

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners:                    Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair  
   Jay Scott Emler  
   Pat Apple

In the Matter of the Annual Filing of                    )  
Southern Pioneer Electric Company for                    )  
Approval to Make Certain Changes to Its                    )  
Charges for Electric Services, Pursuant to                    )                    Docket No. 15-SPEE-519-RTS  
the Debt Service Coverage Formula Based                    )  
Ratemaking Plan Approved in Docket No.                    )  
13-MKKEE-452-MIS.                    )

**ORDER SETTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed the pleadings and record, the Commission makes the following findings:

**I. Background**

1. Southern Pioneer Electric Company (Southern Pioneer) is a non-profit, Kansas corporation, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. Southern Pioneer is regulated by the Commission, but Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member-owned electric cooperative, not subject to Commission regulation of its rates.<sup>1</sup>

2. On May 1, 2015, Southern Pioneer filed its Application to increase retail rates charged to its consumers. In Docket No. 13-MKKEE-452-MIS (452 Docket), the Commission approved a five-year Debt Service Coverage Formula Based Ratemaking Pilot Program (DSC Plan).<sup>2</sup> As part of the DSC Plan, a Debt Service Coverage (DSC) ratio of 1.75 is used to

---

<sup>1</sup> Application, May 1, 2014, ¶ 13.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, ¶ 5.

calculate a DSC formula.<sup>3</sup> If the test-year DSC differs from 1.75, the DSC will be adjusted to reach a 1.75 DSC for the budget year.<sup>4</sup> In order to achieve the agreed target of 1.75 DSC for the distribution only portion of Southern Pioneer’s utility system using the processes and protocols contained in Exhibit A of the 13-452 Settlement, a rate increase of \$899,288 or 1.3% overall is requested by Southern Pioneer.

**II. Schedule**

3. In Attachment A to its Application, Southern Pioneer identified guidelines for the procedural schedule in this matter as the parties agreed to in the 452 Docket. The Commission has calculated the following schedule based upon those guidelines:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Thursday, May 1, 2015		Application Filed
Wednesday, July 1, 2015		Staff & Intervenor Testimony
Tuesday, July 16, 2015		Southern Pioneer Rebuttal Testimony
Thursday, July 30, 2015		Commission order either approving the rate adjustment based upon the paper record or notifying the parties that an evidentiary hearing will be held
Wednesday, August 12, 2015	9:00 a.m.	Evidentiary Hearing, if necessary
Thursday, August 27, 2015		Final Commission Order if the matter goes to evidentiary hearing

4. After review and consideration of the recommended schedule, the Commission adopts the preceding procedural schedule.

5. The Commission reserves the right to hold an evidentiary hearing in this matter, and therefore schedules the Evidentiary Hearing, with the Commission presiding, to begin on

---

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

August 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., in the First Floor Hearing Room of the Commission's Offices, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027, telephone 785-271-3100. Any party who fails to attend or participate in the hearing or any other stage of this proceeding may be held in default under the KAPA. K.S.A. 77-516(c)(8); K.S.A. 77-520. The need for an evidentiary hearing will be determined in the Commission's order due on or before July 30, 2015.

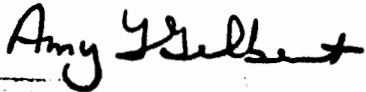
**THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- A. The Commission adopts the procedural schedule set forth above at paragraph 3.
- B. The parties have 15 days from the date this Order was served, plus three days if served by mail, to petition for reconsideration.<sup>5</sup>
- C. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties for the purpose of entering such further orders as it deems necessary.

**BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Albrecht, Chair; Emler, Commissioner; Apple, Commissioner.

Dated:     **MAY 21 2015**    

  
Order Mailed Date    **MAY 22 2015**  
Amy L. Gilbert  
Secretary

JV

---

<sup>5</sup> K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).

PLEASE FORWARD THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT (S) ISSUED IN THE ABOVE-REFERENCED DOCKET TO THE FOLLOWING:

NAME AND ADDRESS	NO. CERT. COPIES	NO. PLAIN COPIES
GLENDA CAFER, ATTORNEY CAFER PEMBERTON LLC 3321 SW 6TH ST TOPEKA, KS 66606		
TERRI PEMBERTON, ATTORNEY CAFER PEMBERTON LLC 3321 SW 6TH ST TOPEKA, KS 66606		
NIKI CHRISTOPHER, ATTORNEY CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604 ***Hand Delivered***		
DELLA SMITH CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604 ***Hand Delivered***		
SHONDA SMITH CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604 ***Hand Delivered***		
DAVID SPRINGE, CONSUMER COUNSEL CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604 ***Hand Delivered***		
ROBERT VINCENT, LITIGATION ATTORNEY KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027 ***Hand Delivered***		
RANDY MAGNISON, EXEC VP & ASST CEO SOUTHERN PIONEER ELECTRIC COMPANY 1850 W OKLAHOMA PO BOX 430 ULYSSES, KS 67880-0430		

Order Mailed Date **MAY 22 2015**

The Docket Room hereby certified that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, it caused a true and correct copy of the attached ORDER to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the above persons.

PLEASE FORWARD THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT (S) ISSUED IN THE ABOVE-REFERENCED DOCKET TO THE FOLLOWING:

NAME AND ADDRESS	NO. CERT. COPIES	NO. PLAIN COPIES
LINDSAY SHEPARD, EXECUTIVE VP - GENERAL COUNSEL SOUTHERN PIONEER ELECTRIC COMPANY 1850 W OKLAHOMA PO BOX 430 ULYSSES, KS 67880-0430		

Order Mailed Date **MAY 22 2015**

The Docket Room hereby certified that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, it caused a true and correct copy of the attached ORDER to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the above persons.