC know
18 before you leave today to get further details.
19 The court reporter is transcribing this hearing
20 so that the Commission may review and read the
21 comments later. Chair Hahn, would you like to
22 make opening remarks?

23 CHAIR HAHN: Of course. Thanks, Judge
24 Fewell, appreciate it. Good evening, everyone
25 and welcome to our local public hearing this

1 evening. I know it's a little bit late for the
2 testimony to the Commission to get started,
3 which hopefully means there's been a very
4 robust question and answer session. The
5 Commission is here in its entirety this
6 evening, and so on behalf of the entire
7 commission, we look forward to hearing your
8 comments and will absolutely take those into
9 consideration as we weigh our decisions moving
10 forward. And with that, just looking forward
11 to hearing your thoughts and comments. Thanks,
12 Judge.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You're
14 welcome, Chair. And we can begin with parties
15 making their entries of appearance, beginning
16 with Spire. Thank you, your Honor.

17 MR. ARIAS: Antonio Arias on behalf of
18 Spire Missouri, Inc.

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: For the
20 Commission Staff?

21 MR. STACEY: Scott Stacey, deputy counsel
22 for Staff Counsel's Office representing Staff.
23 200 Madison street, Jefferson City, Missouri
24 65101.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.

1 And the Office of Public Counsel?

2 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of the
3 Office of Public Counsel. Thank you.

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Are there
5 any interveners today -- present today that
6 would like to enter their appearance? Okay.
7 For those who like to provide comments today,
8 I'm going to call the witnesses listed on the
9 sign-up sheet in the order that they appear.
10 When I call your name, please unmute yourself.
11 I will then place you under oath and ask you to
12 state and spell your name and then you can
13 offer your comments to the Commission.

14 As I stated before, we're limiting
15 testimony to only three minute so that everyone
16 has a chance to be heard tonight. Please
17 remain after -- available after your remarks
18 until you've been excused because the
19 Commission may have questions for you and the
20 attorneys may also have questions from you --
21 of you. They can let me know at that time.
22 Kylee Hamill is the first name I have listed.
23 It's star 6 if you're appearing by cell phone.
24 Is Kylee Hamill here? Okay, I can circle back.
25 Rachel Hanson.

1 MS. HANSON: That's me.

2 (Rachel Hanson sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
4 please state and spell your name for the
5 record?

6 MS. HANSON: Rachel Hanson, R-a-c-h-e-l,
7 H-a-n-s-o-n.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
9 you like to tell the Commission?

10 MS. HANSON: I am a Kansas City resident
11 and a Spire customer, and I'm requesting that
12 the Commission not approve any amount of rate
13 increase to Spire services. In Spire's proxy
14 statements, they state that they closely link
15 executive compensation to company performance.
16 In 2024, Spire's five executives earned over
17 \$9.3 million in salary, stock awards and other
18 forms of compensation.

19 Last year, Steven Lindsay, Spire's former
20 president and CEO received almost \$3.4 million
21 in compensation just by himself. Spire
22 received a cash influx as a result of their
23 three approved rate increases in 2021 and 2022.
24 10.8 million of that went into the pockets of
25 five Spire executives in 2022. 11.4 million of

1 it went to them in 2023.

2 Right before I joined this, I was
3 volunteering at my community food pantry where
4 every week more and more people are being fed
5 because the cost of everything is out of
6 control. Many Missourians are working multiple
7 jobs and doing without basic necessities
8 because people like Steven Lindsey, Scott
9 Doyle, Steven Rush, Michael Geiselhart and Ryan
10 Hyman, are allowed to reach into our pockets
11 and take our hard-earned money. We, the people
12 of Missouri, should not be expected to subsidize
13 performance increases for millionaires and
14 dividends for shareholders of a
15 publically-traded company.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
17 for your comments, ma'am. Elise Diane
18 Schaeffer. Is it star 6 if you're appearing by
19 cell phone to unmute. Is Elise Diane Schaeffer
20 here? Okay. Brent Weitzel? Is Brent Weitzel
21 on? Again, it is star 6 to unmute if you're
22 appearing by cell phone. Jennifer Janes? Is
23 Jennifer Janes on? Dara Jones? I apologize if
24 I'm mispronouncing your name. Is Dara Jones
25 on?

1 MS. HANSON: This is Dara Jones, yeah.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,
3 ma'am. Please raise your right hand --

4 MS. JONES: This is Dara Jones, can you
5 hear now? Yeah.

6 (Dara Jones sworn.)

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
8 please state and spell your name for the
9 record?

10 MS. JONES: Dara Jones, D-a-r-a,
11 J-o-n-e-s.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
13 You may proceed.

14 MS. HANSON: As a new resident to the
15 State of Missouri and the St. Louis greater
16 area, I was a bit shocked, sticker shocked if
17 you will, to see some of the costs of late.
18 Expecting some increase of where we relocated
19 from, still quite surprised by some of the
20 costs, especially with utilities, specifically
21 with Spire, have already experienced in the
22 short amount of time that we've been here, a
23 significant increase in the utilities than what
24 we are used to. And -- and stating in this
25 hearing, I would oppose a rate increase at all

1 as well, and, especially, a 14 percent increase
2 based on the information that I've gathered and
3 heard, even this evening, earlier. I'm not
4 seeing how that rate increase is fair, and
5 equitable for the people of Missouri. And, so,
6 I just ask the Commission to consider not
7 increasing the rate, and I encourage Spire to
8 continue to look for other options through
9 their shareholders and through their executive
10 team for other options, instead of passing the
11 burden onto the consumer, the end consumer.
12 Thank you for your time.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
14 for your comments, ma'am. Tim Bodine? It is
15 star 6 to unmute.

16 MR. BODINE: This is Tim Bodine.

17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Okay, Tim.

18 (Tim Bodine sworn.)

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
20 please state and spell your name?

21 MR. BODINE: Yes, it's Tim Bodine. It's
22 T-i-m, B-o-d-i-n-e.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
24 You may proceed with your comments.

25 MR. BODINE: Yes, my comments are short.

1 I can tell you that I'm in agreement with some
2 of the ones that have spoken previously. I
3 just really want Spire to consider such a large
4 increase at one time. If there's -- hopefully
5 there's been some thought of a gradual increase
6 over time. I -- I realize that they're a
7 publically-traded company. They're obligated
8 to their shareholders to make a profit.
9 However, it's hard for people that are on fixed
10 incomes, especially the elderly. I know they
11 offer help to those type of folks, but really
12 15 percent is a lot in comparison to the
13 inflation -- the current inflation rate. And I
14 know that's been explained off by some of the
15 folks at Spire that it really isn't, but
16 15 percent is a lot. And I just think there's
17 a better way. I'm certainly not opposed to not
18 ever having a rate increase. Certainly, we see
19 that amongst other utilities. So, the
20 expectation that that needs to happen, but just
21 the large increase all at one time, instead of
22 gradual over time, that's what I would ask
23 Spire to consider. Thank you.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
25 For your comments, sir. Ashley Craft.

1 MS. CRAFT: Present.

2 (Ashley Craft sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
4 please state and spell your name for the
5 record?

6 MS. CRAFT: Yes, A-s-h-l-e-y, C-r-a-f-t.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
8 you like to tell the Commission?

9 MS. CRAFT: So, I would like to echo
10 everything that the others have said. I also
11 oppose the rate increase. You know, it's just
12 getting more and expensive for the cost of
13 living, and to see yet another rate increase,
14 it's just becoming where are you going to find
15 the money?

16 And in addition to that, I attended the
17 noon virtual session, and when I asked for the
18 breakdown of where this money would be going,
19 it became apparent that they had to spend the
20 money already to ask for the rate increase.
21 And, so, I'd also like to have us, you know,
22 question the fact of what are we putting in
23 place system-wise to better protect all of us
24 from future rate increases? You know, there
25 needs to be not as broken of a system as we

1 spend the money then we ask for the rate
2 increase. So, that -- that is where I stand.
3 I definitely oppose the rate increase. And
4 would like to have folks think about the
5 future.

6 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
7 for comments, ma'am. Colleen Tepen?

8 MS. TEPEN: Yes.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Star 6 to
10 unmute if you're calling by cell.

11 MS. TEPEN: Can you hear me?

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Yes.

13 (Colleen Tepen sworn.)

14 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
15 please state and spell your name for the
16 record?

17 MS. TEPEN: Colleen Tepen. C-o-l-l-e-e-n,
18 T-e-p-e-n.

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
20 you like to tell the Commission?

21 MS. TEPEN: I'm wanting to -- I'm against
22 any rate increase at all. I heard one of the
23 attorneys state that they were going to try to
24 negotiate an increase and lower it, but I'm
25 against a rate increase. And I'm a resident of

1 St. Louis County in Baldwin. We've -- there's
2 several reasons, but one of the reasons is our
3 recent tornado. People were not doing well
4 before that, and, now, they are -- their homes
5 are devastated and they cannot afford this.
6 I'm a nurse practitioner. I see patients in
7 their homes, and people can't afford this.
8 They can't afford basic necessities right now,
9 especially -- and we've already had a quarter
10 of, you know, our growth in our economy is now
11 reversed, and we're shrinking, and we're
12 potentially going into a recession.

13 We cannot afford this. I understand Spire
14 has expenses, but they had an increase -- I
15 read that they had a criteria in profit in
16 2024. Their profit increased. So, they just
17 -- can just make a profit; they had more
18 profit. So, why are they asking for a 15
19 percent increase on rates for people that need
20 this service?

21 And the second reason, I wanted -- I'm
22 completely against any increase at all, is
23 because I live -- I come from a family with
24 multiple people, and my patients, with chronic
25 lung diseases. That's not talked about enough

1 but, you know, fracked gas is very bad for the
2 climate. It's primarily methane, and it
3 increases the heat and climate -- and it
4 increases it by six times stronger than other
5 forms of gas for climate -- with greenhouse
6 gases. And it affects people with chronic lung
7 diseases, and my children who have to live on
8 this planet after we're all gone.

9 So I'm completely against it for health
10 reasons, as well as climate change and
11 financial reasons. Any -- no increase at all.
12 Thank you.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
14 for your comments. Brian Jones. It's star six
15 to unmute yourself --

16 MR. JONES: Yes --

17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: -- by phone.

18 MR. JONES: Yes, I am here.

19 (Brian Jones sworn.)

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
21 please state and spell your name for the
22 record?

23 MR. JONES: Brian, B-r-i-a-n, Jones,
24 J-o-n-e-s.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may

1 proceed with your comments.

2 MR. JONES: Well, about everything that's
3 been said, I agree with. I do understand that
4 there has to be a rate increase with the --
5 everything has to be done with the two -- I
6 understand that things have to be -- the rate
7 increase, I understand it and the need for new
8 technology. I understand this, I disagree with
9 it, but I understand it. I only wish that it
10 could be a better way for it. But I do
11 understand it. And in these days and times we
12 are living in, I'm hopeful that Spire will do
13 all that they can, that the commissioners will
14 do all that they can, to consider the people of
15 the State of Missouri.

16 I live in Kansas City, which is part of
17 Jackson County. I've been here my whole life.
18 All my 52 years. I have been blessed to
19 receive service by Spire all my life. And I
20 can look back and say this, I hope that we're
21 receiving the best service by Spire for myself
22 and for all of us here in Kansas City and
23 Jackson County.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
25 for your comments. Leslie Schueneneyer?

1 MS. SCHUENENEYER: I'm here.

2 (Leslie Schueneneyer sworn.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
4 please state your name for the record?

5 MS. SCHUENENEYER: Lesley Schueneneyer,
6 L-e-s-l-i-e, S-c-h-u-e-n-e-n-e-y-e-r.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
8 proceed with your comments.

9 MS. SCHUENENEYER: Thank you, your Honor,
10 and commissioners. Like the others who spoke
11 before me, I do agree with their comments in
12 opposition to the proposed 15 percent increase.
13 You know, it's not like I have a choice or we
14 have a choice in any other utility provider. I
15 can't shop around for a better rate and make
16 the most efficient use of my budgetary dollars.
17 I think that a 15 percent increase is
18 excessive. Yes, I understand there is a cost
19 of doing business and there is a cost needing
20 to make some improvement, but I also think that
21 Spire has the responsibility to act more
22 efficiently, be less excessive and function in
23 the best interests of its customers.

24 You know, I wish Missouri could be, and
25 would be, out of the natural gas business. We

1 really need to be exploring other avenues, but
2 that's a whole other issue. So I just wanted
3 to express my viewpoint on opposing the rate
4 increase, and I thank you for your time.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
6 for your comments, ma'am. Ashley Goins. It is
7 star 6 to unmute yourself if you're appearing
8 by phone. Is Ashley online? Ashley Goins?

9 MS. GOINS: This is Abigail Goins.

10 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: I'm sorry,
11 you're right. I misread.

12 MS. GOINS: No, you're fine.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: I don't know
14 how I misread.

15 (Abigail Goins sworn.)

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
17 please spell your name for the record?

18 MS. GOINS: Yes, it's A-b-i-g-a-i-l. Last
19 name: G-o-i-n-s.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: All right.
21 What would you like to tell the Commission?

22 MS. GOINS: Yes, I'd like to start by
23 saying that I am completely against this
24 increase at 14 percent or even 1. I haven't
25 heard a compelling word tonight from Spire on

1 why this is necessary, but I've had heard from
2 fellow constituents who said this would impose
3 a hardship on many of us. We all know the
4 saying, yes, it's the cost of doing business;
5 but Spire wants also to ignore the fact not one
6 of the costs of business by a business is to
7 audit and examine your budget and appropriately
8 adjust for your expenses.

9 My goal, to be honest, is a zero percent
10 increase. As a consumer, I'm now hit in this
11 country by tariffs and Spire stated that they
12 are not. As a Jackson County resident, I'm
13 also hit with increased property taxes, and to
14 hear that Spire CEO taking a pay cut was not
15 even contemplated when they're making almost
16 two million dollars in compensation a year is,
17 in my opinion, disgusting.

18 I haven't heard tonight or in mailings
19 read since Spire took the PPP loan in 2020 and
20 2021, how they reserved or set aside any of
21 those funds to pay for the infrastructure cost
22 that we are now having laid at our feet. But I
23 am told, as an adult, that I need to be saving
24 for hard times, so I just don't think that is
25 matching up.

1 With Spire's profit margins being around
2 9.6 percent and most salaries in this city
3 increasing by, hopefully, 1 to 3 percent a
4 year, if you're lucky, this will only increase
5 the property level in this city and in this
6 state. I work a 40-hour week job, but let's be
7 real, that's probably about 60 hours a week if
8 we're all being honest. I take care of my
9 home. I take care of my husband who cannot
10 work do to having stage four adrenal cancer.
11 And if an increase takes place, my gas bill
12 will become around 400 to \$450 a month in the
13 winter. And I have to ensure that he doesn't
14 get sick. I should not have to make a choice
15 between heat and medication for my husband, and
16 I should not have to pay for shareholders for a
17 publically-traded company. Thank you for your
18 time. And I hope you have -- I hope everyone
19 has a great night.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
21 for your comments, ma'am. Taylor
22 Shields-Hillyer? Is Taylor Shields-Hillyer
23 here? Is it star 6 to unmute.

24 MS. SHIELDS-HILLYER: Sorry, I am here.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Okay.

1 (Taylor Shields-Hillyer sworn.)

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
3 please state and spell your name for the
4 record?

5 MS. SHIELDS-HILLYER: Yeah, Taylor
6 Shields-Hillyer, T-a-y-l-o-r, S-h-i-e-l-d-s,
7 H-i-l-l-y-e-r.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
9 you like to tell the Commission?

10 MS. SHIELDS-HILLYER: I'd like to, like
11 most people, piggy back off of, I am against
12 the 14 percent raise, because as a family, and
13 people trying to survive in this day and age,
14 we cannot afford more for natural gas. I have
15 four kids, and I have to keep my house warm
16 enough for them, and that's already a struggle
17 without having a bill that's over \$400, and
18 that's with doing everything in my home.

19 I added insulation. I have done things to
20 my windows. We have done everything we can to
21 try and lesson our gas intake. And even that
22 being said, we are still getting hit with \$400,
23 and in then, heaven forbid, you can't pay that.
24 Then you have to then get, you know, late fees.
25 And if you set up a payment plan, you have to

1 pay that, and then if you are late on that
2 payment plan, you then in turn have to pay
3 every dime back immediately or your gas gets
4 shut off.

5 With Spire wanting to update the meters
6 with some of this money, they're wanting to be
7 able to have a safety feature where it's able
8 to shut off automatically. That being said, I
9 understand that's a great thing; that's really
10 good, but that also means I guarantee you that
11 if someone is late on their payments, they are
12 going to be able to also shut off your gas
13 right then and there without having that little
14 bit of grace period that you would typically
15 have with late payment of a shut-off notice.
16 You typically have about, you know, a week
17 before they actually are there to do it, so you
18 can try and ask family or somehow make more
19 money to get that paid.

20 And that is something that is very
21 stressful to even think about. And, also, I
22 just can't -- I cannot occur another 14 percent
23 or else I'm just going to have to just not have
24 heat on for half of the winter, which, I again,
25 have four kids, I really can't do that. We

1 already wear hoodies and blankets all winter
2 anyway to try and keep our costs down. And
3 that's it. Thank you.

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
5 for your comments, ma'am. Myisha Johnson. Is
6 it. Star 6 to unmute if you're appearing by
7 phone.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Here.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Myisha
10 Johnson, sorry.

11 MS. JOHNSON: I'm here.

12 (Myisha Johnson sworn.)

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
14 please state and spell your name for the
15 record?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Myisha, M-y-i-s-h-a,
17 Johnson. J-h -- J-o-h-n-s-o-n, I'm sorry.

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You're
19 perfectly fine, ma'am. What would you like to
20 tell the Commission?

21 MS. JOHNSON: I would like -- one, I
22 oppose the increase due to the fact that people
23 are struggling after the tornado. Many -- many
24 North Citians and county folk from KC to St.
25 Louis have lost their properties and their

1 meters are continuing to run, and you all say
2 no disconnect until September; but if their
3 meters are running and they're not utilizing
4 the gas, I don't think they should be charged
5 for that. And, also, due to the fact a lot of
6 them won't be able to rebuild their home, and
7 insurance companies are paying the city before
8 they pay the people, they're not going to have
9 the money after they, you know, relocate or
10 replenish the things they lost.

11 It's going to be hard for them to catch up
12 on their Spire bill and to get what they have
13 left over. So, I really don't think that they
14 deserve an increase. I don't think that we
15 deserve an increase because we're already
16 struggling as rents continue to rise, as costs
17 for schooling and other things continue to
18 rise. We are already facing a hardship. Thank
19 you.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
21 for your comments, ma'am. Laura Schilli?

22 MS. SCHILLI: Hi, can you hear me?

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Yes.

24 (Laura Schilli sworn.)

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you

1 please state and spell your name for the
2 record?

3 MS. SCHILLI: Laura, L-a-u-r-a, Schilli,
4 S-c-h-i-l-l-i.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
6 you like to tell the Commission?

7 MS. SCHILLI: Well, thank you for holding
8 this hearing. I am a 33-year-old single woman
9 living on a modest income in St. Louis City.
10 I've lived in the same apartment for the past
11 four years. A typical older St. Louis building
12 with poor insulation that makes heating
13 inefficient and expensive. Even with Budget
14 Billing through Spire, it's a struggle every
15 month to keep up with expenses, including
16 utility costs. During the winters, I often
17 keep the heat lower than it is comfortable to
18 avoid even higher bills. I bundle up in
19 sweaters and blankets just to get by, and I
20 know I'm not alone. And I know there's people
21 worse off than me.

22 Many of us are already making tough
23 choices between staying warm and staying
24 afloat. And, now, Spire's proposing a
25 15 percent rate increase, which can be an extra

1 \$168 a year. That might not sound like much to
2 some but for individuals and families already
3 very stretched thin, it's a serious burden.
4 Prices for everything: groceries, rent and
5 insurance are all going up while pay raises
6 aren't keeping pace. We also can't ignore what
7 St. Louis residents are already going through.
8 Many of our neighbors are still recovering from
9 the recent tornado, facing displacement and
10 unexpected expenses. To add a utility rate
11 hike on top of that is deeply unfair and out of
12 touch with the reality we're all living in.

13 This proposed increase threatens to push
14 people into hardship. I urge you to reject
15 Spire's rate hike and instead, stand with
16 Missouri residents who are just trying to make
17 ends meet. Thank you.

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
19 for your comments, ma'am. I'm going to go back
20 to the list, the beginning of the list. Is
21 Kylee Hamill on? It is star 6 to unmute
22 yourself if you're appearing by phone. Kylee
23 Hamill? Elise Diane Schaeffer? Is Elise Diane
24 Schaeffer? Brent Weitzel? Is Brent Weitzel
25 there? Is star 6 to unmute yourself. Jennifer

1 Janes? Is Jennifer Janes there? Okay. Is
2 there anyone else who like to make comments to
3 the Commission today?

4 MS. TOHEY: Yes, I would like to make a
5 comment. Can you hear me?

6 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Yes, I can.

7 (Madelaine Toohey sworn.)

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
9 please state and spell your name for the
10 record?

11 MS. TOHEY: My name is Madelaine Toohey,
12 spelled M-a-d-e-l-a-i-n-e, and, Toohey,
13 T-o-o-h-e-y.

14 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
15 you like to tell the Commission?

16 MS. TOHEY: I just would like to also echo
17 what previous residents have stated. I am
18 myself am a resident of Florissant, and I
19 oppose the Spire increase at 15 percent or any
20 percent at all. I think that right now
21 economically things are hard for everybody. I
22 know personally things are very hard for me.
23 My husband works in warehousing, and he just
24 got laid off. And I know a lot of people in
25 that industry are getting laid off, especially

1 because of the tariffs and everything. And
2 companies are placing that burden on their
3 lower employees and consumers rather than, you
4 know, taking pay cuts from CEOs or
5 shareholders; and I oppose that in this case as
6 well, especially because that would just add to
7 the burden of my household and community.
8 Thank you.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
10 for your comments, ma'am. It looked like an
11 Abby Brown raised her hand.

12 MS. BROWN: Yes.

13 (Abigail Brown sworn.)

14 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
15 please state and spell your name for the
16 record?

17 MS. BROWN: Abigail Brown, A-b-i-g-a-i-l,
18 B-r-o-w-n.

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Sorry, I
20 think there's two people speaking right now.
21 Can Abby Brown -- I'm going to have her
22 testify, and then I'll go back to the general
23 and see who else wants to -- sorry, Ms. Brown.
24 Can you restate and spell your name for the
25 record?

1 MS. BROWN: Yes, Abigail Brown,
2 A-b-i-g-a-i-l, B-r-o-w-n.

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
4 you like to tell the Commission?

5 MS. BROWN: So, I, too, oppose this rate
6 increase. A question that was asked during the
7 hearing was if Spire's CEO would consider
8 taking a pay cut, to which Spire replied pretty
9 much no. They would not be cutting the pay of
10 the CEO. However, rather than reducing the pay
11 of someone who makes millions of dollars, Spire
12 decided to implement what they called a
13 customer affordably plan in 2024. Per the
14 testimony of Scott Weitzel in his November --
15 in November for this case, he states that the
16 company decided to, and I quote, "Reduce head
17 count and offer early retirements to the
18 employees of Spire."

19 So I question why the pay of a CEO cannot
20 be cut, but rather they chose to reduce the
21 number of employees they have. They're likely
22 making, you know, an average wage, and we're
23 just the everyday consumer. Additionally,
24 given our current federal administration's
25 extreme budget cuts, many programs that are

1 relied on by low and moderate consumers, will
2 likely no longer be in existence at the end of
3 this year, likely by the end of August. For
4 LIHEAP especially, so it's concerning that
5 there is -- we're going to increase the rates
6 of households who already are having trouble
7 paying their bills, yet we have no federal
8 plans to assist these people; and Spire will
9 likely not greatly add to the costs, add
10 funding for the costs that low income consumers
11 need assistance with. And that's all I have.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
13 for your comments, ma'am. Is there anyone else
14 who would like to give a comment today? It's
15 star 6 to unmute yourself if you're appearing
16 by cell phone or --

17 MS. THOMPSON: My -- I would like to --

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
19 please raise your right hand?

20 MS. THOMPSON: Hello? Hello?

21 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: I'm going to
22 go to -- there's a name listed as Martha and
23 then I think caller number 54, I'll go to you
24 right after.

25 (Martha Thompson sworn.)

1 MS. THOMPSON: I'm Martha, yes.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
3 please state and spell your name for the
4 record?

5 MS. THOMPSON: Okay, my name is Martha,
6 Capital M-a-r-t-h-a. Thompson, capital
7 T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
9 you like to tell the Commission?

10 MS. THOMPSON: I would like to say to the
11 Commission, this is not just a 15 percent
12 raise. If you will look back at the records
13 within this last five years, I believe, this is
14 the third raise. And I'm from Kansas City,
15 Missouri, and, so, it's already been
16 established tonight that we have a raise of
17 4.5 percent. Okay, if you add 15 percent to
18 that, that's 19.5 percent. And I believe the
19 raise before that, was at least one percent if
20 we just say one percent, that puts us at
21 20 percent raised within the last five years.
22 So I would like for you to consider that, and I
23 am on a fixed income. I am a retired educator,
24 so, you know, I'm not getting a lot of money.
25 And we -- we make -- we do what we can do with

1 the money that we have. And I would like for
2 you to consider that as you all are making your
3 decisions.

4 Our -- my income is not going to go up.
5 It is basically going to pretty much be what it
6 is for the rest of my life. And we do
7 everything we can to keep our utilities down,
8 and -- but I also have a child who is bedridden
9 with MS. So, I can't -- my house can't be hot.
10 I mean, can't be cold in the winter because she
11 stays cold, so I have to run my utilities. So
12 as you all are making your decision, think
13 about those things. That's just -- I'm just
14 one person, and those are the things that I'm
15 going through, and I'm sure there are people
16 who are far worse off than I am.

17 So I would appreciate it if you would
18 think about that, and then think about those
19 executives that are making \$9 million for four
20 or five people. And think about that when you
21 are making your decision for your constituents.
22 Thank you.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
24 for your comments, ma'am. Caller 54, I don't
25 know if tells you if you're caller 54. I -- I

1 think I have you currently unmuted. Are you
2 there?

3 MS. LELLORE: Hello?

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Hi.

5 MS. LELLORE: Yes.

6 (Ozell Lellore sworn.)

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
8 please state and spell your name for the
9 record?

10 MS. LELLORE: Ozell Lellore, O-z-e-l-l,
11 L-e-l-l-o-r-e. To the judge and the
12 Commission --

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: You may
14 proceed.

15 MS. LELLORE: Yes, I'm glad I got unmuted.
16 Yes, I want to agree with everybody that called
17 in, because we have economical problems; and a
18 lot of people are living from paycheck to
19 paycheck and are on a fixed income. And half
20 of us have worked for the government all of our
21 lives. And, you know, when the marines and the
22 soldiers come here, they can't even get decent
23 headquarters. They can't get money to take
24 care of their medical, so where is that going
25 to leave the fixed income, the elderly? I've

1 been calling in for an application for low
2 income, because some of us are on a budget or a
3 fixed income, and some of us are living by, you
4 know, food stamps and some on housing. And,
5 see, it's going to push us out in the street.

6 If you haven't saved any money or you
7 wasn't born with a silver spoon in your mouth
8 or have, like, relatives that leave you an
9 inheritance. So where we're going to fall, and
10 we have worked 30, 35, 40 years, and, now, when
11 you see the economy, with the storms, tornadoes
12 and earthquakes, and people are dying with
13 stress, they can't even afford the eggs in the
14 store. They up. Everything is up because the
15 cost of living.

16 So, Judge and Commission, when you go home
17 tonight, pray, and think about the low people
18 that made this world back in the day. Their
19 sweat and their blood and sacrifices. We don't
20 deserve all these high cost livings. They need
21 to cuts taxes, think about the little man that
22 they don't even think about it, because it
23 ain't no middle class no more. It's either the
24 rich or the poor. We got poverty. We got
25 people in the street. I passed them on the

1 street and hand them out some money. I tell
2 them go to the church and get the food pantry.
3 They on the street, Judge. They on the street,
4 Commission. They don't have affordability
5 housing. They don't have luxuries. They don't
6 have a car. They don't even have food stamps.
7 They don't have no money.

8 So if they doing worse than we are, where
9 they're going to find us in a couple years? I
10 ask them to send their applications, so I can
11 fill it out for the disability and the
12 disabled. I haven't got the application. It's
13 been like five years. They put me on there in
14 2021, then they may made my gas bill like
15 \$39.94.

16 When I've moved here, and it costs in
17 Overland -- I live in Overland, Missouri, then
18 it was 2.19. I was able to pay 30, \$40 on gas,
19 and 20, 30, \$40 on utilities. But, now,
20 everything is going up, cost of living -- I
21 barely can pay these bills. And then if you
22 got a two bedroom, they jack you up to 126 and
23 112 a month. Now, if you married, you can have
24 help from your spouse if he have a job, you all
25 can maybe make it. Maybe. I said maybe.

1 But if it's a single person or an elderly
2 person on a fixed income, they barely can pay
3 for their medications. They barely can pay for
4 groceries. They shouldn't have to choose
5 between paying Ameren UE, Spire or any other
6 company and can't eat a decent meal, skipping
7 their meals and can't go and get medical. They
8 can't even pay the medical. They got to pay
9 the prescription.

10 Some people without life insurance, health
11 insurance, medical insurance. They can't
12 afford all this. So think about the people
13 that work through the years that made the
14 nation great when they came over from wherever
15 they came from, wherever space. They sweat and
16 they work the bills. They all ante up, and
17 they all sacrificed. Think about them. Now,
18 they up in their 60, 70, 80, 90 and 100; they
19 don't deserve this. They say, wow, we worked
20 all them years, and this is what we get,
21 peanuts. We get crumbs. We should be living
22 good. But we living below poverty, poverty
23 stricken, poverty line. Yes, I've been waiting
24 to get on the line, because I have a voice to
25 speak. My civil rights being invaded by all

1 these taxes, and they just flooding us out.

2 They about to put us out the home that we
3 living, trying to pay the bills, Judge and
4 Commission, into the street. And, you know,
5 the shelter is overfull. It's running over
6 with homeless people, because you know they
7 don't want them on the street. They move from
8 curb to curb, and they don't have no place.
9 And then they send all the migrants over here,
10 and they separating their families. They about
11 to push them back where them come from. It's a
12 disaster, and God is not pleased.

13 So if you can do anything, Judge or
14 Commission, pray before you make that decision,
15 to do the increase, I pray that you look and
16 think about us and do a decrease. I oppose the
17 14 percent increase rate and thank you for
18 hearing me. And this is Ms. Ozell Lellore.
19 And have a good day, and may God bless you all.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
21 for your comments, ma'am.

22 MS. LELLORE: All right, good day.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Is there
24 anyone else who would like to speak tonight?
25 It is star 6 to unmute yourself, and I think

1 there's a way to --

2 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm here.

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Chelsea
4 Williams? I'm guessing on your name.

5 (Chelsea Williams sworn.)

6 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL:

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Chelsea Williams,
8 C-h-e-l-s-e-a, W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s. Hey. Sorry.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: I'm not sure
10 the court reporter got that. I did not. Can
11 you repeat that?

12 MS. WILLIAMS: I can do it again.
13 Chelsea, C-h-e-l-s-e-a. Williams,
14 W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,
16 ma'am. You may proceed with your comments.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm a senior citizen. I'm
18 on Social Security. I bought my first house
19 four years ago. I've gone through a
20 100 percent property assessment raise increase
21 and then another one. And my home is really
22 poorly insulated, so I pretty much live in one
23 room in the winter. And I oppose this increase
24 for all the reasons already stated. You know,
25 some of the gals like Rachel and others who

1 really researched these percentages of, you
2 know, what the executives are making in terms
3 of profit and the lobbyists.

4 Clearly Spire is making money, really.
5 And then I did, I went through -- Spire came to
6 my home last year, tore up the streets, tore up
7 the grass, tore up my driveway. I just -- at
8 my own expense, I just reseeded and planted
9 the, you know, median medium by the street at
10 my expense.

11 I mean, it's just -- I don't feel there's
12 any great benefit. And every year my gas bills
13 go up. So I don't see the benefit, really.
14 It's going to keep costing us, you know, the
15 consumer more and more while the executives
16 make more and more profit. It just seems so
17 unfair and so unequitable. Especially in this
18 day with the tariffs and all the other
19 utilities, and the food has gone -- you know,
20 look at what everyone has said. Just the price
21 of living has gone up and up and up.

22 It's just really is kind of scary --
23 sorry, for my dogs. It's just scary as a older
24 person on a, you know, fixed income to feel
25 like I'm going to be pushed out of my house.

1 I've only been here less than five years. So
2 that's I -- I guess that is my comment, really.
3 I think that's all I have to say, but I'm
4 opposed pretty much.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
6 for your comments, ma'am.

7 MR. ARIAS: And we would just like to
8 reiterate there's a text number if Ms. Williams
9 would like to provide us that specific address.
10 It's in the chat, but the text number also is
11 (314)735-3013, so we can --

12 MS. WILLIAMS: I will.

13 MR. ARIAS: -- get that area, get your
14 address and investigate this issue.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, thank you. I will.
16 I will text it right now, okay, for that
17 number.

18 MR. ARIAS: Thank you.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.
21 Charlene Hansen.

22 MS. HANSEN: That's me.

23 (Charlene Hansen sworn.)

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
25 please state and spell your name for the

1 record?

2 MS. HANSEN: Charlene Hansen,
3 C-h-a-r-l-e-n-e, H-a-n-s-e-n.

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
5 you like to tell the Commission?

6 MS. HANSEN: So I'm a resident in Kansas
7 City, Missouri. The last time I had Spire was
8 a couple of years ago. The winter of 2018 into
9 2019, my Spire bill was about \$300 a month
10 every month. I was a new mom. My son was a
11 newborn at the time, and I was forced to go to
12 my landlord and beg him to let me out of my
13 lease. After several months of pleading with
14 my landlord to let me move, he finally agreed,
15 and I moved into an apartment that was over
16 \$100 more a month in rent. So even though I
17 was paying more in rent, I was saving a 100 to
18 \$200 a month because I was no longer paying
19 Spire. This is before the 2021 and 2022
20 increases.

21 And my heart breaks for my community
22 members that were not as fortunate as I am, and
23 who are homeowners or who are stuck having to
24 pay extraordinary high Spire bills, and who are
25 faced with the prospect of having to pay even

1 higher Spire bills with this rate increase. I
2 urge the commissioners to not allow any rate
3 increase.

4 Spire CEO and executives should not be
5 making a million dollars a year, let alone
6 multiple million dollars per year. Spire
7 spends hundred of thousands of dollars on
8 lobbyists who work against renewable energy
9 advances and then lobby for malicious practices
10 to further harm Missourians.

11 Spire has a history of fear mongering in
12 St. Louis. They worked -- actively worked
13 against climate protection plans, and they have
14 proven that they put their corporate greed
15 above the interests of Missourians, our
16 communities and our planet. Spire said that
17 these increases are needed for them to be a
18 healthy business. If we are all homeless
19 because we can't afford the cost of living,
20 then nobody will be paying a Spire bill, so I'm
21 not sure how they see that this what makes them
22 a healthy business.

23 Regardless of Spire's history of being an
24 awful utility company, the reason for their
25 increase is operating costs, and these are the

1 costs of doing business and should not require
2 rate increases every couple of years. This is
3 something that is part of their business and
4 does not require us to constantly have these
5 rate increases. Thank you so much,
6 commissioners, for facilitating these public
7 hearings and for allowing us to still have
8 in-person public hearings. I will be attending
9 the ones in Kansas City and Joplin in days to
10 continue. I urge you guys to act in the best
11 of interests of Missourians and say no to any
12 rate increase. Thank you.

13 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
14 for your comments, ma'am. Is there anyone else
15 who like to give comments today?

16 MS. MARSHALL: I would.

17 (Antionette Marshall sworn.)

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Please state
19 and spell your name.

20 MS. MARSHALL: Antionette Marshall,
21 A-n-t-i-o-n-e-t-t-e, M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l, Marshall,
22 sorry.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
24 you like to tell the Commission?

25 MS. MARSHALL: Well, I'm not going to

1 repeat because everybody has many great points.
2 I'm not for it. I agree with everything that's
3 been said so far. I would like whoever is
4 listening, whoever it matters to, to say that I
5 find it a bit insulting on everybody's part
6 that they would ask for a 15 percent raise on
7 our rates. That is -- like, usually, you get
8 a, you know, 6 percent over three years.
9 There's some work there. They just went right
10 in, and I think that's what's really upsetting
11 to people to go, well, they're just going to
12 raise 15 percent. Like that's not chump
13 change. You know, like everybody has said,
14 they want an increase for 15 percent, well,
15 we're not getting that on our pay, so I just --
16 that is something for them to think about, and
17 that's all I wanted to say.

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
19 for your comments, ma'am. Is there anyone else
20 who would like to testify? It is star 6 to
21 unmute yourself, and I believe there's a way to
22 raise your hand. I'm not positive on how to do
23 that.

24 MR. MCKEE: I would like to make a quick
25 comment, Judge.

1 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. Mr.
2 McKee, I got you first.

3 (Jeff McKee sworn.)

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Can you
5 please state and spell your name for the
6 record?

7 MR. MCKEE: Jeff McKee, J-e-f-f,
8 M-c-K-e-e.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would
10 you like to tell the Commission?

11 MR. MCKEE: I would just ask that the
12 Commission analyze this rate increase, along
13 with the annual operating budgets that are --
14 that the utility is operating by. And I think
15 it goes along the lines of what some of the
16 comments have been about the rate increase all
17 at once. And it seems like there would be ways
18 to predict some of these costs in the budget,
19 and, therefore, these costs shouldn't be over
20 and above a budget, if it's a good budget. So
21 that's all that I would ask is that they kind
22 of analyze the budget as well.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you
24 for your comments, sir. Is there anyone else
25 who like to testify. It is star 6 to unmute

1 your phone and I believe star 3 to raise your
2 hand. Okay. Chair Hahn, would you like to
3 make a closing remark?

4 CHAIR HAHN: Sure would. Thank you so
5 much, Judge Fewell. Appreciate it. Thank you,
6 everyone, for coming out tonight. Certainly,
7 it's been a long evening. But I know that
8 we're better informed for your testimony this
9 evening. We've gotten a lot of valuable
10 information. Very great comments, well
11 prepared. Just appreciate the engagement and
12 the time that it took for you all to give your
13 perspectives this evening.

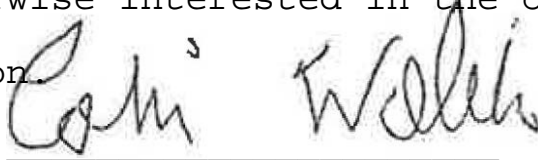
14 So on behalf of the entire commission,
15 thank you for your participation and look
16 forward to seeing some of you at the
17 future public hearings in this case. Thank you
18 all so much. Have a good evening.

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,
20 Chair. And I want to reiterate that we have
21 three more local public hearings, all of which
22 are in person. Two tomorrow. The first in St.
23 Joseph, Missouri, at noon. And then at
24 6:00 p.m. in Kansas City, and then on Thursday,
25 we have one in Joplin at 6:00 p.m.

1 And if you know anyone or would like to
2 make additional comments yourselves and you're
3 not able to go to one of those other
4 local public hearings, there's a consumer
5 comments tab that can be reached on the
6 Commission's website. That is p-s-c, dot, m-o,
7 dot, g-o-v. On the right side of the home pad,
8 there's a title -- home page, there's a link
9 titled Submit Comments. You will click on
10 that, and reference this case number:
11 GR-2025-0107. This hearing is adjourned, and
12 we're going to go off the record. Thank you,
13 everyone, and hope you have a good night.

14 (Ending time of the hearing: 8:40 p.m.)

1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of
2 Missouri do hereby certify that the witness
3 whose testimony appears in the foregoing
4 Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;
5 that the testimony of the said witness was
6 taken by me to the best of my ability and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
8 direction; that I am neither counsel for,
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties
10 to the action in which this examination was
11 taken, and further that I am not relative or
12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by
13 the parties thereto, nor financially or
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of the
15 action.

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17 within and for the State of Missouri
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