

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER U-37573

WASHINGTON - ST. TAMMANY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., EX PARTE.

Docket No. U-37573, In re: Formula Rate Plan Annual Report for Test Year 2024.

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

ORDER

Overview and Procedural History

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (“Commission”), having reviewed and considered the Joint Report and Draft Order on Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc.’s Formula Rate Plan Annual Report Filing for the Test Year Ending December 31, 2024 (“Joint Report”) submitted by the Louisiana Public Service Commission Staff (“Staff”) and Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc., (“WST” or “Cooperative”), finds the Joint Report, together with its attached exhibits to be acceptable and in accordance with the provisions of the Commission’s Order No. U-36399 dated May 5, 2023, which established the Cooperative’s current Formula Rate Plan (“FRP”) for test years 2023-2025. The Joint Report was filed into the record on September 3, 2025.

The Joint Report indicated that, after adjustments, WST earned a Calculated Times Interest Earned Ratio (“TIER”) of 1.673, a Calculated Operating Times Interest Earned Ratio (“OTIER”) of 1.3, and a Calculated Modified Debt Service Coverage (“MDSC”) ratio of 1.346. While WST’s TIER is above the prescribed bandwidth, the Cooperative did not meet its minimum MDSC ratio.

Commission Jurisdiction and Authority

The Commission exercises jurisdiction over public utilities in Louisiana pursuant to Article 4, Section 21(B) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, which provides the following:

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.

Pursuant to its constitutional authority, the Commission issued Order No. U-36399, which established WST’s current FRP. The Cooperative’s FRP provides for a TIER bandwidth with a lower band of 1.40, an upper band of 1.60, and a midpoint of 1.50 with an additional lower limit check for an OTIER of 1.20 and MDSC ratio of 1.40. Under the FRP, if a test year’s Calculated TIER is less than 1.40 or greater than 1.60, WST’s FRP Rider revenue is to be increased or decreased, respectively, by the amount necessary to increase or decrease the Calculated TIER to reach the midpoint of 1.50. Also, WST is authorized to adjust its rates in any given test year to reach its minimum OTIER and MDSC ratio required under its loan covenants.

Commission Consideration

The Commission considered this matter at its September 17, 2025 Business and Executive Session. On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Coussan temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report filed into the record on September 3, 2025 and issue the Draft Order.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Commission accepts the Joint Report filed on September 3, 2025 and issues the draft order.
2. WST is authorized, in accordance with the provisions of its FRP, to adjust its rates to generate an increase in FRP Rider revenue of approximately \$587,732 to reset its rates to reach the minimum Calculated MDSC ratio of 1.40, subject to the following condition:
 - a. Within thirty (30) days of the issuance of this Order, WST shall submit an updated and revised tariff to the Commission's Utilities Division and Legal Division for their review and approval. WST shall not implement the rates authorized by this Order unless and until Staff receives and approves the Cooperative's updated and revised tariff.

This order is effective immediately.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
October 13, 2025**



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**