

# EXHIBIT #1



## South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association

P.O. BOX 1126  
AMELIA, LOUISIANA 70340

P.O. BOX 4037  
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361

October 25, 2021

Re: Camps in Lake Decade, Lake Fields and Grand Pass

Dear

This is to inform you that, due to the severe and unprecedented damage caused by Hurricane Ida to SLECA's poles, lines and infrastructure in Lake Decade, Lake Fields and Grand Pass, the camps in these lakes will be out of power for an extended period of time that could last well into next year if not longer. Though we do not have an estimated date as to when power will be restored and considering the length of time your camp could be out of power, you may want to consider utilizing a generator.

While the power is out at your camp you will not be charged a minimum amount on your monthly bill. Your bill will reflect no electric usage and no amount due.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact SLECA Operations Superintendent Matt Peters, at 985-876-6880.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and we thank you for your patience and understanding.



## South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association

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AMELIA, LOUISIANA 70340

P.O. BOX 4037  
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361

July 13, 2022

Dear Camp Owner:

In regard to the rebuilding of our lake lines in Lake Decade, Grand Pass, Lake Fields and the island at the end of Four Point (boat access only) due to the historic damage of Hurricane Ida, we wanted to write you to address any concerns you have and to dispel any rumor or hearsay about the future of these lines.

First, we want to thank you for your patience and understanding as SLECA continues to rebuild from the worst and costliest natural disaster to ever impact its service territory. Second and most importantly, we want to go on record and reassure all camp owners and those who enjoy the "camp experience" that, as of this time, SLECA has every intention of rebuilding these damaged lake lines. To that end, in the next few weeks contract crews will be in the lakes removing damaged poles and transformers, downed wire and other storm debris. But this is only the beginning.

SLECA is still very much in hurricane mode. We are still running new services to hundreds of FEMA trailers and to rebuilt homes and businesses; installing thousands of street lights and removing tons of debris. But even with all of these ongoing activities, please know that we have not forgotten our camp owners nor have we put this issue on the backburner.

Since the storm, we have been meeting with consultants, engineering firms and especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to plan and execute the best course of action and to do what is in the best interest of our camp owners.

The good news is FEMA is willing to rebuild the lines in the lakes. But because of the ongoing and regular damage to our lake lines, whether due to repeated hurricanes or just strong thunderstorms, FEMA rules and regulations will allow us to rebuild the lake lines to withstand hurricane force winds. We are currently looking at all of our options for the rebuild including both wood and steel pole designs. This however is a very lengthy process that will require engineering work; permits must be secured from the Corps of Engineers; the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources



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and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality must provide oversight and FEMA will be involved throughout the entire process. The permits alone could take up to a year to secure but again, FEMA will foot the bill.

The only other alternative would be to rebuild the lake infrastructure the way it was prior to Hurricane Ida and not harden the system. Estimates are that this could still cost tens of millions of dollars and, if selected, FEMA may not reimburse SLECA for expenses to make repairs caused by storms in the future since the lines would not have been hardened. This approach has not been ruled out, however if FEMA were not to reimburse SLECA, this would potentially create a major financial problem for camp owners who would have to be assessed the amount to make any repairs.

Please know that we are looking at all options for the rebuild but we promise that the ultimate decision that is made will be for the betterment of SLECA's system and you, our camp owners.

Again, we want to THANK YOU for being so considerate. We truly appreciate our camp owners and we apologize for the inconvenience this situation has caused you. We sincerely hope this letter has given you a clearer understanding of the path forward and, like you, we look forward to life returning back to normal as soon as possible.



## South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association

P.O. BOX 1126  
AMELIA, LOUISIANA 70340

P.O. BOX 4037  
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361

April 5, 2023

Dear Camp Owner:

In regard to the rebuilding of our lake lines in Lake Decade, Grand Pass, Lake Fields and the island at the end of Four Point (boat access only) due to the historic damage of Hurricane Ida, we wanted to write you to address any concerns you have and to dispel any rumor or hearsay about the future of these lines.

First, we want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we are still very much in hurricane mode. We have been hard at work ensuring that SLECA's entire system is being rebuilt to our standards to ensure safe and reliable power to all of our members.

You may have noticed over the last several months, contractors have been working in the lakes to remove the damaged lines in order to keep boat travel as safe as possible for the public and to mitigate any liabilities in the lakes stemming from the damaged lines. We anticipate the contractors to continue to keep working in the lakes on the line removal for the next several months.

As reported in our previous letter to camp owners, we are still in the engineering and planning phase of the lake lines rebuild project. SLECA's staff, alongside our consultants have been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a plan which is prudent for not just our camp owners, but all of SLECA's membership.

Because of the amount of damage to our lake line facilities during Hurricane Ida, coupled with the frequency at which the lake lines have been damaged in prior storms, FEMA's rules and regulations will allow us to rebuild the lake lines to withstand hurricane force winds (170mph) in an effort to mitigate damages during any future storms.



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Many of you have asked the question "why not rebuild the lines back as they were before the storm?" The answer is very simple. If we rebuild the lines back as they were before the storm and choose to not harden the lines, there is a possibility that future storm damages to the lake lines will not be reimbursed by FEMA. This is simply a risk that SLECA cannot take as a future storm could potentially cripple SLECA financially and risk the long-term stability of the cooperative, its members (all members not just the camp owners), and the historically low rates which we work so hard to maintain. This is the reason why rebuilding the lines to withstand hurricane force winds (170 mph) is non-negotiable.

We want our camp owners to understand that the process of rebuilding the lake lines is very tedious and includes analyzing all of our options which are subject to FEMA review and approval. Once FEMA approves a proposed project, it will enter into an engineering design stage including permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as well as the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Once all of those processes are completed, we would only then enter into the construction phase which includes securing specialized equipment as well as materials that currently have lead times of 46 weeks which means a longer than normal construction period. All-in-all, the engineering design stage through construction is expected to take 3-4 years. Again, all of the plans regarding the lake lines are subject to FEMA's review and approval, and we will continue to keep you updated as more details emerge throughout this process.

Again, we want to THANK YOU for being so patient with us up to this point. We truly appreciate our camp owners, and we apologize for the inconvenience this situation has caused you. We sincerely hope this letter has given you a clearer understanding of the anticipated path forward and, like you, we look forward to life returning back to normal as soon as possible. If you should have any questions please feel free to call our office at 985-876-6880 and ask for Shannon Soudelier our Operation Superintendent.

# EXHIBIT #2



## South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association

P.O. BOX 1126  
AMELIA, LOUISIANA 70340

P.O. BOX 4037  
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361

8/21/2024

Dear Consumer Member,

We, SLECA's Board of Directors, have been elected to serve as your voice in the board room for all Cooperative issues. We have the fiduciary responsibility to make pertinent decisions that are in the best interest of all SLECA members. We understand every decision made will have an impact on the very communities we serve. Every Cooperative issue requiring Board approval is carefully considered and analyzed to forge the best path forward for all SLECA members.

At the regularly scheduled board meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a vote was taken regarding the reconstruction of the remote lines serving Lake Decade, Lake Fields, Grand Pass, and the Island at the end of Four Point Road. We regret to inform you SLECA will not be rebuilding the lines to these remote locations.

This decision was given much consideration, and it was not an easy decision to make. Over the past three years, we have exhausted every effort, compiled all the information available, worked countless hours with consultants, advisors, contractors, and government officials to ensure the best possible decision was made for ALL SLECA members. As your elected Board, we understand the frustration, heartache, and scrutiny this decision may bring, so we wanted to be fully transparent around the factors that were the driving force of our decision.

Here are the facts:

### **PROJECT COSTS**

The costs to rebuild these remote access lines are estimated to be 105 million dollars. FEMA will only cover 90% of the project costs. SLECA's members (all members) would be responsible to foot the bill for the remaining 10% of the project costs, resulting in approximately 10.5 million dollars. This does not include any additional costs for environmental permitting, environmental mitigation, or additional associated procurement of Rights-of-Ways. We estimate that these additional costs could result in an additional 5 million dollars, leaving SLECA with a potential 15.5 million dollars expense for the reconstruction of the lake lines.

### **CAN SLECA AFFORD IT?**

No, in order to take on this project, all SLECA members will foot the bill, resulting in large rate increases over an extended period of time.

### **POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION METHODS**

Three different construction methods were considered: Steel Pole Construction, Wood Pole Construction, and a combination of both steel and wood. Each different construction method has its pros and cons, and several factors were considered. These different construction methods were detailed in previous letters to our camp owners, but the main factors that were taken into consideration were capital cost, lifespan, future maintenance cost, constructability, and line routes to name a few.





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### **WHY NOT BUILD THE LINES BACK LIKE THEY WERE BEFORE HURRICANE IDA?**

This issue was addressed in a previous letter to the camp owners, but the answer is simple. If we chose to rebuild it back without hardening the system, there is a possibility that future storms (both major storms and undeclared weather events) that cause damage to the lake lines would not be eligible for reimbursement by FEMA. This ultimately would have been too great of a financial risk to take with the future of the Cooperative. For this reason, hardening the system through FEMA was the only viable option to consider after Hurricane Ida.

### **WHY WAS THIS DECISION NOT MADE SOONER? WHY NOW?**

The reason this decision took place now, nearly 3 years later, is that simply put, there was no decision to be made until recently. The total estimated project costs were presented at the May 17, 2024, special board meeting with a price tag of 105 million dollars. Prior to that point, it was difficult to say with any degree of certainty that the cost estimates were not going to change due to external factors and input from FEMA. At this point, since the construction estimate is 105 million dollars, any additional change in scope or cost, would be relatively small in comparison to the project, so we felt we could decide on the proper course of action since all of the project details, in large part, are not going to change. Now that all the information is available, it has put SLECA in a lose-lose situation where there are only bad options, all of which are huge liabilities. The board has ultimately decided that the risks of reconstructing the lake lines are too great.

### **AS A REGULATED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?**

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) has a formal process for utilities regarding the abandonment of facilities that SLECA must adhere to; therefore, pursuant to LPSC General Order R-30301, SLECA intends to file a Petition for Abandonment with the Commission. This process will involve meetings, public hearings, etc. As a regulated utility, these public hearings give the members yet another avenue to voice your opinion to our regulators regarding the abandonment of the lake lines.

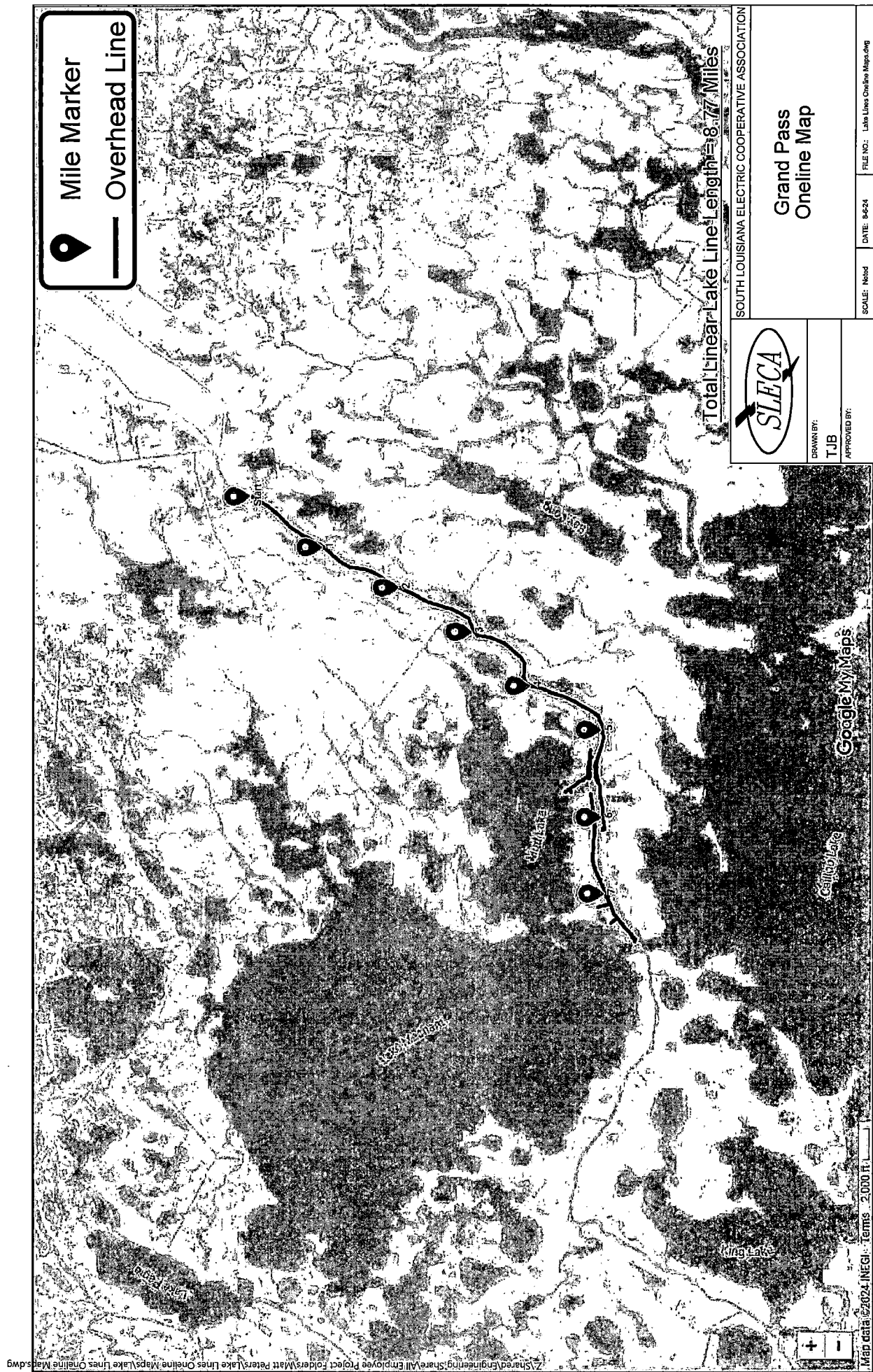
As a Board, we understand that this decision may not be to everyone's satisfaction, but we hope this letter helps you to better understand how we came to this decision and that, in the end, it was the best outcome for all our SLECA members.

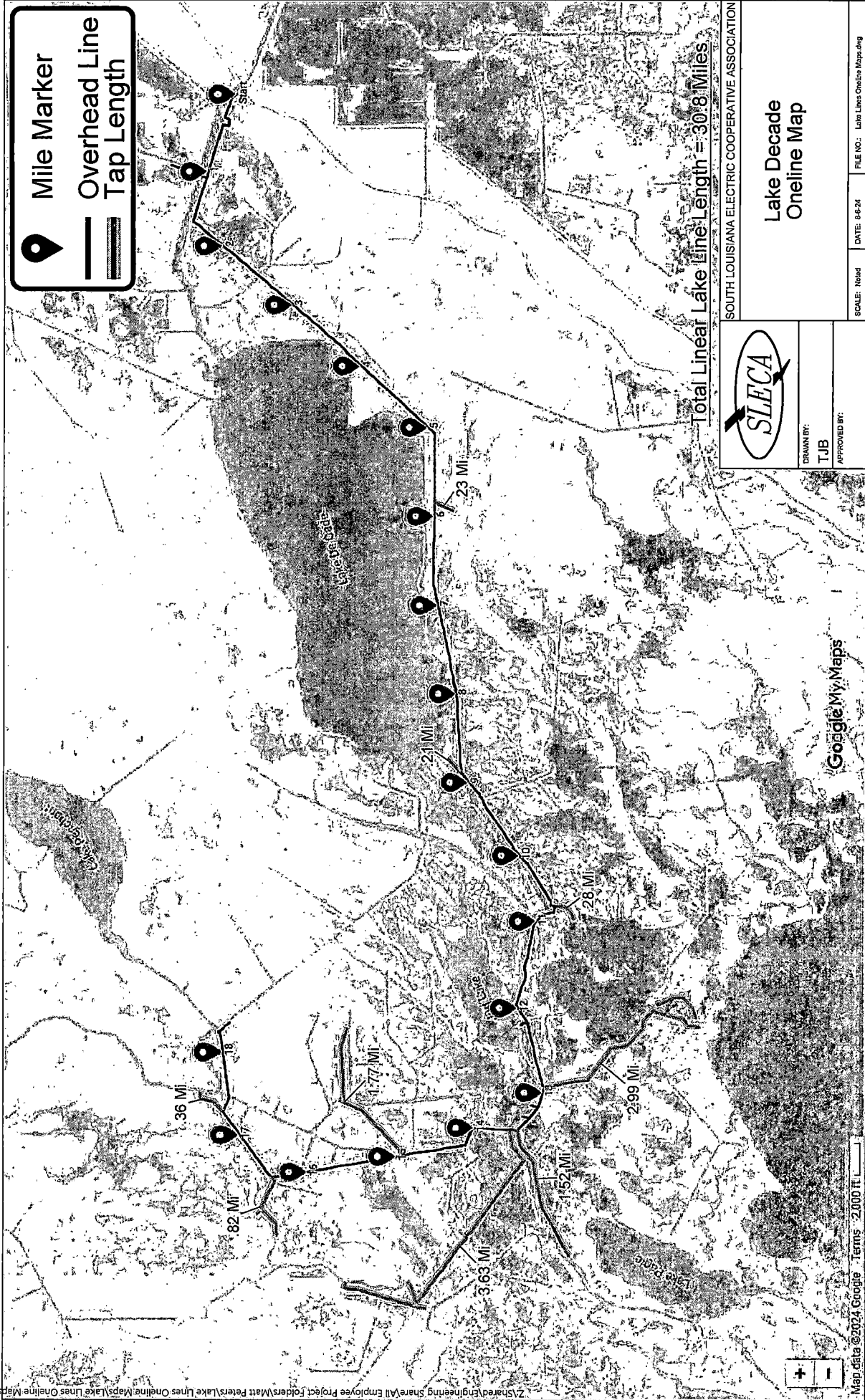
Respectfully,

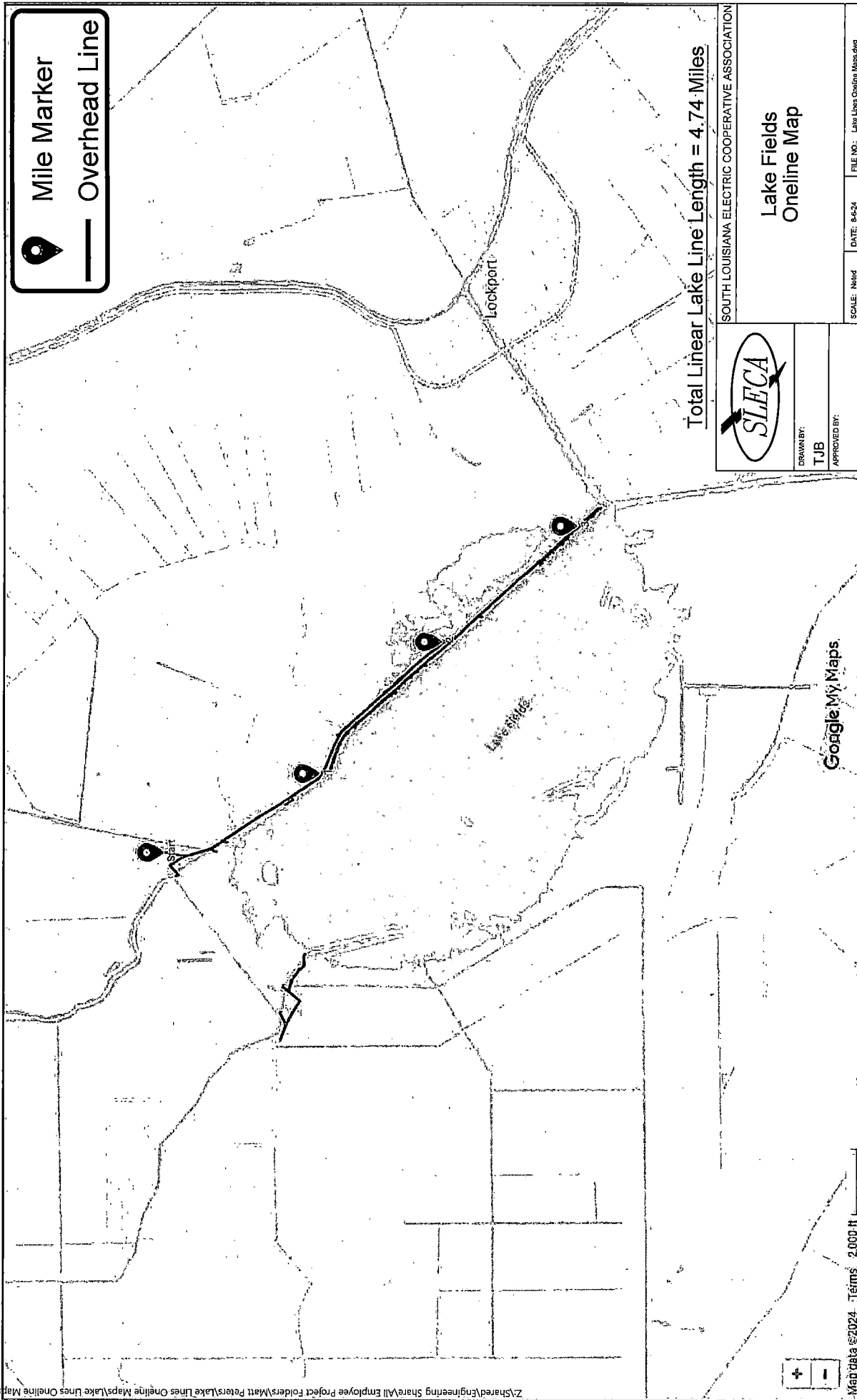
David Luke, Board President

# EXHIBIT #3










Mile Marker  
Overhead Line

Total Linear Lake Line Length = 4.74 Miles



Drawn By:  
TJB

Approved By:

SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Lake Fields  
Online Map

Scale: 8-5/16

Date: 8-5-24

File No: Lake Fields OnLine Maps.dwg

Google My Maps

Map data ©2024 Terms 2,000 ft

# EXHIBIT #4

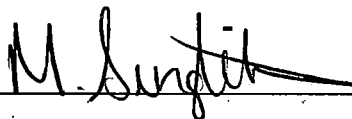
# CAPITAL CITY PRESS

Publisher of  
THE ADVOCATE

## PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The hereto attached notice was published in THE  
ADVOCATE, a daily newspaper of general circulation  
published in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Official  
Journal of the State of Louisiana, City of Baton Rouge,  
and Parish of East Baton Rouge or published daily in  
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE/THE NEW ORLEANS  
ADVOCATE, in New Orleans Louisiana or published  
daily in THE ACADIANA ADVOCATE in the following  
issues:

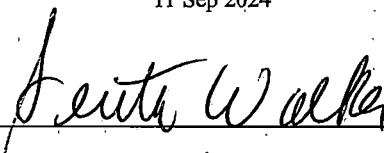
9/9/2024



Mattinisha Singleton, Public Notices Representative

Sworn and subscribed before me, by the person whose signature  
appears above

11 Sep 2024



Serita Walker,

Notary Public ID#151005

State of Louisiana

My Commission Expires: Indefinite

**SERITA WALKER**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
**ID NO. 151005**  
**My Commission is for Life**  
**Parish Of Orleans, State Of La**

Ad No: 105003



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order R-30301 (July 9, 2008), that South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association ("SLECA" or "Cooperative") will not restore certain electric distribution infrastructure destroyed by the 2021 hurricane season to all affected customers located along Lake De Cade, Grand Pass, Lake Fields, and The Island of Four Point Road. The electric facilities to be abandoned are approximately 44.5 linear miles of distribution. Affected Parishes: Terrebonne and Lafourche. Contact Information: Louisiana Public Service Commission toll free at 800-255-2397 or SLECA at 985-876-6880, 2028 Coteau Rd, Houma, LA 70364.

105003-SEP 9-1T

# LOCALiQ

## The Courier

PO Box 631825 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1825

### **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**


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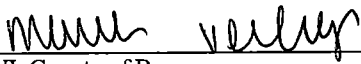
STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

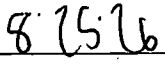
The Daily Comet, a daily newspaper of general circulation,  
published in Houma, LaFourche Parish, Louisiana; that the  
publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in  
the said newspaper in the issues dated:

09/09/2024

Sworn to and subscribed before on 09/09/2024

  
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Legal Clerk

  
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Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

  
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MARIAH VERHAGEN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

SLECA Public Notice  
Notice is hereby  
given, pursuant to  
Louisiana Public  
Service Commis-  
sion General Order  
R-30301 (July 9,  
2008), that South  
Louisiana Electric  
Cooperative Asso-  
ciation ("SLECA" or  
"Cooperative") will  
not restore certain  
electric distribu-  
tion infrastructure  
destroyed by the 2021  
hurricane season to  
all affected custom-  
ers located along  
Lake De Cade, Grand  
Pass, Lake Fields,  
and The Island of  
Four Point Road.  
The electric facili-  
ties to be abandoned  
are approximately  
44.5 linear miles  
of distribution.  
Affected Parishes:  
Terrebonne and  
Lafourche. Contact  
information: Louisi-  
ana Public Service  
Commission toll free  
at 800-256-2397 or  
SLECA at 985-876-  
6880, 2028 Coteau Rd,  
Houma, LA 70364.  
September 9 2024  
LLOU0154539

# LOCALiQ

## The Courier

PO Box 631825 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1825

### **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**


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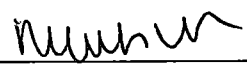
STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The Houma Courier, a daily newspaper of general circulation,  
published in Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana; that the  
publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in  
the said newspaper in the issues dated:

09/09/2024

Sworn to and subscribed before on 09/09/2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

8.25.26

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$51.32	
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MARIAH VERHAGEN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order R-30301 (July 9, 2008), that South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association ("SLECA" or "Cooperative") will not restore certain electric distribution infrastructure destroyed by the 2021 hurricane season to all affected customers located along Lake De Cade, Grand Pass, Lake Fields, and The Island of Four Point Road. The electric facilities to be abandoned are approximately 44.5 linear miles of distribution. Affected Parishes: Terrebonne and Lafourche. Contact information: Louisiana Public Service Commission toll free at 800-256-2397 or SLECA at 985-876-6880, 2028 Coteau Rd, Houma, LA 70364. September 9 2024 LLOU0154551

# EXHIBIT #5

**BEFORE THE**  
**LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
ASSOCIATION**

**DOCKET NO. S - \_\_\_\_\_**

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*In re: Petition for Approval of Proposed Abandonment*

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**AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

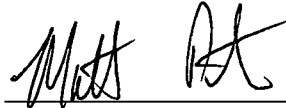
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

**NOW BEFORE ME**, the undersigned authority, personally came and appeared:

**MATTHEW PETERS**

who, after being duly sworn by me, did depose and state:

1. I am employed as the General Manager of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association ("SLECA");
2. In my role as the General Manager for SLECA, I am the utility's executive responsible for this subject Petition for Approval of Proposed Abandonment;
3. I hereby represent that SLECA has complied with all of the rules and regulations of the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC" or the "Commission"), including those contained in the Commission's General Order R-30301, and that all representations contained in SLECA's *Petition for Approval of Proposed Abandonment* are true and correct;
4. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Matthew Peters

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME  
THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.



NOTARY PUBLIC

Kara Kantrow; La Bar: 31042