

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s )  
Verified Application for Issuance of a )  
Depreciation Authority Order Related to )  
Smart Meter Devices )

**File No. GO-2020-0416**

## **ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE AND SETTING DEADLINES FOR INTERVENTION APPLICATIONS AND STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION**

Issue Date: June 26, 2020

Effective Date: June 26, 2020

On June 25, 2020, Spire Missouri Inc. applied for a depreciation authority order establishing a new annual depreciation rate for smart meter devices. Spire requests a decision by no later than September 30, 2020. Spire also requests waiver of the Commission's 60-day notice requirement under 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

The Commission will direct notice be given and set a deadline for intervention applications. The Commission will also direct Staff to file a recommendation.

### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Commission's data center shall provide notice of this order and Spire's application to the parties in File Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216.
2. The Commission's data center shall provide notice of this order and Spire's application to the Board of Aldermen for the city of St. Louis and the county commissions in Spire's service territory.
3. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall provide notice of Spire's application to members of the General Assembly representing residents in Spire's service territory.

4. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall provide notice of Spire's application to news media serving residents of Spire's service territory.

5. Applications for intervention shall be filed no later than July 10, 2020. Any such filing shall be submitted through the Commission's electronic filing and information system or delivered to:

Secretary  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

6. No later than July 27, 2020, the Commission's Staff shall file either a recommendation regarding Spire's application or a status report indicating when it expects to file a recommendation.

7. This order shall be effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Jana C. Jacobs, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo (2016).

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 26th day of June, 2020.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.’s Verified	)	
Application for Issuance of a Depreciation	)	Case No.
Authority Order Related to Smart Meters Devices	)	
	)	

**VERIFIED APPLICATION OF SPIRE MISSOURI INC.  
FOR A DEPRECIATION AUTHORITY ORDER RELATED TO SMART METER  
DEVICES AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF 60 DAY NOTICE RULE**

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. (“Spire Missouri” or “Company”), pursuant to Sections 386.250 and 393.140 RSMo, and 20 CSR 4240-2.060, and submits its Verified Application for Depreciation Authority Order (“DAO”) relating to the Company’s smart meters. Spire Missouri hereby requests that the Commission issue an order authorizing the Company to utilize a new annual depreciation rate for two of the Company’s plant accounts for the depreciation of the Company’s smart meter devices. Pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D), the Company also requests a waiver for the notice provisions of Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1). In support of its Application and Request for Waiver, the Company respectfully states as follows:

**APPLICANT**

1. Spire Missouri is a public utility incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri, with its principal office located at 700 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. Contact information for communications with Spire Missouri, through the Company’s legal counsel, including Spire Missouri’s electronic mail address and telephone number, are set forth on the signature page of this Application.

2. A Certificate of Good Standing evidencing Spire Missouri's standing to do business in Missouri is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated herein by this reference. The information on such Certificate is currently applicable and correct.

3. Spire Missouri is primarily engaged in the business of distributing and transporting natural gas to customers in both the eastern and western portions of the State of Missouri, subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Spire Missouri serves customers in the City of St. Louis and ten counties in Eastern Missouri through its Spire East operating unit. Spire Missouri serves customers in the City of Kansas City and thirty counties in Western Missouri through its Spire West operating unit.

4. Other than cases that have been docketed at the Commission, Spire Missouri has no pending actions or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service or rates.

5. Spire Missouri is current on its annual report and assessment fee obligations to the Commission, and no such report or assessment fee is overdue.

### **DEPRECIATION RATE REQUEST**

6. Spire Missouri has recently invested in 10,000 smart meter devices for its residential customers, with installation to begin this fiscal year and plans to continue to invest in smart meters over the next several years. Unlike the Company's current technology which requires the establishment of a link between the meter and reading device and has only one-way communication, the new smart meters consolidate the reading device and the meter within a single unit that allows for new meter reading technology that is capable of two-way communication.

7. Spire Missouri's current authorized plant accounts where the smart meter devices would seemingly fall into, include both meters and communication equipment. For Spire West, the meter accounts currently have a 2.86% annual depreciation rate (35-year life with no net salvage) and for communication equipment (ERT devices) a 5.26% annual depreciation rate (19-year life with no net salvage). Spire East has a 2.37% annual depreciation rate (38-year life with 10% net salvage) for meters, and a 5.0% annual depreciation rate (20-year life with no net salvage) for communication equipment.

8. In order to comply with FERC property classifications and to provide consistency across the Spire Missouri service area, Spire Missouri is establishing two new plant accounts, Account 381.100-Smart Meters and Account 382.100 Smart Meter Installations to place these smart meter devices. Given the different functionality of the new smart meter devices, and the 20-year battery life of the devices, Spire Missouri is requesting a new annual depreciation rate of 5%, based on a 20-year service life and no net salvage.

9. In order for the impact of the new depreciation rate to be reflected in Spire Missouri's financial results for its 2020 fiscal year reporting, the Company requests the Commission issue its order no later than September 30, 2020.

10. Granting the DAO requested herein will not impact customer rates. The DAO would put the Company in a position where it can, in future rate proceedings, request depreciation expense recovery in rates, however, the DAO does not guarantee that such rate recovery will be allowed. The Company will seek recovery of these costs in its next general rate case proceeding.

## **REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

11. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) provides, in part, as follows:

Any person that intends to file a case shall file a notice with the secretary of the commission a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to filing such case. Such notice shall detail the type of case and issues likely to be before the commission and shall include a summary of all communication regarding substantive issues likely to be in the case between the filing party and the office of the commission that occurred in the ninety (90) days prior to filing the notice.

Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D) permits a party to request a waiver of the above cited rule for good cause. The rule provision specifically provides that good cause may be established by submitting a verified declaration that the filing party has had no communication with the office of the commission within the prior one hundred fifty (150) days regarding any substantive issue likely to be in the case. The Company interprets this to mean that good cause is established if the filing party has had no communication with a member of the office of the Commission outside of pleadings or other public communications. Subject to that understanding, the Company has attached to this request a verified declaration that neither the Company nor any person or entity acting on behalf of the Company or its Missouri operating units, has had a communication with a member of the office of the commission in the last 150 days regarding its request for a depreciation authority order. For that reason, the Company requests that the Commission grant a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement for Spire Missouri's application for depreciation authority.

**WHEREFORE**, Spire Missouri, the Applicant herein, respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Company's Application and: (a) issue a DAO authorizing Spire Missouri to utilize an annual depreciation rate of 5.0% for the smart meter assets placed within

Accounts 381.100 and 382.100 by no later than September 30, 2020 (b) waiving for good cause the 60-day notice requirement of 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D); and (c) provide Spire Missouri with such other relief as the Commission finds is necessary and appropriate and not inconsistent with the DAO requested in this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

**SPIRE MISSOURI INC.**

By: /s/ Goldie T. Bockstruck

Goldie Bockstruck MoBar# 58759

Director, Associate General Counsel

Spire Missouri Inc.

700 Market Street

St. Louis, MO 63101

(314) 356-1568

Goldie.Bockstruck@spireenergy.com

**Certificate of Service**

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Verified Application of Spire Missouri Inc. was served on the General Counsel of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel on this 25th day of June 2020 by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax, or by placing a copy of such document, postage prepaid, in the United States mail.

/s/ Goldie T. Bockstruck

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s Verified	)	
Application for Issuance of a Depreciation	)	Case No.
Authority Order Related to Smart Meters Devices	)	
	)	

**VERIFICATION AND AFFIDAVIT OF TIMOTHY W. KRICK**

STATE OF MISSOURI	)	
	)	SS.
CITY OF ST. LOUIS	)	

Timothy W. Krick, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. My name is Timothy Krick. I am the Controller for Spire Missouri Inc. My business address is 700 Market St., St. Louis, Missouri, 63101.
  
2. I have read the foregoing Application, and that the matters and things set forth therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I also hereby swear and affirm that I have read the foregoing Request for Waiver, and hereby declare that, other than pleadings or other public communications, Spire Missouri Inc. has had no communication with the office of the Commission, within the prior one hundred and fifty (150) days regarding any substantive issue likely to be in the above referenced case.
  
3. Under penalty of perjury, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Timothy W. Krick

# STATE OF MISSOURI



**John R. Ashcroft**  
**Secretary of State**

**CORPORATION DIVISION**  
**CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING**

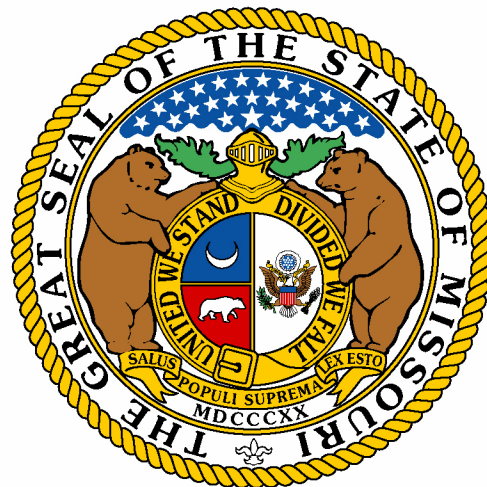
I, JOHN R. ASHCROFT, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the records in my office and in my care and custody reveal that

***Spire Missouri Inc.***  
**00042501**

was created under the laws of this State on the 2nd day of March, 1857, and is in good standing, having fully complied with all requirements of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the GREAT SEAL of the State of Missouri. Done at the City of Jefferson, this 24th day of October, 2019.

  
Secretary of State



Certification Number: CERT-10242019-0025

**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 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.**



  
**Morris L. Woodruff**  
**Secretary**

## **MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**June 26, 2020**

**File/Case No. GO-2020-0416**

**Missouri Public Service  
Commission**

Staff Counsel Department  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

**Office of the Public Counsel**

Marc Poston  
200 Madison Street, Suite 650  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
opc@opc.mo.gov

**City of St. Joseph, Missouri**

Legal Department  
City Hall, Room 307  
1100 Frederick Avenue  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

**City of St. Louis, Missouri**

Board Of Alderman  
City Hall  
1200 Market St  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
boac@stlouis-mo.gov

**Consumers Council of Missouri**

Legal Department  
2510 Sutton Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63143-2116

**County of Andrew, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
Andrew County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 206  
Savannah, MO 64485  
clerk@andrewcounty.org

**County of Barry, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
700 Main, Suite 2  
Barry County Courthouse  
Cassville, MO 65625

**County of Barton, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1004 Gulf, Room 104  
Barton County Courthouse  
Lamar, MO 64759  
clerk@barton-mo.com

**County of Buchanan, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
411 Jules, Rm. 121  
Buchanan County Courthouse  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
MaryBaack-Garvey@co.buchanan.mo.us

**County of Butler, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
100 N. Main, Room 202  
Butler County Courthouse  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
tdbutler@tcmax.net

**County of Carroll, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
8 South Main, Ste. 6  
Carroll County Courthouse  
Carrollton, MO 64633  
clerk@carroll-mo.org

**County of Cass, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
102 E. Wall St.  
Cass County Courthouse  
Harrisonville, MO 64701  
jffletcher@casscountymo.gov

**County of Cedar, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
113 South St., Cedar County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 665  
Stockton, MO 65785  
clerk@cedarcountymo.gov

**County of Christian, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
100 W Church, Rm. 206  
Christian County Courthouse  
Ozark, MO 65721  
kaybrown@christiancountymo.gov

**County of Clay, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1 Courthouse Sq.  
Administration Bldg.  
Liberty, MO 64068  
megan.thompson@claycountymo.gov

**County of Clinton, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
207 N. Main, Clinton County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 245  
Plattsburg, MO 64477  
clerk@clinton-mo.org

**County of Cooper, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
200 Main Street, Room 23  
Cooper County Courthouse  
Boonville, MO 65233  
Sarah.Herman@coopercountymo.gov

**County of Crawford, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
203 Main Street, Crawford County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box AS  
Steelville, MO 65565  
clerkjgmartin@gmail.com

**County of Dade, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
300 W Water St.  
Dade County Courthouse  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
dade@sos.mo.gov

**County of DeKalb, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
109 W Main St, DeKalb County  
Courthouse  
PO Box 248  
Maysville, MO 64469  
countyclerk@unitedfiber.email

**County of Franklin, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
400 E Locust, Room 206  
Franklin County Courthouse  
Union, MO 63084  
clerk@franklinmo.net

**County of Greene, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
940 Boonville, Rm. 113  
Greene County Courthouse  
Springfield, MO 65802  
SSchoeller@greencountymo.gov

**County of Henry, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
100 W. Franklin Street  
Henry County Courthouse  
Clinton, MO 64735  
henrycoclerk1@yahoo.com

**County of Howard, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1 Courthouse Sq.  
Howard County Courthouse  
Fayette, MO 65248  
howard@sos.mo.gov

**County of Iron, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
250 S Main St, Iron County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 42  
Ironton, MO 63650  
iron@sos.mo.gov

**County of Jackson, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
415 E. 12th, 2nd FL  
Jackson County Courthouse  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
coclerk@jacksongov.org

**County of Jasper, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
302 S Main St., Rm 102  
Jasper County Courthouse  
Carthage, MO 64836  
cdavis@jaspercounty.mo.gov

**County of Jefferson, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
729 Maple, Jefferson County Admin.  
Bldg.  
PO Box 100  
Hillsboro, MO 63050  
countyclerk@jeffcomo.org

**County of Johnson, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
300 N. Holden  
Johnson County Courthouse  
Warrensburg, MO 64093  
dthompson@jococourthouse.com

**County of Lafayette, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1001 Main St., Rm. 103  
Lafayette County Courthouse  
Lexington, MO 64067  
niendick@lafayettecountymo.com

**County of Lawrence, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1 E Courthouse Sq., Ste. 101  
Lawrence County Courthouse  
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712  
lawrence@sos.mo.gov

**County of Madison, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
1 Courthouse Sq.  
Madison County Courthouse  
Fredericktown, MO 63645  
countyclerk@madisoncountymo.us

**County of McDonald, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
602 Main St., McDonald Co.  
Courthouse  
PO Box 665  
Pineville, MO 64856  
mcdonald@sos.mo.gov

**County of Moniteau, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
Moniteau County Courthouse,  
200 E Main, Room 106  
California, MO 65018  
monitcockl@yahoo.com

**County of Newton, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
101 S. Wood St. Newton County  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 488  
Neosho, MO 64850  
newton@sos.mo.gov

**County of Pettis, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk  
415 S. Ohio  
Pettis County Courthouse  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
nick@pettiscomo.com

**County of Platte, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
415 Third St., Ste. 30  
Platte County Administration Bldg.  
Platte City, MO 64079  
nancy.armstrong@co.platte.mo.us

**County of Ray, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
100 W Main  
Ray County Courthouse  
Richmond, MO 64085  
ray@sos.mo.gov

**County of Saline, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
19 East Arrow  
Saline County Courthouse  
Marshall, MO 65340  
salcoclerk@mmuonline.net

**County of St. Francois, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
1 N. Washington, Ste 206  
St. Francois County Courthouse  
Farmington, MO 63640  
coclerk@sfcgov.org

**County of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
55 S. Third  
Ste. Genevieve County Courthouse  
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670  
swolk@stegencounty.org

**County of Stone, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
PO Box 45  
Stone County Courthouse  
Galena, MO 65656  
scoelmore@gmail.com

**County of Vernon, Missouri**  
County Commission Clerk  
100 W. Cherry, Suite 6  
Vernon County Courthouse  
Nevada, MO 64772  
clerk@vernoncountymo.org

**Environmental Defense Fund**  
Legal Department  
1875 Connecticut Ave, NW  
One Brookings Dr  
Washington, DC 20009  
nkaras@edf.org

**Evergy Missouri Metro**  
Legal Department  
One Kansas City Place, 1200 Main  
Street  
P.O. Box 418679  
Kansas City, MO 64105

**Evergy Missouri West**  
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P.O. Box 418679  
One Kansas City Place, 1200 Main  
Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105

**Midwest Energy Consumers Group**  
Legal Department  
807 Winston Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Missouri Division of Energy**  
Legal Department  
1101 Riverside Drive, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Missouri Industrial Energy  
Consumers (MIEC)**  
Legal Department  
211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600  
St. Louis, MO 63102

**Missouri Public Service  
Commission**  
Bob Berlin  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
bob.berlin@psc.mo.gov

**Missouri School Boards'  
Association**  
Legal Department  
2100 I-70 Drive Southwest  
Columbia, MO 65203

**MoGas Pipeline LLC**  
Legal Department  
329 Josephville Rd.  
Wentzville, MO 63385

**National Housing Trust**  
Legal Department  
3115 S. Grand Ave.  
Suite 600  
St. Louis, MO 63118

**Spire**  
Goldie Bockstruck  
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St. Louis, MO 63101  
goldie.bockstruck@spireenergy.com

**Spire**  
Legal Department  
700 Market Street, 6th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63101

**USW Local 11-6**  
Legal Department  
7750 Olive Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
gasworkerslocal@sbcglobal.net

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

***Sincerely,***

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Morris" being the most prominent.

**Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary**

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