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August 4, 2026

12922-0262

Paul F. Guarisco
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LA PUBLIC SERVICE COMM
AUG 04 2026 PM12:44

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Kris Abel
Records Division
Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building, 12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: **Docket No. R-37871**, LPSC, Ex Parte In re: Louisiana Advanced Nuclear
Exploration Program.

Dear Ms. Abel:

Enclosed please find an original and two copies of Cleco Power LLC's Reply Comments being
filed pursuant to the *Notice of Staff's Recommendation of Proposed Rule and Request for
Comments* issued July 21, 2026, in the above-referenced docket.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Paul F. Guarisco

PFG:cd

cc: Michelle Corley
Service List

Hand

**BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION, Ex Parte**

Docket No: R-37871

In Re: Louisiana Advanced Nuclear Exploration Program.

REPLY COMMENTS OF CLECO POWER LLC

Cleco Power LLC (“Cleco Power” or “Company”) respectfully submits these Reply Comments in response to the *Notice of Staff’s Recommendation of Proposed Rule and Request for Comments* issued July 21, 2026 (“Staff’s Notice”)¹ in the above-captioned docket, addressing the Louisiana Advanced Nuclear Exploration (“LANE”) Program. Cleco Power appreciates the opportunity to respond and, for the reasons set forth below, continues to support adoption of the Program.

In its initial Comments filed April 10, 2026,² Cleco Power expressed general support for the goals and purpose of the LANE Program, subject to the understanding that participation by investor-owned utilities (“IOUs”) would be voluntary. Staff’s Notice clarifies that the intent of the underlying rulemaking directive is for IOUs, specifically Southwestern Electric Power Company, Cleco Power, and Entergy Louisiana, LLC, to be required to participate in the Program, with rural electric cooperatives retaining the option to opt in.³

¹*Notice of Staff’s Recommendation of Proposed Rule and Request for Comments*, LPSC Docket No. R-37871, issued July 21, 2026.

²See Comments of Cleco Power LLC, LPSC Docket No. R-37871, filed April 10, 2026.

³Staff’s Notice, LPSC Docket No. R-37871, at Section III.A; Attachment B, Section 101.A.

Cleco Power does not oppose this clarification. The Company files these Reply Comments to confirm that it supports adoption of the Program as revised, including the provision requiring IOU participation, and has no objection to that aspect of the proposed rule.

Basis for Cleco Power's Continued Support

Cleco Power's support for mandatory IOU participation is grounded in the following considerations:

- The Program is structured as an early-stage evaluation mechanism and does not commit a participating utility to siting, constructing, or deploying nuclear generation. Mandatory participation therefore imposes no obligation beyond funding and conducting the feasibility, site assessment, and economic analysis activities described in Section 401 of the proposed rule.⁴
- The Funding Mechanism set forth in Section 301 of the proposed rule - a uniform monthly surcharge/rider of \$0.20 per electric meter applied to all metered customer classes, is relatively modest in magnitude and is subject to the approved program activities set forth in Section 401 and the accounting, tracking and annual reporting safeguards described in Sections 301 and 501 of the proposed rules.⁵
- The revised rule's inclusion of a refund mechanism in Section 601.B, providing that unspent funds will be returned to customers in a manner determined in a subsequent rate case should the Program be terminated, appropriately protects ratepayers and supports Cleco Power's continued support of the Program as revised.⁶

⁴Attachment B, Section 401.

⁵Attachment B, Sections 301, 401, 501.

⁶Attachment B, Section 601.B.

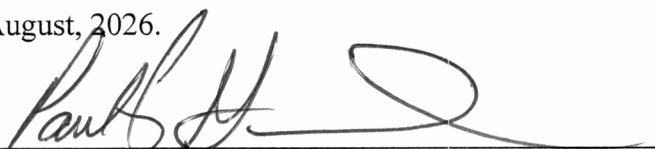
- Mandatory participation among the Louisiana IOUs promotes consistency of approach across the State's regulated electric generation fleet and furthers the Program's stated purpose of positioning Louisiana as a leader in advanced nuclear deployment, consistent with the LANCE Strategic Framework.

Cleco Power further notes that it does not oppose the other clarifications and additions reflected in Staff's redlined rule, including the expanded definition of qualified vendors and designers, the inclusion of large light water reactors and Generation III+ technologies within the scope of the Program, and the administrative cost cap set forth in Section 401.A.4.⁷

Considering the foregoing, Cleco Power supports adoption of the LANE Program as set forth in Staff's Notice, including mandatory participation by IOUs, and as reflected in the clean version of the proposed rule attached to Staff's Notice as Attachment B.

WHEREFORE, Cleco Power LLC respectfully submits these Reply Comments regarding the proposed LANE Program and respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the Program as recommended by Staff.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of August, 2026.



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Paul F. Guarisco LA Bar No: 22070

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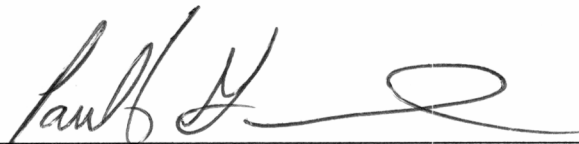
Email: taylor.boudreaux@phelps.com

Counsel for Cleco Power LLC

⁷Attachment B, Sections 101, 401.A.4.

CRTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the above and foregoing document has been served upon the parties of record by electronic delivery, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 4th day of August, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Guarisco", written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Guarisco