

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

In the Matter of a Proposed Amendment of)
The Commission’s Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.165) File No. OX-2026-0046
Relating to Prohibition on HVAC Services)

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

COMES NOW Spire Missouri Inc. (“Spire Missouri” or the “Company”), by and through its undersigned counsel, and submits these written comments on the Missouri Public Service Commission’s (“Commission”) proposed amendments to 20 CSR 4240-10.165, stating the following:

1. On August 25, 2025, the Commission opened a rulemaking docket to promulgate amendments to 20 CSR 4240-10.165 to address statutory changes to the “Fair Competition Law” set out in Sections 386.752, 386.754, and 386.756, RSMo. These proposed amendments were subsequently filed with the Secretary of State.

2. On September 5, 2025, the Commission directed written comments regarding the Proposed Rule be filed by November 14, 2025, and ordered a hearing be held on November 21, 2025.

3. Spire Missouri is generally supportive of the amendments to 20 CSR 4240-10.165, which are to incorporate the statutory changes to the Fair Competition Law around the provision of HVAC services. The Company does have concerns around the “indirectly engage” language in the proposed amendments, and seeks clarification for how this language will be applied so the Company can determine if tariff or process changes are necessary.

4. As a reference point, Spire Missouri does not itself contract for HVAC services in the state. However, as a regulated natural gas utility, the Company does have interactions with entities providing HVAC services, which include having a qualification process for HVAC

companies to be able to advertise Spire Missouri rebates and financing to customers, using a third-party to administer its Pay as You Save (“PAYS”) program that contracts with HVAC companies, and providing weatherization funding to Community Action Agencies (“CAAs”) that also contract with HVAC companies.

5. The specific amendment in question states that “Covered utilities that directly or **indirectly engage** with **HVAC contractors** shall develop a written qualification process, and shall advertise bid opportunities to all such qualified contractors.” While “indirectly engage” mirrors the statute, the statute and amendments differ as to the entity the utility may indirectly engage. While the statute uses “utility contractor” that both the statute and the current rule define as an entity with which a utility “contracts,” the amendment uses “HVAC contractor,” which is not defined. Spire Missouri’s concern may be alleviated by changing “HVAC contractor” to “utility contractor,” which Spire Missouri believes would apply the proposed amendments to situations where utilities themselves are contracting for and have control over HVAC services and align with the statute. Spire Missouri therefore recommends that “HVAC contractor” in the proposed Section (3) of 20 CSR 4240-10.165 be changed to “utility contractor.”

6. If the Commission does not accept this amendment, an alternative solution would be to include how the Commission defines “indirectly engage” in the proposed amendment. As explained above, Spire Missouri has third-parties that will contract for HVAC services to implement energy efficiency programs, but the Company currently does not influence the contractor selection, or the process by which the contractor is selected. The Company appreciates the Commission’s consideration of its comments. Additional guidance would allow the Company to determine whether tariff or process changes are needed to maintain compliance with the Commission’s rules.

WHEREFORE, Spire Missouri respectfully requests that the Commission accept these comments and incorporate the Company's proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Antonio Arias

J. Antonio Arias, MoBar #74475
Director, Associate General Counsel - Regulatory
Spire Missouri Inc.
700 Market Street, 6th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 342-0655
antonio.arias@spireenergy.com

ATTORNEY FOR SPIRE MISSOURI INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been sent either by mail or electronic mail to all parties of record on this 14th day of November, 2025.

/s/ J. Antonio Arias

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