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BEFORE THE  
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION,  
EX PARTE.

LA Public Service Commission  
DOCKET NO. U-\_\_\_\_\_

*In re: South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's Request  
for Interim and Final Emergency Rate Relief*

**SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION'S  
REQUEST FOR INTERIM AND FINAL EMERGENCY RATE RELIEF**

NOW BEFORE THIS COMMISSION comes South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (hereinafter referred to as "SLECA" or "Cooperative"), a Louisiana nonprofit cooperative corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Louisiana and domiciled in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

1.

SLECA is a Louisiana electric cooperative organized under La. R.S. 12:401 *et seq.*, which is regulated by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission" or "LPSC"), is domiciled in Terrebonne Parish, and provides electric service in the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Terrebonne.

2.

The LPSC exercises exclusive jurisdiction over the rates and services of Commission regulated utilities, including SLECA, pursuant to Article 4, Section 21, of the Louisiana Constitution.

3.

The 2021 hurricane season was an extremely active hurricane season (hereinafter referred to as the "2021 hurricane season"), including Hurricane Ida, which directly and severely impacted the area served by SLECA. These impacts created catastrophic damages, including the devastation

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of SLECA's service territory, which required extensive repairs to and/or complete replacement of electric lines, poles, facilities, and other SLECA infrastructure. The eye of the storm hit less than five miles east of SLECA's Ashland and Dulac substations, where the winds were clocked at 138 mph, with gusts of 155 mph. Approximately 4,000 poles were damaged or downed, with close to 1,000 transformers damaged, and hundreds of miles of electric lines downed. Additionally, the roof of SLECA's main headquarters building in Houma blew off and sections caved in while employees, including the General Manager, Operations Superintendent and several linemen, rode out the storm. For five hours on Sunday, August 29, 2021, hurricane winds and rain poured into the building, forcing the building to be condemned. Several SLECA employees and directors lost their homes and many others have damage to their homes, but this has, in no way, affected the restoration effort. Because of reduced revenues, SLECA had to obtain an emergency line of credit from its supplemental lender, CFC, to fund the massive system restoration efforts. SLECA expects that the vast majority of the emergency line of credit principal amount will be reimbursed by FEMA over the next several years. However, during the period in which reimbursements are being received from FEMA, SLECA must make the very large total interest payments on the emergency line of credit, and do so in a timely manner. The repairs required of SLECA's system are ongoing. Given the substantial losses and additional expenses stated above, immediate rate relief is necessary to preserve the Cooperative and ensure that that SLECA's services can continue.

4.

As way of background with regard to SLECA's existing rate structure, SLECA's rates are currently dictated by LPSC Order No. U-34483. Due to the extraordinary impacts created by the 2021 hurricane season, including, but not limited to, the devastation of SLECA's service territory,

loss of revenue, and need for investment to rebuild infrastructure, SLECA submits this Request for Interim and Final Emergency Rate Relief (hereinafter referred to as “SLECA’s Application”).

5.

Additionally, SLECA is seeking rate relief on an interim basis because it would not be able to recover a sufficient amount to service its debt obligations in the time it will take before the Commission is able to fully evaluate SLECA’s Application.. SLECA is prepared to post security to guarantee that any money ultimately determined by the Commission as not recoverable after a full and complete review of SLECA’s Application is returned by SLECA to its members.

6.

This request for interim and final emergency rate relief is in the public interest, necessary to preserve the financial integrity of the Cooperative, and will ensure that adequate electric service is continued for SLECA’s members/ratepayers. Furthermore, the emergency rate relief requested cannot be postponed, is needed immediately, and no other alternatives exist to meet the Cooperative’s need but for the instant requested rate relief. SLECA’s response to the 2021 hurricane season was the largest response and restoration effort since SLECA’s incorporation eight-four (84) years ago. The justification, as well as the specific details surrounding the final and interim emergency rate relief requested, are more fully detailed in the following testimonies and associated exhibits, which are attached hereto as Exhibit “A” *in globo*:

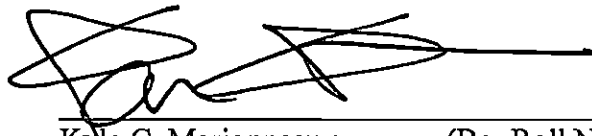
1. Roger D. Comeaux, President of BHA, Inc.; and
2. Joseph Ticheli, General Manager of SLECA.

**WHEREFORE**, South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association prays that this Commission approve this Application for Interim and Final Emergency Rate Relief due to the extraordinary financial impacts created by the 2021 hurricane season. In accordance therewith,

SLECA respectfully requests that this request be published in the next Official Bulletin of the Commission and interested parties be given fifteen (15) days to file any notice of intervention and/or protest.

Respectfully submitted,

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