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May 19, 2026

Via Federal Express

Ms. Kris Abel
Records Section
Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building, 12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**LA PUBLIC SERVICE COMM
MAY 20 2026 PM02:37**

In re: Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company for Expediter Approval for the Bamboo 345 KV Transmission Project, or Exemption in the Alternative in Accordance with the Commission's General Order Dated September 10, 2024

Dear Kris:

Attached for filing on behalf of Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), in the above referenced docket is the Application and Direct Testimony of Christopher Martel, Nathan Koch and Bradley Phillips including the respective public and confidential exhibits for each. The confidential Exhibits are to be filed confidentially under seal in accordance with Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 12.1, et seq. Requisite copies are included for filing.

Please indicate the filing by stamping the attached copy of this letter with your file mark and return it to us in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided.

As always, we appreciate your continued assistance and cooperation.

With best regards, I am

Yours very truly,

WILKINSON, CARMODY & GILLIAM

By:



Bobby S. Gilliam
Jonathan P. McCartney

JPM/mml
Attachment

BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

LA PUBLIC SERVICE COMM
MAY 20 2026 PM02:37

APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN)
ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR)
EXPEDITED APPROVAL FOR THE BAMBOO)
345 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT, OR)
EXEMPTION IN THE ALTERNATIVE IN)
ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S)
GENERAL ORDER DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

DOCKET NO. _____

**APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR
CERTIFICATION OF THE BAMBOO 345KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

MAY IT PLEASE THE HONORABLE COMMISSION:

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) (Applicant) files this application, in accordance with the Louisiana Public Service Commission's (Commission) General Order of September 10, 2024, for certification that the public convenience and necessity will be served through the authorization for siting and construction of a new 345kV double-circuit transmission line referred to as the Bamboo 345kV Transmission Project (Project) or exemption in the alternative as further described herein. This Application is being filed pursuant to the September 10, 2024 General Order in Docket R-36199, *In Re: Review and Possible Modification of the Commission's General Order dated October 10, 2013 Governing Transmission Certification and General Siting* (Transmission Siting General Order).

By this application, the Applicant seeks expedited review and Commission approval for siting, construction and operation of certain electrical transmission facilities connecting to the new Bamboo 345 kV Transmission Project to be located in northern Bossier Parish, near Benton,

Louisiana, with the facilities to be owned by SWEPCO, in accordance with the September 10, 2024 General Order. In support of this application, the Applicants show the following:

I. APPLICANT

1.

SWEPCO is an operating company and subsidiary of American Electric Power Company, Inc. (AEP), which is an investor-owned electric public utility holding company with subsidiaries serving over 5 million retail customers in eleven states. SWEPCO is an electric public utility that serves customers throughout central, western and northwestern Louisiana, as well as Texas and Arkansas, and its Corporate Headquarters are in Shreveport, Louisiana with the mailing address 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

2.

The Bamboo 345kV Transmission Project is located in northern Bossier Parish, Louisiana, near the town of Benton, Louisiana and will connect to the existing Longwood to Sarepta 345kV transmission line. The Project will include constructing the new 345kV double-circuit in and out transmission loop to extend to a newly constructed substation referred to as the Bamboo Substation. The proposed location of the Transmission Project is shown on the map contained within Confidential Direct Exhibit BJP-1, with the supporting testimony further discussed herein below.

3.

As mentioned above, the SWEPCO Bamboo 345kV Transmission Project will add a newly constructed substation site that will improve reliability by allowing the existing Longwood to

Sarepta 345 kV transmission line to be segmented, which will better allow operations to isolate any faults that may occur on the line. In support of its Application, SWEPCO submits Direct Testimony of Mr. Christopher N. Martel, Director of Regulatory Services, Mr. Brad Phillips, Siting Consultant, and Mr. Nathan Koch, Project Manager - Transmission Projects. As set forth in the supporting testimony and exhibits attached thereto, the Bamboo 345kV Transmission Project maps, drawings, estimated time-lines, description of rights of ways, analysis and estimates of costs are in compliance with the thirteen requirements set forth in the Commission's Transmission Siting General Order, with the Applicant reserving all rights to any and all exemptions as set forth in that General Order.

III. NEED FOR THE PROJECT

4.

The Project serves two complementary purposes. First, the Project enhances the reliability and operational flexibility of the existing Longwood to Sarepta 345 kV transmission corridor by introducing switching and segmentation capability at the new Bamboo 345 kV Substation. Because the Project's in-and-out design segments the existing line at the new substation, operators will be able to isolate faults on one side of the substation while maintaining service from the other side, providing increased grid stability in the Bossier Parish area.

5.

Second, the Project will allow SWEPCO to meet its obligation to serve a new large-load industrial customer that has purchased property in northern Bossier Parish, executed an Electric Service Agreement with SWEPCO, and plans to construct facilities in the area requiring transmission-level electric service. Connection of this new customer load is expected to bring significant economic development to northwest Louisiana. The customer's load profile and related

details are set forth in [Confidential Direct Exhibit CNM-1] (SPP Delivery Point Network Study), sponsored by Mr. Christopher N. Martel.

IV. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION V OF THE TRANSMISSION SITING GENERAL ORDER

6.

This Application, together with the Direct Testimony and Exhibits filed contemporaneously herewith, complies with the thirteen requirements set forth in Section V of the Transmission Siting General Order, as follows:

1. **V(a) — Applicant Identification.** The name, business address, and electronic contact information for SWEPCO and the undersigned counsel are set forth in the caption, at Paragraph 1 of this Application, and in the signature block. There are no other transmission-participating entities.
2. **V(b) — General Description of the Transmission Facility.** The Project is described at Paragraphs 2 and 3 above and in greater detail in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Martel, the Direct Testimony of Mr. Koch, and Direct Exhibit NMK-2.
3. **V(c) — Supporting Testimony and Cost/Benefit Analysis.** The Project's reliability and economic-development benefits to SWEPCO's Louisiana customers are addressed in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Martel and the Direct Testimony of Mr. Koch. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Delivery Point Network Study evaluating the Project is filed as [Confidential Direct Exhibit CNM-1], sponsored by Mr. Martel. An analysis of alternative routes is provided in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Phillips and in Exhibit BJP-1 (Bamboo 345 kV Project Siting Study).

4. V(d) — NIETC Status. The Project is not located within a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) designated by the U.S. Department of Energy under Section 216 of the Federal Power Act.

5. V(e) — Federal Back-Stop Siting Proceeding. There is no federal proceeding or pre-filing process pending under Section 216 of the Federal Power Act, or any successor statute, that is related to back-stop siting of the Project, and no federal deadlines apply.

6. V(f) — Generalized Corridor. The Project's proposed siting, in the form of a generalized substation-to-substation corridor, is shown on Direct Exhibit NMK-1 and described in detail in Exhibit BJP-1 (Siting Study) and the Direct Testimony of Mr. Phillips. The corridor connects an in-line tap point on the existing Longwood-to-Sarepta 345 kV transmission line to the new Bamboo 345 kV Substation, located on customer-owned property in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. SWEPCO carefully considered routing options and obtained a Siting Study from Alliance Inc., which both evaluated rights of way, land use and environmental considerations in connection with the Project and supported selection of the proposed route. A copy of the Siting Study is attached in support of the Application as discussed by Mr. Phillips.

7. V(g) — Anticipated Sources of Funding. The Project will be funded by SWEPCO through its ordinary capital expenditure program, including internal cash flows and AEP system financing. Capital recovery is anticipated to occur through the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (SPP OATT) for networked transmission facilities pursuant to Schedules 9 and 11, with the SWEPCO Louisiana retail-jurisdictional share recovered through SWEPCO's Formula Rate Plan (or any successor cost-recovery

mechanism). No federal grant, DOE funding, or IIJA-derived funding is anticipated. Cost recovery is further addressed in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Martel.

8. V(h) — Itemized Cost Estimate. An itemized estimate of the Project's cost, including transmission line, substation, station property, customer metering, telecom/fiber, right-of-way acquisition, and other associated project costs, is set forth in [Confidential Direct Exhibit NMK-3] (Project Cost Estimate), sponsored by Mr. Koch and discussed in his Direct Testimony.

9. V(i) — Effects on Costs to Ratepayers. An analysis of the estimated rate effects of the Project on SWEPCO Louisiana customers is set forth in Confidential Direct Exhibit CNM-2 (Customer Bill Impact Summary) and discussed in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Martel. The estimated rate impact for the average SWEPCO Louisiana residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month is approximately \$0.72 per month. This impact reflects the operation of the SPP OATT cost-allocation mechanism, under which the costs of networked transmission facilities are allocated among all SPP transmission owners and ultimately recovered from each transmission owner's customer base.

10. V(j) — Single-Line Drawing. A single-line drawing of the Project's proposed grid enhancements is provided as Direct Exhibit NMK-1, sponsored by Mr. Koch.

11. V(k) — Estimated Timeline with Milestones. An estimated timeline for the completion of the Project, including key milestones for long-lead procurement, construction commencement, and the targeted in-service date, is provided as Table NMK-1 and is further discussed in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Martel, the Direct Testimony of Mr. Koch, and the Direct Testimony of Mr. Phillips. The Project's

targeted construction start is March 1, 2027, with the in-service date driven by the customer's requested electric service delivery date.

12. V(l) — Right-of-Way Acquisition. The Project requires the acquisition of a new 150-foot-wide transmission easement for the approximately 1.5-mile 345 kV double-circuit in-and-out transmission line extension. The Project is located on a single landowner's property: the new large-load industrial customer to be served by the Project. No expropriation proceedings are anticipated. The right-of-way description is set forth in Direct Exhibit NMK-2, is further addressed in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Koch, and is discussed from an environmental-impact perspective in Confidential Direct Exhibit BJP-1 and the Direct Testimony of Mr. Phillips.

13. V(m) — Supplementation. SWEPCO will respond within the ten-business-day timeframe established by Section V(m) of the Transmission Siting General Order to any request from the Commission or Commission Staff to supplement this Application.

V. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION OR EXPEDITED CERTIFICATION

7.

SWEPCO respectfully submits that there is reasonable basis for the Commission to consider an exemption for this Project, in lieu of certification, because the Project includes a new transmission point-of-delivery facility (including a substation and customer ties) undertaken for purposes of interconnection of a specifically identified industrial customer located in Louisiana. As discussed in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Martel, SWEPCO would respectfully request consideration under Section VIII(f) of the 2024 Siting Order.

8.

To the extent the Commission determines that certification is required notwithstanding Section VIII(f), SWEPCO respectfully requests, pursuant to Section X of the 2024 Siting Order, that the Commission consider this Application on an expedited basis. The customer's requested electric service delivery date requires SWEPCO to commence construction on or about March 1, 2027, and SWEPCO intends to commence pre-construction activities Pursuant to Section I of the Transmission Siting General Order. Any compression of the regulatory review period is therefore extremely valuable to the Project's timely completion and the customer's ability to commence operations in Louisiana.

9.

WHEREFORE, SWEPCO respectfully requests that the Commission consider this Application on an expedited basis and either grant an exemption or certify that the public convenience and necessity will be served through the construction of the Bamboo 345kV Transmission Project, by the Applicant, and further, that the Commission certify and that SWEPCO has fully complied with any and all the requirements of the Transmission Siting General Order.

Respectfully submitted,

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