NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Barring any interference by federal judges, three Louisiana murderers could die in the electric chair at the state prison in Angola next month.

Ernest Knighton Jr., 38, and and Elmo Sonnier, 35, both are scheduled for an April 5 execution, two days after Robert Lee Willie, a 26-year-old three-time killer, is set to die.

Willie and Knighton both have chances at least to delay their death dates. Although the state Supreme Court on Friday rejected their latest requests for stays, they can still pin their hopes on the U.S. District Courts.

Sonnier, however, has exhausted his appeals, according to Dracos Burke, an assistant district attorney in New Iberia. Sonnier’s lawyer, Michael Baham, who has often refused to discuss the case publicly, could not be reached for comment Saturday on what Sonnier’s next move might be.

Sonnier was convicted of killing Loretta Ann Bourque, 18, of New Iberia, and David LeBlanc, 16, of St. Martinville, in a lover's lane murder on Nov. 5, 1977. Miss Bourque was raped before being shot in the head with a rifle.

Willie received the death penalty after he and Joseph Jesse Vaccaro, 31, raped and murdered 18-year-old Faith Hathaway of Mandeville. Vaccaro drew a life sentence.

When the state put him on trial, he had been serving three 30-year terms in a federal prison for a kidnap and rape conviction. He had been given two life sentences for two 1978 murders.

Knighton, of Shreveport, was found guilty of murdering Ralph Shell, a Bossier City service station operator, during a March 17, 1981, holdup.