

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER U-37563

ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC, EX PARTE.

Docket No. U-37563, In re: Application for Certification of the Adams Creek-Robert 230kV Project pursuant to General Order dated September 10, 2024 (Transmission Siting Order).

(Decided at the June 17, 2026 Business and Executive Session.)

ORDER

I. Overview

On April 21, 2025, Entergy Louisiana, LLC (“ELL” or the “Company”) filed an Application with the Commission (the “Application”) seeking certification by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (“LPSC” or “Commission”) that the public convenience and necessity would be served by the completion and siting of a transmission project located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, in ELL’s Amite South Planning Region (“Amite South”). That project would be located in Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, and Washington Parishes, and it includes the construction of a new 41-mile 230kV transmission line from the Adams Creek Substation to the Robert Substation, as well as substation expansions and upgrades at the Adams Creek Substation, Robert Substation, Fairview Substation, and Madisonville Substation (together, the “Adams Creek-Robert 230kV Project” or the “Project”). (Ex. ELL-1 at 1). ELL estimates that the project will cost \$197.7 million. (*Id.*, at 3). This is a “Class 3” cost estimate which can be up to 20 percent below or 30 percent above the estimated amount, resulting in a possible range of \$157 million to \$256 million. (Tr. at 17). The estimated annual revenue requirement based on those estimates is \$20.942 million. (*Id.*).

The Amite South planning region is a historic load pocket, an area in which there is more load than available generation to serve that load, and, as a result, transmission is relied upon to enable needed imports to reliably serve that load. (Tr. at 5). The Project enables a new north-south path into Washington, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes. (*Id.*). The Adams Creek Project is the fifth project proposed by ELL addressing issues in Amite South, and it enhances reliability and other load serving needs on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and along the east and west banks of the Mississippi River. (*Id.*).

ELL asserted that the Project will provide several benefits. First, it will increase load serving capability by 100 MW to serve new block load and normal load growth on the North Shore.

(Staff Ex. 2 at 6). It will increase operational reliability of the area by preventing thermal overloads of existing lines when new block loads are added to the system. (*Id.*). It will provide redundancy benefits and remedy potential NERC violations. (*Id.* at 7). It will provide additional flexibility related to resource planning, by providing additional import capability, and addressing issues that will arise with anticipated deactivation of generation impacting Amite South and the North Shore. (*Id.*). It will provide extreme event resilience; the Project structures are designed to a 150-mph wind speed rating in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes and 125-mph in Washington Parish. (Staff Ex. 2 at 7-8; Ex. ELL 5 at 17).

In addition to seeking a certification that the completion and siting of the Project will serve the public convenience and necessity, ELL requested a finding that the actual retail revenue requirement associated with the prudently incurred costs of the Project is deemed eligible for recovery by the Company through the appropriate recovery mechanism at the time that the components of the Project are placed into service and that the generalized siting of the Project and its construction is a reasonable and cost-effective solution to provide reliable electric service in the Amite South Region. (Staff Ex. 2 at 2).

A timely intervention was submitted on behalf of the Louisiana Energy Users Group ("LEUG") on May 2, 2025. On June 4, 2025, the LEUG filed a timely *Statement of Objection* and on June 5, 2025, the LPSC Staff filed an *Objection Without Prejudice* - both in accordance with the requirements set forth in the *General Order* dated September 10, 2024 in Docket No. R-36199 ("2024 Siting Order").¹ On September 16, 2025, the Staff submitted the Direct Testimony of R. Lane Sisung and the Direct Testimony of John A. Chapman. On September 17, 2025, LEUG submitted the Direct Testimony of James R. Dauphinais (confidential version and public version). On October 3, 2025, LEUG submitted the Cross-Answering Testimony of Mr. Dauphinais. On December 2, 2025, ELL submitted confidential and public versions of the rebuttal testimonies of Laura K. Beauchamp and Bradley D. Skok. On December 3, 2025, Staff filed a motion to substitute redacted and confidential versions of the Direct Testimony of R. Lane Sisung, which was granted on that same date. The hearing in this matter was held before the Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") on February 5, 2026.

¹ LPSC General Order dated September 10, 2024, *In re: Review and Possible Modification of the Commission's General Order dated October 10, 2013 Governing Transmission Certification and General Siting* in Docket No. R-36199.

After post-hearing and post-hearing reply briefs were filed, the “Proposed Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge” (“Proposed Recommendation”) was issued on April 16, 2026. That Proposed Recommendation found that the Project was not in the public interest, and it denied the Company’s Application.

On May 1, 2026, the Staff and ELL each filed exceptions to the proposed recommendation. On May 18, 2026, the LEUG filed a reply to the exceptions to the Proposed Recommendation. On May 21, 2026, the “Final Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge” (“Final Recommendation”) was issued, which affirmed the Proposed Recommendation. On May 27, 2026, ELL filed a request for oral argument, and on June 15, 2026 LEUG submitted correspondence to the Commission in support of the Final Recommendation. The matter was included on the agenda of the June 17, 2026 Business and Executive Session for Commission consideration.

II. COMMISSION JURISDICTION

The Commission's authority and jurisdiction are specifically set forth in Article IV Section 21 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, which sets forth in pertinent part:

The Commission shall regulate all common carriers and public utilities and shall have such other regulatory authority as provided by law. It shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations and procedures necessary for the discharge of its duties, and perform other duties as provided by law.

III. STAFF REVIEW

Staff, after conducting a full review of the testimony and discovery responses in this proceeding, determined that the ELL request for certification is well-supported and can reasonably be granted. (Staff Ex. 2 at 14). While Staff offered evidence that ELL did not adequately demonstrate that the Project is required to serve reasonably assumed load growth at this time, the fact that the project would create a new north to south path into the load pocket and would have avoided the May 25, 2025 load shed event, combined with the resiliency, flexibility and expanded future load-serving capability that the Project will provide is sufficient for the Commission to reasonably conclude that the project could be certified. (*Id.*; Tr. at 65-66 (Sisung)). Under the requirements of the 2024 Siting Order, this is sufficient to justify the Project.

The "Certification and Siting Rules" contained in attachment A to the 2024 Siting Order, Section IV, addresses the approval standard:

In consideration of any Application required under this Order, the Commission may approve the Application if it finds the proposed Transmission Facility to be in the public interest and the interests of affected ratepayers. In making that determination the Commission may consider the expected impact of such Transmission Facility

on costs, retail rates, service reliability, reduction of congestion, material economic benefits, the interstate or intrastate benefits to be achieved, and whether the proposed Transmission Facility is consistent with public policy, including policy goals of the Commission.²

The "public interest" standard is broad by design. It allows the Commission to consider a wide range of factors. Those factors include expected benefits, reliability, need, and policy goals.

The need for this Project is supported by the other many benefits that it will provide. It will increase load serving capability by 100 MW to serve block load and organic load growth on the North Shore. (Staff Ex. 2 at 6). It will increase operational reliability of the area by preventing thermal overloads of existing lines when new block loads are added to the system. (*Id.*). It will provide redundancy benefits and remedy potential NERC violations. (*Id.* at 7). It will provide additional flexibility related to resource planning, by providing additional import capability and addressing issues that will arise with anticipated deactivation of generation impacting Amite south and the North Shore. (*Id.*). It will provide extreme event resilience; the Project structures are designed to a 150-mph wind speed rating in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes and 125-mph in Washington Parish. (Staff Ex. 2 at 7-8; Ex. ELL 5 at 17).

The record demonstrates that the Project, had it been in place at the time, would have prevented the May 25 load shed event. (Staff Ex. 2 at 10-11). On May 25, 2025 at approximately 4 pm EST thousands of customers in the New Orleans area lost power due to an order by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO") to ELL and Cleco to shed 600 MW of load. (LEUG Ex. No.6 at 8-9 (Staff October 10, 2025 "After-Action Report")). It was a major event; about 20% of the load in the New Orleans area was offline. (Tr. at 32-34 (Skok)). While some customers were restored earlier, it was 8:49 EST before all customers were restored. (LEUG Ex. 6 at 22-32). The report stated it is "clear that Amite South's core problem is structural: a peninsular, corridor dependent grid with limited import ties, so a single high voltage outage or a cluster of generator outages can tip the area into a post-contingent risk." (*Id.*, 6 at 42). That report recommended "continued diligence in seeking prudent transmission projects that are in the public interest to relieve the risks associated with load sheds in the Amite South load pocket." (*Id.* at 43.) It also indicated that the Adams Creek-Robert 230 kV line would provide relief to the conditions the triggered the Temporary IROL. (*Id.*). The Project will relieve the risks associated with the May 25 load shed event.

² 2024 Siting Order, Attach. A, page 5.

Further, there are legacy generators in the region that are nearing the end of their useful lives and are scheduled to retire in the near future. (Tr. at 6 (Beauchamp)). Ninemile Units 4 and 5 and Little Gypsy Units 2 and 3 are scheduled to retire between 2026 and 2032. (Tr. at 16 (Beauchamp)). The Project will provide some relief by increasing load serving capability by 100 MW to serve load and load growth on the North Shore. (Staff Ex. 2 at 6). It will increase operational reliability of the area by preventing thermal overloads of existing lines when new block loads are added to the system. (*Id.*). It will provide redundancy benefits and remedy potential NERC violations. (*Id.* at 7

In addition, there are some uncontested issues in this matter that are supported by all parties and the evidence submitted. First, ELL's Application complied with the requirements of Section V of General Order No. R-36199 dated September 10, 2024. Second, the generalized siting and commencement of construction for the Adams Creek –Robert 230kV Project, as described in the Company's Application, testimony, and exhibits, are appropriate and reasonable.

Third, while ELL did not request that any component of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV project be deemed exempt under Section VIII of the 2024 Siting Order, certain components of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project, as described in the Company's Application, testimony, and exhibits, qualify for exemption from Commission certification pursuant to the 2024 Siting Order. Specifically, the expansion of the Adams Creek Substation, expansion of the Robert Substation, upgrades at the Fairview Substation, upgrades at the Cleco Power, LLC-owned Madisonville Substation, and placement of distribution lines to accommodate the new 230kV transmission lines qualify for exemption from Commission certification pursuant to Section VIII(a) of the 2024 Siting Order and/or do not fall within the definition of "Transmission Facilities" in the 2024 Siting Order. Fourth, Staff recommended reporting requirements that are uncontested. Under those requirements the Company will file the requisite construction reports under Section VI of the 2024 Siting Order related to all components of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project (i.e., the substation projects, distribution lines, and Project transmission facilities), including those components that may or may not individually qualify for exemption from certification under the Commission's 2024 Siting Order. Additionally, ELL will file a report with the Commission within 120 days after completion of the in-service date of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project. Further, during the construction period and until the in-service dates of the ASTP projects, ELL agrees to provide the Commission and Intervenors in this proceeding with any changes to its

proposed strategic generation and transmission projects affecting the Amite South region and/or to the material assumptions or conclusions of its ASTP studies reasonably promptly after the occurrence of such change. If there is a material change in the proposed projects or any of the material assumptions or conclusions of the ASTP studies, the Commission should be made immediately aware of such changes and why such changes were not reasonably knowable at the time of the certification decisions and how ELL proposes to address any impacts those changes may present.

IV. COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

This matter was considered by the Commission at its June 17, 2026 Business and Executive Session. Chairman Skrmetta made the following motion:

It is my view that the benefits of the project exceed the costs. It will not only provide an additional north-south route into the Amite South load pocket, but it will also provide an additional 100 MW of load serving and import capability. The project will also increase reliability and prevent thermal overloads as block loads are added to the system in the future. It will provide increased extreme weather event resilience. And, had the project been in service at the time, it would have prevented the May 25, 2025 load shed event. Therefore, I move that the Commission reject the Final Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge and find that the Adams-Creek to Robert 230 kV Project is in the public interest, its siting and completion will serve the public convenience and necessity, and the project complies with the requirements of the Commission's 2024 Siting Order dated September 10, 2024. In addition, Staff testimony recommended various reporting requirements in its direct testimony, which were not contested. This approval adopts Staff's recommended reporting requirements filed into the record on September 16, 2025. Specifically, those requirements are referenced at pp. 17-18 of the Direct Testimony of R. Lane Sisung and pp. 21-23 of the Direct Testimony of John A. Chapman.

Chairman Skrmetta's motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis. With Vice Chairman Coussan and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell absent, the Commission voted to reject the Final Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge and approve the Application for Certification of the Adams Creek-Robert 230kV Project, subject to certain conditions contained in Staff's recommendation.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Adams Creek–Robert 230kV Project serves the public convenience and necessity and is in the public interest and in the interests of affected ratepayers in accordance with the Commission's 2024 Siting Order.
2. ELL's Application complies with the requirements of Section V of General Order

No. R-36199 dated September 10, 2024 (the “2024 Siting Order”).

3. The generalized siting and commencement of construction for the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project, as described in the Company’s Application, Testimony, and Exhibits, are appropriate and reasonable.
4. Certain components of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project, as described in the Company’s Application, Testimony, and Exhibits, qualify for exemption from Commission certification pursuant to the 2024 Siting Order. Specifically, the expansion of the Adams Creek Substation, expansion of the Robert Substation, upgrades at the Fairview Substation, upgrades at the Cleco Power, LLC-owned Madisonville Substation, and placement of distribution lines to accommodate the new 230kV transmission lines qualify for exemption from Commission certification pursuant to Section VIII(a) of the 2024 Siting Order and/or do not fall within the definition of “Transmission Facilities” in the 2024 Siting Order.
5. The retail revenue requirement associated with the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project is deemed eligible for recovery through ELL’s Formula Rate Plan (“FRP”) to the extent the Company remains subject to one, or, in the alternative where there is no FRP in place, that the Commission should authorize the creation of a regulatory asset until such time that the prudently incurred costs are approved to be reflected in rates in order to mitigate the effects of regulatory lag.
6. The certification is not a determination of the prudence of the final costs of the Project. The Company has an ongoing obligation to manage prudently the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project, including ongoing construction and costs. The Company will submit the final costs of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project in the normal ratemaking process, and only the prudently incurred costs are eligible for recovery.
7. The Company will file the requisite construction reports under Section VI of the 2024 Siting Order related to all components of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project (*i.e.*, the substation projects, distribution lines, and Project transmission facilities), including those components that may or may not individually qualify for exemption from certification under the Commission’s 2024 Siting Order. Additionally, ELL will file a report with the Commission within 120 days after completion of the in-service date of the Adams Creek – Robert 230kV Project. Further, during the construction period and until the in-service dates of the ASTP projects, ELL agrees to provide the Commission and Intervenors in this proceeding with any changes to its proposed strategic generation and transmission projects affecting the Amite South region and/or to the material assumptions or conclusions of its ASTP studies reasonably promptly after the occurrence of such change. If there is a material change in the proposed projects or any of the material assumptions or conclusions of the ASTP studies, the

Commission should be made immediately aware of such changes and why such changes were not reasonably knowable at the time of the certification decisions and how ELL proposes to address any impacts those changes may present.

8. This order is effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
July 9, 2026



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BRANDON M. FREY
SECRETARY

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DISTRICT I
CHAIRMAN ERIC F. SKRMETTA

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DISTRICT II
VICE CHAIRMAN JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN

ABSENT

DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

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DISTRICT IV
COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS

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DISTRICT III
COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS