



UTILITY BILLS ARE RISING

Q2 2026

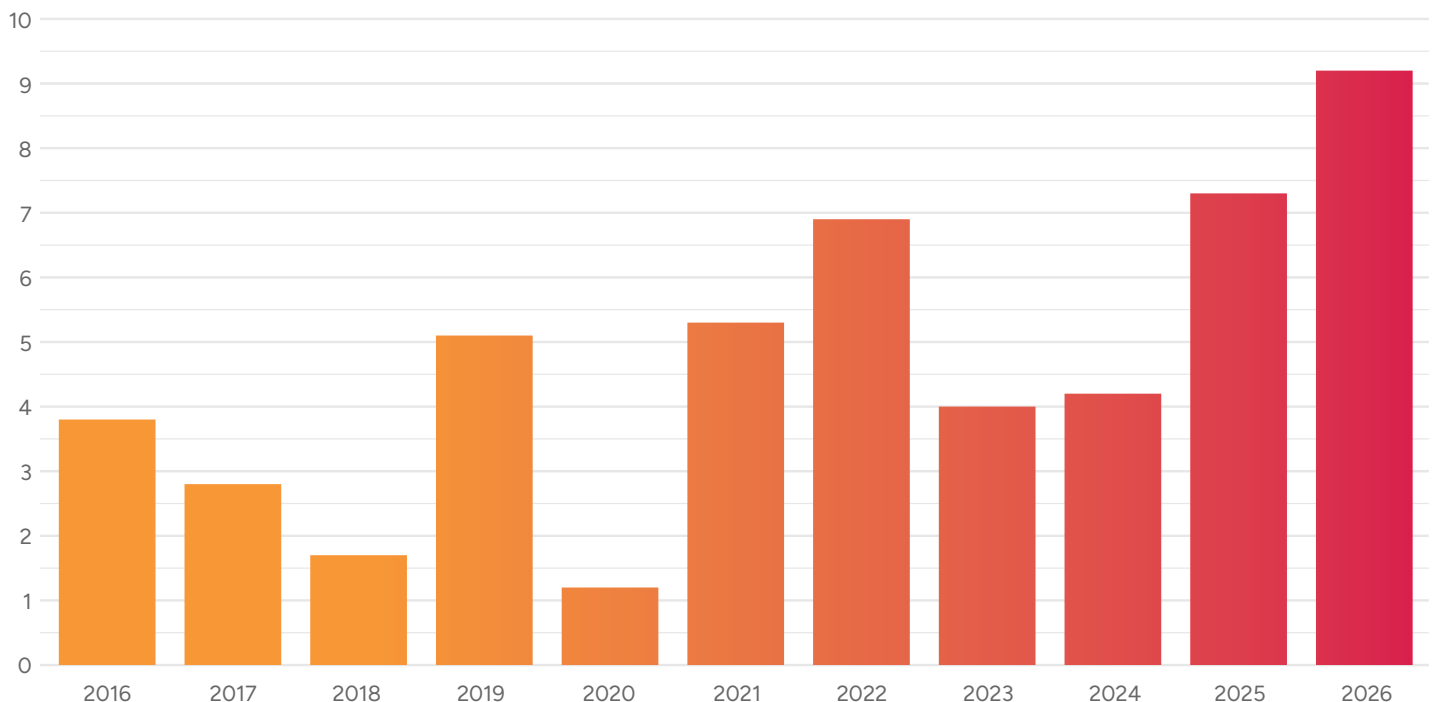


Utilities requested \$18.6 billion in rate increases through the second quarter of 2026, including \$9.2 billion in Q2 alone.

Electric and gas utility companies requested \$9.2 billion in rate increases in the second quarter of 2026 alone, breaking [last year's Q2 record](#) of \$7.3 billion in new requests. The \$9.2 billion in requests from this quarter will be felt across more than 56 million U.S. customers. In total, utilities have requested \$18.6 billion since the start of 2026. Q1 2026 requests are detailed in PowerLines' May 2026 report [Utility Bills Are Rising](#).

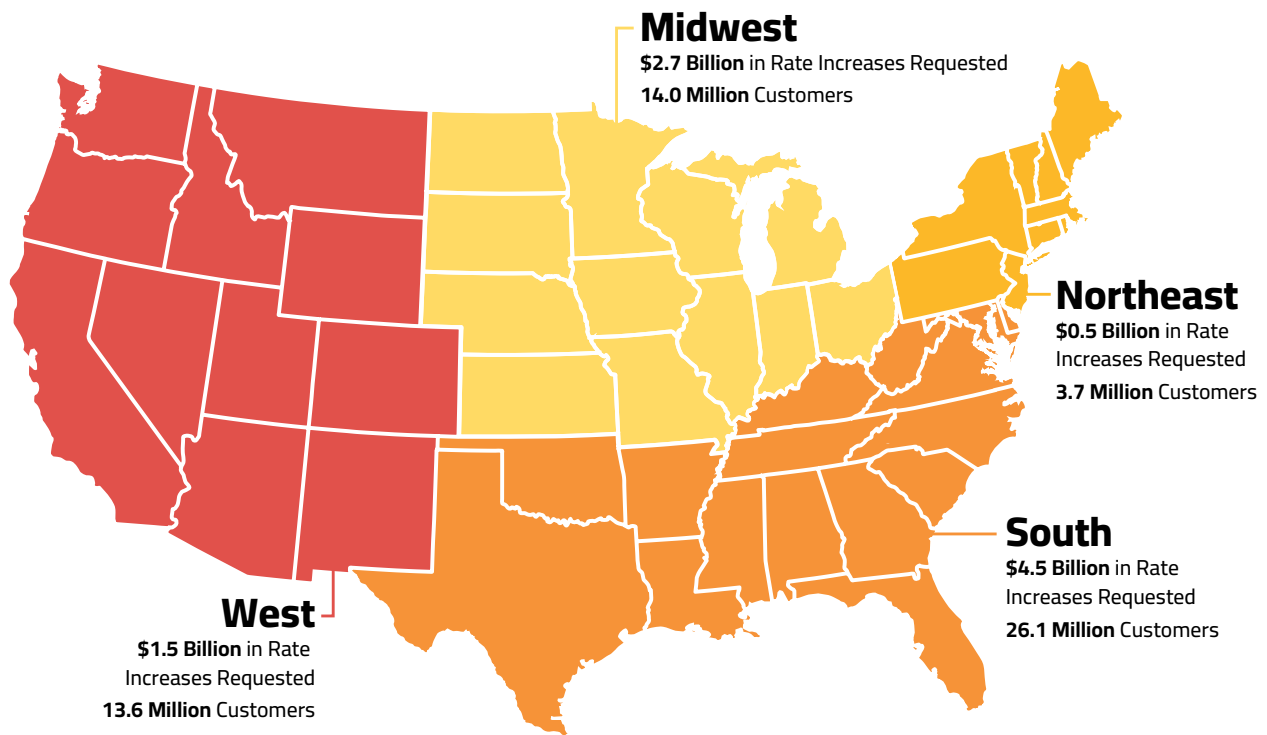
The latest requests join a growing spending spree by utilities and rising consumer anxiety over rising power bills, particularly during periods of extreme heat, when electricity is necessary to maintain human health and safety. Investor-owned utilities are [planning to spend at least \\$1.4 trillion](#) in capital expenditures by 2030, which could be felt for years to come through future rate increase requests. Meanwhile, [more than 2 in 3 consumers](#) reported their electric or gas bill has increased this year, and more than 3 in 4 are worried their bills will continue to rise.

Q2 Rate Increase Requests by Year (Billions \$)



Sources: 2016-2024 S&P RRA Database; 2025-2026 PowerLines

Q2 2026 Rate Increase Requests Affect 56 Million Customers



Source: Individual sources can be found in the **Appendix**.

Where Rates Are Rising

Southern utilities requested the largest increase in rates, totaling \$4.5 billion across 26.1 million customers, more than twice the amount of the next-highest region and nearly half the total requests filed nationwide in the second quarter.

Oncor in Texas requested the largest single increase this quarter, at \$1.2 billion, driven largely by its 5-year transmission and distribution spending plan—a \$45 billion investment focused on meeting demand from oil and gas industry and data centers in the Permian Basin. Dominion Energy in Virginia, meanwhile, requested \$1.5 billion across three rate requests, the largest of which proposes to raise rates

by \$1.1 billion to address previously under-recovered fuel costs.

Consumers in the Midwest face \$2.7 billion in rate hikes across 14 million customers, while Western and Northeastern customers face an additional \$1.5 billion and \$500 million, respectively.

The biggest spenders in the Midwest this quarter include DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, requesting around \$500 million each in Michigan, and Wisconsin Electric Power, which is requesting over \$300 million through its electric company and almost \$200 million through its gas subsidiary.



Some proposed rate hikes are drawing backlash from consumers and state officials. In Michigan, the combined \$1 billion in rate requests from two of the state's largest utilities came shortly after the utilities already secured approval for hundreds of millions in rate hikes months earlier.

Regulators [greenlit DTE's \\$242.4 million increase](#) in February of this year, after the utility obtained approval for \$217 million the year before. In announcing its latest rate request, the utility pledged to “forego asking for rate increases for at least two years.” Consumers Energy, meanwhile, has [obtained \\$800 million in rate increases](#) since 2020, and its latest half billion dollar request immediately follows regulatory approval to [recover another \\$276.6 million](#) from consumers.

In North Carolina, Duke Energy's Carolinas and Progress utilities requested over \$800 million in rate increases after fuel costs spiked following a period of

severe cold this winter. The filing comes as the utility is already in the midst of a contested \$1.7 billion rate request in front of North Carolina regulators, spending it says is necessary to strengthen its grid infrastructure against increasingly severe weather and support the state's growing population. The \$1.7 billion proposed rate hike could increase consumer power bills in the state [up to 18 percent](#)—or \$28 per month in the first year, followed by an up to \$7 increase the following year. North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson filed [700 pages of testimony](#) opposing the plan, arguing the increase could cost consumers \$1.4 billion in unnecessary charges over the two-year time period.

Other major rate requests this quarter include [\\$500 million from Eversource in Connecticut](#), which says it needs the funds to keep pace with inflation and spending on new grid infrastructure, largely poles and wires.

How Do Rate Increases Work? And How Often Are They Approved?

In order for a utility to charge consumers higher rates for the amount of electricity they use—which shows up on monthly electric and gas bills alongside other service charges—utilities need to first seek approval from their state regulator. Often known as Public Utility Commissions (PUCs) or Public Service Commissions (PSCs), these regulatory bodies are primarily charged with protecting the public interest. In practice, this means they must balance the consumers' need to maintain affordable energy bills, alongside the utility's need to maintain safe and reliable service while earning a reasonable profit.¹

The PUC may consider, for instance, whether a utility needs to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on new grid infrastructure, or whether there are cheaper ways to improve reliability or squeeze more power out of the existing system. The public process for approving rates often takes months, and involves a wide array of input from consumers, state officials, and other interest groups.

The frequency of utility requests has increased dramatically in recent years, requiring more time and attention from state regulators. The typical frequency of rate cases has been two to five years, but requests have been steadily climbing since 2021, hitting a record high last year. All in all, PUCs have [approved 58 percent of the total costs](#) requested by utilities from 2023 through 2024, but few rate requests are outright rejected. A PowerLines analysis of 2025 rate requests, for instance, found just [two of 83 requests were rejected](#), though nearly half remained pending by the start of 2026.

These requests, while often approved at a lower cost than utilities propose, have a high chance of reaching consumer bills in some form.

¹ "Reasonable profit" for electric utilities [has been defined by U.S. courts](#) as ensuring both that the company has enough investor confidence to attract sufficient capital, and that its profit is roughly consistent with what a non-monopoly corporation would receive on a comparable investment. In other words, the company should make enough money to remain financially viable, while not out-earning what it would make in a regular competitive marketplace.



Summer Heat and High Bills Stress U.S. Households

The increasing rate requests come at a time when consumers are having to choose between the need to stay cool or paying higher power bills.

As temperatures soar, electricity becomes a critical resource to ensure human health and safety, particularly for vulnerable populations including young children and the elderly. The need for air conditioning, resulting in higher electricity use, can be a matter of life and death for households facing dangerous temperatures. But as more and more people ramp up their air conditioning systems, the power system becomes increasingly strained—and high demand for electricity can ultimately not only spike monthly power bills, but drive up costs further over the long term.

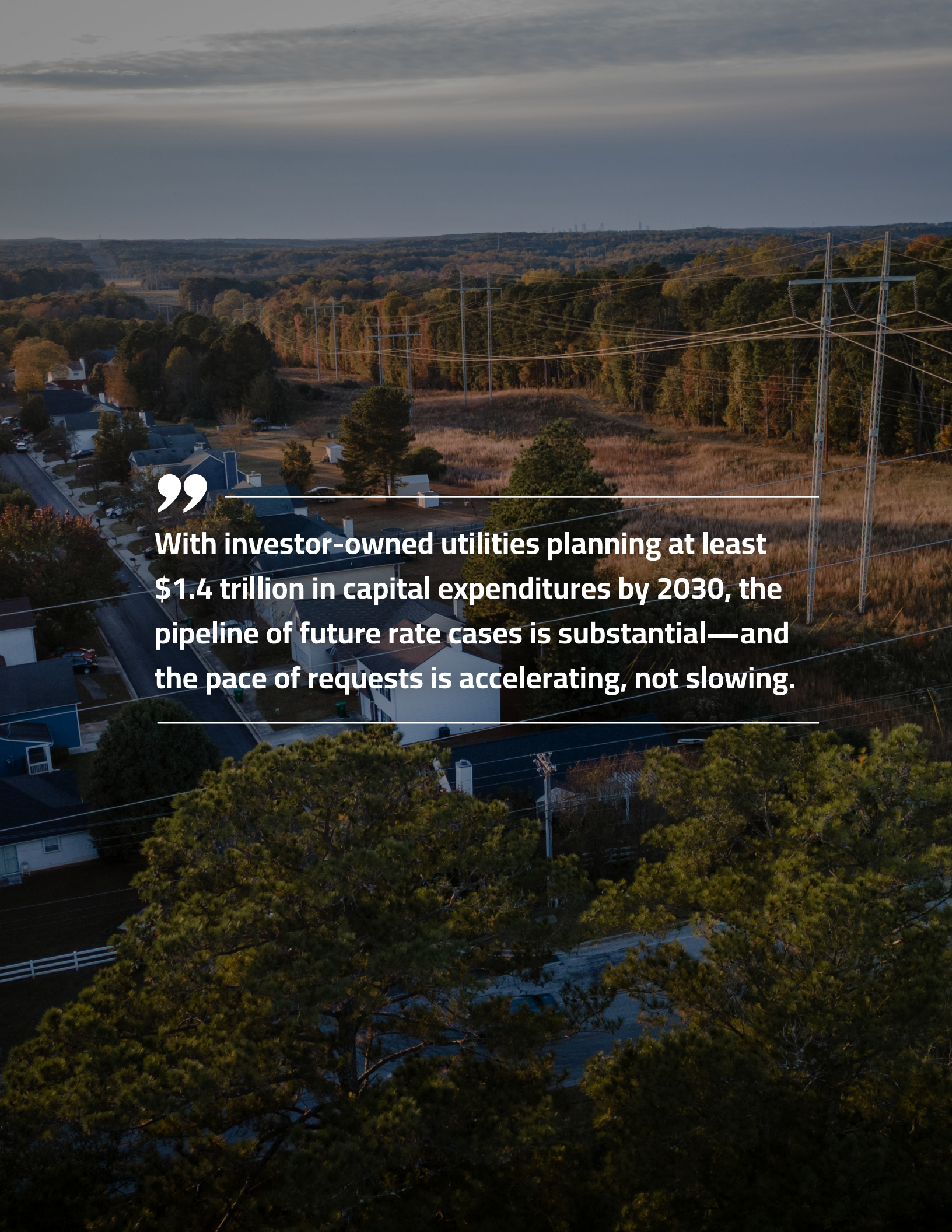


All of these factors threaten to exacerbate already-growing energy costs. Consumers will be forced to pay more per unit of electricity used, and will need to use more units of electricity overall. Rising costs will also worsen consumer stress, as [4 in 5 Americans](#) already feel powerless in the face of increased energy prices. This tradeoff is especially acute for low-income households.

Conclusion

The more than \$9 billion in rate requests filed in Q2 2026 signals that utility spending pressures are far from their peak. With investor-owned utilities planning at least \$1.4 trillion in capital expenditures by 2030, the pipeline of future rate cases is substantial—and the pace of requests is accelerating, not slowing.

The decisions made by PUCs over the coming months will determine how much of this burden lands directly on consumers. With more than \$18 billion in requests already on the table for 2026, regulators face mounting pressure to scrutinize utility spending plans while balancing the infrastructure investments that a modernizing grid genuinely requires.

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. In the foreground, there are several houses with dark roofs and some greenery. A large, dense tree is prominent in the lower left. In the middle ground, there's a mix of trees, some with autumn-colored leaves, and several high-voltage power lines with metal towers stretching across the landscape. The background shows a dense forest of trees under a cloudy sky.

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With investor-owned utilities planning at least \$1.4 trillion in capital expenditures by 2030, the pipeline of future rate cases is substantial—and the pace of requests is accelerating, not slowing.

APPENDIX: Electric and Gas Utility Rate Increase Requests from Q2 2026

State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)*	Source
Alaska	Alaska Electric Light and Power	West	17,000	Electric	May 2026	0.1	Alaska Electric Light and Power
California	San Diego Gas & Electric	West	1,490,000	Electric	June 2026	0.3	California Public Utilities Commission
Colorado	Black Hills Energy	West	102,000	Electric	June 2026	0.0	Black Hills Energy
Connecticut	Eversource	Northeast	1,300,000	Electric	May 2026	0.5	Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Florida	Tampa Electric	South	840,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Florida Public Service Commission
Idaho	Avista	West	423,000	Electric	June 2026	0.0	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	Idaho Power	West	640,000	Electric	April 2026	0.1	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	Rocky Mountain Power	West	91,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Kansas	Liberty Utilities	Midwest	10,000	Electric	June 2026	0.0	Kansas Corporation Commission
Kentucky	Kentucky Power	South	162,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Kentucky Public Service Commission

APPENDIX: Electric and Gas Utility Rate Increase Requests from Q2 2026

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Maine	Unitil	Northeast	35,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Maine Public Utilities Commission
Michigan	DTE	Midwest	2,300,000	Electric	April 2026	0.5	Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan	Consumers Energy	Midwest	1,900,000	Electric	June 2026	0.5	Michigan Public Service Commission
Missouri	Empire District Electric	Midwest	148,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Missouri Public Service Commission
Missouri	Ameren	Midwest	1,300,000	Electric	June 2026	0.3	Ameren
Montana	NorthWestern Energy	West	413,000	Electric	June 2026	0.1	Daily Montanan
New Hampshire	Public Service Company of New Hampshire	Northeast	523,000	Electric	May 2026	0.0	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
New Mexico	El Paso Electric	West	111,000	Electric	April 2026	0.1	New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
New Mexico	PNM	West	550,000	Electric	April 2026	0.1	Halcyon
North Carolina	Dominion	South	129,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	North Carolina Utilities Commission
North Carolina	Duke Energy Carolinas	South	2,220,000	Electric	April 2026	0.5	North Carolina Utilities Commission

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North Carolina	Duke Energy Progress	South	1,620,000	Electric	April 2026	0.4	North Carolina Utilities Commission
Ohio	AES Ohio	Midwest	1,530,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio	Cleveland Illuminating Company	Midwest	755,000	Electric	May 2026	0.2	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio	Toledo Edison	Midwest	315,000	Electric	May 2026	0.1	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio	Ohio Edison	Midwest	1,000,000	Electric	May 2026	0.2	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Oregon	Pacific Power	West	623,000	Electric	May 2026	0.2	Oregon Public Utility Commission
Texas	El Paso Electric	South	452,000	Electric	June 2026	0.0	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	Electric Transmission Texas	South	1,110,000	Electric	April 2026	0.4	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	Entergy Texas	South	538,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	Oncor	South	13,000,000	Electric	April 2026	1.2	Public Utility Commission of Texas

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Texas	Southwestern Public Service	South	263,000	Electric	May 2026	0.0	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	SWEPCO	South	191,000	Electric	May 2026	0.0	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Vermont	Green Mountain Power	Northeast	275,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Vermont Public Utility Commission
Virginia	Appalachian Power	South	530,000	Electric	May 2026	0.1	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Appalachian Power	South	530,000	Electric	May 2026	0.1	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Dominion	South	2,700,000	Electric	April 2026	0.2	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Dominion	South	2,700,000	Electric	May 2026	0.2	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Dominion	South	2,700,000	Electric	May 2026	1.1	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Kentucky Utilities	South	28,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Virginia State Corporation Commission

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Washington	Puget Sound Energy	West	1,100,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
West Virginia	Appalachian Power and Wheeling Power	South	460,000	Electric	May 2026	0.0	Halcyon
West Virginia	Monongahela Power and Potomac Edison	South	588,000	Electric	May 2026	0.2	West Virginia Public Service Commission
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Electric Power	Midwest	1,175,000	Electric	April 2026	0.3	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Public Service	Midwest	474,000	Electric	April 2026	0.1	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
Wisconsin	Northern States Power	Midwest	270,000	Electric	May 2026	0.0	Halcyon
Wyoming	Black Hills Energy	West	46,000	Electric	April 2026	0.0	Halcyon
Wyoming	Rocky Mountain Power	West	150,000	Electric	May 2026	0.1	Wyoming Public Service Commission
California	San Diego Gas & Electric	West	905,000	Gas	April 2026	0.1	California Public Utilities Commission
California	SoCalGas	West	6,000,000	Gas	April 2026	0.3	California Public Utilities Commission
Florida	Florida City Gas	South	125,000	Gas	April 2026	0.1	Florida City Gas

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Iowa	MidAmerican Energy	Midwest	751,000	Gas	May 2026	0.1	Iowa Utilities Commission
Kansas	Atmos Energy	Midwest	139,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	Kansas Corporation Commission
New Hampshire	Liberty Utilities	Northeast	98,000	Gas	June 2026	0.0	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
New Jersey	Elizabethtown Gas	Northeast	322,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
New Jersey	South Jersey Gas	Northeast	431,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
New York	National Fuel	Northeast	747,000	Gas	May 2026	0.0	New York Department of Public Service
Ohio	CenterPoint Energy	Midwest	316,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio	Ohio Gas	Midwest	52,000	Gas	May 2026	0.0	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Natural Gas	South	931,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	KFOR
South Carolina	Piedmont Gas	South	170,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	South Carolina Public Service Commission
Utah	Enbridge Gas	West	900,000	Gas	May 2026	0.0	Utah Public Service Commission

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Wisconsin	Wisconsin Gas	Midwest	666,000	Gas	April 2026	0.2	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Electric Power	Midwest	515,000	Gas	April 2026	0.2	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Public Service	Midwest	350,000	Gas	April 2026	0.0	Wisconsin Public Service Commission

