

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**June 16, 2026**

<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>PETITION OF SPIRE TENNESSEE INC. FOR</b>	)	
<b>APPROVAL OF ITS 2026 ANNUAL REVIEW OF</b>	)	<b>DOCKET NO.</b>
<b>RATES MECHANISM PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE</b>	)	<b>26-00042</b>
<b>ANN §65-5-103(d)(6)</b>	)	

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**ORDER GRANTING THE PETITION TO INTERVENE  
FILED BY THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

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This matter is before the Administrative Judge of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “TPUC”) to consider the *Petition to Intervene* filed by the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”) on June 8, 2026.

**RELEVANT BACKGROUND**

On May 20, 2026, Spire Tennessee Inc. (“Spire TN” or “Company”) filed its *2026 Annual Rate Review Mechanism Filing* (“*Petition*”) seeking requesting Commission approval of the Annual ARRM Filing and proposed tariff.<sup>1</sup> Spire TN is a public utility regulated by the Commission providing natural gas utility service to residential and non-residential customers in Davidson County and portions of Cheatham, Dickson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson Counties, as well as within certain municipal jurisdictions located within the state. The Company’s *Petition* seeks an increase in rates from customers of 4% to produce \$13,966,022 in additional annual revenue.<sup>2</sup>

**CONSUMER ADVOCATE’S *PETITION TO INTERVENE***

On June 8, 2026, the Consumer Advocate filed a *Petition to Intervene* seeking to intervene in

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<sup>1</sup> *Petition* (May 20, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at Attach. 1, Summary – Revenue Change Percentage.

the docket in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, which qualifies the Consumer Advocate to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utility services in proceedings before the Commission. The Consumer Advocate asserts that:

The interest of consumers may be affected by determinations and orders made by the Commission with respect to: (a) the interpretation, application, and implementation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(a), (d), and other relevant statutory and regulatory provisions; and (b) the review and analysis of the Petitioners' documentation, financial spreadsheets, and other materials.<sup>3</sup>

For these reasons, the Consumer Advocate seeks to intervene in these proceedings to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers.<sup>4</sup>

## **FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS**

Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-310 establishes the following criteria for granting petitions to intervene:

- (a) The administrative judge or hearing officer shall grant one (1) or more petitions for intervention if:
  - (1) The petition is submitted in writing to the administrative judge or hearing officer, with copies mailed to all parties named in the notice of the hearing, at least seven (7) days before the hearing;
  - (2) The petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other legal interest may be determined in the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law; and
  - (3) The administrative judge or hearing officer determines that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings shall not be impaired by allowing the intervention.
- (b) The agency may grant one (1) or more petitions for intervention at any time, upon determining that the intervention sought is in the interests of justice and shall not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Petition to Intervene*, p. 2 (June 8, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-310 (West 2026).

Although it is not an automatic or absolute right to participate in proceedings before the Commission, Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118(b)(1) provides a general basis for the qualification of the Consumer Advocate to be permitted to intervene as a party to represent the interests of Tennessee public utility consumers. It provides as follows:

The consumer advocate division has the duty and authority to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services. The division may, with the approval of the attorney general and reporter, participate or intervene as a party in any matter or proceeding before the commission or any other administrative, legislative or judicial body and initiate such proceeding, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, and the rules of the commission.<sup>6</sup>

In this docket, Spire TN seeks Annual ARRM Filing and proposed tariff. If approved, the Spire TN customers will experience a rate increase. Therefore, the Administrative Judge finds that there is a sufficient factual basis to find that legal rights or interests held by those consumers may be determined in this proceeding.

Upon due consideration, the Administrative Judge concludes that the legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interest of Tennessee customers may be determined in this proceeding. Further, the Administrative Judge finds that the Consumer Advocate qualifies under law as an intervenor for the purpose of representing those consumer interests, no objection has been filed to its intervention, and its *Petition to Intervene* was timely filed. Further, the Consumer Advocate's participation should not impair the interests of justice or the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings. For these reasons, the Administrative Judge finds that the Consumer Advocate's *Petition to Intervene* should be granted.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The *Petition to Intervene* filed by the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the

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<sup>6</sup> Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118(b)(1) (West 2026).

Tennessee Attorney General is granted. The Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General may intervene and participate as a party in this proceeding and, as such, shall receive copies of any notices, orders, or other documents filed herein.



Aaron J. Conklin, Administrative Judge