



PRESS RELEASE

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MANUFACTURERS OPPOSE SOUTHWEST POWER POOL TRANSMISSION PLAN THAT AVOIDS COMPETITION

\$960,000,000 in consumer cost savings will be lost

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) [submitted comments](#) to the Southwest Power Pool in opposition to all 2024 ITP Short-Term Reliability (STR) transmission projects.

Paul N. Cicio, President of IECA, made the following statement:

It is stunning that while the country and policymakers are deeply concerned about inflation, SPP would advance a proposal that will saddle consumers in SPP with higher electricity rates for decades to come, while SPP monopoly utilities receive 11-13 percent ROEs. The SPP proposal is anti-consumer, anti-competition, and anti-free market.

IECA manufacturing companies face competition every day. Yet, incumbent utilities in SPP, under the plan, will not face competition for \$3.2 billion in new transmission spending. Competitively bidding transmission projects on average reduces the cost of transmission by 25-30 percent. In this case, savings of \$960,000,000 will not occur, and instead, increase the profits of the monopoly utilities.

The plan is irresponsible and inconsistent with providing consumers with just and reasonable rates.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets.

IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.