



Christine Ingrassia
Alderwoman

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS
MISSOURI

6th Ward

November 11, 2021

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426
Sent via: FERC eFiling

Commissioners:

As we approach the coldest months in the St. Louis region, an email sent on November 4th by Spire Missouri to St. Louis area customers was the very worst type of fear-mongering, especially during a global pandemic that has hurt our most vulnerable neighbors' ability to pay their utility bills. Spire Missouri operates a monopoly on natural gas service to our region; we depend on it for vital services, and expect it to operate with integrity. Despite Spire Missouri's own public admission expecting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend temporary certification of the Spire STL Pipeline "any day now" to maintain natural gas service to our region through the winter months, it failed to inform the public of this vital information. Instead the email spoke of "**potential disruptions - and outages**" to natural gas service and stated to customers in bold print that, "**there are no guarantees it will operate beyond Dec. 13.**"

Instead of giving St. Louis customers clear information that we will have reliable natural gas service through the winter, Spire Missouri told customers to be prepared to reduce their usage of natural gas in order to maintain service to the area. The United States Court of Appeals record is clear that "record evidence of self-dealing" was present in the Spire STL Pipeline's application to FERC, and Spire's November 4th communication to customers does not attempt to differentiate between Spire Missouri and the Spire STL Pipeline as separate entities. Spire Missouri also conveniently left out the 170,000 dekatherms of available usage on the neighboring EnableMRT pipeline that it inquired about, but has not used, nor the other available resources to allow it to continue delivering gas service to St. Louis customers. Spire would have utilized this capacity if it were truly worried about supply disruptions.

This email has spun our constituents and advocacy organizations into a panic that St. Louis could face the type of situation seen in Texas last year where homes were left without heat for days in freezing temperatures and residents died. Instead of waiting until FERC extended its certificate, which both Spire and opposing legal party EDF expect to happen any day now, it chose to stoke fear.

As elected officials who serve St. Louis residents, we are demanding that Spire Missouri issue clarifying information to its customers as soon as possible, in the same manner and to the extent they sent the November 4th communication. Customers deserve to know that there will not be anyone in the St. Louis region who goes without heat this winter because of the ongoing regulatory proceedings. Spire Missouri has access to its customer addresses and emails in a way that we do not and utility leaders owe it to our residents to calm the fear created with its reckless communication.

We also believe it is in the public interest to see the usage plans and resources that Spire Missouri has available to meet the needs of the St. Louis region on our highest-peak days.

We further believe that a rate cap is in order, as Spire Missouri should not have the ability to make profits on the backs of our residents for its self-dealing.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Alderman James Page
Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia
Alderwoman Annie Rice
Alderman Dan Guenther
Alderman Bill Stephens
Alderwoman Anne Schweitzer
Alderwoman Megan Green
Alderwoman Tina Pihl
Alderman Shane Cohn
Alderwoman Heather Navarro

St. Louis County Councilwoman Lisa Clancy
St. Louis County Councilwoman Kelli Dunaway

cc: Spire Missouri
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