

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER U-37704

UTILITIES, INC. OF LOUISIANA, EX PARTE.

Docket No. U-37704, In re: Request for: 1) review and adjustment of base rates following merger with French Settlement Water Company; 2) modification and extensions of Formula Rate Plan; 3) a depreciation study; 4) modifications to its tariff; and 5) interim rate relief.

(Decided at the December 17, 2025 Business and Executive Session.)

ORDER

Overview

On August 12, 2025, Utilities, Inc. of Louisiana (“UIL”) filed an application for a review and adjustment of base rates following its merger with French Settlement Water Company, modification and extensions of its Formula Rate Plan, a depreciation study, modifications to its tariff, and interim rate relief (the “Application”). In its Application, UIL indicated that interim rate relief is necessary due to increased capital investment, rising operating costs, and below-authorized returns. UIL proposed an interim rate increase to achieve approximately one-third of its overall request, and further indicated that it is prepared to post financial security ensuring that any amount deemed unrecoverable after final Commission review will be refunded to ratepayers.

Notice of UIL’s request was published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin # 1356, dated August 15, 2025. No interventions were filed. UIL also published timely notice of its request in the state journal and the official journal of each parish within the geographical area in which the rates would become applicable.

Jurisdiction and Applicable Law

The Commission exercises jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Article IV, Section 21(B) of the Louisiana Constitution.

La. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 21 provides in pertinent part:

(B.) The commission shall regulate all common carriers and public utilities and have such other regulatory authority as provided by law. It shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the discharge of its duties, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as provided by law.

Commission Consideration

This matter was considered at the Commission’s December 17, 2025 Business and Executive Session. On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.

On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the interim rate increase, subject to refund and applicable bonding requirements.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. UIL is allowed to implement an interim rate increase to achieve approximately one-third of its overall request, subject to refund and the applicable bonding requirements, until a final Order is issued in this docket regarding the UIL’s request for permanent rate relief;
2. UIL is required to file proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission;
3. UIL is required to file an updated tariff indicating the interim emergency rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of this order;
4. UIL cannot begin charging the interim rate until (2) and (3) are complete and approved by Staff; and,
5. This Order is effective immediately.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
January 15, 2026**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon M. Frey".

**BRANDON M. FREY
SECRETARY**

/S/ MIKE FRANCIS

**DISTRICT IV
CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS**

/S/ ERIC F. SKRMETTA

**DISTRICT I
VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC F. SKRMETTA**

/S/ FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

**DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL**

/S/ DAVANTE LEWIS

**DISTRICT III
COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS**

/S/ JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN

**DISTRICT II
COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN**