

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER U-36992-B

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC., EX PARTE.

Docket No. U-36992, In re: Application for an increase in rates, including interim rates, and for the establishment of an emergency reserve fund.

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

ORDER

I. BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2023, Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc., (“NELPCO” or “Cooperative”) filed an Application for an increase in rates, including interim rates, and for the establishment of an emergency reserve fund. There were no intervenors in this matter. After extensive negotiations, the Louisiana Public Commission (“LPSC” or “Commission”) Staff and NELPCO entered into an uncontested stipulated settlement on April 4, 2025. This settlement was initially considered at the Commission’s April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session. The Commission unanimously adopted the uncontested stipulated settlement and subsequently issued Order U-36992-A on May 8, 2025. As a part of the settlement, NELPCO was ordered to provide a refund to its members for the difference between the interim rate increase put into effect in January 2024 and the base rate increase voted on at the April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session over a 1-month period.

On August 29, 2025, NELPCO filed a *Motion to Amend Order No. U-36692-A and Request for Consideration at the September 2025 LPSC Business and Executive Session* (“Motion”). Since Order U-36992-A was issued, NELPCO performed additional calculations and determined that the refunds were larger than expected. The Cooperative was unable to provide the refund to its members over a one-month period in accordance with Order U-36992-A without suffering consequences to the Cooperative. Due to this issue, NELPCO requested that the Commission amend Order U-36992-A to provide the Cooperative relief. Specifically, NELPCO requested that the Commission consider Order U-36992-A on an expedited basis at the September 17, 2025 Business and Executive Session and amend Order U-36992-A, provision number 10, to read as follows:

As there is a difference between the interim rate increase put into effect in January 2024 and the base rate increase recommended by Staff set to be voted on at the April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session, NELPCO agrees, to refund to its members/ratepayers the difference. NELPCO will refund the entire refund amount over a consecutive, six (6) month period, beginning October 1, 2025. The refund shall be made via credits to customers' bills with each monthly credit amount to be selected by NELPCO."

Commission Staff reviewed NELPCO's Motion. Staff had no objection to the Commission considering this Motion at the September 17, 2025 Business and Executive Session and NELPCO's request to amend Order U-36992-A. However, Staff recommended that the provision in question be reworded to be similar to the previous Order and provide the Cooperative with more flexibility to provide members refunds while maintaining the financial stability of the Cooperative. Therefore, Staff recommended that the provision in question be amended to read:

10. NELPCO has reviewed Staff's recommendations and agrees with them. As there is a difference between the interim rate increase put into effect in January 2024 and the base rate increase recommended by Staff set to be voted on at the April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session, NELPCO agrees, to refund to its members/ratepayers the difference. NELPCO shall refund the entire refund amount over a consecutive, six (6) month period, beginning at earliest November 1, 2025 and completing no later than September 2026. The refund shall be made via credits to customers' bills with each monthly credit amount to be selected by NELPCO. NELPCO shall provide Staff with correspondence and accounting of the refunds upon completion of the refunds.

Staff coordinated with NELPCO, and the Cooperative stated that it had no objection to Staff's proposed amendment to their request and Order U-36992-A.

II. COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Commission exercises jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Article IV, Sec. 21 of the Louisiana Commission.

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

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.

III. COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

This matter was considered at the Commission's September 17, 2025 Business and Executive Session. After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by

Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to amend LPSC Order U-36922-A, specifically Provision 10 to read as follows:

10. NELPCO has reviewed Staff's recommendations and agrees with them. As there is a difference between the interim rate increase put into effect in January 2024 and the base rate increase recommended by Staff set to be voted on at the April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session, NELPCO agrees, to refund to its members/ratepayers the difference. NELPCO shall refund the entire refund amount over a consecutive, six (6) month period, beginning at earliest November 1, 2025 and completing no later than September 2026. The refund shall be made via credits to customers' bills with each monthly credit amount to be selected by NELPCO. NELPCO shall provide Staff with correspondence and accounting of the refunds upon completion of the refunds.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1) LPSC Order No. U-36992-A provision 10, shall be amended to read follows:

10. NELPCO has reviewed Staff's recommendations and agrees with them. As there is a difference between the interim rate increase put into effect in January 2024 and the base rate increase recommended by Staff set to be voted on at the April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session, NELPCO agrees, to refund to its members/ratepayers the difference. NELPCO shall refund the entire refund amount over a consecutive, six (6) month period, beginning at earliest November 1, 2025 and completing no later than September 2026. The refund shall be made via credits to customers' bills with each monthly credit amount to be selected by NELPCO. NELPCO shall provide Staff with correspondence and accounting of the refunds upon completion of the refunds.; and

2) This order is effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
October 15, 2025





DISTRICT IV
CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS



DISTRICT I
VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC F. SKRMETTA



DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL



DISTRICT III
COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS



DISTRICT II
COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN


BRANDON M. FREY
SECRETARY