



November 10, 2021

The Honorable Richard Glick, Chairman
The Honorable James Danly, Commissioner
The Honorable Allison Clements, Commissioner
The Honorable Mark Christie, Commissioner

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Spire STL Pipeline LLC; Docket No. CP17-40-007

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Environmental Defense Fund (“EDF”) respectfully submits this letter urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission” or “FERC”) to issue an order on Spire STL Pipeline LLC’s request for a temporary emergency certificate. In recent days, Spire Missouri has issued a harmful communication to its customers warning of potential outages and service disruptions.¹ Setting aside the problematic, numerous misstatements and omissions in this transmission,² Spire’s email has created panic and fear throughout the St. Louis region, causing undue distress to its most vulnerable customers³ and also prompting vitriolic, personal attacks directed at EDF and its employees. Prompt action by FERC will provide clarity for St. Louis gas customers and help to remediate the confusion created by Spire.

As EDF has made abundantly clear, a temporary emergency certificate to permit Spire STL pipeline’s operation during the 2021-2022 winter season is appropriate to ensure that there is no disruption to natural gas service in St. Louis. Any such certificate should contain the

¹ Attachment A (Email from Spire to Valued Customer).

² For example, the communication asserts that the Spire pipeline was approved after “rigorous regulatory review,” without acknowledging the D.C. Circuit panel’s finding “that the Commission ignored record evidence of self-dealing” between the Spire affiliates. *Env’tl. Def. Fund v. FERC*, 2 F.4th 953, 960 (D.C. Cir. 2021).

³ See, e.g., Public Comment of Ashley Chancellor (Nov. 9, 2021) (“I have two toddlers at home, children placed in my home through the foster care system. What if there are gas shortages—shortages that are not real, but imposed—that won’t allow me to adequately heat my home or provide meals for those children?”); see also Gabriela Vidal, *Confusion sets in for customers as Spire announces possible gas disruptions*, KMOV4 (Nov. 5, 2021), <https://bit.ly/3GW16sN>.

conditions EDF has proposed in this proceeding to protect Spire Missouri's captive ratepayers, as well as communities and landowners along the pipeline route, without curtailing service to St. Louis residents and businesses.⁴ EDF's proposed conditions are necessary to ensure ratepayers are protected from self-dealing, and will not limit gas service to ratepayers.⁵

Spire's fear-based communication is irresponsibly creating confusion and alarm among St. Louis ratepayers. An order from FERC will allow the Commission and parties to focus on the remand proceeding and determine the long-term future of the pipeline. At the same time, it will allow Spire Missouri to reassure its customers that there will be no interruption in service during the 2021-22 winter.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to act on Spire's temporary certificate application and adopt the conditions proposed by EDF in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Natalie Karas

Natalie Karas

Senior Director and Lead Counsel, Energy

Environmental Defense Fund

1875 Connecticut Ave. NW

Suite 600

Washington, DC 20009

(202) 572-3389

nkaras@edf.org

⁴ Motion to Reject in Part and Protest of Environmental Defense Fund, Docket No. CP17-40-007 (Aug. 5, 2021); Motion for Leave to Answer and Answer of Environmental Defense Fund, Docket No. CP17-40-007 (Oct. 20, 2021).

⁵ Motion for Leave to Answer and Answer of Environmental Defense Fund at p3, Docket No. CP17-40-007 (Oct. 20, 2021).

Attachment A



Important update about your natural gas service

Dear valued customer,

It's our privilege to provide you with affordable and reliable natural gas, every day. In fact, the STL Pipeline was built to support your energy needs, along with those of more than 650,000 homes and businesses in the St. Louis region. Since 2019, this safe, fully operational pipeline has been bringing even more reliable and affordable natural gas to our community.

Unfortunately, while the STL Pipeline continues to operate today, it is now in jeopardy.

As a result, we want to keep you informed and prepared for potential natural gas disruptions—and outages—this winter if the pipeline is not kept in service.

Here's some background

You may have heard about the pipeline in the news. In short, the government agency that regulates interstate pipelines approved the construction and operation of the Spire STL Pipeline after a two-year, rigorous regulatory review.

However, in January 2020, a New York-based environmentalist group challenged the government agency's approval process, and in June 2021, the court ruled in the group's favor. This ruling essentially took back the pipeline's approval to operate.

Where things stand today

The STL Pipeline is fully operational today, with temporary federal approval to operate through Dec. 13—but that only takes us halfway through Missouri's coldest months.

Spire has been working to keep the pipeline in service this winter as government regulators consider its long-term use. In fact, this week our CEO and Chief Legal Counsel traveled to Washington D.C. to talk with as many lawmakers as possible to help them understand the potential impact to the St. Louis community. We're confident that we've done everything we can to demonstrate the critical role the pipeline plays in providing the St. Louis community with energy, but **there are no guarantees it will operate beyond Dec. 13.**

What we're doing to prepare

While we're hopeful the government will extend the approval for the pipeline to operate for the full winter heating season, we want to be prepared.

We've created an emergency plan to reduce the potential impact for residential customers and businesses that provide critical services.

And we've been coordinating with local authorities and emergency management professionals, so the St. Louis community is prepared.

Our goal, as always, is to keep you safe and warm. As the most reliable energy source to heat homes, cook meals and fuel industry, natural gas outages are extremely rare.* However, a St. Louis winter without the STL Pipeline in service is

a different situation.

So along the way, we'll keep you informed, help you prepare for potential outages or service disruptions and advocate for the continued operation of the pipeline—because we know it's the right thing to do for our customers and our community.

What you can do

Without the STL Pipeline in place, you may be asked to conserve energy by turning down the thermostat in your home or business and reducing use of your natural gas appliances (fireplace, oven or another appliance). While we understand this isn't ideal during the winter months, we also know it will help us maintain service to the St. Louis community.

Stay in touch and informed

We encourage you to stay informed about the evolving situation by visiting [SpireEnergy.com/Critical](https://www.spireenergy.com/critical).

Thank you for working with us.

Stay safe,

Scott Carter
President, Spire Missouri

*Gas Technology Institute Study

You're receiving this important communication because you have active natural gas service with Spire. This required communication was sent to [REDACTED]

This email was sent by
Spire

700 Market St , Saint Louis, MO, 63101 2325 US

We respect your right to privacy [view our policy](#)