UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 102529 / March 5, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-22425

In the Matter of	:	
American Electric Power Company, Inc.,	:	**EXTENSION ORDER**
Respondent.	:	

The Division of Enforcement ("Division") has requested an extension of time until March 17, 2026, to submit a Proposed Plan of Distribution under Rule 1101(a) of the Commission's Rules on Fair Fund and Disgorgement Plans, 17 C.F.R. § 201.1101(a).

On January 17, 2025, the Commission issued an Order Instituting Cease-and-Desist Proceedings Pursuant to Section 8A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Making Findings, and Imposing a Cease-and-Desist Order (the "Order")[1] against American Electric Power Company, Inc. (the "Respondent" or "American Electric Power"). In the Order, the Commission found that American Electric Power, a New York public utility holding corporation, with its principal place of business in Columbus, Ohio violated federal securities laws in connection with its relationship with, and statements made about, Empowering Ohio's Economy, Inc. ("Empowering Ohio"), an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4) entity that American Electric Power formed, fully funded, and controlled.

[1] Securities Act Rel. No. 11356 (Jan. 17, 2025).

The Order found that, in July 2020, former Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives Larry Householder ("Householder") and Generation Now, Inc. ("Generation Now"), a 501(c)(4) organization controlled by Householder, were charged with federal racketeering and conspiracy related to a years-long bribery scheme. Shortly after Householder's arrest, American Electric Power issued a press release regarding its relationship with Empowering Ohio and contributions to Generation Now. The press release was misleading because it omitted key facts. Specifically, in the press release, American Electric Power stated that it did not make any contributions to Generation Now. This statement was misleading because American Electric Power had fully funded Empowering Ohio, and an American Electric Power employee directed Empowering Ohio's contributions to Generation Now. American Electric Power also failed to disclose material related to transactions with respect to payments it made to Empowering Ohio on its 2019 Form 10-K. Finally, American Electric Power failed to keep accurate books and records and devise and maintain a sufficient system of internal accounting controls with respect to the identification and disclosure of material related party transactions.

The Commission ordered, among other things, the Respondent to pay a $19,000,000.00 civil money penalty to the Commission. The Commission also created a Fair Fund, pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, so the penalty collected can be distributed to harmed investors (the “Fair Fund”).

The Fair Fund consists of the $19,000,000.00 collected from the Respondent. The Fair Fund has been deposited in a Commission-designated account at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and any accrued interest will be added to the Fair Fund.

In its request for an extension of time, the Division states that additional time is needed to complete the fund administrator solicitation and appointment process, develop the distribution methodology, and prepare the proposed plan of distribution.

Accordingly, for good cause shown, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Division's request for an extension of time until March 17, 2026, to submit a Proposed Plan of Distribution is granted.

For the Commission, by the Division of Enforcement, pursuant to delegated authority.[2]

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary

[2] 17 C.F.R. § 200.30-4(a)(21)(i).