

BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Annual Filing of Southern)
Pioneer Electric Company for Approval to)
Make Certain Changes to Its Charges for) Docket No. 24-SPEE-688-RTS
Electric Services, Pursuant to the Consolidated)
Formula Based Ratemaking Plan Approved in)
Docket No. 19-SPEE-240-MIS.)

PETITION TO INTERVENE AND MOTION FOR ORDER ASSESSING COST

COMES NOW, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") and petitions the Corporation Commission of the State of the Kansas ("Commission") for intervention in the above-captioned case pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1223 and K.S.A. 77-521(a). In support of its petition and motion, CURB states and alleges as follows:

1. On May 1, 2024, Southern Pioneer Electric Company ("Southern Pioneer") filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission for approval to make certain changes to their charges for electric service pursuant to the Consolidated Formula Based Ratemaking Plan ("Consolidated FBR Plan") approved in Docket No. 19-SPEE-240-MIS.

2. CURB is composed of five volunteer board members.¹

3. CURB has specific statutory authority to "represent residential and small commercial ratepayers before the state corporation commission"² and to "function as an *official intervenor in cases* filed with the state corporation commission."³ CURB's authority and role as the official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission has been recognized by the Kansas Supreme Court.⁴

CURB also has specific statutory authority to seek judicial review of Commission orders and

¹ K.S.A. 66-1222(a).

² K.S.A. 66-1223(a).

³ K.S.A. 66-1223(b).

⁴ K.S.A. 66-1223(b). See, *Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board v. Kansas Corporation Comm'n*, 24 Kan. App.2d 63, 68, rev. den. 262 Kan. 959 (1997) ("*CURB v. KCC*"). See also, *Farmland Industries, Inc. v. Kansas Corp. Comm'n*, 29 Kan.App.2d 1031, 1047-48, 37 P.3d 640 (2001) ("The bulk of current customers otherwise entitled to receive refunds are *statutorily represented* by CURB. See K.S.A. 66-1223(a)")

decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers.⁵

4. CURB's express statutory authority referenced above reflects the intent of the Legislature that CURB should participate in cases filed with the Commission. This fulfills the requirement under K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2) because CURB "qualifies as an intervener under any provision of law."

5. The residential and small commercial ratepayers whose interests CURB represents will be bound by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding. The rates paid and the services received by residential and small commercial ratepayers may be substantially affected by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding with respect to Southern Pioneer's proposed changes to its charges for electric service pursuant to the Consolidated FBR Plan, as described in its application.

6. The representation of CURB's interests in this proceeding by existing parties is inadequate. No other party to this proceeding is authorized to (a) specifically represent residential and small commercial ratepayers before the Commission, (b) function as the statutory official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission, or (c) seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers. While Commission Staff may have authority to investigate, evaluate, testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public* pursuant to a definition contained in a Commission regulation,⁶ Staff does not specifically represent

⁵ K.S.A. 66-1223.

⁶ Staff's authority to represent the general public is not specifically authorized by statute, but merely referenced in the definition section of Commission regulations. K.A.R. 82-1-204(q) ("Technical staff may conduct investigations and otherwise evaluate issues raised, and may testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public*." (emphasis added)).

residential and small commercial ratepayers and is expressly denied the right to appeal Commission orders.⁷

7. Accordingly, CURB has a substantial and vital interest in the outcome of this proceeding which cannot be adequately represented by any other party. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2), CURB qualifies as an intervenor (a) under provision of law and (b) because the rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of residential and small commercial ratepayers may be substantially affected by this proceeding.⁸

8. CURB's requested intervention is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings.⁹

9. CURB therefore requests that the Commission grant CURB's Petition to Intervene and allow CURB to participate fully in this docket, including but not limited to the right to conduct discovery, file pleadings and testimony, present oral argument, and fully participate in any scheduled hearings.

10. In addition to undersigned counsel, please include the following CURB representatives with all electronic notices, pleadings, and correspondence regarding this Application as follows:

Shonda Rabb
Public Service Administrator
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Email: s.rabb@curb.kansas.gov

Della Smith
Senior Administrative Specialist
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Email: d.smith@curb.kansas.gov

⁷ K.A.R. 82-1-204(i)(3).

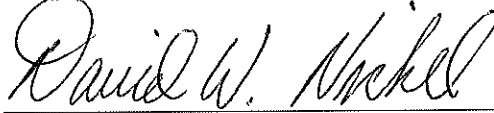
⁸ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2).

⁹ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(3).

11. CURB is requesting an Order Assessing Cost in this docket.

WHEREFORE, CURB respectfully requests the Commission grant its Petition for Intervention and Motion for Order Assessing Cost in this Docket.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Nickel, Consumer Counsel #11170

Todd E. Love, Attorney #13445

Joseph R. Astrab, Attorney #26414

Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

1500 SW Arrowhead Road

Topeka, KS 66604

(785) 271-3200

d.nickel@curb.kansas.gov

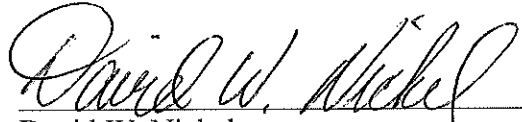
t.love@curb.kansas.gov

j.astrab@curb.kansas.gov

VERIFICATION

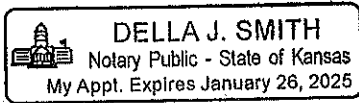
STATE OF KANSAS)
)
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE) ss:

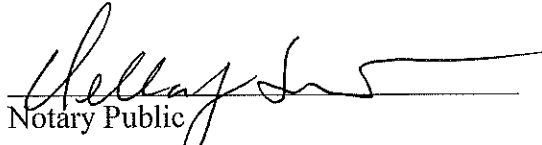
I, David W. Nickel, of lawful age and being first duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am an attorney for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board; that I have read and am familiar with the above and foregoing document and attest that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



David W. Nickel

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 1st day of May, 2024.





Notary Public

My Commission expires: 01-26-2025.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

24-SPEE-688-RTS

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 1st day of May, 2024, to the following:

GLEND A CAFER, ATTORNEY
MORRIS LAING LAW FIRM
800 SW JACKSON, SUITE 1310
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1216
gcafer@morrisolaing.com

TREVOR WOHLFORD, ATTORNEY
MORRIS LAING LAW FIRM
800 SW JACKSON, SUITE 1310
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1216
twohlford@morrisolaing.com

JUSTIN CRASWELL, UTILITY RATE
ANALYST
POWER SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC.
1532 W BROADWAY
STE 103
MADISON, WI 53713
craswellj@powersystem.org

RICHARD J. MACKE, VP OF ECONOMICS,
RATES & BUSINESS PLANNING
POWER SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC.
1532 W BROADWAY
STE 103
MADISON, WI 53713
macker@powersystem.org

LINDSAY CAMPBELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER
SOUTHERN PIONEER ELECTRIC
COMPANY
1850 W OKLAHOMA
PO BOX 430
ULYSSES, KS 67880-0368


lcampbell@pioneerelectric.coop

LARISSA LAYMAN, LEGAL EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
SOUTHERN PIONEER ELECTRIC
COMPANY
1850 W OKLAHOMA
PO BOX 430
ULYSSES, KS 67880-0368
llayman@pioneerelectric.coop

CHANTRY SCOTT, EXECUTIVE VP,
ASSISTANT CEO & CFO
SOUTHERN PIONEER ELECTRIC
COMPANY
1850 WEST OKLAHOMA
PO BOX 403
ULYSSES, KS 67880
CSCOTT@PIONEERELECTRIC.COOP

BRIAN G. FEDOTIN, GENERAL COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
b.fedotin@kcc.ks.gov

CARLY MASENTHIN, LITIGATION
COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
c.masenthin@kcc.ks.gov



Della Smith
Senior Administrative Specialist