

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER U-37794

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, EX PARTE.

Docket No. U-37794, In re: Application for authorization of a System Improvement Plan, including related rate recovery.

(Decided at the April 15, 2026 Business and Executive Session.)

ORDER

Overview

On November 24, 2025, Southwestern Electric Power Company (“SWEPCO” or “Company”) filed its Application for authorization of a System Improvement Plan, including related rate recovery (“Application”). This matter was published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin No. 1364 dated December 5, 2025. The Alliance for Affordable Energy (“Intervenor”) intervened timely.

On March 10, 2026, SWEPCO filed Supplemental Testimony of Drew W. Seidel and Lynn Ferry-Nelson to support SWEPCO’s request that the Commission exercise its original and primary jurisdiction under Rule 57 and grant interim relief which seeks to extend the Company’s incremental vegetation management spending at the previously approved rate of \$1.5 million per month for an annual total of \$18 million¹. This matter was republished in the Commission’s Official Bulletin # 1371, dated March 13, 2026. No new interventions were received. This proposed recovery will be recovered through SWEPCO’s Fuel Adjustment Clause from June 1, 2026 in order to begin the execution of SWEPCO’s requested System Improvement Plan (“SIP”) in this docket. SWEPCO asserts that there will be no overlap between the collection of the extended incremental spend and the collection of SIP Costs. At the time of the Commission vote, Staff had not had an opportunity to fully review the Application.

Jurisdiction and Applicable law

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

¹ The Commission approved this request as a part of Order U-37502. This interim request is set to expire in May 2026.

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.

...

(D.) (3) After the effective filing date of any proposed schedule by a public utility which would result in a rate increase, the commission may permit the proposed schedule to be put into effect, in whole or in part, pending its decision on the application for rate increase and subject to protective bond or security approved by the commission.

Staff Recommendation

SWEPSCO's request was considered at the Commission's April 15, 2026 Business and Executive Session pursuant to Rule 57 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Staff made no formal recommendation regarding SWEPSCO's request for an interim rate increase, however Staff noted that if SWEPSCO's request was approved, Staff would recommend the following:

- 1) SWEPSCO be required to file proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission;
- 2) SWEPSCO be required to file an updated tariff indicating the interim rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of the order approving such interim rate; and,
- 3) SWEPSCO cannot begin charging the interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirements and an updated tariff have been provided to, and approved by Staff.

Commission Consideration

This matter was considered at the Commission's April 15, 2026 Business and Executive Session. On motion of Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Coussan, with Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Francis concurring, and Commissioner Lewis opposing, the Commission voted to grant SWEPSCO's request for interim rates, subject to refund and applicable bonding requirements. Further, SWEPSCO is required to:

- 1) File proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission;
- 2) File an updated tariff indicating the interim rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of the order approving such interim rate; and,

3) SWEPCO cannot begin charging the interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirements and an updated tariff have been provided to, and approved by Staff.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1) SWEPCO be required to file proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission;

2) SWEPCO be required to file an updated tariff indicating the interim rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of the order approving such interim rate; and,

3) SWEPCO cannot begin charging the interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirements and an updated tariff have been provided to, and approved by Staff.

This Order is effective immediately.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
April 27, 2026**



/S/ ERIC F. SKRMETTA

**DISTRICT I
CHAIRMAN ERIC F. SKRMETTA**

/S/ JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN

**DISTRICT II
VICE CHAIRMAN JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN**

/S/ FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

**DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL**

/S/ MIKE FRANCIS

**DISTRICT IV
COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS**

OPPOSED

**DISTRICT III
COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS**

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

**BRANDON M. FREY
SECRETARY**