Doyle Webb Chairman (501) 682-5806

**Justin Tate** Commissioner (501) 682-5806

Katie Anderson Commissioner (501) 682-5806



Karen Shook Acting Secretary of The Commission (501) 683-4061

October 5, 2023

Sen. Terry Rice Rep. Jeff Wardlaw c/o Marty Garrity Bureau of Legislative Research State Capitol, Rm 315 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: PSC Quarterly Reports a/o September 30, 2023

Dear Ms. Garrity:

Enclosed please find the quarterly rate case report of the Arkansas Public Service Commission for the period ending September 30, 2023.

This report is also available on our website at www.arkansas.gov/psc.

Sincerely,

/s/ Karen Shook

Acting Secretary of the Commission

**Enclosure** 

CC: amoss@blr.arkansas.gov

## ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION QUARTERLY REPORT ON STATUS OF UTILITY RATE APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO ARK. CODE ANN. § 23-4-420

## FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

## **GENERAL RATE CASE FILINGS PURSUANT TO ARK. CODE ANN. § 23-4-401**

DOCKET:	15-002-U		
CASE STYLE: SUMMARY:	In The Matter of Utilities Filing a Notice of Intent to File an Application For A General Change In Rates Pursuant to Rule 8.06 Of The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure  Pursuant to Arkansas Code Ann. §23-4-401, every public utility is required		
	to notify the Arkansas Public Service Commission (APSC) in writing of its intention to file an application for a general change or modification in its rates and charges at least sixty (60) but not earlier than ninety (90) days before the application is filed.		
	<ol> <li>On September 14, 2023. Black Hills Energy Arkansas filed it notice of intent to file a general rate case. An application is expected between November 13, 2023 – December 13, 2023.</li> <li>On September 20, 2023, Liberty Utilities (Arkansas Water) Corp. filed its notice of intent to file a general rate case. An application is expected between November 19, 2023 – December 19, 2023.</li> <li>On September 22, 2023, Summit Utilities Arkansas filed its notice of intent. An application is expected between November 21, 2023 – December 21, 2023.</li> </ol>		
PROCEDURAL	To be established by Commission Order after the filing of each utility's		
SCHEDULE:	application.		
STATUTORY FINAL	To be determined after the filing of each utility's application.		
ORDER DEADLINE:			
GENERAL STAFF	Michael Marchand, Executive Director		
CONTACT:	Michael.Marchand@arkansas.gov		

DOCKET:	22-085-U				
COMPANY:	The Empire District Electric Company (Empire)				
CASE STYLE:	In The Matter Of The Application Of The Empire District Electric Company For Approval Of A General Change Or Modification In Rates, Charges, And Tariffs				
CASE FILED:	February 14, 2023	February 14, 2023			
APPLICATION SUMMARY:	Company's current authorized retail revenue requirement is \$11,033,606. The retail revenue requirement requested is \$18,342,304. The proposed percentage increase by rate class for each year is:				
		<u>Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4</u>			<u>Year 4</u>
	Residential Commercial General Power Transmission	14.0% 15.6% 2.9% (8.7%)	8.7% 7.2% 8.7% 8.7%	8.8% 7.5% 8.8% 8.8%	8.9% 7.7% 8.9% 7.0%
	The estimated monthly impact on the average residential customer under the alternative proposed phase-in is:				
	Ye Ye	ear 3 \$13	1.01 (10.1% 2.12 (10.1% 3.33 (10.1% 4.69 (10.1%	S)	
STATUS:	On July 12, 2023, the General Staff of the PSC (Staff) and the Attorney General (AG) filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits.				
	On August 9, 2023, Empire filed Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits.				
	On September 8, 2023, Staff and the AG filed Surrebuttal Testimony and Exhibits.				
	On September 19, 2023, Empire filed Sur-Surrebuttal Testimony and Exhibits.				
	On September 29, 2023, the Parties to the Docket filed a Joint Motion to Approve Settlement and Cancel the Evidentiary Hearing along with Supporting Testimonies. This Motion is currently being considered by the Commission.				

REMAINING	Per Order Nos. 3 and 4 issued April	7, 2023, and May 22, 2023,
PROCEDURAL	respectively:	
SCHEDULE:	Evidentiary Hearing	October 11, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
	Public Comment Hearing:	October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Gravette Civic Center
		401 Charlotte St SE
		Gravette, AR 72736
STATUTORY FINAL	December 14, 2023	
ORDER DEADLINE:		
GENERAL STAFF	Michael Marchand, Executive Director	
CONTACT:	Michael.Marchand@arkansas.gov	

DOCKET:	22-064-U			
COMPANY:	Liberty Utilities (Pine Bluff Water) Inc. (LUPB)			
CASE STYLE:	In The Matter Of The Application Of Liberty Utilities (Pine Bluff Water) Inc. For Approval Of A General Change Or Modification In Rates, Charges, And Tariffs			
CASE FILED:	October 6, 2022			
APPLICATION SUMMARY:	LUPB's current authorized retail revenue requirement is \$10,159,516. The retail revenue requirement requested is \$15,283,958. LUPB is proposing an Alternative Proposed Phase-In over three years. The proposed percentage increase by rate class for each year is:			
	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3			
	Residential Commercial Industrial Public Authority Resale/Bulk Private Fire  The estimated monthly impact \$4.15 or 15.76%.  The current authorized return cois 5.35%. The requested return	on equity is	s 9.35% and	d overall rate of return
	is 5.35%. The requested return on equity is 10.51% and overall rate of return is 6.56%.			
STATUS:	On July 13, 2023, in response to Commission questions propounded in Order No. 6, the Parties to the docket filed Supplemental Testimony.  On July 27, 2023, a public comment hearing was held at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.  Order No. 7, issued August 4, 2023, approved the previously filed settlement agreement which reflected an estimated increase of \$8.67 per month for the average residential customer with no phase in of rates. Further, the order stated that in recognition of public comments regarding the impact of the rate increase on low-income customers, the Commission directed LUPB to offer customers any available information regarding any			

	water assistance funds or benefits that may be available through community-based assistance agencies.
REMAINING	None
PROCEDURAL	
SCHEDULE:	
STATUTORY FINAL	August 5, 2023
ORDER DEADLINE:	
GENERAL STAFF	Michael Marchand, Executive Director
CONTACT:	Michael.Marchand@arkansas.gov

## FORMULA RATE REVIEW ACT FILINGS PURSUANT TO ARK. CODE ANN. § 23-4-1201

DOCKET:	23-012-FR	
COMPANY:	Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO)	
CASE STYLE:	In The Matter Of The Formula Rate Review Filings of Southwestern Electric Power Company Pursuant To APSC Docket No. 21-070-U	
CASE FILED:	April 14, 2023	
APPLICATION SUMMARY:	During SWEPCO's recent rate case, APSC Docket No. 21-070-U, the Company elected to have its rates regulated under the Arkansas Formula Rate Review Act (FRRA). SWEPCO's Formula Rate Review Rider (Rider FRR) was approved by the Commission in Order No. 14 of that docket. This is SWEPCO's first filing under Rider FRR.	
	SWEPCO's Earned Rate of Return on Common Equity (ERR) reflected in the 2023 Evaluation Report is 6.19% percent. SWEPCO's Target Rate of Return (TRR) is 9.5%. The ERR falls outside the 50-basis point bandwidth, thus requiring a Revenue Adjustment to bring the ERR to the TRR in accordance with Rider FRR in the amount of \$24.4 million. The FRRA constrains the total amount of the revenue increase or decrease to 4.0% of the total revenue for any rate class for the Prior Year. Applying the 4.0% constraint calculation results in a Revenue Adjustment of \$15.3 million.	
	The estimated monthly impact of SWEPCO's request is \$5.27 per month or an increase of 4.4% for the average residential customer.	
STATUS:	On July 17, 2023, the Office of the Arkansas Attorney General (AG) submitted a No Errors and Objections (E&O) Letter and Audubon and Sierra Club submitted a Statement of Objection but filed no supporting testimony. On that same day, the Staff filed its 2023 E&O with supporting testimonies.	
	On August 1, 2023, SWEPCO filed Rebuttal Testimony.	
	On August 15, 2023, the Parties to the docket filed a Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement along with Supporting Testimonies.	
	Order No. 6, filed on August 16, 2023, canceled the evidentiary hearing.	
	Order No. 7, issued September 12, 2023, approved the settlement	

	agreement which resulted in an increase of \$15,284,088. The total bill impact to the average residential customer is \$5.27 per month or an increase of 4.4%.
REMAINING	None
PROCEDURAL	
SCHEDULE:	
FINIAL CODED	6 4 4 25 2022
FINAL ORDER	September 25, 2023
DEADLINE:	
GENERAL STAFF	Michael Marchand, Executive Director
CONTACT:	Michael.Marchand@arkansas.gov

DOCKET:	16-036-FR		
COMPANY:	Entergy Arkansas, LLC (EAL)		
CASE STYLE:	In The Matter Of The Formula Rate Plan Filings of Entergy Arkansas Pursuant To APSC Docket No. 15-015-U		
CASE FILED:	July 7, 2023		
APPLICATION SUMMARY:	EAL's Earned Rate of Return on Common Equity reflected in the 2023 Evaluation Report is 8.11 % for the Projected Year and, is 7.29% for the Historical Year. As a result, the total projected revenue change necessary to achieve EAL's Targeted Rate of Return of 9.65% for the Projected Year and for the Historical Year is \$130.3 million. The total revenue change is based upon a Projected Year deficiency of approximately \$80.5 million for 2024 and a deficiency of approximately \$49.8 million in the Historical Year Netting Adjustment for 2022.  The estimated monthly impact of EAL's request is \$5.55 per month or an increase of 4.3% for the average residential customer.		
STATUS:	Staff and Intervenors are currently evaluating EAL's request and preparing to file their respective positions on October 4, 2023.		
REMAINING	Per Order No. 60, issued August 28, 2023:		
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE:	Staff/Intervenors E&O	October 4, 2023	
	EAL Response to E&O	October 19, 2023	
	Settlement or Issues List	October 31, 2023	
	Response to Settlement	November 2, 2023	
	Public Evidentiary Hearing	November 7, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.	
FINAL ORDER DEADLINE:	December 13, 2023		
GENERAL STAFF CONTACT:	Michael Marchand, Executive Director Michael.Marchand@arkansas.gov		